



### *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.

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## **Meeting of the Board of Directors December 12, 2023**

### **Board of Directors**

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*  
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(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. *(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**

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#### **1. Opening Exercises**

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

## 2. Public Comment

- a. At this time, public comment on items other than those about Somerset Academy Prep. were called. There were none.

## 3. Consent Agenda *(All items listed with letter designations are considered routine and were enacted by one motion.)*

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the November 7, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve necessary CMO Grant items.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*

## 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
  - i. Somerset Academy Prep Facility Concerns – Todd welcomes all of the parents that are present today. As everyone is aware, we have lost our lease for Somerset Prep at the JCC. We attempted to purchase the property, but were unsuccessful. Todd states that he is personally sick over this matter and how serious Somerset is taking this.
    1. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Numerous Parent Emails *(copies provided in the Drop Box for the Board's review)*
    2. Public Comments (each regarding Somerset Prep)
      - a. Bridget Oliver
      - b. Derrick Garcia
      - c. Gabriela Y. Verdial
      - d. Melissa Arojas
      - e. Omar Delgado
      - f. Sergio Gonzalez-del-Pozo
      - g. Lenay Harrison
      - h. Carolina Pareja
      - i. Ana Garcia
      - j. Ashley Ramkishum
      - k. Pablo Barrios
      - l. Ana Maria Pitty
      - m. Julieta Ibarbide
      - n. Ms. Jackson
      - o. Cameron Hernandez
      - p. Nancy Rauseo
      - q. George Alonso
      - r. Claudia Marmol

- s. *\*Missing the name of one female speaker*
  - 3. Board Chair German thanks everyone for their comments. He states that he agrees that Somerset lacked communication and promises to make sure that we do a much better job at communicating.
  - 4. Victor Barroso and Danny Diaz provide more background on this item and the timeline and how quickly things transpired from one more year to this being the last year on the lease.
- ii. Discussion / Action: Canary Islands
  - 1. After much discussion, we have agreed to end our formal relationship with the school. They will no longer be a part of our accreditation. Board Member Concepcion inquires about any owed dues as discussed at a recent meeting. Victor will find out from accounting how much is past due, although he suspects it is not a lot of money as the school shut down completely for COVID.
- b. Academica Report
  - i. Tabled: Colegio Report (*Antonio Roca*)
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
  - i. President Montero informs the Board and staff of a recent medical incident that occurred on his campus in which a staff member saved a student's life.
  - ii. School grades were released yesterday, so those can be fully reviewed at the January meeting.
- d. School Updates
  - i. Academic/Data Reports
    - 1. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
  - ii. Others, if necessary
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester & Ana Martinez*)
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Revised Annual Budgets for the 2023-2024 School Year.  
*Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously*
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
  - i. Todd requests that lease rents and terms be included on the lease spreadsheet.
  - ii. David requests that parent communication (for Somerset Prep) be posted on the school's website in addition to however the school already communicates. Board Chair German requests for the Board to be copied on correspondence regarding this matter.

## 5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: January 17<sup>th</sup>

## 6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:31pm

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 January 17, 2023.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation