

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

12 September, 2019

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
Ms. Linda Long
Dr. Thomas J. McElheny

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chairman, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Frederick M. Derr, CAPT USN (Ret), Treasurer, SMA Foundation Inc.; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, 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 Administrative Staff in Attendance

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools
SMA-COL Frederick Fout, Head of School, High School Campus
LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets – Senior Army Instructor
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant 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 Jennifer Vanston, High School Faculty Rep; SMA-CPT Bryan Burns, Prep Faculty Rep; Michele Collins, HS PTCC President; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Performing Arts Department Chair; SMA-MAJ Sylvia Gillotte, English Department Chair, High School Campus; SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey, IB and Media, High School Campus; Mr. Vincent Tortora, Pellegrino & McFarland, PA
Location: SMA Prep School campus. The chairman called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 22 August, 2019 meeting:

Vice Chairman F. Steven Herb moved to approve the 22 August, 2019 minutes subject to changes mentioned; Dr. Tom McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Audit

Mr. Vincent Tortora of Pellegrino & McFarland, PA presented the audit of 2019 and discussed the necessary changes from the previous year.

Vice Chairman Herb moved to approve the 2019 audit; Mr. Kimball Bobbitt 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 candidate for the science position at the prep is promising and the change of command ceremony for both heads of schools went well. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned speaking with the Sarasota authority regarding the Lemon Avenue parking lot and having another two months to continue to use for parking. She thanked SMA-MAJ Sylvia Gillotte and her husband for bringing us Mr. Freddie Figgers of Figgers Communications who donated twenty computers to the high school.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed enrollment numbers and academy events such as a new program for the eighth grade transition to high school and stated concerns on the ESE funding base price per student had dropped. She explained the protocol for ESE students and how processes will change at SMA to ensure resources are utilized and funding is clarified. Chairman Jones commended the team for maintaining a balanced budget despite changes in funding.

HR Report: N/A

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the first enrollment meeting a huge success with mostly incoming sixth grade parents. SMA-COL Vara stated the science position has been filled and starting the following Monday. He discussed the safety and security teams working diligently in securing as many lockdown drills as fire totaling twenty-three drills executed under mandate throughout the school year.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-CPT Smith provided a read-ahead report and SMA-COL Vara mentioned that volleyball season has started today.

MYP: SMA-LTC Lisa Currie provided a read-ahead report.

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He thanked SMA-LTC Abby Williams for creating the evacuation team which executed an evacuation to one of our off-campus locations with all cadets accounted for and back in less than forty minutes. SMA-COL Fout discussed the excitement on campus with athletics and military activities in full swing, recognizing cadets during formation and chorus singing the National Anthem. He stated the Chinese position has been filled and doing great and continuing with training in safety on campus and mental health. SMA-COL Fout discussed upcoming events with the first enrollment meeting on 25 September.

SMA HS Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Fout stated the online spirit store opens on Monday, September 16th. Chairman Jones stated more board participation is needed with the Athletics Golf Challenge in April, 2020.

IB Report: SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew provided a read-ahead report. She discussed gathering data now for IB interest and meeting with pre-IB cadets and IB teachers regularly. SMA-LTC Donehew mentioned the World Religions field trip scheduled to visit a Mosque, Temple and Church.

COL Ben Knisely inquired as to the "skinny" schedule with A/B first four days and then all classes on Friday in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the schedule is enticing but will be a large cost for SMA to change the program from the Sarasota County District program we currently use. SMA-COL Bowman discussed the extensive research she has completed with studies showing the classroom is what impacts students more rather than the schedule type and that it depends on which schedule fits the school the best. SMA-LTC Donehew suggested a committee be formed on compiling real research to derive the best analysis on schedule and students' performance. Chairman Jones agreed a committee should be formed in which SMA-COL Bowman agreed to implement.

Outreach Director: Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Bowman explained that Dr. Brown is currently in China at the Global Education Summit.

Technology: MAJ Becky Morris provided a read-ahead report.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report with notes on leadership given to him by his ROTC Instructor from the 1970s which will be taught to his senior leaders at SMA. He discussed the increased interest in attending the service academies with four active admission files to The Academy at West Point from last year's trip. LTC Weiss mentioned additional trips to the The Academy at West Point this year as well as extending trips to The Naval Academy, USF and UNF. He stated a trip to the Governor's Office in Tallahassee is scheduled to sit down with the governor to discuss SMA as the only military public charter school and how to maximize exposure.

LTC Weiss stated the first Commandant talk of the year was very successful, positive and promoted leadership. He discussed the reorganization within the regiment to now be structured differently with five battalions allowing all cadets the ability to know who their leader is. LTC Weiss discussed one of our cadets as the recipient of the Legion of Valor award and explained sixty cadets applied out of four thousand with only eight who received the award and one being ours.

LTC Weiss discussed receiving a robotics package of three robots totaling 20K. He mentioned the Raiders Competition at Lakewood Ranch High School with the opening ceremony at 7am. COL Knisely mentioned the Color Guard was very impressive at the 9/11 dinner the previous night.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Jennifer Vanston has nothing to report at this time. All staff concerns were presented to SMA-COL Fout and concerns that were not already resolved were addressed and in progress of being resolved. SMA-CPT Bryan Burns had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt and SMA-MAJ Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. Mr. Bobbitt explained the new reporting format of balance sheets from both campuses presented for easier understanding. He further discussed the financials including cash flow and

operating expenses and stated that he would like to review the audit with SMA-MAJ Steve Kok. Vice Chairman Herb stated the need to receive audit next year weeks prior to 1 October deadline.

PTCC Report: Ms. Michele Collins provided a read-ahead report and received two grant requests for the first PTCC meeting.

Foundation, Inc.: Chairman Howard Crowell mentioned actively seeking a fundraiser.

Committee Reports: Ms. Linda Long discussed the progress within the Strategic Planning Committee. She stated the committee reviewed the report from Ms. Christine Nolan and the strengths and weaknesses of the academy along with board of directors' performance. Ms. Long explained how the committee decided on four areas that need to be addressed and subcommittees be established with staff and heads of schools prior to parents' involvement. She stated each subcommittee will present to the board at October meeting.

Chairman: N/A

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: LTG Howard Crowell inquired as to the role of ROTC in the classrooms in which Chairman Jones replied that it will be a discussion at a later time to clarify role of ROTC with SMA-COL Bowman and LTC Weiss.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

Date

COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

Date

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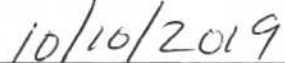
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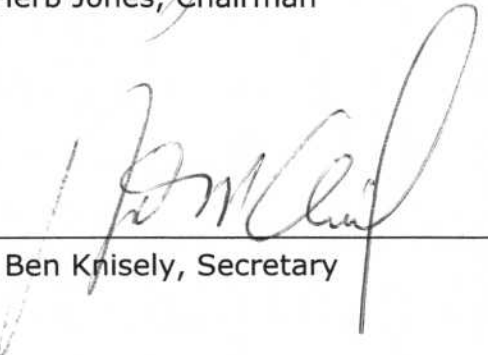
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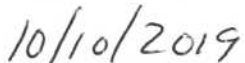
Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date