



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 11, 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	Present
Lisa Apple	Board member	Present
Rose Benson	Board member	Present
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
Liz Cohen	Board member	Absent
Ki'ara Cross	Board member	Present
Rebecca Rubin Damari	Board member	Present
Yair Inspektor	Board member	Present
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Present
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Smruti Radkar	Board member	Present
Ashley Stoney	Board member	Absent
Michael Walker	Board member	Present
Andrew Whiting	Board member	Present
Josh Bork	Head of school (non-voting)	Present
Ryan Benjamin	Director of operations (non-voting)	Present

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Heather Capell Bramble

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:51 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lisa moved to ratify the meeting minutes from July. Steve seconded.

In favor: Yair, Ki'ara, Rebecca, Heather, Deena

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smruti, Michael, Andrew

Yair moved to ratify the meeting minutes from October. Smruti seconded.

In favor: Ki'ara, Lisa, Rebecca, Michael, Steve, Heather, Andrew, Deena

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Mission Moments

Tomorrow Sela is hosting a vaccination clinic for 5-11 year olds, with 250 doses. We are one of the earlier charter LEAs to host a clinic, and the school community is very excited!

Deena's kids couldn't wait to participate in Hebrew Night last night, and Hebrew night was just as successful as Math Night.

Ryan visited some classrooms this week and observed students enjoying indoor gardening in Mr. Yoel's class and singing and dancing in Hebrew in Ms. Maya's class.

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Proportions of ELLs (10%), at risk (17%), SPED (10%) are similar to recent years.
- We submitted initial projections for 2022-2023 enrollment to PCSB in October, and will have an opportunity to submit revised projections in January.

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Specials teachers and shinshinyot are working to integrate more Israeli cultural activities
- Mid-year family survey going out in early December; results available by the January board meeting.

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- 100% of staff is fully vaccinated, encouraged to get booster shots
- Mid-year teacher evaluations beginning 11/15. Ronit and Sam have started doing PreK classroom observations using the CLASS rubric.

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- Fall MAP testing and Hebrew OPI testing are complete; the board reviewed OPI results.

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- Josh and Steve met with architectural partner about potential renovations. We can consider building purchase and expansion separately.

Goal 6: Family engagement

- Book fair generated over \$2K in funds for Sela—will be shared in the Tuesday folder and the Sela spotlight.
- Bryce and Heather offered to help with the next book fair to ensure that every student gets to bring home at least one book.
- Hebrew night had over 100 families participating. Every class had its own set of engaging activities.

Board discussion: Accreditation

We are required by PCSB to seek accreditation before our 10 year review. There are roles for everyone on the school leadership team. There is a Google doc for the board to contribute to, addressing “Governance and Leadership.” Should be completed the week after Thanksgiving. We are anticipating a site visit for our accreditation application in February.

Qualitative Site Review (QSR) and 10-year review

We have submitted all initial paperwork to the PCSB for our QSR, which is scheduled for January 24–February 4. The review uses the same framework Sela uses to assess teachers.

The 10 year review is a time to reassess goals with the PCSB and plan future school growth (not immediate changes, since PCSB has a moratorium on programmatic changes this year and next year).

Academic data discussion

All students are assessed in Hebrew speaking and listening. This fall’s OPI data is baseline data, since Hebrew learning was greatly affected last year with remote learning.

Data is categorized by grade level and how many years of Hebrew a student has had.

The board discussed the fall OPI data and the HOS addressed questions about the data. The fall data will be useful for looking at growth during the next round of OPI testing.

Reading and writing in Hebrew is introduced at the end of first grade, starts being assessed in second grade. New students are assessed in reading and writing for the first time at the end of the year. Students in grades 2-5 have been assessed in Hebrew reading and writing, and data should be available to the academic committee next month.

Facilities update

The architects presented a plan to renovate the building with more space within the existing footprint. It could accommodate 330 students. The cost would be about \$5 million, in addition to the \$7.5 million cost of purchasing the building. Our potential budget for borrowing is about \$10 million. We may not be able to renovate the building at the same time that we buy the building. The work may need to be phased. Expanding the space would give us capacity for additional enrollment, but we also would like to avoid moving out of the building for a year.

We're still waiting for a firmer number from the architects.

Board member questions and feedback:

- The \$5M plan doesn't include improvements to the outdoor space? No.
- We can reach out to a previous donor who may be able to cover some portion of the costs easily.
- What would it cost to build a larger play space? A "vertical playground" (small footprint) would cost around \$250K. A roof playground would cost several million.

Vote to move to closed session

Ki'ara moved to end the open session of the meeting and move to closed session.

Heather seconded.

In favor: Rebecca, Lisa, Michael, Steve, Yair, Andrew, Rose, Smruti, Deena

Opposed: None

The meeting moved to closed session at 8:08 pm.