

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
June 12, 2018

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Nevada held a public meeting on June 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at 385 West Centennial Parkway, North Las Vegas, 89084.

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Board Chair John Bentham called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Will Harty, Carrie Boehlecke, Travis Mizer, Gary McClain, Sarah McClellan, and John Bentham.

Also present were Executive Director John Barlow, Principal Sherry Pendleton, Principal Jenni Martinez, Principal Elaine Kelly, Assistant Principal Emeri Rodriguez, Principal Kate Lackey, Principal Ruby Norland, Assistant Principal Lisa Evans, and Assistant Principal Jessica Pinjuv; as well as Academics representatives Ryan Reeves, Crystal Thiriot, Melissa Fries, Marc Clayton, Victor Barrogo, and Kerri Ann Rodriguez, a Principal from Somerset Florida.

2. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no request for public comment.

3. Annual Election of Board Officers

Member Boehlecke nominated John Bentham as Board Chair. The Board voted unanimously to elect John Bentham as Board Chair.

Member Bentham nominated Sarah McClellan as Board Vice Chair. The Board voted unanimously to elect Sarah McClellan as Board Vice Chair.

Member Bentham nominated Carrie Boehlecke as Board Secretary. The Board voted unanimously to elect Carrie Boehlecke as Board Secretary.

Member Bentham nominated Travis Mizer as Board Treasurer. The Board voted unanimously to elect Travis Mizer as Board Treasurer.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from the March 8, 2018 Board Meeting**
- b. School Finance Performance**
- d. Approval of the Revised Wellness Policy**

Member Mizer moved to approve items a, b, and d on the consent agenda. Member McClain seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

c. Approval of the Revised Enrollment Policy

Ms. Crystal Thiriot addressed the Board and reviewed two changes to the Enrollment Policy that included the designation of Aliante students for priority seating at Losee High School, and additional language to attach consequences that will hopefully prevent parents from submitting duplicate applications. Member Bentham asked if it was legal to un-enroll the student, to which Ms. Thiriot replied that the process had been deemed legal. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the Board and stated that this change was necessary to stop parents who had an intention to deceive in order to increase the likelihood of the student being selected in the lottery. Ms. Thiriot stated that there could only be one application per student per school. Member Harty stated his concern was that the wording did not account for an unintentional mistake. Further discussion ensued regarding the wording for the policy and Mr. Reeves stated that the wording should be changed to the following: If the incorrectly submitted information, when corrected, would make the student ineligible for enrollment, the application will be voided.

Member Harty moved to approve the Revised Enrollment Policy with the clarifying language. Member Mizer seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

5. Presentation by Somerset Academy Florida

Ms. Kerri Ann Rodriguez, a Somerset Florida principal, addressed the Board and stated that Somerset Florida was working closely with Executive Director John Barlow and the Somerset principals; adding that they had distributed a survey to each principal and were currently working on a data dashboard; adding that their goal was to support the schools in Nevada, especially with the sharing of best practices.

Member Mizer asked what the student/teacher ratio was at Principal Rodriguez's elementary school. Ms. Rodriguez stated that K-3 was a 1:18 ratio, 4-8 was a 1:22 ratio, 9-12 was a 1:25 ratio and that although those were the required ratios set by the State of Florida, which could be adjusted based upon the type of students enrolled in the class.

6. Report on Education and Executive Director Update

Executive Director Barlow addressed the Board and reviewed a report on education, which was provided to the Board. Member McClellan asked if the individuals who had been hired through the Read by Grade 3 Grant would be kept and absorbed by other positions on campus, to which Director Barlow replied in the positive; adding that no new individuals would be hired through the grant. Member McClellan asked if the data days on the calendar would be held the same day for all campuses and why the data days were changed from Thursdays to Wednesdays. Executive Director Barlow replied that data days would be consistent for all campuses, and that data days had been switched to Wednesdays due to attendance issues; adding that Wednesdays would deter parents from taking students out of school for a longer weekend, thus increasing attendance.

Member Harty asked what data was used in the star rating for graduation rates. Executive Director Barlow replied that this year's data would count for next year's ratings. Member Harty asked if math assessments factored into the star rating and where the full math assessment results could be found. Executive Director Barlow replied that the star rating was an external assessment and that the math, as a system, aligned more with the SBACs; adding that the full math assessment results were found in the board meeting supporting documents.

Member Bentham asked if SBAC results would be sent to the parents by August 10, 2018; to which Executive Director Barlow replied in the affirmative. Member Bentham asked if the star rating would be determined by the July 30, 2018 reporting results to which Executive Director Barlow replied that data was being compiled which could help predict the rating. Further discussion ensued regarding data output for next year's predictions.

Member McClellan asked if the teacher evaluation score was based upon all the teachers as a whole or individually. Director Barlow replied that the rating for this year was for the school as a whole; however, he anticipated that next year's data would be assessed based upon individual performance. Member Harty stated his concern that there should be an ultra-focus to push for higher star ratings and suggested that there should be an alignment of the incentives for the teachers to push for higher star ratings to show improvement from year to year.

Member Bentham asked about the delinquent debt from the NSLP. Executive Director Barlow stated that the debt would be paid by the Student Generated Funds.

7. Evaluation of Executive Director John Barlow

This agenda item was tabled.

8. Academica Announcements and Notifications

Ms. Thiriot addressed the Board and reviewed the 2018/2019 Board Meeting schedule and mentioned that the National Charter School Convention was coming up for those who wanted to attend. Ms. Thiriot also announced that Academica had hired another accountant, Marc Clayton, and a Teacher Recruitment Specialist, Shannon Troescher-Wallace. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica Florida had also hired a safety specialist, and Mr. Victor Barrogo addressed the Board and clarified that the position was a Chief Safety Crisis Officer.

9. Member Comment

Member Mizer stated his concern that Somerset was beginning to lose momentum as a true college prep facility based upon discipline issues and feedback from parents and teachers. Member Mizer also stated his concern that social media was not being utilized more for reviews, contests, etc., and that all the schools should be consistent with one another when posting.

Member Boehlecke stated her concern with half-day attendance; adding that the students viewed the half-day as insignificant.

Member Bentham stated his concern that the Progressive Disciplinary Plan was not being followed correctly. Member Bentham also stated that he wanted to focus on programs and initiatives regarding bullying.

Member Harty stated that he would like to see more messaging to parents and teachers regarding the Progressive Disciplinary Plan to stop the perception that there were problems versus an actual problem.

Executive Director John Barlow thanked the members for speaking candidly and addressed the concerns of the members. Executive Director John Barlow stated that Academica was looking at ways to implement an ACT course and to offer dual enrollment credit courses to be more competitive as a college preparatory school. Executive Director John Barlow also stated that the administrators were acting in accordance to the bullying policies in an appropriate and timely manner; adding that parent concerns should be directed back to the schools to ensure the concern would be addressed and corrected. Executive Director John Barlow stated that he would review the language part of the Progressive Disciplinary Plan and come to the August meeting with any changes made; adding that he would work with the principals to ensure lessons plans for Data Days were more significant to the student.

10. Public Comments and Discussion

Ms. Nicole Yoakum, a parent, addressed the Board and voiced concern regarding the inconsistencies between the campuses. Executive Director John Barlow addressed Ms. Yoakum and stated that as long as the principals were meeting the State requirements, principals were autonomous to govern their campus to meet the needs of their students. Mr. Reeves recommended an agenda item be placed on a future Board meeting to examine the commonalities versus the areas of freedom for each campus.

Principal Kate Lackey from the Skye Canyon campus addressed the Board to report that they should be in their building by July 30, 2018.

Principal Jenni Martinez from the North Las Vegas campus addressed the Board and reported new scholarship opportunities and courses to be offered, including advanced courses for 7th and 8th grade students.

Principal Elaine Kelly from the Aliante campus addressed the Board and reported they should be in their building by August 10, 2018.

Principal Sherry Pendleton from the Lone Mountain campus addressed the Board and reported that she had met with new committees that included parents and focused on volunteerism; adding that they would require all 7th grade students to take a college preparatory class.

Principal Ruby Norland from the Stephanie campus addressed the Board and reported on the student field trip to the UNLV campus.

Assistant Principal Jessica Pinjuv from the Losee campus addressed the Board and reported on the implementation of the House system for this year, as well as the addition of three dual enrollment programs for the high school.

Assistant Principal Lisa Evans from the Sky Pointe campus addressed the Board and reported on the addition of a Business Leadership course, a transitioning event for new 6th and 9th grade students, and the implementation of a block system for the high school students; adding that they were in the process of implementing attendance incentives, reviewing the Progressive Disciplinary Policy, and working on a student field trip to various Utah college campuses.

11. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Approved on: June 26, 2018



Carrie Boehlecke (Aug 2, 2018)

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