



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 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	Absent
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	Absent
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Present
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Smruti Radkar	Board member	Present
Ashley Stoney	Board member	Present
Michael Walker	Board member	Absent
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: Andrew Whiting

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:50 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Andrew moved to ratify the meeting minutes from December. Ki'ara seconded.

In favor: Steve, Smruti, Liz, Rebecca, Ashley, Deena

Opposed: None

Abstained: Bryce, Rose, Lisa

Mission Moments

School leadership, staff, and families are on top of evolving COVID protocols. Families are pleased with Sela's implementation of COVID protocols and communication.

Rose saw a video from Sela of a parent interviewing her daughter in Hebrew when the daughter wanted to practice her Hebrew, and it looked like they were having fun.

All the classes in the school are preparing their students for tomorrow's Diversity Day, and students are interviewing their families.

A visiting special ed provider said Sela is the most organized and responsive of all the charter schools she works with in terms of COVID precautions.

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Projected enrollment for next year is 265. The school lottery opened in December and closes March 1. We'll get info about matched families at the end of March; families get info April 1. First enrollment deadline is May 2.
- So far, 48 students have ranked us on their applications, 14 as top 3.

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Sela summer camp for Summer 2022 will be June 27-August 5
- Diversity Day will include art installations around the building

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- Mid-year teacher evaluations are 95% completed
- Interviewing 2022-2023 Arbel fellows in February, including for PreK

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- Winter MAP testing scheduled for Feb 7-11
- Academic committee has reviewed the beginning of year TS Gold data (PreK data/social emotional). There is evidence of growth from PK3 to PK4.
- PARCC testing is scheduled for late May (for now). PCSB still says PARCC testing will not be used to evaluate schools.

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- Facilities work is underway using grant funds or previously budgeted funds: remodeling bathrooms, painting hallways and common spaces, renovating a kitchen into a nursing suite, completing a usable outdoor classroom space (with funding from Outreach)
- Revisiting ongoing building service contracts to make more budget-friendly choices and improve quality of vendors
- Our switch to a new COVID testing vendor has freed up some funds for rapid testing

Goal 6: Family engagement

- Midyear family survey staying open through this weekend. Since opening on 12/19, 57 of 200 families have responded. Results will be available in February.

Qualitative Site Review (QSR) and 10-year review

Our QSR is scheduled for January 24–February 4. The review uses the same framework Sela uses to assess teachers.

Staff have gone through 3 PDs related to the QSR and are prepared.

Two weeks after the observation, they will send Josh a draft report, which will then be available at an upcoming board meeting (April)

COVID protocols and changes

Required changes to COVID testing: Our new vendor is doing onsite support (technicians will collect samples). Doing individual testing rather than pooled testing. Covered by individual insurance, Medicaid, or the CARES act.

DC Health Guidance for COVID protocols was updated 11/24. Less restrictive than it used to be for fully vaccinated people.

Just over 40% of our eligible (5–11 year old) students are vaccinated, compared to 13% of 5–11 year old children in DC. Several PreK4 students are getting vaccinated as soon as they become eligible.

There was discussion of Sela's policies for quarantining and re-entry of COVID-positive students and close contacts. DC Health is working through new CDC guidance.

Sela did test-to-return following Winter Break and kept a few dozen positive cases from coming to school. Sela was one of very few schools that tested onsite rather

than sending tests home. There was discussion of the relative merits of onsite testing vs. take home testing.

OSSE is going to be distributing rapid antigen tests to schools every two weeks, starting tomorrow. There are concerns about the equity of OSSE's distribution of the tests.

Results of Midyear Staff Survey

Major takeaways:

- staff are aware that some of their PD needs are being better met
- school culture/wellness PD series with EmpowerED seems to be paying off - we will be able to collaborate with them again next year at no cost through a grant they received from OSSE.
- Staff are looking to grow
- Feedback that will be helpful in building out daily schedule for next year

Facilities update

The architects came up with a rough cost for the total remodeling plan: \$7.5M. That would be in addition to the \$7.5M cost to purchase the building. Our debt capacity is \$10M. The architects are now looking at what we could do for about \$3M.

If we want to purchase the building we need to do so by the end of this calendar year.

Fundraising update

End of year giving: \$16,500 raised out of our fiscal year board goal of \$35,000. Total board fundraising so far is \$26,000.
Plus a \$40K donation from a repeat donor.

Tomorrow is the first meeting of the fundraising committee (board members, PTA, and staff).

Vote to move to closed session

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

Bryce seconded.

In favor: Steve, Rebecca, Ki'ara, Ashley, Heather, Andrew, Smruti

Opposed: None

The meeting moved to closed session at 8:27 pm.