



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 July 17, 2024

Board of Directors

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

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

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

2. **Public Comment** – *None*

3. **Consent Agenda** - *All items listed with letter designations are considered routine and were enacted by one motion.*

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the June 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved the Quarter 4 Referendum Reports, the Updated Referendum Plans for Quarter 4, and the new SY25 Referendum Plans for the schools located in Palm Beach County.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy South Homestead Middle/High Turf Project for an amount not to exceed \$95,000 (\$83k was originally included in approved budget).

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. Thanks everyone for attending the charter school conference; due to the new grant many new schools will be opening over the next several years; need for Principals to fill these positions; discussed offering a bonus for Principals who help start up a school out of state.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Key Update – Discussed the negotiations to purchase the property; received a formal eviction letter; landlord provided the letter to the district which prompted them to take action; this is being fought and the intent is to continue operations for this school year.
 - iii. Board Member Digital Signature Requests – MDCPS sent a digital signature request directly to Todd; our legal confirmed this letter should have never gone out for signature and it did not contain correct information regarding the settlement agreement.
 1. All requests for signature from the schools must go through Kelly.
 2. Accounting needs to include better descriptions of what is being signed. Requests labeled “urgent” must be urgent and not due to waiting to have it paid. Alina and Ana will discuss with accounting to ensure more details are being provided.
 3. These precautions are being taken due to fraud.
 - iv. Board of Directors Insurance – Mark Grimmel from EGIS Insurance presents to the Board. He confirms proper board coverage.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye/Anthony Marucci*)
 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. Todd requests for Adri to discuss the new schools and expansions. Opening in Ohio, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Nevada, Texas and new Florida counties.

- d. School Project / Purchase Requests
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Village Bathroom Project for an amount not to exceed \$113,000 subject to landlord approval.
Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: August 13th via Zoom
- b. If you are interested in hosting the September 10th Board Meeting (or any other in person meetings this year) at your school, please contact Kelly asap.

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:33am**

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 August 13, 2024.

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