



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 8, 2023, 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
K.J. Bagchi	Board member	Present
Rose Benson	Board member	Present
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
Liz Cohen	Board member	Absent
Chelley Coley	Board member	Present
Rebecca Rubin Damari	Board member	Present
Yair Inspektor	Board member	Present
Bryce Jacobs	Board member	Present
Steve Messner	Board member	Present
Justin Rubin	Board member	Present
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
Palak Shah	EdOps (non-voting)	Present

Minutes: Rebecca Damari

Timekeeper: Justin Rubin

Agenda (Attached as Appendix A)

The meeting started at 6:50 pm

Mission moments

School staff and several board members attended the Israeli embassy event, where 37 Sela students performed the Israeli and American national anthems and impressed the crowd. Everyone is invited to watch the video.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

In favor: Andrew, Heather, Aster, Deena

Opposed: None

Abstained: Rebecca, Rose, Michael, Steve, Ashley

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

- Enrollment is at 97.9% of goal as of today.
- PreK3 enrollment is lower than projected. Likely reasons: more seats at other schools, lower enrollment in PreK3 in the city overall. Something to bear in mind making enrollment projections for coming years.
- The 50/50 immersion program seems to be helping with retention.

Goal 2: School mission and culture

- Teacher committees working through EmpowerED will be participating in advisory and limited decision making next year.

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

- End of year teacher survey going out next week
- A few hiring decisions remain to be finalized depending on enrollment in certain grades
- The proposed budget removes the reading specialist position for next year; goal is to develop more curriculum expertise internally

Goal 4: Academic achievement

- In discussion with MKS for coaching for next year for elementary leadership/support staff (3 coaching participants)
- In discussion with SpEd Coop for MTSS support services, to build stronger connection between RTI and SpEd—needs assessment and implementation coaching. We would be part of a cohort working together.

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

- We have received a large grant to fund the design and build of our new vertical playground
- Looking into the possibility of leasing roof space for solar panels, which would have the benefit to Sela of cheaper electricity
- Interviewing for a development and communications manager for next school year. Hiring should be complete by mid-July.

Goal 6: Family Engagement

- End of year family survey going out next week

- PTSA looking to begin a group to work with other charter schools about the role and challenges of middle school in DC—learning, advocacy, etc.

Budget presentation from EdOps

- This is the second year that PCSB has asked for a two-year budget. The deadline to submit to PCSB is July 5.
- The budget assumes an enrollment of 290 students (10 more students than budgeted this year) and 55 staff
- We are planning a 3% increase in teacher salaries (potentially higher if the city provides more funding)
- The budget includes a fundraising goal of \$110K, which is about \$70K higher than previous fundraising goals in the budget. Part of the reason for the higher fundraising goal is to cover the salary of the new development manager. FundEd has been working with the external relations committee to develop a fundraising plan.
- The budget assumes that we will receive a SOAR Public Facilities grant, which will offset the cost of architectural services to renovate the building
- The board discussed staffing decisions, professional development budget, and how they relate to enrollment contingencies. One point of discussion was whether to hire another reading interventionist (to replace the one working at Sela this year) or to distribute that role to classroom teachers and elementary leaders.
- Staffing: Hebrew is a net +1 position for next year compared to this year.
- **Board members are requested to send questions and suggestions related to the budget to Deena, Josh, Ryan, and Steve by Sunday.**

Update on Special Education Program

- The board reviewed changes made during SY 22-23, summer work planned for 2023, and proposed actions for SY 23-24
- Regular trackers are in place to ensure that mandated services are being provided (instructional time and related services). That will be presented monthly to the board. Student progression toward goals (average rate) can be reported quarterly. SpEd student data is always highlighted in MAP test reporting. All data will be aggregated to preserve student privacy.
- The board would like to review changes to the structure of the SpEd program in the second half of the school year to ensure that goals are being met.

Heather moved to go to closed session. Aster seconded.

In favor: Rose, Bryce, Michael, K.J., Andrew, Rebecca, Steve, Yair, Justin, Chelley,
Ashley, Deena

Opposed: none

Abstained: none

Closed session began at 8:51 pm