

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
November 18, 2020

Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. In attendance were Board members LeNora Bredsguard, Sarah McClellan, John Bentham, Travis Mizer, Will Harty, Cody Noble, and Renee Fairless.

Also present were Principal Lee Esplin, Principal Cesar Tiu, Principal Jessica Scobell, Principal Elaine Kelley, Principal Kate Lackey, Principal Ruby Norland, and Assistant Principal Lorraine DeAnda. Dr. Jessica Barr and Academica representatives Crystal Thiriot, Ryan Reeves, and Gary McClain were also in attendance.

2. Public Comment

Written public comment was received from Mrs. Loftis which was distributed to the Board members. Public comment was made by the following individuals regarding concerns with in person learning and COVID transmission rates: Morgan Carrona (with a written copy provided for inclusion in the minutes) and Jesus Zarate.

3. Student/School Achievement Recognition

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board and reviewed the Lone Mountain campus student and school achievements:

- Middle school and 3rd grade held first field learning day
- Successful House Rock Challenge part two
- Orchestra and band held a field learning day at the school
- Celebrated National Unity Day on October 21st
- Wildcat Spooktacular was held on October 23rd
- Preparing for the National Quiz Bowl
- NJHS holding virtual meetings once a month
- NJHS holding virtual tutoring once a month with elementary students
- NJHS and PTO preparing a Polar Express activity

Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board and reviewed the Losee campus student and school achievements:

- High school student council held a haunted car loop for Halloween
- Acknowledged teacher and staff of the month recipients Sara Passer, Karriem Ferreira, Joyce Patzke, Michelle Fernandez, Liliana Perez, and Emily Deroshia for American Educator Week

Principal Kate Lackey addressed the Board and reviewed the Skye Canyon campus student and school achievements:

- PTO held a trick or treat event with the 7th grade team booth voted as the best booth
- The year book club had started lead by Mr. Glaude
- Student, Riley Ellis, had earned over 200 AR points and received an apple pie

Principal Ruby Norland addressed the Board and reviewed the Stephanie campus student and school achievements:

- Had a lockdown due to an incident near the street and commended the teachers and staff for their quick, professional response while following lockdown protocols
- Held a Halloween car loop parade
- Had a staff costume contest with the winner voted on by the Stephanie community
- The Stephanie counselor organized with the Henderson police officer charitable foundation for a Stephanie family to be included in the Shop with a Cop event
- The Stephanie counselor worked with Sin City Church and a parent donor to provide a jacket, shoes, and two small gifts for 28 students
- Organizing a sign up to sponsor 68 families in need for the upcoming holiday season

Principal Lee Esplin addressed the Board and reviewed the Sky Pointe campus and school achievements:

- Member Bentham volunteered on campus for a day as a sub for the PE class
- No Trick, Just Treats Halloween event was held with many awards given to the participants
- The induction ceremony was held for NHS, NJHS, and the new Spanish NHS
- The Honor Society was holding a food drive to support the elderly
- Expressed thanks to the aides and staff for all their work during the pandemic
- Several students were at the campus on Mondays including special needs students, students struggling with virtual learning, orchestra members, band members, and members of the top dance group

Principal Elaine Kelley addressed the Board and reviewed the Aliante campus and school achievements:

- Expressed thanks to the teachers, instructional assistants, staff, and office staff for working hard to maintain moral

- Held a Halloween Spooktacular event through the car loop
- 5th grade reading teacher, Stephanie Matyszczyk, had been working to get the Battle of the Books program going at the campus
- Jacquelyn Johnson, the 4th grade interventionist, had created the school newsletter, which was sent out weekly and highlighted a different staff member
- A new SSP had been hired and trained with assistance from the Lone Mountain SSP
- An Angel Tree had been started to help students in need on the campus
- Instead of a traditional yearbook the campus would have a memory book
- Some of the grades were working on iReady incentives

Assistant Principal Lorraine DeAnda addressed the Board and reviewed the North Las Vegas campus and school achievements:

- Held a drive through trunk or treat
- Started a booster club for afternoon tutoring with over 100 students attending
- The band students were meeting together once a month on the west field to practice, with social distancing
- Expressed thanks to the staff for always being flexible and working for the best efforts of the team

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Minutes from the October 6, 2020 and October 27, 2020 Board Meetings**
- b. **Approval of Recommendations from the Finance Committee:**
 1. **School Financial Performance**
 2. **Approval of the Final Revised Budget for the 2020/2021 School Year**
 3. **Approval of the 2019/2020 School Year Financial Audit**
 4. **Approval of a Janitorial vendor for Sky Pointe Campus from the following: 1) Magic Brite; 2) United; 3) JaniCrew; 4) Interstate; 5) Marsden; 6) Merchants; 7) ABM; 8) Brilliant; and 9) Get Clean**
- c. **Approval of Renewal of Part-Time Distance Education Program through Academica Virtual Education**
- d. **Approval of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas' Policy under Senate Bill 147 and NRS 388A.489, 389.320, and 389.330 to Support Students who are Homeless, Unaccompanied, or who Live in Foster Care**

Member McClellan moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Member Bredsguard seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

5. Data Presentation

Dr. Jessica Barr addressed the Board to review the status of the fall data. She had met with all campuses and had very meaningful and productive discussions on the data Dr. Barr

acknowledged the impact of the pandemic on the schools. She developed a system to flag potentially skewed data during at home testing. The results were fairly consistent across all of the schools she worked with. With the exception of kindergarten and 1st grade, skewed data due to potential assistance was quite minimal. Skewed data due to potential decreased effort was minimal. Overwhelmingly, across all of the schools Dr. Barr worked with, students demonstrated that they spent more time authentically and actively engaged in assessment at home than when tested in the building the previous year.

Dr. Barr stated that there were clear data trends across all school, which aligned to the research based predictions on the impact of quarantine followed by summer: 1) Student regression in ELA and math, with math hit the hardest; 2) The vulnerable population, such as IEP students, English learners, the bottom quartile students, and the economically disadvantaged students had the most severe regression; and 3) Many students slipped into the bubble of not being at grade level but remaining close. Dr. Barr stated that it was anticipated that the schools would be able to recapture the bubble students and push them back to proficiency in the coming months. She noted that the message received up to this point had been that the State planned to test students at the end of the year. However, with the administrative change from the recent election, it was more likely that State testing waivers would be issues; adding that the SPCSA had stated that they would still use the interim data from MAP and iReady testing to monitor the charter schools.

Dr. Barr reviewed the baseline data as contained in the support materials. She explained that the iReady assessment data, which was included for the Aliante, Losee, North Las Vegas, and Stephanie campuses, looked at the current proficiency of all K-8 students. The MAP assessment looked at the current proficiency of K-2 students. For 3rd grade students and up, MAP looked at the future, based on the current levels, with growth projections. MAP data showed the percentage of the students who were expected to pass the SBAC tests in the spring testing time; therefore, MAP numbers were a little higher because it was capturing students who, although not currently at grade level, were anticipated to be at or above grade level by spring. Dr. Barr stated that 2nd grade was the first year that students took the test independently.

Dr. Barr explained that the MAP quadrant report. She noted that proficiency moved slower than growth and that by looking at growth and proficiency combined, it would be possible to see the improvement of each grade level. The subgroup achievement/growth graph was divided into four quadrants and students were placed in a subgroup based on how they were growing compared to other students just like them across the State of Nevada. The quadrant of the graph that was low achievement/low growth was an area of caution. The quadrant that was low achievement/high growth indicated that the students were moving towards proficiency. The high achievement/low growth quadrant was a cautionary area with high proficiency but with a growth rate that could result in a potential decline in proficiency. The high achievement/high growth quadrant was the ultimate goal and symbolized that a group had established proficiency and were still continuously growing.

Dr. Barr provided the following campus data and highlights:

Aliante

- According to iReady 44% of students were at or above grade level in ELA and 27% in math
- According to MAP testing 52% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 41% in math
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, which were a focus in fall and winter last year, all achieved high growth

Lone Mountain

- According to MAP testing 53.5% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 40.9% in math
- 4th and 5th grades saw major recovery, even after quarantine and summer, after being areas of major concern last year

Losee

- According to iReady for K-9 students, 32% were at or above grade level in ELA and 20% in math
- According to MAP testing 40% of students were projected to be at or above grade in reading and 28.7% in math
- There was a lot of improvement in the middle school last year, showing much more consistency
- 5th grade had some of the highest reading growth in the school

North Las Vegas

- According to iReady 34% of students were at or above grade level in ELA and 20% in math
- According to MAP testing 44% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 31% in math
- The proficiency data was consistent or improved from the winter data last year, showing that they were making progress towards goals in the spring

Skye Canyon

- According to MAP testing 65.1% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 46% in math.
- Had the highest carry over ELA in the Somerset system
- Had all grade levels in the high achievement quadrants in reading

Sky Pointe

- According to MAP testing 50.4% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 35.8% in math
- Had the highest number of grade levels able to carry over high achievement and high growth in ELA
- Had the Highest number of grade levels that showed high growth despite quarantine

Stephanie

- According to iReady 43.2% of students were at or above grade level in ELA and 32.4% in math
- According to MAP testing 54.2% of students were projected to be at or above grade level in reading and 41% in math

Dr. Barr summarized that all students and schools were affected by six months at home. Overall Somerset had celebrations in some target areas. Administrators and teachers were facing the challenge of being able to adapt to deliver instruction in unprecedented ways in unprecedented times.

6. Academics Progress Reports and Updates on School Initiatives

Principal Tiu stated that, following a successful meeting with Dr. Barr, Mr. Herrera, the instructional coach, met with each grade level to review the data. He stated that during a meeting with Ms. Rebecca Feiden, with the SPCSA, nationwide teacher burnout was discussed. EL best practices training was provided by Assistant Principals Hoffman Threton. Principal Tiu stated that following Governor's Sisolak's Stay at Home 2.0 initiative, teachers were allowed to work from home if they did not have students in the building. The Lone Mountain COVID update included nine individuals, including one staff member, who currently had COVID. Nine staff members were currently quarantined, 63 students were quarantined, and 14 students were out due to symptoms. Member McClellan asked what grades were currently attending in person. Principal Tiu stated that K-2 attended Monday and Wednesday, while 3-5 attended Tuesday and Thursday. The EL, IEP, and 504 students were also in the building for in person learning.

Principal Scobell stated that Losee had K-4 students in the building. With less than 40% opting for in person learning, most teachers were able to keep their students; although there were a few teacher shifts in kindergarten. K-12 students who received special education services were also able to meet in person on the campus. Principal Scobell stated that the teachers were working to monitor iReady usage and provide incentives to encourage the use of iReady as an extension activity outside of the regular instruction day; adding that they were working to extend the instructional day beyond the three hours of in person or Zoom lessons. Staff development day included one on one K-5 data chats to review student data, student by student, to assess the needs of the students.

Principal Scobell stated that the 6-8 teachers had participated in Leader in Me training. The program would begin in the middle school and grow out from there. Principal Scobell explained that 6th and 7th grade students were double blocked, with ELA and reading classes. 7th grade students had 7th grade math and Math Boost, with the outstanding 6th grade teacher from last year teaching the Math Boost class. The 8th grade student advisory teacher was working with the students in iReady math and ELA. Principal Scobell stated that an AP honors committee had been created, with a plan to bring additional AP classes to the campus next year, which would bring the total number of AP classes to twelve. Principal Scobell provided a COVID update for the Losee campus. One student and three teachers had currently tested positive. Eight teachers and 25

students were currently quarantined, with 15 students out due to symptoms. Two 2nd grade teachers and the elementary music teacher had resigned when students were brought back to campus. The 2nd grade positions had been filled with full credentialed teachers and the music position was filled with a long term sub.

Principal Lackey stated that the recent professional development day had been used to promote the mental wellbeing of the staff. Included in the offerings were a yoga instructor at the park, a hike in Mountain's Edge, and lunch. Principal Lackey stated that Skye Canyon currently had K-5 students on campus; adding that students were able to remain with their teachers. Principal Lackey further stated that the first round of RTI meetings had just concluded. Administrators met with all grade levels and discussed each student. Plans were made on moving forward for each student. Ms. Lackey noted that the specialists were teaching remotely, from the building, every morning; adding that the specialists worked each afternoon holding small group instruction. She stated that Ms. Barbero was supporting the EL students using small group instruction in the afternoon.

Principal Lackey stated that Skye Canyon was applying for a second round of the CSP grant. If funds were received they would be used for additional Chromebook carts in order to provide one cart for every room, including specialists. A math interventionist would also be hired if the funding was received. She noted that the NSLP program was thriving at Skye Canyon, with over 1,200 meals delivered each week. Principal Lackey reported that, since the beginning of the school year, 6 students and 3 teachers had tested positive for COVID. An additional 7 teachers had been quarantined. Two 7th graders had tested positive in the last week.

Principal Norland stated that the professional development day had been divided into two parts. The morning was focused on learning more about the iReady program and the afternoon was free time for the teachers. She noted that teaching virtually required the teachers to make adjustments to lessons plans. Principal Norland stated that the Stephanie campus currently had K-3, 6th grade, and special populations on campus. Principal Norland explained that Ms. Rossa and Ms. Berhe-Tyner, the instructional coaches, had been working to create goals based on the data chat. Grade level, student, and teacher goals were creating using iReady. Incentives were being created to get students involved in iReady, and for teachers to ensure that classes reach goals. She noted that iReady was being added to the middle school advisory period.

Principal Norland stated that Stephanie campus had applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from Henderson City. The funds would be used for Nearpod, an online platform used to make lessons more interactive in the digital world and for Flocabulary. The remaining funds would be used for free tutoring for bubble students who were not already receiving services. Principal Norland noted that the 8th grade team, spearheaded by Mrs. Rabin, had created a Dear 8th Grade advice column. Any student, K-8 could submit a form asking for advice from 8th grade students. The requests and answers would be published in the student newsletter. Principal Norland reviewed the Stephanie COVID numbers. 3 students, 1 in person and 2 virtual, had tested positive since November 1st. 17 students had been exposed and quarantined. 27 students had been quarantined due to other exposures. There had been 1 confirmed staff member case and 11 staff members quarantined. Currently 5 staff were quarantined, including Principal Norland.

Principal Esplin stated that, prior to meeting with Dr. Barr, Ms. Melanie Smith and Ms. Cathy Reese had reviewed the data with all K-5 grade levels. They provided detailed lists of every assessment and how the students had scored, then helped write all of the Read by Three plans. Principal Esplin stated that Dr. Barr provided a great data discussion. During the discussions Dr. Barr noted that students who were consistently passing four iReady lessons per week had the highest growth on the MAP assessment. Principal Esplin reviewed the teachers K-5 who had received recognition for the most lessons completed in AR, iReady, and Amplify: Ms. Muri, Ms. Martin, Mr. Cayer, Ms. Schmidt, Ms. Frehner, Ms. Parker, Ms. Hays, Ms. Martin, Ms. Hawley, Ms. Fuller, Ms. Terzich, Ms. Cayer, and Ms. Piet.

Principal Esplin stated that the AP teachers met together during the staff development day going over exemplars and providing feedback. An AP Academy was created. During December AP students would be on campus on Mondays to review strategies on the different lessons. Training for iReady, MAP and Dibbles was provided for elementary teachers. The departments also met together to create common assessments. Principal Esplin noted that teachers would be getting together for activities on Monday afternoons, which would allow them to relax and enjoy each other. Sky Pointe currently had K-5 and special needs students on campus. Support for struggling and special needs students was provided on campus on Mondays. Principal Esplin reviewed the Sky Pointe COVID numbers. Two cohorts had been quarantined following 3 students testing positive. 37 students had remained home with symptoms. There had been 7 staff members under quarantine, with 3 who tested positive.

Assistant Principal DeAnda stated that the North Las Vegas held the first annual Multi-Cultural week November 2nd-6th. During the week families and staff members shared videos of their different cultures during the daily announcements. The week culminated with a Multi-Cultural night celebrating the diversity of the campus using hosted Zoom sessions. The sessions were comprised of African dancing, cooking lessons of various native dishes, salsa dancing, and music from around the world. Assistant Principal DeAnda stated that after school tutoring was provided through the booster club for the students who needed extra instruction. Over 100 students attended with 12 teachers, including Principal Threeton, leading the sessions. She also noted that the lower 25% of K-6 students were receiving extra tutoring, provided by the instructional aides, during the opposite co-hort.

Assistant Principal DeAnda noted that iReady usage had increased. She recognized the 1st grade for passing with 98% rates in math and 92% rates in math. The data was posted on the website, as well as in the hallways of the school. To help facilitate growth in the EL students they were given access to BrainPOP EL. Assistant Principal DeAnda stated that the professional development had been a virtual event, PD in PJs at home. The teachers were able to learn strategies to enhance classroom management and team building with virtual ideas. She provided a COVID update. 1 student and 1 staff member had tested positive during the current week. There were 4 staff members under quarantine and 9 students who had been exposed. Since the start of school 9 students and 3 teachers had tested positive, with 11 students and 9 staff quarantined for exposure. The total currently out with symptoms was 48.

Principal Kelley stated that the leadership team requested time with their grade levels for the professional development day. The time was spent on grade planning, with team conversations, and looking at lessons moving forward. The middle school teams discussed revamping the schedule for quarter two, planned for semester two and looking forward to next year. She noted that two team building activities were provided, including a scavenger hunt in the building. Principal Kelley stated that, because they were cognizant of teacher burnout and self-care they recognized the need for teachers to take a mental health day occasionally. Principal Kelley stated that all grade levels had met with Dr. Barr. The middle school would hold a mandatory follow up team meeting with Dr. Barr.

Principal Kelley explained that Ms. Shannon Manning would be working with the middle school team during December to prepare the schedule for the 2021/2022 school year. Principal Kelley noted that the administrators had been meeting individually with students to discuss and counsel on academic, behavior, and/or social and emotional concerns. Ms. Manning would work with Mr. Greg Wolfram, the Aliante Dean, on the roll out of the Leader in Me program. Principal Kelley noted that Aliante had applied for additional CSP funding. Some of the possible uses of the funds would be for two math strategist positions, a digital learning coach, programs for the ELL students, and intervention programs. She provides a COVID update. The 6th grade social studies teacher had resigned, effective at winter break. Since the return of students to campus, 3 students and 2 teachers had tested positive. Four classrooms had shut down due to exposure. 9 teachers and 105 students had been quarantined or exposed. There were 62 students out due to symptoms.

7. Review and Possible Approval of the EMO Evaluation for Academica Nevada

Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and reviewed the survey results as contained in the support materials. He explained that the survey had evolved and expanded over the years. The current survey included office managers for the first time. There were a few areas of concern including training for office managers and accounts payable. Mr. Reeves stated that the office manager training would be an area of focus. New accounting software had been purchased by Academica to meet State requirements of supporting a larger accounting code. He further noted that a new director of payroll and a director of human resources had been hired. Mr. Reeves stated that with the addition of more personnel, the new accounting software, and the overall positive survey the partnership was strong.

Member Harty moved to accept the EMO evaluation, as presented. Member Noble seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

8. Academica Announcements and Notifications

Mr. Reeves stated that the Governor had recently announced a Stay at Home 2.0 initiative with further restrictions possible in the future; adding that the principals were aware that all virtual learning may be required as part of the future restrictions. Mr. Reeves acknowledged the concerns expressed during the public comment period; noting that the pandemic had created an academic

crisis, a financial crisis, a mental health crisis, and a public health crisis. He stated that Academica was working with the school leaders to balance multiple challenges brought on by the pandemic.

9. Member Comment

Member Bentham presented an award to former Board member Gary McClain in recognition of his service to Somerset Academy. Member Bentham also presented an award to Principal Kelley in recognition of her long standing dedication and commitment to the Somerset family, noting that she would be retiring at the end of December.

Member McClellan thanked Mr. McClain and Principal Kelley for their service to Somerset. She stated that the teachers and leaders were constantly in her thoughts during the health crisis, noting that she would like to explore setting a threshold regarding positive cases.

Member Fairless thanked the principals for their work and stated that she understood their concerns for the students and staff. She stated appreciation for the data reports and the work as a system to continually improve.

Member Harty recognized that multiple areas of concern among the parents and staff of Somerset. He stated that it was a challenge to maintain a balance among the competing interests. He thanked the principals for their concern for the mental well-being of the staff.

Member Bredsguard thanked Principal Kelley for all of her hard work in the field of education and her leadership among her staff and Somerset as a whole. She thanked the principals for their work to maintain the self-care for their staff; however, she encouraged them to include their own self-care.

Member Bentham stated that he had spent the day at the Sky Pointe campus and was able to interact with the 4th grade students who were on campus. He stated that the students were happy to be on campus and be with each other. He noted that the staff, the teachers, and admin team had a positive impact on the students. He thanked all of the principals for their leadership.

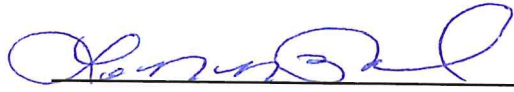
10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Approved on: 2/2/2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "L. ...", written over a horizontal line.

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