

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)

8 December, 2020

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman
Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, Vice Chairman
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
F. Steven Herb, Esquire
Mr. Warren P. Hudson
Ms. Linda Long
Mr. Pete Skokos
Ms. Tessa Suplee, Lt Col, AF (Ret)

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.
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Chief Executive Officer
LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets
SMA-COL Frederick Fout, Head of School, 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
SMA-MAJ Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown, Director of Community Outreach

Guests in Attendance:

Location: Virtual

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

Motion to Approve the 10 November, 2020 Minutes:

Mr. F. Steven Herb motioned to approve the 10 November, 2020 minutes; Vice Chairman Dr. Tom McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of Schools Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She commended SMA-LTC Lisa Currie and SMA-COL Fred Fout for their time and effort in creating the Education Plan and Assurances for Spring 2020-21 which provides a detailed plan submitted to the district for second semester remote and brick and mortar learners. She explained submitting this education plan allows our academy to receive full funding. Chairman Herb Jones inquired as to the intervention program listed in which SMA-COL Fout replied that the high school will incorporate a course recovery program that includes Saturday and Summer school sessions. Ms. Linda Long inquired as to how remediation is administered for students who are not performing in which SMA-COL Fout replied that Saturday and Summer school sessions in place will help drastically.

Chairman Jones inquired as to how students can receive a better education while remote learning in which SMA-COL Fout replied that the relationships the faculty build with their students with mentoring engages our remote learners to interact while online. Chairman Jones inquired if both schools are prepared to implement this education plan in which they agreed they were and it was presented to the board for approval.

Ms. Long motioned to approve the Education Plan and Assurances for Spring 2020-21; Vice Chairman seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed the successful Wreaths Across America Campaign with over 3.3K wreaths provided to Sarasota National Cemetery. She encouraged the boards to participate in the Toys for Tots program as well as Sponsor a Cadet for our cadets in need this holiday season.

Community Outreach Director Report: SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a callback from Columbia University to participate in their second podcast with himself and one of our cadets due to the success of the first one. SMA-MAJ Brown is working on implementing Operation Outbreak with added features during second semester as well as currently building a program with history teachers at the prep to cross over with geography. He stated in the process of completing grants for STEM Education.

Technology Report: MAJ Becky Morris provided a read-ahead report. She presented data Chairman Howard Crowell requested on percentage of devices used district wide to remote learners.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He thanked the PTCC for providing lunch to the staff veterans on Veterans Day and announced MAJ Alex Vanston as VFW's Middle School Teacher of the year and SMA-CPT Samantha Miller as the 2019-20 Middle School Teacher of the Year by her peers at the prep to be presented to the county.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report.

She announced the cross country team will be in the championships held in Palmetto with a Virtual Awards Ceremony the next day. SMA-MAJ Smith stated that boys and girls soccer will be going to the playoffs with boys as first place and girls fourth place. She explained that SMA Prep will host the tournament due to the first place ranking and will be held at Twin Lakes. SMA-MAJ Smith stated that a flag football coach was hired and that season will start after break along with volleyball.

Instructional Design & Curriculum: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fout provided a read-ahead report. He stated that grants were awarded for COVID expenses which enabled additional chromebooks purchased to a total of three computer carts with one strictly for the English department. SMA-Fout mentioned new guidelines for quarantining will be implemented soon that will include a reduction in days to quarantine at home.

SMA HS Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report.

IB Report: SMA-MAJ Hellen Harvey provided a read-ahead report.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He stated that the synergy between prep and the high school is amazing implementing morning meetings with the military studies instructors and working on increasing the students transitioning from eighth grade to the high school. LTC Weiss announced a prep cadet as the local post winner for the Patriots Pen essay and placed second in districts as well as a high school cadet as the local post winner for the Voice of Democracy oratory essay and placed second in districts. He also announced the MAJ Alex Vanston as the VFW's Middle School Teacher of the Year and SMA-CPT John Geimer as the VFW's High School Teacher of the Year and their wins in their local posts and districts and both will be heading to states.

LTC Weiss commended his instructors in finding unique and creative ways to continue competing in their after school activities with COVID protocols.

Staff Representatives: SMA-MAJ Smith stated that no staff concerns at this time. SMA-COL Fout presented the discussions with high school Staff Representative, SMA-MAJ Hellen Harvey, on ideas to implement prior to break on uplifting teachers' spirits.

Media Report: SMA-MAJ Harvey provided a read-ahead report. She stated that despite COVID protocols that does not allow to peruse library shelves, there has been an increase in library book check outs and that the Administrative Team has been very supportive.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-MAJ Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. He discussed the current financials thru October 31st with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. SMA-MAJ Kok stated that the PPP loan forgiveness application is submitted and awaiting approval. Chairman Jones presented Mr. Warren Hudson as the Assistant Treasurer and asked for board approval.

Vice Chairman Dr. Tom McElheny motioned to approve Mr. Warren Hudson as the Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

PTCC Report: SMA-COL Vara stated a luncheon was provided by the prep PTCC and will also provide a teacher breakfast before break.

Committee Reports: Mr. Warren Hudson discussed the teams created for each of the three sub-committees with the goal of completing the Strategic Plan to be presented in the June board meeting.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the current financials breaking down restricted and unrestricted funds including the success of the Matching Flanzer Program. Mr. Robles stated that the year end appeal will be sent out shortly and inquired to the board for their participation. He mentioned working on the Heroes Ladies Intercollegiate Event held at the Founders Club with ways to promote SMA as well as collect donations. COL Ben Knisely inquired if invites can be sent to the Governing Board Members for Foundation Board meetings in which Mr. Robles agreed.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

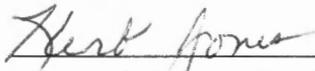
Chairman: Chairman Jones commended the faculty and staff for a successful year and to the board for their continued support.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Chairman Jones confirmed the next virtual board meeting will be on January 12th at 2:30pm.

Public Comments: N/A

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

1/20/2021

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

1/20/2021

Date