

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
March 18, 2019

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on March 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at 6475 Valley Dr., North Las Vegas, NV 89084.

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members John Bentham, Sarah McClellan, Travis Mizer, Gary McClain, Will Harty, Carrie Boehlecke, and Cody Noble (via telephone, left at 6:20 p.m. and rejoined at 6:39 p.m.).

Also present were Executive Director John Barlow, Principal Lee Esplin, Principal Elaine Kelley, Principal Sherry Pendleton, Principal Kate Lackey, Principal Ruby Norland, Principal Christina Threeton, and Interim Principal Michele Lorig. Jacob Carlton, with Gilmore & Bell, P.C. and Academica representatives Crystal Thirirot, Ryan Reeves, Matt Padron, and Allison Salmon were also present.

2. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no request for public comment.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **Minutes from the February 19, 2019 Board Meeting, the February 23, 2019 Strategic Planning Meeting, and the March 4, 2019 Telephonic Board Meeting**
- b. **Approval of Recommendation from the Finance Committee:**
 1. **School Financial Performance (Not for Action)**
 2. **Approval of Initial Budget for the 2019/2020 School Year**
 3. **Approval of Turf and Playground Resurfacing at the Stephanie Campus**
 4. **Approval of Lone Mountain Sale and Purchase Agreement**
 5. **Approval of Installation of Cameras**

Member Harty stated that agenda item 3b5 had been tabled in the Finance Committee Meeting.

Member McClain moved to approve items 3a; 3b2; 3b3; and 3b4 as presented. 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 campuses were addressing the findings of the recently presented trends, based on student data, and were implementing plans based on the findings. Executive Director Barlow updated the Board on principal councils relating to student

discipline; adding that 27 students had been recommended for expulsion, with 7 students withdrawing prior to an expulsion hearing, resulting in 19 expulsions. Member McClain inquired as to why there was an increase, to which Executive Director Barlow replied that most could be attributed to students enrolling in Somerset Academy in later grades and not being acclimated to the Somerset climate.

Executive Director Barlow stated that Somerset had held a system-wide staff development for over 450 professionals, educators, counselors, social workers, special education facilitators, and general and special education K-12 administrators; adding that there were approximately thirty-two distinct sessions with over forty presenters to deliver information in the sessions. Member McClellan thanked Executive Director Barlow for ensuring that assistance was provided to all groups.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Revision to the School Calendar for the 2018/2019 School Year

Executive Director Barlow stated that, after meeting with the principals, they had opted to adjust the calendar to use the scheduled site-based professional development day of May 3, 2019, as the make-up day for the snow day and designate Tuesday, May 28, 2019 as the professional development day.

Member Mizer moved to approve the 2018/2019 school year calendar revision, as presented. Member Boehlecke seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

6. Discussion and Possible Approval to Submit an Application for an Amendment to the Somerset Academy Charter to Offer CTE Courses

Ms. Crystal Thiriot addressed the Board and stated that the high school campuses wanted to add CTE courses to provide students with the opportunity earn college credit. The proposed amendment would allow Somerset to offer the CTE courses; adding that the high school principals had three or four courses to offer at their respective campuses. Member Bentham asked what courses would be offered, to which the principals replied with the courses that would be offered, including photography, graphic design, marketing, business, and video production. Member McClellan asked if there would be a cost to the students, to which Principal Esplin replied that the cost would be similar to any elective course and that Somerset would apply for grants to cover some of the cost. Ms. Thiriot explained the CTE courses were three-year courses with each year building on the previous class and would end with two tests; adding that if the students passed the tests they would receive certification and college credit. Discussion ensued regarding equipment needed, licensure of teachers, and what would be covered by the proposed amendment.

Member Boehlecke moved to approve the amendment to offer CTE courses. Member McClellan seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

7. Review and Approval of Authorization for High School Principals to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CSN for CTE Courses

Ms. Thiriot stated that, in order to offer the CTE courses as soon as possible, the high school principals would like approval to enter into a memorandum of understanding. Member Bentham asked if CSN would be charging for the CTE courses, to which Principal Esplin replied that CSN viewed the

agreement as a pathway to their campus for the students enrolled in their programs; adding that Pinecrest Academy already had an MOU with CSN for CTE courses.

Member Harty moved to approve authorization for principals to enter into a memorandum of understanding with CSN for CTE courses. Member Boehlecke seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

8. Review and Approval of the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Lease for the 2019/2020 School Year

Ms. Allison Salmon addressed the Board and presented the term sheet for furniture, fixture, and equipment (FFE) financing; adding that it was similar to previous years with funds to cover additional students and curriculum needs. Member Bentham asked if the principals had been involved in the discussion of needs per campus. Ms. Salmon replied that the principals affected by additional students or curriculum needs had been involved in the discussion; adding that for some campuses, where there were not any additional students or expiring curriculum, the FFE needs were included in their budgets.

Member Mizer asked how many proposals had been received, to which Ms. Salmon replied that, in the past, they had not received any proposals that matched the terms being offered; adding that, although the window for orders was approaching a close, she could request additional bids. Member Mizer asked why additional bids hadn't already been requested. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and explained that he had not found any other financial institution that offered similar rates; adding that he had been contacted by other charter schools who would like access to the proposed rates and terms. Member Harty stated that the rates were low considering the risk factor and asked if the amounts being requested were included in the approved initial budget, to which Ms. Salmon replied in the affirmative.

Member Harty moved to approve the furniture, fixture, and equipment lease for the 2019/2020 school year, as presented. Member Mizer seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

9. Review and Approval of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Continuing Disclosures Policies and Procedures

Mr. Matt Padron addressed the Board and reviewed the continuing disclosures policies and procedures; adding that this was part of the bond process. Discussion ensued regarding the disclosures and oversight by Academica. Member Harty stated that, when money was borrowed, the lender requires disclosures on a regular basis and this approval would allow Academica to disclose the information to the lenders. Mr. Jacob Carlton addressed the Board and stated that he was with Gilmore & Bell who would be representing Somerset as bond counsel on the bond issue; adding that the current bond issue was similar to previous bond issues.

Member Boehlecke moved to approve the continuing disclosures, policies, and procedures, as presented. Member Harty seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

10. Academica Announcements and Notifications

Ms. Thiriot stated that the end of year party would be held on May 25th. Ms. Thiriot further stated that the next meeting will be held at the first part of June with a proposed date of June 4th.

11. Member Comment

Member McClain stated that, with the discussion about math curriculum purchase, he would like there to be discussion among the campuses.

Executive Director Barlow congratulated the Losee band and choir programs for receiving superior ratings at a recent competition. Principal Esplin stated that a Sky Pointe student, Hannah Price, had been selected as a presidential ambassador for Southern Utah University for next year. Principal Pendleton stated that Jackson Bentham was chosen as one of two Nevada State honorees for the Prudential Community Spirit award, which was based on service, and would be going to Washington for four days.

12. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no request for public comment.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Approved on: April 29, 2019

John Bentham

John Bentham (May 2, 2019)

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