



### *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 May 16, 2023**

### **Board of Directors**

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

### **Non-Voting Officers**

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

### **Board Counsel**

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Absent)*  
Eleni Noble Zarbalas, 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 and Monroe Counties.*

## **Minutes**

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### **1. Opening Exercises**

- a. Called to Order at 11:05am
- b. Established a Quorum

## 2. Public Comment

- a. Alexjandra Vazquez – Somerset Academy Oaks, Parent (*Physically Attending*) – Discussed concerns with bullying at the school.
- b. Brittany Dexter – Somerset Academy Parkland, Parent (*Attended Virtually*) – Discussed concerns with the school regarding bullying; teacher turnover; alleged complaints of smoking in the middle school; classroom discipline issues; requesting a townhall parent meeting.
  - i. President Montero states that he has met with Ms. Dexter and will assist with her concerns.
- c. Ms. Escoffery – Somerset Academy High School – Not present

## 3. Consent Agenda (*All were enacted by one motion*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the April 18, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair:
  - i. Approved to defer the opening of Somerset Career Academy Port St Lucie until the 2024-2025 academic year with a contract expiration/renewal term of 2029.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously*

## 4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
  - i. Discussed the retreat and the unworkable coffeemaker.
  - ii. Noted the different upcoming events and conferences.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
  - i. Suzette discusses the NSLP audits which were conducted this year; the schools and their teams did an exceptional job; commended the Principals involved – Donyale McGhee, Idalia Suarez, Joel Mesa, Waki Soberon and Donna Kaye.
  - ii. In the process of collecting self-evaluations from the Principals.
  - iii. Bernie discusses the re-accreditation; uniform policy.
  - iv. Victor requests to be informed of any school anniversaries / milestones.
- c. Legislative Update (*Julio Robaina*)
- d. Colegia Report (*Antonio Roca*)
  - i. Todd discusses the new AI feature and it is very good; this could allow teachers to customize lesson plans for individual students.
- e. Financial Report (*Alina Chester / Ana Martinez*)
  - i. Budget report and review; funding changes.
  - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Revised Annual Budgets for the current school year:
    1. Somerset College Preparatory Academy #0712
    2. Somerset Academy Bethany #0731

*Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Diaz; second by David Concepcion;*

*motion passed unanimously*

- f. School Updates
  - i. Academic/Data Reports
    - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle Elementary & Middle (*Tunji Williams*)
      - a. Testing ongoing; data shows that both school could earn a C.
    - 2. Somerset Academy JFK (*Lisa Santiago*)
      - a. Predicting a C; if learning gains would be considered then it would be a B.
    - 3. Somerset Arizona (*Bernie, Victor, Marla*)
      - a. Diana Jones, the new Principal, is present today and introduced by Marla. She has been visiting different schools in South Florida.
    - 4. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
  - ii. Others, if necessary
- g. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
  - i. Todd discusses tuition reimbursement for Principals; Amy is drafting a policy for the Board's consideration.
  - ii. Ana Diaz discusses the implementation of a board appointed committee
  - iii. Todd discusses setting up board meetings next year to alternate between schools sites and Academica; Suzette will work on principal meetings approx. every other month.

## 5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: June 13<sup>th</sup> via Zoom (Academica 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

## 6. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:00pm**

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 June 13, 2023.

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