

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

17 January, 2019

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman
F. Steven Herb, Esquire, Vice Chairman
Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
Ms. Carter Donovan
Ms. Linda Long
Dr. Thomas J. McElheny
Dr. J. Robert Parkinson

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chairman, SMA Foundation Inc.
Frederick M. Derr, CAPT USN (Ret), Treasurer, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Dr. Logan Malone, RADM USN (Ret); SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB; SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister, Chief Development Officer, SMA Foundation Inc.; SMA-CPT Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-LTC Frederick Fout, Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets – Senior Army Instructor (SAI)
SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner, Athletic Director, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus

Guests: Members of the SMA faculty, staff and PTCC representatives.
SMA-CPT Terri Davis, Staff Representative for Middle School; SMA-CPT Ashley Wyka, Staff Representative for High School; Ms. Michelle Collins, HS PTCC President; Dr. Todd Brown, Middle School Faculty.

Location: SMA Middle School campus. The chairman called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

SMA-LTC Tom Vara introduced Dr. Todd Brown as the IGNITE Awards Winner in the first year for charter schools to participate. He is also the only one chosen in Florida to contribute to the UN. Dr. Brown explained the INSPIRE Project he created and the various speakers he worked with. He also mentioned the different appearances and interviews he's had with numerous television and newspaper reporters. Dr. Brown thanked the board for their support and exited the room.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 13 December, 2018 meeting:

Mr. F. Steven Herb motioned for approval of the 13 December, 2018 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman discussed the AdvancEd meeting on 26 February at 9:00am and asked for three board members to attend. Mr. Herb, COL Knisely and Dr. Tom McElheny volunteered to participate in the AdvancEd meeting. SMA-COL Bowman stated a survey was distributed to the faculty and staff regarding the revised vision and mission statements and will be distributed soon to the families for input. She also mentioned collaborating with MAJ Becky Morris on presenting a school grade projected plan to the District on 22nd February.

SMA-COL Bowman mentioned two dates for board members to bring potential donors for a tour of our school discussed in the SMA Foundation meeting. She stated the dates as 12th February and 12th March starting at the Middle School and ending at the High School with a special formation, "work call", held after lunch. SMA-COL Bowman commended both schools on the success of the Toys for Tots this holiday season.

HR Report: Chairman Herb Jones inquired on the status of long term substitutes in which SMA-COL Bowman responded that a few are listed due to obtaining a Florida certificate.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-LTC Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned many new students started in January and the last enrollment meeting on 16th January was well attended.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-CPT Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report.

MYP: SMA-LTC Currie provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned SMA-CPT Deb Walker as the recipient of the Florida Excellence for Teaching Agriculture Award. SMA-LTC Currie stated that enrollment is ahead this year compared to last year.

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-LTC Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the current enrollment with December graduates and adding classes for second semester to reduce class size in English. SMA-LTC Fout also discussed enrollment for next year along with the eighth grade program to the High School on 24th January. He stated that SMA-LTC Abby Williams and a few cadets presented SMA to SSAS and both schools will be showcased at STC in Sarasota and North Port

where families will be able to visit the SMA tables. Chairman Jones inquired if the efforts are effective in reaching out to families in which SMA-LTC Fout responded that it definitely is with SMA-COL Bowman successfully building a great relationship with the District.

SMA HS Athletics Report: Athletic Director Coach Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. She discussed how every sport is performing at a higher level and better results than the previous year. Coach Mazner stated that our first lacrosse coaches with SMA are back to coach lacrosse and looking forward to a great season. She stated girls' soccer are going to Districts and hopefully then to Regionals.

Coach Mazner inquired to the Board to attend a game when possible and SMA-COL Bowman commended Coach Mazner for bringing the program to a higher level. COL Knisely stated he was told by a friend at West Point that two ladies from SMA are outshooting all the seniors and that West Point is highly impressed.

IB Report: N/A

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He commended SFC Riess Pellegrino as the most dedicated out of all instructors with the Rifle Team. LTC Weiss discussed the Voice of Democracy Award and the Drill Team's event at Booker High School where the middle school competed and placed better than most high school teams.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Terri Davis provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned the progress of the eighth grade class to the High School program on 24 January.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-MAJ Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the progress with upgrading all computers on both campuses due to Windows not being supported by MSN. SMA-COL Bowman stated that an administrative meeting will be held to discuss different options on replacing the computers as well as discussing with SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister on how to acquire grants for the computers. Mr. Frederick Derr inquired as to how the athletic program impacts enrollment in which SMA-LTC Fout stated a better job will be done in getting our accolades out into the public in sports and academics.

PTCC Report: Ms. Michele Collins provided a read-ahead report for the high school. She stated the PTCC is providing a pizza lunch to the eighth grade cadets on the 24th January and have already issued grants with more to be processed.

Foundation, Inc.: Vice Chairman Jones stated the need to find another way to increase revenue into the Foundation. SMA-COL Bowman stated that over fifteen hundred alumni are now in our system with 2018 still needing to be inputted. She also stated the need for parents to communicate within the community about SMA. SMA-CPT Ashley Wyka stated to the board that as an alum to SMA, graduates reach out to her all the time through Facebook for information on how to reconnect with SMA. Chairman Jones requested a plan on how to reach out to alumni and parents for next board meeting.

Committee Reports: N/A

Chairman: Chairman Jones showed gratitude to SMA-COL Bowman for doing a great job while short-handed and to ask the board for assistance when needed.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

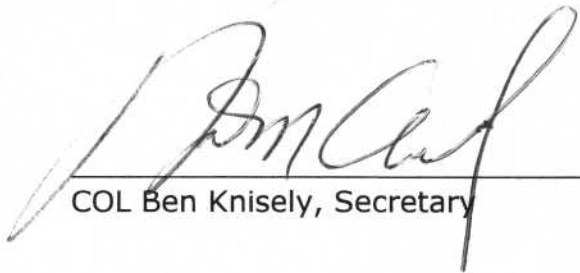
Public Comments: N/A

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

2-14-19
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

2-14-19
Date