

**Sela PCS Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 9, 2021, 6:45 pm

Location: Sela Public Charter School

**Attendance:**

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| *Name* | *Role* | *Attendance* |
| Deena Fox | Board member and chair | Present |
| Aster Allen-Patel | Board member | Present |
| Lisa Apple | Board member | Absent |
| Rose Benson | Board member | Absent |
| 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 | Present |
| Bryce Jacobs | Board member | Absent |
| 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 7:01 pm

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Heather moved to ratify the meeting minutes from November.

In favor: Andrew, Ya’ir, Deena, Steve, Aster, Smruti

Opposed: None

Abstained: Liz, Ashley

**Mission Moments**

Some board members are meeting together at the school!

Teachers have been using lots of (Hebrew) music and dancing recently.

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

Goal 1: Student enrollment and retention

* Official count is 263. Projection for next year is 265.
* This Saturday is (fully virtual) EdFest, and we have 7 recruitment events scheduled for this year (virtual and in-person).

Goal 2: School mission and culture

* Coordinating cross-campus teacher observations with LAMB (in late March/early April, COVID permitting).
* Initial planning for Summer Camp 2022.

Goal 3: Staffing retention and development

* Mid-year teacher evaluations are 80% complete.
* Mid-year staff survey is out.
* Interviewing new shinshinim in January.
* Interviewing new Arbel fellows in February, hopefully including some PreK teachers.

Goal 4: Academic achievement

* Winter MAP scheduled for January 19-25.
* Mid-year collection of TS Gold data (for PreK) is complete.

Goal 5: Finance and facilities

* Giving Tuesday raised over $7000 for spring field trip buses.

Goal 6: Family engagement

* Mid-year family survey has gone out to all families, closes January 3.

**Board discussion: Accreditation**

Need a board member to complete the “Governance and Leadership” section of the accreditation package. Liz and Smruti will work on it.

**Board discussion: Qualitative Site Review (QSR) and 10-year review**

Our QSR is scheduled for January 24-February 4. Staff have gone through the first of three PDs to prepare for the QSR.

**Board discussion: Changes to COVID testing and protocols**

OSSE informed us that our testing plan, which they previously approved, is insufficient because it doesn’t inform individual students if they are positive or negative. Sela will be working with a new testing vendor, starting in January, who will not bill Sela; tests will be covered either by insurance or by the CARES Act for uninsured.

DC Health has provided updated guidance on quarantining protocols for fully vaccinated students.

**Finance Committee Update: Audit**

Sela was audited as we are every year. The audit raised no concerns.

Steve moved to accept the audit. Aster seconded.

In favor: Andrew, Liz, Heather, Ki’ara, Ya’ir, Deena, Rebecca, Ashley, Smruti

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**External Relations Committee Update**

The committee is drafting a fundraising letter that board members can use as a template to send to family and friends. The committee asks that every board member send a fundraising solicitation (whether a version of the provided letter or their own text) to at least ten people.

We also expect 100% giving participation from the board, at a level that is meaningful for each member.

Josh asked about next steps for the annual teacher scholarship fund. Deena will check with Rose, who normally coordinates the applications.

**Board members’ year-end reflections on Sela’s response to COVID**

Impressed with the school’s ability to adapt learning quickly and to roll with changes in COVID protocols.

Proud that Sela did the vaccination clinics!

Proud of Sela’s cohorting and testing protocols, efficient way to keep everyone safe and minimizing inconvenience

Proud of the board for adapting well to COVID and open meeting requirements

Excited about options for parents, keeping families safe

Sela kept the student experience at the center

School leadership reacted quickly and was able to make frequent changes as needed

Proud of how Sela approached virtual learning

This year has been a good opportunity for board members to get to know the school better

The parent community has been very supportive, buying in even when things were changing

COVID testing time has become a good opportunity for staff to connect with families and kids

Admire the resilience of the leadership team during this period

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.