

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

24 July, 2018

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman
F. Steven Herb, Esquire, Vice Chairman
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer
Ms. Carter Donovan

Absent:

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chairman Emeritus; Ms. Linda Long; Dr. Logan Malone, RADM USN (Ret); Dr. J. Robert Parkinson; SMA-MAJ Denise Harper, Human Resources; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus; SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB; SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister, Chief Development Officer, SMA Foundation Inc.; SMA-CPT Amy Mazner, Athletic Director, High School Campus; SMA-LTC Tom Vara, Head of School, Prep Campus; MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Prep Campus; SMA-MAJ Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Prep Campus

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-LTC Fred Fout, Head of School, High School Campus
Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, SMA-LTC Assistant Head of School, High School Campus

Guests: N/A

Location: SMA High School campus. The chairman called the meeting to order at 12:59 pm.

Executive Director of School:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided the plans as a read-ahead. She stated board approval is needed for the Mental Health and Wellness Administration Plan to satisfy the new school safety statute, Senate Bill 7026. SMA-LTC Frederick Fout stated he met with Dr. Maria Clapp and the new SAI (Senior Army Instructor), LTC Ben Weiss to discuss the JROTC curriculum. He explained that mental health and wellness are within the JROTC curriculum but would like to develop it with additional resources. SMA-COL Bowman stated that funding allows to supplement current curriculum with additional resources for both campuses.

Chairman Herb Jones indicated a lot had already been in place in order to satisfy the Safety Statute. He inquired about the instructional training, how it's implemented and the certainty the staff and faculty have completed the training. SMA-COL Bowman replied that every adult on both campuses will go through the training and will receive a certificate once completed. SMA-LTC Fout stated that all faculty and staff need to be a safe haven for our cadets. Ms. Carter Donovan stated the follow through on receiving information from cadets is very important.

Chairman Jones inquired about the Eagle Ambassadors and how many are requested along with their role. SMA-LTC Fout explained their role would be to work on relationships with peers similar to a support group and would like to drastically increase the number from last year. COL Ben Knisely stated that the military in general is not designed to teach continued open communication so it is very important the cadet leaders understand this change. SMA-LTC Fout agreed that the military may not be good in expressing concerns to leaders but stated the JROTC curriculum is on its way to integrate. He also stated that mental wellness of the students has been incorporated as part of the interview process with the new hires for this school year.

Chairman Jones motioned for the board to approve and accept the Mental Health and Wellness Administration Plan; Ms. Donovan seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman stated that both campuses are being examined in making it safer according to SB 7026. She also mentioned meeting with Sheriff Keiser of the Sarasota Sheriff's Department who looked at both schools and was very impressed. Sheriff Keiser mentioned a few minor concerns that we can address quickly.

Vice Chairman F. Steven Herb referred to page three of the Florida Safe School Assessment Plan and inquired if Fire and Rescue will be visiting our campus and if our cameras will connect to the Sheriff's Department and the District. SMA-COL Bowman replied that she is working with the new SR2s to have Fire and Rescue visit our campus and the cameras will be connected to the Sheriff's Department and eventually to the District through ERIP. SMA-LTC Fout stated that eventually we will be able to have law enforcement practice active shooter drills on our campus when school is closed and that this will help in building a partnership with local law enforcement. COL Knisely stated to making field trips as part of the safety plan as to ensure safety outside of school.

Vice Chairman Herb referred to page five of the Florida Safe School Assessment Plan and inquired on a 2-way radio system in place on all our school buses. SMA-COL Bowman replied that although necessary, it currently isn't in our budget but is almost certain funds being distributed from the Department of Education for additional safety needs may be used for implementing 2-way communication on our buses. Chairman Jones requested for SMA-COL Bowman to gather more information.

Vice Chairman Herb referred to page nine of the Florida Safe School Assessment Plan and inquired on our PA system and the areas it covers. SMA-LTC Fout stated that safety will always be on the agenda in all leadership meetings.

Vice Chairman Herb motioned to accept and approve the Florida Safe School Assessment Plan with completion dates of safety tasks; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

New Business:

Chairman Jones stated SMA has been very well represented with multiple mentions on air and print. SMA-COL Bowman stated her concerns with the district vote of not providing any millage funds to charter schools. She stated a meeting was held with the heads of all charters and a letter was compiled and submitted to Dr. Bowden. SMA-COL Bowman stated a meeting with Dr. Bowden is set and responded to COL Knisely that the board will need to approve the updated funds amount from the district. SMA-LTC Fout stated the District board asked Dr. Bowden to come back today with suggestions for charter schools. SMA-COL Bowman stated she was asked to represent all charters moving forward in speaking with Dr. Bowden.

SMA-COL Bowman reiterated how phenomenal the Sheriff's Department has been in supplying the training necessary for Guardians in charter schools at their expense. She requested from the board the Florida Safe School Assessment Plans be returned back to her for safety reasons.

Vice Chairman Herb stated he met with the property owners for parking and mentioned concerns regarding water tanks may present a problem to update and upgrade the property. He also mentioned the Black Theatre Troupe parking lot only holds an additional twenty spots and the privately owned parking garage may present a liability issue. Chairman Jones asked if SMA-COL Bowman has spoken to Mr. Frederick Derr and she replied that she was waiting to speak with Vice Chairman Herb. Vice Chairman Herb stated speaking with parking garage owners prior to speaking with the city regarding parking options and SMA-COL Bowman stated it will be done this week.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:47 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

8/1/2018
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

8/1/2018
Date