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 20, 2026

Board of Directors

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

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1. **Opening Exercises**
   a. Called to Order at 11:00am
   b. Established a Quorum
   c. Special welcome to members of the public joining us today
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 16, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

b. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to ratify the following Resolutions by the Board Chair:
   i. Ratify - Somerset Academy City Arts A/C Project for an amount not to exceed $64,500 (paid by operating)
   ii. Ratify the designation of Geyler Castro as a Principal on Special Assignment/Director of School Development of Somerset Academy Parkland #5056.
   iii. Ratify the designation of Ms. Margaret (Meg) Campbell as the Principal of Somerset Academy Parkland #5056.
   iv. Ratify the approval of the 2026-2027 Referendum Plans for the individual schools in Palm Beach County; further approving to authorize the Principals to approve and submit reports and updated plans for Q1-Q4 as necessary.
   v. Ratify the approval of the 2026-2027 Sales Tax Referendum Plan for the individual schools in Palm Beach County; further approving to authorize the Principals to approve and submit reports and updated plans for Q1-Q4 as necessary.
   vi. Ratify the approval of the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2026-2027 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further approving necessary revisions and authorizing the Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission throughout the school year.

c. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2026-2027 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further approving necessary revisions and authorizing the Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission throughout the school year.

d. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL Waiver Assignments for the 2026-2027 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary additions) which shall be ratified at the following

e. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to submit the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans.

f. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the following Project / Purchase Requests:
   i. Somerset Academy (Chapel Trail) AC Project for an amount not to exceed $100,000 (Principal Bernie Montero)
   ii. Somerset Academy DBK Gym Expansion for an amount not to exceed $350k (paid by district surplus funds) (Principal Lisa Santiago)
   iii. Somerset Academy DBK HVAC Renovation for an amount not to exceed $2,276,150k (paid with school reserves) (Principal Lisa Santiago)
   iv. Somerset Academy Parkland

g. **APPROVED**: The Board approved and ratified the Mental Health Plans.

h. **APPROVED**: The Board approved and ratified the updated Policies and Procedures for Charter School Compliance with School Safety and Security Requirements Set Forth in Florida State Statutes and Florida Administrative Code Rules.

i. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to ratify the Lease Agreement for Somerset Island Prep.

j. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the Disposal of Items for Somerset Academy Davie.

k. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to continue to utilize the Doral Leadership Institute Consortium of Public Charter Schools Instructional Personnel Evaluation System and School Administrator Evaluation System as the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Tool.

l. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to continue to authorize for the 2026-2027 school year for Ms. Ana Mendez (Vice Chair) the ability to execute, on behalf of the Board of Directors, all academic / education items and deliverables due to the individual sponsors, including but not limited to Out of Field Waivers, Employee Contracts, School Improvement Plans, Title 1 Budgets, District / State Deliverables, etc…

m. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to authorize the individual Principals (as board designees) to sign for all state and federal grant forms as they relate to their school.

n. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to amend "Exhibit A" of the Charter School Educational Services and Support Agreement to include the following new school(s) which opened this school year; further approving to revise the existing exhibit to update amended school names and consolidations, as necessary.
   i. Somerset Academy West Florida #0005

o. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the CIVICA Architectural, Engineering and Facilities Support Services Consulting Services from 7/1/2026 through 7/1/2027.

p. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plans (CERP) for the individual schools that developed their own.

q. **APPROVED**: The Board approved the Somerset Academy West Florida policies and procedures, including:
   i. Code of Student Conduct
   ii. Parent/Student Handbook
   iii. Staff/Operations Handbook
   iv. Confirmation that the Chair as the authorization to approve any other items, which may be necessary.

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. Tax Credit – Altavea and introduction of founding Board Members; David asks if there will be a campaign to help convey the message;
   ii. Opening of Somerset Academy West Florida; sponsored by the University of West Florida.
   iii. Principals – Somerset has 2 schools opening next year – one in Arkansas and one in Indian River
      1. **APPROVED**: The Board approved to designate the following new Principal positions:
         a. Arkansas – Tom Rompella
         b. Indian River – Lucia Hernandez

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

b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President *(Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz)*
   i. Data Driven Approach for 26-27
   ii. School Support Visits
   iii. School Admin Meeting August 27-28
   iv. Stay of after for iReady presentation
   v. Highlights

c. ESP Report
   i. Tabled: Applicant Follow-Up and Enrollment Conversion *(Fernando Zulueta)*
      1. Discussion: Review current applicant follow-up practices and emphasize the importance of immediate, personal outreach to every family submitting an application. Include language in the application allowing families to opt in to AltaVia and Concierge follow-up.
      2. Principals should ensure that registrars or designated staff personally contact applicants promptly rather than relying primarily on automated emails, texts, or passive follow-up. The board should discuss implementation, accountability, and regular tracking of outreach and conversion.
      3. Proposed Board Action: Direct the Principal to implement a process requiring prompt personal contact with every new applicant, designate staff responsible for that outreach, maintain appropriate tracking of contacts and outcomes, and periodically report enrollment/application conversion progress to the board

d. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
   i. Working on a retreat to occur in Arkansas

5. Announcements & Notifications

a. Private School Board Meeting immediately following this meeting.

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:48am

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on September 15, 2026.