

# **Sarasota Military Academy**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

9 May, 2019

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## **Board of Director Members' Attendance**

### **Present:**

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer  
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary  
Ms. Carter Donovan  
Ms. Linda Long  
Dr. Logan Malone, RADM USN (Ret)  
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:** F. Steven Herb, Esquire, Vice Chairman; SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus; SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner, Athletic Director, High School Campus; SMA-CPT Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus; SMA-CPT Terri Davis, Staff Representative for Middle School; MSG Johnny Browning, Staff Representative for High School

### **SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance**

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools  
SMA-LTC Frederick Fout, Head of School, High School Campus  
SMA-LTC Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus  
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus  
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance  
SMA-LTC Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School Campus  
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus

### **Guests: Members of the SMA faculty, staff and PTCC representatives.**

SMA-CPT Ashley Wyka, Staff Representative for High School; Ms. Michelle Collins, HS PTCC President

Location: SMA High School campus. The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

**Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 11 April, 2019 meeting:**

COL Ben Knisely moved to motion for the approval of the 11 April, 2019 minutes; Ms. Carter Donovan seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

**Executive Director of School Report:** SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the enrollment status academy wide for the 2019-2020 school year and very confident of an enrollment increase. Chairman Herb Jones inquired as to the enrollment number needed to cover expenses in which SMA-MAJ Steve Kok replied our numbers for next year are only a few off without including the cutbacks of six positions.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed the cutbacks were possible due to reorganizing class selections. She stated that two ESE staff members will need to be hired academy wide based on the needs of next school year. SMA-LTC Fred Fout explained how effective our staff is in providing services based on IEPs and that our reputation in the community is very good for providing these services. Ms. Donovan inquired if the integrity of all programs will stay intact with the needed cutbacks in which SMA-COL Bowman responded that she believes it will make the programs stronger.

LTG Howard Crowell inquired on whether numbers will affect the ability to deliver raises in which SMA-MAJ Kok replied that it depends on our final enrollment number. SMA-COL Bowman stated an increase in FTE per student from the district and an additional increase per student from Governor DeSantis awarded, as well as an increase in PECO funds and expenses decreased due to staff cuts all factor in to a possible raise.

SMA-COL Bowman stated the final AdvancEd Review was delivered with positive feedback similar to the preliminary report. She stated she will be working with Kelly at Mainspring to get the press release out.

Mr. Derr discussed the Orange Avenue parking meeting with the Director of Public Works and the Director of Facilities with the city and provided a layout. He stated the design created one hundred thirty-five parking spaces not including the southwest corner of an additional thirty spots that he is still waiting for permission from the city to use.

SMA-COL Bowman requested the approval of the 2019-2020 CTE Dual Enrollment articulation agreement.

**Ms. Donovan moved to motion for the approval of the 2019-2020 Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement; Dr. McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

**HR Report:** SMA-COL Bowman discussed helpful information was compiled from exit interviews of two resignations. She also discussed an additional resignation of SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister and that the Gala at this time has been postponed with no future date set.

**SMA Prep Head of School Report:** SMA-LTC Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed current enrollment for the 2019/2020 school year and stated numbers are very good. SMA-LTC Vara mentioned recent events such as the Les Stroud event, a successful pep rally to start off the testing season and an eighth grade semiformal. He also mentioned a few positions becoming available including SMA-CPT Terri Davis moving on but mentioned performing a great job as staff liaison.

**SMA Prep Athletics Report:** N/A

**MYP:** N/A

**SMA Head of School Report:** SMA-LTC Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned the accolades of our cadets and how they were honored for scholarships and at the red cord ceremony which awarded SMA-CPT Leslie Collier first place in all high schools throughout five counties for blood donations.

COL Knisely suggested introducing the new leaders to the board during the first board meeting of the 2019-2020 school year in which SMA-LTC Fout agreed. SMA-LTC Fout mentioned upcoming events such as graduation on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May at Bayside Community Church on SR64, the talent show on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May and the Memorial Day Parade with confirmations from Ms. Long, Ms. Donovan and COL Knisely.

**SMA HS Athletics Report:** Athletic Director SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. SMA-LTC Fout mentioned thirteen student-athletes recognized by the Herald Tribune with one student-athlete nominated for the coach's award statewide. Chairman Jones stated SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner is doing a great job as Athletic Director.

**IB Report:** N/A

**SAI/Commandant's Report:** LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report. COL Knisely stated Ms. Lauren McMahan, a 2018 SMA graduate, has been chosen as the only one at West Point to go to the National Championships for Rifle. SMA-LTC Fout mentioned a most recent graduate, Darrell Nixon, will be attending West Point in the fall. Dr. McElheny inquired as to how many other public high schools are producing cadets accepted to West Point in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that only private schools produce more West Point attendees. COL Knisely inquired as to how many cadets received ROTC scholarships in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she will compile that information.

**Staff Representatives:** SMA-CPT Ashley Wyka stated issues brought up by staff were handled by Administration. She mentioned invitations are included to all board members for the upcoming Raiders banquet.

**Treasurer's Report:** SMA-MAJ Kok provided a read-ahead report. Mr. Kimball Bobbitt and SMA-MAJ Steve Kok discussed the budget explaining additional long term substitutes, insurance renewal, property appraisals and staff reductions.

**Dr. McElheny moved to motion for the approval of the financial report; Ms. Carter Donovan seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

**PTCC Report:** Ms. Michele Collins discussed awarding school grants of \$10.5K and providing staff lunch during teacher appreciation week.

**Foundation, Inc.:** Chairman Crowell discussed ongoing goals of the Foundation to include the ability to procure potential donors for land acquisition.

**Dr. McElheny moved to motion for the authorization of SMA Operating Board Chairman Herb Jones to seek opportunities for land; Ms. Donovan seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

**Committee Reports:** Ms. Long discussed the progress within the Strategic Planning Committee. She stated the contracted facilitator is excellent and well organized providing tools for strategies, strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Long explained updating the expectations of external and internal stakeholders along with the culture of SMA with a common theme. She stated more information will be available to share at the next board meeting but the final report will need

additional time. Chairman Jones stated to express gratitude to the Gala Committee for their hard work albeit the postponement.

**Chairman:** Chairman Jones commended SMA-COL Bowman for maintaining SMA culture aside from the difficult decisions of staff cuts.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** N/A

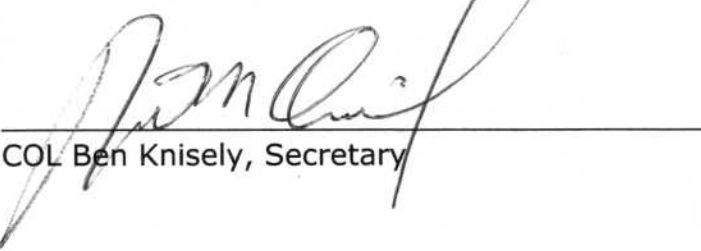
**Public Comments:** Ms. Courtney Parks, a 2019 SMA graduate, presented her plea for the rehiring of a staff member. SMA-COL Bowman explained how difficult decisions, unfortunately, have to be made to ensure the benefit and safety of our Academy. She expressed how the staff member will always be part of the SMA family and is always welcome on our campus to visit and/or volunteer.

The board discussed a change in the rank system within the administration for both campuses. Chairman Jones stated that the board will share their suggestions but will ultimately be the Executive Director's decision.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm.

  
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for Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

6-13-2019  
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Date

  
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COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

6-13-2019  
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Date