



## **Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 12, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela Public Charter School

**In attendance:** Lisa Apple, Heather Capell Bramble, Ki'ara Cross, Rebecca Damari, Deena Fox, Bryce Jacobs, Steve Messner, Aster Patel, Smruti Radkar, Jenifer Shapiro, Michael Walker, Josh Bork\*, Camerra Taliaferro\*, Markus Townsend\*, Sam Mild,\* community members\*

\*non-voting attendee

The meeting started at 6:48 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 February. Heather seconded. All present voted in favor, except Lisa who abstained.

### **Mission Moments:**

- Camerra: 12 families attended our second to last open house!
- Jenifer attended Literacy Night at Sela, and the kids and families had a lot of fun. The school team did a great job.

### **Upcoming school events:**

- April 2: Women's History Month celebration

**April board meeting:** currently scheduled during spring break (April 9). We will reschedule for April 2.

**HOS report** (Attached as Appendix B)

### Goal 1: Improve student recruitment and retention

- Josh predicts enrollment of 245 students for next year

- Currently, 233 applications into Sela (higher than this time last year, 229). 60 have ranked us in their top 3. We have a possibility of 3 full PreK classes.
- On March 23, we should start receiving student lottery data so we can start reaching out to families when they get their match info on March 27.
- Evening open house planned on Monday March 27, also events for matched families.

#### Goal 2: Stabilize and grow staff

- Staff invitation to return letters to be distributed 3/13 through 3/20.
- Two conditional offers: one dependent on a PIP to be resolved in the next 3 weeks; the other visa-related.
- Two tentative shinshiniyot candidates for next year. One candidate has a background in music; the other in drama and theater.

#### Goal 3: Improve student achievement

- PARCC: teachers have been working on remediating skills based on MAP testing
- Josh and Ronit have been working on Hebrew proficiency expectations based on years in the language. Shlomit from Hebrew Public has been helpful in developing the document. Goal: have the document ready to guide Hebrew planning for next year.

#### Goal 4: Increase financial stability

- Budgeting for 2020-2021 has started. Two budgets: one with 245 students (with contingencies for falling 9.5 students short), one with 236 students.
- The mayor has committed to two increases in charter school budgets. 4% increase in per pupil funding, 2% increase in facilities funding.

#### Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement

- Cancelled all-school playdate
- After-school activities that are not part of aftercare won't happen in March

#### **Board Discussions**

- If there is a disruption to the use of the school building, want to be prepared to engage with students remotely so it's not lost time. Have sent home surveys about access to technology, internet connection, access to food. Working to provide technology to 3-4 families who need it. Currently preparing for 3 different scenarios:
  - Two-week closing (combination of work sent home via packets, web based classes 2x/day for 30 minutes each. English, math, Hebrew, movement time, art, for all grades.)
  - Four-week closing
  - Eight-week closing
- Asking families to reach out individually if they want to keep their kids home preventatively before school is formally closed.

- The school anticipates sending materials home with students tomorrow (Friday) in case of an announcement of closure.
- Working with Revolution Foods to coordinate food deliveries. Will make sure school staff is there to take deliveries and give grab and go delivery to families who need food service. The board is available to help with ideas and/or food distribution.
- Special Ed coordinators are reaching out to families to set up web based work.

### **Items for board action**

- The board should review the proposed calendar for 2020–2021 and vote at the next board meeting. Some recent changes: fewer half days. Later start in August, to mirror DCPS and local counties. Additional snow day.
- Josh proposes a half-day PD day for teachers on Monday 3/16/20 followed by a deep clean of the building (taking a PD day from April 17, and mirroring plans of DCPS and many other charter schools). Deena moved to vote to hold a PD day on March 16. Heather seconded. All present voted in favor.

### **PAVE Engagement (Markus)**

Parents Amplifying Voices in Education. Goals: allowing parents to have a say in the educational direction in the city. Successes: increase per pupil funding for DC schools, add money for mental health in schools.

This year at Sela: rethinking how our parent organization is structured and what its purpose is. PAVE is teaching Sela parent engagement strategies. Markus is guiding the reorganization of the parent organization. One change: sending text message reminders for PTSA meetings (very successful in the first round!). Working on a broader parent engagement strategy.

Bryce suggests making the name of the organization more inclusive (moving away from the term “parent” since not all students live with parents). Heather suggests using a Hebrew word.

### **Committee updates**

- Governance: Please circulate the board announcement to try to get a candidate by next month.
- External relations: March point of entry events will likely be cancelled. We have \$5,000 left to raise for our \$35,000 fiscal year goal. External relations will be working on an end of year campaign.

Full Board Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm and moved into executive session