

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
September 16, 2015

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on September 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 4650 385 W. Centennial Parkway, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

1. Call to order and roll call.

Board Treasurer Eric Brady called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Present were Board Members Cody Noble (6:49), Will Harty (via telephone), Eric Brady, Travis Mizer, and Carrie Boehlecke (6:52).

Also present were John Barlow, Principal Jefferson, Principal Kelley, Principal Mayfield, Principal Pendleton, Principal Denson, Principal Phillips, and Assistant Principal Hammond, as well as Academica Nevada Representatives Ryan Reeves, Carlos Segrera, Jake Smoot, and Kristie Fleisher.

2. Public Comments and Discussion.

None.

3. Review and Approval of HVAC Service Provider.

Mr. Jake Smoot from Academica Nevada addressed the Board, pointing out page five of the support documents where the bids for the HVAC Service Provider (heating and air conditioning maintenance) for all five campuses could be found. Mr. Smoot stated that he had obtained bids and met with the companies, after which they determined to recommend ABM, adding that they were not the lowest bid, however, Academica felt they would provide superior service and had spent a great deal of time working on the bids and had shown a great deal of effort in obtaining the contract. Member Brady asked if this is the same ABM as the cleaning company. Mr. Greg Spears of ABM addressed the Board and stated that they were the same company, but different entities. Member Brady asked if Mr. Smoot could explain why they would want to go with a bid that was \$5,000.00 a year higher than the next lowest bid. Mr. Smoot stated that he had been conducting inspections of the current service provider at each of the campuses and had determined that service had not been up to par, adding that in the past year North Las Vegas alone had undergone about \$30,000.00 worth of AC maintenance in addition to a few other discrepancies. Mr. Smoot further stated that they were recommending ABM because they were confident that ABM will bring those costs down and make sure that the units are running more efficiently. Member Mizer asked if ABM would be willing to match with the lowest bidder. Mr. Smoot stated that, unfortunately because it was an open public bid, the price cannot be negotiated once the proposals had been presented. Member Mizer asked what ABM would bring to the table that Comfort Masters would not. Mr. Reeves suggested they allow Mr. Spears to address the Board.

Mr. Spears stated that they felt they had provided a competitive bid considering the scope that would be required, adding that they were confident that the service would be superior to what Somerset had been receiving, which was evident in the fact that there were some issues upon inspection, including some filters that were the wrong size. Mr. Spears further stated that, while he did not have anything against Comfort Masters, however, they technically could only bid on one Somerset location because they have a bid limit of \$10,000.00. Mr. Spears concluded that they were offering a competitive price and were certain they could provide excellent service. Member Brady stated that he had reviewed the material, however, he was not sure what the contract length would be. Mr. Smoot stated that the contract length would be three years. Member Brady asked if there was a way out

of the contract. Mr. Spears stated that there was a 30-day cancellation clause. Member Mizer asked why the cost for the Losee campus was significantly lower than the other campuses on Comfort Master's bid. Mr. Spears replied that ABM's costs were consistent in regards to cost per ton and cost per units, however, he could not speak to Comfort Master's bid.

Member Brady Moved to Approve ABM as the HVAC Service Provider. Member Mizer Seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

4. Review and Approval of Participation in the National School Lunch Program.

Mr. John Barlow addressed the Board and stated that they were seeking approval for participation in the National School Lunch Program, adding that there are many students within the Somerset system that would benefit from having either a reduced or free lunch. Mr. Barlow stated that in order for them to move ahead with this program they needed the Board's approval. Mr. Barlow further stated that, as they approach the renewal of the Somerset charter, it was the Charter School Authority's opinion that it would greatly help their cause if they could show that they were doing all they could to help all children, including those who are underprivileged, with this type of program. Mr. Barlow stated that this program would come at a cost and would require regulations, including the health and wellness programs, which may impact what is sold in vending and soda machines and student stores, and might require some creativeness in ensuring that the guidelines are met. Mr. Barlow stated that there would be some potential for profit, adding that there was additional information available in the support documents, however, it would impact the faculty because there must be people in place to facilitate the program, including those with health cards who can be trained, as well as those in the main office who would accept applications, make sure they are complete, and approve them. Mr. Barlow further stated that they would bring additional information to the Board as they receive it, but that they would like the Board's approval to proceed.

Member Brady asked what the consequence would be if they did not vote to participate. Mr. Barlow stated that when Somerset goes before the State Charter Authority to renew the charter they may look upon nonparticipation with disfavor as students in need would miss out on the opportunity to receive free or reduced lunch, and that it could eventually extend to breakfast as well. Member Brady asked if it would be possible to lose the charter if they do not participate. Mr. Barlow stated that the State Charter Authority did not say that a charter could be lost, however, they would look favorably on those charters who were participating. Member Brady asked if there was a cost associated in the support documents. Member Barlow stated that it would change over time, however, there would be an amount charged to the students (unless it was free) and the government would reimburse that money. Member Brady stated that the budgets for this coming year were already set and asked how this program would factor in. Mr. Barlow stated that more information would be forthcoming as they receive more details, adding that all information would be presented to the Board so that there are no hidden agendas or costs.

Member Brady asked what they would be agreeing to by approving a motion. Mr. Barlow stated that they would be saying that they approve of getting aligned with the National School Lunch program and that research could be done to see what options are available, adding that in the end they might decide it would not be a viable program for Somerset. Mr. Reeves stated that if they chose to approve, they should motion to appoint Mr. Barlow as the designated lunch official, adding that they would basically be approving the submission of an application to the Department of Agriculture for the National School Lunch Program.

Member Brady Moved to Approve Somerset Academy of Las Vegas' exploration into the participation of the National School Lunch Program and to appoint Executive Director John Barlow as the Designated Lunch Official. Member Mizer Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

5. Discussion Regarding Power Hour at the Lone Mountain Campus.

Mr. Barlow stated that in lieu of a principal report from each campus, they had decided to spotlight one campus per board meeting and highlight something great that is going on there, adding that he had a chance to visit the Lone Mountain Campus and that Mr. Eric Threeton, a middle school teacher, was in attendance to report on Power Hour.

Mr. Threeton stated that one challenge at Lone Mountain was that some middle school students needed intervention, however, they did not want those students to miss out on an elective or other class time because of that, additionally, the P.E. teacher was spread thin having to teach the elementary and middle school students. Mr. Threeton explained that they came up with this concept of Power Hour, which would allow the students to choose in which class to spend their time, whether it was any number of P.E. or technology classes or their assigned intervention class, over a sixty minute block; adding that there is an additional thirty minute block where teacher office hours are available, as well as time to practice instruments and catch up on homework. Mr. Threeton proceeded to present the Power Hour program which was available in the support documents.

Member Mizer asked where Power Hour fit in during the school day and whether it was on A or B day or if it replaced another class. Principal Pendleton stated that it does not replace anything, instead they have capitalized on licensed teachers that could be used for obtaining P.E. credits or technology credits and, in essence, rather than a dedicated P.E. or technology period, students participate in Power Hour where they can obtain those credits. Member Brady asked if the students could choose which class or club they participated in, and whether or not they typically would choose P.E. Mr. Threeton stated that those students who did not choose a P.E. class as an elective could plan Power Hour in such a way that they fulfill the necessary requirements. Principal Pendleton explained that they can choose from a menu of various activities which will also allow students to participate in activities they are interested in and that fulfill requirements over the course of a year (P.E. and technology each have a half year requirement). Mr. Barlow stated that he had challenged Principal Pendleton to collect data regarding this program so that perhaps they could present at a national conference and inspire other people to try these types of programs.

6. Review and Approval of Revised Progressive Discipline Policy.

Mr. Barlow stated that he would be meeting with the assistant principals the next day in order to go over the Progressive Discipline Policy to ensure some consistency as the SB 504 and bullying initiatives that are coming out, adding that the assistant principals had been working with some parent groups and the goal is to have one Somerset Academy Progressive Discipline Policy. Mr. Barlow stated that this item was a work in progress according to the necessary timelines. Member Mizer asked if the definition of bullying was set forth by the state, to which Mr. Barlow stated that it was established by the state in the legislative session, and which had, in turn, been imparted to all the Somerset administrators. Mr. Barlow added that each of the administrators was working with this information a little differently in that they allow their counselors to hold parent meetings to inform them of what the definition of bullying is, and then ensure that all of the documents reflect that. Member Brady asked if this would be a new policy the Board would need to approve. Mr. Barlow stated that it was not a new policy, however, he would keep the Board apprised of their timeline in the revision of the existing policy.

7. Review of Schools' Financial Performance.

Mr. Carlos Segrera addressed the Board and stated that the financial summary through July of 2015 could be found on page 152 of the support documents. Mr. Segrera stated that Somerset was awarded \$551,575.00 in the State's true-up for the 2014/2015 school year, as a result of a change in an outside revenue portion of the funding which equaled about \$110.00 per student. Mr. Segrera further stated that there were some additional

adjustments to the 2014/2015 school year regarding approved benefits, payroll, and PTO; along with some entries for the interest payments that were paid for the bond deal properties. Mr. Segrera explained that this true-up brought Somerset back up to a final surplus for last year of about 1.9 million, stating additionally that they had not heard of any increases in funding for the coming year.

Member Brady asked when financials for the 2014/2015 year would be complete. Mr. Segrera stated that the audit would begin the following week. Member Brady asked if this true-up amount would be reflected in the audit, to which Mr. Segrera replied that they received it before they had technically closed the books, so it would be reflected there. Mr. Segrera pointed out that in the Surplus Breakdown there was a variance of about \$647,000.00 because the budgeted amounts for the school year were negative as a result of budgeting at 95% enrollment and the decrease in kinder funding. Member Brady asked if the same true-up would apply to the next school year, to which Mr. Segrera replied in the negative, stating that it was a completely independent item. Mr. Segrera stated that there were some savings in the following areas: salaries and benefits (mostly because there were not many hourly people working in the summer months); utilities; lease; and SPED contracted services; adding that the \$647,000.00 was slightly inflated and should not be expected throughout the school year.

10. Review and Approval of Revised Enrollment Policy.

Ms. Kristie Fleisher addressed the Board and stated that this policy was one that had been presented in the past, however, there had been some changes, including the turn-around time for a response once a student is accepted, clarifying that it would now be a seventy-two hour response time once a child is accepted. Ms. Fleisher stated that there will be some additional language added which will be presented at a future meeting that will reflect the changes being made as a result of recent legislation, including the two months required for open-enrollment as opposed to the two weeks used in the past. Ms. Fleisher stated that there may be some date changes as far as when the wait lists become active, adding that there had been discussion regarding the wait lists spanning a school year versus a calendar year, and that her department had been working on determining which would better serve the Somerset community.

Member Brady asked if there were any concerns regarding the changes, to which Ms. Fleisher stated that the forty-five days for open enrollment might help with the wait list timeline with which they have battled. Ms. Fleisher explained that open enrollment should remain in January where the community expects it to be, which would keep in line with other charters as well. Ms. Fleisher stated that open enrollment would begin in January and conclude at the end of February and they would stick with a firm lottery date from then on, adding that this would place the first lottery run at the beginning of March; which would allow them to use the existing wait list for a longer period of time and it would not be as cumbersome to keep it running until June. Ms. Fleisher explained that they would give out wait list numbers three weeks after the lottery at the first of March, making very clear that that wait list number would only be valid for the upcoming school year, not the current year. Ms. Fleisher stated that the big concern would be the number of applications that could potentially be received in a two month period versus the large amount that are already received during the two week period, making the wait list even larger.

Mr. Reeves stated that part of the new law mandates that forty-five days before open enrollment begins, each new charter school or one that is expanding instruction into new grade levels or increasing its student body by 10% or more, must send out a flyer to every home with a school-age child in it.

Member Brady Moved to Approve the changes to the Enrollment Policy as presented. Member Mizer Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to Approve.

11. Discussion Regarding Kindergarten Enrollment Plans for the 2016/2017 School Year.

Mr. Barlow stated that this item was supported on the agenda because it was a current topic, especially when recent legislation has the potential to impact the Somerset communities in both a positive and negative light, adding that each of the principals would like to give their opinion regarding this item. Member Noble stated that he had asked for this item to be on the agenda because there were parents in the community who had heard that a decision regarding kindergarten enrollment for 2016/2017 had already been made, adding that they would like to hear from the principals following Mr. Reeves' remarks. Mr. Reeves, by way of background, stated that most of the kindergartens had been running with about 50% full-day and 50% half-day, however, this year the state funded the full-day kindergarten classes with less than complete funding. Mr. Reeves further stated that in the past a tuition was charged to make up the deficit between how a kindergarten student was funded (at 0.6) and what a student funded at 1.0 would receive, however, with the new legislation for full-day kindergarten, tuition can no longer be charged. Mr. Reeves further stated that next year will be funded much the same as this year with students funded at 60%; with class-size reduction funding; and half of a teacher's estimated salary, adding that class-size reduction funding is expected to go up, and the half designated teacher's salary is expected to go up, however, the amount is unknown even while it is hoped that the gap will become somewhat diminished. Mr. Reeves stated that another consideration will be space, because many of the schools were built with the idea that there would be one half-day classroom and two full-day classrooms, and the move toward all full-day may create the need for an additional room, adding that while the district will receive funds for facility help, those funds will not extend to charter schools.

Mr. Barlow stated that Mr. Farmer was not present, however, he could arrange to have Mr. Farmer email his opinion. Principal Jefferson stated that she would have a space issue if they move all the kindergarten classes to full-day. Principal Jefferson further stated that she had spoken with many parents in the Sky Pointe community and that opinions were mixed, with the majority of the parents wanting a full-day solution, adding that from an educator standpoint (first grade teachers included), it can be easy to pinpoint those students who have been in a half-day program versus those who had been in full-day. Principal Jefferson explained that later on that bridge is gapped, however, in the initial years it is evident which students had been in half-day programs versus full-day programs. Principal Jefferson stated that the negatives for her campus were based on limited space and what solutions might be available to her.

Principal Kelley stated that at Losee she has five kindergarten rooms, four of which are currently being used for kindergarten and the fifth is housing Special Education teachers, adding that she would have to space to go forward with all full-day kindergarten classes next year. Principal Kelley agreed with Principal Jefferson that there is an impact with a full-day program educationally, socially, behaviorally, and physically, adding that when the program was switched to free kindergarten versus tuition based, almost all of the students in her am/pm classes sought to move to full-day and that there had been some difficulty filling the half-day classes.

Principal Pendleton stated that Lone Mountain's campus is equipped with four kindergarten rooms, adding that she had also had trouble filling her half-day classes and that educationally she sees the value in the full-day program. Principal Pendleton further stated that she has some parents who do not think their kindergartener is ready for a full-day program and for whom she would a half-day program, however, if the Board chose to go to the full-day program, she would fully support that.

Principal Mayfield stated that they currently have three full-day classes and two half-day classes in which she has her only vacancies, adding that there was a waiting list for the full-day classes. Principal Mayfield stated that, for the schools with an at-risk population, full-day kindergarten is imperative, and that studies going back fifty years will tell you that an expense in early childhood education results in less expense in the jail system, adding that she made the space for those programs because it is that important.

Member Brady asked if the principals had any concerns about whether they would have too few students to fill their first grade classes the next year of they go to this model. Principal Jefferson replied that her only vacancies were in the half-day program. Ms. Fleisher stated that across the board the only vacancies were in half-day kindergarten and that she could not give them away because students can go to a full-day program in the district for free. Member Noble asked if the funding for kindergarten would change for the 2017 school year. Mr. Reeves stated he did know that full-day kindergarten was not mandatory, however, he was not certain if the students beginning in 2017 would be funded at 1.0 or if that determination would be left open for the next legislative session to decide. Vice Principal Hammond addressed the Board and stated that it was his understanding that there would be some legislative work that would have to be done in 2017 to make those determinations. Mr. Reeves stated that, along with increased DSA funding, the hope was that they would fund kindergarten at 1.0 beginning in the 2017/2018 school year assuming that the legislation defines that.

Member Noble stated that, from a financial standpoint, they would probably be better off having half-day classes that were not full rather than full-day classes that would not be funded as well, acknowledging that it would not be good to have a full class empty and he wondered if there was a way to project what they could expect next year. Member Noble further stated that he would hate to take the choice away from parents as to whether or not they want their children in half-day, adding that some parents would choose to leave when not given the half-day choice. Mr. Reeves stated that CCSD would be going to full-day completely and that offering half-day at Somerset would be unique. Mr. Reeves further stated that, as far as projecting next year, 55-60% of kindergarten students would be siblings of existing students. Ms. Fleisher stated that 60% was a low estimate.

Mr. Reeves suggested that a survey of current parents who will have children entering kindergarten might give them a fairly accurate look at what to expect. Member Noble stated that it would be very helpful to obtain that information if it could be arranged, adding that it might be possible to have different options depending on the campus so that they cater to their client base. Mr. Barlow stated that he would make sure that a survey would take place. Ms. Fleisher stated that once open enrollment closes they could pull the data where parents are asked about their kindergarten preference. Member Noble stated that it would also be beneficial to have documentation that showed different possibilities of funding, even if those numbers could not be absolutely known at that time. Principal Jefferson stated that it would be beneficial to collect this data sooner rather than later because they will have their internal transfers going on in February and then they proceed to job fairs, and it would be advantageous to have this information. Member Boehlecke asked for confirmation that it would be possible to have different programs at different schools. Mr. Barlow stated that it would be something for the Board to determine. Member Noble stated that there should be some flexibility in determining which schools would like all full-day programs and which would like to have a half-day option. Mr. Barlow stated that the Sky Pointe campus is the only campus that has an issue with space.

12. Review and Approval of Submission of Read by 3 Grant.

Mr. Barlow stated that this was a very robust grant through the Nevada Department of Education that would begin October 1, 2015 through June, which will have five million dollars to be distributed in a competitive grant form, adding that it will be for early literacy through grade three. Mr. Barlow further stated that they were in the application process, which included gathering various education, demographic, and past CRT data, explaining that they needed the Board's approval to submit the grant. Mr. Barlow stated that going into the second year of the grant the amount quadruples to twenty-two million to be distributed among the recipients of the grants, adding that they would like to move forward with Mr. Barlow as the signer of the grant with the Board's approval to submit. Mr. Barlow explained that he had met with the principals to come up with a literacy plan and to determine how they would use those dollars. Mr. Barlow further stated that they would have to administer interim assessments to prove that the plan was working. Mr. Barlow explained that some of the funds would go toward a dedicated literacy specialist at the campuses that would help with Tier II and Tier III interventions and that the grant funds would be used very prodigiously and effectively at all five campuses. Member Brady asked if the

only down-side was the time requirement, to which Mr. Barlow replied in the affirmative. Member Noble asked if there was a guarantee that they would get the grant, to which Mr. Barlow replied that it was a competitive grant with no assurances.

Member Brady Moved to Approve the submission of the Read by 3 Grant. Member Boehlecke Seconded the Motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

8. Acknowledgment of Resignation of Board Secretary Eric Elison and Board Member Amy Malone.

Mr. Barlow thanked Mr. Eric Elison and Ms. Amy Malone for their time and dedication in serving on the Board, acknowledging that they had been there since the beginning and had been instrumental in setting the tone for the Board. Member Noble stated that he had served on the Board with both Mr. Elison and Ms. Malone for several years, adding that he could not quantify how valuable their service had been and that he was saddened that they would no longer be on the Board. Member Noble further stated that he was grateful for their service and acknowledged that they had helped shape the school into what it is today.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Formation of a Committee for Board Member Search.

This item was tabled. Member Noble stated that he would like to come up with a standard process for how Board vacancies are filled at a future Board meeting as long as they were not under any time constraints. Mr. Reeves stated that, to the best of his knowledge, the seat must be filled within two Board meetings.

13. Principal and Executive Director Reports.

Principal Andre Denson addressed the Board and stated they were excited about the fact that last May their middle school students won the national Battle of the Books competition in Florida, and they were preparing to defend their title again in the spring. Principal Denson stated that they were also excited about the Kagan Strategies, in which all the teachers had been trained and certified, explaining that Kagan is a cooperative learning experience in which the teachers make sure that students are engaging with one another every day in the classroom. Principal Denson stated that they had created a program called Step-Up, which is an anti-bullying program that allows them to be proactive by way of a committee that consists of students, parents, teachers, and possibly police officers to make sure bullying is addressed on the front end as well as the back end.

Principal Jefferson stated that they had just had their open house the previous night and that there had been a great turn out, adding that their Book Fair was also going on. Principal Jefferson stated that she had addressed the parents in two sessions regarding Sky Pointe's goal, and one thing she spoke to was mental math and number talk activities that the students will be participating in daily during their math instruction. Principal Jefferson explained that they also discussed the next generation science standards that were rolled out last year, ensuring that, as educators, they understood what mastery looks like for each of those standards. Principal Jefferson stated that they will be starting a book study for parents and they will begin with the book Respectful Parents, Respectful Kids, which they will read and discuss around the beginning of November in hopes that it will be a community building activity. Principal Jefferson stated that at their Staff Development the following week they would be working on the goals she spoke of previously as well as creating their data wall.

Principal Dan Phillips addressed the Board and stated that they had experienced one of the smoothest openings they had had in many years, adding that everything just clicked and went like clockwork. Principal Phillips stated that they are currently under construction for the first phase of the high school and that they were

looking at a January move-in date. Principal Phillips explained that they would be having a sight visit the following week from the Nevada Inter-Scholastic Activities Association so that they could begin the process of beginning the athletic program for next year, which will require providing a girls and boys team in each of three seasons, adding that they will be surveying their student body to see where their interests lie. Principal Phillips stated that they had added many new extra-curricular activities due to the talents and energy of the teachers.

Principal Kelley stated that she agreed with Principal Phillips regarding the smoothness of the school's opening, adding that their expansion had been completed and that staff members had been able to move in. Principal Kelley stated that they held their kindergarten parent Boo-Hoo Breakfast which went very well, adding that they currently had their Apex fundraiser going on and that they would be participating in three different runs the following day, which would result in Principal Kelley kissing a pig if enough money was raised. Principal Kelley stated that their open house would be the following Tuesday and were looking forward to that. Principal Kelley also stated that on November 2, 2015 they would be hosting the State Charter Association conference at Losee, which would have 800 educators in attendance and be a huge event.

Principal Mayfield asked the Board if they were impressed with the new paint in her school, to which there were many replies in the affirmative. Principal Mayfield stated that they now have 1,205 students and this necessitated moving around many classrooms so that their traffic patterns throughout the school did not become so congested, adding that their engineering teacher configured the plans for them. Principal Mayfield stated that the PTO is a strong presence on the campus and that they had their Cici's Pizza night the previous night that was well attended, adding that they would be having Stallion Stalls that coming Saturday, to which the Board was invited. Principal Mayfield stated that they had received a grant that allowed them to participate in CHAMPS training, which they would finish at their upcoming Staff Development day, adding that they would also have their open house the following week. Principal Mayfield stated that the teachers were working on STEM for middle school and project-based learning in elementary, growth mindset, and NJHS.

Principal Pendleton stated that she had three things to highlight, beginning with a spaghetti dinner event with the middle school that was coordinated by the leadership advisor, Ms. Threton, and her leadership committee, which was attended by about 400 people and raised \$2,900.00 for middle school activities. Principal Pendleton added that the middle school choir performed at the event with only two weeks to prepare. Principal Pendleton stated that their dismissal time had been reduced from one hour to twelve minutes, mostly due to Vice Principal Hammond who came up with ways to make it run smoothly. Principal Pendleton stated that last June they submitted a nomination for CSAN charter school teacher of the year, which was won by Mr. Threton, Lone Mountain's middle school science, history, robotics, and math enrichment teacher, adding that he had done an exceptional job.

Mr. Barlow stated that, with his new position as Executive Director, he had been able to spend time with the principals and work closely with them, adding that they have monthly principal meetings and will also begin having vice principal and counselor meeting as well, so that they can all collaborate and share common practices with other Somerset schools. Mr. Barlow further stated that he is thoroughly enjoying working with the principals and that they have been great. Member Mizer asked Mr. Barlow if, in response to the principals' request that Board members visit the various campuses, they could possibly create some sort of calendar of events for each school. Mr. Barlow stated that he was currently working on a newsletter of sorts that would inform the Board of events at each campus, adding that it was an agenda item to go over with in the meeting with the vice principals so that the principals are not over-burdened.

Member Boehlecke asked for clarification on a few agenda items that were discussed before her arrival. Some discussion ensued, repeating what had been stated earlier in the meeting. Member Boehlecke asked for confirmation that they were putting together a Progressive Discipline Policy that would be common to all Somerset schools and that it would protect students and staff in any instance where there is a student who is dangerous, to which Mr. Barlow stated that they were working on just that. Member Noble asked if this policy

would address some issues that have occurred regarding bullying. Mr. Barlow replied that this policy directly related to when bullying actually occurs and making sure those consequences are sufficiently aligned with what is expected. Member Boehlecke asked for confirmation that, as part of the policy, teachers and administrators are protected and that there is some leeway in dealing with each situation uniquely, to which Mr. Barlow answered in the affirmative. Member Noble asked if the process would span years or if it would be something they could accomplish fairly quickly. Mr. Barlow replied that there is already a policy in place, and that this would be a yearly review that would give commonality to all of the Somerset schools, adding that he would be discussing the matter with the vice principals the following day in order to have a common policy in place by October 1, 2015. Member Noble asked if this was a policy that the Board needed to approve, to which Mr. Barlow replied that it was all imbedded in the Progressive Discipline Policy which addresses bullying specifically, including violence against other students or staff, and that they will be looking very consistently at the execution of those consequences. Member Noble asked if they would bring it back to the Board for approval, to which Mr. Barlow stated that they would. Member Noble asked Mr. Barlow to send a draft to Member Boehlecke so that she could take a look at it before it comes back before the Board for approval, to which Mr. Barlow replied that he would.

14. Public Comments and Discussion.

Rachel Ricks, a parent at Sky Pointe campus who had a second grade child and a half-day kindergarten student with two more at home, addressed the Board and stated that she would like to continue to have an option for half-day kindergarten in the future. Ms. Ricks stated that she had read literature which stated that children who attended pre-school and half-day kindergarten do just as well as those full-day students who did not have pre-school, in the short and long term, adding that she would really appreciate the half-day option. Member Noble asked Ms. Ricks to speak with her network of people and encourage them to fill out the parent survey regarding this matter. Ms. Ricks stated that perhaps it could be mentioned on the survey that CCSD would be going exclusively to full-day, and that a charter school might be the only option if you want half-day.

Sherrelle Richter, parent at Sky Pointe, addressed the Board regarding the kindergarten issues as well and stated that she had noticed that her son, who attended half-day kindergarten and two years of pre-school, definitely has some trouble educationally that might have been alleviated by attending a full-day program. Ms. Richter stated that, with the space issues at Sky Pointe, she was very concerned that her daughter would not get into the full-day program. Member Noble repeated his plea to parents to respond to the survey so that their voices are heard.

15. Adjournment.

Member Brady Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Member Boehlecke Seconded the Motion and the Board unanimously approved, and the Meeting was adjourned.

Approved on: November 4, 2015

W. Hardy
Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas