



## Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 7, 2022, 6:45 pm

Location: Zoom meeting

### 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	Present
Rose Benson	Board member	Present
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
Liz Cohen	Board member	Absent
Ki'ara Cross	Board member	Absent
Rebecca Rubin Damari	Board member	Present
Yair Inspektor	Board member	Present
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Present
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Smruti Radkar	Board member	Present
Ashley Stoney	Board member	Absent
Michael Walker	Board member	Present
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:** Bryce Jacobs

**Agenda** (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:54 pm

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Lisa moved to ratify the meeting minutes from March. Bryce seconded.

In favor: Heather, Rebecca, Steve, Michael, Rose, Aster, Yair, Deena

None opposed.

No abstentions.

## **Mission Moments**

Bryce reported on the visit with the members of Knesset (March 29), who were engaged and impressed by the school—emotional when they saw students singing songs of their own childhood. The building looks great, with lots of Hebrew visible.

Bryce also reported that her student has learned a lot through Black history month and women's history month.

Deena reported much chatter on her neighborhood WhatsApp group with current Sela families sharing positive feedback on Sela with matched families.

## **Head of School (HOS) report** (Full report attached as Appendix B)

### Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Projected enrollment for next year is 265.
- The school has been doing individual outreach to matched families to welcome them to Sela.
- Currently: 92 total matches, 39 of whom have started enrollment forms. Expecting 241 returning students. Potential total of up to 280 students.
- Enrollment will continue through May 1 before opening seats up to the second round of the lottery.
- The school has streamlined the re-enrollment process to make it easy. 57% of current families have completed enrollment forms.
- Biggest waitlist is in PreK3

### Goal 2: School mission and culture

- The Qualitative Site Review report from PCSB will be sent to the board in 2-3 weeks.
- Sela will be hosting the Israeli Ambassador's wife on April 13

### Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- Extended contracts to three new Arbel fellows for next school year, including one PreK teacher and one with a special ed background
- Working on the budget to determine level of raise for all staff next year

### Goal 4: Academic achievement

- End of Year testing will run from the end of April to the beginning of June.

- Meeting next week with tutoring/enrichment companies to explore possibilities for partnership for this year, the summer, and next year
- Working with EmpowerK12 to understand our recent test scores in the context of other schools in DC

#### Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- Steadily progressing with plans with the architecture firm for renovations
- The first version of next year's budget has gone to the finance committee, revisions have been requested. The next iteration will go to the next finance committee meeting, and hopefully to the board at the May meeting. The budget is due to PCSB on June 30.

#### Goal 6: Family engagement

- Upcoming changes to the COVID policy have been shared with staff and families. A few families reached out with concerns; many families have expressed support for the change in policy.

### **Accreditation**

We are seeking accreditation from the Middle States Accreditation Agency. There is a board piece that still needs to be done. Smruti and Liz will take the lead on it.

### **Academic recovery**

Data was shared on how Sela compares to 27-36 other DC charter elementary schools on MAP testing, looking at average achievement percentile of all students tested per grade band.

- Based on the data, Sela is among high-achieving schools in K-2 and 3-5 reading and math compared to other DC charter schools.

A revised academic recovery plan was circulated to the board prior to the meeting. Board members raised questions:

- For strategies planned to be increased, are those strategies already used in the school, how are they working, how will they be increased?
- Questions about the scale of new strategies

Additional academic supports began at the end of March, including:

- Hiring an additional academic interventionist (full-time) to supplement existing specialists who are doing small group pull-out in K-5.
- Increasing implementation of guided instructional practice for K-5. Increasing frequency of the groups. The board discussed evidence of usefulness of small group work the way it is currently being implemented.
- Increasing access to tutoring opportunities beyond the school day.
- Increasing enrichment opportunities for on/above-grade level students

Teachers will continue to review student progress weekly. The board will receive an update at the next meeting.

### **Purchase and renovation plan for the building**

Steve has been ensuring that our partners understand what our budget is and that we don't plan to exceed our budget.

Renovations proposed by Perkins Eastman (architect) could be made over 8-9 weeks over the summer (2023). The board discussed ways to avoid unexpected displacement due to construction delays. Even if only some of the construction is completed over the summer, school could resume and additional construction could be postponed. It should be possible to put sufficient contingency plans in place. The likely contractor, MCN, works entirely on school renovations, so they should be used to accommodating school time frames.

The CEO of Hebrew Public may be able to point us toward support for financing.

### **Closing**

The board is invited to two end of year events:

Community Day – May 15

5<sup>th</sup> grade Selabration – June 15

### **Vote to move to closed session**

Yair moved to end the open session of the meeting and move to closed session.

Smruti seconded.

In favor: Heather, Lisa, Rose, Bryce, Rebecca, Michael, Steve, Andrew, Aster, Deena

None opposed.

No abstentions.

The meeting moved to closed session at 8:43 pm.