



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 27, 2020

Board of Directors

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

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Present)*
Eleni Pantaridis, Esq. *(Present)*

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- a. There were no comments by the public.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the June 24, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revised Student Enrollment / Lottery Policy.
 - i. The current policy states that we will give enrollment preference to the "v. Children of an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces." However, the federal guidelines (which apply to active CSP grant recipients) don't allow that as a preference. The policy needs to be revised to state that this preference will not be given to schools with active CSP grants.

- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Title 1 Budgets, as applicable.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the New & Extended Out of Field Waivers for the following schools:
 - i. Somerset Academy Preparatory North Lauderdale #5003 & #5006 (new and extended waivers presented)
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Pay for Performance Plans.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify all Mental Health Plans; further approving to ratify the approval for the schools who chose to opt-in to their district's plan, the ability to do so.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Jefferson 2020-2021 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. School Re-Opening Plans for the 2020-2021 School Year (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Board Chair German states that the next board meeting will be in person.
 - ii. Julio Robaina discusses the plan that was submitted in South Florida tied the in-person opening to the re-opening phase; would like to consider amending this to provide more flexibility to open; Board Member Diaz states that she is always in favor of more choice; Dr. Kimmel states that he is very supportive of re-opening in person learning; several Principals announce their agreement with having the flexibility and do not feel they should push back the opening dates; Antonio Roca states that Colegia is ready to go; classrooms are actively having the new technology installed.
 - iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to submit amended Innovative Re-Opening Plans to allow more flexibility on the re-opening of the school and not tie the physical opening to the Re-Opening Phase as designated by the State of Florida.

Motion to accept the proposal to get more flexibility by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously
 - iv. Discussed individual districts
 - 1. Palm Beach – The district pushed back their opening from 8/10 until 8/31 with the plan to only offer distance learning.
 - 2. St. Lucie – The district pushed back their opening from 8/10 until 8/24. Principal Rains would like to open as planned and not push back the date. Principal Roach would like to push back the opening date along with the district. Discussed whether the decision should be made county by county or by school. Board Chair German and Board Member Kimmel support letting each school make their own decision and allow Principal Rains to open with the 3 choices on 8/10; Board Member Diaz suggest offering a preliminary go-ahead, but would like the ability to stay closed closer to the 10th; Principal Rains states that she can inform parents that the plan is to open, but if deemed necessary to change the plan closer to the 10th due to safety that is a possibility; Board Member Cox asks what data would change the opening; it is stated that phases and positivity counts will be monitored; he further states that he does not want to tell a school that they have to open if they are not ready; Board Chair German directs the 3 schools to open on 8/10 offering all 3 learning options to parents.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Bay Demolition Project (Lones Residence).
 - i. This is the house that is located on the Somerset Bay; waiting for a 3rd bid.
 - ii. Charles Gibson requests to review the final contract

Motion to approve the lowest bid by Ana Diaz; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Lease Agreement with Parkland School Property, LLC for the new Somerset Academy Parkland school.
 - i. Charles Gibson reviews the lease terms and independent lease analysis. The site is new construction, so there is not a HVAC or roof report.

Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- d. Somerset SoHo Elementary Bathroom Project Request for Approval (*Layda Morales*)
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Tabled: Nevada

- ii. Copier Contracts – Victor discusses the copier agreements; the decision to go with Ricoh for all copier needs has been made; requesting approval for final review of contract and execution
- iii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to enter into an agreement with Ricoh for copy machine needs.
Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- iv. Update on Jacksonville – School signage went up, but it didn't look right, so it's being corrected as we speak; 473 students have applied; goal is 500+.
- v. Update on Somerset Wellington – Goal is to triple enrollment from last year; data shows that the school would have received an "A" if the students had tested.

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: August 14, 2020 at 10am

6. Adjourned Meeting

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 18, 2020.