



SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

2023-2024

Board Meeting Minutes

July 11th

August 8th

September 12th

***September 28th**

October 10th

November 7th

December 13th

January 17th

February 13th

March 13th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th (Annual Meeting)

June 26th

**Denotes a Special Meeting*

Somerset Academy, Inc., a non-profit organization, will comply with chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, relating to public records, and s. 286.011, relating to public meetings and records, public inspection, and penalties the Florida Statutes relating to public records and public meetings.



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 July 11, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Absent)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

Bernie Montero, President *(Present)*
Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President *(Present)*

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Absent)*
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 11:03am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** - None

3. **Consent Agenda** (*All items listed were enacted by one motion.*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the June 13, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects:
 - i. Somerset Academy SoHo Middle/High Painting Project for an amount not to exceed \$70,000.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Chapel Trail Turf Project for an amount not to exceed \$140,000.
 - iii. Somerset Academy Key Portable Repair Project for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2023-2024 Referendum Plans for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Civica Agreement for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Matt Cox; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Digital Security Presentation by Mario Eirea & Michael Hernandez
 1. Invited to the meeting by the Chair due to recent hacking events in other school districts
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Data update; Sarah will report deeper on this.
 - ii. NSLP trainings upcoming
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Academy Eagle Elementary & Middle (*Tunji Williams*)
 2. Somerset Academy JFK (*Lisa Santiago*)
 3. Somerset Arizona (*Bernie, Victor, Marla*)
 4. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
 1. Congrats to Tunji and Lisa for coming off the list!!
 2. Data Report by Sarah Fye; discussed the lack of using learning gains this year; discussed desire for Somerset to become a High Performing network and how each school can help each other to achieve this.
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Accounting is currently closing the books for audit purposes; update on capital outlay funding.
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Somerset SoHo Elem needs to replace their modular floors; Board Chair German advises her to continue with the project and the Board can ratify it at the next meeting.

- ii. Somerset Academy Key Facility Lease is currently on a month to month

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: August 8th

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:52am

The undersigned hereby certified 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 August 8, 2023.

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



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 August 8, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*

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 12:02pm
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Consent Agenda** (*All items were enacted by one motion.*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the July 11, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2023-2024 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2023-2024 Parent / Student Handbooks for the individual schools.
 - i. All handbooks should follow the guidelines as provided.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Chair:
 - i. Approved the Quarter 4 Referendum Reports for the 2022-2023 school year for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Facility Lease with Varsity Square, LLC. (Somerset Academy Davie).
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects:
 - i. Somerset Academy Riverside Playground Project - \$90,000
 - ii. Somerset Academy Riverside Turf Project - \$40,000
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State/Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Canyons
 1. Varsity Football to Camden County High School, Kingsland, GA on Friday, Sept 15, 2023. (not overnight)
 2. Competitive Cheer to Huntsville, Alabama Friday, Oct 20- Sunday, Oct 22.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2023-2024 Title 1 Budgets / School-Wide Plans, as necessary.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Adopt the Revised School Lockdown Procedures for the schools to begin implementation during the school year.
 - i. Schools are no longer to use the terms Code Yellow or Code Red to describe a lockdown. Schools must use plain language to communicate the nature of the emergency and instructions to students and staff (free of coded language, jargon, and acronyms). Following should be the terms to use: “HOLD, SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE or SHELTER-IN-PLACE”.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the following Charter School Contract(s) (*expiring June 2024*) for a five-year or fifteen-year term (*based on school grade eligibility*):
 1. Miami-Dade
 - a. Somerset Gables Academy
 - b. Somerset Preparatory Academy Middle School (Homestead)
 - c. Somerset Preparatory Academy High School (Homestead)
 2. Palm Beach
 - a. Somerset Academy Wellington

k.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Currently traveling in Los Angeles where 11,000 union strike is anticipated to start today.
 - ii. A review of school grades will be held until the next meeting for a more formal presentation. Unfortunately, new schools will need to be added to the monthly update list.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Reiterates the upcoming presentation on school grades.
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Arizona (*Bernie, Victor, Marla*)
 - a. Currently in Arizona where everything is going very well.
 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Discussed class size; teacher raises and payout timelines; several principals requested to look into teacher payouts be made throughout the year, as well as supplements/stipends. Amy states that she has addressed this with ADP and they are working on options. It was requested for this item to be on next month's agenda for an update and also to be discussed with the other networks to make sure they are on board with the change, as well.
 - ii. Working on 24-25 budgets for hopeful presentations for October
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: September 12th (in Broward County / Exact location TBD) – Principals Meeting following / Physical attendance is highly encouraged.

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:45pm

The undersigned hereby certified 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 September 12, 2023.

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Vision

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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 12, 2023

Board of Directors

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

Non-Voting Officers

Bernie Montero, President *(Present)*
Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President *(Present)*

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq.
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, Esq.

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 11:02am
- b. Established a Quorum
- c. Introduction of Pastor Tokar

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the August 8, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL Waiver Assignments for the 2023-2024 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2023-2024 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the individual Mental Health Plans, as necessary.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to approve and authorize the submittal of 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, 2023.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to adopt the Internet Safety Policy to comply with Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-1.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Improvement Plans, as necessary.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the General Knowledge Waivers.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the following Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved to authorize the Vice-Chair (who also serves as the Academic Advisor to the Board) the ability to execute 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, etc...
 - ii. Approved the Internet Safety Policy. In accordance with the State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0957, the Governing Board is required to adopt an Internet Safety Policy (the "Policy") to ensure that students utilize school technological resources in a safe and productive manner. The Policy is designed to promote healthy technology practices as well as ensure our schools' compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the individual Principals the ability to execute all necessary documents and/or reimbursement requests for ARP (American Rescue Plan) / ESSER 3 and CCRSA (ESSER 2).

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. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the nomination and election of New Board Member: Taylor Smith.
Motion by Todd German; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
 - ii. Waki's New Office
 - iii. Merchandise donations to Cuba and call for retired athletic uniforms
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President *(Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz)*
 - i. Support to non-Florida schools, including Somerset North Las Vegas and Florida school support.
 - ii. US News school list excludes certain schools for unknown reasons; looking into this.
 - iii. School visits were very successful and will continue.
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Arizona *(Diana)*
 2. Somerset Academy Texas *(Cory Oliver)*
 - ii. Others, if necessary
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Enrollment update; updated budgets will be presented after the October FTE
 - ii. Importance of having the registrar to call back applicants quickly
 - iii. School Recognition Funds are being funded this year
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: October 10th via Zoom. For those who would like to attend in person, you may do so at the Academics office 3rd floor.

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:55am

The undersigned hereby certified 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 10, 2023.

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Vision

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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.

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors September 28, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana (Diaz) 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. *(Absent)*

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 11:03am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Action & Discussion Items**

a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)

i. Discuss & Action: Reinstatement of Geyler Castro as Principal of Somerset Parkland Academy #5056.

1. Report by Board Counsel, Charles Gibson
2. Acknowledgement of Ms. Campbell as Interim Principal.
3. A statement / letter to parents will be prepared if reinstated.
4. President Bernie Montero supports her reinstatement.
5. Board Member Concepcion asks when the last poll was taken from the families on their opinion on Geyler's return; Geyler states that there has not been an official poll; parents have asked when she is returning; Meg states that there have been some opposed, but they are the few; Bernie also states that parents have asked him when she will return and feels that most parents are in support.
6. Discussed potential media interest.
7. The settlement agreement requires 2-year monitoring/probation.
8. Board Member Concepcion suggests getting ADP's recommendation with regard to monitoring.

ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the reinstatement of Geyler Castro as Principal of Somerset Parkland Academy #5056, in accordance with compliance of the settlement agreement.

Motion to approve by Ana (Diaz) Mendez; second by David Concepcion

Roll Call

Ana (Diaz) Mendez - Yay

David Concepcion - Yay

Matthew Cox - Yay

Taylor Smith - Yay

Todd German - Yay

Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. Special thanks to Interim Principal Meg Campbell; Meg congratulates Geyler on her return and states she is very happy; she states that she has known Geyler for 13 years and thinks very highly of her.
- iv. Geyler thanks the Board and staff for all of their support during this extremely difficult time.

b. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

4. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:15pm**

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The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on November 7, 2023.

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Meeting of the Board of Directors October 10, 2023

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. *(Absent)*
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 were enacted by one motion*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the September 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL 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 the Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms / Title 1 Budgets for the 2023-2024 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Equipment Surplus / Disposition Declaration form for Somerset Academy Davie.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Prep Homestead College Tour (Itinerary attached)
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the updated 2023-2024 Referendum Plans and approved the Quarter 1 Referendum Reports for the schools located in Palm Beach County.

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Discussed public speakers in person only as recently passed in Texas
 - ii. Formal announcement of Geyley's reinstatement as Principal at Somerset Parkland; special thanks to Meg for her role during this past year.
 - iii. Legislative Report by Julio Robaina
 - iv. Tabled: Canary Islands; it is noted that Shannon Curan is not on the call today.
 - v. Recently we have had 4 major human resource issues; these incidents are so diverse and require a lot of involvement and departments; if ever a school undergoes an incident it is best practice to call Amy; if PR help is needed Adri should be contacted as well; discussed coverage provided by ADP.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Discussed a recent tragedy that occurred in Nevada and sending all of our love and support to the school and families.
 - ii. Evaluation update
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Arizona (*Diana Jones*)
 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary

- d. Financial Report (*Alina Chester & Ana Martinez*)
 - i. Palm Beach Referendum Update
 - ii. Revised budgets should be presented at the next meeting as next week is the official FTE week.
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Collette discusses the need to update and implement a universal field trip form as the currently uses forms only offer permission and do not include a waiver.

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: November 7th (Physical location TBA in Miami-Dade County. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Kelly).

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:04pm**

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 November 7, 2023.

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Purpose

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Meeting of the Board of Directors November 7, 2023

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 *(Absent)*
Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President *(Present)*

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Present)*
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, Esq. *(Absent)*

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. Daniel Clough – Somerset College Prep – spoke about son’s dismissal from Somerset College Prep and would like the Board to appeal that action.

3. Consent Agenda *(All items were considered routine and will be enacted by one motion)*

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the September 28, 2023 and October 10, 2023 Board of Directors Meetings.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Prep (Principal Angie Nunez)
 1. 8th Grade Close Up Washington Field Trip (Dates: February 25-28, 2023 / Students: 17 / Adult Chaperons: 2 / Parent Chaperons: 3 / Total: 22)]
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Amended Facility Lease for the Somerset Academy South Homestead Middle High Campus (amendment is to conform existing lease to other Somerset / LLC leases (previously approved) with no increase in Fixed Rent or in any elements of Additional Rent).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Corrected Facility Lease for the 19620 Pines Blvd. Location (Schedule F had blanks and Schedule D has an incorrect date for the CPI adjustment mechanism to the Fixed Rent, which is disadvantageous to the school).
- e. **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.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Improvement Plans for the individual schools, as necessary.
- g. **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 David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
 - i. Discussed recent audit findings for an external organization and need to pay attention to what you are signing and financial records.
 - ii. Discussed the Canary Islands and the lack of payment to invoices in several years; Victor will meet with their Board soon; the Board Chair requests this item be on the next agenda as an action item.
 - iii. Communications from Lowell Levine re: bullying at schools; after further review it was noted that this individual has written many letters to a lot of schools with false accusations; a cease-and-desist letter was prepared and being sent so he can stop making false statements; Mr. Levine has a bullying business which he promotes to the schools he has made accusations about.

- b. Academica Report
 - i. Legislative Report (*Julio Robaina*)
 - 1. Discussed Alternate State Authorizer (State University College Systems, Miami Dade College received a grant to become an authorizer, Board of Education can also authorize)
 - ii. Colegia Report (*Antonio Roca*)
 - 1. Hall Pass; Colegia alumni rolling out in the Spring; Colegia TV; monthly news show; AIA (Artificial Intelligence Application);
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Review of required Field Trip Permission Slip and Waiver – all schools statewide are required to use this form for field trips moving forward; this form includes general field trip information and a liability waiver to protect the school and board.
- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Arizona (*Diana Jones*)
 - a. School received a B
 - b. Note by the Chair - This school can be removed from the monthly agenda.
 - 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
 - 1. Nevada Academic Notes of Concern (*David Concepcion / Marla Devitt*)
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester & Ana Martinez*)
 - i. Miami-Dade Referendum Funds (*Alina Chester*)
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2023; including ratification of all necessary Year End Grants and/or Loans. (*Ana Martinez*)
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve and execute the final Contractor Agreement and Construction Budget for the Somerset Academy Gables West Miami site.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: December 12th via Zoom

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:10pm

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.

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Purpose

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Meeting of the Board of Directors December 12, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
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. *(Absent)*

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

- a. At this time, public comment on items other than those about Somerset Academy Prep. were called. There were 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 November 7, 2023 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 the Revised Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2023-2024 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve necessary CMO Grant items.

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 Prep Facility Concerns – Todd welcomes all of the parents that are present today. As everyone is aware, we have lost our lease for Somerset Prep at the JCC. We attempted to purchase the property, but were unsuccessful. Todd states that he is personally sick over this matter and how serious Somerset is taking this.
 1. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Numerous Parent Emails *(copies provided in the Drop Box for the Board's review)*
 2. Public Comments (each regarding Somerset Prep)
 - a. Bridget Oliver
 - b. Derrick Garcia
 - c. Gabriela Y. Verdial
 - d. Melissa Arojas
 - e. Omar Delgado
 - f. Sergio Gonzalez-del-Pozo
 - g. Lenay Harrison
 - h. Carolina Pareja
 - i. Ana Garcia
 - j. Ashley Ramkishum
 - k. Pablo Barrios
 - l. Ana Maria Pitty
 - m. Julieta Ibarbide
 - n. Ms. Jackson
 - o. Cameron Hernandez
 - p. Nancy Rauseo
 - q. George Alonso
 - r. Claudia Marmol

- s. **Missing the name of one female speaker*
 - 3. Board Chair German thanks everyone for their comments. He states that he agrees that Somerset lacked communication and promises to make sure that we do a much better job at communicating.
 - 4. Victor Barroso and Danny Diaz provide more background on this item and the timeline and how quickly things transpired from one more year to this being the last year on the lease.
 - ii. Discussion / Action: Canary Islands
 - 1. After much discussion, we have agreed to end our formal relationship with the school. They will no longer be a part of our accreditation. Board Member Concepcion inquires about any owed dues as discussed at a recent meeting. Victor will find out from accounting how much is past due, although he suspects it is not a lot of money as the school shut down completely for COVID.
- b. Academica Report
 - i. Tabled: Colegia Report (*Antonio Roca*)
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. President Montero informs the Board and staff of a recent medical incident that occurred on his campus in which a staff member saved a student's life.
 - ii. School grades were released yesterday, so those can be fully reviewed at the January meeting.
- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester & Ana Martinez*)
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Revised Annual Budgets for the 2023-2024 School Year.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Todd requests that lease rents and terms be included on the lease spreadsheet.
 - ii. David requests that parent communication (for Somerset Prep) be posted on the school's website in addition to however the school already communicates. Board Chair German requests for the Board to be copied on correspondence regarding this matter.

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: January 17th

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:31pm

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 January 17, 2023.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 January 17, 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 Somerset Academy Pompano (1101 NW 33rd Street, Pompano Beach, Florida 33064), as well as 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. Natasha Williams – Somerset Academy Miramar, Parent with concerns of racial undertones at the school.
- b. Ana Maria Pitty – Somerset Academy Prep, requesting an update on the future of the school.

3. Consent Agenda *(All items listed were considered routine and were enacted by one motion.)*

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- ii. **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.
- iii. **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.
- iv. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify CMO Grant items.
- v. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Articulation Agreement Amended Schedule A – Miami-Dade Schools
- vi. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair
 1. Approved the Updated Referendum Plans and the Quarter 2 Referendum Reports for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- vii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 1. Somerset Academy Prep (Angie Nunez)
 - a. Student Television Network PD and Competition / Long Beach, California / March 12 – 18, 2024 / 28 students/ 3 teachers / 16 parent chaperons
 2. Somerset Academy SoHo Middle/High (Waki Soberon)
 - a. TV Production will go to STN competitions in Long Beach, California March 13-17 / 19 students / 4 staff members / 4 parents
 - b. Italy March 21-26 with EF Tours / 11 students / 2 parents / 2 staff members
 3. Somerset Oaks (Idalia Suarez)
 - a. 14 students to the STN Convention in Long Beach, California. We will travel from March 12th to the 17th. The students will be competing in 5 different categories. We will have five chaperons in total: Three school staff and two parents.
 4. Somerset SoBay (Saili Hernandez)
 - a. Washington DC / STN 2023 / Student Television Network Convention
- viii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Instructional Continuity Plan (ICP) for the 2023-2024 School Year; further requesting public comments if applicable.

- ix. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending September 30, 2023.
- x. Tabled: Approval to Ratify the Contractor Agreement and Construction Budget for the Somerset Academy Gables West Miami site.

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. Would like to do a board workshop on facilities, especially focusing on terms and contingencies; all schools should have a contingency even for emergencies such as a fire.
 - ii. Update on Somerset Academy Prep Facility – this is being actively worked on; several different options are being reviewed; this is the highest priority item at Somerset and Academica; although this is our top priority it is recommended that parents apply for enrollment at other schools as their own contingency.
 - iii. Update on Somerset Key Lease – this site is also undergoing a major lease issue; the landlord is unresponsive to all communication efforts and to the school’s day-to-day requests; this change occurred when their new board took over.
 - iv. Principal Rains discussed - <https://www.wpbfl.com/article/florida-park-vista-high-school-bands-somerset-college-academy-londons-new-years-day-parade/46269236>
- b. Academica Report
 - 1. Legislative Update (provided by the Board Chair in Julio’s absence)
 - 2. Academica is implementing an in-house school treasurer workshop/training.
 - ii. Colegio Report (*Manny Pon*)
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Battle of the Books – April 16-17
 - ii. Math Bowl – Feb. 10th
- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye*)
 - 3. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 - 4. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
 - 5. Others, if necessary
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
- f. Facilities
 - i. Somerset Chapel Trail TV Production Studio and Campus Upgrades
 - 1. Principal Montero provides background on this and the need for additional space; the school is at max. capacity; the TV program is lacking due to the facilities; numerous floating teachers due to space. The Board approves to move forward on the project as requested.
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: February 7th (may be amended if news about Prep is known).
- b. High School Principals – Please send Kelly your graduation dates/details as soon as they are known so they can be added to Board Member and Academica calendars.

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:59am**

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 February 7, 2023.

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



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 13, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(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. *(Absent)*
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, Esq. *(Absent)*

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** – *None at this time.*

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 17, 2023 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 the Revised Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2023-2024 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland – 8th Grade Trip to Spain & Portugal
 - ii. Somerset Academy Pines – Winner of Amazing Shake going to Atlanta March 21-22
 - iii. Somerset Academy Canyons - EF Tours trip for 22 students to go to Italy March 16-23, 2024
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending December 31, 2023.
- f. **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 all newly designated High Performing Schools:
 1. Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead) MSID #13-0339 (Layda Morales);
 2. Somerset Palms Academy MSID: 13-5015 (Adriana Diaz); and
 3. Somerset Parkland Academy MSID: 06-5056 (Geyler Castro).
 - ii. Somerset Academy South Miami (Elementary School) – Add an additional location (for kindergarten use in the new PK building) (Ceci Guilarte)
 - iii. Somerset Academy High School #5221 and Somerset Arts Conservatory #5396 to collectively enroll 1850 students.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to renew all Somerset Academy schools with charter school contracts expiring June 2025.

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. Update on Somerset Academy Prep Facility – Not able to provide specific details; much more confident about a positive outcome today than at the last meeting; parents should still continue to find alternative placements; as soon as we are 100% confident in the plan, communication will be sent.
 1. Danny Diaz affirms what Board Chair German stated.

2. Ana Arrojas, Somerset Prep Parent, requested a timeline. Board Chair German lets her know that we are hopeful to have solid details within the next couple of weeks to month.
 - ii. Update on Somerset Key Lease - Dennis states that there is still virtually no communication from the church; he further states that the church's day to day regular activities are almost extinct.
 - iii. Parent Concerns / Complaints
- b. **Academica Report**
- i. Legislative Report presented by Julio Robaina
 - ii. Referendum Resolution presented by Julio Robaina; the Board agrees to authorize the drafting of the resolution on their behalf for the purpose of obtaining retroactive funds in Miami-Dade county.
 - iii. Colegia Report presented by Kevin Hernandez
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
- d. DLI in Central Florida for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Jessica Berroa & Idalia Suarez*)
- i. Discuss district requirements to provide professional learning to all Somerset Schools in Florida starting next year (currently only working in Miami-Dade & Broward).
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize moving forward with implementing DLI in all Somerset Schools in Florida, effective the upcoming school year.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously
- e. **School Updates**
- i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 2. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
 3. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye*)
 4. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - a. Courtney suggests a board retreat or meeting in San Antonio next February for San Antonio's Rodeo Month.
 5. Others, if necessary
 - a. Somerset Academy Arizona
 - i. Discussion of performance Somerset Academy Skyway – Arizona
- f. **Financial Report**
- i. Alina Chester discusses grant funding, referendum and future budget updates.
- g. **Facilities**
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset West Gables Renovation - Owner and Contractor Agreement Package (AIA).
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
 1. AIA 101 Owner and Contractor Agreement package, which includes the AIA A201 General Conditions to the agreement, and all exhibits below:
 2. Exhibit "B" – CamCon Estimate with Enclosed Breezeway FNL
 3. Exhibit "C" – Qualifications FNL
 4. Exhibit "D" – Drawing Log Revised FNL
 5. Exhibit "E" – Breezeway Allowance Breakout FNL
 6. Exhibit "F" – Certificate of Insurance Liability Coverage FNL

7. Exhibit “F.1” – Certificate of Insurance Workers Comp FNL
 - ii. This agreement includes off-site and on-site water, sewer, paving repairs, drainage, renovation of existing building to classrooms and administrative areas, and the open-air breezeway space between both buildings. The cost to enclose the breezeway to an air-conditioned space, if approved will be an additional 414K (see Exhibit E breakout). In the cost breakdown, the line items that relate to the enclosure are set up as allowances to make it easy to remove if not approved by the board.
 - iii. This breezeway enclosure was discussed by the owner representative team and the design team for some time to assure the benefits out way the additional cost and at the end both teams agreed that the benefits to the school operation are worth the investment.
 - iv. Update on construction: the project has the master building permit in hand, and CamCon the general contractor we decided to work with at the last hour due to Turin Construction winding down due to Howard Turin decision to retire, has worked out well. They have mobilized and are working on setting up temporary fencing, office trailer, storage trailers, temporary water etc., subcontractor procurement and product submittals so the subcontractors can gear up to perform the work. CamCon has agreed to a 5-month schedule with a drop-dead completion date of August 1st, 2024, for the classroom building. The breezeway area may take a bit longer if the board approves the conversion to AC space, but discussions with principal does not appear to be a problem to temporarily adjust so school operation is not affected.
 - v. In summary, this Somerset renovation has two components the classroom space in existing building which we have agreed with CamCon to focus on this building so the classrooms are ready for schools opening date of August 15th and the second is the breezeway space which will be completed shortly after school opens.
 - vi. As always, we will coordinate construction activity with contractor, design team and school administrators to assure a smooth and safe construction operation.
- h. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Immediately after today’s meeting, Somerset Academy Pines Students will compete in their annual Amazing Shake.
- b. Next Board Meeting: March 12th at Somerset Academy Palms
- c. Graduations (*12th grade*)
 - i. Doral Academy College – June 1st at 3pm
 - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18th at 11am
 - iii. Somerset Academy SoHo – May 25th at 10am

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:01pm

*The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on March 13, 2024.



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 March 13, 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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. The Somerset Prep. parents that signed up to address the Board were called on during the school's item discussion below.

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 February 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 the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Gables Middle School Boston Trip from 5/25-5/28
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Settlement Agreements and Release between The School Board of Palm Beach County and Somerset Academy, Inc. (for all Somerset Academy, Inc. schools located in Palm Beach County).
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved to request a 15-year contract term for Somerset Parkland Academy MSID: 06-5056 as a High Performing Charter School.
 - ii. Approved approve to submit the following charter school contract amendment requests for the 2024-2025 school year:
 1. Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Homestead) (#6013) is requesting a modification of its charter school contract to add additional / adjacent folios for allowable use.
 2. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) (#7034) is requesting a modification of its charter school contract to add additional / adjacent folios for allowable use.
 3. Somerset Academy Elementary School (South Miami Campus) (#2007) is requesting a modification of its charter school contract to add an additional location of the school. The school further requests to increase enrollment, as a High Performing charter school.
 4. Somerset Academy Middle School (South Miami Campus) (#5053) is requesting a modification of its charter school contract to add an additional location of the school. The school further requests to expand grade levels and increase enrollment, as a High Performing charter school.
 5. Request 15 year contract terms for newly designated High Performing Schools:
 - a. Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead) (#0339)
 - b. Somerset Palms Academy (#5015)
 6. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset (#5002) is requesting a modification of its charter contract to add an additional location of the school and increase enrollment, as a High Performing charter school.
 7. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset (#5002) is requesting a modification of its charter contract to change the school's location.
 8. Somerset Academy Charter High School (#7042) is requesting a modification of its charter school contract to add additional / adjacent folios for allowable use.

9. Requesting the ability to increase contract student capacity for all High Performing Charter Schools, as necessary.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised Parent Involvement Representative for Somerset Academy Boca Elementary.

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. Update on Somerset Academy Prep Facility – We have been diligently working with the JCC on a lease two-year lease extension; Board Counsel Charles Gibson reviews the lease; recommends that the Board approve the amendment to the lease to extend to two years and authorize the Board Chair the ability to execute with min. changes per legal recommendation.
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the amendment to the lease which provides a two-year extension with min. changes per legal recommendation.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
 2. Public Comments
 - a. Marlisa Williams (Virtual) – Somerset Academy Prep – Offers special thanks to Board Member Concepcion for taking so much time to answer her many emails; she would like a beautiful permanent facility for the students and deserve a space that is their own.
 - b. Melissa Arrojas (Virtual)– Somerset Academy Prep Parent – Thankful for the news of the extension; would like to know more about the future of the school after the two-years; she requests how to move forward for students have been accepted at other schools; she addresses the possibility of an only one-year extension.
 3. It is requested that for parents that have acceptances at other schools, it is asked to please make a decision soon so that the accurate numbers are known for planning purposes; communications will go out regarding this to all parents.
 4. Charles further discusses the opportunity for the landlord to terminate the lease after one year; he states that this is boilerplate language in most leases we see with religious organizations; it is a two-way option (either the landlord or the tenant can terminate); the Board would like to see if this clause can be taken out.
 5. The Board is diligently continuing to work on a long-term solution. It is more confident now that we are very close to securing a long-term solution.
 - ii. Congratulations to Principal Sali Hernandez for receiving the Florida Tax Watch Award.
 - iii. School Lotteries – Requesting a conversation on how school lotteries are done at the next meeting and provide better direction to the Principals on best practices. This conversation is coming from the close out of a OIG audit on 2 of our schools which ended positively, in part due to the schools used the independent auditors to verify their lotteries.
 - iv. Channel 10 News article recently ran and will be shared with the Board.
 - v. Brand Awareness – Adri discusses Somerset Academy, Inc. branding; looking at enrollment trends that are trending; looking at different marketing options and pricing; stressed the importance of keeping the “Inc.” website for accuracy.
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to move forward on the Somerset Academy, Inc. Brand Awareness Project by Adri Lima.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously
 - vi. Vice President Suzette Ruiz stressed the importance of physical attendance at the meetings that are being held at the schools.

- vii. Somerset Academy Oaks – Idalia Suarez discusses her robotics team and their recent state championships which they came in 1st place!!
- b. Academica Report
 - i. Legislative Report (*Julio Robaina*)
 - 1. Re-enforced that we are all working very hard on finding a permanent solution for Somerset Academy Prep as a top priority.
 - 2. Referendum Resolution Update – the final resolution is available for the Board’s final approval; the purpose for obtaining retroactive referendum funds.
 - a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Referendum Funds Resolution, as presented.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
 - 3. Legislative Update
 - ii. Colegia Report (*Antonio Roca*)
- c. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Congratulations to Dr. Montero on his 20th Anniversary by Suzette.
 - ii. Congratulations to the 2 new HP schools - Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead) (#0339) & Somerset Palms Academy (#5015)
 - iii. Very happy to report that there were no findings in the recent lunch audit.
 - iv. Sarah has been assisting in reviewing the data at the schools; and encourages Principals to reach out if they need any assistance at all.
- d. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
 - i. Andres Ruiz reports that Principal Budget Meetings are ongoing.
- e. 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*)
 - a. Update on the lease – since the last meeting, the landlord has put the church up for sale; Somerset has submitted an offer to purchase the site; Dennis reiterates that Somerset is not at fault in this situation; they have been doing everything to avoid getting here. Charles Gibson reiterates that this has been worked on for approx. 5 years.
 - 4. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 - 5. Others, if necessary
- f. Nevada Update / Report (*Ryan Reeves*)
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: April 9th
- b. Graduations (*12th grade*)
 - i. Doral Academy College – June 1st at 3pm
 - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18th at 11am
 - iii. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) – May 25th at 10am

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:01pm

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 April 9, 2024.

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

By: _____



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 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

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 2nd 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 3rd 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 14th
- b. Graduations (*12th grade*)
 - i. Doral Academy College – June 1st at 3pm
 - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18th at 11am
 - iii. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) – May 25th at 10am
 - iv. Somerset College Prep. St. Lucie – May 25th at 4pm
 - v. Somerset Prep Homestead – May 29th at 6:30pm
 - vi. Somerset Chapel Trail – May 31st at 10am
 - vii. Somerset Key – May 31st at 4pm
 - viii. Somerset Silver Palms – May 31st at 7pm
 - ix. Somerset Academy Central – June 6th at 3pm
 - x. Las Vegas Graduations will both be on May 24th

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



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 May 14, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
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 and 4251 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33146.

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:04am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. Chris Leal, Parent from Somerset Riverside addressed the Board with concerns that he has with the school's resource officer and administration; discussed son's anxiety; traffic concerns; stated that he called the Principal an inappropriate name; states that now he is banned from the school property; states son is being dropped off on the side of the road since he cannot drop him or pick him up on property; concerned with son's grades. The request is for the Board to look into his disturbance so that he can pick up / drop off his son without any issues.

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 April 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **Tabled:** 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. **Tabled:** 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.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the School Lottery Engagement Letter with Gravier.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Management Company Subordination Agreement.
- f. Lease Approvals & Ratifications *(Note: Each lease listed has been reviewed by Board Counsel and recommended for approval if the Board so desires.)*
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Short Form Lease with Broward School Development, LLC.
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Short Form Lease with Broward School Development II, LLC.
 - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 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.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Receive & File the Quarterly Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2023.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects *(Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable):*
 - i. Somerset Academy DBK #3395 – Athletic Field Improvement for an amount not to exceed \$70,000 (to be paid with retro-referendum funds).
- i. Pulled from Consent: Somerset Academy – New St. Lucie School
 - i. Name change from Somerset Career Academy Port St Lucie to Somerset Career Academy.
 - ii. Temporarily nest Somerset Career Academy at the Somerset College Prep site: 725 NW California Blvd, PSL, 34986.
 - iii. Apply for an MSID and open operations August 2024.

- iv. Begin contract renewal for Somerset Career Academy with an expiration date of June 30, 2029.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. School Lottery Procedures
 1. The lottery policy was officially amended at the last meeting and the agreement with the auditor was executed. Therefore, any school who needs to have a lottery to determine enrollment needs to have the auditor certify the lottery. You may contact Ana Martinez to help with any scheduling needs.
 - ii. Announcement of Retirement & Special Thanks to Donna Kaye
 1. Donna has been with us for 23 years; she started in 2001 at Somerset Chapel Trail.
 - iii. New Principal Appointments for the 2024-2025 School Year
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Cristina Camus as the Principal of Somerset Academy #5141 & Somerset Academy Elementary South Campus #5263. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Anthony Marucci as the Principal of Somerset Pines Academy #5030 & Somerset Pompano Academy #5388. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
 3. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Patricia Boiteux as the Principal of Somerset Academy Village #5004 & Somerset Academy Village Charter Middle School #5002. *Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*
 - iv. Somerset Academy Key Facility Update – Unfortunately we do not have an update; we are still in negotiations to purchase the facility.
 - v. Stipends – After several conversations with different Administrators, there is a disparity on how we have been doing stipends. Moving forward for next year all administrator stipends must be reviewed by the Board or designee. This policy will be across all other sister networks. A formal policy will be brought forth at an upcoming meeting.
 - vi. Somerset Academy – New St. Lucie School
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the name change from Somerset Career Academy Port St Lucie to Somerset Career Academy.
 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to temporarily nest Somerset Career Academy at the Somerset College Prep site: 725 NW California Blvd, PSL, 34986.
 3. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to apply for an MSID and open operations August 2024.
 4. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to begin contract renewal for Somerset Career Academy with an expiration date of June 30, 2029.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Somerset Network Initiative – Project Adam Saves Lives
- c. Financial Report
 - i. Alina Chester provides a budget workshop update.
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to move the individual schools' special accounts to PNC Bank.
 1. Currently with Wells Fargo which is not paying interest on these accounts; PNC will pay interest.

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

- d. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports – Skipped the Florida reports as all Florida schools are in the middle of state testing.
 - 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
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. ACE Foundation End of Year Celebration – May 31st
- b. Next Board Meeting: June 13th
- c. Graduations (*12th grade*)
 - i. Doral College – June 1st at 3pm
 - ii. Somerset Academy Canyons – May 18th at 11am
 - iii. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) – May 25th at 10am
 - iv. Somerset College Prep. St. Lucie – May 25th at 4pm
 - v. Somerset Prep Homestead – May 29th at 6:30pm
 - vi. Somerset Chapel Trail – May 31st at 10am
 - vii. Somerset Key – May 31st at 1pm
 - viii. Somerset Silver Palms – May 31st at 7pm
 - ix. Somerset Academy Central – June 6th at 6pm
 - x. Somerset Las Vegas (both) – May 24th

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:57am

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 June 11, 2024.

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



Vision

Empowering students to explore global learning opportunities to promote and enrich their communities and the communities we serve.

~

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 June 11, 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 9:00am
- 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 May 14, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Parent Involvement Representatives for the 2024-2025 school year.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Annual Ratification & Reapproval of Board Policies & Procedures, including:
 - i. Conflict of Interest (*Each Board Member is required to sign and return the written acceptance form*)
 - ii. Ethics
 - iii. Whistle Blower
 - iv. Bylaws
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Annual Ratification & Reapproval of Student Policies, including:
 - i. Anti-Discrimination Policy / Title IX
 - ii. Out of State and Country Field Trip Policy
 - iii. Student Enrollment Lottery Policy
 - iv. Internet Safety Policy
 - v. FHSAA Participation
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Annual Ratification & Updates to Policies: Policy and Procedures for Charter School Compliance with School Safety and Security Requirements template (each school must complete their own document using approved template).
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Financial Policies.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve any year-end financial items which may be necessary to close the books.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Preliminary Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Accept the Annual Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Members and Officers for the 2024-2025 School Year:
 - i. Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer / Director)
 - ii. Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Director)
 - iii. David Concepcion (Director)
 - iv. Matthew Cox (Director)
 - v. Taylor Smith (Director)
 - vi. Bernie Montero, President (Non-Voting / Non-Director)

- vii. Suzette Ruiz, Vice-President (Non-Voting / Non-Director)
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the Leadership Training Services Agreement & School Site Memorandum of Understanding with Doral Leadership Institute for Professional Development Services.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Submittal of the Mental Health Plan.
- m. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects and/or Purchase Requests: *(Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable):*
 - i. Somerset Academy Oaks – Idalia Suarez
 - 1. Turf Replacement Project / Playground Addition for an amount not to exceed \$80,400.
 - ii. Somerset Academy DBK – Lisa Santiago
 - 1. Basketball Court for an amount not to exceed \$45,000
- n. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to renew the following charter school contacts which are expiring June 2025:
 - i. Miami-Dade
 - 1. Somerset Oaks Academy #3033
 - 2. Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) #7034
 - 3. Somerset Preparatory Academy (Homestead) #0754
 - ii. Broward
 - 1. Somerset Academy #5141
 - 2. Somerset Village Academy #5004
 - 3. Somerset Academy Village Charter Middle School #5002
 - 4. Somerset Preparatory Academy Charter School at North Lauderdale #5003
 - 5. Somerset Preparatory Academy Charter High School at North Lauderdale#5006
 - 6. Somerset Neighborhood School #5021
 - 7. Somerset Preparatory Charter Middle School #5441
 - 8. Somerset Pines Academy #5030
 - iii. St. Lucie
 - 1. Somerset Academy Bethany #0731
 - iv. Duval
 - 1. Somerset Academy Elementary Eagle Campus #1251
 - 2. Somerset Academy Middle School Eagle Campus #1261
- o. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Charter School Surplus/Disposition Declaration Form for Bond Technology Devices for Somerset Academy Miramar.

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. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Lisa Alamo as the Principal of Somerset Gables Academy #5008.

- Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
- ii. Somerset Academy Key Facility Update – Things are moving slowly, but hoping to have more info. soon.
 - iii. Recent change is FHSAA where student athletes can now be compensated; question of this will have any affect on us; Kerri states that it won't affect us too much now, but could in the future.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the network agreement with IXL subject to legal review and Vice-Chair approval.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- c. Financial Report
- i. Requesting approval to extend the lease terms of Somerset Dade and Somerset Miramar for 50 years for grant fund purposes and large facility projects.
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to amend the lease terms, as discussed.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- d. School Updates
- i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye/Anthony Marucci*)
 - a. *All subject areas increased; anticipating a "B". Pines is extremely close to an "A"*
 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
- e. Request to amend the 2024-2025 school year calendar for Somerset Academy South Miami Elementary and Middle Schools. (Principal Guilarte was not present to discuss)
- i. Replacing the teacher planning day of October 3rd to November 1st
 - ii. Principals discuss if the October date is removed then there are no days off in October.
 - iii. If other schools would like to be considered, please reach out.
 - iv. **APPROVED:** The Board provisionally approved to amend the 2024-2025 School Year Calendars, subject to full review and confirmation of importance.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
- i. Virtual update by Antonio Roca & Bernie Montero - Last week Somerset Virtual (private) was approved for the PEP Scholarship.
 - ii. Somerset Virtual Learning Center location has been located to provide services to the Inter-Miami students; 3,000 sq. ft at \$27 per sq. foot; anticipating 100+ students the first year; rent will be covered by the private tuition.
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the facility lease for Somerset Virtual Academy (private) subject to legal review & approval.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously
 - iii. Request for future agenda item to discuss the new mandated school start times effective 2025.

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: July 16th via Zoom

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 10:03am**

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 June 26, 2024.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation



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 June 26, 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. *(Absent)*
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, Esq. *(Absent)*

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 11:02am
- 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 June 11, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

a. Comments by the Board Chair

i. New Principal Assignments

1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to assign Erica Rains as the Principal of Somerset Career Academy.

Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to assign Pilar Piedrahita as the Principal of Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School, subject to the approval of the SLAM Board assigning her as Principal of the SLAM school which shares the same campus.

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

b. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Final 2023-2024 Annual Budgets.

- ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Proposed 2024-2025 Annual Budgets.

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

c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Project Requests:

i. Somerset Pines

1. Cafeteria Bathrooms \$20,723

2. Field & Irrigation \$24,750

ii. Somerset Pompano

1. Breakfast/Lunch Area Awning \$29,146

2. PE/Recess Field Coverage \$38,850

3. PE/Recess Turf \$30,206

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

d. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- i. Special thanks to Clint Duvo for all his time and service.

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: July 16th via Zoom

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:40am**

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 July 17, 2024.

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation