

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

13 February, 2020

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
Mr. Warren P. Hudson
Ms. Linda Long
Dr. Thomas J. McElheny

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

Absent: LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets – Senior Army Instructor; 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 Charlie Carver, IB Director; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus; MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus; SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus; Ms. Michele Collins, HS PTCC President

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Executive Director of Schools
SMA-COL Frederick Fout, Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
CW3 Brenda Munoz
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

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; SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey, Film Studies teacher, High School campus; SMA-CPT Jeannette Marks, Marine Science teacher, High School campus; SMA-MAJ Regina Wolfgang, Math teacher, High School campus

Location: SMA High School campus.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 9 January, 2020 meeting:

Dr. Tom McElheny moved to approve the 9 January, 2020 minutes; Mr. Warren Hudson seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 22 January, 2020 meeting:

Vice Chairman F. Steven Herb moved to approve the 22 January, 2020 minutes; Mr. Kimball Bobbitt seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 6 January, 2020 work session:

Dr. McElheny moved to approve the 6 January, 2020 minutes; Mr. Hudson seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 18 January, 2020 work session:

Vice Chairman Herb moved to approve the 18 January, 2020 minutes; Dr. McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman invited the board to SMA night at Circus Sarasota on the 25th of February through tickets donated by Ms. Phyllis Siskel. She explained enrollment numbers for both schools for the 2020-2021 school year. SMA-COL Bowman discussed student safety awaiting administration approval for the child abuse protection policy and will need board approval at the next meeting.

SMA-COL Bowman received eight tickets to hear General John F. Kelly speak at the Ringling College. She explained how a staff member shared with her how he served with General Kelly's son. SMA-COL Bowman then contacted the event chairperson who presented two tickets along with VIP passes to sit and speak with General Kelly privately. Chairman Herb Jones and Ms. Linda Long both attended Tiger Bay and stated how proud they were of our cadets.

Community Outreach Director Report: Dr. Todd Brown provided a read ahead report. He discussed how National Geographic featuring SMA Prep and Operation Outbreak will be distributed to seventy thousand students at middle schools across the United States.

Technology Report: N/A

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the enrollment status for the 2020-2021 school year as well as ongoing campus security and mental health awareness. SMA-COL Vara stated that the language and literature teachers have a better handle on what the cadets are struggling with and are preparing them for testing.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. Chairman Herb Jones inquired as to a connection of the wrestling team with the high school in which SMA-COL Vara replied that the assistant coach at the high school is the coach at the prep. He stated that wrestling and lacrosse are unique sports for middle schools that the prep offers.

MYP: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed upcoming events such as the induction ceremony for ALAS which is an academic oriented club providing tools for the Hispanic population after high school and the FAFSA open house to parents who need assistance in filling out the application. SMA-COL Fout stated he is working with SMA-COL Vara on enhancing grades six through twelve through pathways. He mentioned speaking with the eighth grade class at the prep to explain classes offered at the high school for when the counselors schedule for ninth grade.

SMA-COL Fout discussed the current enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. SMA-COL Bowman stated phone calls to undecided eighth grade parents are taking place to explain pathways and classes offered at the high school. She discussed how new students applying to the high school are originating from out of state and the need for increased enrollment within the upper grades.

Chairman Jones inquired as to how to reach parents in which SMA-COL Fout replied how personal contact with parents explaining the pathways and new courses being offered and the high school playing a larger part in recruiting the eighth graders from the prep are both very important. Mr. Hudson commended the staff on a great SPIN night in which SMA-COL Fout agreed and replied that SPIN will replace open houses and occur twice a year.

SMA HS Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned the wrestling team and their advances and upcoming lacrosse games including the fundraiser for Leukemia at Premiere fields in Lakewood Ranch. SMA-MAJ Mazner discussed the need for board participation and solicitation to the Inaugural Golf Challenge in April that will assist in lowering the cost or completely funding all pay-to-play fees. Chairman Jones presented SMA-MAJ Mazner with a check to fulfill the Buddy sponsorship level.

IB Report: SMA-COL Fout mentioned his communication with FLIBS and that SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver is working on the completion of the IB program with current eleventh graders with continued support in a positive way. Chairman Jones inquired if all IB parents were contacted personally in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that they were.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Jennifer Vanston provided a read-ahead report. She discussed meeting with SMA-COL Fout on minor issues and continues to build communication amongst staff. SMA-CPT Vanston stated she will provide a document of gathered information to share with the board once it is finalized. SMA-CPT Bryan Burns had nothing to report.

SAI/Commandant's Report: CW3 Brenda Munoz discussed additional opportunities that were given to cadets this year with visiting all four service academies along with University of South Florida for learning more on ROTC scholarships offered. She mentioned visiting the Naval Academy this year as the first time with one already accepted into the STEM program there. CW3 Munoz mentioned trips for this year were extended to only juniors but hoping to get sophomores involved next year. She stated that SMA and the ROTC department are

part of a pilot program that just received textbooks for the curriculum and working with administration on pathways.

PTCC Report: N/A

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt discussed the current financials for both schools. SMA-MAJ Steve Kok explained the projected six month budget along with the projected enrollment numbers. LTG Howard Crowell inquired as to the inclusion of charter schools of the 4.5% statewide pay raise to teachers in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she has not heard as of yet. Chairman Jones stated an appointment with Ms. Jane Goodwin needs to be arranged and the need to address two challenges of better marketing and finding a way to increase salaries for next school year.

Vice Chairman Herb moved to accept the new proposed budget; Dr. McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Foundation, Inc.: Chairman Howard Crowell invited the board to attend the next Foundation board meeting on the 18th of February to meet the new board member and to hear the report given by the headhunter for a new fundraiser.

Committee Reports: N/A

Chairman: Chairman Jones requested from the board their participation in assisting the athletic program and the Golf Challenge and to assist in marketing of SMA.

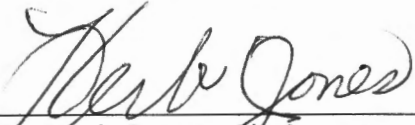
Old Business: N/A

New Business: Mr. Hudson inquired as to the status of the new strategic plan in which Ms. Linda Long replied that the need to regroup is necessary to continue. LTG Crowell inquired as to any concerns with the decision of the IB program in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that it is not showing cadets leaving SMA due to the IB program and that SMA-MAJ Carver stated eleven out of fifteen juniors are officially committed as of now.

Chairman Jones inquired as to the marketing committee in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she and Dr. McElheny met with the ABC7 marketing team to discuss GEO marketing and its benefits to the new marketing plan.

Public Comments: SMA-COL Fout mentioned he chaperoned with SMA-CPT Jeanette Marks to collect plankton at the Bay and utilized their cell phones for microscopes. SMA-COL Bowman stated one of our alum, Mary Tucker, will be going to the Olympics in Tokyo 2020 for Rifle.

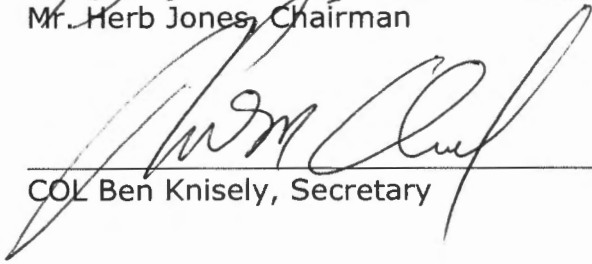
The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

3/5/2020

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

3/5/2020

Date