



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 15, 2021

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
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. *(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, Jefferson and Monroe Counties.

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 May 24, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Funds Allocation Reports.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Agreement Between Somerset Academy Jefferson K-12, Capital Health Plan, Inc., World Class Schools of Leon County, Inc., and Titus Sports Academy, LLC. for the 2021-2022 School Year.

- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2021-2022 Parent Involvement Representatives; further approving to designate Jeanette Nunez as the Conflict Resolution Person when the Parent Involvement Representative is unable to assist in a dispute.
- i. *Per Florida Statute, each charter school's governing board must appoint a representative to facilitate parental involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes. The representative must reside in the school district in which the charter school is located and may be a governing board member, a charter school employee, or an individual contracted to represent the governing board. If the governing board oversees multiple charter schools in the same school district, the governing board must appoint a separate representative for each charter school in the district.*
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify and Reapproved the 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. Professional Development Plan for Administrators
 - v. Student Enrollment / Lottery
 - vi. Internet Safety Policy
- *There have been no changes to any of these policies since the Board's re-approval last year.*
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Slate of Board Members and Officers for the 2021-2022 School Year:
- i. Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer)
 - ii. Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary)
 - iii. David Concepcion
 - iv. Dr. Bernard Kimmel
 - v. Matthew Cox (Texas)
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Preliminary Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Accept the Annual Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information.
- i. Pulled for Discussion: Approval to Renew the Charter School Educational Services and Support Agreements with Academica for one additional year, expiring June 30, 2022.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects:
- i. Somerset Academy Bay - Playground/Multi-sport court (Estimate for court Included. Awaiting Playground Estimates) – Requesting approval for up to \$80,000 to be paid with Donations from PTO Fundraising Efforts.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Submittal of the Mental Health Plans for the individual schools; further approving for schools to opt-in to their Sponsor's Mental Plan should they wish to.
- Motion to approve the consent agenda (with the exception of 3i) by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously*

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
- i. Discussed school “wish lists” and encouraged the schools to come up with their “wish lists” and work with Alina on how to fund these projects.
 - ii. Discussed: Renewal the Charter School Educational Services and Support Agreements with Academica for one additional year, expiring June 30, 2022.
 1. The current agreement is scheduled to expire at the end of this month. As the new contract form is still being negotiated by Board Counsels, it is being recommended to renew the current agreement for one year. The new long-term agreement will most likely be brought before the Board in less than a year, however asking for one year in an effort to keep the schools in compliance. The new agreement will be presented by Board Counsel along with ESP survey results at a future meeting.
 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to extend the Charter School Educational Services and Support Agreements with Academica for one additional year, expiring June 30, 2022.

Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously.

- b. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed and approved the Final 2020-2021 Annual Budgets.
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed and approved the Proposed 2021-2022 Annual Budgets.
Motion to approve the financial report by David Concepcion; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- c. Legislative Update (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Funding update; application deadline elimination; dual enrollment funding; virtual charters can now offer part-time virtual instruction; LEA and School of Hope operators; HP replications changes; state-wide colleges and universities can be charter authorizers; HP529 signed into law regarding “Moment of Silence”; session starts early this coming year in January (committee meeting starts in September).
- d. Discussed: Emergency Order 2021-EO-02 – School Grades and School Improvement Ratings (*Kelly Mallon*)
 - i. Schools have the ability to opt in or out to receiving a school grade for the 2020-2021 school year, within 30 days of FSA results being published; action can be taken at a future Board Meeting.
 - 1. Except for schools that “opt-in” to receive a 2020-21 school grade, all Florida district and charter schools will retain their pre-COVID designations.
 - 2. Any district or charter school that tests 90 percent or more of its eligible students may apply to the department to “opt-in” to have its 2020-2021 school grade or school improvement rating apply for all statutory purposes associated with a school grade or rating.
 - 3. A district or charter school electing to “opt-in” must do so within 30 days of the release of all state testing data.
- e. Approval of Principals and Other Administrative Positions. (*Todd German & Victor Barroso*)
 - i. A committee consisting of Board Members and Principals have been interviewing for several positions.
 - 1. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Ms. Jessica Mesa as the Principal of Somerset Preparatory Academy (Homestead) #0754, Somerset Preparatory Academy Middle School (Homestead) #6046 and Somerset Preparatory Academy High School (Homestead) #7242.
Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously
 - 2. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Dr. Walkiria Soberon as Principal of Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Homestead) #6013 and Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Homestead) #7034.
Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously
 - 3. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Ms. Ceclila Guilarte as Principal Somerset Academy Elementary School (South Miami Campus) #2007 | Somerset Academy Middle School (South Miami Campus) #6053.
Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously
- f. Follow up on facility issues with the Archdiocese located schools. (*Collette Papa, Charles Gibson, Gema Marti, Anthony Marucci*)
 - i. Somerset Village continues to have facility issues. The Board and Counsel discuss and are very unhappy and demand action prior to the next meeting.
- g. Tabled: Follow up on tabled third-party Facility Usage Agreements for SoBay and Riverside. (*Collette Papa, Saily Hernandez, Gelyer Castro*)
- h. School Updates
 - i. Jefferson (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. General School Data Report (*Kelly Mallon*)
 - iii. 2021 Graduating Class Brag Time (*Misc. High School Principals*)
 - iv. Others, if necessary
- i. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: July 13th

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 July 13, 2021.