



**Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 10, 2022, 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                        | Present           |
| 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                        | Absent            |
| Ashley Stoney          | Board member                        | Present           |
| 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:** Lisa Apple

**Agenda** (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:52 pm

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Bryce moved to ratify the meeting minutes from February. Andrew seconded.

In favor: Aster, Michael, Ashley, Ki'ara, Heather, Deena

None opposed

Abstained: Lisa, Rebecca, Rose, Liz

## **Mission Moments**

Rebecca and Aster reported on conversations around the community with happy PreK families who love Sela.

Josh reported positive feedback on radio ads Sela took out this year.

Heather saw the fifth grade Black History Month play about Shirley Chisholm and they did a great job. Deena was impressed with her kids' plays.

## **Abbreviated Head of School (HOS) report** (Full report attached as Appendix B)

### Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Projected enrollment for next year is 265. 219 students have listed Sela on their lottery form, with 68 ranking Sela in their top 3
- 207 students report planning to return to Sela
- Expecting 6 PreK classes for next year

## **Facilities update**

Earlier, we received a high estimate from architects for a remodel if we purchase the building.

Josh and Steve asked for a proposal within our existing budget.

The architects shared a concept where the 2-story part of the building would be completely renovated and there would be limited renovations in the 1-story part of the building. A full alternative design is in the works—we are expecting a full proposal before the next board meeting.

The design should allow us to enroll more students.

COVID protocols/ventilation will be worked into the proposal.

## **Academic data review: Winter NWEA MAP testing (math and reading)**

The data is normed on data from 2015-2018

Josh's big takeaways:

- Going up in grade levels, achievement and growth trail off
- More of a gap than previous years in ethnicity and SES

Similar charter schools reported that their scores this year are lower than they would like them to be. *Post* report that reading scores across the country are lower than anticipated. Growth scores don't reflect remediation work that teachers have been doing, filling in gaps from last year.

Big interventions in place right now:

- A math interventionist (direct intervention with small groups and individual students, coaching teachers with model lessons, curriculum realignment)
- Librarian and reading specialist are intervening to do small groups and pull-outs
- More SPED referrals a new SPED teacher
- New ELL teacher helping with reading and math

Exit tickets are showing similar gaps in understanding in math to the MAP results. Remediation is simpler in reading than in math; math introduces new concepts every year.

The leadership team is working on plans to address the deficits in the MAP scores.

Board members expressed concerns about meeting the strategic goals for this year given the mid-year MAP scores, and requested that the leadership team consider changes in strategy and supports to address achievement scores that are lower than expected. Board members also highlighted questions about students' current social-emotional needs and how those might be related to the test scores.

### **Proposed COVID protocol changes**

The mayor announced new guidance from DC Health. No charter or public school in DC has completely done away with masking at this time, though it is expected to be optional soon in at least some schools.

The leadership team proposes a two-part change:

- Outdoor masking no longer required starting Monday.
- A later change to indoor masking.

The proposed timeline is designed in part to secure buy-in from all school stakeholders.

The school plans to continue testing as currently implemented. The school is planning meetings with staff and families to explain rationale and take questions.

Board members debated the value of continuing masking, the science around it, as well as cultural and comfort factors. There was consensus that teachers want to be heard about their feelings of safety in their workplace.

Heather moved to adopt the proposed policy. Aster seconded.

In favor: Rose, Steve, Rebecca, Liz, Deena

Opposed: Lisa

Abstained: Bryce, Michael, Yair, Andrew, Ki'ara, Ashley

There was additional discussion about the planned roll-out of the policy and the need for staff and families to be well-informed about the terms and rationale for the policy.

Aster moved to adopt the immediate change to the outdoor masking policy (masks optional). Rose seconded.

In favor: Heather, Lisa, Bryce, Steve, Michael, Rebecca, Yair, Liz, Andrew, Ki'ara, Ashley

None opposed.

No abstentions.

Yair moved to implement the proposed change to indoor masking, with meetings being held on Wednesday 3/16 with school staff and after that with school families to explain the policy in detail and collect feedback. Liz seconded.

In favor: Heather, Rose, Steve, Michael, Rebecca, Aster, Andrew, Deena

Opposed: Lisa, Ki'ara, Ashley

Abstained: Bryce

### **Vote to move to closed session**

Yair moved to end the open session of the meeting and move to closed session.

Michael seconded.

In favor: Heather, Rose, Lisa, Rebecca, Steve, Liz, Bryce, Aster, Andrew, Ki'ara, Ashley

None opposed.

No abstentions.

The meeting moved to closed session at 9:04 pm.