



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 14, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela Public Charter School

In attendance: Lisa Apple, Rose Benson, Heather Capell, Ki'ara Cross, Rebecca Damari, Deena Fox, Steve Messner, Aster Patel, Smruti Radkar, Josh Bork*, Camerra Taliaferro*

*non-voting attendee

The meeting started at 6:56 pm

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Lisa Apple

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Lisa moved to approve the meeting minutes from October. Rose seconded. All present voted in favor, except Rebecca, who abstained.

Mission moments: Rebecca and Heather reported on Hebrew night, held on November 13 at Sela. There were lots of activities, Hebrew story time, dancing to Hebrew music, games for students to play in Hebrew with teachers. Everyone seemed really engaged.

Upcoming school events:

- PTSA meeting next week. Talking about the middle school application process. Guests: MySchool DC rep, Sojourner Truth Middle School (opening next year) and another charter middle school TBA.
- EdFest December 14. Jenifer signed up to participate.
- Winter lights festival December 19. PreK earlier in the morning, K-5 later. All done by noon. Invite people!

HOS report (Attached as Appendix B)

Josh attended an event this morning to promote charter schools' right of first offer for available school spaces. Hosted by the Association of Chartered Schools. There is a move toward more cooperation among charter schools in pushing the mayor's office on this issue.

Goal 1: Improve student recruitment and retention

- Number of SPED students has increased, which means we are better meeting the needs of students and will add associated funding in a few months.
- 4 open houses and 2 Hebrew playdates on the calendar. PTSA will help put out messaging on their listservs. Messages will also be distributed to the board to distribute further.
- Shuttle service is under consideration for next year. Mid-year survey will help assess interest. Families are not using the carpool app as much as expected.

Goal 2: Stabilize and grow staff

- Working with staff to set goals and plan for how to meet those goals
- Identifying teachers to send to the master's program at Middlebury
- Working with Arbel on filling needs for next year

Goal 3: Improve student achievement

- OPI assessment will be done by Thanksgiving break
- Winter MAP data should be available to the board in February

Goal 4: Increase financial stability

- Meeting with Geoff from EdOps next week to trim the budget

Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement

- PTSA is preparing for Giving Tuesday. Notices will go out on Monday.

Board Discussion: Kindergarten survey

100% of responding parents would like to see the 50/50 immersion model follow their students to first grade. Winter MAP scores and growth will also play a role in deciding whether to consider pushing the 50/50 model up ahead of schedule. If we do continue the 50/50 model into first grade, that could use the same co-teaching model as in K or a different approach.

Committee Updates

External relations

- Report on the point of entry event. The next one will be Tuesday, January 28 at the same time. There was discussion of holding other outreach events at a

- different time of day, since not everyone can go into work late in the morning.
- Fundraising update. Plan to ask your networks to give to the end of year campaign. A letter template will be coming soon.

Board Discussions

Teacher scholarship (\$5000, \$2500 each for 2 people)

- We need a proposal for what the funds can be used for, what to do to apply for the funds.
- Deena and Smruti will work on an application.
- The year will be January-December.
- Expected commitment on the part of the teacher would be one school year beyond the year when they receive the scholarship
- Try to recruit 3 individuals who work in the field of education in DC to select the individual (keep school staff and board out of the process). Working on identifying people who would be good to get connected to the school. Heather, Deena, and Rose have contacts they will ask. Lisa has a backup.

Board buddies are being assigned

School space

- Josh, Deena, and Sam Mild visited a building in Columbia Heights, but it's not a good option for us right now.
- The ad hoc committee will prepare a one-pager on what we're looking for

Full Board Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm and moved into executive session