



### *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 August 30, 2022**

### **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 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. Mr. Chuck Shaw, Palm Beach County – Discussed a recent visit to Somerset JFK; was impressed with the campus improvements and painting; he is very impressed with Principal Santiago.
- b. Dr. Bernard Kimmel, Board Member

## 3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the July 19, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2022-2023 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- c. **Pulled:** The Board approved the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans; further authorizing the Board Chair to execute for submission.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2022-2023 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.
- e. **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, 2022.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the following Charter School Contracts for a five-year term.
  - i. Miami-Dade
    1. Somerset Arts Academy
  - ii. Broward
    1. Somerset Academy Key Charter Middle School
    2. Somerset Academy Riverside Charter School
    3. Somerset Academy Riverside Charter Middle School
  - iii. St. Lucie
    1. Somerset Academy St. Lucie
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair:
  - i. Approved the proposed Referendum Plans for the 2022-2023 School Year for the individual charter schools located in Palm Beach County.
  - ii. Approved the Title 1 Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2022-2023 School Year, for the individual schools as necessary.
  - iii. Approved to request to receive a modification of its charter to a term of 15 years, per 1002.331 High-performing charter schools, for the following newly designated High Performing Charter Schools:
    1. Miami-Dade: Somerset Academy Kendall (*currently expires in 2023*)
    2. Broward: Somerset Academy Elementary South Campus (#5263) (*currently expires in 2023*)
    3. Palm Beach: Somerset Academy Canyons High School (#4013) (*currently expires in 2027*)

- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Reassignment Request from Principal Castro.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to submit the following new charter school application(s); further approving the Board Chair the ability to authorize the submittal of any additional applications, as necessary:
  - i. Broward County: Somerset Parkland High
- j. School Projects:
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Miramar PA System Project for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to paid by operating.
  - ii. **Pulled:** Somerset Academy Oaks Basketball Court Project for an amount not to exceed \$140,000; approval is contingent upon receiving two additional proposals.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the GASP Charter Schools Engagement Letter with HLB Gravier, LLP.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Improvement Plan for Somerset Academy JFK Charter School #3395.
- m. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to execute a lease extension for the Somerset Academy Prep Campus.

Board Member Cox pulls items 3c and 3jii for discussion

*Motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items by Ana Diaz; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously*

#### 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
  - i. Application Enrollment Dates / Windows
  - ii. Referendum Results by District
  - iii. Discussed: School Board Member changes at Broward County
  - iv. Discussed items pulled from consent:
    - 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans; further authorizing the Board Chair to execute for submission.
      - a. Alina Chester has been meeting with Principals and Academics Staff discussing what we can do with the funds received; in Miami-Dade we will receive an additional \$1500 per teacher; Broward and Palm Beach final numbers are pending, but it looks like it will be around \$1500 per teacher, as well; there is little lead-way on how to spend the funds; the State provides and then it must be distributed almost equally amongst all teachers.

*Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*
    - 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Oaks Basketball Court Project for an amount not to exceed \$140,000; approval is contingent upon receiving two additional proposals.

*Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*

- b. School Updates
  - i. Facility Reports
    - 1. Somerset City Arts – Principal Suarez reports that all facility items have been complete with the exception of the landlord’s 40 year certification; will keep the school on the agenda for next month so an update can be provided.
  - ii. Academic/Data Reports
    - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle Elementary & Middle – Principal Williams updates the Board on how the first few weeks of school have gone. Board Chair German would like to see matrix or data presented at future meetings to better review how the school is doing.
    - 2. Somerset Academy JFK (*Lisa Santiago*)
  - iii. Others, if necessary
- c. Principal Designations
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Ms. Margaret (Meg) Campbell as the Interim Principal of Somerset Academy Parkland #5056, effective immediately. Ms. Campbell current serves as the school’s Assistant Principal.  
*Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Ms. Adriana Diaz as the Principal of Somerset Palms Academy #5015, effective immediately.  
*Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*
  - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Mr. Joel Mesa as Principal of Somerset Academy Charter Middle School #6004, effective immediately (*Mr. Mesa was previously only designated for the high school*).  
*Motion to approve by Dr. Kimmel; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*
  - iv. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to designate Ms. Suzette Ruiz as Principal on Special Assignment for Somerset Academy Charter Middle School #6004 and Somerset College Preparatory Academy South High School #7078, effective immediately.  
*Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*
- d. CIVICA Report
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board review & approved the Architectural, Engineering and Facilities Support Services Consulting Services from 7/1/2022 – 7/1/2023.  
*Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously*
  - ii. Somerset Gables West Campus Project Update
    - 1. **APPROVED:** The Board review & approved the fee estimate for permit plans for the Somerset Academy Gables West Campus Project.  
*Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Ana Diaz; motion passed unanimously*
- e. Teacher Retention / Recruitment
  - i. Presentation by Ryan Shook
  - ii. Discuss: Military Veterans Certification Pathway (<https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/military/>)
    - 1. Effective July 1, 2022, Florida issues a 5-year Temporary Certificate for military veterans who have not yet earned their bachelor’s degrees and meet the following eligibility:

- a. Minimum of 48 months of active duty military service with an honorable/medical discharge on DD214;
- b. Minimum of 60 college credits with a 2.5 grade point average on an official transcript;
- c. Passing score on a Florida subject area examination for bachelor's level subjects which demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge;
- d. Employment in a Florida school district, including charter schools, with an assigned mentor; and
- e. Cleared background screening.
- f. Before applying for this pathway, complete a waiver request for the Military Certification Fees Waiver (MCFW).

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

## 5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: September 13<sup>th</sup>
- b. Reminder to Principals to complete the FTE Survey from Ryan Shook

## 6. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:03pm**

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 September 13, 2022.