

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
NOVEMBER 29, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on November 29, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Treasurer Will Harty called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. In attendance were Board members LeNora Bredsguard, Will Harty, Cody Noble (arrived at 8:08 a.m.), John Bentham, and Renee Fairless.

Members Travis Mizer and Sarah McClellan were 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 Somerset Inc. representative Suzette Ruiz and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Ryan Reeves, Matt Padron, Trevor Goodsell, and Marla Devitt.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 10, 2022 BOARD MEETING**
- b. APPROVAL OF WORK BASED LEARNING APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION TO THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
- c. APPROVAL OF COMPETITIVE ARP ESSER EVIDENCE-BASED SUMMER ENRICHMENT AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS GRANT**

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

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FINAL REVISED BUDGET FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

Mr. Matt Padron addressed the Board to review the final revised budget for the 2022/2023 school year. The budget was similar to the previous version. The enrollment was adjusted to the first quarter ADE numbers. He noted that the enrollment numbers were currently higher than the first quarter ADE. The actual enrollment did not hit the previous budget enrollment numbers. He explained that the budget was a break-even budget. The SPED revenue was updated to the actual numbers. The SPED revenue decreased while the base per pupil revenue, the ELA, and FRL weights increased to maintain the revenue number. The budget was calculated at 100% enrollment.

Member Bentham asked about the current enrollment percentage. Mr. Padron stated that the current enrollment was 100.2% over the budgeted amount. The enrollment should increase from the quarter one ADE. Member Harty asked for clarification on the budgeted enrollment number. Mr. Padron stated that the system enrollment was 9532 students. The enrollment number approved to

provide teacher salary increases and bonuses was 9800. The final revised budget was at 97% of the second final budget and 98% of the first final budget. Mr. Trevor Goodsell addressed the Board and stated that Somerset had 9800 available seats and the current enrollment was 9500. The budget was calculated at 9511. He noted that the charter school share of the SPED funding remained the same while the number of charter students had increased, resulting in a smaller per pupil SPED funding amount. The current difference between the local district and charter schools was \$1150 per pupil, which was a large impact on the budget.

MEMBER BENTHAM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FINAL REVISED BUDGET, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER FAIRLESS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

b. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR FINANCIAL AUDIT

Mr. Goodsell reviewed the 2021/2022 financial audit. Unrestricted cash was \$35.9 million, which was an increase of \$2.3 million. The net income was \$5.3 million; however, it would be \$9.1 if the depreciation was backed out. He noted other key numbers: the days cash on hand was 164 days, accounts receivable was up \$1.8 million, accounts payable had increased about \$500,000, and the pension liability dropped from \$55 million to \$36 million. Mr. Goodsell stated that the debt covenants would all be met. Mr. Goodsell explained that there were a few findings related to reconciliations. He would be meeting with auditors to discuss the findings. Mr. Goodsell asked the Board to approve the audit pending final approval by Board Treasurer Harty. Member Harty stated that any time you have an audit by a new auditor, findings were usually included; and that he was not concerned with any of the listed findings.

MEMBER FAIRLESS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUDIT PENDING FINAL APPROVAL BY BOARD TREASURER WILL HARTY. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

c. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TEACHER AND STAFF HOLIDAY BONUSES

Mr. Goodsell stated that the holiday bonuses were included in the budget. The amount was \$125 per employee. Discussion ensued regarding how the bonuses would be distributed. The Board Chair would provide a thank you note from the Board.

MEMBER BENTHAM MOVED TO APPROVE THE TEACHER AND STAFF HOLIDAY BONUSES, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

d. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS

Principal Esplin addressed the Board and explained that the Board needed to have a policy in place stating the number of days a student was required to be in attendance in order to receive credits. A significant number of students had excessive absences which resulted in an increase of chronic absenteeism from 4-5% to 15-20+%. The chronic absenteeism would affect the Star ratings. Principal Esplin stated that the requested attendance policy would state that elementary students may lose credit if they were not present for at least 163 days. Middle and High students must have less than 10

absences per semester or they may lose credit. He noted that parents would have the ability to appeal the loss of credit.

Member Bredsguard asked if the policy would include excused and unexcused absences. Principal Esplin stated that, according to the State, the only excused absence was a doctor's note. Member Bredsguard asked how the policy would affect a first grade student coming from another school with excessive absences in kindergarten. Principal Esplin stated that, because the policy used the word "may", each case could be reviewed to determine placement.

MEMBER HARTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATTENDANCE POLICY, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Principal Esplin noted that the main water line break at the Sky Pointe campus had been repaired.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

Board members thanked the principals and wished everyone happy holidays.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 A.M.

Approved on: January 6, 2023

LeNora N. Bredsguard
LeNora N. Bredsguard (Jan 6, 2023 09:26 PST)

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