



### *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 April 9, 2024**

### **Board of Directors**

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*  
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(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**

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### **1. Opening Exercises**

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

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 March 13, 2024 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 to Ratify the Premium Service Agreements between The School Board of Broward County and the individual schools located in Broward County, as necessary.
- d. Lease Approvals (*Note: Each lease listed has been reviewed by Board Counsel and recommended for approval if the Board so desires.*)
  - i. ~~TABLED: Approval of 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.~~
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Addendum and Restated Sublease Agreement between SLAM Foundation, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. and Sports Leadership and Management, Inc. (for the property located at 2773 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, Florida)
    1. Amended and restated sublease to clean up and simplify the subleases to the two subtenants (SLAM and Somerset), which allows those two entities to apportion occupancy costs as necessary each year.
  - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Addendum to Sublease Agreement between SLAM Foundation, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. and Sports Leadership and Management, Inc. (for the property located at 2773 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, Florida).
    1. Addendum to that sublease to add the playfields to the subleased property.
  - iv. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to Educational Facilities Lease Agreement between The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. (for the Somerset Academy Prep at Sunset facility).
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Referendum Reports and the Updated Referendum Plans for the individual schools in Palm Beach County.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Receive & File the Quarterly Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2023.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the FASB Engagement Letter Renewal with HLB Gravier.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects (*Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable*):
  - i. Somerset Academy Village PA System for an amount not to exceed \$51,000 (paid from reserves / special project for safety and security)

- ii. Somerset St. Lucie Playground Play Structure for an amount not to exceed \$85,000 (\$40k from Internal Fundraising & \$45k from operating)
  - iii. Somerset Academy Canyons Marquee, Bleachers and Scoreboard for an amount not to exceed \$700,000 (from operating / retro referendum funds).
- i. **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.

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

#### 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
  - i. New Grant Award and Growth; requesting AP's and Lead Teachers and others who have ambitions to grow to join the board meeting Zooms.
  - ii. Somerset Academy Village – Social Media Post
  - iii. Somerset Academy Prep Facility Updates
    - 1. Lease & Construction Updates
      - a. The lease amendment has been executed; this is a bridge agreement; looking at long term options.
      - b. Creation of brand-new system to help track all leases and amendments.
  - iv. Somerset Key should be able to be updated at the next meeting.
- b. Academica Report
  - i. Legislative Report (*Julio Robaina*)
    - 1. Session is over; bills are pending Governor signature to finalize them;
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
  - i. School Lottery Policy
    - 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Proposed Revision to Student Lottery and Enrollment Policy requiring that at least one school administrator plus a representative from an independent auditing firm be present at the Lottery.  
*Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*
    - 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Engagement Letter by Gravier pending final negotiations by the Board Chair on the cost and terms.  
*Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously*
- d. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
  - i. Approx. \$240 per student increase for the upcoming school year.
- e. Facility Report / Approvals
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board discussed and approved the Somerset Academy Parkland Media Center Buildout for an amount not to exceed \$557,000.  
*Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously*
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board discussed and approved to move forward on the Somerset Academy Chapel Trail Media Center Modification Project (to create additional classrooms) for an amount to be determined.  
*Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously*

- f. School Updates
  - i. Academic/Data Reports
    - 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
      - a. Somerset Academy Arizona has an opening for the Principal; please talk to Bernie if you are interested.
  - ii. Somerset Virtual Academy (Private School) (*Lina Sierra / Antonio Roca*)
    - 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize for Somerset Virtual Academy to apply for Florida scholarship eligibility for private students.
      - a. Existing private school operated by Somerset for several years located at Bernie's campus; requesting authority to give the Board Chair the ability to execute documents with the State to be able to apply for funding.
      - b. Discussed how the corporation of Somerset is established as a public non-profit corporation; discussed possibility of running two sets of meetings in the future in which charter items and private school items will be discussed under 2 separate agendas.
      - c. Discussed a possible name change in the future; Antonio requests that Somerset provide some private school options / branding so when we are ready to change the name, we are prepared.  
*Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously*
    - 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Noelle Iglesias as principal of Somerset Virtual Academy (private).  
*Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously*
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

## 5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup>
- b. Graduations (*12<sup>th</sup> grade*)
  - i. Doral Academy 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 4pm
  - viii. Somerset Silver Palms – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm
  - ix. Somerset Academy Central – June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm
  - x. Las Vegas Graduations will both be on May 24<sup>th</sup>

## 6. Adjourn Meeting at 12:00pm

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 May 14, 2024.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation