

**MINUTES**  
**of the meeting of the**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS**  
**November 27, 2020**

Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held an emergency public meeting on November 27, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

**Due to technical issues there is no recording of this meeting.**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. In attendance were Board members LeNora Bredsguard, 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 Elaine Kelley, Principal Kate Lackey, Principal Ruby Norland, Principal Christina Threeton; as well as Academica representatives Crystal Thiriot, Ryan Reeves, and Gary McClain.

**2. Public Comment**

Several members of the public spoke regarding concerns with in person learning and COVID transmission rates.

**3. Determination of Potential Transition between Hybrid and Virtual Learning Models at Somerset Campuses**

Each principal provided information of the current situation at each campus and the current effects of the pandemic on in person instruction. The diverse responses range from mild effects to 19 staff currently unable to report due to positive case or exposure.

The board reviewed information presented as 3 options to select the way in which campuses can go to 100% virtual:

1. Maintain this authority solely with the Board of Directors.
2. Authorize Principal Cohort (and Board Chair or other designated Board member) to make the decision on a system-wide basis keeping all campuses aligned in operation.

3. Authorize the Principals (and Board Chair or other designated Board member) to make the decision on an individual campus basis.

The first option would be difficult given the constantly changing nature of the virus, and could result in many emergency Board meetings on short notice. The authority had been delegated from the Board of Directors to the Administration, to some extent, with all other Academics managed schools. The board expressed support for the campus based decision to come from the principal and the board chairperson. The board discussion around the criteria included both support for the presented criteria as well as concerns of the criteria limiting a principal's decision to take lesser steps to remain operational versus going back to 100% virtual

Language was drafted for a motion to address this concern but allow for the autonomy of a principal to maintain in person operations as long as the campus was able to sustain it.

**Member Noble moved that A Principal may authorize the transition of classrooms, grade levels or campus-wide instruction to virtual instruction for a 1 to 3-week period, after consultation with the designated Board Member and Academics legal support team, if the following circumstances exist:**

1. Absenteeism caused by a combination of positive tests, quarantines due to exposure to positive tests, and/or flu-like symptoms that require exclusion from the school environment that creates operational challenges.

2. Any directive or advice by the Southern Nevada Health District that instruction should transition to All-Virtual instruction.

**When a principal authorizes/orders a transition to virtual instruction, the classroom, grade levels or campus community should be notified as soon as possible (1) of the date all-virtual operations will begin, (2) the length of time the campus anticipates being all-virtual (which should not exceed three weeks before re-evaluating to determine if hybrid instruction can recommence), and (3) the date that the campus will complete a re-evaluation and inform the community of either the return to hybrid instruction or an extension of the all-virtual instruction method, if necessary. Member Mizer seconded the motion, and the Board voted to approve with a vote of 6 in favor and Member Harty abstaining.**

#### **4. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public Comment.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Approved on: 2/2/2021



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