



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, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(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 Somerset Academy Pompano (1101 NW 33rd Street, Pompano Beach, Florida 33064), as well as 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 11:01am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. Natasha Williams – Somerset Academy Miramar, Parent with concerns of racial undertones at the school.
- b. Ana Maria Pitty – Somerset Academy Prep, requesting an update on the future of the school.

3. Consent Agenda *(All items listed were considered routine and were enacted by one motion.)*

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments for the 2023-2024 school year; further reminding Principals to ensure all proper parent notification letters are sent and filed as required.
- iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2023-2024 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools.
- iv. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify CMO Grant items.
- v. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Articulation Agreement Amended Schedule A – Miami-Dade Schools
- vi. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair
 1. Approved the Updated Referendum Plans and the Quarter 2 Referendum Reports for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- vii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 1. Somerset Academy Prep (Angie Nunez)
 - a. Student Television Network PD and Competition / Long Beach, California / March 12 – 18, 2024 / 28 students/ 3 teachers / 16 parent chaperons
 2. Somerset Academy SoHo Middle/High (Waki Soberon)
 - a. TV Production will go to STN competitions in Long Beach, California March 13-17 / 19 students / 4 staff members / 4 parents
 - b. Italy March 21-26 with EF Tours / 11 students / 2 parents / 2 staff members
 3. Somerset Oaks (Idalia Suarez)
 - a. 14 students to the STN Convention in Long Beach, California. We will travel from March 12th to the 17th. The students will be competing in 5 different categories. We will have five chaperons in total: Three school staff and two parents.
 4. Somerset SoBay (Saili Hernandez)
 - a. Washington DC / STN 2023 / Student Television Network Convention
- viii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Instructional Continuity Plan (ICP) for the 2023-2024 School Year; further requesting public comments if applicable.

- ix. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending September 30, 2023.
- x. Tabled: Approval to Ratify the Contractor Agreement and Construction Budget for the Somerset Academy Gables West Miami site.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Would like to do a board workshop on facilities, especially focusing on terms and contingencies; all schools should have a contingency even for emergencies such as a fire.
 - ii. Update on Somerset Academy Prep Facility – this is being actively worked on; several different options are being reviewed; this is the highest priority item at Somerset and Academics; although this is our top priority it is recommended that parents apply for enrollment at other schools as their own contingency.
 - iii. Update on Somerset Key Lease – this site is also undergoing a major lease issue; the landlord is unresponsive to all communication efforts and to the school's day-to-day requests; this change occurred when their new board took over.
 - iv. Principal Rains discussed - <https://www.wpbf.com/article/florida-park-vista-high-school-bands-somerset-college-academy-londons-new-years-day-parade/46269236>
- b. Academics Report
 - 1. Legislative Update (provided by the Board Chair in Julio's absence)
 - 2. Academics is implementing an in-house school treasurer workshop/training.
 - ii. Colegio Report (*Manny Pon*)
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Battle of the Books – April 16-17
 - ii. Math Bowl – Feb. 10th
- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye*)
 - 3. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 - 4. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
 - 5. Others, if necessary
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
- f. Facilities
 - i. Somerset Chapel Trail TV Production Studio and Campus Upgrades
 - 1. Principal Montero provides background on this and the need for additional space; the school is at max. capacity; the TV program is lacking due to the facilities; numerous floating teachers due to space. The Board approves to move forward on the project as requested.
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: February 7th (may be amended if news about Prep is known).
- b. High School Principals – Please send Kelly your graduation dates/details as soon as they are known so they can be added to Board Member and Academica calendars.

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:59am**

The undersigned hereby certifies 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 7, 2023.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.
A Florida not-for-profit corporation