



### *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 May 14, 2024**

### **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. *(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 and 4251 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33146.*

## **Minutes**

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### **1. Opening Exercises**

- a. Called to Order at 11:04am
- b. Established a Quorum

## 2. Public Comment

- a. Chris Leal, Parent from Somerset Riverside addressed the Board with concerns that he has with the school's resource officer and administration; discussed son's anxiety; traffic concerns; stated that he called the Principal an inappropriate name; states that now he is banned from the school property; states son is being dropped off on the side of the road since he cannot drop him or pick him up on property; concerned with son's grades. The request is for the Board to look into his disturbance so that he can pick up / drop off his son without any issues.

## 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 April 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **Tabled:** 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. **Tabled:** 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 Ratify the School Lottery Engagement Letter with Gravier.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Management Company Subordination Agreement.
- f. Lease Approvals & Ratifications *(Note: Each lease listed has been reviewed by Board Counsel and recommended for approval if the Board so desires.)*
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Short Form Lease with Broward School Development, LLC.
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Short Form Lease with Broward School Development II, LLC.
  - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Two Sites Properties, LLC. And Somerset Academy, Inc. (for property located at 500-510 SW Bethany Dr., Port St. Lucie, Florida).
    1. Addendum to the current lease making adjustments for additional renovated space delivered to the school and for rent adjustments and ramp up period.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Receive & File the Quarterly Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2023.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects *(Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable):*
  - i. Somerset Academy DBK #3395 – Athletic Field Improvement for an amount not to exceed \$70,000 (to be paid with retro-referendum funds).
- i. Pulled from Consent: Somerset Academy – New St. Lucie School
  - i. Name change from Somerset Career Academy Port St Lucie to Somerset Career Academy.
  - ii. Temporarily nest Somerset Career Academy at the Somerset College Prep site: 725 NW California Blvd, PSL, 34986.
  - iii. Apply for an MSID and open operations August 2024.

- iv. Begin contract renewal for Somerset Career Academy with an expiration date of June 30, 2029.

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

#### 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
  - i. School Lottery Procedures
    1. The lottery policy was officially amended at the last meeting and the agreement with the auditor was executed. Therefore, any school who needs to have a lottery to determine enrollment needs to have the auditor certify the lottery. You may contact Ana Martinez to help with any scheduling needs.
  - ii. Announcement of Retirement & Special Thanks to Donna Kaye
    1. Donna has been with us for 23 years; she started in 2001 at Somerset Chapel Trail.
  - iii. New Principal Appointments for the 2024-2025 School Year
    1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Cristina Camus as the Principal of Somerset Academy #5141 & Somerset Academy Elementary South Campus #5263. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
    2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Anthony Marucci as the Principal of Somerset Pines Academy #5030 & Somerset Pompano Academy #5388. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
    3. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Patricia Boiteux as the Principal of Somerset Academy Village #5004 & Somerset Academy Village Charter Middle School #5002. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*
  - iv. Somerset Academy Key Facility Update – Unfortunately we do not have an update; we are still in negotiations to purchase the facility.
  - v. Stipends – After several conversations with different Administrators, there is a disparity on how we have been doing stipends. Moving forward for next year all administrator stipends must be reviewed by the Board or designee. This policy will be across all other sister networks. A formal policy will be brought forth at an upcoming meeting.
  - vi. Somerset Academy – New St. Lucie School
    1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the name change from Somerset Career Academy Port St Lucie to Somerset Career Academy.
    2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to temporarily nest Somerset Career Academy at the Somerset College Prep site: 725 NW California Blvd, PSL, 34986.
    3. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to apply for an MSID and open operations August 2024.
    4. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to begin contract renewal for Somerset Career Academy with an expiration date of June 30, 2029.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
  - i. Somerset Network Initiative – Project Adam Saves Lives
- c. Financial Report
  - i. Alina Chester provides a budget workshop update.
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to move the individual schools' special accounts to PNC Bank.
    1. Currently with Wells Fargo which is not paying interest on these accounts; PNC will pay interest.

*Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*

- d. School Updates
  - i. Academic/Data Reports – Skipped the Florida reports as all Florida schools are in the middle of state testing.
    - 1. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye*)
    - 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
    - 3. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
    - 4. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
    - 5. Others, if necessary
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

## 5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. ACE Foundation End of Year Celebration – May 31<sup>st</sup>
- b. Next Board Meeting: June 13<sup>th</sup>
- c. Graduations (*12<sup>th</sup> grade*)
  - i. Doral College – June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3pm
  - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am
  - iii. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) – May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am
  - iv. Somerset College Prep. St. Lucie – May 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm
  - v. Somerset Prep Homestead – May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
  - vi. Somerset Chapel Trail – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am
  - vii. Somerset Key – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 1pm
  - viii. Somerset Silver Palms – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm
  - ix. Somerset Academy Central – June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
  - x. Somerset Las Vegas (both) – May 24<sup>th</sup>

## 6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:57am

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 June 11, 2024.

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