



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 19, 2023, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela PCS

Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Deena Fox	Board member and chair	Present
Aster Allen-Patel	Board member	Present
Alen Amini	Board member	Present
K.J. Bagchi	Board member	Present
Rose Benson	Board member	Present
Heather Capell Bramble	Board member	Present
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	Absent
Justin Rubin	Board member	Absent
Michael Walker	Board member	Absent
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 6:53 pm

Mission moments

A local artist, Hillel Smith, came to visit the school and read his book to students in multiple grades

Today was the first part of the winter lights festival, PreK and K, and parents seemed pleased with the performance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bryce moved to ratify the meeting minutes from November. Heather seconded.

In favor: Deena, Rebecca, Chelley, Alen, KJ, Yair

Opposed: None

Abstained: Aster and Rose

Head of School (HOS) report highlights

Middle School transition night on January. 3 middle schools have confirmed attendance.

There was discussion of possible school culture activities such as a school chorus.

A video pen pal program will start in January, with Sela students meeting remotely with Arab students learning Hebrew as a second language in Lod, Israel.

Josh and Ryan met with Empower K-12 about developing a dashboard to track the metrics the board has expressed interest in seeing in one place. Having them build a dashboard was beyond our budget, but they may be able to train Ryan to build and maintain a dashboard in-house.

The Deputy Mayor of Education is pushing to develop partnerships between foreign language programs across DC public schools including potential patterns between DCPS and PCSs. We are pursuing possibilities for partnership with a middle school.

School report card discussion

OSSE uses school report cards to designate schools that need additional support. Currently 32 schools are designated as requiring some form of additional support. City-wide, pre-pandemic inequities in achievement have been exacerbated. Across DC, trends for growth are more positive. Most sub-groups have gotten back to their pre-pandemic levels of growth.

The board discussed Sela's students' proficiency and growth as compared to similar schools, as well as upcoming changes to frameworks. DC PCSB is working on a new tier framework, will be rolling out to schools privately this year, will roll out publicly once SY2024-2025 data is available.

There was discussion about the implications of the discussion for Sela's strategic planning, budget, and instructional support.

Staff retirement plan discussion

Sela leadership recently learned about an error in the revisions of retirement plan documents, leading to an error in plan type and match rate. Leadership is working

to reconstruct the communication about the plan, and will address the problem according to advice. The board and leadership will communicate with staff this week to acknowledge the problem, and again once a resolution is identified.

Board self-evaluation

The governance committee developed a self-evaluation for the board, drawing on self-evaluations from charter schools from around the country. Several board members completed the online self-evaluation during the meeting. Governance will look at the data and share some of the findings and recommendations for moving forward.

The meeting ended at 8:44 pm