

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
AUGUST 5, 2024

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on August 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89081.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Board Chair Travis Mizer. The following Board members were in attendance: Travis Mizer, LeNora Bredsguard, John Bentham, and Sarah McClellan.

Board Members Matt Hurley, Renee Fairless, and Matt Morris were not in attendance.

Also present were the following principals: Lee Esplin, Jessica Scobell, Shannon Manning, Cesar Tiu, Kate Lackey, and Mindi Palomeque. Cody Noble, Assistant Principal David Wyatt, and Academics representatives Gary McClain, Ryan Reeves, and Marla Devitt also attended the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 12, 2024 BOARD MEETING**
- b. **APPROVAL OF THE SOMERSET LOCAL LITERACY PLAN FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR**
- c. **APPROVAL OF THE 2024/2025 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOKS**
- d. **ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FOLLOWING:**
 - **EXN SPECIAL EDUCATION (IDEA, PART B)**
 - **MCKINNEY-VENTO**
 - **SPECIAL EDUCATION (IDEA, PART B)**
 - **STATE CTE ALLOCATION**
 - **TITLE I, PART A, SECTION 1003A**
 - **TITLE I, PART A**
 - **TITLE II, PART A**
 - **TITLE III, IMMIGRANT**
 - **TITLE IV, PART A**

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

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RESIGNATION OF CODY NOBLE

Member Mizer acknowledged that Cody Noble had resigned from the Board of Directors.

b. APPROVAL OF EMERITUS STATUS FOR CODY NOBLE

Mr. Gary McClain addressed the Board stated that Mr. Noble had served Somerset Academy for thirteen years. Member Mizer expressed deep gratitude and respect for Mr. Noble, acknowledging his thirteen years of dedicated service. Member Mizer thanked him for his invaluable legal expertise, late-night efforts, and personal and professional contributions. Member Bentham also expressed gratitude for Mr. Noble's service to Somerset Academy. He noted his unmatched experience and institutional knowledge, his significant role in the success of Somerset, and his irreplaceable impact on the organization. Member Bentham stated that he supported approving emeritus status for Mr. Noble.

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE CODY NOBLE AS AN EMERITUS MEMBER OF THE SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MEMBER BREDSGUARD SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

Member Bredsguard praised Mr. Noble's ability to present both sides of issues, persevere through challenging moments, and keep discussions on track. Member McClellan expressed personal gratitude, highlighting Mr. Noble's significant contributions to Somerset. She acknowledged the difficulty of his departure, noting the gap it would leave on the board, and expressed appreciation for the time and effort Mr. Noble dedicated, especially during his tenure as board chair.

Mr. Cody Noble addressed the Board and expressed gratitude for the kind words. Mr. Noble noted the high quality of the board, administrators, and teachers, stating that the organization was on an upward trajectory. He expressed his pleasure in working with everyone and willingness to assist in the future.

Mr. McClain presented Emeritus Member Noble with an award for his thirteen years of service and a jacket commemorating his status as an emeritus member of the Somerset Board.

c. CAMPUS UPDATE

The principals of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas addressed the Board, providing updates and highlights from their respective campuses. Aliante Principal Shannon Manning reported that the school was fully staffed and she was excited about the addition of kindergarten aides. She stated that she was awaiting growth data, noting that they had a 5% increase in ELA proficiency despite changing curriculums last year. North Las Vegas Principal Mindi Palomeque echoed Principal Manning's excitement, sharing that they were nearly fully staffed with backups and noted a significant improvement in student performance, especially in WIDA points.

Lone Mountain Principal Cesar Tiu highlighted the school's preparation for the new year, including training and team-building activities, and noted that their proficiency data was the highest it had been. Losee Principal Jessica Scobell reported strong elementary school data, including a 5% increase in math and 4% in ELA. The high school saw impressive AP results, with students exceeding state and global averages in several subjects and a record number of AP scholars. However, the middle school faced challenges adjusting to the growth in the number of students.

Skye Canyon Principal Kate Lackey stated that they were fully staffed and looking forward to growth data. They made campus improvements and addressed a dip in science proficiency with new action steps. Stephanie Assistant Principal David Wyatt said they were not fully staffed, particularly in special education, but had made progress in hiring. Their scores improved in math and ELA, but science saw a decline. Sky Pointe Principal Lee Esplin stated their theme this year emphasized the importance of fostering grit in students. He reported increases in AP pass rates and proficiency scores. The school was excited about potential high rankings for the new year.

d. APPROVAL OF RETENTION BONUSES

Mr. McClain noted that last year's retention bonuses were increased for one year only, and this year the bonus amounts had reverted to the levels from two years ago.

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

e. REVIEW AND APPROVAL TO REPLACE THE PARKING LOT LIGHTS FOR THE NORTH LAS VEGAS CAMPUS

Mr. McClain stated that this item was for the final phase of the LED retrofits at the North Las Vegas campus. He noted that Foxtrot Electric was the recommended vendor. Member Mizer asked why there was such a discrepancy in the bids. Mr. McClain explained that it was partially due to Foxtrot Electric partnering with its own suppliers. The other reason was that the other two bidders included phases already completed by Foxtrot.

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

f. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SKY POINTE CONSERVATORY AND THE LONE MOUNTAIN GYM

Mr. McClain provided an update on the Sky Pointe Theater Conservatory, stating that no action was needed immediately as they were waiting on traffic counts, which would occur in September or October. Once complete, the project would move to NDOT. He stated that for the Lone Mountain gym, the next step was to assess project feasibility and move toward entitlements.

Mr. Trevor Goodsell addressed the Board and presented financial updates. He reported an increase in unrestricted cash from \$35 million to \$43.4 million over the past year, with 200 days cash on hand. After accounting for approved projects and bonuses, days cash on hand would decrease to around 154-155 days once all projects were complete. He provided cost estimates

for the Sky Pointe Theater and Lone Mountain gym, offering a few borrowing scenarios for financing these projects. He noted that no decision was needed yet, but these were considerations for future planning. Discussion ensued regarding the Lone Mountain project as a gym or a gym with classrooms.

Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and presented a long-term vision, recommending that the board allocate 25% of the cost for the theater upfront and finance the rest, paying it off over time. However, since it would not increase student enrollment or revenue for the gym, he suggested saving enough cash over time to build it outright, rather than borrowing. Member Mizer asked about the expiration of entitlements, and Member Bentham clarified that they typically expired after two years but extensions were common. Member Mizer confirmed that the Board was aligned on moving forward with entitlements for the gym only.

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

5. LONG RANGE CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McClain stated that the next regular meeting was scheduled for October 14th. He suggested scheduling a strategic planning session in the fall.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

Member McClellan stated that she and Member Bredsguard had attended the Charter School Conference and commended Principal Tiu for his presentation, which was fantastic. She stated that she felt that it was important to have a long-range planning session, which would allow for greater discussion with the principals on system-wide needs. She concluded by expressing her excitement for the coming school year.

Member Bredsguard agreed with Member McClellan on the great job by Principal Tiu and his team in their presentation at the conference. She stated she attended the Nevada Department of Education Literacy Summit, noting that among the speakers was Cathleen Reese. She noted that Ms. Reese did a fabulous job and represented Somerset well. She concluded by stating that she enjoyed following the campus social media pages.

Member Bentham expressed excitement for the coming school year and the Star ratings. Member Mizer stated that he felt that campuses were well prepared for the school year and looked forward to the release of the Star ratings.

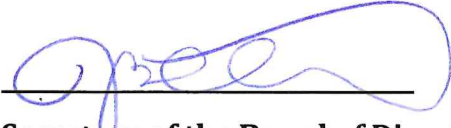
7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Marla Devitt congratulated Principal Tiu for his great presentation. She noted that, although she would not be able to visit schools on opening day she was excited for the new year.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:45 P.M.

Approved on: October 14, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Opel", written over a horizontal line.

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