



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 February 13, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Absent)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Absent)*
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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:01am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – *None at this time.*

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 January 17, 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 the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland – 8th Grade Trip to Spain & Portugal
 - ii. Somerset Academy Pines – Winner of Amazing Shake going to Atlanta March 21-22
 - iii. Somerset Academy Canyons - EF Tours trip for 22 students to go to Italy March 16-23, 2024
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending December 31, 2023.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to submit any necessary charter school amendments by March 1st, including but not limited to:
 - i. Request 15 year contract terms for all newly designated High Performing Schools:
 - 1. Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead) MSID #13-0339 (Layda Morales);
 - 2. Somerset Palms Academy MSID: 13-5015 (Adriana Diaz); and
 - 3. Somerset Parkland Academy MSID: 06-5056 (Geyler Castro).
 - ii. Somerset Academy South Miami (Elementary School) – Add an additional location (for kindergarten use in the new PK building) (Ceci Guilarte)
 - iii. Somerset Academy High School #5221 and Somerset Arts Conservatory #5396 to collectively enroll 1850 students.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to renew all Somerset Academy schools with charter school contracts expiring June 2025.

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. Update on Somerset Academy Prep Facility – Not able to provide specific details; much more confident about a positive outcome today than at the last meeting; parents should still continue to find alternative placements; as soon as we are 100% confident in the plan, communication will be sent.
 - 1. Danny Diaz affirms what Board Chair German stated.

2. Ana Arrojas, Somerset Prep Parent, requested a timeline. Board Chair German lets her know that we are hopeful to have solid details within the next couple of weeks to month.
 - ii. Update on Somerset Key Lease - Dennis states that there is still virtually no communication from the church; he further states that the church's day to day regular activities are almost extinct.
 - iii. Parent Concerns / Complaints
- b. Academica Report
- i. Legislative Report presented by Julio Robaina
 - ii. Referendum Resolution presented by Julio Robaina; the Board agrees to authorize the drafting of the resolution on their behalf for the purpose of obtaining retroactive funds in Miami-Dade county.
 - iii. Colegio Report presented by Kevin Hernandez
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
- d. DLI in Central Florida for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Jessica Berroa & Idalia Suarez*)
- i. Discuss district requirements to provide professional learning to all Somerset Schools in Florida starting next year (currently only working in Miami-Dade & Broward).
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize moving forward with implementing DLI in all Somerset Schools in Florida, effective the upcoming school year.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously
- e. School Updates
- i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 2. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
 3. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye*)
 4. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - a. Courtney suggests a board retreat or meeting in San Antonio next February for San Antonio's Rodeo Month.
 5. Others, if necessary
 - a. Somerset Academy Arizona
 - i. Discussion of performance Somerset Academy Skyway – Arizona
- f. Financial Report
- i. Alina Chester discusses grant funding, referendum and future budget updates.
- g. Facilities
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset West Gables Renovation - Owner and Contractor Agreement Package (AIA).
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
 1. AIA 101 Owner and Contractor Agreement package, which includes the AIA A201 General Conditions to the agreement, and all exhibits below:
 2. Exhibit "B" – CamCon Estimate with Enclosed Breezeway FNL
 3. Exhibit "C" – Qualifications FNL
 4. Exhibit "D" – Drawing Log Revised FNL
 5. Exhibit "E" – Breezeway Allowance Breakout FNL
 6. Exhibit "F" – Certificate of Insurance Liability Coverage FNL

7. Exhibit “F.1” – Certificate of Insurance Workers Comp FNL
- ii. This agreement includes off-site and on-site water, sewer, paving repairs, drainage, renovation of existing building to classrooms and administrative areas, and the open-air breezeway space between both buildings. The cost to enclose the breezeway to an air-conditioned space, if approved will be an additional 414K (see Exhibit E breakout). In the cost breakdown, the line items that relate to the enclosure are set up as allowances to make it easy to remove if not approved by the board.
 - iii. This breezeway enclosure was discussed by the owner representative team and the design team for some time to assure the benefits outweigh the additional cost and at the end both teams agreed that the benefits to the school operation are worth the investment.
 - iv. Update on construction: the project has the master building permit in hand, and CamCon the general contractor we decided to work with at the last hour due to Turin Construction winding down due to Howard Turin decision to retire, has worked out well. They have mobilized and are working on setting up temporary fencing, office trailer, storage trailers, temporary water etc., subcontractor procurement and product submittals so the subcontractors can gear up to perform the work. CamCon has agreed to a 5-month schedule with a drop-dead completion date of August 1st, 2024, for the classroom building. The breezeway area may take a bit longer if the board approves the conversion to AC space, but discussions with principal does not appear to be a problem to temporarily adjust so school operation is not affected.
 - v. In summary, this Somerset renovation has two components the classroom space in existing building which we have agreed with CamCon to focus on this building so the classrooms are ready for schools opening date of August 15th and the second is the breezeway space which will be completed shortly after school opens.
 - vi. As always, we will coordinate construction activity with contractor, design team and school administrators to assure a smooth and safe construction operation.
- h. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Immediately after today’s meeting, Somerset Academy Pines Students will compete in their annual Amazing Shake.
- b. Next Board Meeting: March 12th at Somerset Academy Palms
- c. Graduations (*12th grade*)
 - i. Doral Academy College – June 1st at 3pm
 - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18th at 11am
 - iii. Somerset Academy SoHo – May 25th at 10am

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:01pm

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 March 13, 2024.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation