

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
MARCH 31, 2025

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on March 31, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89081.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Vice Chair LeNora. The following Board members were in attendance: LeNora Bredsguard, Travis Mizer, Sarah McClellan, Renee Fairless, and Matt Morris (at 6:03 p.m.).

Board Members John Bentham and Matt Hurley were not in attendance.

Also present were the following principals: Lee Esplin, Jessica Scobell, Shannon Manning, Cesar Tiu, Kate Lackey, and Mindi Palomeque. Other attendees included Assistant Principal Jessica Spalding, and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Trevor Goodsell, and Marla Devitt.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 BOARD MEETING**
- b. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 24, 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
- c. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**
 - 1. SCHOOL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (NOT FOR ACTION)**
 - 2. APPROVAL OF THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR INITIAL BUDGET**
 - 3. APPROVAL OF LOSEE MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**
 - 4. APPROVAL OF LOSEE'S GYM FLOOR RESURFACING CONTRACT**

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

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. SCHOOL INITIATIVE REPORT BY SOMERSET ADMINISTRATORS

The principals of Somerset Academy addressed the Board, providing updates on student achievement, intervention strategies, and extracurricular activities at their respective schools. Sky Pointe campus Principal Lee Esplin introduced Nicole Johnson, who would be joining their campus the next year as an assistant vice principal for the elementary school. Ms. Marcy Jacobs provided updates on recent events at Skypoint: There was a volleyball game that night, and a

leadership night on Thursday at 5:30 PM led by the junior lighthouse team. The theater program had produced a musical on April 10-12, and they were certified as a lighthouse school on April 14. There was a celebration for becoming a Purple Star school on April 21. A dance showcase on April 24-25 highlighted the team, which won state championships in pom and contemporary categories. Additionally, three pops concerts featured performances by the band and orchestra. The thespians' team, having won their state competition, would compete at the international level in Indiana in June. Finally, the band would perform at the Las Vegas Independence Day Festival in July.

Stephanie campus Assistant Principal Jessica Spalding shared updates from their campus: Stephanie's Principal, David Fossett, welcomed newborn twins, Betty and Benny, on March 8. The elementary school drone team had placed 4th and 5th in their last competition, qualifying for regionals in Northern California. Additionally, the robotics team had advanced to the state level and placed first in coding. They had successfully hosted their first leadership day on March 12, featuring student performances and a significant parent turnout. The recent i-Ready data showed most grade levels in the high achieving, high growth category, and they would receive a gold award from the MTSS initiative.

Aliante campus Principal Shannon Manning introduced her leadership team, including Morgan Carrona, Kelly Miller, and Jacquelyn Johnson. She shared campus updates: They had completed their Apex fundraiser, raising \$48,000 for the school. Their second leadership day was held on March 12 with a good parent turnout. They had hosted their first career day with various emergency services and 25 vendors. An upcoming STEAM night with a hydrogen ice cream truck was planned. They also had a military breakfast for their Purple Star designation on Friday. The school was gearing up for testing, with diagnostics the following week and SBAC on April 22. An incoming kindergarten orientation was set for April 16. The administrative team completed the P3 cohort and was implementing a summer bridge program for incoming kindergarteners. Construction on the middle school addition was scheduled to be completed on May 22.

North Las Vegas campus Principal Mindi Palomeque reported that they were fully staffed for the next year. They were conducting tutoring based on student data. They were having a career week, with VIP day on Wednesday featuring dignitaries from North Las Vegas speaking to 4th and 5th grade classes, and a first responders day on Friday.

Lone Mountain campus Principal Cesar Tiu announced that they were officially a purple star school, with the ceremony on April 21. They had a successful leadership day on March 12, attended by representatives from Ward 5. Their lighthouse review date was on the 15th. They sent four students to the global Ron Clark Amazing Shake competition, where they made it to the top 60 out of 400 kids. They started SBAC testing with sixth-grade CAT, and students reported that the passages were longer and harder, with more short answer response questions. They were celebrating their 10-year anniversary by bringing back students who opened the school in 2015.

Skye Canyon campus Principal Kate Lackey provided campus updates: They held a career day with 48 presenters, including emergency services and a judge. "Ray Strong Day" was

planned for April 25 to support a student diagnosed with leukemia, featuring t-shirt sales and a soccer game fundraiser. Upcoming end-of-year events included a field day, 5th grade recognition at city hall, middle school students going on out-of-state field trips, a talent show on April 17, and a middle school dance and carnival on May 9. Additionally, the middle school battle of the books team would be traveling to Florida from April 22-24.

Losee campus Principal Jessica Scobell provided updates: The Southern California Southern Nevada Explorers Camp Fire Camp was hosted during spring break, with 115 fire cadets living on campus for a week. Collaboration occurred with Kayla Cervantes, a math strategist, to discuss differentiation and student discourse in math classrooms. The boys bowling team won the Nevada 3A state championship, while the girls basketball team made it to the 4A state semifinals. The middle school boys basketball team won the 8th grade champions in their division. Senior Jocelyn Rubio Toscano was awarded a \$20,000 Hispanic Heritage and Latino Legacy Scholarship, and Joseph Keller earned the Engelstad Scholarship to attend UNLV for all four years. A fun run was held and \$20,000 was raised. An upcoming STEM night was scheduled for April 10, and a band festival was hosted before spring break, with plans to expand it the next year.

b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER SEARCH

This item was tabled.

c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE ETHOS THREE ARCHITECTURE PROPOSAL FOR THE LONE MOUNTAIN GYM PHASE 1

Mr. Gary McClain addressed the Board and presented the Ethos Three Architecture proposal for the Lone Mountain Gym Phase 1. The total proposal was \$418,150, which included design through bidding (\$300,000) and construction administration and services (\$85,000). There was an additional option to design Phase 2 for \$40,000. Phase 1 included a 500-seat gymnasium, locker rooms, restrooms, and support space. Phase 2 would have been an auxiliary gymnasium. Mr. McClain recommended approving the full Ethos package for Phase 1 and Phase 2 design, as designing them together would be more cost-effective. The Board discussed the benefits of including Phase 2 in the design process.

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ETHOS THREE ARCHITECTURE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. MEMBER FAIRLESS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

d. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2025/2026 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board reviewed the proposed 2025/2026 board meeting schedule.

MEMBER FAIRLESS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CALENDAR A PRESENTED. MEMBER MORRIS SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

4. LONG RANGE CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board discussed upcoming events:

- Graduation was scheduled for Friday, May 23, at 7:00 PM

- The last day of school would be May 23
- SBAC testing was starting soon.

7. MEMBER COMMENT

Board members expressed excitement about the fourth quarter and upcoming events. They commended the administrators for their leadership development efforts and wished good luck for testing and graduation.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:35 P.M.

Approved on: April 28, 2025


Travis mizer (May 5, 2025 11:49 PDT)

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