



## **Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 8, 2021, 6:45 pm

Location: Zoom meeting

### **Attendance:**

| <i>Name</i>            | <i>Role</i>                         | <i>Attendance</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Deena Fox              | Board member and chair              | Present           |
| Aster Allen-Patel      | Board member                        | Absent            |
| Lisa Apple             | Board member                        | Present           |
| Rose Benson            | Board member                        | Present           |
| Heather Capell Bramble | Board member                        | Present           |
| Ki'ara Cross           | Board member                        | Present           |
| Rebecca Rubin Damari   | Board member                        | Present           |
| Yair Inspektor         | Board member                        | Present           |
| Bryce Jacobs           | Board member                        | Present           |
| Damone Jones           | Board member                        | Present           |
| Steve Messner          | Board member                        | Absent            |
| Smruti Radkar          | Board member                        | Absent            |
| Jenifer Shapiro        | Board member                        | Present           |
| Michael Walker         | Board member                        | Present           |
| Andrew Whiting         | Board member                        | Present           |
| Josh Bork              | Head of school (non-voting)         | Present           |
| Camerra Taliaferro     | Director of operations (non-voting) | Present           |

**Minutes:** Rebecca Damari

**Timekeeper:** Michael Walker

**Agenda** (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:47 pm

## **Approval and ratification of minutes and votes**

Bryce moved to ratify the electronic vote on next year's school calendar. Ki'ara seconded.

Votes in favor: Lisa, Andrew, Michael, Rose, Yair, Rebecca, Damone, Jenifer, Deena. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Lisa moved to approve the minutes from the March board meeting. Andrew seconded.

Votes in favor: Bryce, Michael, Rose, Yair, Rebecca, Damone, Jenifer, Deena. There were no votes against. Ki'ara abstained.

## **Mission Moments**

Sela had a big spike in internet traffic after match day, showing lots of interest.

Bryce spoke with a matched family who had been on the fence about Hebrew and Spanish is excited to be matched and join Sela. Another family who speaks Spanish and Hebrew at home and applied to Sela was matched with a Spanish school and was disappointed not to be matched with Sela.

Rebecca spoke with a current Sela PreK4 family who is happy to have their child back in in-person learning as of late March, but has also been very happy with remote learning all year.

## **Questions and Concerns for Fall 2021**

Board members were asked for their questions and concerns regarding school in the fall.

- How will we get all families on board with in-person instruction for the fall?
- How can we accommodate and support students who have experienced learning loss?
- How will we engage students over the summer, aside from learning loss—engaging their curiosity and continuing to rebuild community?
- How can we stay the course with Hebrew while addressing any learning loss in other areas?
- How will we approach any COVID outbreaks in the fall? Can we have cohorts quarantine for less than 2 weeks if they need to quarantine?
- How will new board members get to know other board members better, as well as the teachers and students?
- What will learning look like given new guidance from the city and the CDC?
- What will Hebrew immersion look like in K-2?
- What will school look like? Social distancing, mask wearing, will all families be willing to come back in the building, and if not what will our approach be?

- How will before and after care be run?
- What will fire drills look like?
- Will there be any outbreaks in the fall?
- How do we support teachers when we're asking everyone to be back in the building?
- How do we continue to build our reputation as a school, leveraging our successful and safe return to school this year?
- Can board members visit the school with masks and other precautions, to see what learning looks like now? Yes: interested board members should contact Josh and Camera with a few times they'd like to visit the school.

### **Staff scholarship**

A current scholarship recipient will not be returning to Sela next year, but is requesting to be able to keep the scholarship and not repay it. The recipient has shared with the scholarship committee information about a game he designed for Sela students, which is the contribution he has made to the school based on the training he received as part of the scholarship (it was a class project).

Proposal from the scholarship committee, as amended by board discussion: If the recipient would like to keep the funds, Sela would maintain access to the game developed under the scholarship, and the recipient would have to fully train his replacement in administering the game. If the recipient does not agree, we would put him on a payment plan to repay half of the funds.

Rose moved to vote that the scholarship recipient has the choice to share the game with Sela indefinitely or pay back half of the scholarship through a payment plan. Andrew seconded.

Votes in favor: Michael, Lisa, Rebecca, Yair, Bryce, Ki'ara, Damone, Jenifer, Deena. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

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

#### Goal 1: Improve student recruitment and retention

- SY21-22 enrollment projection to PCSB: 260
- Re-enrollment: 235 individual replies (out of 245 eligible to return). 83% plan to return, 13% are unsure (most of whom are considering moving), 4% do not plan to return (8 out of 10 are moving out of DC)
- Matched families were notified on 4/2/21. 107 families were matched with Sela (more than last year)
- There was discussion of estimates of likely enrollment ranges based on what we know about re-enrollment plans and lottery matches, and how to maximize retention once the school year starts

### Goal 2: Stabilize and grow staff

- Not expecting much teacher movement going into next year.
- Planning to send contracts to returning staff the week after spring break
- Josh and Ronit will be interviewing 3–4 potential Arbel fellows in April (for Hebrew teachers for next year)
- Planning some new positions to assist with academic recovery, as well as reorganization of SpEd department and additional support for English language learners

### Goal 3: Improve student achievement

- PARCC and other statewide assessments are officially cancelled for this school year; we will send MAP data to OSSE as evidence of assessment, but it will not be used for evaluative purposes.
- Josh and Ronit are working with the Hebrew Department at UMD for UMD students to offer after-school tutoring in Hebrew

### Goal 4: Increase financial stability

- SY21–22 budget is in version 1.4
- Mayor is proposing a 3.6% increase in per pupil funding for next school year

### Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement

- Planning end of school year events with PTSA: field day, community day, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Selabration (all outdoors)

## **Board discussions**

Draft calendar was passed via email vote and circulated to families.

Mayor Bowser is pushing for as much in-person learning as possible next school year.

## **Strategic planning**

Draft strategic goals have been finished in committees and will be ready for review at the May meeting.

## **Teacher appreciation week**

Michael, Lisa, Yair, and Rebecca volunteered to help write thank-you cards for teachers.

The board consider gifting a book or a tote bag to teachers.

Sela has 41 teachers.

**Ad-hoc facilities committee** (Josh, Camerra, Bryce, Aster, Steve, and Yair)

No actionable updates right now.

The meeting concluded at 8:47 pm