



**Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 13, 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	Absent
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	Absent
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Smruti Radkar	Board member	Absent
Jenifer Shapiro	Board member	Absent
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
Geoff Brown	Guest, EdOps (non-voting)	Present
Heidi Sahmel	Guest, EdOps (non-voting)	Present

**Minutes:** Rebecca Damari

**Timekeeper:** Michael Walker

**Agenda** (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:49 pm

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

Bryce moved to approve the minutes from the April board meeting. Michael seconded.

Votes in favor: Lisa, Andrew, Rebecca, Heather, Ki'ara, Deena

There were no votes against and no abstentions.

## **Mission Moments**

PTSA-sponsored Readathon raised over \$4,000 to support the purchase of smartboards and materials for the Hebrew program.

Book fair raised over \$2300 in in-person sales and over \$800 in online sales.

Faster re-enrollment than in previous years.

Teacher appreciation week was a hit—the teachers loved the tote bags.

Michael enjoyed visiting Sela on a busy Monday morning and seeing everyone in action.

Bryce heard from a returning family that wishes they had enrolled their older student in Sela when that student started school.

Matched families playdate: lots of families were there, really excited about Sela. One family heard about Sela from an education consultant, so the word is getting out.

## **Budget presentation (Geoff Brown, EdOps)**

We need to submit a board-approved budget to the PCSB by July 28

Geoff presented key performance indicators, showing Sela to be in good financial health. The budget includes a 3.6% increase in per-pupil funding, as proposed by the mayor, and a 3% increase in staff salaries. The budget includes an enrollment contingency of \$103k, or approximately 5 students; the budget is also conservative in assumptions for federal funding, leaving the possibility of having more room in the budget.

Compared to other DC charter schools, Sela's revenue and expenses (per student) are fairly typical. The one exception is salaries, which are higher than average due to Sela's dual language model.

There are several sources of federal and local funding for COVID-19 relief; we can predict allocations fairly well and have flexibility in which year to spend the funding, depending on our needs.

Steve moved to approve the SY 2021–2022 budget as presented, and as approved by the finance committee. Andrew seconded.

Votes in favor: Lisa, Michael, Bryce, Rebecca, Yair, Heather, Ki'ara, Deena

There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Steve moved to authorize Geoff/EdOps to submit our Form 990 for SY 2020–2021 to the PCSB and to the IRS. Andrew seconded.

Votes in favor: Lisa, Michael, Bryce, Rebecca, Yair, Ki'ara, Heather, 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
- As of today, 189 students completely enrolled, 230 completely or partially enrolled
- This time last year, 167 students completely or partially enrolled
- We still have wait lists for PK3, PK4, and K to offer seats to if the ones with offered seats do not all accept

### Goal 2: Stabilize and grow staff

- Planning to send contracts to returning staff by Friday
- The Hebrew team is fully staffed for next year; 2 other positions are being finalized.

### 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. We will send MAP, TS GOLD and OPI to PCSB, also not to be used for evaluative purposes.
- Planning for academic recovery for SY21-22: new positions, use of MAP data in Fall 2021 as baseline, exploring OSSE resources, planning summer PD around academic recovery
- There was discussion of balancing grade level instruction, recovery needs, and tutoring opportunities for the coming school year.

### Goal 4: Increase financial stability

- Budget presentation

### Goal 5: Strengthen family engagement

- More playdates coming for matched families. Next: May 23 at Takoma rec center.
- Field day will be a 2-day outdoor event over the last two days of school

## **Strategic planning**

The board discussed the six “buckets” of strategic goals as proposed by board/school/family committees.

### **1. Student enrollment**

Partnerships with local charter middle schools, and starting that conversation with students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, will likely help with student retention in the upper grades.

### **2. School mission and school culture**

Improve Hebrew language program, incorporate global citizenship and experiential learning. Evaluate efficacy of the Hebrew model in terms of academics both in Hebrew and in English, also taking retention into account. Discussion of how to measure success in cultivating global citizenship.

### **3. Staffing**

Emphasis shifting from retention, proficiency, and satisfaction numbers to support: on-boarding process/mentorship, professional development, and leadership opportunities. Discussion of how to measure success in PD and retention. Recommendation to add a goal relating to retention of effective teachers.

### **4. Academic achievement**

Similar goals to the previous few years. Hebrew goals now address not only grade but number of years of experience with the language.

### **5. Finance and facilities**

Our lease is up at the end of next school year, so we will need a plan for a facility. Fundraising committee will include school administration, board members, and PTSA members.

### **6. Family engagement**

Focus on communication, building on lessons learned during the pandemic. Discussion about how to measure success. Recommendation to add a goal or goals relating to family satisfaction.

Lisa, Andrew, Bryce, Deena, Michael volunteered to be on a committee to refine the strategic plan. Deena and Josh will loop in others from the school to contribute. Revised goals will be presented at the next board meeting.

## **Statement on current events in Israel and Gaza**

Josh has proposed a communication with families and staff about the current violence in the Middle East. The board discussed revisions to the statement.

The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm