

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)

9 FEBRUARY, 2021

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

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

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

Absent: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer; Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary;
Ms. Linda Long

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance: N/A

Location: Virtual

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

Motion to Approve the 12 January, 2021 Minutes:

Dr. Thomas McElheny motioned to approve the 12 January, 2021 minutes with corrections; Mr. Warren Hudson seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of Schools Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the science position at the prep should be filled shortly with applications being forwarded to SMA-COL Tom Vara for review but still in need of a computer science position. SMA-COL Bowman commended SMA-MAJ Rachel Wasserman for the invitation to present at the Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education at the College of Education of University of South Tampa. She praised the phenomenal job of our high school and prep cadets during the Heroes Ladies Intercollegiate Golf Tournament Charity Event for the Lead the Way Fund along with the Color Guard performing at the dinner that evening.

Community Outreach Director Report: SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He stated the mentions of SMA and Operation Outbreak in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun and Orlando Sentinel. SMA-MAJ Dr. Brown mentioned he applied for two grants, one with the National Science Foundation and University of Massachusetts and the other with the Department of Defense, and should hear back within the month of March.

Technology and Data Impact Report: MAJ Becky Morris provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the need for a technology strategic plan to address the goal of Chromebooks for every student as well as additional higher-end computers for technology and design classes, staying on top of the latest technological trends, and to focus on cloud-based and on-site cybersecurity.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Vara provided a read-ahead report. He stated the successful visit of the high school leadership and choir in joining the prep for the National Anthem and formation followed by visits to the eighth grade classrooms to speak on transitioning to the high school. SMA-COL Vara mentioned finalizing the camouflage fatigues to be worn on campus and for physical training.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. She stated that currently volleyball and flag football are undefeated with record turnout during tryouts.

Instructional Design & Curriculum: SMA-LTC Currie provided a read-ahead report. She emphasized the need to reach the goal of 1:1 Chromebooks especially with the increase of contact tracing and e-learning. SMA-COL Bowman stated that none of the cases at both schools are attributed to on campus exposures.

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned the decrease of remote learners to only 20% and reported the increase of second semester enrollees has offset the high number of December graduates. SMA-COL Fout commended his staff in diligently maintaining the assigned seats and handling the contact tracing quickly to minimize cadets sent home for remote learning. Chairman Herb Jones inquired as to the percentage of

remote learners at other schools and how we compare in which SMA-COL Fout replied that we seem lower but will have numbers for the next meeting.

Chairman Jones inquired about the academic pathways and to provide an explanation. SMA-COL Fout explained the three pillars of Science and Technology, Humanities, and Leadership and how the seven pathways offered stems from these three pillars. He further explained on the job training associated with each pathway and the ability to be recognized at graduation on the different levels of achievement based on classes completed. Chairman Jones inquired as to the ability to advertise these pillars and pathways in which SMA-COL Fout replied that promotional materials are being created and will advertise once staff have been informed. Dr. McElheny inquired if a process for marketing has been established for brand continuity within both schools in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that Mr. Rafael Robles and herself have been working with a third party to ensure brand fluidity.

SMA-COL Fout requested additional resources for transforming a part-time position into full-time to continue the responsibilities of recruitment and enrollment as well as assisting Mr. Robles with the Foundation and himself as the minimal hours thus far has proven to be effective with a higher enrollment from last year. He mentioned the upcoming events with Raiders going to Nationals and the wrestling team going to Districts.

SMA HS Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Amy Mazner provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Fout stated that SMA-MAJ Mazner has resigned from the Athletic Director position but will remain on staff as a teacher and thanked her for the work she has done for SMA Athletics. Chairman Jones stated the board appreciates all she has done for athletics at the high school.

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

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He stated that 80% of seniors currently have the OCP (camouflage fatigues) uniforms they can wear on Wednesdays and that he's still working on providing the uniforms for the remainder of cadets. LTC Weiss mentioned how impressed he was on the change of command on both campuses.

Staff Representatives: SMA-MAJ Smith stated no concerns at this time for the prep. SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey stated no concerns at this time for the high school. She recommended the board visit classrooms and teachers when they are able to safely return to campus.

Media Report: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-MAJ Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. He discussed the current financials thru December 31st with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. SMA-MAJ Kok stated that the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan forgiven application has been submitted and should hear back soon. Dr. McElheny inquired as to whether we qualify for an additional PPP loan in which SMA-MAJ Kok replied that we do not as we don't meet qualifications.

PTCC Report: N/A

Committee Reports: Mr. Hudson stated that the three sub-committees have been formed with the College and Career and Citizenship Committee meeting the following day. He stated that he asked Dr. McElheny, SMA-COL Bowman and Mr. Robles to join him in the Resources Committee to discuss recruitment and retention.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the current financials for the Foundation along with a breakdown of restricted and unrestricted donations. Mr. Robles provided a comprehensive donor analysis with a high increase across all areas of active and new donors, retention rate and reactivated donors. He stated the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust Matching Program has been very successful for teachers in classrooms and programs.

Mr. Robles stated that he created a greatest needs list along with SMA-COL Bowman that will be presented to donors. He mentioned excelling to the Silver Seal of Transparency at Guidestar and working on obtaining Gold and Platinum levels soon as it will raise awareness of SMA to donors. Mr. Robles commended the SMA Color Guard at the Lead the Way Charity Dinner. He stated that the Color Guard represents everything SMA is and can be a great addition to the marketing strategy as they perform at various events throughout the community.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

Chairman: N/A

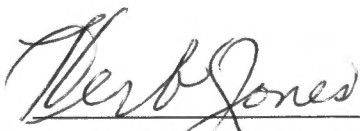
Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

The next virtual board meeting will be on 9 March, 2021 at 2:30pm.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

3-11-21

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

3/11/21

Date