

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS**  
**AUGUST 13, 2025**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on August 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Board Chair John Bentham. The following Board members were in attendance: John Bentham, LeNora Bredsguard, Travis Mizer, Matt Hurley, Sarah McClellan, and Matt Morris (at 4:34 p.m.).

Board Member Renee Fairless was not in attendance.

Also present were the following principals: Jessica Scobell, Lee Esplin, Cesar Tiu, Kate Lackey, Mindi Palomeque, Shannon Manning, and David Fossett. Other attendees included Somerset Inc. representatives Suzette Ruiz and Bernie Montero, and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Trevor Goodsell, and Dena Thompson.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Dena Thompson read the public comment access instructions, as required under Open Meeting Law for virtual meetings.

There was no public comment.

**3. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

**MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21, 2025 BOARD MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER BREDSGUARD SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ALLOCATION FOR TEACHER RAISES BASED ON ASSEMBLY BILL 398**

Mr. Goodsell reported that the \$2 per-pupil funding increase had effectively resulted in a funding decrease due to inflation and significant insurance cost increases. Without AB398 funds, staffing reductions or pay cuts would have been necessary. With the \$2.5 million allocated through AB398, the school had been able to restore a planned 1.6% pay decrease, provide an average 4% raise (some higher based on merit and market adjustments), and make targeted increases to retain staff. The allocation had been within \$7 of the budgeted amount. In response to Member Bredsguard's question, Mr. Goodsell confirmed that AB398 funding was currently for two years, with hopes it would become permanent.

**MEMBER BREDSGUARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF TEACHER RAISES BASED ON ASSEMBLY BILL 398, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HURLY SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. BOARD MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK**

Member Bredsguard wished everyone a good first week of school and hoped they were staying cool. Member Hurley shared that his three children at the Sky Pointe campus had enjoyed their first three days and that things were going well. Member McClellan extended happy first week wishes to all.

Chair Bentham reported visiting six campuses in the past two days and expressed excitement over the positive atmosphere, staff enthusiasm, and student behavior. He commended principals for motivating their staff and creating a strong vision on their campuses, noting that this energy should carry through the year

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. McClain announced that the next board meeting was targeted for October 6, with no additional meetings anticipated before then. He noted that the Interim Finance Committee would meet on October 15 to officially approve the raise allocation item, after which a brief telephonic meeting might be scheduled to address remaining business.

Principal Esplin thanked Mr. Goodsell for his extensive work preparing the funding plan, noting that he had worked long hours, including giving up a vacation, to ensure its completion. Chair Bentham echoed the appreciation, recognizing the challenge of working with limited resources.

Ms. Ruiz wished everyone a great school year and expressed excitement about the upcoming presentation of academic results, praising the significant growth across all schools. Mr. Montero encouraged maintaining momentum, noting the board's longstanding goal of becoming a five-star system and expressing confidence that the schools were close to achieving it. Chair Bentham concluded by affirming the board's support for principals, teachers, and staff, noting that the pay raise reflected those priorities.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **7. ADJOURN MEETING**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:45 P.M.**

**Approved on: September 9, 2025**

  
Travis Miller (Sep 10, 2025 09:39:26 PDT)

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