

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

14 November, 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.
Ms. Alexandra Quarles, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets – Senior Army Instructor; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School campus; SMA-CPT Bryan Burns, Prep Faculty Rep

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools
SMA-COL 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
SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew, Director of Literacy and IB
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown, Director of Outreach
SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner, Athletic Director, High School campus
SMA-COL 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-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School campus

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

Michele Collins, HS PTCC President; SMA-CPT Jennifer Vanston, High School Faculty Rep; SMA-MAJ Sylvia Gillotte, English Department Chair, High School campus; SMA-MAJ Regina Wolfgang, Math teacher, High School campus; SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey, Film Studies teacher, High School campus; SMA-MAJ Brandon Sikkenga, World Languages Department Chair, High School campus;

MSG Johnny Browning, Army Instructor, High School campus; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Science Department Chair, High School campus; Mr. Warren Hudson

Location: SMA High School campus.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

The chairman introduced Mr. Warren Hudson as a prospective board member.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 10 October, 2019 meeting:

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the 10 October, 2019 minutes; Dr. Tom McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of School Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the enrollment numbers for both schools and the numbers for December graduates along with cadets being dismissed. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned Mr. Frederick Derr obtaining the right of way use permit for the new parking lot and that a small entryway needs to be created entering the lot. She mentioned that Lemon Avenue is still available for use and that a month notice will be given to stop use.

SMA-COL Bowman stated the Wreaths Across America campaign has commenced with ads in the newspaper starting this weekend. She discussed the Designing Women Boutique event was a success with the speaker quite impressed on his visit to SMA. He mentioned SMA often during his presentation and gifted a \$1000 donation. SMA-COL Bowman stated the First Step student program will begin through the mental health allocation. She mentioned the interviews are underway for the SMA Foundation position.

Chairman Herb Jones stated the cadets looked very sharp at the Veterans Day Parade. COL Knisely mentioned Mr. Bernard Freeland, a 94 year old veteran, introduced as a guest of SMA at the Parade along with three Alumni that participated in full uniform a huge impact on the cadets at both schools.

Community Outreach Director Report: Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He stated he was selected along with thirty other educators who will be presenting to six hundred schools in London for the Reimagine Education Awards. SMA-COL Bowman stated a generous donation was given to allow Dr. Brown to continue his travels.

Dr. Brown discussed Operation Outbreak on 5 December that will consist of a six person panel including one from the Florida Department of Health. Dr. Brown stated Operation Outbreak will be highlighted in National Geographic in early spring that will be distributed throughout every middle school in the country. Ms. Linda Long suggested the need to maximize this exposure to the community and beyond in which Chairman Jones agreed.

Technology Report: N/A

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful Halloween dress-up and dance after school and joining the High School for the October Breast Cancer Awareness Month in wearing and selling the pink SMA shirts. SMA-COL Vara stated a successful Veterans Day Parade that involved a school wide field trip to the high school and how the process can improve for next year.

SMA-COL Vara announced SMA-MAJ Marissa Dobbert winning the Sarasota County Teacher of the Year award for middle school and that thirty people from the county presented the award to SMA-MAJ Dobbert during a special formation. Chairman Jones requested her to be introduced at the next board meeting. COL Knisely inquired about the vacancy at the prep in which SMA-COL Vara explained that an opening was filled but left an intensive reading position open and that a teacher from the high school will transfer at the end of the semester.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-CPT Smith provided a read-ahead report. She stated a lacrosse program will be added in the spring.

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 acknowledged SMA-LTC Ryan Lee and SMA-LTC Abby Williams for their collaboration on the ESEL initiative executed through the teachers and advisory. SMA-COL Fout thanked SMA-CPT Lorene Bauck in creating school-wide activities around kindness. He mentioned the cadets looked great during the Veterans Day Parade and that the drumline, pipers and chorus performed at the J.D. Hamel Park in downtown Sarasota after the parade.

SMA-COL Fout discussed the Military Ball was well attended and feedback was positive on the new venue. He discussed a successful spirit week and collaboration with prep on professional development offered to all teachers academy wide. SMA-COL Fout stated the SAT site based scores came back with an over sixty percent pass rate. COL Knisely inquired as to December graduates in which SMA-COL Fout replied that there are thirteen graduating in December. SMA-COL Fout acknowledged cadet Dante Aletto for his accepted appointment into the Air Force Academy.

SMA HS Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the growing, diverse student-athlete with over 350 students participating in an extra-curricular sport at SMA. SMA-MAJ Mazner commended SMA-COL Fout for attending all events, including the Raiders event in Georgia.

IB Report: SMA-LTC Pamela Donehew provided a read-ahead report. She discussed a trip she went on along with two board members to a school outside of Boston, Massachusetts on gathering information to support a wall-to-wall IB school. SMA-LTC Donehew discussed the challenges in building more interest of the IB program with students and parents.

Ms. Carter Donovan stated how it needs to be identified on who SMA is and Dr. McElheny agreed. Ms. Long stated our scores need to dictate SMA as a college preparatory academy and a committee has been formed to address this question. SMA-LTC Donehew discussed the comparison of current costs for all programs to future programs including wall-to-wall IB and continued teacher training. She further discussed how wall-to-wall IB can be integrated with a school wide schedule and course takers to fill up classes at various levels.

SMA-LTC Donehew stated the IB courses offer students a global perspective, big picture concept based framework of inquire, problem solving and critical thinking. COL Knisely stated the need for flexibility within the IB program so that the culture of non-IB can be integrated in which SMA-LTC Donehew responded that IB is a curriculum for all and that other Sarasota high school is on its way to integrating wall-to-wall IB. She reiterated the additional funding as well as an additional grant to the school if become wall-to-wall IB.

LTG Howard Crowell discussed the perceptions of going forward with wall-to-wall IB and how to compete with other high schools who may have more resources. He suggested a task force be put together to gather data and research. Ms. Long stated the need to increase student achievement. Chairman Jones stated a committee needs to be formed with Ms. Long as one of the members and that although a decision cannot be made today, he understands what needs to be clarified.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report. MSG Browning announced the accepted appointment to the Air Force Academy by cadet Dante Aletto and two to The Citadel by cadets Noah Neitlich and Jaden Thurber. He also announced cadet Aeryn Sachs receiving her congressional acceptance to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Jennifer Vanston provided a read-ahead report. 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 discussed the current financials including profit and loss by campus. He explained the FTE money for the semester and the ESE cadets that will be recoded resulting in more funds received for resources. Ms. Long inquired as to the dual enrollment funds in which SMA-MAJ Kok replied that SMA receives funds a semester behind.

PTCC Report: Ms. Michele Collins provided a read-ahead report and mentioned a successful Staff Veterans Luncheon catered by Pizza SRQ.

Foundation, Inc.: N/A

Committee Reports: MAJ Becky Morris discussed the Academic Excellence Strategic Committee meeting with three goals identified as ongoing learning growth by maximizing potential to every individual; approaches to learning; and a supportive learning community. She stated a clear mission and vision and a clear

school improvement plan will be created and the need to bring back the SAC to involve parents.

SMA-LTC Currie discussed the Recruit and Retention updates with three defined goals as increase enrollment; increase teachers; and retaining of both teachers and students. She explained building upon word of mouth exposure by highlighting the military and character building as most interested traits of SMA. SMA-LTC Currie suggested the flexibility of uniforms at the prep by wearing other military uniforms such as Raiders. She discussed clarifying pathways between the prep and the high school with one example of continuing the rank. SMA-LTC Currie stated to reiterate on the website the rewarding experience, how they're valued, core scheduling to all potential teachers at SMA. Dr. McElheny agreed that our faculty needs to be embraced as our core resource.

SMA-LTC Abby Williams had no updates on the Funding Strategic Committee.

Chairman Jones discussed the updates on the Recruit and Retain of Board Members Strategic Committee with interviews set up including a list of criteria.

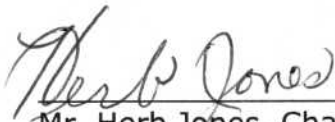
Chairman: N/A

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

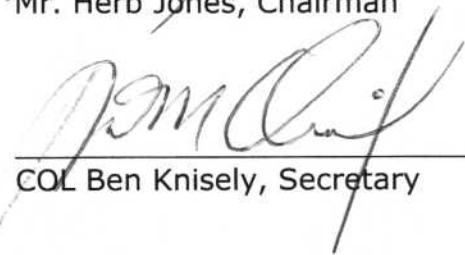
Public Comments: MAJ Becky Morris introduced the "Soil Sammies" as centerpieces created by SMA-MAJ Deb Walker and her AgriScience class. SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey introduced herself as the film elective for the IB program and how she knew nothing five years ago about IB and grew to learn the benefits.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

12-12-19
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

12-12-19
Date