

MINUTES
of the telephonic meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
November 14, 2018

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a telephonic public meeting on November 14, 2018, at 7:00 a.m.

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Travis Mizer, Will Harty, Carrie Boehlecke, Gary McClain, Sarah McClellan, Cody Noble, and John Bentham.

Also present was Executive Director John Barlow, as well as Principals Elaine Kelley, Jenni Martinez, Sherry Pendleton, Kate Lackey, and Ruby Norland. Somerset Florida representative Principal Kerri Ann Rodriguez and Academica representatives Crystal Thiriot and Ryan Reeves were also present.

2. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no request for public comment.

3. Approval of Reassignment of Principal Duties at the North Las Vegas Campus

Executive Director John Barlow addressed the Board and stated that, after many school visits and in concert with Principal Jenni Martinez, Somerset Florida Principal Kerri Ann Rodriguez and her staff, Academica representatives Gayle Jefferson and Crystal Thiriot, and the Executive Director's staff, leadership changes were being recommended to the Board. Executive Director Barlow recommended that Principal Martinez step down as principal at the North Las Vegas campus and become an assistant principal at the Lone Mountain campus; Sherry Pendleton would assume a dual position as the principal at the Lone Mountain and North Las Vegas campuses; Assistant Principal Christina Threeton would move from the Lone Mountain campus to the North Las Vegas campus. Executive Director Barlow stated that Principal Pendleton and Assistant Principal Threeton would work to duplicate the success of the Lone Mountain campus at the North Las Vegas campus.

Member Bentham asked if this change was a replication of the Somerset Florida system, to which Executive Director Barlow replied in the affirmative. Somerset Florida Principal Kerri Ann Rodriguez addressed the Board and stated that she was currently principal over five buildings with 2700 students. She stated that Principal Pendleton was strong leader in curriculum and that it had been determined that the North Las Vegas campus needed a strong curriculum leader and a change in curriculum and oversight immediately; adding that this was the best choice currently available. Executive Director Barlow stated that Principal Pendleton had started her Somerset career at the North Las Vegas campus and that the ability to collaborate between the two campuses would be beneficial to the North Las Vegas campus.

Member Bentham asked Ms. Crystal Thiriot if Academica supported the change. Ms. Thiriot addressed the Board and stated that Academica supported the proposal and were confident that Principal Pendleton would put practices and structures in place to help the North Las Vegas campus succeed in the future. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that, by approving the proposed changes and putting their best resources behind the campus, the Board would make it known that they value the North Las Vegas campus.

Member Bentham asked Principal Pendleton to express her thoughts on the proposed changes. Principal Sherry Pendleton addressed the Board and stated that the Lone Mountain team was motivated to help the Somerset system; adding that she had worked side by side with Assistant Principal Christina Threeton and that Assistant Principal Threeton was very strong in curriculum, which would be advantageous at the North Las Vegas campus. Principal Pendleton further stated that she was confident in the strong team she currently had at the Lone Mountain campus and the strong team she would be taking to the North Las Vegas campus; adding that, to help offset her absence from the North Las Vegas campus, Assistant Principal Martinez' strengths would ensure that the Lone Mountain campus would not suffer any disadvantages. Principal Pendleton further explained the advantage of being able to share talents between campuses.

Member Bentham asked Principal Martinez to express her thoughts on the proposed changes. Principal Martinez addressed the Board and stated that during the recent process she had determined that she had some skills that needed to be developed under a successful leader and looked forward to learning from Principal Pendleton.

Member Noble stated that Principal Farmer had experienced a similar situation when he had students at two locations and that there had been a few challenges with that situation. Principal Rodriguez stated that it was a challenge but that Principal Pendleton would have people on each campus who could make decisions in her absence. Principal Pendleton stated that the administrators and teacher leaders help the school function as a teacher lead school; adding that the Lone Mountain administrative team were already able to make many decisions on their own. Principal Pendleton further stated that she was confident in the team that she would be bringing to the North Las Vegas campus and confident in the strengths that Principal Martinez would bring to the Lone Mountain campus.

Member McClellan asked if this was being considered as a temporary or crisis situation. Principal Pendleton stated that the North Las Vegas campus would probably take a higher percentage of her time. Member McClain stated that, although this needed to happen, he was concerned with the sustainability and long term outlook. Mr. Reeves stated that there was not a specific timeline; however, eventually there would eventually be another transition; adding that this was the best solution for now.

Member McClain moved to approve the administration changes as presented. Member McClellan seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

4. Public Comments and Discussion

Principal Pendleton stated that she and her team would work hard and ensure that both campuses were successful.

5. **Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:29 a.m.

Approved on November 29, 2018

Caroline Boehlecke

Caroline Boehlecke (Nov 30, 2018)

**Secretary of the Board of Directors
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas**