

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
February 3, 2015

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on February 3, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at 50 N. Stephanie Street, Henderson, Nevada 89074.

1. Call to order, roll call.

Board Chairperson Cody Noble called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Present were Board Members Cody Noble, Will Harty, Amy Malone, Eric Elison. Members Eric Brady and Scott Hammond were present via telephone (both left the meeting prior to the end)

Also present were Principal Gayle Jefferson, Principal John Barlow, Principal Elaine Kelley, Principal Dan Phillips, Principal Reggie Farmer, Principal Francine Mayfield and Academica Nevada Representatives Ryan Reeves, Bob Howell, Allison Salmon, Kristie Fleisher, Carlos Segrera, Becca Fitzgerald, and Corinne Wurm.

2. Public Comment.

No member of the public requested to comment at this time.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 2, 2014 Meeting.

Member Elison Motioned to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014 meeting. Member Harty seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

4. Acknowledgment of Resignation of Board Member Chrystal Thiriot and Discussion and Action Regarding Board Member Search.

Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and noted that as the Board is aware, Member Chrystal Thiriot had submitted her resignation from the Somerset Academy Board of Directors. Mr. Reeves stated that Ms. Thiriot has recently taken a position with Academica Nevada as the Director of Teacher Recruitment. Mr. Reeves added that we are happy to have her continue to support Somerset Academy. Mr. Reeves further noted that Ms. Thiriot served three terms as the Board Chairperson.

Mr. Reeves presented the gift purchased for Ms. Thiriot from the Board and noted that Ms. Thiriot could not be present at the meeting. Mr. Reeves explained that the gift is an engraved gavel and base with her name, years of service, and thanks for her service. Mr. Reeves added that this will be presented to her as soon as possible.

Mr. Reeves stated that with the resignation comes the need to search for a Board member to fill that vacant spot. Mr. Reeves added that the Board member search process is set forth in the Board's bylaws. Mr. Reeves added that notice of the vacancy will be sent out to the entire Somerset school community seeking anyone that is interested in serving on the Board to submit their resume.

Mr. Reeves stated that the process for narrowing down those resumes and presenting final candidates to the Board of Directors is the item on the agenda to be discussed and approved. Mr. Reeves asked the Board for further direction and noted that there are two ways this can be handled. The first is that the Board can be

involved in the entire process bringing in all the resumes submitted to a Board meeting and discussing, in an open meeting which individuals the Board would like to consider for election to the Board and, at the following meeting, those candidate will be interviewed in the open meeting and one would be elected to the Board.

Mr. Reeves stated that the second way of completing the process would be to designate a group outside of the Board, not subject to Open Meeting Laws, to narrow down those that submitted resumes to just one or two candidates to bring to the Board to consider for a vote. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica has provided this service in the past and could do so again, or the Board could designate someone else outside of a Board member to be part of the process that could participate in narrowing down the candidates to be considered at the next meeting.

Mr. Reeves stated that including even one Board member to be part of the process that would come back to advise the Board on how to proceed would subject the meeting to Open Meeting Laws, therefore that sub-committee would need to post notice of the meeting to make it open to the public.

Member Elison asked if in the past the Board has had Academica do this and Mr. Reeves confirmed noting that Academica would not make the final decision, but rather collect resume's and then narrow down the pool to two or three and present those to the Board. Mr. Reeves added that right now, none of the statutory requirements of the Board are missing, as there are two licensed educators (Member Malone and Member Hammond), at least one parent of an enrolled student (all Board members have enrolled students), and have professionals in the areas of Law (Member Noble), Human Resources and Accounting / Finance (Member Harty). Mr. Reeves stated that this position could be filled by anyone; however, if the Board would like to express a preference (a parent to remain an all parent Board), as to how to fill this position, this would need to be known ahead of time. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica is open to however the Board would like to fill the position. Mr. Reeves noted that all the geographical areas that Somerset serves are represented on the Board as well. Mr. Reeves further noted that while this is a very complete Board with six members, seven are required.

Member Noble asked if the seven Board member requirement is by State statute or by the Charter. Mr. Reeves stated that five are required by statute and seven is according to the Board's bylaws.

Member Elison and Member Malone stated that the initial process should be done by Academica. Member Malone noted that there may be a lot of resumes to go through. Member Noble noted that the Board would do it; however with everything having to be done in open meeting, it might serve to be more fair for the candidates to have someone else complete the initial process.

Mr. Reeves noted that this is a common way of handling Board member searches. Mr. Reeves spoke regarding the CCSD Superintendent search that was initially handled by an outside company that brought three candidates before the Board for final, open meeting, interview, and hiring discussion. Member Noble stated that this way of conducting the search makes sense, as it is not fair to have to discuss every single person on the record in an open meeting. The other Board members agreed.

Member Malone asked the other Board members if they have a preference as to parent or otherwise. Member Elison and Member Harty stated that they do not have a preference. Member Harty asked for clarification that there can be no Board member involvement up until the time when candidates are being presented to the Board in open meeting. Mr. Reeves stated that his understanding of the Open Meeting Law is that a committee, which includes a Board member that will be making a recommendation to the Board, as to how to proceed, they are subject to the Open Meeting Laws.

Member Noble stated that he would prefer to have a parent of an already seated student be seated. Member Noble added that he is concerned that based on the waiting list numbers, someone may try to be elected to the Board simply to have their child seated with a priority. Member Noble noted that he would not want to see someone elected to the Board that does not really want to be there. Member Elison agreed with that thought and asked if a motion needs to be done. Mr. Reeves confirmed this and noted that the motion needs to include direction from the Board as to how many candidates to present at the next meeting and any qualification the Board would like to see in the candidates. Member Malone asked if last time four or five candidates were brought to the Board and Mr. Reeves stated that he believes it was three candidates.

Member Noble added that if there are parents that are teachers that might be something to consider also. Mr. Reeves stated that it could not be a teacher from within the Somerset system; however, a teacher from outside the system could be considered. Member Noble noted that while all statutory requirements are currently being met, it may not always be that way.

Member Malone Motioned to have Academica put together a list of three final candidates to bring before the Board, with a preference being a parent of an enrolled student and an educator. Member Elison seconded the Motion.

Member Hammond asked for clarification on what was said, as he did not hear all of it. Member Noble restated the motion for Member Hammond and summarized the discussion that was had. Member Hammond stated this is different than what has been done in the past and asked for clarification as to why it is being done different. Member Noble stated that to his recollection, this is how it was previously handled and asked Member Hammond what he thought was different. Member Hammond noted that previously he was involved in the interview process with Mr. Reeves and Mr. Howell. Mr. Reeves stated that it may have been done different previously, as everyone was still learning the ins and outs of the Open Meeting Laws and that the Open Meeting Law came into question a while back with the hiring of a Principal in another system. Mr. Reeves noted that after speaking with the Board's Counsel, Jeff Blanck, it was recommended that the Open Meeting Law be applied to all steps in an application process where a Board member is present and to more strictly enforce the Open Meeting Laws. Member Hammond sought to confirm that Counsel is advising that the Board not participate until such time as a recommendation is brought to the Board and at that time the Board can chose to accept the recommendation or not. The other Board members confirmed.

Mr. Reeves noted that when the State Public Charter Authority hired their new Director, they did everything in accordance with Open Meeting Law and had a teleconference meeting to go through all the resumes to narrow them down to three candidates and then had another meeting to interview the three candidates. Mr. Reeves stated that this is another way that the search can be handled.

Member Noble repeated the Motion and with no further discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

5. Review and Approval of Lease Agreement for Phase III of the Somerset Sky Pointe Campus.

Arthur Ziev addressed that Board and stated that what is before the Board is the second amendment to the lease agreement for Sky Pointe. Mr. Ziev further stated that in general, the Board is entering into an agreement to a lease to build up to additional forty-five thousand square feet. Mr. Ziev advised that currently approval is in place to build an additional thirty-five thousand square feet; however, if the lease currently before the Board is approved, they will be working with the City to get approval to add ten more classrooms to the property. Mr. Ziev noted that they have a traffic plan and analysis to help support the request to the City. Mr. Ziev added that this approval would allow for additional enrollment of about three hundred students in the high school grades.

Mr. Ziev stated that the lease payment will be the actual cost of the project and the annual rent will be 10.5% of that construction cost. Mr. Ziev noted that the option to buy price is the cost of construction plus 13.5%, which is lower than the price of the first two phases. Mr. Ziev explained why there is a difference in the purchase prices. Mr. Ziev added that if the bond financing goes through, those funds will be sitting in escrow until the time to purchase. Member Noble asked if the cost of the additional ten classrooms has been factored in to the bond financing and Mr. Ziev stated that it has. Mr. Ziev added that if the bonds are issued and the building of the extra classrooms does not get approval from the City, there is a clause in the bond deal called an Excess Proceeds Call, which allows any money that has not been spent after a certain amount of time to be used to pay off the Bonds. Mr. Ziev added that the lease, if flexible in that if the City only allows for five additional classrooms, the lease would still cover that.

Mr. Ziev stated that the approval of this lease will allow for things to start moving forward with that request to the City, plans to be designed, etc. Member Elison asked what happens if the bond financing does not go through. Mr. Ziev stated that this would then just continue as a twenty-nine year lease.

Member Noble noted that he is uncomfortable not having already read the lease, however, this is an important piece to the overall picture. Mr. Ziev stated that as with all leases, if the Board approves this amended lease, it is subject to approval by the State and the Board's attorney.

Member Noble asked Mr. Ziev if he has seen any cost projections for this project. Bob Howell addressed the Board and stated that they have projected about \$6.8 million. Member Noble asked if the projection includes the ten extra classrooms and Mr. Howell stated that it does include the ten extra classrooms and putting in the turf field. Member Noble sought to confirm that the purchase price would be \$6.8 million (give or take, plus 13.5% and Mr. Ziev confirmed.

Member Noble asked about the amount of the bond financing and Mr. Howell stated that the net proceeds are around \$39 million. Mr. Howell explained the total purchase price. Member Noble sought to clarify that the \$39 million includes the North Las Vegas campus and Mr. Howell confirmed. Member Noble asked if there is going to be enough in the bond proceeds to purchase both properties and Mr. Howell stated that there will be more than enough to cover both properties.

Member Noble asked the Board for their thoughts and discussion. Member Harty stated that it seems that Member Noble would like more time to review the lease and added that he would be okay approving the lease, subject to final review by Cody and the Board's counsel.

Member Noble asked if the approval of the lease can be subject to his review or is it just subject to Counsel's review. Mr. Reeves stated that the Board does have the authority to approve the lease subject to the Chairperson review. Member Noble asked if legal Counsel has to approve the lease also and Mr. Reeves confirmed. Member Noble stated that he would be more comfortable with this, as none of the Board has had a chance to review the amended lease.

Member Harty Motioned to approve the amended lease as presented, subject to final review and approval by the Board Chairperson. Member Elison seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Reeves stated that as agenda item number five applies to the continuing steps for bond approval, at a previous Board meeting the Board approved a resolution authorizing the Board Chairperson to sign whatever documents necessary to bring about the bond issuance. Mr. Reeves noted that this was a general resolution done so that things did not have to be brought to the Board each time for a signature. Mr. Reeves stated that he feels that the document presented falls within that resolution, some of the agencies being worked with wanted to see that resolution in writing, as such the draft resolution is included in the support materials. Mr.

Reeves noted that this language was provided by the Department of Business and Industry. Mr. Reeves added that while this seems repetitive to the previous Board action, it is asked that the Board take action again, based on the language provided.

Mr. Howell stated that they are currently set to close on the bond deal at the end of March, 2015. Member Noble asked if they have received the final rating. Mr. Howell stated that they did and added that the rating received was a BB. Mr. Howell added that with the new requirements, Somerset did well and with the current market conditions, Somerset will be just fine. Mr. Howell stated that he will send the Board the information regarding the rating. Member Harty asked if another Motion is needed and Mr. Reeves confirmed.

Member Harty Motioned to approve the resolution documents presented, subject to final review by the Board Chairperson. A Board Member appearing by phone seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Member Harty asked if that 13.5% rate for the purchase option in the lease has been reviewed and is this a good market rate. Member Harty asked that Academica review this to make sure it is a good rate. Mr. Howell stated that it is half of what it was for the previous phases. Mr. Howell further stated that it is fair and added that Mr. Ziev actually brought it up, because the cash will be there sitting in the bank. Mr. Ziev stated that originally the owners demanded 25%, however, it was negotiated down to 13.5%.

6. Discussion Regarding Phase II of the Middle / High School Building at the Somerset Losee Campus.

Mr. Ziev referred to the support documents containing the preliminary plans for Phase II of the Losee campus. Mr. Ziev stated that Phase II is the first half of the high school wing, which will include ten regular classrooms, two science labs, an art room, a media room, and two break out rooms. Mr. Ziev noted that this plan has been reviewed and approved by Principal Phillips. Mr. Ziev added that they worked with Principal Phillips to make sure this would suit his needs.

Mr. Ziev referenced the site plan and noted a reduction in site work to be done to Phase II, noting that they are building out the field and parking will be done entirely on the north side, instead of just part of it. Mr. Ziev stated that they are not doing the courtyard and a portion of the parking yet because they do not know for sure what the next phase or the gym/multi-purpose area is going to look like and these areas will not be needed now. Mr. Ziev added that, for planning purposes, it is better to wait to build those at a future stage; however, there will be a way for the students to walk from the new high school wing behind the existing middle school wing to get out to the field.

Mr. Ziev stated they are scheduling construction to begin sometime in the fall and that it might be open before the school year and added that access to that wing would be available as soon as they get the Certificate of Occupancy.

Member Harty asked if these plans have an impact on the financial forecast, any changes to the number of classrooms, number of students, etc. Mr. Ziev stated that the number of rooms are identical to the plans and that costs may be a little less than originally projected. Member Elison sought to clarify if they are doing the parking lot on the north side and Mr. Ziev confirmed. Additional discussion was has regarding the portions to be built under Phase II.

Member Noble spoke regarding having the full range of sports and noted that he is not seeing any plans for seating on the field. Mr. Ziev asked the high school principals if it would be typical to have people bring their own chairs or does a provision need to be made to seat people. Member Noble also asked if the gym will accommodate basketball games and Mr. Ziev confirmed. Member Noble asked if there will be bleachers and Mr. Ziev stated that the gym will have bleachers. Mr. Ziev stated that for the field with the limited space

and resources, it would be hard to add bleachers without eliminating the basketball court. Member Noble asked if it is viable to think that the school can field a team without being able to seat anyone. Mr. Ziev added that some of the schools in Florida play their games at other schools or other facilities that have those accommodations.

Principal Barlow stated that in order to become NIAA approved they want to see that a school can reciprocate having games played on their campus. Principal Barlow added that at Sky Pointe they determined that they do have sufficient space (maybe not for football). Mr. Reeves stated that they only have seventeen acres and doing the traditional bleacher style seating for a football game will not fit; however, there is some flex space that over time, some five row deep bleachers could be added. Mr. Reeves noted that for soccer, he has seen State high school semi-finals played at parks that have no bleachers at all and parents participating in NAII approved sports are already used to not having bleachers. Principal Barlow added that buying some aluminum bleachers is an option also. Principal Phillips stated that for soccer, he has always seen spectators bring their chairs. Principal Phillips noted that for the gym, they will not need the large capacity bleachers and would only need to hold a couple hundred people.

Member Noble noted the limitations of space on the site and added that if there are changes to be made at this point, they should be considered now. Member Noble deferred to Principal Barlow and Principal Phillips as to whether these plans fit their needs. Mr. Ziev stated that the plans are not set in stone and he would be happy to sit down with both Principals to find out if these plans are acceptable or if they have other suggestions.

7. Review of School Financial Performance.

Carlos Segrera addressed that Board and referred to the support materials containing the Financial Summary, as of December 31, 2014. Mr. Segrera stated that the newest piece of information that the Board should be made aware of is that, beginning the next school year, PERS will increase from 25.75% to 28% for employees with 100% PERS and from 13.25% to 14% for those that are 50/50 PERS. Mr. Segrera added that the budgets will be adjusted accordingly; however, this expense will significantly increase from the past.

Mr. Segrera stated that as of December 31, 2014, Somerset has a combined surplus of \$1,832,754.00 with a variance of \$1,206,276.40, mostly coming from the additional funding received for full enrollment and savings on benefits. Mr. Segrera noted that usually the benefits are budgeted higher but that number should decrease with lower costs in healthcare beginning January, 2015. Mr. Segrera spoke regarding other categories included in the surplus breakdown. Mr. Segrera corrected the debt services category stating that those began in December, 2014.

Mr. Segrera noted the support materials and noted the consolidated Profit & Loss for all four campuses. Mr. Segrera referred to the Balance Sheet and added that Somerset has approximately \$3.4 million in the bank, including the Student Generated Funds. Mr. Segrera stated that Somerset's biggest asset is their DSA receivable and the largest liability continues to be the accrued payroll. Mr. Segrera referred to the support materials that show the individual campus Profit & Loss breakdowns, which will serve as a backup to the Financial Summary.

Member Harty noted that Somerset is running over budget on utilities and asked if there is any one campus that is going over. Mr. Segrera stated that the overage seems to be the electrical expenses for all the campuses. Mr. Segrera added that he is not sure if this is due to a rate increase or if the campuses are using the facilities more and stated that he thinks it is more due to facility usage. Member Harty asked Mr. Segrera if he has seen a spike in one specific campus and Mr. Segrera stated that the increase is across the board.

Member Alison asked if the PERS increase has already taken place and Mr. Segrera stated that this will take effect July 1, 2015. Mr. Segrera noted that an adjustment is done every two years and that it always goes up. Mr. Howell added that this increase is being built into the budgets for next school year. Discussion was had regarding the significance of the PERS increase and the per-pupil funding with regard to the PERS increase. Member Alison noted a decrease in funding and Mr. Segrera stated that that decrease is for the current school year; however, the PERS increase will not take place until the 2015/2016 school year.

Member Alison asked for clarification that it cost Somerset \$50,000.00 to become a 501(c)(3) and asked why it is so high. Mr. Reeves stated that this amount was for the bond issuance and explained that this is paid to the Department of Business and Industry and that any unused amount is returned. Mr. Reeves further explained that the bonds being issued are called Conduit Bonds, that run through a government entity to Somerset and that these fees are for the Department and Industry's work to make this happen. Mr. Segrera added that those costs are only allocated to the Sky Pointe and North Las Vegas campuses. Mr. Howell noted that usually in a bond deal, those expenses will be capitalized and paid back.

Member Noble spoke regarding the Board's previous request to split the budgets between the elementary and middle/high school and asked where those splits are. Mr. Segrera stated that, when trying to split the budgets around the end of October, there was a significant number of payroll entries, with the various deductions/payments and that to go back and adjust all those entries would be significantly time consuming. Mr. Segrera further stated that he did split the Principal budgets for expenses that the campuses monitors. Member Noble stated that the Board needs to monitor and see what is happening with the elementary and middle/high school and stated that if the Board agrees to do something, it probably should be done.

Mr. Reeves stated that he thought this was discussed at a previous meeting and added that the support materials will be supplemented to include the Principal budgets, showing the splits that can be made without incurring significant costs from the payroll and other service providers. Mr. Reeves further stated that if the Board would like a quote as to those costs, he would get that as well. Mr. Reeves added that, at this point, what was hoped to be done is splitting the controllable expenses that are reported to the Principals, through the rest of the year and include Principals budgets to the Board from this point on. Mr. Reeves spoke regarding the type of expenses and those that are controlled by the Principals with a budget report that each Principal gets monthly, which could also be provided to the Board as well. Mr. Reeves noted that for the next fiscal year, all line items will be broken down.

Member Harty agreed that he was also expecting to see two reports and understands that it will not be perfect. Member Harty asked if, to make it simple, expenses could be allocated by head count to give a general idea of how the payroll breaks down between the elementary and middle/high school. Member Noble asked if it is only impractical because it is the middle of the school year and Mr. Reeves confirmed, noting all the systems already in place that would have to be re-classed. Discussion was had regarding the timing of the Board's request for this breakdown and when the schools fiscal year begins.

Mr. Reeves reiterated that the Principals budgets are split and each Principal gets their own budget, which began two months previously and added that those can be provided to the Board also. Mr. Reeves further reiterated that he can get a quote from the payroll provider for these changes, if the Board would like.

Mr. Segrera stated that allocating payroll based on enrollment numbers is an option, however, it is not the most accurate option. Member Harty noted that not everyone makes the same amount of money. Mr. Howell noted that Academics is meeting with the Principals in the coming week to go over budgets and that the elementary and middle/high school budgets will be broken up for the next school year.

Member Noble sought to summarize his understanding that Academics is suggesting to have the Principals budgets separate for now, until July and then in July things will be split up as the Board would like to see it.

Mr. Reeves confirmed and noted that preliminary budgets will be brought to the Board for approval before April 15, 2015, because they are due to the State. Mr. Reeves further noted that the Board will also have to approve a final and final revised budget later in the year that will also be due to the State. Member Noble noted that he does not want to make this harder than it needs to be and Member Malone agreed, so long as the Board is getting the Principal budgets with the financials. The Board thanked Mr. Segrera.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Creation of an Executive Director Position and the Duties and Responsibilities of that Position.

11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Designation of a Search Committee to Advise the Board of the Hiring of an Executive Director.

Mr. Reeves stated that based on the discussion at the last Board meeting, a job description with some of the duties and responsibilities have been included for the Board's review and approval.

Member Noble stated that, although this has been discussed in the past, he does not think the Board has decided whether to hire an Executive Director. Member Hammond stated that he has spoken with the Charter Authority director, Patrick Gavin, and he has explained the authorities need to have a point person for Somerset. Member Hammond added that Mr. Gavin would like to have someone to speak to directly for all the campuses. Member Hammond further added that he spoke with Mr. Gavin about what this position should look like for someone that only has maybe six campuses for which they would be responsible. Member Hammond stated that Mr. Gavin has some good ideas and that he would like to sit down with Mr. Gavin to discuss these ideas. Member Hammond noted that he wasn't able to access the job description sent out.

Member Hammond stated that the first question is does Somerset need this position, to which Scott stated that he thinks they do. Member Hammond added that they might not need a Superintendent, but someone more of a point person to work with outside entities. Member Hammond added that the Board really needs to make sure they know what these duties and responsibilities are before having a search committee look for someone.

Member Hammond added that Mr. Gavin has a lot of ideas and has worked with Boards in the past and has some good thoughts on how to proceed. Member Hammond noted that anyone else on the Board that would like to meet with Mr. Gavin could take these discussions over.

Member Hammond agreed that the first job, after the majority of the Board agrees to the hiring for this position, is to define what this persons responsibilities will be. Member Noble referenced the job description provided and added that he is happy to have Member Hammond, or anyone else that would like to, take this to Mr. Gavin and discuss it, to help with what this person would be responsible for.

Member Harty stated that it sounds like Member Hammond is proposing that the Board does not have to create a position now, but rather talk to some other individuals to determine what this position will look like. Member Harty asked Member Noble is he is ok with moving this down the road. Member Noble stated that the thinks the Board needs to decide if the position is needed and then later decide this persons responsibilities. Member Noble stated that most of the Board agrees that there needs to be someone at least to work with the Charter Authority and Academica, as well as someone to help better define and implement Somerset's mission statement. Member Noble stated that he thinks a decision needs to be made to keep the ball rolling and Member Malone agreed. Member Hammond agreed and stated that the Board should vote whether to create this point person position and then table the discussion as far as the person's duties and responsibilities. Member Hammond added that someone could take the job description drafted and talk with Mr. Gavin about what those duties should entail and then come back and have the Board vote on that job description. Member Hammond asked if they want to wait to form a search committee or do that now.

Member Noble stated that one of his concerns is timing and what the plan is for having this person in place and functioning in time for the beginning of the 2015/2016 school year and how long this whole process will take. Member Noble stated that he is ok with forming the search committee now and noted that they cannot really do much without a job description. Member Noble stated that he does not want to wait too long and then be into a new school year, he wants to do whatever needs to be done to keep this moving. Member Hammond added that Mr. Gavin is good with knowing that Somerset is moving in this direction and also noted that Mr. Gavin understands that it is important to know what you are looking for and what fits into the system. Member Hammond added that he does not want to move too fast. Member Elison stated that the job description provided looks like a pretty good place to start the search.

Mr. Reeves suggested that if the Board knows they want the position and to form a search committee, but is not sure about the job description yet, maybe that could be one of the first tasks of the committee, to report back to the Board on what the job description should be and then complete the search. Member Noble asked the Board if they are all prepared to decide on whether to create this position now and the Board agreed.

Member Hammond Motioned to establish a person that would be the point person to interface with everyone, on behalf of the Somerset School and Board.

Discussion was had regarding the language of the Motion (the lack of use of the title Executive Director) and Member Harty asked how the Board feels about having this position going to one of the sitting Principals, as a Lead Principal, or does this position need to be independent of being a Principal. Member Elison stated that based on the feedback at the last Board meeting, they do not want to go down that road. Member Noble agreed and stated that he does not know if they want to burden one Principal with that responsibility. Member Harty stated that he has no problem using the term Executive Director, if it benefits the Principals. Member Noble stated that the title can change and Member Hammond stated that he is ok with that.

Member Harty Motioned to create a leadership position with the roles and responsibilities to be determined at a later date. Member Hammond seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Member Noble stated that now is the time to determine how the roles and responsibilities will be determined. Member Malone asked for clarification that this person can or cannot be a Principal. Member Noble stated that this person cannot hold both positions, but that a Principal could fill the position.

Member Noble stated that he thinks the proposed job description is a place to start and asked the Board how to proceed. Member Harty and Member Elison stated that they think a committee should be formed to put together a job description. Member Harty asked Mr. Reeves that if the Board cannot participate in interviews for Board members, can the Board participate in the search committee without having to follow Open Meeting Laws. Mr. Reeves stated that the Open Meeting Law would apply. Member Harty sought to confirm that if any members of the Board wanted to be involved in any way up until the point that it is presented to the Board, Open Meeting Laws would apply. Mr. Reeves stated that any meetings would be publically noticed, although there is not typically a big crowd in attendance. Mr. Reeves referred to doing a conference call and added that there are ways to do it. Mr. Reeves further added that having an independent group that brings three finalists to the Board with a scoring rubric tends to make for a more comfortable experience for all involved, specifically, on the applicants side. Member Noble stated that they are not looking for an applicant yet and asked if putting together a job description is something that is subject to Open Meeting Laws. Member Noble asked if anything the Board does, no matter what it is, if it is one individual, if it is subject to Open Meeting Laws. Mr. Reeves stated that if one Board member had a discussion with someone or visited campuses, that is ok; however, if a Board is part of a committee that is going to make a

recommendation to the Board, that the Board is expected to adopt and apply, this requires an open meeting to ensure that Boards are not conducting everything through sub-committees.

Member Noble asked if it would be okay for Member Hammond to talk to someone independently and then come to a meeting to discuss with the Board. Mr. Reeves stated yes, because the discussion would be at a meeting, which would take place pursuant to Open Meeting Laws. Discussion was had on how to go about putting the job description together. Member Noble asked if the job description could be approved by the Board in a conference call.

Principal Mayfield suggested that there be an Ad Hoc Committee put together to create a job description, to include the Principals' voices, as this person is going to have something to say about how their schools are run. Principal Mayfield noted that this would allow for more voices to be included, keeping the charter in mind, as well as the Principals and why they have joined Somerset.

Principal Mayfield stated that they have all worked for CCSD and have their own experiences and are wondering what is to follow. Principal Mayfield stated that if the Principals are part of putting the job description together, they would all feel more comfortable with the situation.

Mr. Howell stated that all the bullet points say the same thing, "coordinate, facilitate" and that this position is not meant to be heavy handed, but rather to coordinate with all the Principals. Mr. Reeves noted that this position exists within the Somerset system, not as within CCSD, and added that Somerset in Florida has this same type of structure. Mr. Reeves stated that this should be celebrated, arriving at a very similar system as Florida, with the growth Somerset Las Vegas has seen, which is why the Director of the Charter Authority is suggesting that this position be created.

Member Harty stated that he would be in favor of creating a sub-committee comprised of the Principals to come up with a job description to be presented at the next Board meeting, as well as allowing Board members to do their own research as well. Member Noble stated that he would welcome input from the Principals and stated that the job description provided is a good starting point. Member Noble stated that they want this to be as positive as it has always been.

Member Malone stated that she likes the idea of a point person, not another boss for anyone. Member Malone asked the Principals their thoughts on the presented job description and if it seems fair or if it is taking too many responsibilities from the Principals. Principal Kelley stated that she has concerns with some of the responsibilities and some she would like to look at deeper to find out what is really meant. Principal Kelley stated that she thinks they all agree that having a point person to deal with some of the reporting requirements would be a tremendous help, however, having a "boss" is not something they want to have. Principal Kelley stated that if they have some input and say as to what those job responsibilities are, would be worth entertaining.

Member Malone asked if the Board is only looking for a point person, not an Executive Director, would it be possible to have a Lead Principal position, which takes on some additional responsibility. Mr. Howell stated that Somerset is a system of four thousand five hundred kids, soon to be more and the State is concerned and wants someone they can talk to, coordinate with the Principals, a point person. Mr. Howell noted that the amount of power given to that person is certainly up to the Board and the Principals; however, Somerset needs a full-time independent person. Mr. Howell further noted that while the Principals do a great job, sometimes they go in different directions and need someone to coordinate uniformity in certain areas. Mr. Reeves added that there are only eighteen items on the proposed job description and none are written in stone. Mr. Reeves suggested going through and discussing each of them. Discussion was had regarding when the support materials were sent out. Member Noble listed item number one of the job description.

Member Noble noted that he is not as familiar with the educational side of the duties. Member Hammond stated that there is so much educational jargon that he would like cut out to be as straight forward as possible.

Principal Kelley asked what it means to “engage Principals”, as they are already engaged with one another in collaborative meetings and asked what role that person would play, that is not already being done. Principal Mayfield noted other items and asked how they are to achieve these items. Member Malone asked if they are all in agreement to make the job description simpler. Principal Kelley stated that the proposed job description is in danger of being nitpicked at every point. Member Noble noted that going through each point on the job description is not going to work.

Principal Phillips stated that there are two words he sees a lot, facilitate and liaison, and that this is what is being looked for in regards to many areas. Principal Phillips agreed with Mr. Howell on having one voice from the school to the State and vice a versa. Principal Phillips stated that, right now, they have great people like Principal Jefferson that are jumping in to complete reports, etc. Principal Phillips stated that he sees the need for the position, but as a facilitator and liaison, not another supervisor.

Member Harty asked Principal Phillips if he would be ok signing off on the job description provided. Principal Phillips stated that it is pretty generic in scope and would be comfortable with it; however, he would like to look at a couple things which need a little more specificity to them. Discussion was had regarding some areas that might need to be more specific.

Member Noble asked how they can get one response from all the Principals. Member Harty stated having a sub-committee of Principals and Member Noble stated that they do not need to be a sub-committee, the Principals can meet. Member Noble asked if they can meet and provide the Board with one response to the proposed job description. Member Malone noted that they would also have Member Hammond’s input from the meeting with Mr. Gavin. Member Noble stated that they get the Principals input and what Member Hammond gathers and that is what is moved on.

Principal Phillips stated that the Principals will be meeting the following week and they will work on the job description then. Member Noble stated that the last thing the Board wants to do is alienate the Principals and noted that the Board recognizes that the Principals are extremely valuable to Somerset and make the whole system run. Member Noble stated that ultimately, when this is all done, this person will be a great aid and help to all the Principals.

Principal Phillips stated that in the last week, his thoughts have changed regarding this position because he has realized that a lot of information is requested and could be done faster by a facilitator because the Principals are busy with so many other things going on all day. Member Noble reiterated that this is what the Board is hoping to accomplish, having someone to help the Principals so they can focus on doing what they do in the schools every day.

Member Noble noted that the Principals will meet and put together one response to the provided job description and Member Hammond will talk with whomever he needs to. Member Noble asked for this information the following week and the Board will look at them and then decide where to go from there.

Member Harty asked if the Board wants to create a search committee now so that when the job description is finalized, the search committee will be in place to begin looking for candidates. Member Noble stated that Board action will need to be taken to approve the job description. Member Noble suggested having a telephonic Board meeting to discuss what Member Hammond finds out and what the Principals come up with and make a final decision to keep moving on.

Member Noble stated that he is ok setting up the search committee now so that once the job description is in place, the committee can move forward. Discussion was had regarding the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Member Noble stated that once the job description is finished, the first people the Board would look at to fill this position would be from within the system and, assuming that person is already fulfilling a job, there would be a lot to put in place before the beginning of the new school year, so the process needs to keep moving. Member Harty asked Member Noble if he is in favor of creating the committee now and Member Noble stated that he would be in favor of creating the committee now; however, they would not do anything until the job description is approved.

Member Harty asked if Member Noble wants the committee to have Board members and comply with Open Meeting Laws. Member Elison noted that it will not get done fast that way. Member Noble added that he does not want the Board to have to choose between any potential Principals that might apply for this position. Member Harty asked who should be on the search committee if not anyone from the Board. Member Noble referenced the recommendations made by Academica for potential search committee members.

Mr. Reeves noted that Bridget Phillips may have been a direct supervisor of one or more of the Principals previously. Member Noble asked who had worked under Bridget Phillips previously and Principal Jefferson stated that she had; however, in a different system, not Somerset and that this was about twelve or thirteen years ago. Mr. Reeves asked if any of the Principals had worked under Carrie Buck and Principal Barlow stated that he had worked with her; however, not under her. Principal Barlow explained the context in which he worked with Carrie Buck. Member Harty asked if it is a concern if someone has worked with Bridget Phillips or Carrie Buck. Mr. Reeves stated it is not and further stated that he wanted this disclosed to the Board and leave it up to the Board if this is an issue.

Member Noble asked Principal Barlow and Principal Jefferson if either of them have an issue with either Bridget Phillips or Carrie Buck being on the search committee. Member Malone added that it might not be an issue for the Somerset Principals; however, it might be for someone outside of the system that may have worked under these two individuals previously. Member Noble asked if Academica is recommending three people to be appointed to the search committee and Mr. Reeves stated that he suggest an odd number, three or five, whichever the Board would like to see.

Member Noble asked if Mr. Reeves has any other recommendations for members of the search committee and asked if any of the individuals recommended want to serve on the committee. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica has reached out to some of those individuals recommended, but not all of them. Mr. Howell added that those recommended know the Principals and would be fair and hopes that the Principals feel the same. Mr. Reeves added that the suggested committee members, along with the proposed job description, were meant to be discussed and the information provided was only meant as a starting point. Member Harty recommended including at least one parent to be part of the search committee.

Member Hammond asked if the Principals have any thoughts on who should be on the search committee. Member Barlow asked what campus that parent would be from. Principal Mayfield stated that those selected need to have a good understanding of charter schools. Principal Mayfield noted that some people on the list of proposed search committee members have been with charter schools longer than others. Member Noble asked Principal Mayfield if she was thinking of anyone else outside of those listed and Principal Mayfield said no, she was just using those on the list as an example.

Member Malone stated that she is comfortable with those listed. Member Elison stated that he thinks it should be kept to three to keep it simple to get it done faster. Member Malone stated that she agrees with

having a parent on the committee. Discussion was had regarding who should be on the committee and who will make the final decision on who is hired for the position.

Member Alison Motioned to create a committee to search for an Executive Director and that this committee be made up of three of the five individuals listed as potential members. Member Malone seconded the Motion.

Discussion was had as to whether Bridget should be or not be on the committee. Principal Barlow stated that regardless of who is on the committee, so long as the search committee has to come to a consensus the process will be fair, regardless of their potential background with a candidate.

Member Harty stated that he is not in favor of that Motion because he is concerned that the list is not long enough to represent the whole Somerset community and wants to see some type of parent involvement. Member Malone asked Member Harty if he has a recommendation as to how to involve a parent outside of Somerset, maybe from a different charter school. Member Harty stated that he would like it to be a Somerset parent, acknowledging that there might be some bias.

Mr. Reeves asked what if the Motion stated that two parents be added to the committee after all applications were received, allowing for those parents to be from a campus that the Principal did not apply for the Executive Director position. Mr. Reeves noted that if all the Principals apply, that would be a moot point. Member Harty agreed to that and asked if they will be appointing five individuals to the committee, three from the proposed list and two parents, from a campus where their administrator did not apply.

Discussion was had as to how to search for the parents and Mr. Reeves suggested a lottery, noting that all interested parents would submit their name by a certain date and then they are picked at random. Member Noble asked if an email would go out advising that a committee is being formed and to send an email if interested in serving.

Member Malone stated that her concern is that parents are not really being affected by this and that the Principals are being affected more. Member Harty stated that he does not agree. Member Malone stated that the parents will still go to the Principals and will not be in contact with the Executive Director. Member Harty stated that he feels there are a lot of active parents in Somerset that would object to any idea that they will not be affected by the creation of this position.

Member Reeves noted that when parents have issues with their Administration, they often call Academica and that these calls will probably go to the Executive Director instead, to help facilitate a resolution. Member Noble noted that the recent hiring of a new Principal had no parent involvement. Member Harty stated that he has had parents approach him about that situation and that they second guess any decision the Board makes, one way or another. Member Harty added that he just wants to make sure that because this is a big decision for the Board to make, that the Board can say they involved the parents in the decision making process.

Member Noble restated the previous Motion to create the committee of three members that include three of the five that were recommended (Ruth Jacoby, Bernie Montero, Carrie Buck, Bridget Phillips, and Becca Fitzgerald). Member Harty stated that he feels the Executive Director will represent the Board in being a check in the system. Member Harty added that being a service provider, Academica needs to have an Executive Director that is making sure the relationship, fees, and all services provided are being done correctly. Member Harty further added that Academica put together the list, suggesting that these people are holding to the Boards interest and would like to see someone else placed on the list that is not selected by Academica. Mr. Reeves stated that he understands that and noted that most of those listed are not Academica employees.

Member Hammond stated that he does not mind having Principals from other Academics managed schools on the committee; however, he also thinks that there should be some representation from parents within the Somerset system. Member Hammond stated he would not mind having Carrie Buck, Bridget Phillips, along with a Somerset parent.

Member Elison withdrew his previous Motion.

Member Hammond Motioned to create a three person committee consisting of Carrie Buck, Bridget Phillips, and a parent from Somerset. Member Harty seconded the Motion. With the majority of the Board in favor of the Motion, the Motion passed.

Mr. Reeves sought to confirm that the committee will be made up of three persons, consisting of a parent chosen by lottery from a campus that their Administrator does not apply. Member Harty said no, that any parent can serve on the committee. Member Elison noted that this is just a search committee and that the Board will make the final decision. Mr. Reeves re-sought to confirm that the committee will be made up of one parent, chosen by lottery, Carrie Buck, and Bridget Phillips. The Board confirmed.

8. Update on Enrollment

Kristie Fleisher addressed that Board and noted that enrollment is underway, that the lottery was run on January 26, 2015, and all is going very well with an amazing turn out for each campus. Ms. Fleisher reported that the Lone Mountain campus has six hundred and seventy students registered. Ms. Fleisher added that the first round of declining students who have not responded will be taking place the following day and that those next on the waiting list will be accepted. Ms. Fleisher stated that there are still a lot of siblings to be seated across the campuses and they will continue to seat those siblings with priority seating as additional spots become available.

Ms. Fleisher reported the following sibling numbers that are currently waiting to be sat:

Stephanie = 45 siblings
Lone Mountain = 73 siblings
Losee = 122 siblings
North Las Vegas = 35 siblings
Sky Pointe = 191 siblings

Ms. Fleisher noted that she hopes to seat all the North Las Vegas siblings in the next round of enrollment. Member Elison sought to confirm that these are siblings waiting to be seated and Ms. Fleisher confirmed. Ms. Fleisher stated that there was such a high return rate at all of the campuses that there were no seats available. Ms. Fleisher provided specific examples at the campuses and noted that they will continue to seat through the summer so they can get as many siblings enrolled as possible.

Ms. Fleisher noted the following numbers for each campuses of the 8th graders that committed to return to Somerset the following year:

Sky Pointe = of the 148 8th graders currently enrolled, 136 will be returning for their 9th grade year
Losee = of the 83 8th graders currently enrolled, 81 will be returning for their 9th grade year
North Las Vegas – of the 81 8th graders currently enrolled, 25 will be going to Sky Pointe for their 9th grade year, 44 will be going to Losee for their 9th grade year and 12 left the Somerset system.

Ms. Fleisher noted the high return rates and added that a lot of people are choosing to stay in the Somerset system.

Member Noble asked if the high schools are full and Ms. Fleisher stated that they are, with a few acceptances out that need to respond and possibly only 9th grade at Sky Pointe will need new acceptances sent out.

Member Noble stated that this is credited to the Principals. Member Alison asked the difference between accepted and registered. Ms. Fleisher noted that accepted means that email notification has going out and they need to complete the registration process.

Discussion was had regarding kindergarten numbers and Ms. Fleisher stated that she will provide the Principals with the kindergarten numbers for each of their campuses.

Member Noble added that these numbers are very encouraging and noted the number of kids on the wait lists. Member Noble noted that this is all thanks to the great Principals.

9. Review and Approval of Proposal for Submission to Nellis Air Force Base for Potential K-8th Grade Campus.

Becca Fitzgerald addressed the Board and stated that the draft proposal has been provided and that the Board will need to approve the submission of the proposal. Ms. Fitzgerald went through the application and noted some specific information contained. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the lease included does not need to be executed until the Somerset bid has been chosen.

Mr. Ziev added that the bid request does ask for the lease to be signed, however, the lease is not something that is financeable or acceptable and as such, the Nellis officials said to include comments on the lease. Mr. Ziev stated that by approving the submission of the proposal, this is nonbinding and the Board is not locked in to anything.

Member Harty asked how many students will be served at this campus. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this will be a typical model of ten acres with nine hundred and sixty students for grades Kinder-8th grade. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that Nellis has asked for a campus with at least eight hundred students. Member Noble asked if this campus will mostly serve military children. Member Alison stated that this is what they are looking for. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that currently, statute does not account for priority seating for military students; however, Academia is in support of legislation to allow for priority seating at this campus. Member Alison sought to confirm that this is what Nellis wants. Ms. Fitzgerald confirmed and added that Nellis does recognize how the system works and that the issue is there. Member Alison asked if it is likely that the legislature will pass something like this and Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this is the hope.

Mr. Ziev provided some background adding that there is currently a school located on the base that is forty years old and falling down. Mr. Ziev further added that CCSD has informed Nellis that they do not have the funds to build a new campus and that this campus is not high on their list for repairs, should funds become available. This is the reason why the Air Force is looking to bring a charter school on site instead. Mr. Ziev added that the objective is to serve kids on the base and that the hope is that military families and civilians that work on the base would be able to have their children seated, as well as outside students as well. Mr. Ziev reiterated that legislation has been introduced that would allow for some type of priority seating for military families. Discussion was had regarding the type of priority that might be given. Member Malone asked if the current school would still be open and Mr. Ziev stated that it would not, as the Air Force's lease with CCSD will expire at the end of the school year. Mr. Ziev noted that there will not be any competition and added that a non-compete clause needs to be in the lease as well, to ensure that another school will not be opened (public or charter) on the base.

Member Noble noted his concern that the proposal does not look anything like the current model and that the students attending will not be a student that starts with Somerset in Kindergarten and remains in the system through 12th grade, this is a student that will only be at Somerset for a few years and then leave. Member Noble asked if this is what the Board wants and does this fit into the Somerset mission. Member Noble added that he does not have the answer to these questions; however, this is not consistent with what has been done at other campuses.

Ms. Fitzgerald explained how the proposal will fit the needs of the students on Nellis and added that the data driven instruction model is very solid and the needs of transitioning students will be assessed at the time of enrollment, as they will be assessed at that time.

Member Elison asked if the decision will be made based on this submittal or if this submittal is just to gain information about Somerset. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this proposal is in response to the official Request for Proposal and believes they will be making their selection based on this submittal. Ms. Fitzgerald added that they could ask for additional information or an interview, if they want to.

Member Noble asked if Academica is recommending that the Board agree to open this school. Mr. Reeves stated that, while recognizing the Board's concern, yes Academica is recommending this campus be opened as these are the kids of our military and they deserve a good education for the time they are here. Mr. Howell added that Somerset is already seeing some of these kids in the Somerset system at the North Las Vegas, Sky Pointe, and Losee campuses and these needs are already being addressed.

Member Malone asked if opening this campus will affect the Losee campus or if there is enough of a wait list to make up for kids that might leave to the base campus. Member Noble asked how many kids are at the school currently located on the base. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that there are about five hundred and sixty students at that school.

Principal Barlow noted an email he received from a military family that had their students in Somerset before they moved to Texas, and added the family's gratitude for preparing their students and praised the school staff. Principal Barlow noted that the efforts put in by Principal Jefferson and her staff at the elementary level and his staff at the middle school level made such a difference.

Ms. Fitzgerald added that if Somerset's bid is chosen, Academica will work with Nellis' Education Representative to make sure that those transitions are handling the needs of the students.

Member Noble asked what the thoughts are with regard to the terms of the lease and is this going to be similar to a standard commercial lease that has escalators with no limits. Mr. Howell stated that there would be a long enough ground lease that over a period of years, Somerset could do a bond issue, as what is looking to be done at Sky Pointe and North Las Vegas. Mr. Howell added that the lease would have escalators to deal with but that doing a bond issuance would take care of that. Mr. Ziev stated that the annual lease amount for the ten acres is \$26,000.00.

Member Noble asked if the land is on the base and Mr. Ziev confirmed. Member Noble asked if Somerset can own land on the base and Mr. Ziev stated that Somerset would not own the land and that the bond would be issued subject to the ground lease. Mr. Ziev spoke regarding the lease payment and added that there is a yearly escalator; however, there is a provision that would allow Somerset to do things "in kind" which would be allowing other groups to use portions of the school in the evening, etc., reducing the monthly lease payment. Mr. Ziev stated that in the end, after the in kind use, the ground lease payments would be \$0.00. Mr. Ziev spoke regarding the construction costs.

The Board members noted that they are in favor of the campus. Member Elison added that he went to some of the preliminary meetings regarding this campus and noted that Nellis really wants good education for their students. Member Elison further added that with the in kind use agreement, the lease could essentially be \$0.00, and this is how Nellis wants to see this work.

It was noted by Member Harty that Member Brady had left the telephone call; however, there is still a Board quorum and the meeting will continue.

Member Harty Motioned to approve the submittal of the proposal, understanding that there are still ways to opt out, if the request for proposal does not go the way the Board wants. Member Elison seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

12. Discussion and Approval of the Purchase of Additional Computers for SBAC Testing.

Allison Salmon addressed the Board and referenced the support materials provided. Ms. Salmon stated that at the last meeting, information regarding the need for additional computers for SBAC testing was presented. Ms. Salmon further stated that, per the Board's request, additional information was gathered showing what the actual needs are to allow for an entire grade level to be tested at the same time, without taking over the existing technology classes that are used regularly for elective classes.

Ms. Salmon spoke regarding the numbers show in the support materials and advised that there are two different scenarios included.

Ms. Salmon stated that at the Losee campus, thirty computers were purchased by PTO funds. Ms. Salmon further stated that at the Losee middle and high school, as well as the North Las Vegas campus, there was one lab worth of computers donated, from outside entities. Ms. Salmon added that all other computers, outside of those noted, were purchased by Somerset's general operating fund or through Zion furniture, fixtures, and equipment leases.

Ms. Salmon stated that scenario one is that all the computers needed will be purchased from the operating fund and scenario two is to ask each of the schools to purchase thirty computers out of their PTO funds. Ms. Salmon explained that Losee was not included in scenario two because their PTO has already made this purchase.

Ms. Salmon stated that she has obtained some bids and noted that the \$420.00 per computer is the lowest price they have been able to find, with the requirements needed for the SBAC testing. Ms. Salmon noted that Intellatek has agreed drop their set up fee by 25% per device. Ms. Salmon stated that this information is being brought to the Board for approval so that the devices can be set up and tested prior to the start of the SBAC testing.

Member Noble noted that he was not present for the previous discussion. Member Harty stated that two things need to be decided, 1) whether to approve the purchase, which at the last meeting there was a consensus that the computers are needed. Member Harty stated that he thinks the computers are needed. Member Noble asked if this was decided at the previous meeting and Member Harty stated that no Board action was taken.

Member Harty stated that 1), the Board needs to take action on whether or not to purchase the computers and 2), how to fund the purchases. Member Harty noted that his concern is how to fund the purchase without discouraging the campuses that have already taken action to help fund this by taking care of the complete costs for those that have not sought ways to help with that funding, and how to find an equitable way of funding the purchases.

Ms. Salmon noted that another scenario mentioned would be testing on a less expensive device, like a Chromebook, that costs about \$250.00 per unit. Ms. Salmon added that while the Chromebook can support the SBAC testing, it cannot support any of the other software used throughout the year for curriculum and instruction. Ms. Salmon further added that this option would be a waste of money because the devices could only be used for testing and then sit the rest of the year. Ms. Salmon noted that the devices priced out can be used for other things throughout the year, allowing for more technology the entire school year.

Ms. Salmon added that another option would be for those campuses where the PTO does not have the funding right now to purchase thirty computers, the devices would be bought out of the operating funds and then reimbursed by the PTO later.

Member Noble asked if it is really for the Board to spend PTO funds and whether they even have that authority. Member Malone stated that the big discussion at the previous meeting was that some of the campuses have already had computers bought by the PTO. Mr. Reeves stated that this Board cannot impose what the PTO Board will approve. Member Harty said what the Board could do is say that the Board will approve the use of general funds to purchase all but one cart's worth of computers and if the campuses would like the extra cart, they would need to be funded by the PTO and the choice is left up to the PTO. Mr. Reeves agreed and added that the campus could shut down one of the computer labs for testing, if necessary.

Principal Barlow spoke regarding the elective interest that he could accommodate with this purchase. Member Noble asked Principal Barlow if these laptops are sufficient for those electives and Principal Barlow confirmed that they are. Principal Barlow added that if these extra computers are purchased, they will not only be able to be used for testing, but also for the implementation of other curriculum throughout the year and that the computers will be very well used. Principal Barlow noted additional classes that can be offered at the high school level with the additional technology on site. Member Noble asked Principal Barlow if the proposed number of additional computers is enough and Principal Barlow confirmed.

Member Malone asked the Principals if it would be possible for their PTO's to purchase a cart of computers, noting that only one campus as done this already. Principal Barlow stated that he could not do this, because he does not have a PTO at the middle / high school. Ms. Salmon added that the cost noted includes the cost of the computers, the cart, headphones, and set-up. Member Harty asked what the cost of one cart is and Ms. Salmon explained the cost breakdown. Discussion was had regarding the full cost per campus. Principal Barlow spoke regarding efforts made to assemble additional computer labs in the middle / high school classrooms. Discussion was had regarding the relocation of some computers at the Sky Pointe high school in order to create a third computer lab.

Member Harty stated that he is concerned that this seems to be a very large item that was not on anyone's radar when the budget was created. Member Harty stated that he is concerned about the Board being asked to approve this expense and noted all the benefits that will come with the purchase. Member Harty added that he wants to see if there is any way to mitigate this expense, acknowledging that there is room in the budget and that this is for the betterment of the students. Member Harty stated that he thinks the Board should approve something of the two scenarios, noting that he thinks the Board should approve everything but one cart at each campus, asking the school to pitch in somehow, then the burden is on the school as well.

Discussion was had regarding the surplus for the school. Member Noble stated that he does not think the Board has the authority to spend the PTO's money. Member Noble stated that only one of the campuses has bought a cart. Member Harty stated that this was a need recognized some time back and some of the campuses were anticipating that need and did something about it. Discussion was had as to what the campuses have done to prepare for the upcoming testing. Principal Barlow noted that there are not PTO funds in every school to cover the cost.

Member Noble stated that he thinks the money should be returned to the PTO that purchased the computers and that the Board approve the purchase of all the computers. Member Malone agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Reeves stated that this scenario would increase the higher number by about \$24,000.00. Member Noble stated that he does not want to tell the PTO that purchased the computers no thanks and while it is great that the PTO recognized the need, the Board cannot dictate to the other PTO's that they have to raise the money for this.

Ms. Salmon stated that the computers could be ordered the next day, once the Board approves the purchase. Ms. Salmon noted that this order would be about six hundred computers and that it will take some time to get them all setup, imaged, and all testing by the IT department to make sure everything is working properly.

Member Harty added that he has spoken with Mr. Segrera about this and added that there is about \$900,000.00 that is permanent savings in the budget. Member Harty noted that he is not suggesting that all the surplus be spent as there will be other things to be paid at the end of the year. Mr. Reeves added that Somerset is currently running a surplus of 12%, putting the surplus numbers over by about 4%. Member Harty asked what the dollar amount of the surplus is. Mr. Reeves stated that it is not expected that Somerset will run a deficit in the months to come, rather a smaller surplus, depending on the timing of some payments. Mr. Reeves added that the \$1.2 million seen will probably grow over the next few months.

Principal Jefferson asked if the Intellatek setup fee is outside of what they are already doing on a daily bases. Mr. Reeves confirmed and noted that, as included in the contract, a fee exists for the setup of new computers. Mr. Reeves added that Intellatek will work weekends to get all the new computers setup and ready to use. Mr. Reeves reiterated that Intellatek did reduce their contracted setup fee by 25%, as well as sought the best price for the purchase of the computers.

Member Harty stated that this is another potential conflict where Academica is advising the Board on things that they have an interest in. Mr. Reeves added that this is another example of a deal that Somerset would never get otherwise. Member Harty stated that he just wanted to disclose this. Mr. Reeves noted that these services are for a preexisting contract that the Board entered into, based on other bids received, noting the contracted price for new computer setup.

Member Noble asked if the Principals have looked at the number of computers needed for each of their campuses and if they agree with the numbers provided. The Principals stated that these numbers are accurate.

Member Noble Motioned to approve the purchase of the computers and care as present, that money be included to return the cost of the care purchased by the PTO at the Losee campus and that the computers be ordered ASAP. Member Malone seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

The Principals thanked the Board.

13. Principal Report and Discussion on Progress Towards Goals Report.

Principal Barlow spoke regarding the professional development being advertised to new teachers as they begin recruiting for next school year. Principal Barlow noted some specific professional development areas that the middle / high school teachers are working on and how the data tracking done by Principal Jefferson is playing a part in that professional development.

Principal Jefferson showed the Board an example of the type of data being placed on the data wall. Principal Jefferson noted that Somerset is being evaluated on growth, as well as academics, and that the

growth itself was not being looked at in the past. Principal Jefferson stated that this year she wanted to use the data walls to document the growth as well as achievement. Principal Jefferson explained the information found on the data boards, noting how the data was collected and measured and how the growth is measured for every student. Principal Jefferson provided additional information regarding the data collected and added to the data wall and how this information will be used to determine professional development focus areas in the future. Discussion was had regarding the data presented on the data board.

Principal Barlow spoke regarding the middle / high school data collection and added that they have been looking at ways to gather the data in the upper grades. Principal Barlow added that five teachers will be trained on how to go into the classrooms and view instruction and then come back and debrief on it, using the reflective practice.

Principal Barlow spoke regarding trainings he has teachers attending in the coming weeks. Principal Barlow presented a framed copy of the high school chenille to Academica to hang in their office.

Principal Jefferson spoke regarding some community outreach events that have taken place, including one by a gentleman from Homeland Security that put on some sessions with the elementary students and parents on internet security. Principal Jefferson added that they will be offering another session and wanted to open it up to any other Somerset families that would like to attend. Principal Jefferson added that she will also provide the name of the individual that put on the session, for those that would like to have him come to their campus.

Principal Jefferson spoke regarding the Daddy-Daughter Dance they are holding, in which Metro Police Department is bringing twenty-two officers to the dance for those girls whose dads cannot attend. The Board thought this was great.

Principal Barlow noted a training that will be taking place for the staff and added that this training will be on customer service and invited anyone from the other campuses that would like to attend to join in as well.

Principal Kelley spoke regarding her elementary data wall and noted some of the growth results. Principal Kelley noted that they have been working on some SBAC preparation with the teachers. Principal Kelley spoke regarding upcoming events and sports tryouts taking place. Principal Kelley noted the staff transfer window coming up. Principal Kelley advised that they have a new mural in both lunch rooms.

Principal Phillips advised that Board that he will be able to offer enough classes on the secondary side to keep students into the high school years and added that their return rate for the 2015/2016 school year is great. Principal Phillips added that only one of his teachers is not returning next year and added that this is a retired teacher that only signed on for one year. Principal Phillips noted some conferences teachers will be attending. Principal Phillips regarding upcoming events and activities taking place. Principal Phillips stated that he is pleased with the results he is seeing from his students. Principal Phillips spoke regarding the great relationship between the Administration at the Losee campus.

Principal Farmer spoke regarding his data wall and noted that it is similar to Principal Jefferson's in that they are tracking the growth of the students. Principal Farmer noted upcoming grade level meeting he will be having with his teachers. Principal Farmer added information about upcoming events and added that it has been phenomenal having the gym and thanked everyone involved in making it happen.

Principal Farmer spoke regarding all the testing going on, specifically in the 8th grade. Principal Farmer acknowledged that nothing can be done; however, he just wanted everyone to be aware and noted that he hopes the 8th graders can perform well, given the volume of testing taking place. Discussion was had regarding

the testing and how schools were chosen to take certain tests. Mr. Reeves noted that the ACT Aspire test is mandated by the Charter Authority.

Principal Mayfield spoke regarding the testing and how Somerset is grouped as one school. Principal Mayfield further spoke regarding data received and noted that they are happy with the growth seen. Principal Mayfield noted the challenges with the upper grades and some of the bad grades being seen and how to deal with this issue. Principal Mayfield noted the resources available for those students that are struggling and how the Administration is dealing with this issue. Principal Mayfield added that the parental support has been great. Principal Mayfield spoke regarding the demographics seen at the North Las Vegas campus and the situations being dealt with.

Principal Mayfield noted a great deal of growth in Kinder-5th grade, but it has been a bit slower in the upper grades. Principal Mayfield added that the North Las Vegas campus is competing against new buildings and added that she is working hard to keep the building looking good so that the students and parents are proud to be there. Principal Mayfield noted some items that she might be coming to the Board seeking additional funds.

14. Review and Approval of Amendment to Academica Nevada's Contract with Somerset Academy of Las Vegas, to address Conflicts of Interest.

Corinne Wurm addressed the Board and noted that at a previous meeting, concern was raised regarding potential conflicts of interest between Academica and the subsidiary companies that Academica employee may hold an interest in. Ms. Wurm added that originally, it was thought to amend the Somerset bylaws to account for potential conflict; however, after more thought and because Academica is not held to the Board's bylaws, these provisions are really better added to the service contract between Academica and the Somerset Board. Ms. Wurm noted the addendum provided and explained the changes made, in areas that a potential conflict may exist.

Member Harty stated that the addendum appears to meet the Board's needs and added that he does not know if this exhausts all potential conflicts, but it is adequate for the concerns previously expressed.

Member Alison stated that this covers bid situations and asked if there will be situations where there are no bids. Discussion was had regarding these types of instances and it was noted that even in areas where Academica employees have an interest in the company providing services, a contract is still approved by the Board, after the bidding process takes place. Mr. Reeves noted the termination clause within the contracts, allowing the Board to terminate services. Mr. Reeves further added that ongoing contracts can be reevaluated every so many years. Ms. Wurm stated that the Board could request a bid at any time.

Member Harty stated that the addendum addressed the major concerns he had and added that other concerns could pop up over time.

Member Harty Motioned to approve the amendment as presented. Member Alison seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved.

15. Review and Approval of Revised Agreement with School Support Staff.

Mr. Reeves spoke regarding the change in status of some school employees. Mr. Reeves stated that the Board entered into a contract with School Support Staff (SSS) to provide certain services. Mr. Reeves noted that charter schools are allowed to contract with a staffing company to provide 30% of its licensed staff (with no limit on unlicensed staff). Mr. Reeves stated that it proved to be financially advantageous for the schools to do that and has saved a lot of money over the years.

Mr. Reeves stated that new health care laws require health insurance be offered by companies that employ over a certain number of individuals. Mr. Reeves added that SSS, a company he is part owner of, sent out requests for health insurance bids and has gathered the financial info to determine if it still makes financial sense to run a benefits plan through SSS, while still saving money on the school level, or if it made more sense to run the benefits plans directly through the school. Mr. Reeves stated that after compiling all the figures, SSS could no longer provide a savings to the schools. As such, SSS provided notice to the Principals advising that SSS would no longer provide employment services for hourly and office staff.

Mr. Reeves stated that SSS will still exist and will provide contracted staff to Somerset, including some Administrators, which have retired from the PERS system and do not want to work directly for the school because their PERS benefits and pay would be suspended. Mr. Reeves added that all other employees outside of that will now be employed directly by the school.

Mr. Reeves stated that the full financial impact is not yet known, because it is unknown as to how many employees will take benefits. Mr. Reeves added that once the financial analysis is done, the numbers will be looked at to adjust budgets, etc. as needed for the following year. Mr. Reeves explained the costs that could be seen, noting that fees will no longer be paid to SSS, other than for those retired staff still contracted through SSS.

Mr. Reeves stated that no action is needed, this is just an update on the changes.

16. Update from Education & Curriculum Committee and Possible Action Regarding the Foreign Language Verbiage Used in the Charter.

Member Malone noted that Member Hammond was to report on this item and asked anyone else that is part of the committee if they would like to present, as Member Hammond left the meeting. No one else was prepared to report, as such, this item was tabled.

17. Public Comments and Discussion.

Melanie Smith, a 5th grade teacher and parent at the Sky Pointe campus addressed the Board. Ms. Smith spoke regarding her credentials and experience. Ms. Smith further spoke regarding her becoming aware of a charter school opening in the valley and after seeking further information, she was dually impressed after an interview with Principal Jefferson. Ms. Smith spoke regarding her employment with Somerset and noted how proud she is to work here and the great things she hears from others about Somerset. Ms. Smith added that she loves working with the Administration and faculty and is 100% invested in the long term success of Somerset and its students.

Ms. Smith expressed concern over the rapid growth of Somerset. Ms. Smith stated that she realizes the long wait lists and understand that if Somerset will build it, students will come; however, she fears that the growth will come at the cost of the quality of the program. Ms. Smith further stated that her opinion, and that of many other teachers she works with, is that Somerset needs to stop building schools so quickly and stop and reflect on what has already been built. Ms. Smith added that she would like the Board to consider a one year hiatus on building new schools to give time to be reflective and proactive in what is already built in the valley. Ms. Smith noted that Somerset needs time to fulfill phase build outs already promised to parents that have been put on hold for new buildings. Ms. Smith stated that Somerset needs time to refine the vision and consistency between campuses. Ms. Smith added that having an Education and Curriculum Committee is a step in the right direction and stated that she has had several new students this year that came from other Somerset campuses and it is apparent there are huge differences between programs offered at each campus, which builds confusion between parents, students, and teachers.

Ms. Smith stated that over the years, she has seen time given at Board meetings to new buildings and thinks it is time to address issues like offering benefits to teachers' aids, curriculum issues, what is and what is not working, and how to improve, build salary consistency, improve student performance, improve help for teachers' needs, and consistency between campuses. Ms. Smith added that there are a lot of issues to address but never enough time because the attention is always averted to continued growth.

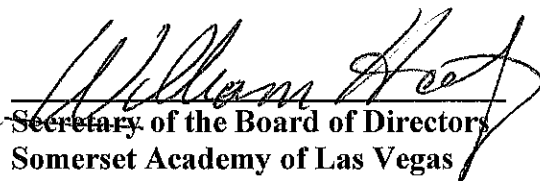
Ms. Smith stated that she is not opposed to growth, to educate all students in the valley, but she is opposed to growth that happens to rapidly. Ms. Smith added that Somerset needs to take care of current issues before growing and adding to those issues. Ms. Smith stated that a one year hiatus is not too much to ask to increase the success of the schools and added that the students will come, even if it is one year later.

The Board thanked Ms. Smith.

18. Adjournment.

Member Elison Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Member Harty seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved. The Meeting was adjourned.

Approved on: April 13, 2015

Vice Chair 
Secretary of the Board of Directors
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas