

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
AUGUST 22, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 8151 N. Shaumber Road, Las Vegas, NV 89166, and via Zoom webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Vice Chair Sarah McClellan called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. In attendance were Board members Sarah McClellan, LeNora Bredsguard, Will Harty, and John Bentham.

Members Travis Mizer, Cody Noble, and Renee Fairless 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, Principal David Fossett, and Assistant Principal Connie Pitt; as well as Somerset Inc. representative Suzette Ruiz and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Ryan Reeves, Matt Padron, Paul Ballou, and Marla Devitt.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jayda White provided public comment regarding concerns with Aliante campus lunch and dismissal policies.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 21, 2022 BOARD MEETING

b. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1. SCHOOL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED FINAL BUDGET FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR**
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FOLLOWING:**
 - a. CTE STATE COMPETITIVE**
 - b. CTE STATE ALLOCATION**
 - c. PLTW**
 - d. TITLE I**
 - e. TITLE II**
 - f. TITLE IV**
 - g. SPED PART B**
 - h. SPED EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS**

MEMBER NOBLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANT, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT, CAMPUS RECOGNITIONS, AND UPDATES

Principal Kate Lackey addressed the Board to provide Skye Canyon campus highlights. Dr. Lawrence Brown joined the campus as the new dean. The GATE program was launched with 20

students from 3rd grade, 12 from 4th grade, and 12 from 5th grade. The Meet and Greet was held on August 9th. The campus would hold an open house on September 8th from 5-7 p.m. The data from last year was phenomenal and would be presented when it was official.

Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board to provide Losee campus highlights. The elementary school had stabilized and the teachers were doing outstanding jobs. The fall diagnostic from iReady showed that the students were closer to grade level to start the year than ever before. The EL population was a focus. The EL department had put together an action plan in grade bands for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The goal was to see those students exited from WIDA and be on track to be grade-level proficient. Principal Scobell stated that the middle school had welcomed 270 new students from the North Las Vegas campus. Thirteen new teachers had been added. The EL students would be working on language acquisition and fluency skills. The iReady diagnostics were recently completed. The data was not complete; however, it looked like the middle school had shown significant academic growth.

Principal Scobell stated that the number of AP students had increased significantly over the course of two years. In 2020 there were 345 seats filled in AP. There were 537 in the 21/22 school year. Students were passing at a higher rate. AP Biology improved from a 0% pass rate in 2021 to a 75% pass rate in 2022. AP Comparative Government had a 60% pass rate and beat the State pass rate of 48%. AP Literature had a pass rate of 83%, which beat both the State and global average. Out of 28 strands, Losee students scored above the State and global rate on 14. AP Spanish had a pass rate of 100%, beating both the State and global pass rate. Losee students scored above the State and global rate in 13 of 29 strands. AP Government had a pass rate of 67%, beating the State pass rate of 39% and the global pass rate of 48%. Losee students beat the State and global mean in 27 of 30 strands. AP World History improved from zero students passing to a 50% pass rate and beat the State and global average in 16 of 19 strands.

Principal Scobell concluded by stating that football had kicked off the previous Friday. The game would be in Bullhead City against Needles California. Member Bentham asked when Losee would play their first home game. Principal Scobell stated that the bleachers would not be ready until the homecoming game on September 30th. Member Bentham asked if the 270 North Las Vegas students had matriculated well. Principal Scobell stated that, although it was always a challenge to bring two different school cultures together, the teachers were doing an outstanding job. A lot of support had been added to the middle school, including a middle school assistant principal, a middle school student support advocate, an assistant principal who worked with grades 6-12, two new middle school counselors, and an intervention counselor.

Principal Mindi Palomeque addressed the Board to provide North Las Vegas campus highlights. Thanks to Mr. Gary McClain and his team, the building opened successfully following all the construction. The campus added many positions for support, including a K-2 literacy coach, a 3-5 literacy coach, a math coach, a data coach, a school safety professional, a school success advocate, a counselor, and a restorative justice coordinator. Through Project Aware, the campus was a multi-tier support system (MTSS) with project-based intervention support for social and emotional learning. The fall benchmarks were underway. She noted that the teachers were excited about being able to help the students one grade level below or on grade level move up.

Principal David Fossett addressed the Board to provide Stephanie campus highlights. He noted that he was excited about the staff he had in place. The new staff went through a rigorous screening

process, including looking at the teacher's previous data. Principal Fossett stated that Ms. Jessica Barr was breaking down the elementary data by classroom. There were some high points and some low points. There were multiple facility changes to the building, including to rooms constructed, painting, and outside lights. The Project Lead the Way grant would be used for a robotics project for the middle school STEM program.

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board to provide Lone Mountain campus highlights. The school opening went smoothly. They have completed the middle school iReady diagnostic and the K-5 MAP testing. They started the intervention and enrichment classes and will start the middle school Flex classes. He stated that the goal was to strengthen tier one instruction and improve the EL program. The admin team and grade-level chairs visited Mater Mountain Vista and Pinecrest St. Rose to learn about the work they do with their EL groups. The Las Vegas Quiz Bowl coaches meeting would be on August 31st. Principal Tiu noted that the school security had been improved with an access control system and red slats for the fences. Horses for Heroes would provide a new volunteer opportunity for NJHS and NEHS; adding that Horses for Heroes was the first group to reach out after the recent difficult events at the campus.

Principal Tiu introduced Mr. Herrera, the new assistant principal, and Ms. Owens, the vice principal, and thanked them for their support during the recent difficult events affecting the campus. He thanked the teachers and staff for keeping engagement going and having classes ready for the first day of school. Member Bredsguard asked for an explanation of the red slats. Principal Tiu explained that they were slats that were slid into the chain link fence, which provided 70% visibility. Member McClellan asked if all the campuses had the new access control system, to which Principal Lackey replied in the negative. Member Harty asked how much money was spent on security upgrades, to which Principal Tiu responded that it was approximately \$20,000. Member Bentham asked about the percentage of growth in the number of EL students. Principal Tiu stated that, although he did not the exact percentage, the number had grown from approximately 30 students last year to 47 students.

Principal Shannon Manning addressed the Board to provide Aliante campus highlights. Fall benchmark testing was in progress. The campus had purchased Amplify and Dibels for the K-4 students. The programs would help prepare for Paw Power, the walk to read model implemented in 21-22. The programs would also help with the RTI process, strengthen the programs for struggling students, and provide differentiation for the higher achieving students. Principal Manning noted that the campus now had a GATE program. The middle school behavior orientation had been completed. The campus had fifteen teams for fall sports. Principal Manning stated that the campus had used \$30,000 for updated safety measures, including slats in the fence all the way around the campus, keypads for the back office doors, locks switched from locking with a key to a push lock, film on some windows for the protection of teachers, and buzzers on some outside doors.

Member Harty asked Principal Manning to address the issues brought up during public comment. Principal Manning stated that a "no deliveries" policy had been implemented to protect bell-to-bell instruction. With 1200 students, providing lunch deliveries would be an all-day event. She noted that the food vendor provided vegetarian and vegan options and all students were eligible for free lunch. Principal Manning explained that parents were continually reminded that the car line was the safest method for the students. Crossing guards had been discussed; however, they were incredibly expensive. Parking enforcement had been at the campus three or four times during the first two weeks

of school. The parking enforcement ensured that parents were not parked between crosswalks, blocking streets, or leaving cars unattended.

Assistant Principal Connie Pitt addressed the Board to provide Sky Pointe campus highlights. The campus had a fun opening event with everything Las Vegas, including Elvis. She noted that the campus had worked hard on social and emotional well-being and implemented the Leader in Me seven habits and thirteen trust behaviors last year. The improved behavior was evident as students returned to school this year. The SBAC testing showed significant growth and improvement. Assistant Principal Pitt stated that the high school had great growth in all areas on the ACT. The existing AP courses had an 80% pass rate. The AP rates beat the State and global rates in overall scores. She reviewed the school opening events for elementary, middle, and high school. She noted that some middle and high school classes had written mission statements to go along with Leader in Me and the thirteen trust behaviors.

b. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ARTICULATION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Mr. Paul Ballou addressed the Board and stated that the Board had previously approved the articulation agreement. The Board needed to approve the amendment application before submission to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and noted that the Somerset Stephanie campus did not have a nearby high school option within the Somerset system. The articulation agreement would provide an option for a preferred seat in a sister system. Member Bentham asked about the timeframe for approval by the SPCSA. Mr. Reeves replied that the timeframe would not be known until after it was submitted and accepted. Mr. Ballou stated that the Pinecrest board would approve their application during their September 14th board meeting. The SPCSA requested that both applications be submitted at the same time. Mr. Reeves stated that it was possible that SPCSA staff could approve without going before the board; however, it may require board approval.

MEMBER HARTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT APPLICATION, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER BREDSGUARD SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

c. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SOMERSET EMO EVALUATION TOOL

Principal Lee Esplin addressed the Board and stated that the SPCSA provided new recommendations for the EMO evaluation process. The Board must approve and complete a rubric-based scoring system. Additional data points were encouraged outside of the survey data. Full Board participation was recommended with a majority required. School leadership would present the results of the survey at the October 10th meeting. He stated that the Board must issue a letter stating that the EMO had or had not met the contractual obligation. School leadership would compile an outline of directives, feedback, and goals. Principal Esplin explained that he would provide Board members with the document, which needed to be completed during the coming week. The Board members would also need to sign the letter that would be sent to the SPCSA.

Discussion ensued regarding the rubric and additional data points. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica was supportive of the SPCSA requirement. He noted that Academica would continue to provide a survey to the principals, assistant principals, registrars, and office managers. The feedback

would help Academica continue to serve the needs of Somerset. Member Bentham noted that the Board members would not have all of the required information and asked if they could consult with the principals when completing the survey, to which Principal Esplin replied in the affirmative.

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

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. McClain stated that Academica had provided polo shirts and tumblers for Board members and every Somerset ten year employee to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Somerset. He noted that every employee received a tee shirt. Mr. Reeves provided SPCSA updates including: Board members could watch the recent training recording in order to meet the SPCSA requirement; and a few Somerset campuses were required to submit school diversification initiatives. Member Harty asked for information regarding how decisions were made for providing crossing guards for schools. Mr. Reeves stated that All City Management Services (ACMS) managed crossing guards for Clark County; however, the allocations were made to the county entities to determine the method for the resources. Principal Esplin noted that the entities only counted elementary students. Discussion ensued regarding crossing guards and safety at each campus.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

Member Bentham thanked the principals for the long hours spent to open the schools. He thanked Academica for recognizing the 10th anniversary of Somerset. Member Bentham thanked Principal Tiu and the Lone Mountain team for way they handled the recent tragedies the campus faced. He also thanked the system administrators and communities for their support of the campus.

Member Bredsguard thanked Academica for the gifts for the Board members and the 10 year employees. She noted that the schools had faced challenges and handled them well. She asked the principals to think about ways to involve the parent communities. Member Harty thanked the principals. Member McClellan thanked Principal Tiu for creating a community event for the campus during the tragedies. She thanked the principals for providing updates on Facebook.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:21 P.M.

Approved on: _____

10/10/2022



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