



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 January 17, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox (Texas) *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Present)*
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. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum
- c. Moment of Silence for Dr. Bernard Kimmel

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the October 11, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2022-2023 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved Out of State and/or Country Field Trip(s):
 - i. Somerset Academy Bay Middle School TV Team & Somerset SoHo Middle/High – Long Beach, CA for Competition
 - ii. Somerset Academy Bay Middle School – Washington, DC
 - iii. Somerset Preparatory Charter School at North Lauderdale – Crystal City, VA – LEAD Spark Conference
 - iv. Somerset Academy Parkland – Europe
 - v. Somerset Academy Boca Middle - Washington D.C.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the following School Project(s):
 - i. Ratify Somerset Academy Miramar Turf Project with Sport Court for \$107k
 - ii. Ratify Somerset Academy SoHo Middle High - Repair upstairs and downstairs hallway floors for \$22,700
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised 2022-2023 Title 1 School-Wide Plans for the individual Broward County schools, as necessary.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Teacher Certificate Extension Requests.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Revised Referendum Plans for the individual Somerset Academy schools in Palm Beach County for the 2022-2023 School Year.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised 2022-2023 Title 1 Budgets for the individual Miami-Dade County schools, as necessary.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to adopt the 2022-2023 Instructional Continuity Plan (ICP); public wishing to provide feedback are encouraged to do so, as stated on the cover page of the plan. Further directing all schools to post the adopted plan on their individual websites and to place a request for public feedback on their upcoming parent meeting agendas.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Planning to meet at different schools for each meeting and encourage everyone to attend in possible as much as possible.

- b. School Updates
 - i. Facility Reports
 - 1. Somerset City Arts (*Idalia Suarez*)
 - a. Pending the letter for the church to get the 40 year certificate to get the awning; Victor and Gema have been assisting.
 - 2. Discussed facility projects, such as roof and air conditioning; need to put funds aside to prepare for when such items need to be repaired or replaced; creation of a spreadsheet to track this; request to include as an agenda item for the next meeting.
 - ii. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle Elementary & Middle by Principal, Tunji Williams
 - a. Just completed iReady mid-year assessments; have seen positive increases in student data; no learning gains is causing some concerns; special thanks to everyone who has been offering support; enrollment remains stable with a few new students being enrolled.
 - 2. Somerset Academy JFK by Principal, Lisa Santiago
 - a. Just completed iReady diagnostics which have shown improvement; goal is an A/B; enrollment is looking good, as well.
 - 3. Board Chair German discusses the new school in Phoenix, Arizona; the Board would be open to sending potential candidates if they would consider relocation. A new school is, also, opening in Columbus, Ohio in which Somerset would also like to consider one of our own as a leader for this site.
 - iii. Others, if necessary
 - 1. No additional discussions took place.
- c. Financial Report
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2022.
Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Year End Grants / Loans.
Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously
 - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Revised 2022-2023 Annual Budgets.
 - 1. Board Chair German discusses (without naming schools) the concern that several schools have gone over budget regarding payroll without seeking Board approval; if necessary, this item will be reviewed in detail in future meetings if not corrected.
 - 2. Alina Chester would like to add on to the previously discussed roof/A/C savings item, if there are any additional items that should be included. She discusses the additional funding being received until next year, so now would be the time to review these items.
 - 3. Board Member Diaz requests what burdens are causing the schools to go over budget as, based on the spreadsheets provided, it does not appear to be caused by staffing.
 - 4. Board Chair discusses a previous idea of balancing rental amounts across all schools so that all schools pay the same; Alina states that this is how the district does it and also includes all facility costs; Julio states that they have been working very closely with the landlords to balance it on that end.
Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously
 - iv. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Policy Manual, as amended.
 - 1. The specific policies have not changed; rather the procedures have been removed from the manual.

Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously

d. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board discussed & approved to officially change the name of Somerset Academy JFK to (something along the lines of) Somerset Academy Dr. Bernard Kimmel (aka Somerset Academy DBK).

Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Spelling Bee at Somerset Bay on Saturday, March 11th
- b. Next Board Meeting: February 14th
- c. Somerset Retreat in April (looking at weekend of 4/27) for school leaders & board members (greatly discourage spouses to attend as this is an official event); mandatory fun!

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:45am**

The undersigned hereby certified that he/she is an Officer and/or Director of SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of said corporation.

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on February 14, 2023.