

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

13 December, 2018

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
Dr. Thomas J. McElheny
Dr. J. Robert Parkinson

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

Absent: Dr. Logan Malone, RADM USN (Ret); Ms. Linda Long; SMA-LTC Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus; SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner, Athletic Director, High School Campus; SMA-LTC Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School Campus; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus; Ms. Michele Collins, PTCC President

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
LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets – Senior Army Instructor (SAI)
SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB
SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister, Chief Development Officer, SMA Foundation Inc.
SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-CPT Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus

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

SMA-CPT Terri Davis, Staff Representative for Middle School; MSG Johnny Browning, Staff Representative for High School; IB Parent Melissa Watrobsky; High School Cadet Jordan Williams and her parents.

Location: SMA High School campus. The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

LTC Ben Weiss introduced Cadet Jordan Williams to the board to present an overview of the most recent West Point trip she and other cadets attended. SMA-COL Christina Bowman praised LTC Weiss for the idea of visiting West Point and seeing it through and looks forward to continuing this trip.

LTG Howard Crowell presented to SMA-COL Bowman a five-thousand dollar check on behalf of his Rotary Club to go towards the Feed the Troops program.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 8 November, 2018 meeting:

COL Ben Knisely motioned for approval of the 8 November, 2018 minutes; Mr. F. Steven Herb seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of School Report: SMA-COL Bowman mentioned giving the staff and faculty of both schools the professional day of 21st of December a paid day off as a show of appreciation. Chairman Jones inquired about enrollment in which SMA-COL Bowman responded that the Shadow Program from the Prep is very successful.

SMA-COL Bowman stated the School Recognition Funds have been voted on for disbursement. She asks the board to approve and support the allocation of the School Recognition Funds as nonrecurring faculty and staff bonuses.

Ms. Carter Donovan motioned for approval of the allocation of the School Recognition Funds; Mr. Frederick Derr seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-LTC Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. SMA-LTC Lisa Currie announced Dr. Todd Brown received the Ignite Innovation Award from Sarasota County which was the first time a charter school teacher had won. Chairman Jones suggested honoring Dr. Brown at the next board meeting.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-CPT Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned twenty-five cadets came out for wrestling in which twenty stayed and that the boys won the championship in cross country.

MYP: SMA-LTC Currie provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned two more grants were received from FLIBS (Florida League of IB Schools) and two cadets were recognized by the community for their Clean the Beaches project.

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-LTC Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned the winter concert on the 18th December and the successful assembly held today, spearheaded by Dr. Clapp, on Mental Health. SMA-LTC Fout discussed the charter school principal meetings and mentioned meeting regularly for combined support.

SMA HS Athletics Report: Athletic Director Coach Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report.

IB Report: SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew submitted a read-ahead report. She invited the board to the informational meeting that evening to discuss IB, AP and DE as well as the IB Banquet on May 11th, 2019. SMA-LTC Donehew mentioned four parents who donated 1K each so that seniors can attend the banquet for free and she also mentioned how the IB community within SMA is growing. Chairman Jones thanked her for attending the Strategic Planning Committee meetings as her input was valuable.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned the Raiders mixed team came first at nationals with the females placing fourth. LTC Weiss mentioned the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors a Voice of Democracy Contest in which our cadet has made it to states with the hopes of nationals next. He invited the board to the Winter Formal for seniors only held at Lakewood Ranch's Even Hotel on 21st January.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Terri Davis thanked the board for the 21st of December as a paid day off and that the staff is very appreciative. MSG Johnny Browning mentioned the staff believes the good changes that are happening at the high school stem from newcomers SMA-LTC Fout, Dr. Cathy Rodriguez and LTC Weiss.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt provided a read-ahead report. Mr. Herb motioned to approve the treasurer's report; Dr. Tom McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

PTCC Report: Ms. Laura Paolercio provided a read-ahead report for the Prep.

Foundation, Inc.: SMA-MAJ CJ Bannister provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned the streamlining of all donations online. Chairman Howard Crowell stated the need to obtain correct information for alumni and stresses the importance of class presidents to assist in handling that collaboration. SMA-MAJ Bannister mentioned the SMA Legacy Society comprised of all alumni and a dinner event planned. Vice Chairman Jones mentioned to include all retired board members to Legacy Society.

Committee Reports: SMA-COL Bowman provided the minutes to the Budget Committee meeting from 15 November, 2018. Mr. Jones appointed SMA-COL Bowman as acting secretary to the Committees.

SMA-COL Bowman provided the minutes from the 19 November and 6 December, 2018 Strategic Planning Committee meetings. She presented the proposed mission and vision statements to go out to the stakeholders. Dr. McElheny proposed replacing the word "supporting" to "promoting" in which board agreed and SMA-COL Bowman will make the revision.

Mr. Herb motioned for the proposed vision and mission statements to be sent to the stakeholders; Mr. Kimball Bobbitt seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Herb motioned for approval of the 15 November, 2018 Budget Committee Meeting minutes and the 19 November, 2018 and 6 December, 2018 Strategic Planning Committee minutes; Mr. Frederick Derr seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chairman: Chairman Jones appealed to the board to give back to SMA when deciding where to focus year-end giving.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: Ms. Watrobsky mentioned to the board how SMA-MAJ Bannister presented SMA to the Coldwell Banker Realtors Meeting and how engaged and interested the realtors were. She mentioned the misconception of SMA as a reformed school and suggests IB is stamped on every piece of literature that is sent. Ms. Watrobsky also suggested the need to show sports at SMA within the video as well as utilizing the talent and skills of parents in beautifying our schools. The board agreed that the video is best they've seen yet and SMA-MAJ Bannister stated that a second video highlighting cadet life and extra-curricular activities is currently in the making.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

Date

COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

Date