Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes
Date: September 12, 2019, 6:45 pm
Location: Sela Public Charter School

In attendance: Lisa Apple, Rose Benson, Heather Capell, Rebecca Damari, Deena Fox, Bryce Jacobs, Steve Messner, Aster Patel, Smruti Radkar, Jenifer Shapiro, Josh Bork*, Camerra Taliaferro*, Katrina Hilliard*, Ronit Blivis*
*non-voting attendee

The meeting started at 6:51 pm

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Bryce Jacobs

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Deena moved to approve the meeting minutes from July. Bryce seconded. All present voted in favor, except Lisa, Jenifer, Rose, and Smruti, who abstained. Deena moved to approve the August retreat minutes. Lisa seconded. All present voted in favor, except Steve, Jenifer, Rose, and Smruti, who abstained.

Group activity: Board members and school leaders exchanged memorable stories from their elementary school experiences.

Mission moments: Deena, Camerra, and Josh shared stories about students using Hebrew words with their families. Ronit shared a story about the shinshiniot working hard to adjust their cultural norms to use language appropriate to the US context.

Board Discussion: Meeting schedule
The board discussed moving the monthly board meeting to the second Wednesday or a different Thursday to accommodate a board member who has a conflict with the second Thursday.

HOS report (Attached as Appendix B)

Goal 1: Improve student recruitment and retention
- Current enrollment is 241, meeting the goal of 240. Still waiting for early school year changes to settle down.

Goal 3: Improve student achievement
- One of the top 7 "most improved" charters in PARCC performance in ELA. 6th highest PARCC math scores among charters.
- Currently doing baseline OPI testing for PK4 through 5th grade. No mid-year OPI testing; just beginning and final.
- The board will look at MAP results in October and OPI results in November

Goal 4: Increase financial stability
- We ended SY18-19 in the black. Attributed to cutting some positions and new revenue generation methods.
- For SY18-19, per pupil funding has increased. Higher than expected ESY (special ed)
- Expecting higher per pupil funding for SY19-20 as well

Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement
- 10 adults have signed up for adult Hebrew
- 25 families have signed up for the carpooling app. School will send out next steps to families who have signed up
- Will offer babysitting at next year's back to school night

Board Discussion: Space
If we want to keep increasing enrollment, we need a bigger space. 3 classes each in PK3 and PK4 and 2 classes each in K-5 would give us more stability and more community. 3 years left on the lease. The board agreed to form an ad hoc board committee to look into location options. Smruti will chair the committee, and Aster will be a committee member.

Board Discussion: Fundraising
Josh proposes a Sela Staff Scholarship Fund as a fundraising goal. Good PR, and more importantly good from an equity perspective—some teacher aides are interested in more education but cost is an issue. Fund for education toward credentialing. Could be, e.g., two awards of $2500 (per year). Teachers would commit to some period of time at Sela after completing their program.

Board Discussion: Kindergarten co-teaching model
Changes to staffing, schedules, curriculum, and classroom design. Kindergarten team was not happy the first week, but they're happy now (mostly returning staff). English and Hebrew teachers teach math together. Parallel English and Hebrew literacy blocks. Science and social studies are taught 2x/week in English, 2x/week in

Hebrew. Shinshinot are pushing into specials 3x/week per class. English and Hebrew curriculum are laid out together. Classrooms are designed to be immersive in both English and Hebrew.

Committee Updates
- External relations: a Sela grandparent is hosting a "coffee talk" about Sela this Sunday
- External relations: the "point of entry" event will be Tuesday, November 5

Full Board Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm and moved into executive session