



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 7, 2023

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 *(Absent)*
Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President *(Present)*

Board Counsel

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

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 11:01am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. Daniel Clough – Somerset College Prep – spoke about son’s dismissal from Somerset College Prep and would like the Board to appeal that action.

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

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the September 28, 2023 and October 10, 2023 Board of Directors Meetings.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Prep (Principal Angie Nunez)
 1. 8th Grade Close Up Washington Field Trip (Dates: February 25-28, 2023 / Students: 17 / Adult Chaperons: 2 / Parent Chaperons: 3 / Total: 22)]
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Amended Facility Lease for the Somerset Academy South Homestead Middle High Campus (amendment is to conform existing lease to other Somerset / LLC leases (previously approved) with no increase in Fixed Rent or in any elements of Additional Rent).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Corrected Facility Lease for the 19620 Pines Blvd. Location (Schedule F had blanks and Schedule D has an incorrect date for the CPI adjustment mechanism to the Fixed Rent, which is disadvantageous to the school).
- e. **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.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Improvement Plans for the individual schools, as necessary.
- g. **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.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
 - i. Discussed recent audit findings for an external organization and need to pay attention to what you are signing and financial records.
 - ii. Discussed the Canary Islands and the lack of payment to invoices in several years; Victor will meet with their Board soon; the Board Chair requests this item be on the next agenda as an action item.
 - iii. Communications from Lowell Levine re: bullying at schools; after further review it was noted that this individual has written many letters to a lot of schools with false accusations; a cease-and-desist letter was prepared and being sent so he can stop making false statements; Mr. Levine has a bullying business which he promotes to the schools he has made accusations about.

- b. Academica Report
 - i. Legislative Report (*Julio Robaina*)
 - 1. Discussed Alternate State Authorizer (State University College Systems, Miami Dade College received a grant to become an authorizer, Board of Education can also authorize)
 - ii. Colegio Report (*Antonio Roca*)
 - 1. Hall Pass; Colegio alumni rolling out in the Spring; Colegio TV; monthly news show; AIA (Artificial Intelligence Application);
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Review of required Field Trip Permission Slip and Waiver – all schools statewide are required to use this form for field trips moving forward; this form includes general field trip information and a liability waiver to protect the school and board.
- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Arizona (*Diana Jones*)
 - a. School received a B
 - b. Note by the Chair - This school can be removed from the monthly agenda.
 - 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
 - 1. Nevada Academic Notes of Concern (*David Concepcion / Marla Devitt*)
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester & Ana Martinez*)
 - i. Miami-Dade Referendum Funds (*Alina Chester*)
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2023; including ratification of all necessary Year End Grants and/or Loans. (*Ana Martinez*)
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve and execute the final Contractor Agreement and Construction Budget for the Somerset Academy Gables West Miami site.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: December 12th via Zoom

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:10pm

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 December 12, 2023.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation