



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 September 14, 2021

Board of Directors

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

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Present)*
Eleni Pantaridis, 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, Jefferson and Monroe Counties.

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the August 17, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2021-2022 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.

- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved the submittal of the following Charter School Amendment Request:
 - 1. Somerset Island Preparatory (#0382) hereby requests to increase enrollment to 100 students effective the 2022- 2023 school year, and add 1904 Flagler Avenue, Key West, FL 33040, as an additional educational facility.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans; further authorizing the Board Chair to execute for submission.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2021-2022 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair or Vice-Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve and authorize the Principals to submit the Instructional Continuity Plans (ICP) by the required due dates.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to approve to submit the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2021.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the use of the Florida Consortium of Charter School's State-Approved Systems for Teacher Observation and Evaluations for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the following Charter School Contracts for a minimum five-year term.
 - i. Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead)
 - ii. Somerset Palms Academy
 - iii. Somerset Academy Pompano
 - iv. Somerset Academy JFK Charter School
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the decision for the identified schools to "opt-in" to receive a 2020-2021 School Grade.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2021-2022 Active Assailant Response / Stabbing Procedures.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the request for two-year extension of teacher temporary certificate.
- m. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Mr. Jason Killins as the new Parent Involvement Representative (aka School Conflict Designee) for Somerset Preparatory Academy High (Homestead) #7242.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Dr. Kimmel; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Encourages Principals to utilize the Board with parent concerns and any other support needs.
 - ii. Special recognition to Tunji Williams for his recent Op Ed piece.
- b. Follow up on facility issues at Somerset Academy Village
 - i. Issues are slowly resolving; at the point now that we tell them when we are making a repair.
- c. School Updates
 - i. Jefferson (*Cory Oliver*)
 - 1. Reported little to no communication with the district officials; working well with the incoming Principal and AP.
 - ii. Others, if necessary
 - 1. Waki reports things are going very well at SoHo Middle High.
- d. Update on School Mask Policies and Court Ruling (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. This issue is constantly changing; the current status is that we are not in a position where we can mandate masks without an opt out clause.

- e. Update on Tax Referendum Funds for Charter Schools and Court Ruling (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Issue was recently taken up in Palm Beach and the court ruled that the funds had to be shared with charter schools; the court order states that funds will be received by the PBC schools this year; it did not reference if it was retroactive. This particular ruling does not apply to charter schools in other counties. This one was specific because the districts language excluded charter school.
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Julio Robaina reports that the Governor just announced that this is the last year of the FSA; it will be replaced with Progress Monitoring; they are going to develop a system to use statewide (3 times per year); there are still many unanswered questions, including school grades and how to determine a high performing charter school; the State feels that 2 months of true educational time is lost during the testing time.

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: October 12th

6. **Adjourn Meeting**

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 October 14, 2021.