

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)

13 APRIL, 2021

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.
Mr. Anthony Baade, Trustee, SMA Foundation Inc.
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus

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
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School Campus
SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School Campus

Guests in Attendance: SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey, High School Faculty Representative

Location: Virtual

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

Motion to Approve the 09 March, 2021 Minutes:

Mr. Warren Hudson motioned to approve the 09 March, 2021 minutes; Ms. Linda Long 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 open positions on both campuses and detailed the process of posting internally first prior to posting externally through Indeed, website and Facebook. SMA-COL Bowman stated she is finalizing the ESSER Funds along with Titles I, II and IV in preparation for next year. She mentioned awaiting on Sarasota County to determine how school district will participate in school grades based upon Governor DeSantis' executive order.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed enrollment numbers for next year and is very confident in reaching the projected total enrollment. She mentioned Mr. Rafael Robles creating a postcard specifically for incoming sixth graders to be mailed out to specific zip codes within Manatee County. SMA-COL Bowman discussed the current waiting list for ninth grade and the number registered are above the projected enrollment for ninth grade. Dr. Thomas McElheny inquired as to the reasons for the increase in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the personalization of the number of times the families are contacted such as the weekly Q&A sessions has made a huge impact. Dr. McElheny agreed and is pleased to incorporate into the marketing strategies for next year.

Community Outreach Director Report: SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the secured speakers for Diversity Day in June as well as implementing a new version of Operation Outbreak for next year.

Technology and Data Impact Report: MAJ Becky Morris provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the priority of internal and external cybersecurity and practices with creating policies and procedures along with review of prevention strategies and will provide a more detailed report at next meeting.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He commended SMA-CPT Jackie Sharkey-Trecartin and MSG Johnny Browning for a successful Raiders 5k Run that continues to grow each year as a community wide event of over 400 registrants. SMA-COL Vara discussed strategies implemented to assist in the increase of sixth grade enrollment as well as ongoing staffing and scheduling for next school year.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. She stated girls and boys basketball are doing well with the hopes of the boys earning a spot in the championships for the first time. SMA-MAJ Smith mentioned the lacrosse season did well but had a tough season due to contact tracing and players quarantined.

Instructional Design & Curriculum: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed FSA testing is underway following with EOCs and LEOCs. SMA-COL Fout stated SATs were administered today to the entire junior class at no cost that can be reportable to colleges. He explained in more detail about the enrollment numbers for next year and announced we are showing 113 more students registered than currently have in county system.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

IB Report: SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey provided a read-ahead report. She stated a list of college acceptances is included in the read-ahead.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Ben Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He announced one junior accepted into the summer program at the Naval Academy along with two applications open for West Point. LTC Weiss expressed enthusiasm for next year's leadership and increase of applicants to service academies. He commended the Rifle team for all shooters shooting their best record and awaiting the team's results in the CNP level competition in Alabama. LTC Weiss thanked COL Ben Knisely for continuing to spread the great word of SMA and the Color Guard.

Staff Representatives: SMA-MAJ Smith stated quite a few concerns regarding salary and suggested offering bonus payments as incentives. Chairman Jones replied that salary concerns will be addressed as increases will be implemented for next year. SMA-CPT Harvey stated that a few concerns on salary were mentioned and addressed by administration with the confirmation of salary increases next school year. She mentioned the continual testing always presents a problem and anxiety within teachers and students and hopes testing will be reduced in the future.

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 March 31st with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. SMA-MAJ Steve Kok stated the need for replacing two air conditioning units as well as upgrading our technology firewall. Mr. Warren Hudson inquired as to the PPP loan and if it has been forgiven in which SMA-MAJ Kok replied that it was still pending.

Chairman Jones inquired as to the funds needed to bring salaries up to county level in which SMA-MAJ Kok provided the breakdown of funds needed.

Chairman Jones stated the need to increase salaries to the district level for next school year. Mr. Hudson suggested a contingency on having the PPP loan forgiven in which Chairman Jones stated that he is confident new salaries can be delivered due to FTE increase along with the success of SMA Foundation. Mr. Hudson agreed and withdrew his amendment of salary increases contingent of the PPP loan forgiven. LTG Howard Crowell stated that a leap of faith is necessary and will work to make this happen.

Chairman Jones motioned to approve the decision of increasing salaries to meet district standards; Dr. McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Long inquired as to the number of part and full time dual enrollment students in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she will provide numbers at next meeting.

PTCC Report: SMA-COL Fout stated that teacher appreciation week is the week of 3 May.

Committee Reports: Mr. Hudson stated that the three sub-committees are compiling a final report to be presented to the board for approval. LTG Crowell suggested also providing a report that can be marketed to parents and donors in which Mr. Hudson agreed and will provide one to also market.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He provided a three year plan detailing economic growth with increase in planned giving and stated the ability to now accept donations in stock options.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

Chairman: Chairman Jones stated that he is very confident in the path SMA is going forward.

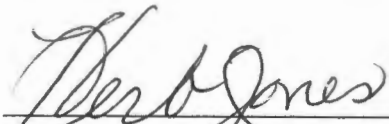
Old Business: Mr. Robles thanks the board for a successful one year anniversary and looks forward to continuing his journey.

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: Prep parent, Ms. Bonnie Benjamin, commended the staff for a successful year of her three children attending the prep.

The next virtual board meeting will be on 11 May, 2021 at 2:30pm.


The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

7/12/2021

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

7/12/2021

Date