



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2022 @6:45pm

Location: Sela PCS and Zoom meeting and on zoom

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	Absent
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
Liz Cohen	Board member	Absent
Ki'ara Cross	Board member	Present
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	Present
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: Heather Bramble

Timekeeper: Josh Bork

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting **started at 7:05 pm**

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Andrew made a motion to approve the minutes.

Smruti seconded the motion.

Abstentions: Yair, Michael, Heather

Everyone else voted to approve the minutes.

Mission Moments

Library: Everyone at the meeting was excited to see the library. It looks fantastic. Josh explained the librarian has been doing great work with the physical space and engaging all the kids at the library session. It has become a school highlight.

School Tour: The school tour was fantastic. The Art Room is great wonderful with an interesting space and inspires creativity. The music room is filled with a variety of musical instruments and is inviting and also promotes creativity. Overall the school looks energizing and shows a commitment to learn. The newly painted walls provide a clean and inviting space to learn and grow

Fundraising: Right before winter break, Bryce and Josh hosted a longtime donor to the school. Last week he called to say he was giving \$150 unrestricted funds based on his visit. This is a wonderful gift for the school!

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- March 1 lottery application deadline closes
 - March 30th - results to schools
 - April 1 - lottery results go out students
 - Mid April - reenrollment current families
 - May 2nd - enrollment deadline for current students

- Team has been canvassing the neighborhood
- Plan to do a radio spot

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Sela summer camp for Summer 2022 will be June 27-August 5 – 42 signups so far
 - Week Sessions
- Black History Month
 - Feb 17th Living History Museums for each class
- Outdoor field trips – trying to schedule for Spring
- Two Hebrew teachers have started a semester-long PD series through the Univ. of Arizona around technology integration in the classroom and creating virtual spaces

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- Completed collecting staff intent to return forms - all but 2 teachers intend to return (they are moving)
- EmpowerEd received an OSSE grant to continue school culture work with Sela next year at no cost to us (or the other LEAs they are working with)
- We will have Hebrew vacancies because they are at the end of their visa

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- Winter MAP is 95% complete - make-up tests will be completed by Monday
 - Data will be reviewed with Academic Committee and then board.
- NAEP Testing was rescheduled for early March

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- Hosted Philip Graham Foundation for virtual visit on 2/8 - observers indicated high likelihood of acceptance for \$50k unrestricted grant and potentially more to come (previous support of capital campaigns and creation of links to other donors)
 - Hear back from them in about two weeks
- Mayor announcement 5.9 PP funding and increase for facilities, so EdOp will include it in the budget for next year

Goal 6: Family engagement

- Mid-year Family Survey: There will be follow-up to individuals/families as it was not an anonymous survey
 - Also, Sam will be reaching out to regarding communications to some of the prek classrooms.
- Also going to start inviting prek families into the classrooms for 30 minutes in beginning of the day 5th/4th grade Middle School Night is tonight

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Qualitative Site Review (QSR) and 10-year review

Sela had 3 days of observations. QSR team did not review Specials or Hebrew in upper grades. The report will be shared with Josh and he will share with the board as soon as it is received.

Current COVID Guidance

School hosted the Town Hall presentation with info on testing, test to stay, and symptoms. Travel policy will be sent to board to review. DC Health has left it to the LEAs. Other questions regarding mandatory testing discussed. Leadership will prepare talking points for future questions from the school community related to testing and share with board.

Facilities Update

Facilities team is continuing to engage with JLL (tenant rep) and Perkins Eastman (architect) around possible purchase/renovation of current site

Original architect idea was to do construction all at one time which would start during the summer and go into the next academic year. Sela team asked architect team to come back with a plan to do the work over two summers so it would not affect the school year in the building. There is now a plan that there would be Phase 1 - first summer and Phase 2 - second summer. It will be 7.5 million for the two-story building. Sela has asked for more details on price – what can be done for less money, etc, The option to buy the building must be exercised by 12/31/22. More discussion with the architects is necessary to understand costs and timing and what is possible when. Facilities committee needs additional help. Below members have agreed to join the ad hoc committee:

- Yair
- Hosted Andrew

Fundraising/External Relations Update

These options identified for large donor gift:

- Soft costs on architecture
- Dutch vertical playground
- Development person
- Bryce and others to regroup on this meeting

Josh is still reviewing the Blue-Ribbon request for application. He will reach out to External Relations Committee if he needs any help.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW

- Israeli Embassy
 - School discussing with Israeli Embassy two opportunities for engagement. Josh is collecting additional information and will keep the board posted.

- Performance at Embassy garden
- Performance at Embassy for Israel Independence Day

The meeting **ended at 8:30pm**