



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 9, 2021, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela Public Charter School

Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Deena Fox	Board member and chair	Present
Aster Allen-Patel	Board member	Present
Lisa Apple	Board member	Absent
Rose Benson	Board member	Absent
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
Liz Cohen	Board member	Present
Ki'ara Cross	Board member	Present
Rebecca Rubin Damari	Board member	Present
Yair Inspektor	Board member	Present
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Absent
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Smruti Radkar	Board member	Present
Ashley Stoney	Board member	Present
Michael Walker	Board member	Absent
Andrew Whiting	Board member	Present
Josh Bork	Head of school (non-voting)	Present
Ryan Benjamin	Director of operations (non-voting)	Present

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Andrew Whiting

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 7:01 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Heather moved to ratify the meeting minutes from November.

In favor: Andrew, Ya'ir, Deena, Steve, Aster, Smruti

Opposed: None

Abstained: Liz, Ashley

Mission Moments

Some board members are meeting together at the school!

Teachers have been using lots of (Hebrew) music and dancing recently.

Head of School (HOS) report (Attached as Appendix B)

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Official count is 263. Projection for next year is 265.
- This Saturday is (fully virtual) EdFest, and we have 7 recruitment events scheduled for this year (virtual and in-person).

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Coordinating cross-campus teacher observations with LAMB (in late March/early April, COVID permitting).
- Initial planning for Summer Camp 2022.

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- Mid-year teacher evaluations are 80% complete.
- Mid-year staff survey is out.
- Interviewing new shinshinim in January.
- Interviewing new Arbel fellows in February, hopefully including some PreK teachers.

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- Winter MAP scheduled for January 19-25.
- Mid-year collection of TS Gold data (for PreK) is complete.

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- Giving Tuesday raised over \$7000 for spring field trip buses.

Goal 6: Family engagement

- Mid-year family survey has gone out to all families, closes January 3.

Board discussion: Accreditation

Need a board member to complete the “Governance and Leadership” section of the accreditation package. Liz and Smruti will work on it.

Board discussion: Qualitative Site Review (QSR) and 10-year review

Our QSR is scheduled for January 24-February 4. Staff have gone through the first of three PDs to prepare for the QSR.

Board discussion: Changes to COVID testing and protocols

OSSE informed us that our testing plan, which they previously approved, is insufficient because it doesn’t inform individual students if they are positive or negative. Sela will be working with a new testing vendor, starting in January, who will not bill Sela; tests will be covered either by insurance or by the CARES Act for uninsured.

DC Health has provided updated guidance on quarantining protocols for fully vaccinated students.

Finance Committee Update: Audit

Sela was audited as we are every year. The audit raised no concerns.

Steve moved to accept the audit. Aster seconded.

In favor: Andrew, Liz, Heather, Ki’ara, Ya’ir, Deena, Rebecca, Ashley, Smruti

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

External Relations Committee Update

The committee is drafting a fundraising letter that board members can use as a template to send to family and friends. The committee asks that every board member send a fundraising solicitation (whether a version of the provided letter or their own text) to at least ten people.

We also expect 100% giving participation from the board, at a level that is meaningful for each member.

Josh asked about next steps for the annual teacher scholarship fund. Deena will check with Rose, who normally coordinates the applications.

Board members' year-end reflections on Sela's response to COVID

Impressed with the school's ability to adapt learning quickly and to roll with changes in COVID protocols.

Proud that Sela did the vaccination clinics!

Proud of Sela's cohorting and testing protocols, efficient way to keep everyone safe and minimizing inconvenience

Proud of the board for adapting well to COVID and open meeting requirements

Excited about options for parents, keeping families safe

Sela kept the student experience at the center

School leadership reacted quickly and was able to make frequent changes as needed

Proud of how Sela approached virtual learning

This year has been a good opportunity for board members to get to know the school better

The parent community has been very supportive, buying in even when things were changing

COVID testing time has become a good opportunity for staff to connect with families and kids

Admire the resilience of the leadership team during this period

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.