

**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS  
APRIL 10, 2023**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on April 10, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board Chair Travis Mizer. The following Board members were in attendance: Travis Mizer, LeNora Bredsguard, John Bentham, Will Harty, Cody Noble, and Sarah McClellan.

Board Member Renee Fairless was not in attendance.

Also present were the following principals: Lee Esplin, Cesar Tiu, Jessica Scobell, Shannon Manning, Mindi Palomeque, and David Fossett. In addition, representatives from Somerset Inc., Suzette Ruiz and Bernie Montero, attended the meeting. Dr. Jessica Barr, JJ Christian, and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Ryan Reeves, Trevor Goodsell, Matt Padron, Nathan DeHoyos, and Marla Devitt, were also in attendance.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 BOARD MEETING**
- b. ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT AWARE SUB GRANT AWARD FOR THE NORTH LAS VEGAS CAMPUS**
- c. ACCEPTANCE OF ARP ESSER SUMMER AND AFTERSCHOOL GRANT FUNDS**

**MEMBER BENTHAM 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. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF INITIAL BUDGET FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

Mr. Matt Padron addressed the Board and presented an overview of the initial budget for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. He informed the Board that the final budget would be presented in June, with a final revised budget to follow in December. Despite the possibility of funding changes during the current legislative session, the proposed budget was calculated with a conservative 1.5% increase based on historical trends. Mr. Padron noted a significant increase of 3.75% in PERS, which would impact the budget substantially. He provided details on staffing changes that had been factored into the budget calculation; adding that the proposed budget did not include any salary increases. Salary increases would be included in the next budget after the funding increase was confirmed. The proposed budget had a 1.5% surplus with a contingency reserve of 0.5%.

Member Mizer stated that the system was required to run a 3% surplus to meet charter standards. Trevor Goodsell addressed the Board and responded that he believed the system would be able to

achieve the required surplus after an increase in funding, which was expected to be 12 to 15%. He clarified that the budget presented was based on a worst-case scenario. Member Harty confirmed that the budget was being presented for approval to meet the submission deadline.

**MEMBER McCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE INITIAL BUDGET FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.**

**b. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FENCING FOR LOSEE CAMPUS**

Mr. Nathan DeHoyos from the Academica Facilities department addressed the Board to review the proposals for the installation of a fence around the football field and bleachers. He recommended that All-Star Fencing be selected as the vendor, given their prior work for the school and their competitive pricing. The proposal included using the 42-inch chain link fencing material that was left over from the bleacher construction. Member Mizer asked about the need for the fence. Mr. DeHoyos explained the fence was proposed for crowd control during home games and to provide security around the bleachers. Member Noble requested confirmation that the bids were quoting the same specifications and that the fence would be paid for with Student Generated Funds. Mr. DeHoyos affirmed both points.

**MEMBER BENTHAM MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED WITH THE RECOMMENDED VENDOR. MEMBER McCLELLAN SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.**

**c. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HVAC UNIT REPLACEMENT FOR STEPHANIE CAMPUS**

Mr. DeHoyos presented two proposals for the replacement of a unit that was in need of replacement due to corrosion and micro leaks in the evaporator coil. It was estimated that the cost of replacing the coil would be \$16,800, and there was no guarantee that it would fix all of the issues. Therefore, it was recommended that the unit be replaced. Three companies were contacted for proposals, and two of them had been received. No Sweat Mechanical's bid was \$37,295, and Sunrise Services' bid was \$47,986. Harris Mechanical's bid had not yet been received, but it was expected to be similar to Sunrise Services. Mr. DeHoyos noted that the unit was approximately 10 years old and was running at half its capacity since it had two compressors.

Member Bentham asked if the existing unit had any warranty coverage, to which Mr. DeHoyos replied that it did not. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that the school had a regular service contract to maintain the units, but it did not reduce the price of repairs. Member Noble asked how long the units were expected to last. Mr. DeHoyos stated that it was not unusual for a unit to last fifteen to twenty years, adding that he did not know why the coil in the unit in question had failed.

Member Noble asked why the recommendation was to replace the unit instead of having it repaired. Mr. DeHoyos explained that the unit might have further damage that was not evident. Member Harty asked how to proceed without the third bid. Mr. Reeves suggested that the Board approve the expenditure up to a certain dollar amount and authorize someone to make the final

decision. Member Noble stated that the proposal showed a thirty-week lead time meaning the repairs would not be completed this school year.

**MEMBER HARTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HVAC UNIT, DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY FOR PRINCIPAL ESPLIN TO HAVE FINAL APPROVAL, UP TO \$38,000. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE WITH A VOTE OF 5 TO 1, WITH MEMBER NOBLE VOTING IN OPPOSITION.**

**d. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM BUDGET FOR LONE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS**

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board to review the search for a new curriculum for ELA, Math, and Science for the upcoming school year. After conducting thorough research and consulting with instructional coaches from other schools, the campus decided to adopt CKLA for K-5 ELA, Amplify for middle school ELA, Envision for K-8 math, and Amplify Science for K-8 science. Principal Tiu emphasized that the use of the same curriculum across all grade levels would facilitate vertical alignment and that the campus had not made any changes to its curriculum since its inception. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of vertical alignment and how the newly selected curriculum compared to those used by other Somerset campuses. Dr. Jessica Barr addressed the Board and explained that the research-based, vetted curriculum selected by Principal Tiu was highly rated and stressed the need for consistency to improve the school's Star rating.

Member Mizer inquired about whether the school had taken advantage of the system's size and scale to obtain a discount on the curriculum. Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board and explained that each school had different needs and had purchased the curriculum at different times to meet those needs. Principal Lee Esplin addressed the Board and clarified that Ms. Allison Salmon, with Academica, had used the buying power of all Academica-supported systems to secure a discount on the curriculum. He further explained that because the campuses had opened at different times, they had purchased the curriculum at different times, and that curriculum typically followed a five to seven-year cycle.

**MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRICULUM BUDGET FOR THE LONE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.**

**e. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TECH REFRESH FOR ALIANTE, SKY POINTE, AND SKYE CANYON CAMPUSES**

Mr. Gary McClain addressed the Board and explained that the tech refresh for Aliante and Skye Canyon, which was originally due last year, was delayed by a year. Sky Pointe was now also due for an elementary and middle school refresh. He noted that Intellatek had provided competitive pricing. Principal Esplin outlined the scope of the refresh, which included replacing outdated hard drives, projectors, and digital light boards. Member McClellan inquired about the frequency of tech refreshes, to which Principal Esplin confirmed that they occurred every five years and rotated based on when the campuses were built.

Member Noble asked if refreshes were typically included in the budgets. Mr. Goodsell replied that the refreshes had been financed in the past; however, with the availability of the surplus, paying interest rates of 7-8% was no longer a practical approach. He noted that a schedule had been developed, and refreshes would be added to the budgets going forward.

**MEMBER NOBLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TECH REFRESHES AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.**

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS**

Mr. Reeves noted that the legislative session was ongoing. He expected to have funding information by the end of May.

**6. MEMBER COMMENT**

Member Bentham thanked Academics for sending the legislative updates.

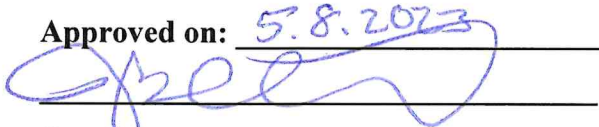
**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**8. ADJOURN MEETING**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:52 P.M.**

Approved on: 5.8.2023



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