

MINUTES
of the Board Training meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
January 18, 2020

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on January 18, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at 4650 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89081

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Sarah McClellan called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. In attendance were Board members Cody Noble, LeNora Bredsguard (left at 3:22 p.m.), Travis Mizer (left at 3:22 p.m.) Sarah McClellan, Gary McClain (left at 3:02 p.m.), Will Harty (left at 3:01 p.m.), and John Bentham (joined at 1:15 p.m.).

2. Public Comment and Discussion

Cynthia Roocke addressed that Board and expressed concerns with the standards based grading including the lack of parent involvement in the decision to change the grading system and the lack of communication regarding the grading process. Member Noble stated that the Board had determined that the Somerset system should have a uniform grading system at all campuses; however, the Board did not determine what the grading system would be.

Rhonda Crostic-Maglietti addressed the Board and stated that she appreciated the changes that were made at the Losee high school campus.

3. Board Training

Ms. Jessica Barr addressed the Board and reviewed her credentials. She was named Nevada's first school board governance chair through Silver State Governance, a new initiative started by former state superintendent Steve Canavero and would be training all major school districts and the SPCSA board. She was a former teacher and administrator and had almost completed her doctorate. She had trained with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), which was the Texas equivalent to NDE.

Ms. Barr reviewed a statement by Mr. AJ Crabill, her mentor with TEA, "Student outcomes don't change until adult behaviors change". Ms. Barr further stated that all stakeholders, administrators, teachers, school boards, parents, and students, needed to be willing to be the genesis of change. Ms. Barr proceeded to outline and lead a discussion on effective school board practices.

Key Principles

- School Boards Matter
- Progress Monitoring Matters
- Accountability Matters
- Implementation Matters.

The Research – Effective school boards:

- commit to a vision of higher expectations for student achievement and quality instruction and define clear goals toward that vision
- have strong shared beliefs and values about what is possible for students and their ability to learn, and of the system and its ability to teach all children at high levels
- are accountability drive, spending less time on operational issues and more time focused on policies to improve student achievement
- have a collaborative relationship with staff and the community and establish a strong communications structure to inform and engage both internal and external stakeholders in setting and achieving district goals
- are data savvy; they embrace and monitor data, even when the information is negative and use it to drive continuous improvement
- align and sustain resources, such as professional development, to meet district goals
- lead as a united team with the principal, each from their respective roles, with strong collaboration and mutual trust
- take part in team development and training, sometimes with their principal, to build shared knowledge, values and commitments for their improvement efforts

Implementation: What's Next

- Set Student Outcome Goals
- Redesign Board Agendas Around These Goals
- Unite to Improve

During the presentation and discussion, the Board requested that the formation of an evaluation committee be added to an upcoming agenda. The Board also asked for progress reports and action plans from the campus principals regarding progress toward improved Star ratings and discussed including the principals in the strategic planning process.

4. Member Comment

There was no member comment.

5. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

Approved on: 2/8/2020



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