



Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Via Zoom

5:00 pm

Board Members In Attendance:

Alen Amini
Ezra Karger
Amberine Huda
Steve Messner
Tara Cuevas
Nathan Groce
Marisa Tersey

Others in Attendance

Rachel Sussman
Ryan Benjamin

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm EST. No public comment for this session, but anyone can reach out to selapcsboard@gmail.com or any individual Board member.

Approval of Various Items: Alen Amini

Upon motion and second, all Board members present voted to approve the agenda as presented.

Upon motion and second, all Board members present reviewed and voted to approve meeting minutes from the July board meeting.

Head of School Update: Rachel Sussman

- Enrollment Updates: 205 students are fully enrolled, 37 of which are new and 168 of which are returning. 40 students are partially enrolled.
 - Fully Enrolled Breakdown By Grade: 19 (Pk3), 36 (Pk4), 30 (K), 37 (1), 29 (2), 25 (3), 22 (4), 7 (5).
 - The total number is 250 students which includes those that are fully enrolled, partially enrolled, and in the pipeline but have not yet filled out their forms, which is in line with Sela's goal.
 - Currently recruiting, some whom have been matched through the MyDC process.
 - Strategies: Led by Sela's Recruitment Associate
 - Lawn signs to increase visibility and draws attention to the school building, particularly for new prospective families. These lawn signs are across DC and go as far as Chevy Chase, MD.
 - Social Media: The Recruitment Associate has also increased presence on social media to showcase Sela PCS' diversity and tell a fuller story about the school to prospective families.
- Staff Hires: Teachers in Prek, 2nd Grade Math, Music, PE, and SPED have been hired; An Interventionist and Social Worker have also been hired. There is an ongoing search for a Kindergarten teacher.
- Ops and Finance:



- DOAS Unit: Construction now scheduled for August and will last about 3-4 months.
- Major Donors: Sela received a \$5k donation from an existing donor, \$25k donation from a new donor, on top of the continuing funds from Empower K12.

Committee Updates:

- Governance Committee: Ezra Karger
 - Board members have given feedback on the bylaws; nearly there to circulate the final version.
 - Discussing term limits, most likely 2 3-year terms with the option for an extension.
 - The manual is undergoing revisions, but the board will be expected to vote on that soon.
- Finance Committee: Steve Messner
 - Met yesterday to review the preliminary financials for SY 25-26. Pending year-end adjustments, we had a surplus of \$690K, much higher than the \$69K one in the budget. Most of the difference is due to one-time revenue events.
 - Sela's challenges with enrollment and other challenges suggest that we will not expect a significant surplus in SY 26-27.
 - The financial policy manual is ready for review, and the board will vote on it in a future board meeting.
- External Relations Committee: Nathan Groce
 - Met earlier last week to review the budget and consider the larger fundraising milestones.
 - Question for the board: Important to have 100% participation in giving from the board, but considering whether this should be once toward a particular campaign or given throughout the year. Various points when board members can give:
 - December: Giving Tuesday/Holiday Giving
 - May: Teacher Equity Fund
 - June: End of Year Campaign
 - Other events: Breakfasts and other fundraising events, including a tentatively "Friends of Sela Breakfast" in early October.
- Academic Committee: No updates
- Middle School Taskforce: Ezra Karger
 - Making progress on various decisions
- Nominations Committee: Amberine Huda
 - Interest form has been open for about 3.5 weeks
 - Currently, 4 candidates have filled out the interest form, all of them Sela parents.
 - AH spoke with another prospective candidate who wanted to learn more about serving on the board before filling out the form.
 - We request that board members use the email, LinkedIn, and text templates to further our communications to anyone you think would be a great fit.

Motion to Move Into Closed Session: Alen Amini



- Upon motion and second, the Board voted to close the Open Meeting and meet in Closed Session, per Section 2-575 of the Open Meetings Act, subsection (b)(12): to train and develop members of a public body and staff.
- The board will discuss embargoed assessment data.

Adjournment: Alen Amini

Upon motion and second, all board members present voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm EST.