

**MINUTES**  
**of the meeting of the**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS**  
**November 29, 2018**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on November 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at 385 W. Centennial Pkwy., North Las Vegas, NV 89084.

**1. Call to order and Roll Call**

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members John Bentham, Sarah McClellan, Travis Mizer, Gary McClain, and Cody Noble (joined at 6:03 p.m.).

Board members Will Harty and Carrie Boehlecke were not present at this meeting.

Also present was Executive Director John Barlow, as well as Principals Elaine Kelley, Lee Esplin, Reggie Farmer, Kate Lackey, Sherry Pendleton, Ruby Norland, and Vice Principal Christina Threeton. Academica representatives Crystal Thiriot, Trevor Goodsell, Marc Clayton, and Ryan Reeves were also present.

**2. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no request for public comment.

**3. Consent Agenda**

**a. Minutes from the October 16, 2018 Board Meeting and the November 14, 2018 Telephonic Board meeting.**

**b. Approval of Recommendation from the Finance Committee:**

- 1. School Financial Performance (Not for Action)**
- 2. Approval of the Final Revised Budget for the 2018/2019 School Year**
- 3. Approval of the 2017/2018 School Year Financial Audit**
- 4. Approval of Teacher and Staff Holiday Bonuses**
- 5. Approval of Grade-Level Maximum Enrollment for the 2019/2020 School Year**
- 6. Approval of the use of Bond Funds for Improvements at the Losee Campus:  
Elementary Conference Room Split**

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

#### **4. Academic Update and Executive Director Report**

Executive Director John Barlow addressed the Board and stated that the Emergency Operation Plan Development Committee had created an emergency operation plan which would be implemented during the 2019/2020 school year; adding that the plan met all state and federal requirements.

Executive Director Barlow asked Principal Pendleton and Vice Principal Threeton to explain the process of making the Lone Mountain and North Las Vegas campuses companion schools. Principal Pendleton addressed the Board and reviewed the methods that had been used to communicate to the changes that had occurred at the North Las Vegas campus to the parents of the North Las Vegas students. Vice Principal Threeton addressed the Board and shared the accomplishments to date as well as the methods to improve staff moral and build relationships. Vice Principal Threeton stated that newsletters had been created for both staff and parents to improve communication and reviewed the scheduled events used to build the community.

Member McClellan asked if there were any concerns expressed by staff members. Principal Pendleton invited Mr. Boisseau, a North Las Vegas teacher, to address the Board about the transition. Mr. Boisseau addressed the Board and stated that, although change was hard, the transition had been smooth; adding that Principal Pendleton and Vice Principal Threeton had been available to the staff, students, and parents to address any concerns.

#### **5. Review and Acceptance of Grant Funds for the 2018/2019 School Year**

Executive Director Barlow stated that Somerset Academy had been awarded Title II funds in the amount of \$91,806.31 which would be used for professional development for staff. Executive Director Barlow stated that they had also been awarded \$892,859.01 in SPED Part B funding. Mr. Trevor Goodsell addressed the Board and stated that the SPED Part B grant funds, along with the SPED discretionary unit, increased the total SPED funding by about \$280,000 for the year; adding that the increase would help ease the pressure on the general operating account.

Executive Director Barlow stated that his office had submitted a grant to the NDA to help pay for equipment to upgrade the kitchens at the Stephanie and Losee campuses; adding that the number of students serviced had almost doubled which had resulted in the need for more equipment.

**Member Mizer moved to approve the acceptance of grant funding for the 2018/2019 school year. Member McClain seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.**

#### **6. Overview of Accreditation Process**

Ms. Crystal Thiriot addressed the Board and stated that, during the accreditation process, the Board would review the mission and vision statements to ensure that they aligned with what was happening at the schools. Ms. Thiriot reviewed the current mission and vision statement of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas and the proposed mission and vision statements from Somerset, Inc.; adding that Somerset, Inc. had been receiving input from all of the Somerset stakeholders. Ms. Thiriot stated that, during the upcoming strategic planning session, the Board would discuss any possible changes to the Somerset Academy of Las Vegas mission and vision.

Ms. Thiriot stated that the accreditation would take place at the end of April and into May, with spot checks on Somerset schools throughout the nation; adding that the accreditation should be approved. Executive Director Barlow stated that, when Somerset completed the accreditation process five years ago, the current mission statement was in use; adding that it was important to review the mission statement because the accreditation process was a school improvement journey to verify that the practices bring the results needed. Member McClain asked if the accreditation was for the Somerset, Inc. system, to which Ms. Thiriot replied in the affirmative. Executive Director Barlow clarified that the accreditation was a corporation accreditation; adding that, although it was a vast corporation, they reviewed individual schools during the process to confirm that the practices at each campus ensured student achievement.

#### **7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revised Enrollment Policy**

Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that the revision to the policy had been made at the request of the SPCSA to clarify that, although an IEP review would be needed to ensure that proper services were provided, an IEP review was not necessary prior to enrollment. Member Noble asked what additional language had been added. Mr. Reeves stated that the previous language was a briefer version and did not include the statement that enrollment would not be denied based on disability. Member Mizer stated that during an expulsion hearing the policy regarding re-enrollment had been discussed and asked if language had been added to the enrollment policy to ensure that an expelled student could not re-enroll. Mr. Reeves stated that he would meet with the appropriate people and ensure that the policy met with that request.

**Member McClellan moved to approve the revised enrollment policy, as presented. Member Noble seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.**

#### **8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Formation of Scholarship in honor of Dan Phillips**

**This item was tabled.**

#### **9. Review and Approval of Affiliation Agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc.**

**This item was tabled.**

#### **10. Academica Announcements and Notifications**

Ms. Thiriot stated that a strategic planning meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2019; adding that she would send out an email with some preparatory work to ensure that it was a productive meeting.

Mr. Reeves stated that Academica had partnered with a political relations firm in preparation for the upcoming legislative session; adding that increased DSA funding was included in the initial budget and that they would continue to lobby for additional funding and other charter school needs. Mr. Reeves announced that the head of the SPCSA had resigned and that Brian Scroggins was acting as the interim director.

**11. Member Comment**

Member McClain expressed his appreciation for the administration, the other Board members, and Academica staff.

Member McClellan stated that she would like to ensure that the Board was informed regarding NSLP and progress towards qualifying for Title I funds. Executive Director Barlow stated that the threshold changed annually and that his office was constantly reviewing the requirements and qualifications.

Member Bentham commended the Executive Director's office and principals for keeping the Board informed and updated on events. Member Bentham expressed appreciation for the tireless work of the administration team.

Member Bentham stated that each Board member had been assigned a campus; although they would all stay involved with all of the campuses. The assignments were:

- Member Noble – Losee
- Member Mizer – Skye Canyon
- Member McClellan – North Las Vegas
- Member McClain – Aliante
- Member Bentham – Lone Mountain
- Member Harty – Sky Pointe
- Member Boehlecke - Stephanie

**12. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no request for public comment.

**13. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.**

Approved on: February 19, 2019

  
Secretary of the Board of Directors  
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas