



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 August 8, 2023

Board of Directors

Todd German (Board Chair / Treasurer) *(Present)*
Ana Diaz (Vice-Chair / Secretary / Parent) *(Present)*
David Concepcion *(Present)*
Matthew Cox *(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 12:02pm
- b. Established a Quorum

2. **Public Comment** – None

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

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Minutes from the July 11, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Board Resolutions for Out of Field Waiver Assignments for the 2023-2024 school year; further authorizing the Board Chair and/or Vice-Chair to review and make necessary changes and execute for submission.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2023-2024 Parent / Student Handbooks for the individual schools.
 - i. All handbooks should follow the guidelines as provided.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify Resolutions by the Chair:
 - i. Approved the Quarter 4 Referendum Reports for the 2022-2023 school year for the individual schools located in Palm Beach County.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Ratify the Facility Lease with Varsity Square, LLC. (Somerset Academy Davie).
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the following School Projects:
 - i. Somerset Academy Riverside Playground Project - \$90,000
 - ii. Somerset Academy Riverside Turf Project - \$40,000
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the Out of State/Country Field Trips:
 - i. Somerset Academy Canyons
 1. Varsity Football to Camden County High School, Kingsland, GA on Friday, Sept 15, 2023. (not overnight)
 2. Competitive Cheer to Huntsville, Alabama Friday, Oct 20- Sunday, Oct 22.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the 2023-2024 Title 1 Budgets / School-Wide Plans, as necessary.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Adopt the Revised School Lockdown Procedures for the schools to begin implementation during the school year.
 - i. Schools are no longer to use the terms Code Yellow or Code Red to describe a lockdown. Schools must use plain language to communicate the nature of the emergency and instructions to students and staff (free of coded language, jargon, and acronyms). Following should be the terms to use: “HOLD, SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE or SHELTER-IN-PLACE”.
- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Renew the following Charter School Contract(s) (*expiring June 2024*) for a five-year or fifteen-year term (*based on school grade eligibility*):
 1. Miami-Dade
 - a. Somerset Gables Academy
 - b. Somerset Preparatory Academy Middle School (Homestead)
 - c. Somerset Preparatory Academy High School (Homestead)
 2. Palm Beach
 - a. Somerset Academy Wellington

k.

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

4. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Comments by the Board Chair (*Todd German*)
 - i. Currently traveling in Los Angeles where 11,000 union strike is anticipated to start today.
 - ii. A review of school grades will be held until the next meeting for a more formal presentation. Unfortunately, new schools will need to be added to the monthly update list.
- b. Executive Report by the President & Vice-President (*Bernie Montero & Suzette Ruiz*)
 - i. Reiterates the upcoming presentation on school grades.
- c. School Updates
 - i. Academic/Data Reports
 1. Somerset Arizona (*Bernie, Victor, Marla*)
 - a. Currently in Arizona where everything is going very well.
 2. Somerset Academy Texas (*Cory Oliver*)
 - ii. Others, if necessary
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Discussed class size; teacher raises and payout timelines; several principals requested to look into teacher payouts be made throughout the year, as well as supplements/stipends. Amy states that she has addressed this with ADP and they are working on options. It was requested for this item to be on next month's agenda for an update and also to be discussed with the other networks to make sure they are on board with the change, as well.
 - ii. Working on 24-25 budgets for hopeful presentations for October
- e. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

5. Announcements & Notifications

- a. Next Board Meeting: September 12th (in Broward County / Exact location TBD) – Principals Meeting following / Physical attendance is highly encouraged.

6. Adjourned Meeting at 12:45pm

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 September 12, 2023.

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