

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
MARCH 21, 2022**

Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 4491 N. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89108 and via Zoom webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. In attendance were Board members John Bentham, Sarah McClellan, LeNora Bredsguard, Travis Mizer, Cody Noble, and Will Harty.

Member Renee Fairless was not in attendance.

Also present were Principal Lee Esplin, Principal Cesar Tiu, Principal Jessica Scobell, Principal Shannon Manning, Principal Mindi Palomeque, Principal Kate Lackey, and Principal David Fossett; as well as Academica representatives Gary McClain and Ryan Reeves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING

b. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1. SCHOOL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL TO GO OUT FOR RFP FOR AUDITOR BIDS FOR NEXT YEAR**
- 3. APPROVAL OF INITIAL BUDGET FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR**
- 4. APPROVAL OF NORTH LAS VEGAS TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

c. APPROVAL OF A GATE PROGRAM AT MULTIPLE CAMPUSES

d. APPROVAL OF ADDING CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO TEACHER PRIORITY IN THE ENROLLMENT POLICY

e. APPROVAL OF IT REFRESH AT THE STEPHANIE CAMPUS

MEMBER McCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. RE-ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER CODY NOBLE FOR 4 YEAR TERM

Mr. Gary McClain addressed that Board and stated that Member Noble was eligible to be re-elected to a four-year term, which would end in 2026.

MEMBER MIZER MOVED TO RE-ELECT MEMBER NOBLE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM. MEMBER BREDSGUARD SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

b. ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Member Bentham stated that he was term limited and could not be re-elected to another term. Member Bentham asked for nominations for the position of Board Chair. Member Noble nominated Travis Mizer. With no other nominations received, nominations were closed.

WITH NO OBJECTIONS AND ALL IN FAVOR, TRAVIS MIZER WAS ELECTED AS BOARD CHAIR

Member Bentham stated that Member McClellan was eligible to be re-elected as Board Vice Chair. Member Bentham asked for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair. Member Mizer nominated Sarah McClellan. With no other nominations received, nominations were closed.

WITH NO OBJECTIONS AND ALL IN FAVOR, SARAH MCCLELLAN WAS ELECTED AS BOARD VICE CHAIR.

Member Bentham stated that Member Bredsguard was eligible to be re-elected as Board Secretary. Member Bentham asked for nominations for the position of Board Secretary. Member McClellan nominated LeNora Bredsguard. With no other nominations received, nominations were closed.

WITH NO OBJECTIONS AND ALL IN FAVOR, LENORA BREDSGUARD WAS ELECTED AS BOARD SECRETARY.

Member Bentham stated that, with the election of Member Mizer as Board Chair, the position of Board Treasurer was open for nominations. Member Mizer nominated Will Harty. With no other nominations received, nominations were closed.

WITH NO OBJECTIONS AND ALL IN FAVOR, WILL HARTY WAS ELECTED AS BOARD TREASURER.

c. ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT, CAMPUS RECOGNITIONS, AND UPDATES

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board and stated that Lone Mountain students would be competing in National and International Science, History, and Geography Bees, following regional wins. Principal Tiu recognized the team coaches Ms. Lytle-Martinez and Mr. Casino. Ms. Lytle-Martinez introduced the students to the Board: Addison White 8th grade – moved on from Regionals to Nationals for History, Geography, and Science; Charles Dahlke 8th grade – moved on from Regionals to Nationals as well as Internationals for History and Geography; Jacob Goldberg 8th grade – moved on from Regionals to Nationals Science; Jackson Meiers 7th grade – moved on from Regionals to Nationals for History; Jesse Travez 7th grade - Moved on from Regionals to Nationals Science; Tryston Thomas 6th grade – moved on from Regionals to Nationals as well as Internationals for History and Geography, Nationals for Science. Ms. Lytle-Martinez encouraged the other Somerset campuses to form teams; adding that an all Somerset competition would be fun. Mr. Tiu reviewed school activities on the campus.

Principal Tiu stated that the winter benchmark data presentation showed the middle school projected to be 5 Stars and the elementary was projected to be 4 Stars. Ms. Tara Fitzgibbons met with the teachers to analyze data. Principal Tiu reviewed the programs being used to provide support for the students, including small group instruction for elementary students in math; a modification in What I Need (WIN) time to target the bubble students; a modification of flex classes to include math and ELA boosts; and before and after school tutoring in preparation for testing.

Principal Kate Lackey addressed the Board and stated that the school was moving forward. The fall to winter growth was larger than it had been in four years. Math was the weakest area. The teachers would be reviewing data to boost the proficiency for students. Principal Lackey recognized Ms. Soiferman, an ELA teacher, for presenting the GATE program and noted that Ms. Soiferman was fully endorsed for the program. She stated that she was excited to bring the program to the campus and system. Member Noble asked about the Star rating projection for Skye Canyon. Principal Lackey replied that the campus was projected to be 5 Star.

Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board and stated that, although high school did not receive a Star rating projection from Ms. Barr, it was anticipated that it would be a 3 or 4 Star school. The graduation rate would remain over 95%. The high school had implemented an ACT prep class as well as utilizing the CERT program for ACT prep. She noted that the 11th grade students had shown a growth between five and 11 points in the math subsection, which was huge considering that it was out of 36 total points. Principal Scobell stated that 12 of the 13 CTE students were on track to be CTE completers and earn certificates. A student needed to have a 3.0 program GPA, pass the workplace readiness test, and pass the program test to be a completer. She further stated that AP student participation had doubled in the three years she had been at Losee.

Principal Scobell stated that the middle school had 65.5 points, which was a high 3 Star, without the ELL factored in. She explained that, with the ELL factored the middle school was on a trajectory to be a 4 Star school. The students were showing great growth, including showing 800% stretch growth in iReady. Principal Scobell noted that, although the North Las Vegas middle school was a high performing school, it was a little bit of a concern to absorb all of those students.

Principal Scobell acknowledged that the elementary school was an area to work to improve. The reduction in student numbers in elementary grades should pay dividends. Transiency should decrease and it would be easier to be more focused on the students. Principal Scobell explained that a large percentage of the elementary population fell in the opportunity gap category. Somerset Florida had visited the campus and were impressed with the work being done on the campus. A power hour had been created, with students rotating between three different groups. The groups were small group reading, an iReady group, and an intervention group. Principal Scobell further stated that a culture of consistency had been created at the campus, with teachers staying and students willing to do the work needed to grow. The projected rating was a 1 Star with chronic absenteeism and without ELL. The campus had the potential to be a 2 Star; however it would take another year to stabilize the students and reach a 3 Star.

Member Mizer asked if there had been any challenges with service hours for the high school. Principal Scobell stated that an assistant principal tracked the service hours. Currently two students had outstanding service hours; however, they would be meeting with the parents and did not anticipate it being an issue. Member McClellan asked if the service hours were serving the intended purpose. Principal Scobell stated that, although they had been more lenient due to COVID, she felt that there was value in the service hours. There were a lot of opportunities for service hours on the Losee campus such as volunteering with Champions and elementary tutoring, which allowed the campus to become more intertwined K-12. Principal Esplin addressed the Board and stated that there were students who earned hours on the Sky Pointe campus; however, most earned them off campus. He stated that he

thought the service hours were valuable. Discussion ensued regarding service hours benefits and challenges.

Member Noble asked Principal Scobell what the Losee elementary rating had been historically. Principal Scobell stated that it had been a 2 Star; however, it had not been rated with 936 students. The extra 26 students per grade level created a much more daunting task to identify the student needs. The Star rating, with all the indicators factored in, would be similar to the last official rating which was a mid 2 Star. The work being done at the campus was productive with the students showing growth; however, the Star rating might not be indicative of the work and growth. Member Noble asked if multiple years of low Star rates would cause an issue with the State. Principal Scobell stated that the elementary and middle schools were under notices of concern due to the Star ratings earned in 2018. If Star ratings were received the middle school would not remain a 2 Star. The elementary school would probably receive a 2 Star rating, which would result in a notice of breach. She stated that she was confident that the elementary school would achieve a 3 Star rating for the 2022/2023 school year. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that point totals would be released; however, due to absenteeism data concerns and growth measurement concerns, Star ratings would not be issued. He stated that he expected that the SPCSA would not enforce notices in the current environment, which would provide Losee an extra year to achieve a 3 Star rating.

Principal Lee Esplin stated that the Somerset system had great things happening, with the campuses moving in the right direction. He noted that Ms. Barr had been impressed with the growth on the campuses with previous concerns. Principal Esplin stated that, although the Losee elementary would not reach a 3 Star this year, they should be a mid to high 3 Star next year.

Principal Esplin stated that the Sky Pointe orchestra, band, and choir been to festival. The orchestra received an excellent rating and came out on top. The band received a superior rating. The men's choir received an excellent rating. The encore choir, middle school choir, women's choir, and senior choir all received superior ratings.

Principal Esplin stated that all except one senior was on track to graduate, with a few seniors who were making up credits. The Sky Pointe campus had started CERT for ACT prep, which was having a positive impact. The CERT program had a timed test which aligned with the ACT test. He noted that a freshman would take the CERT timed test eight times prior to taking the ACT test. In preparation for the AP exams, AP sessions were being held after school and on weekends. Over 350 parents attended the dual credit meeting. One current dual credit student would be graduating with 42 college credits, one with 56 credits, one with 26 credits, one with 19 credits, one with 13 credits, and two with 3 credits. The program would be open to 10th grade students who met the requirements. The high school should be close to, or at, a 5 Star rating.

Principal Esplin stated that the middle school data showed the campus just under a 5 Star rating. He noted that without the attendance data the campus was trending to reach the 5 Star rating. He stated that the elementary was trending to be a 5 Star. Principal Esplin stated that the data was trending higher mid-year this year than it had been mid-year pre-COVID. Teachers who were struggling with 311 and 911 students were watching other teachers and working with coaches. Principal Esplin reviewed the programs being used to provide support to the students and teachers.

Principal Manning addressed the Board and reviewed the school activities on the campus. She stated that the data showed the elementary school at 58.8, which was a solid 3 Star. The middle school was 79.4, which was a high 4 Star rating. A power hour was implemented with the Walk to Read method. The kindergarten had seen 85% growth, 1st grade had 66% growth, and 2nd grade had 75%. The power hour would expand to K-4 next year. The campus was utilizing math 360 boards in 4th through 8th grade. The growth in 4th grade was 59%, 5th grade was 83%, 6th grade was 77%, 7th grade was 59%, and 8th grade was 66%. Principal Manning stated that the campus would have two sections of accelerated math next year. Accelerated ELA and science blocks were currently offered. SBAC boot camps would be offered at the end of April. Tutoring was offered to the bubble students throughout the year. Principal Manning reviewed the iReady projected proficiency. She noted that the school would be starting a GATE program. Member Mizer asked about teacher retention, to which Principal Manning replied that it was good, with an opening in 3rd grade and SPED.

Principal Mindi Palomeque addressed the Board and reviewed the staffing at North Las Vegas. She noted that 21 of the 22 licensed teachers who had been offered classroom positions had accepted so far, with 3 substitute teachers who were working on their licenses also accepting positions. She had four interviews scheduled. MAP testing was taking place. Resources had been given to 3rd through 8th grade teachers for SBAC prep and practice. Principal Palomeque stated that the campus would be receiving iReady training. She had met with Ms. Barr to discuss teachers and support needed. Member McClellan asked if the middle school teachers had been given other jobs. Principal Palomeque stated that she had hired one and several were going to the Aliante campus. Some had found jobs with CCSD and some did not yet have jobs. Member Bentham stated that the Board and principal cohort were available to support Principal Palomeque. Principal Palomeque expressed appreciation for the support she had received.

Principal David Fossett addressed the Board and reviewed the school activities on campus. He noted that the campus had declined academically since receiving the 5 Star rating in the 2018/2019 school year. The last projection had the elementary school projected to as a 2 Star school and the middle school as a low 4 Star. The school had completed three cycles of iReady, which would provide six weeks before SBAC testing. Principal Fossett stated that he led data chats with each PLC grade level. He noted that Ms. Barr was working on the third cycle projection which would be significantly better. Every grade level and every subject had over a year's growth on average for that cycle. He reviewed that the change that was made to the way RTI functioned. Member Mizer asked if the campus needed help with marketing. Principal Fossett stated that the school would start a GATE program, which help with marketing. He had also been in contact with Mr. Modrcin at the SPCSA about the dual language immersion program. It would need an amendment; however, it could be an insulated amendment which wouldn't affect the rest of the charter. He believed that both programs would be a draw for the elementary school. The middle school would still be a concern with new schools opening nearby.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

There were no announcements.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

Member McClellan thanked Member Bentham for his service as Board chair, noting that she enjoyed serving with all of the Board members. She stated that Member Bentham dedicated a lot of time to Somerset. Member Mizer also thanked Member Bentham. He stated that, in addition to serving on the Somerset Board, Member Bentham also served on the Goodwill board and the Speedway Children's Charity. Member Noble thanked the principals for their reports and stated that Somerset had fantastic people. He stated that Member Bentham had been a fantastic Board chair and thanked him for his commitment to the system.

Member Bentham thanked Mr. McClain and Ms. Dena Thompson for their work in support of the Somerset Board and system and provided a gift to each. He thanked Ms. Crystal Thiriot for her service and support of the Somerset system. Member Bentham thanked the principals and the Somerset Board members for their service to Somerset and provided gifts to each of them.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:28 P.M.

Approved on: April 6, 2022



[LeNora Bredsguard \(Apr 8, 2022 15:45 PDT\)](#)

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Somerset Academy of Las Vegas