



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2023, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela PCS

Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Deena Fox	Board member and chair	Yes
Aster Allen-Patel	Board member	Yes on phone
Rose Benson	Board member	No
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Yes
Liz Cohen	Board member	No
Rebecca Rubin Damari	Board member	No
Yair Inspektor	Board member	Yes
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Yes
Steve Messner	Board member	No
Ashley Stoney	Board member	No
Michael Walker	Board member	No
Andrew Whiting	Board member	Yes on phone
Josh Bork	Head of school (non-voting)	Yes
Ryan Benjamin	Director of operations (non-voting)	Yes
Add board candidates...	Potential Board candidate (non-voting) KJ Bodchi – nonparent Sandra Colley – parent Justin Rubin - parent	

Dwight counsel for issue

Tahir Boykins

Brittney Denley

Minutes: Heather Capell Bramble

Timekeeper: Yair Inspektor

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:48 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bryce to ratify the meeting minutes from April. Yair seconded.

In favor: All except Aster

Opposed: None

Abstained: Aster

Ratification of Online Votes

Andrew moved to ratify the online vote regarding the inclusion of “Article 8, Dissolution” in the Sela bylaws. Yair seconded.

In favor: All

Opposed: none

Abstained: none

Yair moved to ratify the online vote regarding the change in school calendar for 2023-2024. Bryce seconded.

In favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Mission moments

Blue Ribbon ceremony– Josh, Ryan, Katrina attended a wonderful presentation

Parents are sad about leaving 5th grade

Israel Day was a huge success and now also students practicing the songs for the Israel event at home

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Budget is 290 for next year
- Already enrolled 249

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Israel Day was great!
- Also working on preparing for Israel Embassy event – we will be attending for second year in a row
- EmpowerEd -Teacher committees working through EmpowerED are pushing for a smaller selection of invite-in events next year - staff committee to work with admin on event calendar & scope

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- New music teacher, Mr. Dixon, began Monday (5/8)
- New SpEd teacher, Ms. Jeffers, began 5/1 and has been managing our expanded caseload

- Contracts are still pending budget votes by Council and school budget version in finance committee - teachers are okay as it has been expressed admin is waiting for more info to determine raises
- Staff request for one Wednesday PD off per month is being considered by admin

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- PARCC testing begins for grades 3-5 on 5/15 and goes for two weeks
- DC Science and Health survey for 5th grade are complete
- OPI testing (EOY Hebrew assessment) has begun and goes through June 9th for KG-5th
- CLASS Assessment for PK classrooms began this week and will wrap up by 5/18 - two PK3 classrooms observed so far - observer does speak Hebrew!
- *PCSB Accountability - Academic Committee should begin a discussion about MISSION-SPECIFIC goals for PCSB at the start of SY 23-24. Our current goals do not reflect the school Hebrew team's understanding of multivariable (grade and years in Hebrew) benchmarks for students. These need to be negotiated with PCSB beginning in Spring 2024 to begin SY 25-26.
- Crafting proposal to continue ES leadership/support coaching with MKS - in process
 - Maybe have a report from them to next board meeting

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- BREAKING NEWS! - OSSE updated funding equity conversation.
 - Will take this into account and draft different version of budget to account for potential differences in funding
- Budget is in version 1.8 - accommodating new info about grants for facilities into this version - under review by budget team now, for finance committee review on 5/25, and for June presentation and vote to whole board once clearing finance
- School Purchase/Renovation Financing:
 - 2nd bond hearing to take place in on May 15th @ 10am - Josh and Jerry attending
 - Expect to be approved for amounts specified in approved resolutions
 - SOAR Facilities grant will open on 5/19 - potentially >\$700k for renovation
 - Thanks to Yair for connecting Josh and Ryan with New Columbia Solar
 - Had discussion around leasing roof for solar panels
 - Connected New Columbia with contact at JLL to determine fit
 - Could greatly reduce monthly electricity bills, green the school, and provide capital for roof refurbishment or partial replacement
 - Working with bond experts on our team
- Project Management - RFP to go out this Friday for project management - required as contract will be >\$25k - JLL is submitting

- Architecture - RFP to go out this Friday for project management - required as contract will be >\$25k - Perkins Eastman is submitting

Goal 6: Family Engagement

- PTSA has been really into Teacher Appreciation Week! - assisted with supplies and set-up
- Thank you to the Board for their support this week and the meal!

Board discussion and votes

- Addition of Public Comment to monthly board meeting?
 - Many other DC charter schools have a planned public comment component to their board meetings. Based on teacher feedback shared with Deena from the staff discussion about Emancipation Day, it was apparent that even though board meeting info is public, both before and after meetings, teachers and staff have a very limited knowledge of the board.
 - Developing a public comment procedure - designating a time and procedure for comment would provide a framework for more staff participation.
 - Does the board (governance committee?) want to review some models of how other charter schools handle this?
- Some staff members have expressed an interest in the board member selection process. Does the board have a document outlining the recruitment and selection process that can be made public?
- Want to send out [SY 23-24 School Calendar](#) - 9/15 has been removed as per board vote

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW/VOTE: No items at this time

Yair moved to go to closed executive session. Bryce seconded.

In favor: All

Opposed: none

Abstained: none

Closed session began at 8:09 pm

The meeting ended at 9:35 pm