

Sarasota Military Academy
COMBINED BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)

14 May, 2020

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

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chairman, SMA Foundation Inc.
Frederick M. Derr, CAPT USN (Ret), Treasurer, SMA Foundation Inc.
Mr. Anthony Baade, SMA Foundation Inc.
Ms. Alexandra Quarles, SMA Foundation Inc.
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

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 Dr. Catherine Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School Campus
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
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
SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown, Director of Outreach
SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus

Guest in Attendance: Mr. Bill Robertson, The Robertson Law Firm PA

Location: Virtual

The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

Vice Chairman Herb introduced Mr. Bill Robertson as his colleague over at Kirk Pinkerton who has recently opened his own law firm. He stated Mr. Robertson is very involved with veterans and Goodwill and had invited him as a guest to the board meeting.

Motion to Approve the 17 April, 2020 Minutes:

Vice Chairman F. Steven Herb motioned to approve the 17 April, 2020 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the 5 March, 2020 Minutes:

Vice Chairman Herb motioned to approve the 5 March, 2020 minutes; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of Schools Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She stated letters of intent were sent out to staff on both campuses in which all were returned. SMA-COL Bowman discussed the new positions available on both campuses. She explained how the purchase of additional Chromebooks can be fulfilled through the Title IV funds.

SMA-COL Bowman mentioned the creation of the Health Committee led by Dr. Todd Brown and SMA-LTC Ryan Lee to research protocols set at other schools as well as where there may be gaps. She stated that both campuses are following CDC guidelines very strictly and has a call into District to discuss further.

Community Outreach Director Report: Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He discussed incorporating questions to parents and stakeholders for a daily check-in through the Stanford Wellness and will report back to the board on the findings. Dr. Brown mentioned a discussion with National Geographic on a collaboration that will be made public through a press release soon. He explained the challenges of incorporating any joint projects online as the online platform may be the only option in the fall.

Chairman Herb Jones requested for Dr. Brown to share his conversation with the CDC. Dr. Brown discussed how the CDC strongly recommends not returning to school in the fall although they cannot command their recommendations. He stated that we will be prepared with the unforeseen future and that may effect enrollment positively as we are more prepared than other schools.

Technology Report: N/A

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the staff working diligently on finishing the year and working with cadets who have struggled in completing work. SMA-COL Vara stated the virtual eighth grade promotion will be held on 4th of June with an in person promotion scheduled for 4th of August.

SMA-COL Vara mentioned calls to parents to finalize enrollment for next year and that SMA-COL Bowman has posted five positions to be filled. He discussed cadets will use Apex Learning, Khan Academy and USA Test Prep for course recovery over

the summer. SMA-COL Vara stated working with First Step for small group and one to one counseling as well as a partnership with Lean On Me for cadets to work with mentors through the summer. Chairman Jones inquired as to the enrollment numbers for next year in which SMA-COL Vara replied that he will provide numbers to the board once they are finalized.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the enrollment numbers for next year with the administrative team making phone calls to prospective parents. SMA-COL Fout explained the administrative team working on different options for the return to school in the fall while maintaining the military aspect of the academy. He stated that the staff are in good emotional state and prepared to create a solid college ready curriculum to be ready for any scenario in the fall.

Chairman Jones inquired as to the ratings of the "Coffee with the Colonel" in which SMA-COL Fout replied that the live videos are very effective with thousands of views. COL Knisely inquired as to acquiring the resources needed for virtual or blended classrooms in the fall in which SMA-COL Fout replied that more Chromebooks are needed and focusing on classes, such as technology classes, that will have to regularly be on campus to utilize the resources in class.

SMA-COL Fout discussed the success of the senior drop-off / pick-up today of uniforms and books, yard signs and cap and gowns. He stated the festive and congratulatory atmosphere with teachers lined up with homemade signs while JROTC instructors passed out awards. Chairman Jones inquired as to media present in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she had reached out but without any response.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

IB Report: N/A

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He stated the challenges in transitioning JROTC to the virtual world. LTC Weiss explained Cadet Command perfecting the Cadet Portal that will include all assignments in the cloud and working with his team in creating other ideas on incorporating JROTC curriculum to online learning.

LTC Weiss discussed three cadets receiving awards from the Sarasota Military Officers Foundation with cadet Aeryn Sachs receiving the first Kay Blythe Tracy Award as the only one in the county and cadets Noah Fischer and Juliana Rendle receiving the JROTC and Merit awards respectfully. LTC Weiss discussed that SMA has made it to an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for round two competing nationally and internationally in the Joint Leadership Academic Bowl. He stated that the event was unfortunately cancelled but will pick up again once allowed.

LTC Weiss mentioned approximately seven hundred free uniforms are awaiting for our pickup at Fort Benning in Georgia. SMA-COL Fout explained the need to acquire a large enough truck to pick up in Georgia and to store in a storage container on

campus off of the supply room. LTG Howard Crowell stated that the company PODS may be able to offer their assistance and to reach out to inquire.

Staff Representatives: N/A

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. He discussed the current financials thru 31st March with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. SMA-MAJ Steve Kok stated that the high school campus is caught up with the differential in FTE count and that the savings from online learning will be most effected for the month of May.

COL Ben Knisely motioned to approve the IRS Form 990 for tax-exempt organizations; Vice Chairman Herb seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

PTCC Report: N/A

Marketing Report: N/A

Committee Reports: N/A

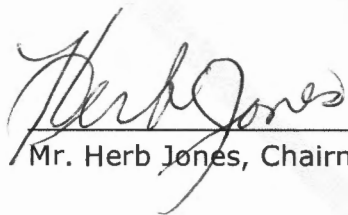
Chairman: Chairman Jones commended the staff and faculty on both campuses for a job well done in the quick transition to online learning. He stated that SMA was better prepared as he spoke to a number of other schools and know SMA will be better prepared in the fall for any scenario to start the school year.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:32 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

6-20-20
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

6/20/2020
Date