



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 September 10, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(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. *(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 11:01am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. Stephanie Wicky, Somerset Parkland – Speaking for Ms. Ward, as well; discussed school values, facility concerns, lack of communication.
- b. Kimberlee Ward, Somerset Parkland

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 August 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL Waiver 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 to continue the authorization for Ms. Ana Mendez (Vice Chair) the ability to execute, on behalf of the Board of Directors, all academic / education items and deliverables due to the individual sponsors, including but not limited to Out of Field Waivers, Employee Contracts, School Improvement Plans, Title 1 Budgets, District / State Deliverables, etc...
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to submit the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to approve to submit the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2024.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland – Scotland and Ireland
 - ii. Somerset College Prep – Gatlinburg
 - iii. Somerset Gables – New York City
 - iv. Somerset Prep Homestead - Rome & Perugia
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Progressive Discipline Acknowledgement & Policy; further directing all school to add the Acknowledgement & Policy as an attachment to the “Policy and Procedures for Charter School Compliance with School Safety and Security Requirements Set Forth in Florida Statutes and Rule 6A-1.0018; and Florida Administrative Code” manual, as created by each school using the board adopted template in June 2024.
 - i. *Each district school board and charter school governing board shall adopt a progressive discipline policy for addressing any instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and any administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate school safety requirements.*

- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Instructional Continuity Plans for the 2024-2025 school year; further requesting public comments if applicable.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Mental Health Plans, as submitted by the schools by the required due dates.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revisions to the Parent Involvement Representatives for the 2024-2025 school year.

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. Somerset Academy Parkland Facility Concerns – For a relatively new school, approx. 50% of units have had issues; it was confirmed there were maintenance let downs; there is a current nationwide issue pertaining to A/C units at our schools; discussed having an independent 3rd party to come in and review all systems and also include other networks; Taylor agrees having a 3rd party come and also refer to leases when doing so; Julio confirms that this can be further addressed and a proposal presented.
 - 1. Todd discusses 3 recent visits by the health department that occurred as a result of the parent complaints; all 3 visits were satisfactory with no issues found.
 - ii. Safety & Security – Working on obtaining quotes for a fob system for staff to wear on their ID badges that would immediately alert law enforcement.
 - iii. Communication as a School Principal – Please communicate with Adri prior to sending or posting certain parent messages.
 - iv. Somerset Academy Key update
 - v. Jacksonville – Disappointed that the grade was a surprise and less than expected; Tunji discusses measures being taken; Todd requests data or a report card for future meetings.
 - vi. Arizona update by Jenna Meacham
 - vii. CMO Grant and Growth – continued need for Principals for these new sites.
 - 1. It is requested that future schools be made available to share with aspiring staff. Adri can prepare this for the next meeting.
 - 2. It is requested that all new Principals (from outside) be paired with a network Principal from the beginning, as opposed to when they need help.
 - viii. Board Member Cox challenges all school leaders to re-read vision and purpose and figure out a creative way to engage staff with those and share at upcoming board meetings.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President *(Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz)*
 - i. Working on the FAST, Behavior Threat Assessments, meaningful visits to Arizona.
- c. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: October 15th via Zoom (with a physical location at Academica)

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:58pm

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 October 15, 2024.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.
A Florida not-for-profit corporation