



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 September 16, 2025

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Mendez (Vice-Chair / Secretary) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Brian Matthew (Matt) 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
- c. Special welcome to members of the public joining us today

2. **Public Comment** – *None*

3. **Consent Agenda** (*All items listed with letter designations were considered routine and will be enacted by one motion*)

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the August 12, 2025 (11am) Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field and/or ESOL Waiver Assignments for the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 Drug-Fee and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to submit the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation Plans.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State and/or Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Parkland - Germany and Switzerland
 - ii. Somerset Academy Chapel Trail - London Theatre trip for June 6-14, 2026
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Homestead Arts School Development, LLC and Somerset Academy, Inc. (for the Somerset Academy Preparatory Homestead campus located at 3000 SE 9th Street, Homestead, FL 33035 (Phase 2)).
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Second Addendum to Lease Agreement between Two Sites Properties, LLC and Somerset Academy, Inc. (for the Somerset College Preparatory Academy South Middle/High School campus located at 19701 S.W. 127 Avenue).
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Second Addendum to Sublease Agreement between Sports Leadership and Management, Inc. and Somerset Academy, Inc. (for the Somerset Academy Lakes campus located at 2845 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33406).
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the AIA Construction Agreement with Keystar, Inc. for the Somerset Island Prep Project.

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. Tabled until the next meeting Jefferson Holland & Knight Invoice
 - ii. Recent visit to UWF and Manny Diaz; discussed the importance of PK programs.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Discussed upcoming structural changes that are forthcoming; Bernie discusses his future at Doral College; Suzette states how it's been an honor to work with Bernie and looks forward to

her future; if anyone is interested in pursuing a new role within the organization to please reach out.

ii. Review of school grades

c. ESP Report

i. Legislative & Facilities (*Julio Robaina*)

1. Legislative plans

2. Facilities – closing on Duval site today, looking for additional sites for Deerfield property, Indian River updates (trying to get permits for a 26-27 year opening), working with City of Homestead trying to get Jessica's and Waki's expansions going,

ii. Colegia (*Antonio Roca*)

d. Financial Report

i. Enrollment Report (*Alina Chester*)

e. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed & approved the Background Screening Policy for applicants seeking employment on or after July 1, 2025.

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

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

6. **Announcements & Notifications**

a. Next Board Meeting: October 14th via Zoom & Academica

7. **Adjourned Meeting at 11:51am**

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