



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 11, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew 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 11:05am
- 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 were enacted by one motion.*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the January 14, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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 the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending December 31, 2025.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved Waivers for #5008, #5151, #5004, #5002
 - ii. Approved the 2023-2024 School Recognition Fund Distribution Plans for the schools that do not have a SAC.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy 5263/5141 – Washington DC – March 2025

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Discussed a tragedy with a student which occurred at Somerset Academy in Texas yesterday. Amy discussed resources that are available through ADP for help with grief; will look further into resources available to employees in other states. Bernie reminds all schools that a counselor is a must; if anyone doesn't have one for budget purposes they are told to please reach out – we are Somerset and family and have a lot of resources to share.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Cognia Accrediting Report was extremely positive with a very high IEQ making Somerset an “impacting network”
 - ii. School Data Report
 - iii. Jacksonville visit report
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
 - ii. Colegia (*Antonio Roca*)

- d. Financial Report
 - i. Discussed changes occurring federally and possible funding/grant changes.
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - a. Approved for a 5-year charter contract renewal!
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. CMO Update by Sarah Fye; rolling out a Connectivity Survey to see who may have interest in expansion areas.

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: March 11th via Zoom
- b. Announcement of Spring Events (see attached)
- c. Principal Coalition Meeting immediately following this meeting on Sarah's Zoom

6. **Adjourned Meeting**

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 11, 2025.