



Vision

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

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

December 12, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) (*Present*)
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) (*Present*)
David Concepcion (*Present*)
Brian Matthew (Matt) 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 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 11:02am
- b. Established a Quorum
- c. Special welcome to members of the public joining us today

2. **Public Comment** - *None*

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

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the August 12, 2025 4pm and November 18, 2025 Board of Directors Meetings.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments for the 2025-2026 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 to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved for Somerset Academy City Arts to proceed with the following project: Wifi Access Point Update for an amount not to exceed \$33,000 (to be paid by operating). **Project was reviewed and approved financially.*
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Title 1 Budgets.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the First Amendment to Renewal Charter Contract for Somerset Academy Avenir *(corrected grade levels served to reflect K-5).*
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the transfers from the individual Somerset Academy schools to the Somerset Academy, Inc. account for investment purposes.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised Articulation Schedule for the Somerset Academy, Inc. Florida schools.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Canyons - February 27-March 8, 2026 - select SGA students and a chaperone to Villa Moron, Verona, Italy in conjunction with Academica International Studies and partnering with Pinecrest North and Cornerstone Charter Academy.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Boca Middle - Washington, D.C. March 11-13.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Purchase and/or Projects:
 - i. Somerset Academy Oaks – Trailer Purchase for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to be paid by operating.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Charter School Surplus/Disposition Declaration Form for Bond and Non-Bond Technology Devices for Somerset Academy Village.

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*

- i. New Charter School Application in North Carolina was approved - Somerset Preparatory Academy North Carolina
- ii. Tabled: Continued Discussion: Financial Incentive for school leaders opening schools in new areas/states.
- iii. Discussed: Approach by Trump officials on future of education and request for thoughts by the Principals.

b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)

c. Discussed: Option to extend the Somerset Academy Key lease term at the current campus is in place through June 30, 2027, at the same monthly rent.

- i. If option is exercised, Zion is released from \$385,979.27; otherwise due to Somerset.
- ii. A decision regarding the exercise of that option will be made on or before December 31, 2025.
 - 1. Discussed the options and future; Dennis provides an update to the Board on parent thoughts on the situation; very low registrations for next school year since enrollment opened; we have been diligently looking for properties (one possibility came about this week); school is a 6-13 with 633 students; discussed opting out and ending the lease now; discussed possibility of nesting the school within another school even if only temporarily; discussed the option of offering virtual school; would like to notify the families & staff prior to the landlord and provide them options.
 - 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved not to exercise the extension to remain at the Somerset Academy Key current location; further approving to vacate the property by June 30, 2026.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; roll call; motion was unanimously

d. Financial Report

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to amend the Investment Policy which allows third party loans.
 - 1. Discussed establishing an Investment Committee at a future meeting.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously

e. ESP Report

- i. Legislative & Facilities
- ii. Colegia

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

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to delegate authority to apply for private schools in Florida and in Texas.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by David Concepcion; roll call; motion passed unanimously

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: January 13th via Zoom & Academica

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:13pm

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on January 13, 2026.