



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela Public Charter School

In attendance: Rose Benson, Heather Capell, Ki'ara Cross, Rebecca Damari, Deena Fox, Bryce Jacobs, Steve Messner, Aster Patel, Jenifer Shapiro, Michael Walker, Josh Bork*, Camerra Taliaferro*

*non-voting attendee

The meeting started at 6:52 pm

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Heather Capell

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Bryce moved to approve the meeting minutes from January. Heather seconded. All present voted in favor.

Mission Moments:

- Jenifer attended the launch of the state of DC charter schools, and it was great to see good attendance and everyone excited about working together.
- Bryce attended Diversity Day. Lots of families came in with notecards about their families and posters about their countries of origin. Ms. Shira made an Ethiopian feast for the whole class!
- Camerra and Imani worked with the Hebrew teachers to introduce "ohev-grams" for Valentine's Day week. They sold out, and kids from older classes went around the building to deliver them. Teachers, students, and families loved it.
- Next week is the first meeting of the Sela girl scouts!

Upcoming school events:

- February 28: Black History Month celebration, with a living museum

HOS report (Attached as Appendix B)

Goal 1: Improve student recruitment and retention

- We expect the biggest drop-off from PreK4 to Kindergarten, but we have 3 full PreK4 classes this year, which will help provide a cushion.
- Re-enrollment into this year was under 80%; we project mid-to-high 80s for next year based on parent surveys.
- Compared to this time last year, more lottery applications in, and more put Sela in the top 3.
- Josh thinks it's reasonable to budget based on 245; Steve suggests budgeting based on a lower number (e.g. current enrollment). Other considerations: wanting to hire more staff earlier rather than scrambling in August.

Goal 2: Stabilize and grow staff

- 3 Hebrew candidates lined up, including one local (recruiting help from Hebrew Public)
- Ronit was just in NY for OPI training with Hebrew Public.

Goal 3: Improve student achievement

- Discussion of student Hebrew OPI achievement.

Goal 4: Increase financial stability

- Budget savings this year due to the resignation of the instructional aide.
- Budgeting for 2020-2021 has started.

Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement

- Discussion of web-based family Hebrew courses to be offered by Hebrew Public

Board Discussions

- Two teachers have been selected as winners of the teacher educational grants (out of 6 applications). They will be notified on Friday.
- Discussion of the proposed 2020-2021 calendar. Send any additional questions or comments to Josh before the next board meeting, so we can vote on proposed school calendar at next meeting.
- EdOps simulated our PMF under the new model; there are no major changes in how it affects us.

Board Action: 50/50 immersion model to 1st grade for SY2020-21

- Will need 1 additional Hebrew teacher only if we have substantial new enrollment in the upper grades. Shinshinim will provide more support in the upper grades.

Committee updates

- Governance: Vaun resigned from the board effective immediately, and we are seeking a replacement on the governance committee (ideally with a background in law, HR, or board experience, but not essential). Please review documentation Ki'ara sent in preparation for Josh's midyear review.

External relations

- We have \$5,000 left to raise for our \$35,000 fiscal year goal
- We will have three point-of-entry events in March, on different days and different times of day, to accommodate different schedules. More information will be forthcoming by email.

Full Board Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm and moved into executive session