



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 July 17, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Absent)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

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 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved the Quarter 4 Referendum Reports, the Updated Referendum Plans for Quarter 4, and the new SY25 Referendum Plans for the schools located in Palm Beach County.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy South Homestead Middle/High Turf Project for an amount not to exceed \$95,000 (\$83k was originally included in approved budget).

Motion to approve the consent agenda by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Thanks everyone for attending the charter school conference; due to the new grant many new schools will be opening over the next several years; need for Principals to fill these positions; discussed offering a bonus for Principals who help start up a school out of state.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Key Update – Discussed the negotiations to purchase the property; received a formal eviction letter; landlord provided the letter to the district which prompted them to take action; this is being fought and the intent is to continue operations for this school year.
 - iii. Board Member Digital Signature Requests – MDCPS sent a digital signature request directly to Todd; our legal confirmed this letter should have never gone out for signature and it did not contain correct information regarding the settlement agreement.
 - 1. All requests for signature from the schools must go through Kelly.
 - 2. Accounting needs to include better descriptions of what is being signed. Requests labeled “urgent” must be urgent and not due to waiting to have it paid. Alina and Ana will discuss with accounting to ensure more details are being provided.
 - 3. These precautions are being taken due to fraud.
 - iv. Board of Directors Insurance – Mark Grimmel from EGIS Insurance presents to the Board. He confirms proper board coverage.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Pompano (*Donna Kaye/ Anthony Marucci*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - 3. Somerset Academy Key Middle School (*Dennis Mulrooney*)
 - 4. Somerset Academy Lakes Charter School (*Clint Duvo*)
 - 5. Others, if necessary
 - a. Todd requests for Adri to discuss the new schools and expansions. Opening in Ohio, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Nevada, Texas and new Florida counties.

- d. School Project / Purchase Requests
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Somerset Academy Village Bathroom Project for an amount not to exceed \$113,000 subject to landlord approval.
Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: August 13th via Zoom
- b. If you are interested in hosting the September 10th Board Meeting (or any other in person meetings this year) at your school, please contact Kelly asap.

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:33am**

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on August 13, 2024.



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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 13, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Present)*
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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

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 July 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved the initial Title 1 Budget Appropriations Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the necessary schools located in Miami-Dade County.
 - ii. Approved the implementation of the 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbooks.
 - iii. Approved the revised Title 1 Budget Appropriations Forms (*dated May 31, 2024*) for Somerset Academy South Homestead Middle School W/L# 6013 and Somerset Academy South Homestead High School W/L# 7034.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the initial Title 1 Budget Appropriations Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the necessary schools located in Miami-Dade County.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the CIVICA Architectural, Engineering and Facilities Support Services Consulting Services from 7/1/24 to 6/30/25.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the submittal of ESSA School Improvement Plans (SIP) as required by the Bureau of School Improvement for the necessary schools.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Lease Agreement between Residences at SoMi Parc, LLC and Somerset Academy, Inc. for the new Somerset SoMI PK Annex.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects / Purchase Requests: (*Note: Each project listed has been reviewed and determined to be fiscally acceptable*):
 - i. Somerset Academy Boca East School Hardening / Glass Fortification Project for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 to be paid by Operating/Referendum Funds
 - ii. Somerset Academy DBK School Safety “Key Fob” Project for an amount not to exceed \$200k to be paid with referendum funds.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field / ESOL / Gifted Waiver Assignments for the 2024-2025 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the revised Title 1 Budget Appropriations Forms for the 2023-2024 school year for Somerset Preparatory Academy (Homestead) W/L# 0754 and Somerset Preparatory Academy Middle school (Homestead) W/L# 6046.

Todd German pulled item – 3gii – Corrected amount to read from \$200 to \$200k

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

ii. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)

- i. School Grade Appeal by Somerset Academy Wellington High School
 - ii. Need to add Jacksonville to the monthly agenda; how did we miss this; the grade was a surprise to the board. Discussed how schools can be added to the monthly agenda regardless of previous school grade.
 - iii. Somerset Academy Key update – in litigation; very confident that we are good for this year. Dennis states that he is getting feedback from the community that the church is saying that the school will be removed any day.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Sarah reports on the school grades; scheduling Inc. data chats
- c. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

iii. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: September 10th at Somerset Academy Canyons

iv. Adjourn Meeting at 11:28am

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on September 10, 2024.



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Meeting of the Board of Directors September 10, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Absent)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

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

2. Public Comment

- a. Stephanie Wicky, Somerset Parkland – Speaking for Ms. Ward, as well; discussed school values, facility concerns, lack of communication.
- b. Kimberlee Ward, Somerset Parkland

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 August 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL Waiver Assignments for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to continue the authorization 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...
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to submit the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair to approve to submit the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2024.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland – Scotland and Ireland
 - ii. Somerset College Prep – Gatlinburg
 - iii. Somerset Gables – New York City
 - iv. Somerset Prep Homestead - Rome & Perugia
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Progressive Discipline Acknowledgement & Policy; further directing all school to add the Acknowledgement & Policy as an attachment to the "Policy and Procedures for Charter School Compliance with School Safety and Security Requirements Set Forth in Florida Statutes and Rule 6A-1.0018; and Florida Administrative Code" manual, as created by each school using the board adopted template in June 2024.
 - i. *Each district school board and charter school governing board shall adopt a progressive discipline policy for addressing any instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and any administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate school safety requirements.*

- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Instructional Continuity Plans for the 2024-2025 school year; further requesting public comments if applicable.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Mental Health Plans, as submitted by the schools by the required due dates.
- l. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Revisions to the Parent Involvement Representatives for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland Facility Concerns – For a relatively new school, approx. 50% of units have had issues; it was confirmed there were maintenance let downs; there is a current nationwide issue pertaining to A/C units at our schools; discussed having an independent 3rd party to come in and review all systems and also include other networks; Taylor agrees having a 3rd party come and also refer to leases when doing so; Julio confirms that this can be further addressed and a proposal presented.
 - 1. Todd discusses 3 recent visits by the health department that occurred as a result of the parent complaints; all 3 visits were satisfactory with no issues found.
 - ii. Safety & Security – Working on obtaining quotes for a fob system for staff to wear on their ID badges that would immediately alert law enforcement.
 - iii. Communication as a School Principal – Please communicate with Adri prior to sending or posting certain parent messages.
 - iv. Somerset Academy Key update
 - v. Jacksonville – Disappointed that the grade was a surprise and less than expected; Tunji discusses measures being taken; Todd requests data or a report card for future meetings.
 - vi. Arizona update by Jenna Meacham
 - vii. CMO Grant and Growth – continued need for Principals for these new sites.
 - 1. It is requested that future schools be made available to share with aspiring staff. Adri can prepare this for the next meeting.
 - 2. It is requested that all new Principals (from outside) be paired with a network Principal from the beginning, as opposed to when they need help.
 - viii. Board Member Cox challenges all school leaders to re-read vision and purpose and figure out a creative way to engage staff with those and share at upcoming board meetings.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President *(Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz)*
 - i. Working on the FAST, Behavior Threat Assessments, meaningful visits to Arizona.
- c. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: October 15th via Zoom (with a physical location at Academica)

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:58pm

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on October 15, 2024.



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Purpose

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Meeting of the Board of Directors October 15, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

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 September 10, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifter Waivers or Endorsement Assignments for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy St. Lucie – Atlanta, GA
 - ii. Somerset Academy DBK – Washington, DC
 - iii. Somerset Academy Canyons – Alabama for Cheer in October & November
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. SoMi PK Buildout
 - ii. Waivers (multiple)
 - iii. PBC Q1 Referendum Funds
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to utilize Doral Leadership Institute Consortium of Public Charter Schools Instructional Personnel Evaluation System and School Administrator Evaluation System as the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Tool.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Apologized to Kerri Ann for a comment made in the last meeting.
 - ii. Ann Maria Rodriguez, State Senator, has a child who attends Kerri's school and they absolutely love it.
 - iii. At the last meeting, we talked about putting together a Strategic Planning Meeting. Due to the hurricanes we weren't able to hold one today. Todd feels that the agenda topics should include aggressive growth goals due to the grant. David would like to add considerations for long-term capital outlay planning. Matt has previously stated that he would like to focus on the mission and vision and make sure that it aligns. Bernie discusses new sites and the establishment of leadership for successful and healthy growth. Taylor would like to see a Principal Academy to offer PD for administration. Ana also agrees to make sure that we are offering and supporting our Principals. Kerri would like to see efforts be made to benefit "the community / the staff" as opposed to only focus on the learners. Dr. Ruth would like to see how we can recruit new teachers. Todd discussed timing of the meetings; he suggests meeting at 9:30 prior to a board meeting.

- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Huge Congratulations to Dina Miller (Somerset Davie) for receiving her 3rd Blue Ribbon Award.
 - ii. Report on Student Data
 - iii. FTE was just completed
 - iv. Jacksonville & Phoenix Update
- c. Lease & Other ESP Updates (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset - Danny reports that negotiations are going great and more info. should be able to be shared soon.
 - ii. Somerset Academy Key – The attorneys have been engaged with the landlord and communications are open; looking into the possibility of mediation.
 - iii. Somerset Academy Continental – This should be ready for the next meeting.
 - iv. Other updates by Julio -
 - 1. Legislative Update
 - 2. Actively pursuing growth in other states
 - 3. Future growth in Homestead at the existing schools
- d. Financial Report
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024; including ratification of all necessary Year End Grants and/or Loans.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: November 12th

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:30pm

*The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on November 12, 2024.



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Purpose

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Meeting of the Board of Directors November 12, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) (Present)
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) (Present)
David Concepcion (Present)
Matthew Cox (Absent)
Taylor Smith (Present)

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. (Absent)
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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Call to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – *None*

3. **Consent Agenda** - *All items listed with letter designations are considered routine were enacted by one motion.*

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the October 15, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Preparatory Academy Sunset – Washington D.C.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Misc. Waivers
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Charter School Surplus/Disposition Declaration Form for Bond Technology Devices for Somerset Academy Davie.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects/Purchases:
 - i. Ratify Somerset Academy Oaks Van Purchase for Lunch Use (to be paid with lunch funds)
 - ii. Somerset DBK Marquee Purchase for \$50k (to be paid with referendum funds)
 - iii. Somerset Academy Pines Facilities Updates for an amount not to exceed \$85k (to be paid with operating and referendum funds)
 - iv. Somerset Academy Pompano Facilities Updates for an amount not to exceed \$39k (to be paid with operating and referendum funds)
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Virtual Educational Services and Support Agreement between Somerset Virtual Academy (private) and Academica Virtual Education, LLC.

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. Congratulations to Dina Miller on her 3rd Blue Ribbon.
 - ii. Special welcome to Jorge Rivas from Cornerstone.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Bernie addresses the recent threat received at his school and the efforts of staff and law enforcement.
 - ii. Accreditation update

- c. ESP Report (*Julio Robaina*)
 - i. Legislative Update – Seeking clarification/interpretation on past items; funding requests; board member fingerprinting request;
 - ii. Facilities Report
 - 1. Somerset Key – Still in litigation, depositions occurring in December, then mediation.
 - 2. Somerset Prep – Still in conversations with their officials, submitted a clarification memo on our long-term plans to determine the best plan for both Somerset and the JCC.
 - iii. Colegia Report by Antonio Roca
 - 1. Private Somerset Virtual has been in operation since the beginning of the school year and it's going well; the relationship with Inter-Miami is going well.
 - 2. Artificial intelligence and state data; training available for those who need.
 - 3. Dismissal and arrival and digital hall pass pilot program.
 - 4. Alaia trainings ongoing
- d. Financial Report (*Alina Chester*)
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the 2024-2025 Revised Annual Budgets.
 - 1. Budgets have been updated with the October FTE student counts – 29,837 students statewide (up 206 students since 23-24)
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Marla updates on Somerset Arizona
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: December 17th via Zoom

6. Adjourned Meeting at 11:50am

*The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on December 17, 2024.



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Purpose

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Special Meeting of the Board of Directors December 10, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – *None*

3. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Acquisition of vacant land adjacent to the Somerset Academy Eagle campus (2100 Dunn Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32218)
 - i. Right of First Refusal:
 - 1. Somerset Inc. has the first option to purchase ~10 acres behind the campus.
 - 2. Landlord received another offer; Somerset must match it and provide a \$100k deposit.
 - ii. Transfer to Somerset Academy Foundation:
 - 1. Proposal to transfer the purchase to the Foundation to simplify future real estate matters.
 - 2. Somerset Inc. would lend funds to the Foundation, to be repaid post-construction.
 - iii. Property Tax Exemption:
 - 1. Discussed strategies to purchase and maintain the tax-exempt status.
 - iv. Comments by Board Members:
 - 1. Concepcion: Concerns about funding for future development and past financial challenges at the school. It was noted that property value should appreciate, and selling later remains an option. Requested confirmation from Board Counsel that there is no conflict with this acquisition between the two Boards; Counsel confirms.
 - 2. Cox: Questions about landlocked status, title clarity, and zoning (currently residential; rezoning needed for school use). Julio Robaina assured that due diligence will be conducted and actions will require Foundation approval.
 - v. **APPROVED:** The Board approved exercising the right of first refusal, or its affiliate, to purchase the property under the discussed terms.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Matt Cox; motion passed unanimously
- b. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

4. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:28am**

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on December 17, 2024.



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Purpose

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Meeting of the Board of Directors December 17, 2024

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq.
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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

2. Public Comment

- Charkivia Hutchinson, Somerset Academy City Arts Academy – Expressed concerned with her daughter’s grades and IEP; requests the Board review the grading policy. Board Chair German encourages Ms. Hutchinson to go to the Grievance Committee to discuss her concerns.

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 November 12, 2024 & December 10, 2024 Board of Directors Meetings.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the individual Principals (as the board designee) to sign all state and federal grant forms as they relate to their school.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Tech Bond Declaration/Disposition items for Somerset Academy East Prep.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair *(Todd German)*
 - i. Lynn Teck from the Charter School Alliance announces the new Florida Charter School Teacher of the Year program in partnership with the Dept. of Education. Congratulations to the very first Florida Charter School Teacher of the Year, Ms. Sheeren Reid from Somerset Academy North Lauderdale with Principal McGhee. This will help charter schools to be included in the regular Teacher of the Year program in the future.
 - ii. Congratulations to all of the schools who made the US News School Ranking.
 - iii. Purchase of Jacksonville property adjacent to Somerset Academy Eagle; closing tentatively in February.
 - iv. Canyons earned more than \$1,000,000.00 on AP/AICE/DE funding in a school year.
 - v. Somerset Academy Wellington OIG Investigation
 - vi. Honoring Somerset Academy Davie and Principal Dina Miller with a US flag that was flown over the Capital.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President *(Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz)*
 - i. Cognia update
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities *(Julio Robaina)*
 - 1. Legislative update
 - 2. Facilities
 - a. Avenir in Palm Beach County – part of the CMO grant; construction began; K-5 in a new community in North PBC.
 - b. Somerset Arts – possible purchase from the existing church; this transaction will be coming to the Board in the future.

- c. Somerset Prep – close to having an commitment/agreement with the JCC to announce long term plans; still actively looking for additional plans for both or either Somerset or Ben Gamla.
 - d. Somerset Key – in mediation; received a counter back; feel confident that we will come to an arrangement.
 - e. Somerset Continental – finalizing the agreement with Metro Life
 - f. Archdiocese – actively working on the renewal agreements for all sites.
 - 3. Legislative at the federal level – new administration has announced changes; federal dollars will come from federal block grants giving schools the flexibility to use the funds for what works best at their school;
- ii. Colegio update by Manny Pon
- d. Financial Report
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved for Somerset Academy Oaks to purchase new computers for approximately \$100,000.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
 - ii. Discussed Somerset Academy Arizona – they recently requested a \$100k loan from Somerset Academy, Inc. to purchase artificial turf; Academica (Miami – Ana or Alina) does not work on these finances; Ana feels that we need to be able to review their financials if we are going to be asked for financial report from Florida; discussed them moving with the project if they have the funds.
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Somerset Academy Oaks (*Idalia Suarez*)
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to request to change the name of Somerset Academy Oaks during the contract renewal process to: Somerset Oaks Leadership & Innovation (*aka* SoLI).
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. Facilities Report by Rolando Llanes

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: January 14th in St. Lucie – anyone who wants to attend in person, you are encouraged to do so; a group will be going up on the Brightline and then taking a bus from there.
- b. Math Bowl: Saturday, February 22nd at Somerset Academy Pompano

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:04pm

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on January 14, 2025.



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 January 14, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:00am
- b. Established a Quorum

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 December 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects / Purchases:
 - i. Somerset Career Academy purchase of 2 buses for the 25-26 school year for an amount not to exceed \$320,000 to be paid with CMO grant funds.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending September 30, 2024.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved the Quarter 2 Referendum Reports and the Updated SY25 Referendum Plans for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.

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. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Rebecca (Becky) Pavich as the Principal for Somerset Academy Avenir.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously
 - ii. Reminder to Principals to use auditors if you are conducting an enrollment lottery per new board policy.
 - iii. Requests to look at our school scores more in-depth at the next meeting to determine who is not on track to get an A or B.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Campus visits to the St. Lucie schools were very nice and impressive.
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
 - 1. Somerset City Arts purchase
 - 2. Somerset Key
 - 3. Somerset Prep @ JCC
 - 4. Somerset Continental
 - ii. Colegio (*Antonio Roca*)
- d. Update: Purchase and Sale Agreement between Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. (*Julio Robaina / Charles Gibson*)
 - i. Somerset City Arts site; agreement has been submitted to the church and is under their review.

- e. Financial Report
 - i. Discussed – Tutoring and use of supplements as an allowable referendum expense
- f. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
- g. iReady Presentation – Introduction by Sarah Fye
- h. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Next Board Meeting: February 11th at Chapel Trail
- b. Math Bowl: Saturday, February 22nd at Somerset Academy Pompano

6. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:26pm**

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on February 11, 2025.



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 February 11, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:05am
- 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 January 14, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending December 31, 2025.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Approved Waivers for #5008, #5151, #5004, #5002
 - ii. Approved the 2023-2024 School Recognition Fund Distribution Plans for the schools that do not have a SAC.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy 5263/5141 – Washington DC – March 2025

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Discussed a tragedy with a student which occurred at Somerset Academy in Texas yesterday. Amy discussed resources that are available through ADP for help with grief; will look further into resources available to employees in other states. Bernie reminds all schools that a counselor is a must; if anyone doesn't have one for budget purposes they are told to please reach out – we are Somerset and family and have a lot of resources to share.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Cognia Accrediting Report was extremely positive with a very high IEQ making Somerset an “impacting network”
 - ii. School Data Report
 - iii. Jacksonville visit report
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
 - ii. Colegio (*Antonio Roca*)

- d. Financial Report
 - i. Discussed changes occurring federally and possible funding/grant changes.
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - a. Approved for a 5-year charter contract renewal!
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
- f. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP
 - i. CMO Update by Sarah Fye; rolling out a Connectivity Survey to see who may have interest in expansion areas.

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: March 11th via Zoom
- b. Announcement of Spring Events (see attached)
- c. Principal Coalition Meeting immediately following this meeting on Sarah's Zoom

6. Adjourned Meeting

The undersigned hereby certifies 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 March 11, 2025.



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 March 11, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Present)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

Non-Voting Officers

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

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. *(Absent)*
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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:01am
- 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 February 11, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the schools the ability to Opt-In/Out of their Sponsor's Mental Health Assistance Plan; further directing Principals to work with Lilian Salazar with any questions or concerns related to their MHP's.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2025-2026 Venture Design Premium Services Agreements for the Broward County schools.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects/Purchases:
 - i. Somerset Academy Continental – Playground Improvement for \$17,000 (landlord is paying for the other half of the project)

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Update on Cory's student which was discussed at the last meeting; she has pulled through and is returning to school on Monday.
 - b. Todd welcomes Sarah Fye to the meeting today as she will be stepping in as "President" for the meeting since Bernie and Suzette are unavailable to attend.
 - i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to appoint Ximena Cruz as the Principal of Somerset Arts Academy #2012, effective the 2025-2026 school year.
 - 1. Idalia Suarez reports that after 17 years as Principal of Somerset City Arts she will be stepping down as the school's Principal; she wholeheartedly recommends Ximena as the new Principal; her time and commitment to Somerset are impressive; Ximena is extremely grateful for the opportunity; Todd states that he has fully discussed this with Victor and staff and everyone is in agreement is that she is the best for this position. Idalia will remain as Principal of Somerset Oaks and her role at DLI.
- Motion to approve by David Concepcion; second by Taylor Smith; motion passed unanimously*
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed and approved the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Pre-Construction Management Services for Somerset Island Prep.
 - i. Rolando reviews the project with the Board and staff.

- ii. Board Member Concepcion asks where the funds will be coming from for the construction manager. Julio Robaina explains the process and that a budget price (the construction manager's fee) will be requested; the board will then make a decision to proceed to go out to bid. Today's action is to invite the bidders and not the actual fee.

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

- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the First Modification to Educational Facilities Lease Agreement with Metro Life Worship Center of Miami, Inc. for the Somerset Academy Continental campus.

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

- e. ESP Report

- i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
- ii. Colegia (*Antonio Roca*)

- f. Somerset CMO Report by Daniel Shourds; follow up on the survey that was discussed and distributed at the last meeting.

- g. Financial Report

- h. School Updates

- i. Academic/Data Reports

- 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
- 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
- 3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Somerset Academy Avenir (*Becky Pavich*)
 - i. Opening in August in Palm Beach county; discussed marketing efforts; there is a golf course on-site in which the City wants to implement at golf curriculum;

- 5. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- a. Erika Rains shouts out to Idalia and Layda who opened their schools to her leadership team.

6. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: April 15th (*date could possibly change*)
- b. Budget Meeting/Workshop June 27th at Somerset Island Prep in Key West – Please make sure to reply to Kelly's email asap if you plan to attend in person.

7. Adjourned Meeting at 12:00pm

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on May 13, 2025.



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 May 13, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order at 11:03am
- 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 March 11, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **Item Removed:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field, ESOL and/or Gifted Waiver Assignments or Endorsements for the 2024-2025 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).
- c. **Item Removed:** The Board approved the Individual Charter School Title I Budgets / Appropriation Details Forms for the 2024-2025 school year for the Title 1 distinguished schools; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair authority and direction to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission (including any necessary revisions).
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Resolutions by the Board Chair:
 - i. Misc. Charter Renewals 2026
 - ii. Quarter 3 Referendum Reports and the Updated SY25 Referendum Plans for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset College Prep - Our award-winning choral program has been invited to perform at the Rome International Choral Festival and in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, Italy, from December 28, 2026 through January 4, 2027. "Youth Music of the World" is the company handling all the arrangements.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Projects and/or Purchases:
 - i. Somerset Academy Canyons – Bus Purchase (or lease equivalent) for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 (paid by operating).
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Approval of Mental Health Plans for the 25-26 School Year for the schools that did not opt-in to use their Sponsor's plan.

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

4. **Action & Discussion Items**

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Discussed Sunshine Law and reminders to the Principals.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Testing ongoing
 - ii. Reminder to have stakeholders complete the survey
 - iii. Admin self-evaluations will be going out soon
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
 - 1. Session is still ongoing due to budget process; school start time mandate for middle and high school was able to be changed with board approval and plans submitted;

current PK programs (private or VPK) now have preferred enrollment into Kindergarten; districts cannot impose a deadline that's different than their own; Code of Student Conduct changes to allow more strict policies than the district; greater access to our student information from the districts; assignments of high-performing charters; fingerprinting changes; cleaned up FHSAA language regarding virtual students; conversion schools and who votes to allow these to happen ("job engine charter school"); artificial caps on charters; several security changes.

**All subject to final Governor approval.*

ii. Colegia (*Antonio Roca*)

1. Finally have the Miami-Dade gradebook on Colegia, as well as all i-Ready data and state testing results within 24 hours of FAST testing.

d. Purchase of Somerset Academy City Arts (*Julio Robaina / Charles Gibson*)

i. Purchase Update

1. Review of purchase price of \$4.6M
2. Church would like a usage agreement to allow them use of the facility; Principal Suarez has been working with Mr. Gibson and Arlene on this.

ii. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Purchase and Sale Agreement between Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Miami, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. for the Somerset Academy City Arts facility.

Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously

e. School Purchases and/or Projects

i. **APPROVED:** The Board discussed and approved the Somerset Academy Bethany expansion project for an amount not to exceed \$985k as discussed.

1. Add 4 classrooms and 2 gang bathrooms to Building 3 at Bethany before the end of summer; all due diligence for collecting bids, etc, have been completed.
2. A promissory note will be prepared from the Inc. to the School for funding purposes.

Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously

f. Financial Report

- i. Budget meetings are still ongoing for budget presentation in June; experiencing that it's getting more difficult to predict enrollment; review of proposed state budget and new FTE reporting methods.

g. School Updates

i. Academic/Data Reports

1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*) – Not present due to issues at the school.
3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - b. Arizona (*Frankie*)

ii. New Schools for August

1. Somerset Academy Avenir (*Becky Parich*)
 - a. 196 applications; 156 enrolled; marketing efforts continue and parent meetings; most staff have been hired.

5. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- a. Update on Grand Junction, Colorado – if approved (on June 17th), this would open in August. The current school is a K-5 and has an approx. 300 student capacity with plenty of room to expand. Demographic studies show it could easily be a 600-700 student station school in the future; new developments are being built. Academically the school ranks very high.

6. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting (Annual Meeting): June 17th at Somerset Academy Palms (12001 SW 72nd Street, Miami, Florida 33183).
- b. Budget Meeting/Workshop June 27th at Somerset Island Prep in Key West.

7. Adjourned Meeting at 12:11pm

8. The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on June 17, 2025.



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.

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors June 17, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(Absent)*
Taylor Smith *(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

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 May 13, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to receive & file the quarterly financials for the period ending March 31, 2024.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Parent Involvement Representatives for the 2025-2026 school year.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Annual Ratification & Reapproval of Board Policies & Procedures, including:
 - i. General Board Policies & Procedures
 - 1. Conflict of Interest (*Each Board Member is required to sign and return the written acceptance form*)
 - 2. Ethics
 - 3. Whistle Blower
 - 4. Bylaws – As amended to remove 15-year term limit.
 - ii. Student Policies
 - 1. Anti-Discrimination Policy / Title IX
 - 2. Out of State and Country Field Trip Policy
 - 3. Student Enrollment Lottery Policy
 - 4. Internet Safety Policy
 - iii. Financial Policies.
 - iv. Policy and Procedures for Charter School Compliance with School Safety and Security Requirements template (each school must complete their own document using the approved template). Further approving attached additional policies that are not included in the state template (Involuntary Examinations, Tornado Watch, Progressive Discipline)
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Board Chair the ability to approve any year-end financial items which may be necessary to close the books.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Preliminary Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for the 2025-2026 School Year.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Accept the Annual Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information. Further approving to adopt the FERPA Hearing Procedures and authorizing the Board Chair the ability to make necessary changes as reviewed by legal and staff.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the CIVICA Architectural, Engineering and Facilities Support Services Consulting Services from 7/1/2025 through 7/1/2026.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify loan from the following schools to Somerset Academy, Inc. which will fund Somerset Foundation in the amount of \$4,636,000 for Purchase of Somerset City Arts.

- i. Somerset City Arts \$2M
 - ii. Somerset Oaks \$2,636,000
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Approval of Mental Health Plans for the 25-26 School Year for the schools that did not opt-in to use their Sponsor's plan.
- k. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Members and Officers for the 2025-2026 School Year:
 - i. Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer)
 - ii. Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary)
 - iii. David Concepcion
 - iv. Matthew Cox
 - v. Taylor Smith

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. Continued support for Gibson Charter School's student incentives for testing
 - ii. Discussed the upcoming budget workshop and the goals and discussions to be expected.
 - iii. Discussed new CMO projects and plan to identify an individual point person for each one.
 - iv. Update Grand Junction, Colorado
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. We are on track for all schools to be a C or above!! Discussed how additional support measures taken this year played a big role in this.
- c. ESP Report
 - i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)
 - ii. Colegia (*Antonio Roca*)
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Review of State Budget
- e. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 - 1. Somerset Academy Eagle (*Tunji Williams*)
 - 2. Somerset Academy Wellington High School (*Elizabeth Sauri*)
 - 3. Others, if necessary
 - a. Somerset Island Prep – For the expansion, a Construction Manager at Risk is needed; they will work with the design team to make sure that they systems being designed are what is best for Key West; they will also look at materials and best availability; recommending Keystar Construction out of 3 companies that expressed interest; fee is approx. 1% of total cost which is anticipated to be around \$5M; if this firm is ultimately selected then their fee would be applied to the project cost.

- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to retain Keystar Construction as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Somerset Island Prep expansion project, as discussed.
Motion to approve by Ana Mendez; second by David Concepcion; motion passed unanimously

- ii. New Schools for August

- 1. Somerset Academy Avenir (*Becky Pavich*)

- 5. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- 6. **Announcements & Notifications**

- a. Budget Meeting/Workshop June 27th at Somerset Island Prep in Key West.

- 7. **Adjourned Meeting at 12:03pm**

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on July 15, 2025.



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 Budget Workshop June 27, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*

Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*

David Concepcion *(Absent)*

Matthew Cox *(Present)*

Taylor Smith *(Present)*

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 is being held at Somerset Island Prep (1908 Flagler Avenue, Key West, FL 33040) and via communications media technology.

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Call to Order – 11:03 am
- b. Establish a Quorum
- c. Special welcome to any members of the public joining us today.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Financial Report & Budget Review

- a. General Discussion – Alina Chester:
 - i. tentative agreement on Florida K-12 funding for SY26,
 - ii. what referendum funds by district can be spent,
 - iii. ½ penny sales tax (Duval),
 - iv. Florida enrollment, growth, trends, SY26 and future projects,
 - v. discussion and proposed update of Financial Policies,
 - vi. active grants, CMO grant, other funding sources, and schools with private pre-Ks.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to approve the final 2024-2025 Annual Budgets and Proposed 2025-2026 Annual Budgets.
Motion to approve by Taylor Smith; second by Ana Mendez; motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

- a. John Dolan Heitlinger, teacher at Somerset Island Prep and former board member of Key West Collegiate Academy/Somerset, presented about AI in the classroom.

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: July 15th via Zoom Only (no in-person due to the summer break)

6. Adjourn Meeting at 12:01 pm

The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on July 15, 2025.