

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
May 18, 2021

Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on May 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, 89081 and via Zoom webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. In attendance were Board members LeNora Bredsguard (via Zoom), Sarah McClellan, John Bentham, Travis Mizer, Will Harty, Cody Noble, and Renee Fairless.

Also present were Principal Lee Esplin, Principal Cesar Tiu, Principal Jessica Scobell, Principal Shannon Manning, Principal Christina Threeton, Principal Kate Lackey, and Principal David Fossett; as well as Somerset Inc. representatives Bernie Montero and Suzette Ruiz. Academica representatives Marla Devitt, Ryan Reeves, Trevor Goodsell, and Gary McClain were also in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment was made by Assistant Principal Jessica Pinjuv. She stated that she would be retiring at the end of the school year and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be a part of Somerset Academy. Members Bentham and McClellan thanked Assistant Principal Pinjuv for her hard work and dedication. Member McClellan noted that Assistant Principal Pinjuv had made a big difference in her daughter's life.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 6, 2021 Board Meeting**
- b. Approval of Recommendations from the Finance Committee:**
 - 1. School Financial Performance**
 - 2. Acceptance of Funds for School Based Mental Health Services Grant and Approval of Somerset's Required 25% Match**
 - 3. Approval of the Recommended Janitorial Vendor for the Aliante, Lone Mountain, Losee, North Las Vegas, Skye Canyon, and Stephanie Campuses**
 - 4. Approval of the Recommended Vendor for Seal Coat Projects at the Sky Pointe and North Las Vegas Campuses**
 - 5. Approval of the Recommended Vendor for New Chain Link Fence for the North Las Vegas Campus**
 - 6. Approval of the Recommended Vendor for New Playground Surface for the North Las Vegas Campus**
 - 7. Presentation of the Fiscal Comparison Report**

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

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Academic Progress Report, Campus Recognitions, and Updates

Principal Lee Esplin addressed the Board and stated that most of the testing had been completed. Over 95% of elementary students completed the testing, and 99% of middle school students. The AP exams were almost complete. Principal Esplin stated that only three high school students were not ready for graduation; adding that work was still being done to help the three students. The graduation ceremony would be Monday at 10:00 at the Centennial Hills Amphitheater, with Sean Covey as the guest speaker. Principal Esplin thanked all of the teachers, aides, support staff, office staff, custodial staff, and families for their support through the year.

Member Bentham asked if there were many parents who did not want their children taking part in the testing. Principal Esplin stated there were four parents of elementary students who refused to bring their children for testing and four students in middle school. Member Bentham asked if the refusal was COVID related. Principal Esplin replied that the parents wanted to opt out; adding that the No Opt Out policy and refusal form was sent to the parents.

Principal Shannon Manning addressed the Board and stated that the virtual graduation and promotion ceremonies were just finishing. Testing was complete, with 86% for SBAC testing and 100% for the WIDA testing. Principal Manning reported that the instructional extension option had provided a great opportunity to help students grow by providing time to work on iReady; adding that the specialists team was able to work with groups. Principal Manning thanked the Board for bringing her to Somerset during a crazy team.

Principal Christina Threeton addressed the Board and stated that the end of year activities included field days, with live and virtual options, and promotion ceremonies. Over 100 students were signed up for summer school. Professional development was planned during the summer. Principal Threeton stated that 94% of students participated in testing.

Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board and reviewed the promotion schedule for the campus. High school graduation would be May 27th at the Craig Ranch Amphitheater with Carnell Johnson attending to sing the national anthem. 116 students would be graduating, with two potential non-grads; however, it was possible that those two students would graduate before the end of summer. Principal Scobell stated that all except three elementary teachers would be fully endorsed and credentialed next year. The elementary testing had approximately 95% participation. She thanked Assistant Principal Trujillo for helping with the makeup testing for elementary. She also thanked Assistant Principal Simo for her work in the instruction extension program. Principal Scobell noted that all of the middle school teachers were planning to return next year. The high school AP seats would be increased by over 100 next year, with three new AP classes. She recognized several teachers and leaders for their efforts during the school year, and thanked the Board for their support.

Principal Kate Lackey addressed the Board and stated that Skye Canyon had 97.95% participation in the recently completed testing. She noted that, in the spring MAP data, three of the 4th grade teachers had a CGP of 71 or higher. Over 55% of teachers reached 65 CGP. Principal Lackey stated that virtual award ceremonies had been held during the week. The 5th and 8th grade promotions would be in person, with an a.m. and p.m. ceremony for each grade level. Field day would be on May 19th. The 8th grade held a social on May 14th. Principal Lackey stated that Skye Canyon would be holding a summer school program. She thanked the Skye Canyon teachers, administrators, office staff, parents; as well as the Somerset Board for all their support during the year.

Principal David Fossett addressed the Board and stated that he had been on campus for one week. He stated that 9 elementary and 20 middle school students had opted out of testing. He had reviewed the data and was impressed with the improvement from the middle of the year. Promotion ceremonies would be held during the upcoming week. Member Bentham asked for an update on teacher retention. Principal Fossett stated that he had received some resignations but did not have exact percentages.

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board and stated that the annual Leadership Day had been 100% virtual; adding that Karen Gordon, from the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) had asked for a copy of the video to include in the SPCSA newsletter in June. Principal Tiu stated that 8th promotion had been held of May 14th and an 8th grade picnic had been held on May 15th. He noted that 10 students did not participate in testing. Summer school would be offered during June. Principal Tiu stated that a blood drive would be held on June 10th. He recognized the teachers and staff of Lone Mountain. He noted that Assistant Principal Hoffman would be accepting a principal position in Pahrump.

Principal Tiu recognized Kira Anderson, who was named a NJHS Outstanding Award recipient and would receive a \$500 scholarship. Member Bentham congratulated her on behalf of the Board. Member Bentham noted that it was Principal Tiu's birthday and thanked him for attending the meeting on his birthday.

b. Discussion Regarding Academic Impact on Classroom Ratio

Principal Esplin stated that the principal cohort had discussed classroom ratio, as tasked by the Board. The cohort would like to have the flexibility to adjust class size to best meet the needs of the students, while maintaining the overall enrollment limit on the campus. Member Noble noted that the current grade-level maximum enrollment included a per classroom limit, and asked if the principals were asking for leeway per grade level, per school level, or the overall campus. Discussion ensued regarding possible class size scenarios. Principal Esplin stated that the principal cohort would discuss the parameters and bring a proposal with more clarification to the Board at the next Board meeting.

c. Post Sale Bond Presentation

Mr. Trevor Goodsell addressed the Board to provide an overview of the bond pricing for the Skye Canyon and Aliante campuses. He stated that the true interest rate of 3.57% was better than had been anticipated. The cumulative savings over the next ten years would be \$7.45 million. Member Bentham thanked Academica for the work on the bond, and the Board for having the forethought to approve the

process. Member Harty noted that market timing was crucial and thanked Mr. Goodsell for being prepared at the correct time.

d. 10th Anniversary Celebration

This item was tabled.

e. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Purchase of Property Adjacent to Sky Pointe Campus

Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that 2.5 acres adjacent to the Sky Pointe campus was available in a bankruptcy sale, which would require approval before a judge. It would be advantageous for Somerset to pursue the purchase of the land; adding that Somerset was in an excellent position to make the purchase. He recommended that the Board approve the Board chair to work with Brian Sorrentino to pursue the purchase.

Member Harty moved to approve allowing the Board chair to work with Academica and team to put a bid on for the land. Member Noble seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

f. Discussion Regarding 2021/2022 Board Meeting Schedule and Work Session Schedule

Mr. Gary McClain addressed the Board and reviewed the proposed calendar as contained in the support materials. Member McClellan stated that she had a conflict with the proposed schedule of the first Tuesday of the month. Member Bentham stated that the meeting schedule could be adjusted to be on the second Tuesday, with the exception of the August meeting, which would remain on the first Tuesday.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

There were no announcements.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

The Board members thanked the principals for their work during the challenging year and for providing the best educational experience possible given the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Member Harty encouraged the Board members to review the information contained in the support materials for the consent agenda items.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved on: August 3, 2021

LeNora N. Bredsguard

LeNora N. Bredsguard (Aug 4, 2021 11:50 PDT)

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