June 11, 2024

Ms. Laurie Lachs President East Brunswick Board of Education 760 Route 18 East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Dear Ms. Lachs,

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International – the world's oldest Jewish humanitarian, advocacy and social action organization – we write to express our deep concern regarding the East Brunswick High School yearbook. As you know, the Jewish Student Union's picture was replaced by another group of students, and the names of the organization's students were not published.

We must concur with East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen's that this incident would appear to be a blatant anti-Semitic act. The targeting of the Jewish community at the high school for erasure is extremely disturbing, especially given the alarming spike in anti-Semitism being experienced in the United States and all over the world following the horrific massacre by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023. The targeting of the Jewish students in this incident has caused a great amount of pain for the students themselves, their families and the wider Jewish community.

We support a thorough, independent investigation of the events that led to the publishing of this yearbook. There must be an accounting of how, given the many hours worked and meticulous proofing that went into producing the yearbook, the Jewish Student Union picture could be removed and the names of the club members erased. The investigation must assign responsibility to the perpetrator(s) of this action, and the Superintendent and the Board of Education must hold those responsible to account.

The township of East Brunswick and its school district must be a place where Jews are allowed to live their lives openly, without fear of intimidation, harassment and erasure. We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Seth J. Riklin President

Daniel S. Mariaschin CEO