



**Florida Charter School Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 7, 2014**

Board of Directors

Andreina Figueroa (*Chair*) (Present)
Lourdes Marrero (*Secretary & Vice-Chair*) (Present)
Daniel Diaz (*Treasurer*) (Present)
David Concepcion (*Present*)
Ana Diaz (*Present*)
Louis Marin (Texas) (Absent)
Carlos Resendez (Texas) (Absent)
George B. Ozuna (Texas) (Absent)

Board Counsel

Charles Gibson, Esq. (Present)

Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

- a. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am & a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

- a. Lamont Rice, the athletic director for Somerset Academy Eagle Campus, addresses the Board requesting resources for athletics; he is informed by the Chair that the board will take this under advisement.

3. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Financial Report
 - i. **TABLED:** The Board tabled a review of the revised 2013 – 2014 Annual Budgets for the Individual Miami-Dade Schools.
Motion by David Concepcion; Second by Lourdes Isla
 - ii. **APPROVED:** The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the revised 2013 – 2014 Annual Budgets for the Individual Duval Schools.
 1. A brief overview of the budgets occurred. The revised budgets includes the following adjustments:
Eagle Elementary: Grant from Academica of \$117,875 along with a Recoverable Grant of \$235,000;
Eagle Middle: Grant from Academica of \$62,100 along with a Recoverable Grant of \$70,000; and
Preparatory Jax: a Recoverable Grant of \$140,000.
Motion by David Concepcion; Second by Danny Diaz.
- b. Report by Dr. Ruth Jacoby, Executive Director of Education – The Board commended Dr. Ruth Jacoby, all principals and staff who worked together on a successful accreditation visit.
 - i. Update on SACS Accreditation
 - ii. Review of Final Report by Review Team
- c. Discuss and Possible Election: Alumni Board Member Position
 - i. Review of Candidates:

1. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved to accept the nomination and election of Tony Morales as the Alumni Board Representative to the Board.
 - a. Mr. Morales is a graduate of Somerset Academy in Pembroke Pines and was recommended by Mr. Montero for this position. The candidate was given the opportunity to address the board. Mr. Morales' position will become official once Mr. Morales has been fingerprinted through the local school districts and cleared.
Motion by Danny Diaz, Second by Lourdes Isla.
 2. Discussed: Board Nominees
 - a. Raul L. Martinez as nominated by Board Member Danny Diaz
 - b. Stephanie Vasquez as nominated by Board Member David Concepcion
 - c. Carlos Gonzalez as nominated by Board Chair Andreina Figueroa
 - d. Jeb Bush Jr. as nominated by Board Chair Andreina Figueroa
 - e. The Chair informs the Board that under the rules of the current bylaws there are only two available seats on the Board; she recommends each board member vote for two persons and submit it via silent ballot to Board Counsel, Charles Gibson; the two candidates with the most votes shall be approved.
 - f. Outcome of the vote: Raul Martinez received 3 votes; Stephanie Vasquez received 1 vote; Carlos Gonzalez received 1 vote and Jeb Bush, Jr. received 5 votes. The two new board members elected to the board will then be: Raul Martinez and Jeb Bush, Jr. These positions will become effective as soon as these individuals pass background checks and their election is ratified by the Texas board.
 - g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved as discussed to elect Mr. Raul Martinez and Mr. Jeb Bush, Jr. to serve on the Somerset Academy, Inc. Board of Directors.
Motion by Danny Diaz, Second by Lourdes Isla.
- d. Facilities Report (Mr. Rolando Llanes)
- i. Somerset Academy Central Miramar Campus
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved the "Awning Project" to connect gymnasium to main campus.
Motion by Lourdes Isla, Second by Ana Diaz.
 - ii. Somerset Academy (Pembroke Pines)
 1. **TABLED:** The Board unanimously approved the "Mice Lab Project".
Motion by Ana Diaz, Second by Lourdes Isla.
 - iii. Somerset Academy Gables (West Miami Campus)
 1. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved the Awning Project and Renovations to be ready for start of 2014-2015 school year
 - a. Awning \$24,020 / Courtyard Renovation \$16,476 / Interior Renovations \$59,433
Motion by Lourdes Isla, Second by David Concepcion.
 - iv. Somerset Academy Silver Palms – Update re: permitting for parking lot and annex project
 - v. Somerset Academy South Homestead (New Facility for Middle/High) – Update – ground breaking when permit and DERM approvals are received – target opening August 2015
 - vi. Somerset Academy Parkside (Palmetto Bay) – Update – Rolando Llanes to provide board drawings approved by municipality.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved to authorize the Chair to move forward with contract negotiations on the following new schools, as described, to be located in Miami-Dade County.
- i. Somerset Academy Virtual (6-12) (Dade) – Opening August 2014
 1. Principal: Jose Nunez
 2. Physical Address as 2601 NW 112th Avenue / 11100 NW 27th Avenue, Doral, Florida (Doral Academy Middle / High School)
 - ii. Somerset Academy Parkside (K-8) (Dade) – Opening August 2015
 1. To be located in Palmetto Bay
 - iii. Somerset Parks Academy High School (9-12) (Dade) – Opening August 2015
 1. Name change to "Somerset Parkside Academy High School" to better align with the K-8
 2. To be located in Palmetto Bay
 - iv. Somerset Academy Sunset (K-8) (Dade) – Opening August 2015
 1. To be located on Sunset Drive
 - v. Somerset Academy High Sunset (9-12) (Dade) – Opening August 2015
 1. To be located on Sunset Drive
 - vi. Somerset Academy High at Pinewood Acres (9-12) Dade – Opening August 2015

1. Possible name change to include "Bay"
2. To be located at Pinewood Acres

Motion by David Concepcion, Second by Ana Diaz;

- f. **APPROVED:** The Board authorized the Chair to move forward with contract negotiations on the following schools which are up for renewal: *Motion by Ana Diaz, Second by Danny Diaz;*
 - i. Somerset Academy East Preparatory (Broward County)
 - ii. Somerset Academy Middle School (Dade County)
 - iii. Somerset Academy High School (Dade County)
- g. Discussed: Somerset Academy, Texas and the Creation of Texas Subsidiary
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of the following invoices from Holland and Knight as described:
 - i. Somerset Silver Palms (for expansion matter) for \$2390.00, \$622.50 and \$2921.50.
 - ii. Somerset Bay (Land Use Due Diligence & Zoning Approvals matter) for \$10,707.02
 - iii. Somerset Academy, Inc. (UBC Christ Journey zoning approval matter) for \$2855.00 (once school is operational school will be billed for the advance of this expense by Somerset Inc.

Motion by Danny Diaz, Second by David Concepcion.

- i. Principal Items for Discussion
 - i. Dr. Mary Stuart for Somerset Academy Hollywood Elementary and Middle Schools
 1. Somerset Academy Hollywood - we are advertising to see if we can increase enrollment at Somerset Academy Hollywood and Hollywood Middle. We found out that there is a new charter school that will open a few blocks away and with the current schools in that location enrollment may be a challenge.
 2. Somerset Academy Hollywood and Hollywood Middle- will be graded as they are co-located and all together we have more than 10 students, which is the new rule. We are working on getting the students ready for the state test but anticipate a low grade.
 - ii. Ms. Denetra Davis, Somerset Academy Eagle Campus
 1. Discuss lease expiration of the church facility; lease has only one more school year
 - iii. Mr. Bernie Montero, Somerset Academy Pembroke Pines Campus
 1. Mr. Montero will obtain proposals to present to the board at their next meeting on the following items:
 - a. Football Field Renovation
 - b. Performing Arts Building Construction
 2. **APPROVED:** The Board unanimously approved to authorize Bernardo Montero, as Principal, to consult with Richard Moreno on refinancing options of the gym and media center to assist with the financing of the above mentioned projects.

Motion by Lourdes Isla, Second by Ana Diaz;

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the minutes of the Somerset Academy, Inc. Florida Charter Schools Board of Director's Meeting for January 27, 2014.
- b. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to Adopt the Monthly / Quarterly Financial Statements for the Individual Schools.
- c. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the out of field waiver(s) for instructional personnel with out of field assignments for the individual schools.
- d. **APPROVED:** The Board ratified the request for Broward County Public Schools to defer Somerset Academy Pines Preparatory High School, Somerset Beach Academy Charter School, and Somerset Key Academy Charter School for a period of one (1) year.
- e. **APPROVED:** The Board approved the School Wide Plan for Title 1 for Somerset Academy Hollywood, Somerset Academy Hollywood Middle, and Somerset Pompano Middle.
- f. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Chair or other Board Representative and Board Counsel the ability to negotiate all charter school contracts (new, renewals, and amendments) with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- g. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the Notice to Miami-Dade County Public Schools stating the individual High Performing School's ability to increase enrollment by 15% and expand grade levels, where necessary.
- h. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to authorize the Chair the ability to submit new charter schools applications, as necessary, on behalf of the Board. The Board further approves the \$500 application fee which shall be assessed for each application submitted by the May 1st deadline.
- i. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the submittal of start up grants which were submitted during last cycle.

- j. **APPROVED:** The Board approved to ratify the approval for all Somerset Academy, Inc. schools ability to participate in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA); further approving to accept the FHSAA bylaws.

The above consent agenda items were unanimously approved under one Motion by Ana Diaz, Second by David Concepcion.

5. Other Items by Board Members, Staff, or Academica

- a. Please submit the participation form and entry fee to Somerset Academy Central Miramar, attention: Geyler Herrera if you would like your school to participate in this year's Somerset's Got Talent.
- b. Please submit vacant staff positions for the 2014-2015 school year to Daniel Shourds for potential out-of-state job fairs.
- c. The next Board Meeting May 12th at 12:00 pm EST at 20801 Johnson Street, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33029, Broward County.

6. **Meeting Adjourned at 11:38 am**

Motion by Lourdes Isla, Second by Ana Diaz,

**The minutes were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on May 12, 2014.*