

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
MAY 19, 2025

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 6475 Valley Dr., North Las Vegas, NV 89084.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Board Chair John Bentham. The following Board members were in attendance: John Bentham, Travis Mizer, Matt Hurley, Sarah McClellan, and Matt Morris.

Board Members LeNora Bredsguard and Renee Fairless were not in attendance.

Also present were the following principals: Jessica Scobell, Shannon Manning, Cesar Tiu, Kate Lackey, Mindi Palomeque, and David Fossett. Other attendees included Assistant Principal Marcella Jacobs; Somerset System Office Manager Tiffany Lewis; Bernie Montero and Suzette Ruiz with Somerset Inc.; and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Rachel Law, Matt Padron, and Dena Thompson.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittney Clark expressed concern regarding a bullying incident involving her son at the Losee campus and was dissatisfied with the school's response and communication. She requested counseling support for her son and urged the board to address overall student safety. Erik Huey raised concerns about disorganization and poor communication during a recent evacuation at the Losee campus, calling for improvements to emergency procedures.

3. SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS BUDGET HEARING

No members of the public had questions or comments on the initial budget.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 28, 2025 BOARD MEETING**
- b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FORM THE MAY 14, 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
- c. APPROVAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK SELF-CERTIFICATION**
- d. REVIEW OF NDE 2030 STATEWIDE PLAN**
- e. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
 - 1. SCHOOL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**
 - 2. APPROVAL OF THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR FINAL BUDGET**
 - 3. APPROVAL OF NEW JANITORIAL COMPANY FOR ALIANTE CAMPUS**

4. APPROVAL OF NEW JANITORIAL COMPANY FOR SKYE CANYON CAMPUS

5. APPROVAL OF NEW JANITORIAL COMPANY FOR STEPHANIE CAMPUS

MEMBER McCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MEMBER MIZER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. SCHOOL INITIATIVE REPORT BY SOMERSET ADMINISTRATORS

Somerset Academy administrators provided updates for their respective schools. North Las Vegas Principal Mindi Palomeque reported on end-of-year activities, including promotions and field day. She noted improved academic performance, with Tier 1 overall achievement increasing from 30% to 71%. Regarding staffing, 29 out of 30 teachers were returning, with the one departure being a provisionally licensed teacher.

Skye Canyon Principal Kate Lackey shared recent extracurricular achievements, including a victory in the Battle of the Books competition in Florida and a championship win by the varsity girls soccer team. She reported being nearly fully staffed, with only a third-grade vacancy remaining. Enrollment was full, except for kindergarten and 20 openings in 6th grade. She also noted ongoing construction progress.

Lone Mountain Principal Cesar Tiu reported on recent events, including a senior celebration in honor of the school's tenth-year anniversary. He stated that the school had been designated as both a Purple Star School and a Lighthouse School, and that it would become a Title I school next year. He noted the need to fill a kindergarten teaching position.

Aliante Principal Shannon Manning reported being nearly fully staffed, with only a 1st grade position remaining open. She highlighted the introduction of the AVID program for middle school students and provided an update on construction progress. She also reported on two summer bridge programs: one for incoming students with 85 families enrolled, and another to support kindergartners transitioning to 1st grade.

Losee Principal Jessica Scobell reported on recent award ceremonies and upcoming promotions and graduations, noting 179 graduating seniors. She shared that the school had achieved Lighthouse School status and reported improved CERT scores among freshmen and sophomores. She noted current staffing openings and the addition of two new administrators.

Stephanie Principal David Fossett reported an increase in the number of special education students, with 179 projected for the upcoming year. He noted that all seven special education teachers would be licensed, marking a significant improvement. He reported a vacancy in the music teacher position due to space constraints, with music being transitioned to a push-in model. Middle school enrollment remained a challenge, currently 30 students short of capacity.

Skye Pointe Assistant Principal Marcella Jacobs reported on campus achievements, including a 100% graduation rate for their 180 seniors. She stated that the school had achieved Lighthouse School status and discussed AP exam completions, including the

addition of AP Human Geography for freshmen. She also reported increased enrollment in dual credit courses and positive data from recent academic assessments.

b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A NEW VENDED MEALS AGREEMENT WITH THE CURRENT VENDOR, REVOLUTION FOODS, FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS

Ms. Rachel Law presented information on the vended meals agreement, explaining that Somerset had exhausted its renewal options, necessitating a new solicitation process. Two vendors submitted proposals, and following a tasting and evaluation process involving NSLP team members and administrators, Revolution Foods was awarded the contract for the 2025–2026 school year, with the option to renew for up to four additional years.

Board members and principals expressed concerns regarding the transition to a paid meal model. Principals highlighted the potential impact on students who rely on school meals and noted the challenges of encouraging families to complete the necessary forms for free and reduced-price lunch eligibility. Strategies discussed included setting up computer stations at open house events and providing QR codes to streamline access to the form. Mr. Gary McClain clarified that the decision to move away from CEP was due to budget constraints, stating that supplementing a lunch program would be difficult under current financial conditions.

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE VENDED MEAL AGREEMENT WITH REVOLUTION FOODS FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR. MEMBER MIZER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ASPHALT SEAL COAT CONTRACTS FOR ALIANTE AND SKYE CANYON

Mr. McClain presented information on asphalt seal coat contracts for the Aliante and Sky Canyon campuses, noting that the timing was intentional to follow the completion of construction at both sites. He recommended awarding the contracts to Anderson as the low bidder, stating that Anderson had previously completed seal coat work for Somerset schools. Member Morris inquired about the cost difference, and Mr. McClain confirmed that Anderson's bid was approximately \$10,000 lower than the next lowest bid at each campus.

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE ANDERSON AS THE VENDOR FOR SEAL COAT AT THE ALIANTE AND SKYE CANYON CAMPUSES. MEMBER MORRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. LONG RANGE CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McClain reminded the board of an upcoming telephonic board meeting on May 21st at 4:00 p.m. with a single agenda item. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be on August 4th at 6:00 p.m. He provided updates on construction progress at the Aliante, Sky Pointe, and Sky Canyon campuses.

7. MEMBER COMMENT

Board members expressed congratulations to the principal and staff for their hard work throughout the school year. Member Bentham highlighted the senior clap-out at the Lone Mountain campus and encouraged other K-8 campuses to consider similar traditions. He praised the principals for their efforts in improving education and extracurricular activities across the Somerset system.

Board members were encouraged to attend the upcoming graduation ceremonies.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:47 P.M.

Approved on: July 21, 2025


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