

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of the
Board of Directors of
SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas, a public charter school, will conduct a public meeting on November 3, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 50 North Stephanie Street, Henderson, Nevada 89074. The public is invited to attend.

Attached hereto is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Unless otherwise stated, the Board Chairperson may 1) take agenda items out of order; 2) combine two or more items for consideration; or 3) remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion related to an item.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend or participate at the meeting. Any persons requiring assistance may contact Jennifer Alison at (702) 431-6260 or jennifer.elison@academicnv.com two business days in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the Chairperson.

AGENDA

November 3, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

(Action may be taken on those items denoted “For Possible Action”)

1. Call to order and roll call. (For Possible Action).
2. Public Comment and Discussion. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.).
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2016 and October 6, 2016 Board Meetings. (For Possible Action.)
4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Future Growth of the Stephanie Campus. (For Possible Action.)
5. Member Comment. (Information/Discussion.)
6. Public Comments and Discussion. (Discussion.)
7. Adjournment. (For Possible Action.)

This notice and agenda has been posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations:

- (1) 385 W. Centennial Parkway, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89084
- (2) 7038 Sky Pointe Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89131
- (3) 50 N. Stephanie St., Henderson, Nevada 89074
- (4) 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89081
- (5) North Las Vegas City Hall, 2250 Las Vegas Blvd. North, North Las Vegas, Nevada.
- (6) Henderson City Hall, 240 South Water Street, Henderson, Nevada.
- (7) Las Vegas City Hall, 495 S. Main St., Las Vegas, Nevada.
- (8) Academica Nevada, 1378 Paseo Verde Parkway, Suite 200, Henderson, Nevada 89012

SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS

Supporting Document

Meeting Date: November 3, 2016
Agenda Item: 3 - Review and Approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2016 and October 6, 2016 Board Meetings.
Number of Enclosures: 1

SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2016 and October 6, 2016 Board Meetings

- Action
- Appointments
- Approval
- Consent Agenda
- Information
- Public Hearing
- Regular Adoption

Presenter (s):

Recommendation:

Proposed wording for motion/action:

Move to Approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016 and October 6, 2016 Board Meetings.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Estimated Length of time for consideration (in minutes): 2-3 minutes

Background: Board meetings were held on September 15, 2016 and October 6, 2016. As such, the minutes from those meetings will need to be approved by the Board.

Submitted By: Staff

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
September 15, 2016

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on September 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89081.

1. Call to order and roll call.

Board Chair Cody Noble called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Board Members Cody Noble, Will Harty, Carrie Boehlecke (arrived at 6:15), Travis Mizer, John Bentham, and Eric Brady (left at 10:40), and Sarah McClellan.

Also present was Executive Director John Barlow, Principal Gayle Jefferson, Principal Andre Denson, Principal Elaine Kelley, Principal Francine Mayfield, Principal Sherry Pendleton, Principal Dan Phillips; as well as Academica Nevada Representatives Ryan Reeves, Crystal Thiriot, and Colin Bringham.

2. Public Comments and Discussion.

No members of the public wished to comment at that time.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from the August 4, 2016 and August 25, 2016 Board Meetings.

Member Bentham Moved to Approve the Minutes from the August 4, 2016 and August 25, 2016 Board Meetings. Member McClellan Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

4. Review and Approval of the Academica Nevada Contract.

Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and offered congratulations to the Board regarding the approved renewal of their charter at the recent SPCSA meeting. Mr. Reeves noted that what had been previously signed as an agreement, would now be considered a contract, which would be circulated once it was created by the SPCSA.

Mr. Reeves explained that Somerset's contract with Academica was written to run with the term of the charter and, as such, Academica had put together an information packet illustrating what Academica does and what they charge for what they do. Mr. Reeves pointed to the growth depicted in the packet and noted that with 6,550 current students, there were 8,756 students on the Somerset waitlist. Mr. Reeves continued through the packet where the list of services that Academica provided could be found, explaining the various cost savings as well. Mr. Reeves explained the comparison between the differing EMOs, noting that it was nearly impossible to directly compare each EMO with Academica as they all offer a variety of services. Mr. Reeves stated that the final page of the packet displayed just how far Somerset had come and also how much work there still was moving forward, including bond issuances and future campuses.

Mr. Reeves stated that as far as the contract goes, they would like to renew the partnership between Somerset and Academica for an additional charter term. Member Mizer asked if there were detailed amounts for Academica's insurance liability limits, to which Mr. Reeves replied that he did not have the policy in front of

him; however, he believed it to be a one million dollar basic limits and a five million dollar umbrella, clarifying that the limits were determined by the Board. Member Noble asked if that was adequate, to which Mr. Reeves stated that it would come into play if there was a failure on Academica's part resulting in a professional liability claim against Academica, adding that a five million dollar umbrella would essentially cover Somerset's cash on hand. Member Noble asked if that would be adequate given what Somerset brings in over the course of a year, to which Mr. Reeves replied that it would cover Somerset's assets in the rare case that it would be needed, adding that the Board could vote to increase the limits at any time. Member Noble asked if the limits had increased with Somerset's growth, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the affirmative. Member Bentham asked if Academica carried Error and Omission insurance, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the affirmative.

Member Brady asked why there was such a long term to the agreement, to which Mr. Reeves replied that it was to run concurrent with the charter contract, much as the Somerset charter received six years' worth of trust from the State, Academica was asking for six years of trust from Somerset to be a partner. Mr. Reeves added that there was a provision which would allow Somerset to terminate the contract for cause should Academica fail to do what they proposed to do. Member Brady asked if there would be a discount for size, to which Mr. Reeves replied that the increase in size had allowed Academica to not increase its fee at all and shrink in the overall percentage of budget year to year, even though Somerset's revenues had increased through significant grant funding and DSA increases. Member Noble asked if Somerset had received significant grant funding, to which Mr. Reeves stated that they had received the Great Teachers in Leading, Read by Three, Social Worker Grant, 21 Century Technology Grant; to name a few. Member Noble stated that those funds were earmarked for specific uses and really did not add to the school's overall revenue. Mr. Reeves stated that the funding had gone to staffing, teachers, and equipment; and grant funding also had gone to staffing, teachers, and equipment, adding that the increase in grant funding actually creates more work for Academica in state reporting and accounting. Member Noble stated that grant facilitation was in the Academica contract and should not be looked at as something more than was offered from the beginning, to which Mr. Reeves replied that they were simply giving what they were charging for and maintained that the charges were fair, adding that he was in no way complaining about the additional work and was, in fact, very happy to do it; however, his response stemmed from the question of a reduction in fee, which would not be reasonable with the number of students and growth in the school in order to support the Somerset system.

Member Harty pointed out that, even with inflation, Academica had not increased its fee over the years and stated that there was something to be said for the decrease as a percentage of the budget.

Mr. Reeves noted that, although the contract only required that Academica to only identify, work with, and supervise the Somerset payroll service provider, Academica would begin with this contract to pay the \$120,000 per year service fee, adding that this should be considered additional savings.

Member Noble asked if, with economies of scale, there should be some sort of break as Somerset grew, or would Academica always take their fee off the top. Mr. Reeves replied that over the next six years with the projected growth and the additional bonds that would be needed, they would not look to make a change; however, years down the road when Somerset becomes a completely mature system, then perhaps that day will come.

Member Brady addressed the Board and stated that they might need to take more time to consider this contract as, in his business experience, he had never taken so short a time to consider a contract of this magnitude, adding that he felt Academica was doing a good job and he wanted them to make a profit, he just wanted to do his due diligence in ensuring that the profit was not excessive. Member Brady stated that it was not uncommon to ask that the financials be opened and analyzed to make sure that the Board was being responsible toward the teachers and students, summing up that the contract length and no reduction in fees were his primary concerns. Mr. Bob Howell addressed the Board and stated that there had been a reduction in fees by the simple fact that they had not raised it, adding that more personnel had been hired and there would be a 5% reduction through payroll as well. Member Brady asked if they would be willing to open their financials to support that, to which

Mr. Howell replied that they were showing that Somerset received a competitive fee versus the competitors and was actually the lowest fee in the country for the services provided. Mr. Reeves stated that they were required to submit a report to the State with the total cost of expenses, to which Member Brady asked where that could be accessed. Mr. Reeves stated that the Board could request it at any time and it would be provided. Member Noble asked if this was split up by school, to which Mr. Reeves replied that it was a lump sum for the entire system, adding that it was these combined services that allowed them to charge less. Member Brady asked if all of the other schools were charged the same \$450 per student, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the affirmative. Member Brady asked if the Somerset contract was the first to be renewed, to which Mr. Reeves replied that all of the contracts began as an initial two-year period and then renewed for the term of the charter.

Member Harty noted that they could not understate the success they have had in their partnership with Somerset; however, it was their due diligence to ask questions, and asked if Mr. Reeves could explain the size of the schools for which the EMO comparisons were made. Mr. Reeves described the various schools and EMOs, emphasizing the fact that each was different in many ways, making it difficult to make a direct comparison and was therefore was a best estimate. Member Brady asked if the \$450 per pupil was negotiable, to which Mr. Reeves replied that Florida and Nevada had serviced tens of thousands of students based on that rate without raising it, adding that even with increasing responsibilities and reductions in payroll costs they were not raising it. Mr. Reeves further stated that they were offering the best rate according to industry standards taking into account all of the contracts they were able to obtain through Open Meeting Law requests, which was available in the presented graphs. Some discussion ensued regarding the comparisons between the various EMOs, including the estimated sizes of the schools associated with those EMOs.

Member Noble stated that he was satisfied with the services provided by Academica and the partnership they had with Somerset, adding that he hoped that once Somerset was a mature system they could look at a reduction in the rate; however, he would support the contract as written. Member Brady stated that he did agree; however, he would like to contract term reduced to three years, adding that if a lower fee was negotiated with another school, Somerset would be stuck with the \$450 rate for the length of the contract. Mr. Reeves stated that the State was trusting Somerset for the next six years and that Academica was asking for that same trust, adding that they would not be reducing their rate with the other schools. Mr. Reeves further stated that there was a “for cause” clause in the agreement which would allow for termination of the contract. Member Brady stated that most likely nothing would change in just three years and the contract would be renewed then. Member Bentham asked if they would be willing to add a “most favored nation” clause which would allow for Somerset’s rate to be reduced if they reduced a fee with another school, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the affirmative. Member Harty asked if that should be applicable where there might be differing services provided at the other schools in comparison to Somerset, asking specifically if Academica was taking on the payroll costs for the other schools, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the negative, although they most likely will once they become the size of Somerset. Member Harty stated that a lot can happen in six years and he would be comfortable with a shorter contract.

Member Noble suggested an automatic renewal after three years if no one contested it. Mr. Howell stated that they would not accept three years, and one of the reasons was because they would be issuing bonds in the coming years and that the bank was comforted by the fact that Academica was backing the Somerset system in a six year contract. Mr. Howell further stated that these third-parties out there who bought Somerset’s debt want to know that Academica was there as long as Somerset was. Member Noble stated that those lenders bought the debt knowing that the contract with Academica would need to be renewed. Mr. Reeves stated that there were lower interest rates and such that Academica negotiated that simply could not be negotiated otherwise, asking the Board to vote on the contract as it was. Mr. Reeves pointed out that he has a staff of thirty people who service the Somerset system and he was obligated to offer them stability as well.

Mr. Bentham asked about the out clause, to which Mr. Reeves replied that it was for cause in that if Academica was not doing their job well enough, Somerset could bring a letter of cause before Academica and, if they did not cure the problem, could terminate the contract. Member Harty stated that he had no doubt that

Academica would continue to perform well; however, the market rate could change within six years. Mr. Reeves acknowledged that some things could change, specifically with facilities funding, which would actually lower Academica's percentage to five or even three percent of the budget, adding that there was nothing in the contract that would allow Academica more money if funding for the school increased, even though more time and effort would need to go into that management. Mr. Howell stated that, within the contract, Academica could raise their fees; however, they would be willing to add a clause stating that they would not. Member Harty asked if they could have escalated the price if they had chosen, according to the contract, to which Mr. Reeves replied in the affirmative, adding that they had never raised it due to economies of scale.

Member Brady acknowledged that those arguments made sense; however, he questioned as to what would happen if neither Mr. Howell nor Mr. Reeves were still employees of Academica and whether what they were stating would be honored. Mr. Howell stated that the Board would then have cause to terminate the contract with Academica if the service deteriorated. Mr. Reeves stated that the State would not terminate the charter contract with Somerset and that he hoped the Board would have the same faith in Academica. Member Noble stated that the State could pull Somerset's charter at any time, to which Mr. Reeves replied that, because the State had moved to a contract model, they could not pull the charter as long as Somerset was performing according to the contract. Some discussion ensued regarding the idea of trust between the Board and Academica. Member Noble asked if they would change to contract to state that "cause" included a change in ownership at Academica, to which Mr. Howell replied in the affirmative. Mr. Howell also pointed out that within the next few years the Board could change drastically and would not have an institutional memory of what had gone on.

Member Boehlecke stated that education was her field that that six years was a blink, adding that this had grown as a partnership and to change that at this point would be problematic. Member Noble agreed, but also stated that six years was a long time for a contract.

Member Bentham stated that he understood that it was agreed that the "most favored nation" clause as well as a clause about a change in ownership being cause to terminate should be added to the contract. Member Harty requested that a broad line about market conditions also be added, to which Mr. Reeves replied that there was already a line about the fee putting the school in financial stress; however, they could look into additional wording if the Board was looking to go beyond that. Member Harty stated that he would be fine with supporting a six year contract if those additions were made and further make it clear that the fee would not escalate. Member Noble asked if there was a motion, to which Members Brady and Bentham stated that they felt it should be represented with the changes. Member Harty stated that if they pushed it to another meeting that would give the Board a chance to look at the cost and revenues that were available. Member Mizer also asked that the five million in insurance also be added in writing to the contract.

This item was Tabled.

5. Discussion Regarding Parent/Teacher Survey Results.

This item was discussed in conjunction with item #6.

6. Review of Administrators: Principal Andre Denson, Principal Reggie Farmer, Principal Gayle Jefferson, Principal Elaine Kelley, Principal Francine Mayfield, Principal Sherry Pendleton, and Principal Dan Phillips.

Member Noble Moved to enter into a closed session for a review of the administrators. Member Harty Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Boehlecke Moved to enter into an open session. Member Bentham Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Harty Moved to Approve the administrative salaries as discussed in the closed session. Member Bentham Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Noble stated that there had been some concerns raised in the closed session regarding the North Las Vegas campus and suggested that the Board continue the discussion to ensure that measures were taken to make improvements on that campus. Member Noble stated that in looking over the information they had, it appeared that some of the issues that had been at that campus for years had not been corrected and were, perhaps, worsening. Member Harty stated that, as a Board, they could not be at the campus on a daily basis and were relying on the teacher and parent evaluations, as well as the number of failing classes, which showed a concerning trend; adding that they would like to look into ways of doing something differently. Member Harty stated that they did not know if it was the administration or the demographics, the teachers, or the building; however, they needed to do something differently to ascertain whether or not a change was possible or, with all of the various moving parts, these things would always be an issue at North Las Vegas.

Member Noble suggested that another administrator go to the campus to help figure out what was going on and help institute procedures to the extent that they need to be instituted. Member Noble invited Principal Mayfield to address the Board. Principal Mayfield stated that she hoped that the Board would do their due diligence in investigating the matter, which was very complex. Member Harty stated that he agreed and, in order to do their due diligence, it would be best to ask the Executive Director to get more involved at that campus. Principal Mayfield stated that she had all the confidence in the world in Mr. Barlow, although many changes had taken place that the Board might not have been aware of. Member Noble asked if she would like to present additional information, to which Principal Mayfield replied that if the Board would like to ask specific questions for which they would like information, she would be happy to provide it.

Member Harty stated that he would like to clarify that it was not really an investigation but an allocation of resources where they were needed most, adding that teacher and student retention were not where they should be and that was not necessarily an administration issue; however, he would like to see more resources allocated in an effort to make those determinations and help the situation. Principal Mayfield stated that it would be best to discover the “why” of the situation, which might be evident with a look at teacher evaluations and other information that had not been provided to the Board. Principal Mayfield invited them to have someone come in and see what was in place and then decide if things need to change, to which Member Harty replied that this was precisely what the Board was hoping to do. Principal Mayfield stated that she would invite Mr. Barlow to come to North Las Vegas and go over all of her procedures and present them to the Board and, if the Board still believed not enough has been done, she would willingly listen to the Board’s action steps. Member Noble stated that that was a good start; however, whoever went into the school should have some authority to work together with Principal Mayfield to implement something if necessary.

Member Boehlecke stated that they all wanted the same thing, which was why they were asking for a more investigatory work. Member Bentham stated that the Board was going off of one particular set of data that they had for each administrator and agreed that Mr. Barlow should go in and look at things more in-depth and visit with Principal Mayfield, and come back with a report as to what was the full scope of issues at North Las Vegas, and perhaps they could work together to find some solutions. Principal Mayfield voiced some frustration with the evaluation process, adding that she felt she should be the one to bring information to the Board because assumptions were being made where information was lacking. Member Noble noted that the Board was not taking any negative action at that time.

Member Harty suggested that they should define the scope of what they were asking of Executive Director Barlow, in that it would be either investigatory or supervisory. Member Noble stated that he thought Executive

Director Barlow should have the authority to make necessary changes; however, at a minimum they should work together to the extent that they could come up with some common solutions, adding that Executive Director Barlow might come back and report that nothing needed to be changed. Member Noble stated that they would have to wait until the Board met again before any action was taken if Executive Director Barlow was not given the authority to make changes. Member Harty also did not want to limit the scope to investigatory, and hoped that two seasoned administrators could work together. Some discussion ensued regarding additional information that could be obtained in order to better make determinations. Member Boehlecke stated that the Board was aware that some of the information they had received was subjective, which was why they wanted to investigate a little deeper.

Member Bentham stated that they were having this dialogue in order to ask questions, to which Principal Mayfield replied that forty-five minutes was not long enough for her to give all the necessary information, adding that she had no idea what questions were going to be asked because this process had been different from previous years. Principal Mayfield stated that there was data that was given to the Board which she would have benefited from receiving sooner, adding that two days did not give her enough time to provide the Board with the in-depth answers required. Member Harty stated that he agreed with her assessment; however, the step would be to investigate more deeply and see what could be accomplished with the help of Mr. Barlow, adding that no negative action was being taken. Principal Mayfield stated that they were taking negative action in that it would be Mr. Barlow's assessment that there was something wrong, adding that he was not her supervisor, and that if he wanted to change something he would need to have it approved by the Board.

Principal Mayfield stated that she had a lot of respect for Mr. Barlow and would certainly take his assessment. Principal Mayfield expressed concern for some other areas which had not received attention, including a leaky roof and enrollment numbers which were higher than they should be. Member Noble stated that he knew about the leak in the roof and had believed that it was fixed. Principal Mayfield stated that she had followed procedure had gone through the facilities manager. Ms. Crystal Thiriot addressed the Board and stated that there had been a leak and that the facilities manager had been on campus that day to take care of it. Member Noble stated that he did not have a way of knowing about these issues if he was not told, to which Principal Mayfield replied that that was why the procedure was flawed. Member Boehlecke stated that the information they received indicated a need for more information, which was what they were trying to gain.

Member McClellan stated that she too would be very frustrated to have her evaluation based on statements from various and potentially disgruntled sources, adding that she thought they should give Principal Mayfield a chance to respond in a way she was prepared for. Member McClellan stated that by bringing Executive Director Barlow in, they could gain a better understanding of the situation. Member Noble clarified that Principal Mayfield did not want Executive Director Barlow to come in as a supervisor, but instead bring information back to the Board, to which Principal Mayfield replied that it was premature to bring Mr. Barlow in as the Board did not yet have all the information, adding that the Board was her supervisor and direction should come from them. Member Noble stated that, with more information, they might not need to make any changes; however, based on their visibility, this was the conclusion they had drawn.

Principal Mayfield asked what the parameters of this investigation would be, to which Member Noble stated that he would not be coming up questions, but would trust a seasoned administrator to identify issues or find that there were none. Member Bentham stated that there were many items that Principal Mayfield had brought up in the closed session that Executive Director Barlow could further bring to light. Principal Mayfield stated that the Board should probably be in the school doing their own measurements and making assessments. Member Boehlecke stated that she would keep returning to the fact that Board was not passing judgement; however, they were looking to gather data. Member Boehlecke stated that it was the Board's responsibility to discover why the data looked like it did and, as a principal, she would assume Principal Mayfield would like to know why also. Principal Mayfield stated that she knew why and she could give all the data to Mr. Barlow to make his assessment.

Member Mizer requested that the motion stipulate that Executive Director Barlow was not going in as a supervisor.

Member Noble moved to give Executive Director Barlow the responsibility of visiting the North Las Vegas campus in a non-supervisory role as many times as necessary in order to assess the procedures and report recommendations to the Board regarding possible changes. Member Bentham Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Bentham asked if the roof was still leaking, to which Principal Mayfield stated that they had not received substantial rain as yet, so it remained to be seen, adding that the only part of the roof that had been fixed was they part that was owned by Somerset, although the leased portion was still leaking. Ms. Thiriot stated that the problem was that we did not own that portion and that Jacob Smoot had been working with the roofing company. Member Bentham asked if someone was responsible for the leased side. Ms. Thiriot stated that she would look into the situation.

Member Noble thanked Principal Mayfield for coming back out. Principal Mayfield requested copies of the recordings. Ms. Jennifer Elison addressed the Board and stated that she would give Principal Mayfield a copy of just her portion of the closed session as well as the open session.

7. Review of Executive Director John Barlow.

Member Noble Moved to enter into a closed session. Member Boehlecke Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Noble Moved to enter into an open session. Member Boehlecke Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

Member Noble Moved to Approve the salary amount for Executive Director John Barlow that was discussed in the closed session. Member Boehlecke Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

8. Public Comments and Discussion.

Ms. Kristie Fleisher addressed the Board and clarified that the target enrollments for 6th, 7th, and 8th as approved by the Board at the North Las Vegas campus were 155, and that was what had been reported to Principal Mayfield. Ms. Fleisher stated that currently there were: 149 students in 6th grade; 147 students in 7th grade; and 137 students in 8th grade. Ms. Fleisher added that the largest class size of any core or elective class at the North Las Vegas campus was 32 students in a Computer Literacy class; as well as six classes with 31 students.

9. Adjournment.

Member Noble adjourned the meeting at 1:25 a.m.

Approved on: _____

_____ of the Board of Directors
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

DRAFT

SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS

Supporting Document

Meeting Date: November 3, 2016
Agenda Item: 9 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Future Growth of the Stephanie Campus.
Number of Enclosures: 3

SUBJECT: Future Growth of the Stephanie Campus

Action
 Appointments
 Approval
 Consent Agenda
 Information
 Public Hearing
 Regular Adoption

Presenter (s): John Barlow

Recommendation:

Proposed wording for motion/action:

Fiscal Impact: N/A

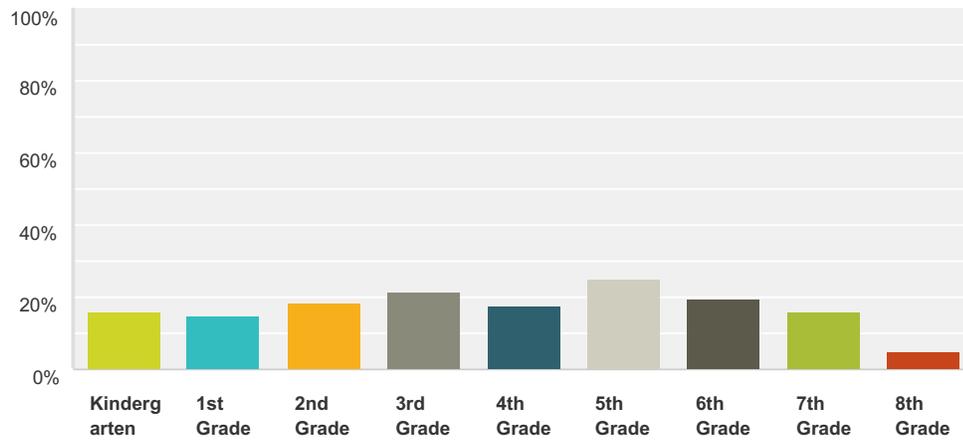
Estimated Length of time for consideration (in minutes): 20-30 Minutes

Background: Several options for the future growth of the Stephanie campus were presented to the Board at a previous meeting. A survey has been sent out to parents at the Stephanie campus regarding their thoughts on the subject.

Submitted By: Staff

Q1 My child(ren) attend(s) the following grade(s)?

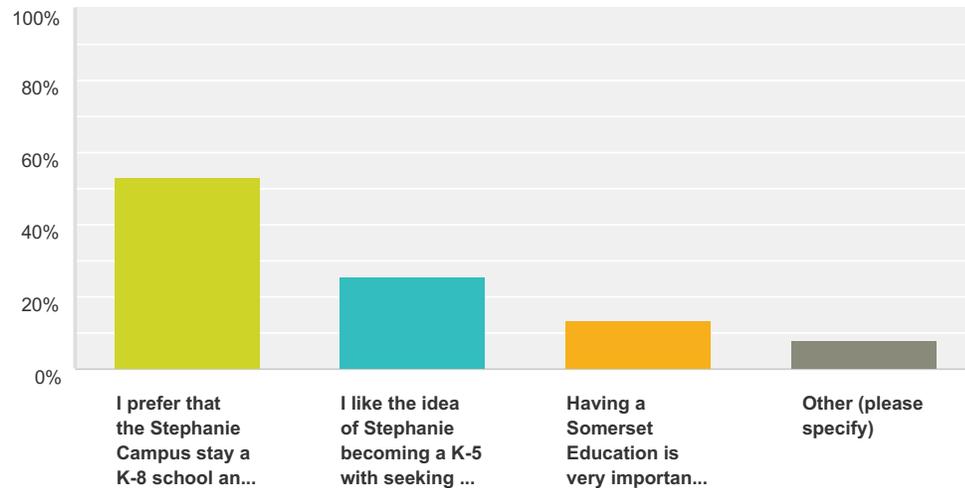
Answered: 322 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Kindergarten	15.84%	51
1st Grade	15.22%	49
2nd Grade	18.32%	59
3rd Grade	21.74%	70
4th Grade	17.70%	57
5th Grade	24.84%	80
6th Grade	19.57%	63
7th Grade	15.84%	51
8th Grade	4.97%	16
Total Respondents: 322		

Q2 Which statement reflects your feelings about proposed changes to the Stephanie Campus?

Answered: 320 Skipped: 2



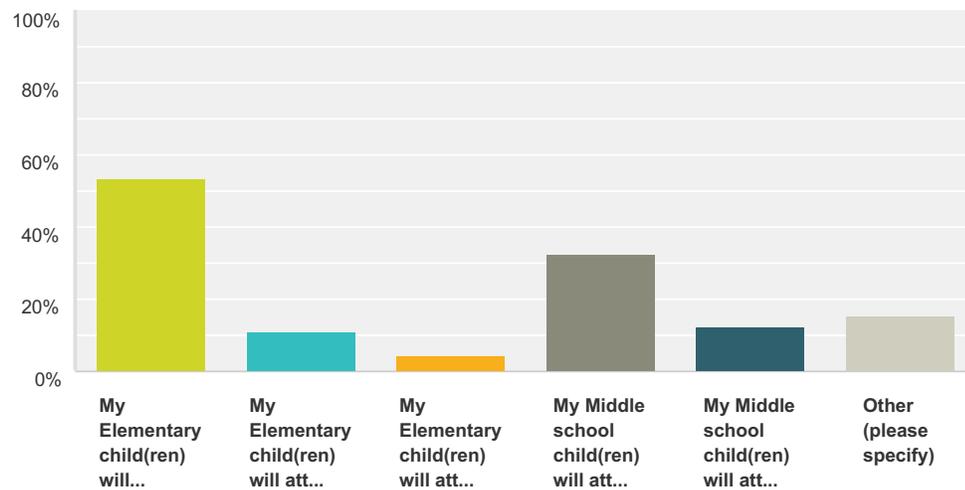
Answer Choices	Responses
I prefer that the Stephanie Campus stay a K-8 school and our family intends to remain enrolled through all grade levels, even if Somerset does not have a high school in this area.	52.81% 169
I like the idea of Stephanie becoming a K-5 with seeking a matriculation agreement with SLAM Academy.	25.31% 81
Having a Somerset Education is very important to our family and we intend to remain enrolled at Stephanie whether it is a K-8 or a K-5.	13.75% 44
Other (please specify)	8.13% 26
Total	320

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	I would prefer it to stay K-8 and hope they get a high school or have feed into SLAM if at all possible.	10/28/2016 11:49 AM
2	We will stay enrolled through 5th grade, but will make other plans for middle school.	10/27/2016 1:53 PM
3	I love the Somerset education my children receive for K-5. We plan to the middle school we are zoned for whether Stephanie stays K-8 or changes to K-5.	10/27/2016 1:52 PM
4	We have moved our children out of Somerset for their 6th grade year. We feel a separate school from elementary is an important aspect for helping the children transition into high school. Allowing Somerset to be a K-5 school only seems like a great option to allow enrollment for the addition elementary students that are on a wait list.	10/26/2016 11:23 AM
5	I like having both my elementary and middle school together.	10/24/2016 9:58 PM
6	I would love it if we could have a high-school also.	10/20/2016 10:01 PM
7	I do not like the idea with Slam school, it puts my children at the back of the line for the most part, and is no guarantee of enrollment. The school is not getting good reviews either	10/19/2016 9:33 PM
8	I prefer somerset academy will have a K- 12! The families not stressing of transferring their kids to other schools.	10/19/2016 9:31 PM
9	If we are guaranteed SLAM enrollment, the Somerset being K-5 is agreeable. Otherwise, I want my son to continue at Somerset until High School.	10/19/2016 8:26 PM

10	i like the slam academy idea but its nota sure thing to go on 9th grade. undecided	10/19/2016 7:55 PM
11	We are in 8th grade it does not pertain to us.	10/19/2016 2:09 PM
12	????????????????????????????	10/19/2016 11:54 AM
13	None of the statements above reflect my feelings. You should follow through with the building of the high school you already approved and not kick your current middle schoolers out. The matriculation agreement with SLAM does not guarantee Somerset students a seat. It is extremely upsetting that you would even consider discarding your middle school students some of which have been here since the beginning at Emerson. I would have stayed through 8th grade no matter what. Now I am so disgusted that you would bring this to your Somerset Families I cannot even commit to that.	10/19/2016 10:17 AM
14	Would like a Somerset high school in the area.	10/19/2016 9:27 AM
15	Somerset families should be given priority seating at other Somerset locations for this possible change	10/19/2016 8:34 AM
16	We love Somerset Stephanie we wish it had a high school. We also like the option about slam it middle was taken but we plan to stay enrolled at Somerset Stephanie for as many grade levels as we can	10/18/2016 8:24 PM
17	Would prefer for it to stay this way. Students who wanted to go to SLAM went to SLAM and now this is the closest option?!	10/18/2016 7:39 PM
18	I understand the possible need for transition, however priority seating should be also offered at other somerset locations such as somerset losee for families who wish to continue with somerset education values.	10/18/2016 6:58 PM
19	I do not like it. I don't feel that slam is a good choice for all students.	10/18/2016 5:37 PM
20	The middle school transiency is exactly because there is no high school for them to go to. Somerset has already stated that they were approved to find a place to build a high school in Henderson. Why is that option being abandon? That would solve the problem with the transiency. It is the exact reason we lost so many middle schoolers last year.	10/18/2016 4:49 PM
21	If somerset remains K-8 we will stay till the end of 8th grade. If there is an agreement set with Slam then that would be OK since Slam will go to high schoo .	10/18/2016 4:34 PM
22	It doesn't affect us because I was planning on pulling him out of Somerset anyhow.	10/18/2016 4:26 PM
23	I prefer k-8 but I would also prefer k-12 so that my children can continue here permanently	10/18/2016 4:09 PM
24	K-5 is fine w me	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
25	I would love for Stephanie to be a high school	10/18/2016 3:50 PM
26	I prefer that Stephanie campus remain K-8 with a high school be built as promised and reserve funds be made available from the board.	10/18/2016 3:48 PM

Q3 If Stephanie becomes a K-5 campus for the 2017-18 school year:

Answered: 322 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
My Elementary child(ren) will continue to attend the Stephanie Campus.	53.73% 173
My Elementary child(ren) will attend another charter school.	10.87% 35
My Elementary child(ren) will attend another public school.	4.35% 14
My Middle school child(ren) will attend a charter school.	32.61% 105
My Middle school child(ren) will attend a public school.	12.42% 40
Other (please specify)	15.53% 50
Total Respondents: 322	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Explore Knowledge Academy	11/1/2016 10:29 AM
2	I have 5 children. Two in first grade, one in 3rd, and two in 5th. I really can't even fathom what I would do if it split as I really only moved my children to Somerset for 2 reasons. 1) Better education 2) The fact that I would have all my children in one school for the next 4 years. I am really frustrated to think that I may have to move them again!	10/28/2016 10:40 PM
3	This is not an easy to answer question. We had great hopes that Somerset would have a high school in Henderson so my child could remain with Somerset through to 12th grade. If a Henderson Somerset High School campus is not built by his graduation next year from middle school, we would be at a lose as to a school that would equal the curriculum that is so evidently working for my child and those families like ours that chose to stay. We would stay through 8th grade and pray you will have a Somerset High School to matriculate to by then. Please don't throw my child's academic future and those like him out with the dirty bath water. They deserve better and love their school.	10/28/2016 3:32 PM
4	Should automatically be enrolled in SLAM	10/26/2016 6:24 PM
5	I would prefer that Somerset remains a K-8th school, but if we don't have a choice in the matter then I would hope that we would be given priority to enter another charter school such as slam.	10/26/2016 3:38 PM
6	I would try to enroll my future middle school kids in SLAM	10/26/2016 2:36 PM
7	Unsure. If it becomes a K-5 only, then we will only attend for one more year and then look for a K-8 to better fit the needs of my family.	10/26/2016 1:59 PM

8	Its so tough because i will have a child starting K next year 2017/2018 so i will be force to take my kids out so they can be together.	10/26/2016 1:08 PM
9	I'm not sure what we will do with our 2nd grader because I am not certain where my soon to be 8th grader will go for one year before high school.	10/26/2016 11:29 AM
10	We will attempt to have our sixth grader attend a charter school	10/26/2016 11:24 AM
11	I'm not sure which route I will go with my middle school student.	10/24/2016 9:58 PM
12	I would want to find a school my children can both attend.	10/24/2016 5:23 PM
13	This question makes it seem like we have an option, when it reality, if you pursue this action, our options are limited. You have used the word "thriving" to describe Somerset's waiting list; this also applies to other charter schools, so there is no easy transition to another charter school. Therefore, public school becomes the most likely outcome. Your decision, if carried through, will remove our choice.	10/24/2016 12:54 PM
14	My now 8th grader will hopefully get to go to SLAM	10/23/2016 9:36 AM
15	We will look for other accommodations if this proposal were inacted	10/21/2016 5:54 AM
16	Our family doesn't want to change schools.	10/21/2016 4:51 AM
17	I have heard that it is the goal of SLAM Academy to become a tittle 1 school. We will seek out an alternative if this happens.	10/20/2016 10:58 PM
18	I would hope my middle school child can get into another charter school.	10/20/2016 5:54 PM
19	We haven't decide what we would do with our middle school kids if this is passed.	10/20/2016 9:10 AM
20	I would start enrollment for my middle school children in a charter that has the high school option	10/19/2016 9:33 PM
21	My Middle School Student will attend SLAM or a Private School	10/19/2016 8:26 PM
22	Unsure but we would be very sad to lose the middle school part of somerset my child is really doing amazing	10/19/2016 5:08 PM
23	Matriculation with SLAM is fine, as long as the current middle school students are able to transfer with no issues.	10/19/2016 3:48 PM
24	We are on our way to High School	10/19/2016 2:09 PM
25	I don't know what We'll do. Our Family has already chosen Somerset over Coral, Pinecrest and SLAM. Now that Somerset is considering pushing the middle schoolers out none of them may even be an option. This question implies that a charter school is a choice when we all know there is a lot more to it and that there is almost always a wait list. If Somerset makes the choice to push their middle school students out of our school, I will do my best to move my elementary children out.	10/19/2016 10:17 AM
26	My daughter will attend SLAM with sibling priority.	10/19/2016 9:36 AM
27	We admired the fact that the middle school and elementary siblings would attend same school	10/19/2016 8:37 AM
28	Would prefer to attend another somerset location to continue on and to keep my k-8 children at one location	10/19/2016 8:34 AM
29	I have few options as my daughter will be in 6th grade.	10/18/2016 9:15 PM
30	I hope BOTH middle school students would get into a charter school with a high school.	10/18/2016 8:49 PM
31	We will wait to see if there is a principal change and major staff turnover.	10/18/2016 7:57 PM
32	Undecided.	10/18/2016 7:43 PM
33	What about 8th grade having priority at Slam also!	10/18/2016 7:43 PM
34	I would prefer to keep my children together in one school this is one of the reasons I choose Somerset year after year, along with the excellent education methods	10/18/2016 6:58 PM
35	I don't know what I will do.	10/18/2016 6:50 PM
36	Depending on where middle schooler ends up (whether charter or public), elementary student may end up at another charter school.	10/18/2016 6:39 PM
37	Wouldn't be able to attend because is in 8th grade will end up going to some highschool. That is okay though I love somerset	10/18/2016 5:50 PM
38	As of now I am not sure where my daughter will attend 9th grade but it is definitely something I am thinking about it would be easier though if Somerset extended as she could go to high school for Stephanie Somerset	10/18/2016 5:44 PM
39	Private school	10/18/2016 5:07 PM

40	If this change takes place, we will look into the David O. McKay academy (private school), otherwise they will stay enrolled at Somerset. I will not have my children attend Slam.	10/18/2016 5:00 PM
41	My child will be in senior high school	10/18/2016 4:59 PM
42	Enrollment for my children depends upon where I can have them attend the same school. We would aim for that first but if we found the right fit for our MS child then we might consider staying at Stephanie provided teachers stay on.	10/18/2016 4:49 PM
43	If Somerset disclosed this initially parents would have known that Somerset had no intentions of building a high school and could have taken the option to have already got in on the ground floor at another school and not be waitlisted. Even with the agreement there is no guarantee that all of the middle school students will be able to get in to the Charter school in question. I will have to investigate public private and charter schools for both my middle schooler and elementary student. Although it seems that because you can fill my elementary schoolers seat with a new person our loyalty is not appreciated.	10/18/2016 4:49 PM
44	My children will leave this school	10/18/2016 4:09 PM
45	I would still like for my youngest to attend Somerset for kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year	10/18/2016 4:09 PM
46	Undecided	10/18/2016 4:08 PM
47	I will not be enrolling my child in SLAM Academy in 6th grade.	10/18/2016 4:02 PM
48	My, then, middle school child will have to go to a public school if he is not accepted at another charter school	10/18/2016 3:56 PM
49	My child will move onto a high school regardless	10/18/2016 3:50 PM
50	My middle school child will attend a charter school if name is chosen in random lottery.	10/18/2016 3:48 PM

Q4 Comments/Questions:

Answered: 163 Skipped: 159

#	Responses	Date
1	If Somerset had a HS option on this side of town, perhaps more kids would stay in 6-8 grade...	11/1/2016 2:00 PM
2	My main concern would be with the quality of education and attention my children would get at SLAM. Not that it's poor, but I just haven't seen much information about SLAM up to this point.	11/1/2016 11:11 AM
3	When we chose Somerset it was under the assumption it is k-8 with a high school being built. My children have a five star public school right across the street from where we live but we chose Somerset because of the quality of education and knowing we wouldn't need to keep switching schools. I find it very Comical you cannot keep the middle school numbers up at Stephanie when the first year you opened you had plenty of children enrolled. Since the stephanie campus has been opened Academics has built 2 middle/high schools, maybe stop building so many schools and fill the ones you already have opened?	10/30/2016 7:14 AM
4	A few of the points mentioned in the email to the parents were disturbing to say the least. First, saying that the middle school numbers have dropped over the last several years is false. Only last year my child was on a waiting list to enter 6th grade at Somerset Stephanie. With much prayer his number was called just the week prior to school starting. Second, saying that middle school numbers were dropping while hundreds of children were waiting to experience a quality Somerset education may be true but I blame the board for that. 80% of the parents I spoke to who have left for another charter school did so because they were fearful they would not have a place for their child in a high school other than the public school system. These same hundreds waiting to get in would probably stay through 12th grade if there was a Somerset HS. Third, again, sacrificing those middle school children for space for elementary child is hurtful. My child is excelling in this academic atmosphere and to take it from him is criminal. Middle School children are experiencing great personal and emotional changes, they should not have to fear that their school (second home and safe haven for learning) will be taken from them. Starting over anywhere at this age could be devastating. Fourth, to believe that SLAM would be a reasonable alternative is insulting. My child is a future engineer not soccer coach! The STEM/STEAM curriculum at Somerset will help him reach his goal. The faculty at Somerset Stephanie Middle School is a parents dream. They are engaging, inspiring and challenging. My child is at his best academically and I pray you see that Henderson children deserve MS and HS Somerset education as well as elementary. A top ten engineering university would throw my child's application to the bottom of the pile seeing his graduation from Sports Leadership and Management High School. He deserves better! Please!! Please!! Please!! Don't dissolve the MS and also build a Somerset HS in Henderson. As it was said in the movie "Field of Dreams", have faith. Build it and they will come. (And stay)	10/28/2016 3:32 PM
5	I love this school. I would like to see it remain k-8.	10/28/2016 2:44 PM
6	Somerset Stephanie has been an amazing middle school for my son. I do not want to see the middle school option taken away. I am not interested in putting my kids in SLAM, or any other charter school. I would like to discuss the option of keeping somerset Stephanie a K-8 school.	10/28/2016 1:22 AM
7	That is the reason we did not go to another charter middle school because we love Somerset Stephanie! Please leave it the way it is... Our children love our school. Please do not take away our middle school here! Thank you...	10/27/2016 9:22 PM
8	It's unsettling that my son may not have a high school to matriculate into and that we jump back into a lottery after middle school. Knowing he may be able to receive priority to SLAM makes me want to support the decision to create a K-5 campus. We would 100% prefer for him to be at Somerset as long as possible. I'm torn when it comes to high school options. I've got a few years but feel nervous that he's not guaranteed a high school. I think that it's preferred that if Somerset Middle School students are given priority (after siblings) to SLAM - we create a win-win there.	10/27/2016 4:42 PM
9	The Henderson campus needs to have a clear plan laid out for a high school campus on our side of town. I have ZERO interest in sending my kids to a sports focused middle/high school. We chose Somerset Stephanie for our oldest child when she was in kinder knowing we would be set until at least 8th grade, but hoping that the school would eventually get a high school. She had also gotten into Pinecrest that year so we were one of the lucky ones that had our choice of charter schools. But we chose Somerset because we loved it when we had our tour & Mr Farmer had very high praises from people I know that had worked with him in the past. I would be VERY disappointed if there was no clear, specific vision/plan for a high school in Henderson for our students. We would probably consider trying to get into pinecrest so we were guaranteed that our kids had a place at a high school. I'm sure Slam will have a fine school, but a sports focus does not interest me at all for my children. I have been very happy with our experience with Somerset Stephanie over the past 2+ years, and I really would be sad to leave, but we will need to do what's best for our children's future education, even if that means leaving the school	10/27/2016 2:23 PM
10	Please continue on as a K-8 school. My daughter thoroughly enjoys the school and is getting a great education there.	10/27/2016 2:10 PM

11	Please stay K-8 !!	10/27/2016 2:06 PM
12	I fear how the under enrollment of the middle school is adversely effecting the funding of the elementary school.	10/27/2016 1:53 PM
13	My children are in elementary school, so at this point I don't have a strong opinion on the middle school program. However, I would not choose to attend middle school at Somerset either way because I don't feel like the middle school program is big enough and can offer as many electives and honors classes as a regular public school. I also think it's a good idea for students to attend a public middle school in preparation for public high school. If Somerset had a K-12 campus, my opinion might be different. But until then, we only plan to attend Somerset through 5th grade. For those reasons, I would probably vote to drop the Middle school, although I recognize this would be difficult and frustrating for students that are currently enrolled in middle school. Also, I don't think the matriculation plan with SLAM is a great idea because Somerset focuses on science/technology and SLAM focuses on sports -- these schools are going to attract 2 different types of people.	10/27/2016 1:52 PM
14	I was really looking forward to have our daughter be at somerset from kindergarten to 8th grade (shes in third now). The downside is that if Somerset Middle closes, that would mean i will have an eight grader and a kindergartner in two separate schools.	10/26/2016 9:10 PM
15	I love Somerset Academy and would hate for my middle school child to be displaced into a public school or charter school other than SLAM.	10/26/2016 6:24 PM
16	I am very disappointed at the possibility of Somerset excluding 6-8th grade. I specifically chose Somerset as it would have my daughter enrolled upto 8th grade. She started her first year at Somerset as a fifth grade student this year. Changing her to another school to start middle school would be a difficult adjustment for her as she is very happy at Somerset. All charter schools hold K-8th grade (Pincecrest) Coral Academy, so why should Somerset be any different and exclude 6-8th grade. Please allow Somerset to remain a K-8th grade school.	10/26/2016 3:38 PM
17	I think it's disloyal to the students and families that have attended since day one. The fact that my child was going to be at the same school through the 8th grade was very appealing..	10/26/2016 3:02 PM
18	Please stay K-8!!!	10/26/2016 1:08 PM
19	Please remain open. My 7th grader has been through so many school changes. I'm worried she'll never have good friends. Kids need consistency.	10/26/2016 12:21 PM
20	I picked this school because of the various options given to me and I liked it the best out of all the charter schools. I would prefer to keep both of my kids here but if you take out the 6-8 grades I'll have to look for other options to keep my children in the same school	10/26/2016 12:06 PM
21	Current research, from what I had read, was starting to illustrate that for student's psychosocial development, being in a K-8 environment was best for adjustment issues—particularly among the 6th graders. Facilitating one transition, from 8th grade to 9th grade, seems more favorable than having to endure multiple transitions. We are a single child family, and obviously we come at this from a different perspective. Tyson will stay enrolled at Somerset Academy no matter what, unless we move. He loves it there. We love having him there. We hope that he can graduate from 8th grade someday.	10/26/2016 11:32 AM
22	The elimination of the middle school would be very inconvenient for us, as we would need to find a school for one year for our 8th grader next year.	10/26/2016 11:29 AM
23	We chose Somerset for the K-8 curriculum. It would be a distress to have our children forced to separate schools.	10/26/2016 11:24 AM
24	I don't see how its fair that just because other families want the opportunity to have their elementary kids receive education from Somerset that the students already attending and have attended since kindergarten and have made very close friends, have to be pushed out of Somerset and into another school that may not have room for new students and the curriculum may not be as good and where they may be made to feel uncomfortable with not having their current friends attend as well. Build another Somerset location.	10/26/2016 11:18 AM
25	Look into a high school option for Somerset Stephanie students.	10/26/2016 11:00 AM
26	I know they have worked out a lot of kinks this year And have made the middle school better experience for the kids. I do plan on keeping my children their if possible. I know other parents that feel the same way. I think this year was just an exception with the competing school opening up.	10/26/2016 8:13 AM
27	If somerset does change to a K-5 school, then I would prefer that there is a mariculation agreement with SLAM	10/24/2016 9:58 PM
28	PLEASE NO!!!! Or just wait another year. Or allow current middle schoolers to finish, and not continue with a sixth grade class next year. My middle schooler has been bounced around for the last few years. I took a lot of time researching local schools, I came to this one with the hope she could be here til the end of middle school. I'm terrified to have to find her a new school again, and just for 8th grade. She is thriving more than she ever has at any other school. I would be devastated if this change happened next year.	10/24/2016 5:58 PM

29	This school operates like a family. You cannot easily replicate the level of dedication and professionalism that is demonstrated at this school. Give the enrollment time and with the building in the area as well as the larger 4th and 5th grade (5 classes instead of 4) there will be enough enrollment to keep the school a K-8. There should be efforts made to secure a Somerset HS with fidelity as was promised.	10/24/2016 5:23 PM
30	I sincerely hope that Somerset continues to educate through 8th grade. The middle school that we are zoned for is completely over crowded and the children do not always get the extra care and attention needed if they are struggling in class or with assignments. It is even worse for Children who already have difficulties asking for help. As a Parent with children attending middle school and elementary at Somerset It would truly be a disappointment to have either program be discontinued.	10/24/2016 2:59 PM
31	Reading about this proposal is extremely discouraging to me. We value our Somerset Stephanie education, and have been highly involved in the school in the years our children have attended. We have children in both the elementary & the middle school. This proposal seems short-sighted---immediately filling classroom spots with elementary children instead of setting sights on longer term needs that Somerset is well positioned to address. As the quality education by Somerset Stephanie continues, and a high school is provided, families will naturally remain in the middle school. The SLAM & Cadence Pinecrest school openings & migration of families to those schools show that providing a middle school & high school option is of utmost importance to families who value education. That Somerset is considering taking themselves out of this educational need is unbelievable to me. In addition to the strong educational & leadership component that Somerset offers our children, we also highly value stability & continuity---this proposal threatens those principles & leaves us with extremely limited options. Transferring to another charter middle school is not a guarantee given the waiting list climate, so by making this decision, you will in effect, send our children to public school. The middle school teachers that are currently teaching in Somerset Stephanie are a step above the experience we had last year, & we value this. I strongly believe that as parents recognize this higher level of teaching, AND a Somerset high school option is presented, middle school enrollment issues will resolve themselves. Our family is not seeking a SLAM type education, and we do not look upon an agreement with them as an acceptable solution to the problem you will create if you close Stephanie's middle school. If Somerset is truly serious about solving middle school enrollment concerns, focus should be placed on opening a high school in Henderson immediately. Please do not continue to ignore this need. Somerset Board of Directors, we are your current clientele. Please recognize that we strongly disapprove of this proposal, as well as the manner in which you have introduced this proposal to us. The needs of the current Somerset Stephanie student families should take precedent over potential waiting list needs and should hold more value to you than a 3 question survey would suggest.	10/24/2016 12:54 PM
32	I like the idea of having a middle through high school option when my child gets to that point, so he doesn't have to switch to a public school after middle.	10/24/2016 10:45 AM
33	Wondering if Somerset will open a jr. High/high school someday	10/23/2016 9:36 AM
34	I think it's wonderful that you are taking the time to place the kids elsewhere.. and keeping them together as much as possible. Somerset has heart!	10/22/2016 4:10 AM
35	I love Stephanie and this is our first year. If need be, then yes I would like my middle school child to have priority at SLAM. I want him in a charter school but want him to stay with the same group of friends he has made. Children need structure and routine and at that age they really start building their close friends. I don't want to have to switch them around all the time to different schools. K-5 with priority into SLAM..Yes K-8 with priority into SLAM..that would be awesome since Somerset doesn't have 9-12 here K-8 and then go to Green Valley...Not sure Thank You	10/21/2016 2:34 PM
36	Building a High School that Somerset Stephanie could filter into seems to me a better option for this campus.	10/21/2016 1:55 PM
37	I hope the school remains K-8. This has been the best transition for both my 6th grade boys. I urge you to keep K-8.	10/21/2016 12:10 PM
38	We feel Somerset Stephanie is a very good elementary school and if more seats could be provided for the community to attend, it would be a very good change. We have a middle school child that attended elementary and middle at Somerset, who we moved to Slam this year. We were very disappointed in the middle school curriculum at Somerset and the administration's inability to ensure an appropriate environment for learning. It was a very difficult year to say the least. SLAM has it together and the administration is extremely responsive to parents and proactive leaders in education. We feel it would be optimum for Somerset to do what they do best, Elementary level education.	10/21/2016 7:39 AM

39	I have several significant concerns with this proposal & survey: 1) The proposal assumes that Somerset families are seeking a SLAM education for their kids. These families have already left. Those of us remaining elected to have a Somerset experience - we voted with our "seats!" Moreover, some of last years' middle school team left Somerset to teach at SLAM. As a group, they had a poor reputation among the parents. Their replacements have been more effective and much more committed. To the current Somerset family, matriculation into SLAM is NOT viewed positively. 2) The proposal ignores the considerable attraction of stability and continuity associated with a K-8 environment. I fear that losing this diminishes the value and appeal of a K-5 Somerset, especially as there is no Somerset High School. 3) At face value, the proposal appears to secure financial gain by allowing Somerset to immediately fill to capacity by enrollment of additional K-5. It also implies that Somerset families value matriculation into a middle/high school above all else, which I believe to be inaccurate. 4) Trust and stability are a premium to Somerset families and teachers. Even considering this proposal let alone advertising it via a survey undercuts both. Knowing their jobs are now at risk, it would be prudent for Somerset middle school teachers to begin job hunting immediately. We are so very disappointed in this prospect. Whatever else you hoped the survey would accomplish, it has unfortunately sown seeds of instability and insecurity. Overall, I believe this is proposal is a misread. While many families are hoping for matriculation, the vast majority with which I'm familiar are striving/hoping for matriculation into a Somerset Henderson High School. Being offered a "maybe" seat at a sports leadership MS/HS is hardly a consolation for losing a stable K-8 environment for my kids.	10/21/2016 5:54 AM
40	Our family loves this school and all the staff and would strongly urge to stay a middle school!!	10/21/2016 4:51 AM
41	I was on a wait list for 3 years to get my child out of a Tittle 1 school and into Somerset. I would wxpect an open seat at Pinecrest if Somerset was to change to K-5. So disappointed to even know this is a discussion.	10/20/2016 10:58 PM
42	Why hasn't Somerset Stephanie acquired land to build a high-school like the other campuses have?	10/20/2016 10:01 PM
43	The only way our child would leave Somerset is for a Pinecrest that has highschool or there is a continuous decline in the Somerset campus faculty.	10/20/2016 9:58 PM
44	We stayed loyal to Somerset. I would hope they would not turn their backs on kids promised a school until the 8th grade. The public middle school in my neighborhood is horrid! If my daughter can't get into another charter school I'm going to be seriously upset. I will be doing my best to make sure my elementary child doesn't face the same problem by enrolling her into a charter school that will go through 8th grade.	10/20/2016 5:54 PM
45	We would love to go to Slam. As long as it's the same as Somerset!	10/20/2016 4:21 PM
46	It is our sincere hope that Somerset Stephanie remains a K-8 school! We truly love the curriculum and camaraderie here!! We have no desire to attend SLAM. Thank you for your consideration to keep the middle school!	10/20/2016 2:01 PM
47	We like Somerset Stephanie and would like to continue to attend. There are no Charter middle schools in as convenient a location, and we like the educational focus and rigor of Somerset. Having looked at the SLAM Academy, it appears to have a narrow "career" focus on a narrow market. We believe that middle school is far too early to be choosing a post tertiary career. We do not think we would attend SLAM Academy even with a feeder status from Somerset Stephanie in place.	10/20/2016 1:14 PM
48	I was thrilled that my children where accepted to this school and was looking forward to them completing their middle school years at Somerset. What an absolute bummer to find out this will all change :(10/20/2016 10:23 AM
49	One reason we move here was so my kids could attend Jr high here too.	10/20/2016 2:59 AM
50	I am happy to see the schools working together, hopefully everything works out to benefit the children.	10/19/2016 11:08 PM
51	I honestly believe it would be in the best interest to get a high school in Henderson. Slam school is no guarantee and is getting bad reviews. Why would parents continue to use Somerset if they are just going to end up in the general school system anyway. It only hurts Somerset to not have the high school option in Henderson.	10/19/2016 9:33 PM
52	we prefer that somerset academy will have k-12 in order for us parents not to bother and looking or transferring for other school. Somerset have high standard of teaching and we should also help to create a Better place for our kids	10/19/2016 9:31 PM
53	The worst thing anyone can do is blind side someone when you could have been more informative before this became a concern. You never gave the parents a chance to get out an promote Somerset more than most of us already do to increase enrollment in homes to avoid this issue.	10/19/2016 8:26 PM
54	We choose to attend Somerset for the Middleschool and not elementary.Taking away the Middle school, in my opinion is a wrong choice.	10/19/2016 8:13 PM
55	Kids like it there , Id keep them there as long as possible. I was unaware of the high school	10/19/2016 7:55 PM

56	My family, along with many I know that have current middle school students, turned down spots in other charter and magnet programs to attend this school. To have our students begin their middle school years with the goal of completion though 8th grade and then pull that out from under them is unfair. We all made important decision as families based on the presence of this program at this campus. The chances of getting into other charters for next year are slim for our middle school students. SLAM is not a program that appeals to all of the Somerset families or students. If this cessation of the middle school program becomes a reality-the ONLY FAIR and respectful choice to your Somerset students and families is to run the program until the current 6th graders are allowed to matriculate from 8th grade in the 2018-19 academic year.	10/19/2016 7:42 PM
57	We would prefer that middle school stay	10/19/2016 7:28 PM
58	I am interested to see where the school goes. I am glad my children are still young and will not effect me for a few years. I do plan on keeping my children at the school even if it changes to K-5.	10/19/2016 6:50 PM
59	We have been going to Somerset Stephanie since it opened as Somerset Emerson and always had the idea that Somerset would open a high school in the Henderson. I assume that's no longer on the table? Why is the majority of the Somerset schools only in the north end???	10/19/2016 6:28 PM
60	I enrolled my daughter who is now in 3rd grade to somerset stephanie knowing she would have been there from 1st grade to 8th grade with the hope of building a charter high school after she completed 8th grade. She has done so well and has received outstanding awards. If I would have known this would be only k to 5 I would have not enrolled her there and enrolled her to another charter school with high school options. If there is a charter high school that is approved then it would increase the numbers for middle school. I will be very disappointed if they approve this school for only k thru 5.	10/19/2016 6:16 PM
61	We have been apart of this school for many years my daughter is in the 6th grade and doing really great.We love that the kids can go to the same school it is like a family and it would break our hearts if it changes . My family is ok with it only going to 8th grade there are lots of great high school options out there and high school is really a totally different experience so I don't mind that it is done separately .	10/19/2016 5:08 PM
62	As long as SLAM is also a free charter school my family and I fully support this movement!	10/19/2016 4:39 PM
63	I do not like the idea. Best thing to do is make campus k-12.	10/19/2016 4:38 PM
64	I would much prefer that my 5th grader stick with Somerset but I understand the logistics of the situation. We have been incredibly lucky with the education that Connor has received thus far. My only concern would be my 5th grader for sure getting into SLAM. My daughter is currently in 3rd grade so I would like reassurance that she wouldn't have a problem getting into SLAM when her time comes. Thank you!	10/19/2016 4:19 PM
65	We have another child, that when she is of age, we plan on enrolling her in to the Stephanie campus as well.	10/19/2016 3:20 PM
66	I'm not a fan of the idea of Somerset going to K-5 only. I have no interest in the sports curriculum at SLAM. I'm pretty frustrated that the Somerset Board has not shared any high school plans with parents for a school in Henderson sometime in the horizon. We wonder if this is a priority to the Somerset board or not in the plans at all? We'd like to know.	10/19/2016 3:03 PM
67	I wish there were a closer high school for my son to transition to....	10/19/2016 2:09 PM
68	My child will go to high school for 2017-2018	10/19/2016 12:08 PM
69	Have not laid out specified plans as yet. Didn't see this coming. I do intent to enroll in a charter school.	10/19/2016 11:54 AM
70	I hope things stay the same since I would have a kindergartener when my third grader now goes into 6th grade. I had planned on getting him in that way into Somerset. But if the change happens then my youngest may not get into Somerset since the sibling before him will be out of this school. That is my concern about this change, and I'm sure I'm not the only one with this concern.	10/19/2016 11:34 AM
71	I wish with all my heart the middle school would remain an option even without the high school option since we moved to the area specifically to enroll in this middle school. It would be tragic to have to move to another school next year.	10/19/2016 10:44 AM

72	I am positive that just sending this email stating closing your middle school in order to take advantage of the funds for the waitlisted elementary students will send even more middle school parents scrambling to leave Somerset in order to get their children in a good middle school. It is very upsetting that you would even consider this when building a high school has already been approved and would solve the problem with the middle school transiency. In fact I have firsthand knowledge that it was the primary reason for our loss of so many middle school students. The Board is also aware of this since so many parents have already addressed the board about a High School in Henderson. In talking with the other parents, they love Somerset and would have stayed if they were guaranteed their children would be able to attend high school at Somerset. They did not want to take the chance of Somerset not following through with the high school we were already told was in the works. I feel deceived and that my loyalty in staying with Somerset has been met with disloyalty. I hate the way the Survey is laid out like you have an easy option to just move your kids somewhere else even with the matriculation agreement. The Board is aware, as are we, that good schools {and even not so good schools} already have a wait list so whether we are given priority or not there are not enough seats. We could have gotten in SLAM for this year but chose Somerset Stephanie. Now in return for our loyalty you are actually considering just pushing your current middle school students out of Somerset with no school choices, some who have been there since Emerson out. If you would have disclosed that the Board was considering this option I may have made a different choice. Years ago even at the Emerson campus our family got in to Corral and Pinecrest but we chose Somerset. Please reconsider abandoning your current middle school students and follow through with what you have already put in place, Building a High school for your students. It is appalling that you would even consider kicking your middle school students out at such a critical time in their education and personal development.	10/19/2016 10:17 AM
73	Most of us would prefer for somerset to include a high school.	10/19/2016 9:51 AM
74	We have been with Somerset since the first year at Emerson and have loved every minute! We would stay if we had a Somerset High School. If that is not an option, I believe the best move is to go to K - 5 with a matriculation agreement with SLAM.	10/19/2016 9:36 AM
75	Somerset Stephanie has become a 2 nd home to all of us and we looking forward to continuing Ella's education there !	10/19/2016 9:35 AM
76	I appreciate that thoughts are being made about the next years for our kids. This has been a worry of mine. Unfortunately, I am not sure that the other area charter schools can provide as good of an education as Somerset.	10/19/2016 9:27 AM
77	I think you should remain loyal to the middle school families that have remained loyal to you. If you plan to get rid of middle school, you should wait until your current middle school students are out of middle school. I had planned on my child finishing middle school with you...if we wanted to go to SLAM, we would have changed when they opened. Now, I'm upset that the rug may be pulled out from under us. We should have been given more notice that this was a possibility.	10/19/2016 9:14 AM
78	I think making Somerset a K-5 school is an amazing idea because it will enable us to grow our amazing elementary school. The current campus is not designed nor is it big enough to handle a middle school.	10/19/2016 9:12 AM
79	I have been very pleased with Somerset Stephanie and will continue to support and recommend this school no matter what decision gets made. It does directly impact my children for next year as they will be moving into middle school at that time. Good luck and I know it will work out for the best.	10/19/2016 9:09 AM
80	I want Somerset Stephanie to stay as a K-8 school. We have been with Somerset since day one We were told this school would be K-8 and this is why I chose to enroll my daughter in this school because we were promised she would be able to attend this school until 8th grade and I would not have to worry about moving her to different schools. We love Mr. Farmer and I drive from North Las Vegas to Henderson everyday because I love this school so much. I would be highly upset if Somerset changes to a K-5 because there is no guarantee our students will get accepted to Slam and if they are not what happens they have to get placed in to public school after being in a safe environment their whole school life. My daughter would have a huge cultural shock going into a public middle school and will be succeed in her education like she would staying at Somerset. Please keep the schools they way they are and try to billed a high school in that area.	10/19/2016 9:05 AM
81	I hope that Stephanie can remain a K thru 8 campus, but understand how finances (numbers of students) drive the decisions... Tom Wagner	10/19/2016 8:57 AM
82	I sincerely hope that the Board of Directors decide to continue supporting K-8. My son is prepared to attend Somerset Academy again next year as he'll be entering 8th grade.	10/19/2016 8:38 AM
83	I'm afraid if the school goes K through five only we will have to pull all 3 of ourr children out. Part of the attraction aside from the academic program was that all of our children can attend the same school for a good amount of time while gaining a quality education. I do not like that slam is a sports leadership Focus School. We would have to look to attend a whole different School	10/19/2016 8:37 AM

84	This is frustrating because we need a high school for our kids, we've been in this from day one at Emerson and believe in Mr. FARMER and his leadership skills. We need a high school to filter into close to Stephanie. My kids love this school and after this year really really want to continue at Stephanie. The transition is easier if they can stay at the same school, I did public here in town going from school to school every couple years and it was a horrific experience I chose this school because I didn't want my kids to have the same awful experience I did. Please build a high school instead.	10/19/2016 8:35 AM
85	please grant preferential seating at other somerset locations to current somerset enrolled families	10/19/2016 8:34 AM
86	What's the different of a K-8 and a K-5? And how will it effect my kid's?	10/19/2016 8:28 AM
87	We love Somerset Academy. Our son has been with the school from kindergarten and, starting at Emerson and then moving to Stephanie. I am devastated by the concept that the middle school option might be removed, as this school feels like home and a safe space for my child. We recently moved and still make the daily commute back to Henderson for a quality education. As a 4th grade parent who assumed that my child would matriculate at Stephanie through 8th grade I am willing to do whatever it takes to help keep the middle school open.	10/19/2016 8:22 AM
88	Somerset is a great school. It would be awful to not allow my children to continue their education here. The location is convenient for us and works out great. My children will never go to public school here. Somerset gives them a great shot at a quality education.	10/19/2016 6:07 AM
89	If Somerset becomes a k-5 school and my child attends SLAM with a matriculation agreement. Will siblings have priority to attend at Somerset Stephanie?	10/18/2016 10:41 PM
90	Since most students transfer to schools with High School option, why not have a Somerset High School?	10/18/2016 10:35 PM
91	is it possible to look into relationships with magnet middle/high schools? Other options than just slam ?	10/18/2016 9:56 PM
92	Get a new and better principle for stephanie.....	10/18/2016 9:48 PM
93	Keep Somerset K-8 School.	10/18/2016 9:42 PM
94	I honestly do not see the necessity of having a charter high school. I like that Somerset is k-8. That arrangement is great for families and middle school seems to be rigorous. I am concerned about the "exodus" of middle school teachers. Not sure why they left. Part of what keeps my family at Stephanie is the quality of education and the convenience of having three children on the same campus. I would explore magnet programs for high school and do not feel the need to continue with a charter for high school. The small, sheltered environment of Stephanie gives our kids the opportunity to develop self-confidence and self-advocacy skills. In my opinion, magnet high schools offers better programs than what charter has to offer. Thank you for being transparent so early into the school year. I heard rumblings at the fall festival that this was being considered. I don't trust SLAM only because it's brand new. I trust Stephanie. BUT if my only option was to apply to SLAM if Stephanie goes k-5 next year, I would begrudgingly make that choice. Did you do exit interviews? Perhaps it wouldn't hurt to know why so many teachers left. I'm sure the families that left for SLAM followed those teachers.I because trust had already been established.	10/18/2016 9:24 PM
95	I'm okay with this as long as it doesn't make the traffic worse. It's already worse than it was last year so adding more elementary will mean even MORE people in the drop off in the morning and in pick up in the afternoon. Is there ANY way to help relieve this? If you remove the middle school and add more elementary then less students will walk on and off of campus.	10/18/2016 9:21 PM
96	The Somerset Stephanie Campus has one of the best programs I have seen. The administration is absolutely committed to the students. I believed that we had finally found the place that was right for my daughter. No offense to SLAM, but they are not the staff of Somerset Stephanie. Please do not take away my daughters future. Instead commit to it and look at opening a high school near the Stephanie campus. The Somerset Stephanie campus is the best school on this side of town.	10/18/2016 9:15 PM
97	This is our first year at Somerset and we LOVE the school and planned to have our daughter attend then school until high school. We had heard there was talk of Somerset expanding to a high school and we had very high hopes for that. We are hoping you keep the school til 8th grade. We would not attend SLAM, our daughter is not into sports as a main focus.	10/18/2016 9:10 PM
98	This school is very important to us. The kids have forged great friendships and really connected with the teachers. Somerset has become a home to us and we would be so upset if they closed. This school needs to remain here and offer whatever it can to our community. Please consider staying open and offering k-5 at the very least. We would love if it remained K-8 but we will take anything at this point.	10/18/2016 8:49 PM
99	I was thinking about changing schools next year anyways because Somerset doesn't have a high school. I wasn't sure if I should wait 2 more years, but looks like you have made my decision for me. To bad they won't build you a high school.	10/18/2016 8:49 PM
100	Please keep Somerset Stephanie my kids would be terribly affected if they had to change schools they love it where they are thank you	10/18/2016 8:24 PM

101	Why did Academica a proven another high school instead of giving it to Somerset as planned?	10/18/2016 8:10 PM
102	I don't like that idea...I dont like to take my kids to a two different campuses ...we dont have time for that..the reason for have my children there..is because I can have them in the same place..that way I dont have to drive to a diferent schools.	10/18/2016 7:57 PM
103	It is extremely frustrating that this is happening. SLAM is not the right school for the majority of children, as most are parks & rec athletes vs. the more serious athletes that SLAM supposedly caters to. I feel that Academica put Somerset in a very undesirable position by inferring that someday Somerset Stephanie would have a high school option and then, rather than following through on that, building Pinecrest Cadence. Because of that, many families left Somerset, creating the middle school issues. Academica created the transience, and now our children are paying the price. We have loved our Somerset experience and will stay as long as the quality of education and fantastic staff remain the same. If not, it will be very disappointing that Academica had interests other than the best interest of the children as their highest priority.	10/18/2016 7:57 PM
104	This really scares me. My kids have never been happier and have never thrived like this. I truly hope the middle school classes remain!!	10/18/2016 7:55 PM
105	With increased enrollment in 4th and 5th grade why isn't the school confident that this will flow into middle school? Could you have some sort of letter of intent to see how enrollment would look for the next school year? In addition there is more housing being built near the campus and I would think there would be a possibility of enrollment from that as well. As a parent I would be extremely disappointed if Somerset went to a K-5. I am not interested in a Pinecrest or Slam option for my child as I prefer the Somerset academics.	10/18/2016 7:51 PM
106	Mine is in 7th this yr, they will need enrollment priority for 8th grade also! Thank you	10/18/2016 7:43 PM
107	Should stay the same! Why force kids to go somewhere they don't want to go.because if they wanted to go to SLAM they would of left already!	10/18/2016 7:39 PM
108	I switched to Somerset this year with the intention of keeping my children at the school until they start high school. I would not have switched their schools had I known my daughter would only be able to attend the school for one year. I think this is detrimental to her education and her social growth. I hope the school will remain open for the students already enrolled.	10/18/2016 7:08 PM
109	I would prefer that Somerset build a high school campus. We prefer to stay Somerset all the way through.	10/18/2016 7:08 PM
110	I want to keep my family together. Don't close the middle school.	10/18/2016 7:03 PM
111	We do not understand why it was not already an option to have a high school. When will we find out so we can make plans for our daughter's education.	10/18/2016 7:00 PM
112	Please give preferential seating to current enrolled somerset students at other somerset locations, if this transition is deamed necessary so my children can stay with Somerset. We live Somerset and don't want to change.	10/18/2016 6:58 PM
113	I feel that if the school changes to a K-5 school, there should be no gap for SLAM priority. Meaning if they change to K-5 for 2017-18 school year, then having priority to SLAM should also be in effect for the 2017-18 school year. If this cannot be accomplished until 2018-19, then the school needs to remain K-8 until that year. We have been part of the Somerset family since the school opened, and this is very disappointing that there will be a gap of unsurity for the 5th grade and middle school students.e	10/18/2016 6:50 PM
114	We are highly disturbed by this proposed change. If we wanted our child to go to SLAM, we would have transferred her already. If other charter schools can offer high school, why can't Somerset? We have been with Somerset since the 1st year when the school was housed at Emerson. This feels like Somerset is abandoning those that have been loyal to Somerset since the beginning.	10/18/2016 6:39 PM
115	Wish Somerset would make a high school in the Henderson area, so my child could stay within the Somerset Charter system.	10/18/2016 6:24 PM
116	As a new parent to somerset I m very disappointed with possible changes. My family and had every intention of having our child continue to attend Somerset and have our second child enroll for the year 2018 2019 school year. This past summer we even sold our house and purchased a new one closer so the commute wouldn't be so difficult every day. I would like to know when will the parents be notified of these possible changes as I would like to be able to have the opportunity to enroll my child as early as possible and to Pinecrest for his sixth grade school year.	10/18/2016 6:23 PM
117	If Somerset changes to K-5 I will be looking to move my child to another charter school that she can attend middle school. I would prefer to keep my child at one school. Thank you	10/18/2016 6:21 PM
118	I passed on moving my child to Pinecrest so he could be at the same school in middle school when his younger sister begins Elementary next year and for the three years following. If the change occurs to change Somerset K-5 I would have to consider moving them to another charter in the area.	10/18/2016 6:17 PM
119	Our children have enjoyed going to Stephanie campus, and their teachers are good people. Thank you for listening	10/18/2016 6:11 PM

120	I would love to stay thru 8th grade but if there is other options for out middle school kids I'm open to it	10/18/2016 6:05 PM
121	My son has attended Somerset Stephanie since Kindergarten and he has thrived immensely with all of the amazing teachers and support staff. My future goals and wishes have always been for him to remain at Somerset through middle school and to remain with his friends and staff that have become a second family to him. Thank you so much for your time and concerns regarding this important matter.	10/18/2016 5:59 PM
122	My child has been attending this school for 5 years. We have 1 more year until middle school is completed. You should give the middle school students a chance to finish middle school and then implement the changes.	10/18/2016 5:52 PM
123	Somerset academy Henderson campus does make our life's easier with having k-8. Slam academy is further away for us and almost impossible for our kids to attend.	10/18/2016 5:48 PM
124	Why can't Somerset offer K-HS. This way more middle school students would stay.	10/18/2016 5:44 PM
125	Keep Somerset a K-8 and work with the system to get a high school built in the area!	10/18/2016 5:37 PM
126	I HATE this idea with a passion. My son has been a part of the Somerset family his entire school career. He grew with you from Emerson to Stephanie. Even with so many of the teachers leaving we've stayed because we believe in Somerset and it feels like home. Now you want to throw a child whom does not do well into a new school with a ton of kids he doesn't know. I know that's what would happen if he were in public school but that's why we chose Somersset. This leaves me with a feeling of Somerset not actually caring about it students and a willingness to toss them away.	10/18/2016 5:22 PM
127	We just moved to Somerset Stephanie for 7th grade after not being happy with how 6th grade went at our last k-8 charter. We are very happy with how it has been going at Somerset, and would be very upset about having to find a third school for 8th grade, and then move again for 9th grade. Our family asks that you please keep the middle school program going at least until the current middle school students graduate. Somerset's middle school program is excellent and maybe just needs more publicity. We promise to be good ambassadors for the program. A transition for each of the next two years might be very hard on our family. Thank you for your consideration.	10/18/2016 5:15 PM
128	What about a 8-12 Henderson Somerset campus?	10/18/2016 5:07 PM
129	What ever the decision is my children will continue to attend somerset regardless of the outcome. I would love somerset to have a high school. I know it's not as easy as it sounds but can't we find a new location to add the high school?	10/18/2016 5:04 PM
130	I really hope Somerset stays K-8!	10/18/2016 5:00 PM
131	The Somersset charter can curb the middle school enrollment problem by creating a plan for a Smersset related high school in Henderson. This is the reason middle school students are leaving. Plain & simple. (No high school plan that has been explained to us parents) we want to hear that plan from the Somerset Board. What is the future vision for high school?	10/18/2016 4:57 PM
132	Is there a matriculation agreement with the other Academica schools? What are the other Academica options for middle school through High school on this side of the city? There are two high schools in the Northwest side of town for Somerset academies. Why isn't there one or any plans for one on this side of town?	10/18/2016 4:50 PM
133	Somerset Stephanie is a FAMILY. It's hard to imagine it not staying as is as a K-8 school. We understand that the school needs full enrollment but with the additional students in 4th and 5th grade it does have the potential to grow in enrollment next year.	10/18/2016 4:49 PM
134	The reason that the middle school is having a problem with enrollment is because you have not followed through with a high school campus in Henderson; leaving them to HAVE to go somewhere else at a critical time in their education. We want our children to be able to receive the education they are accustom to at Somerset. It is very insulting as a parent because you abandoning the high school solution feels like a punishment for being loyal to our school. We are loyal to Somerset and want our children to be able to attend Somerset through High school. It is not right for you to abandon your middle school and future high school students in favor of cashing in on the numbers you know you can get in the elementary grades.	10/18/2016 4:49 PM
135	Love the idea of being an all elementary school. With a lot more openings for K-5 kids this will be great!	10/18/2016 4:48 PM
136	I feel my children benefit from staying at the same school through middle school. There is a sense of family, that is created by keeping Somerset K-8.	10/18/2016 4:45 PM
137	Transportation for middle schoolers to the proposed SLAM Academy from the Somerset Stephanie location for those parents who have elementary students still attending would probably make this transition more widely accepted and favorable. However, if transportation is not going to be an option you will likely lose a great many loyal families. We really liked Somerset Stephanie because of its K-8 grade options. Too many changes, different staff every year, this school doesn't seem as concrete as it appeared and were becoming concerned.	10/18/2016 4:44 PM
138	I think that slam idea for middle school and grade 5 students is an excellent option!!!	10/18/2016 4:43 PM

139	I think this is a good idea considering that my children are going to high school next year and I would love for them to go to SLAM.	10/18/2016 4:43 PM
140	Can we get a better understanding as to what SLAM is and what other HS options our children could have? Thank you.	10/18/2016 4:39 PM
141	The reason I enrolled my children at Somerset was to have all my children at the same campus. I would like for them to remain together.	10/18/2016 4:39 PM
142	I have never been overly thrilled with Somerset. We decided to keep our child enrolled through the end of 5th so he could stay with friends. I can see why many parents transition to a different school for junior high because we have been planning to do the same.	10/18/2016 4:26 PM
143	My son is currently enrolled and my daughter will soon be attending the school. It would be easier if they attended the same school rather than different schools and making it harder to pickup one child and then race to the other school to pick up my other child. It would be more money in gas that I would have to spend and my husband is the only one working right now so it's hard on us with one car. Thank you for reading and I hope you make the right decision on this.	10/18/2016 4:24 PM
144	I know Somerset is due for a k-12 in Henderson. This is my #1 hope. I believe if there were a Somerset k-12 in Henderson many families would keep their children at Stephanie until high school! The middle schoolers would then move to high school as a group, much like they do in a traditional public school. We can't say enough good things about Mr Farmer's approach to education and would support any plan to extend his reach.	10/18/2016 4:24 PM
145	Please continue to keep the parents informed. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.	10/18/2016 4:23 PM
146	I would love Somerset to remain a k-8 school because I currently have a 2nd grader enrolled and a future somerset student at home (3 years old) and I would love it if my children could attend the same school for several years.	10/18/2016 4:13 PM
147	So angry that this is even a consideration	10/18/2016 4:09 PM
148	Are there still plans to add a Somerset High School in Henderson?	10/18/2016 4:08 PM
149	One of the biggest reasons I tried to enroll my son in this academy is because it goes through the eighth grade. As everyone knows that is when both academically and socially kids can change and I enjoyed the small family type atmosphere Somerset gives. Even though we will not dis enroll our son, I would not be happy sending him to another charter school. These schools vary and I do not know enough about the Slam academy, nor has it been around long enough, to say I would guarantee my son would attend. Thank you for letting the parents voice be heard.	10/18/2016 4:07 PM
150	I love the idea of Somerset becoming a K-5 school. I know a lot of people who try to get their child into Somerset but cannot because of the long waitlist.	10/18/2016 4:03 PM
151	We have not thought about High School at this point, but it's interesting to know the changes that will affect the school. My son is in 1st grade and we plan on continuing here at Somerset for now.	10/18/2016 4:00 PM
152	We love the K-5 program and would prefer the administration focus on that rather than spread themselves thin with 6-8.	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
153	My only concern is being two places at once. I would have children attending both somerset academy and slam if you were to make the change I personally would struggle as I also work full time.	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
154	Good luck	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
155	This is disappointing that somerset may not be an option for k-8	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
156	It's a shame that this Somerset is the only one in the whole valley that didn't get a high school.	10/18/2016 3:57 PM
157	We would likely leave somerset after 2017/2018 if it doesn't keep the middle school.	10/18/2016 3:52 PM
158	I am so happy with the elementary education and was looking forward to keeping my daughter in the school through 8th grade. I hope it stays the same as it is currently. Maybe you should look into community outreach for the grades that are not full and try to let parents know about Somerset and it's pros.	10/18/2016 3:50 PM
159	Is there a possibility of another feeder high school on the Southeast side of town or renaming SLAM Acadamy? SLAM is an awful name for a learning institution and I'm not certain that the curriculum is geared towards a more general student population.	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
160	We are disappointed in the school and board by not being more transparent in the situation that has been created by not creating multiple elementary schools to support a Somerset high school as promised.	10/18/2016 3:48 PM
161	I like the idea of the matriculation with slam. Either way, I think it's a great idea.	10/18/2016 3:45 PM
162	The Stephanie campus just does not support an elementary and middle school. Logistics are a problem. I would love to see them be the best elementary school there is (which they are), not be a middle of the road middle school. Farmer is strung too thin. Give him his elementary back. He will excel even more.	10/18/2016 3:45 PM

163	This is very disappointing news. We have loved Somerset Academy and hoped that our son could continue his Middle School education there.	10/18/2016 3:45 PM
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Somerset Stephanie is a great campus ensuring an excellent education for Henderson area students. Due to other charter school growth, teacher retention and student re-enrollment has not met targets (see attached data), the Somerset Board of Directors has requested options that could assist Somerset Stephanie in achieving a consistent full enrollment.

The Somerset Board of Directors is presented with the following options to target full enrollment while meeting the needs of the Henderson area students: expansion in the Henderson area, changes to enrollment at Somerset Stephanie, and working with other charter providers.

1. CONTINUE AS A K-8 WITH FUTURE GROWTH IN HENDERSON AREA TO BE CONSIDERED AT A FUTURE TIME

Somerset Academy recently obtained an amendment to the Charter Agreement with the Nevada SPCSA which allows Somerset to expand in the Henderson area. Somerset is authorized to open up to 2 additional campuses over the next 5 years. The application did not anticipate this growth taking place until the 2019-2020 school year. The current board could simply maintain operations unchanged at this time and revisit the opportunity for expansion in the 2018-2019 school year.

a. Strengths

- i. Consistent with most recent growth and development plan
- ii. Maintains a Somerset Academy educational option for families in the Henderson Area for grades K-8, and possibly additional campuses and grades in the future.
- iii. Allows time for additional residential development in the Henderson area to better support enrollment.

b. Obstacles or Drawbacks

- i. Current enrollment at the Stephanie Campus is below the 95% target, the campus has not maintained enrollment growth at the pace anticipated in the Lease, and unless middle school students return to the campus at a greater rate then enrollment/budget issues could continue in future years.
- ii. Future School development in the Henderson area include 3 CCSD Elementary schools by 2018 (one less than a mile from the Stephanie Campus) and a new Charter School in the Cadence development (Legacy Traditional Schools is working to open a campus in that area).

2. CONTINUE AS A K-8 WHILE PURSUING LEGISLATIVE AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR A MATRICULATION AGREEMENT WITH NEARBY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

Should Somerset Academy decide that future growth in the Henderson area is unwarranted/unlikely, the Board could elect to maintain Stephanie Campus as a K-8 and seek to partner with a currently operating Charter School to provide priority enrollment access into the 9th grade. This could allow parents seeking a Somerset Education to remain with Somerset for grades K-8 while hopefully increasing student re-enrollment in the middle school grades by assuring those students priority access to a nearby charter high school.

- a. Strengths
 - i. Maintains stability in the Somerset Academy System for the faculty and students of Stephanie Campus.
 - ii. Creates potential to develop an educational partner for High School enrollment to benefit our middle school students.
 - iii. Maintains an Educational option for families in the Henderson Area for grades K-8.
 - iv. Would not require any additional amendment to the current Somerset Academy charter.
- b. Obstacles or Drawbacks
 - i. The proposed matriculation agreement is not authorized under current law and would require legislative change, which may not be approved.
 - ii. Somerset Academy students would have a significant transition in curriculum and culture from the Middle to High School grades. While this transition is not unlike a traditional school district model, it is a potential disadvantage in comparison to Somerset Academy students attending other campuses with closer access to a Somerset High School.
 - iii. Due to the impending transition to High School, there is the potential parents/students could still elect to transfer out of the Stephanie Campus middle school at a higher rate than other campuses/grades in order to get earlier access to the future High School system.

3. AMEND CHARTER TO REDUCE GRADE LEVELS SERVED TO GRADES K-5 WITH EXPANDED STUDENT POPULATION AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

Should Somerset Academy decide that future growth in the Henderson area is unwarranted/unlikely and that a potential matriculation agreement would not resolve the reduced re-enrollment of middle school students, the Board could elect to reduce the scope of Somerset Academy's enrollment in the Stephanie Campus to grades K-5. This plan could also include a matriculation agreement with a nearby charter school offering middle school enrollment.

- a. Strengths
 - i. Stephanie Campus enrollment is strong in grades K-5, with full enrollment and waitlists at all grade levels that exceed those of other nearby K-5 charter schools.
 - ii. Maintains stability in the Somerset Academy System for the faculty and students of Stephanie Campus' elementary school.
 - iii. Maintains the option of a Somerset Academy elementary education for the families and students of Henderson.
- b. Obstacles or Drawbacks
 - i. Creates uncertainty and enrollment issues for current middle school students and faculty.
 - ii. Any proposed matriculation agreement with a nearby middle school is not authorized under current law and would require legislative change, which may not be approved.

- iii. Somerset Academy students would have a significant transition in curriculum and culture from the Elementary to Middle School grades.
- iv. Limits the ability of Somerset Academy to fulfill its mission as a college preparatory academy by only serving students for elementary school grades.
- v. Would require an amendment to the current Somerset Academy charter to be approved by the Nevada SPCSA.

4. AMEND CHARTER TO REDUCE GRADE LEVELS SERVED TO GRADES K-5 WHILE PURSUING LEGISLATIVE AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR A MATRICULATION AGREEMENT WITH NEARBY CHARTER TO OPERATE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES THROUGH A SUBLEASE OF SPACE ON THE STEPHANIE CAMPUS.

Similar to option 3, above, Somerset Academy could elect to reduce grades served by Somerset Academy on the Stephanie Campus to K-5, but not increase enrollment at those grade levels. Instead, Somerset Academy could partner with another charter operator to co-locate within the Stephanie Campus facility. Students would then transition from the Somerset Academy elementary grades to the partner Charter School's middle school grades. This plan would seem most compatible to a system that does not offer elementary grades, such as SLAM! Academy. The students would be in Somerset Academy for grades K-5 and then transition to SLAM! curriculum, as an example, in the 6th grade while staying on the same campus. The charter boards could even maintain a common administration team for both elementary and middle schools sharing the facility.

a. Strengths

- i. Maintains stability in the Somerset Academy System for the faculty and students of Stephanie Campus elementary school while also providing an on-site option for middle school.
- ii. Creates potential to develop an educational partner for High School enrollment to benefit our students.
- iii. Maintains an Educational option for families in the Henderson Area for grades K-8.

b. Obstacles or Drawbacks

- i. Would require both Somerset Academy and the proposed partner school to obtain amendments to their charter agreements with the Nevada SPCSA, which amendments would be subject to SPCSA approval.
- ii. As tenants in Stephanie Campus, Somerset Academy would need to obtain permission from the property owner to Sub-lease the middle school portions of the building.
- iii. The proposed matriculation agreement is not authorized under current law and would require legislative change, which may not be approved.
- iv. Somerset Academy students would have a significant transition in curriculum and culture from the Middle to High School grades. This transition would be

minimized by staying on the same campus with most likely the same administration team.

5. AMEND CHARTER TO REDUCE CAMPUSES SERVED AND WORK A PARTNER CHARTER OPERATOR AND THE LANDLORD TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR A DIFFERENT CHARTER OPERATOR WITH A NEARBY HIGH SCHOOL TO MOVE IN TO THE FACILITY.

Should Somerset Academy decide that future growth in the Henderson area is unwarranted/unlikely and that the best option for Stephanie Campus students is to allow them a different K-12 charter experience, then Somerset Academy could seek to transition the campus to another Charter operator. This would be subject to multiple levels of review and approval, at the local charter board level, by the SPCSA, and by the current property owner. Should all agree, then the Stephanie Campus could transition into an additional campus for a Charter School network with high school options in the Henderson area.

- a. Strengths
 - i. Provides a consistent K-12 or 6-12 educational option for families in the Henderson Nevada area.
 - ii. Solves the enrollment and financial issues facing Somerset Academy which have resulted from having a Campus without a nearby high school option.
- b. Obstacles or Drawbacks
 - i. While other good charter operators are present in Henderson, the Somerset Academy education model is unique and it would no longer be available in the Henderson area.
 - ii. This proposal would require multiple levels of approval in order to become a reality, including:
 - 1. Somerset Academy and the proposed partner school to approve amendment applications to their charter agreements;
 - 2. the Nevada SPCSA would have to approve the amendments;
 - 3. Turner-Agassi would need to approve Somerset Academy vacating the property and a different tenant assuming the Lease.
 - iii. Creates uncertainty and transition for current Somerset Academy faculty and students.

It is the strong recommendation of staff that any revision to Somerset Stephanie's growth or enrollment plan be completed only after a consultation with the faculty and families of Somerset Stephanie in the form of a survey or meetings to be held at the campus. We know it is the board's intention to best meet the needs of those families and students. We hope that through discussing these options and possibilities with the Henderson community, the conclusion will be the best educational outcome for students in the Henderson area.

Student Turnover

15-16 School Yr.		16-17 School Yr.	
K	5	K	4
1	6	1	17
2	10	2	17
3	6	3	14
4	5	4	7
5	8	5	17
6	11	6	9
7	8	7	14
		Additional	18
Total	59		117

In the 2016-17 school year, Stephanie retained 87% of their students.

In 2016 SLAM and Pinecrest Cadence opened. Most of the students who left the Stephanie Campus did so to ensure a seat for high school.

Somerset Stephanie 2016-17 Enrollment Numbers

Grade	2016/2017 Applied	2016/2017 Accepted	2016/2017 Registered	2016/2017 Projected Numbers Approved 5/31	Under Enrolled
K	357	2	98	100	
1	229	0	100	100	
2	139	0	100	100	
3	128	0	100	100	
4	79	0	125	125	
5	3	3	125	125	3
6	0	2	100	124	22
7	0	0	68	93	25
8	0	0	49	62	13
Total	935	7	865	929	-57 students -\$380,133

93.11%

Financially, Stephanie is running about break even at 93% enrollment.

Teacher Turnover

Stephanie 2015-16	
Retained 29/38	76%

Stephanie 2016-17	
Retained 24/43	56%

Current Waitlists

By analyzing the waitlists for Stephanie, Pinecrest Cadence and Pinecrest Horizon, we can see that Stephanie has a healthy waitlist in the lower grades, but dramatically drops off in middle school.

Stephanie

Grade	2016/2017 Applied	Horizon	Cadence
K	357	K 193	K 133
1	229	1 6	1 45
2	139	2 0	2 40
3	128	3 0	3 9
4	79	4 3	4 30
5	3	5 0	5 11
6	0	6 0	6 1
7	0	7 1	7 37
8	0	8 0	8 0
Total	935		9 0