

**Local School Board Meeting Minutes – Somerset Academy, Inc.
dba Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering (BASE)**



**February 19, 2015
6:00 PM**

A meeting of the Local Board of Directors of Somerset Academy, Inc. was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering, 3803 Lyster Road, San Antonio, Texas 78235.

1. Board Members physically present: Andrew Cameron, Louis J. Marin, George Ozuna
Board Members videoconferencing: Lourdes Isla
Brooks Academy staff present: Ixchell Gonzalez, Nikki Martinez, Olivia Travieso, Esmeralda Qaralleh, Belinda Granados, Michelle Sanders, Lisa Ortiz, and Khalid Sosse
Academica SouthWest staff present: Jenniann Colón, George Pedraza, Erin Privratsky, and Simon G. Salas
Legal counsel present: Joe Hoffer

2. The meeting was called to order by Louis J. Marin at 6:47 PM with an established physical quorum at the meeting location, and stated that two additional Local Board members may participate via video conference.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Presentations, Discussion and Possible Action

- 4.1 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding selection of a website design vendor pursuant to Request for Proposals #6-2014.

Jenniann Colón discussed the nine bids that had been received in response to a Request for Proposals #6-2014 for the purposes of designing a new website for brooksacademy.org. Following extensive analysis, Academica SouthWest made a recommendation to the Board to award the contract to Andisites, Inc.

A motion to award the website design contract to Andisites, Inc. was made by George Ozuna and seconded by Andrew Cameron. AYE: Andrew Cameron, Louis J. Marin, and George Ozuna. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. Motion carries.

Lourdes Isla joined the meeting via videoconference at 7:07 PM.

4.2 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding 2015-2016 Staff and Academic Calendars.

Erin Privratsky presented the proposed calendars for School staff and students for the 2015-2016 school year, stating that the calendars are consistent with previous years with the exceptions that Group D (instructional staff) calendar has been reduced from 201 days to 196 days to allow staff to return one week later in August 2015, and that 3 early dismissal days have been added to the student calendar to allow for more parent conferences.

A motion to adopt the 2015-2016 Staff and Academic Calendars was made by Andrew Cameron and seconded by Lourdes Isla. AYE: Andrew Cameron, Lourdes Isla, Louis J. Marin, and George Ozuna. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. Motion carries.

4.3 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding facilities planning and related financing options for next school year for Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering, Brooks Estrella Academy and Brooks International Studies Academy.

George Pedraza requested the Board table Agenda Item 4.3 until the subsequent Corporate Board meeting.

Louis J. Marin tabled Agenda Item 4.3.

4.4 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Request for Qualifications for Modular Design-Build Firms.

Simon G. Salas discussed a recent visit to Icon Construction to determine that the construction firm is qualified to perform the necessary construction for the school; it is. He stated that if a contract is executed soon, the building will be ready for use in August or September 2015. Simon G. Salas recommended to the Board to direct legal counsel Joe Hoffer to begin contract negotiations with Icon Construction to determine the price.

George Ozuna asked how many buildings will be constructed. Simon G. Salas stated that one building of approximately 25,000 square feet, the majority of which will house laboratory spaces, with the possible inclusion of an athletics training facility and other common spaces.

A motion to direct Joe Hoffer to begin contract negotiations with Icon Construction was made

by Lourdes Isla and seconded by George Ozuna. AYE: Andrew Cameron, Lourdes Isla, Louis J. Marin, and George Ozuna. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. Motion carries.

Simon G. Salas stated that the intent will be to finance the entire facility – construction and furniture, fixtures, and equipment – jointly to obtain the best possible financing opportunity. Joe Hoffer stated that a standard construction contract has been provided to Icon Construction for their initial review, and stated that the Corporate Board may delegate the authority to the Local Board to review, accept, and execute the contract. Simon G. Salas stated that such potential action will be added to the subsequent Corporate Board Agenda.

4.5 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding dual language program and options and other programs regarding services to populations with special language needs.

Nikki Martinez presented data related to dual language programs, stating that with a dual language program, students learn in both languages beginning in Kindergarten.

Louis J. Marin inquired as to the cost of such a program. Nikki Martinez stated the cost will largely be textbooks; additional faculty should not be necessary. Ixchell Gonzalez stated that the School is actively working with Academica SouthWest to better determine the cost.

Louis J. Marin inquired whether or not such a program will increase enrollment. Ixchell Gonzalez stated that there is already an interest in a dual language program from prospective parents, especially at Brooks International Studies Academy.

Andrew Cameron inquired as to the existence of data that tracks student progress and success. Lourdes Isla stated that the research is outstanding, adding that the lower grades struggle initially, but upon reaching the late elementary grades, the Spanish education improves their English performance.

Louis J. Marin inquired as to the standardized tests and whether or not they are provided in Spanish and English. Nikki Martinez stated that the tests are available in both languages.

Simon G. Salas inquired whether or not the State of Texas mandates the composition of classes. Ixchell Gonzalez stated that it does not.

Louis J. Marin stated the program would be positive, and would like to know more about the cost. Andrew Cameron stated that if the program is valuable, the School can determine how to pay for it. Lourdes Isla stated that the attractiveness of the program could increase enrollment and offset the extra expense. Louis J. Marin directed the School and Academica SouthWest to continue researching the dual language program.

No action was taken.

- 4.6 Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding scheduling of Local Board Meetings for the 2014-2015 School Year.

A motion to set the Local Board meetings for the 2014-2015 School Year to occur on the first Monday of every month at 6:00 PM was made by Andrew Cameron and seconded by Lourdes Isla. AYE: Andrew Cameron, Lourdes Isla, Louis J. Marin, and George Ozuna. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. Motion carries.

5. Academica SouthWest Report

There was nothing to report.

6. Adjournment

Ixchell Gonzalez introduced the School's new STEM Director, Michelle Sanders. Michelle Sanders introduced herself to the Local Board of Directors.

George Ozuna moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Andrew Cameron. AYE: Andrew Cameron, Lourdes Isla, Louis J. Marin, and George Ozuna. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

**Certification of Meeting Minutes of the Local Board of Somerset Academy, Inc.
dba Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering (BASE)**

The preceding minutes of the Local Board meeting of the Somerset Academy, Inc., dba Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering (BASE) held on February 19, 2015 were approved at a meeting of the Board held on _____, at _____ P.M.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is an Officer and/or Director of Somerset Academy, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, and doing business in the State of Texas pursuant to a contract with the State Board of Education and the laws of the State of Texas, that the above is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of said corporation.

Ana C. Diaz, ~~President or Vice Chair~~
Printed Name *secretary*

, ~~President or Vice Chair~~
Signature *secretary*

Date Signed: 9/28/2015