



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 October 15, 2024

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 11:00am
- 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 September 10, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifter Waivers or Endorsement Assignments 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 the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy St. Lucie – Atlanta, GA
 - ii. Somerset Academy DBK – Washington, DC
 - iii. Somerset Academy Canyons – Alabama for Cheer in October & November
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. SoMi PK Buildout
 - ii. Waivers (multiple)
 - iii. PBC Q1 Referendum Funds
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to utilize Doral Leadership Institute Consortium of Public Charter Schools Instructional Personnel Evaluation System and School Administrator Evaluation System as the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Tool.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Apologized to Kerri Ann for a comment made in the last meeting.
 - ii. Ann Maria Rodriguez, State Senator, has a child who attends Kerri's school and they absolutely love it.
 - iii. At the last meeting, we talked about putting together a Strategic Planning Meeting. Due to the hurricanes we weren't able to hold one today. Todd feels that the agenda topics should include aggressive growth goals due to the grant. David would like to add considerations for long-term capital outlay planning. Matt has previously stated that he would like to focus on the mission and vision and make sure that it aligns. Bernie discusses new sites and the establishment of leadership for successful and healthy growth. Taylor would like to see a Principal Academy to offer PD for administration. Ana also agrees to make sure that we are offering and supporting our Principals. Kerri would like to see efforts be made to benefit "the community / the staff" as opposed to only focus on the learners. Dr. Ruth would like to see how we can recruit new teachers. Todd discussed timing of the meetings; he suggests meeting at 9:30 prior to a board meeting.

- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Huge Congratulations to Dina Miller (Somerset Davie) for receiving her 3rd Blue Ribbon Award.
 - ii. Report on Student Data
 - iii. FTE was just completed
 - iv. Jacksonville & Phoenix Update
- c. Lease & Other ESP Updates (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset - Danny reports that negotiations are going great and more info. should be able to be shared soon.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Key – The attorneys have been engaged with the landlord and communications are open; looking into the possibility of mediation.
 - iii. Somerset Academy Continental – This should be ready for the next meeting.
 - iv. Other updates by Julio -
 - 1. Legislative Update
 - 2. Actively pursuing growth in other states
 - 3. Future growth in Homestead at the existing schools
- d. Financial Report
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024; including ratification of all necessary Year End Grants and/or Loans.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: November 12th

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:30pm

*The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on November 12, 2024.