



### *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.

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## Meeting of the Board of Directors April 12, 2022

### 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) (*Absent*)

### 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

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#### 1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:01am
- b. Established a Quorum

#### 2. Public Comment

- a. None

#### 3. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the March 8, 2022 and April 4, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Item Pulled: Approval of the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2021-2022 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.

- c. Item Pulled: Approval of necessary revisions to the Individual Charter School Title I Budget Appropriation Details Forms for the 2021-2022 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools, as necessary for the schools located in Miami-Dade County.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Teacher Certification Extension Request(s).
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Referendum Budget Updates for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Premium Service Agreements for the individual schools located in Broward County.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the submittal of Mental Health Allocation Plans.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize Board Chair to execute charter contracts with The School District of Palm Beach County for Somerset Academy JFK Charter School and Somerset Academy Wellington High School.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize Board Chair to execute letters of deferral of 5 approved applications with The School District of Palm Beach County (Somerset Academy Cypress; Somerset Academy Jupiter; Somerset Academy Acme; Somerset Academy Avenir; Somerset Academy Sable Palms)
- j. Item Pulled: Approval of the following Out of State and/or Country Field Trip(s):

*Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously*

#### 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
  - i. Article: Court backs charter school in funding fight. – Feel that the court will rule that there will be retroactivity for 1-3 years; the referendum language will be on the ballots this fall; law now contains language that requires districts to share such funding if it passes; the districts wants a unified effort to get this passed. Board Member Diaz asks if there will be restrictions on the use of these funds since the schools used other funds to provide teachers increases over the past few years; this will be determined by the court ruling, but our hope is that the funds come without restrictions. Alina requests establishing a working group of principals from multiple districts to discuss teacher retention and referendum fund matching. She states that as she has met with different principals, many are focused on retaining teachers at their own school. Todd requests that we coordinate with the other networks on this, as well.
  - ii. Legislative Update by Julio Robaina
    - 1. A full report will be provided once complete with all deliverables; all of our items that passed the House and Senate are expected to be passed by the Governor.
  - iii. Requests that the schools take a moment to focus on their signage; keep them simple and with a large Somerset Academy; he requests that Adri and the marketing team further discuss this item at the next meeting; discussed streamlining the signage.
  - iv. Discussed the government’s attempt to pause the CSP grants; encouraged Principals to have their stakeholders submit letters to show their disagreement.
  - v. Discussed and reassured the Principals that when transactions occur and schools are asked to loan funds to the Inc. or other schools, the funds are always still those of the loaning school and they will receive it back; such loans are temporary.
- b. School Updates
  - i. Jefferson
    - 1. Board Chair German discusses an incident which occurred last week with a teacher who posted a inappropriate picture on her last day; parents and others stepped in and the picture was removed.
    - 2. Updates provided on testing and transition.
  - ii. Somerset Village
    - 1. Principal Marucci updates the Board on a meeting which occurred with the church to discuss ongoing issues, mostly personality issues and not facility. Marla further discusses and does not feel like they need anything from the Board at this time. If nothing happens in approx. 8 weeks, then they may

request the Board submit a letter to the ADOM. Principal Marucci feels that the ADOM is very understanding, but feels it's the facility representatives at the actual location.

- iii. Others, if necessary
  - 1. Victor Barroso announces the upcoming (year-end) resignation of Principal Hench at JFK; he discusses how she immediately fell into the role of a lifetime Somerset Principal; Ms. Hench is the first Somerset Principal to truly retire in the history of Somerset Academy. Bernie and Suzette share their words of support and gratitude for Principal Hench and thank her for her time with us. Board Member Kimmel thanks Sharon for her service and dedication. Principal Hench recalls the first time she met Victor and shares a story how she used to tell her staff he was the property appraiser because he was always on campus and they questioned why. Victor states that finding a replacement will not be easy and encourages the other principals to forward any resumes of potential candidates to Suzette and Bernie.
- c. Financial Report
  - i. Discussed issues in Broward County regarding grants and how its exhausting everyone. Alina states they have requested mediation and met at the state level. They asked for a review of what Broward requires versus what other large districts require. Alina feels that Broward is terrified of doing something wrong or not enough. We are hopeful the state will provide them guidance so they are better aware and educated of what the grant requirements should be.
- d. Principal Items (Requests, Approvals, Reports)
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the project request by Somerset Academy South Homestead Elementary for a Basketball Court Resurfacing Project for an amount not to exceed \$55k (operating expense).  
*Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously*
  - ii. Principal Elizabeth Sauri announces the new high school opening at Somerset Academy Wellington. This will be the first K-12 in Palm Beach County.
- e. Somerset Academy Bay – Use of “Loans House”
  - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved Ratify Board Chair’s approval of substantial compliance application and \$3,684.12 fee.
    - 1. Julio provides background on this item; attempt to amend the zoning to allow school use.  
*Motion to approve by Ana Diaz; second by Dr. Kimmel; motion passed unanimously*
- f. Accreditation Update & Presentation by Sarah Fye & Layda Morales
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

## 5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: May 17<sup>th</sup>

## 6. Adjourned Meeting at 10:50am

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 May 17, 2022.