



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 17, 2026

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Absent)*
Brian Matthew (Matt) 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

d. Presentation: Cognia System of Distinction

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 13, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments for the 2025-2026 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. Pulled: Approval of Title 1 Budgets (*none submitted*)
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Oaks Leadership & Innovation - VEX IQ Robotics Team has been invited to compete in the 2026 CREATE U.S. Open Tournament, a national robotics event featuring teams from across the United States and other countries. Dates: March 26–28 / Location: Iowa West Field House, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- e. **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 any newly designated High Performing Schools.
 - ii. Request any other necessary HP amendment requests as necessary.
 - iii. Request any other misc./necessary amendment requests
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the Financial Statements for the quarter ending December 31, 2025.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Matt Cox; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Discussed unified use of logos; reminder to please work with Adri on this.
 - ii. New School Principal Bonus will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - iii. Somerset Key Update; reviewing a few possible sites. (*Marla Devitt*)
 - iv. New School Update (*Danny Diaz/Marla Devitt/Frankie Mestre*)
 - 1. Working to open a new charter school in Duval County
 - v. Request for Investment Committee – Update will be available at the next meeting
 - vi. Facility/Projects Report by Rolando Llanes, CIVICA
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. CMO
 - ii. Site Visits
 - iii. Needs/Data Updates
 - iv. Calendar/Upcoming Events

v. Program Updates/Curriculum

c. Facility Items

i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Boca Lease Renewal (pending confirmation of recommendation from Board Counsel) & Project Requests:

1. Approved - Lease Amendment
2. Approved –
 - a. Project: Carline Walkway Phase 3 for an amount not to exceed \$47,000
 - b. Project: Bathroom Phase 1 for an amount not to exceed \$327,500
 - c. Project: Turf Phase 2 for an amount not to exceed \$109,000
 - d. Project: Playground for an amount not to exceed \$60,000
 - e. Project: Classroom Renovations for an amount not to exceed \$107,000.

Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Prep Sunset Lease Renewal (pending confirmation of recommendation from Board Counsel) & Project Request.

1. Review of Lease Amendment; extension to 2030 (5 year lease with landlord ability to cancel lease in year 3 with 18 months left); JCC is updating the bathrooms and school will do the turf.
2. School Turf Improvement Project for an amount not to exceed \$240,000 (*paid by operating*)

Motion to approve by Matt Cox; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unaimously

d. ESP Report

- i. Legislative update by Fernando Zulueta
- ii. Colegia

e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following new Private Schools.

- i. Florida
 1. Somerset Academy – Bernie Montero
 2. Somerset Virtual Academy at College Prep South – Joel Mesa
 3. Somerset Virtual Academy Key Campus – Dennis Mulrooney
 4. Somerset Virtual Academy @ SOHO – Walkiria Soberon
 5. Somerset Academy at Avenir – Rebecca Pavich
 6. Somerset Virtual Academy at Canyons – George Groziner

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

ii. Texas

1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize Somerset Academy, Inc. to open a wholly owned subsidiary to operate private schools in Texas.

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

- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to Negotiate and Execute Memorandum of Understanding: SVA Program School Educational Services with Fort Lauderdale Football Club LLC.

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

- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. September 22nd possible mini-retreat in Arizona; great due to Somerset's expansion in Arizona.

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: March 10th via Zoom

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:23pm**

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on March 13, 2026.