



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

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Purpose

Somerset Academy, Inc. promotes a transformational culture that maximizes student achievement and the development of accountable, global learners in a safe and enriching environment that fosters high-quality education.

Meeting of the Board of Directors November 12, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) (Present)
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) (Present)
David Concepcion (Present)
Matthew Cox (Absent)
Taylor Smith (Present)

Non-Voting Officers

Bernie Montero, President (Present)
Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President (Present)

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. (Absent)
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, Esq. (Present)

In an effort to allow greater public participation and to best accommodate stakeholders, this meeting was held via communications media technology with physical access sites at each of the individual school campuses throughout Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Duval and Monroe Counties.

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Call to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – *None*

3. **Consent Agenda** - *All items listed with letter designations are considered routine were enacted by one motion.*

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the October 15, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary additions).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset – Washington D.C.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Misc. Waivers
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Charter School Surplus/Disposition Declaration Form for Bond Technology Devices for Somerset Academy Davie.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects/Purchases:
 - i. Ratify Somerset Academy Oaks Van Purchase for Lunch Use (to be paid with lunch funds)
 - ii. Somerset DBK Marquee Purchase for \$50k (to be paid with referendum funds)
 - iii. Somerset Academy Pines Facilities Updates for an amount not to exceed \$85k (to be paid with operating and referendum funds)
 - iv. Somerset Academy Pompano Facilities Updates for an amount not to exceed \$39k (to be paid with operating and referendum funds)
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Virtual Educational Services and Support Agreement between Somerset Virtual Academy (private) and Academica Virtual Education, LLC.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by David Concepcion; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Congratulations to Dina Miller on her 3rd Blue Ribbon.
 - ii. Special welcome to Jorge Rivas from Cornerstone.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Bernie addresses the recent threat received at his school and the efforts of staff and law enforcement.
 - ii. Accreditation update

- c. ESP Report (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Legislative Update – Seeking clarification/interpretation on past items; funding requests; board member fingerprinting request;
 - ii. Facilities Report
 - 1. Somerset Key – Still in litigation, depositions occurring in December, then mediation.
 - 2. Somerset Prep – Still in conversations with their officials, submitted a clarification memo on our long-term plans to determine the best plan for both Somerset and the JCC.
 - iii. Colegia Report by Antonio Roca
 - 1. Private Somerset Virtual has been in operation since the beginning of the school year and it’s going well; the relationship with Inter-Miami is going well.
 - 2. Artificial intelligence and state data; training available for those who need.
 - 3. Dismissal and arrival and digital hall pass pilot program.
 - 4. Alaia trainings ongoing
- d. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the 2024-2025 Revised Annual Budgets.
 - 1. Budgets have been updated with the October FTE student counts – 29,837 students statewide (up 206 students since 23-24)
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Marla updates on Somerset Arizona
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: December 17th via Zoom

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:50am

*The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on December 17, 2024.