

Sarasota Military Academy
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)
11 MAY, 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.
CAPT (Ret.) Frederick M. Derr, Treasurer, 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; C/COL Abigail Koester

Location: Virtual

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

LTC Ben Weiss introduced the incoming Regimental Commander C/COL Abigail Koester to the board. He explained how Ms. Koester currently holds the number five spot in her class rank with plans to apply to service academies and attending one upon graduation. Ms. Koester provided an insight as to her experiences and accomplishments while commending the staff, administration and fellow cadets in assisting with her transition to SMA. She explained her plans to develop the core relationship of the prep and high school along with building community relations.

Motion to Approve the 13 April, 2021 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely motioned to approve the 13 April, 2021 minutes; Ms. Tessa Suplee seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of Schools Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She invited the board to morning formation at the prep on 20 May to watch the high school drumline perform with the prep drumline. SMA-COL Bowman commended the PTCC and parents from both campuses on a very successful teacher appreciation week filled with sweets and support.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed the hiring on both campuses is going well. Vice Chairman Tom McElheny inquired as to the cultural orientation for new hires and current faculty in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that it will be introduced at the next board meeting as part of the strategic plan as an all year initiative.

Community Outreach Director Report: SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned two events held at the prep along with a mention in The Atlantic. Mr. F. Steven Herb inquired as to any pending grants in which Dr. Brown replied that he will be notified of the Department of Defense grant in June that will provide stipends and materials for Operation Outbreak on both campuses.

Technology and Data Impact Report: MAJ Becky Morris provided a read-ahead report. She discussed her review on the effectiveness of programs used and cybersecurity. Mr. Herb inquired as to how far along we are with the 1:1 chromebook program in which MAJ Morris replied that currently chromebooks can accommodate approximately one third of the total cadets on both campuses with the goal to increase.

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He stated enrollment for next school year is increasing and concurred on the success of hiring with the goal of being fully staffed before the end of the school year.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. She commended the boys' basketball team in placing runner-up and the successful event of camaraderie and sportsmanship of the high school boys' lacrosse playing with the prep lacrosse team. SMA-MAJ Smith thanked the board for allowing sports for 180 cadets to continue this year as many other schools had cancelled sporting events.

Instructional Design & Curriculum: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He stated staff is busy in creating schedules for next year as well as visits from the counselors to the prep to work with schedules of the eighth graders transitioning to the high school. SMA-COL Fout discussed his plan on increasing A/P classes and introducing the expansion of each pathways to

include community service projects, internships and capstone projects. He further discussed the partnership with University of South Florida (USF) for two dual enrollment classes to be taught by our teachers here on campus. SMA-COL Fout explained working with each department on what a pathway achievement will look like as well as when and how often to meet with the pathway advisor. He stated that the elective courses will be more diversified with including a new foreign language, computer science classes, creative writing, journalism 3 to include print and web-based, keyboard and guitar.

Mr. Warren Hudson commended SMA-COL Fout on Dual Enrollment on campus, increase of A/P classes and initiating OJT. SMA-COL Fout stated that the goal is to increase dual enrollment on campus but need to certify teachers in math which is taken into consideration with new hires. Ms. Linda Long inquired as to the documentation of observations and walkthroughs of faculty in which SMA-COL Fout replied that observations completed twice a year are documented through the county's PRIDE program and informal walkthroughs are not documented.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

IB Report: SMA-CPT Hellen Harvey provided a read-ahead report. She stated the successful end of year banquet and thanked Ms. Long for attending.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He commended the JROTC instructors for doing a great job engaging the cadets through the end of the year. LTC Weiss stated two rifle members going to the junior olympics and the three day JROTC Leadership Camp being held locally with the other JROTC programs. He mentioned submitting the packet for C/COL Abigail Koester for the Legion of Valor Award and currently holding four strong open files to service academies. Chairman Jones commended on getting the message out of SMA producing enrollees to the service academies.

Staff Representatives: SMA-MAJ Smith stated no concerns at this time. SMA-CPT Harvey stated concerns with increasing the number of higher performing students. Chairman Herb Jones stated that the strategic plan can be shared with staff once it's approved.

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 April 30th with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. Vice Chairman McElheny inquired as to the timeframe on the PPP loan forgiveness in which SMA-MAJ Kok replied that it was signed off with the bank and just awaiting confirmation from the Small Business Administration.

PTCC Report: N/A

Committee Reports: Mr. Hudson stated that the three sub-committees are in the process of integrating the three reports into one as well as creating a marketing piece. He stated that it will be presented for approval at the next board meeting.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He stated that SMA is currently on the gold status of the Guidestar Seal of Transparency and will reach the platinum status once strategic plan is approved and submitted. Mr. Robles stated that revenue has now exceeded expenses and continues to move forward in an upward trend to include first time ever to receive a gift of stocks. He invited the board to attend formation on 18 May as Ms. Jennifer Vigne from the Education Foundation along with donors Ms. Linda Jellison and Mr. Craig Wedge as they

present a scholarship to cadet Grace Wagler for pursuing a technology major. Chairman Howard Crowell encouraged each board member to share the greatest needs of SMA brochure to potential donors.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

Chairman: Chairman Jones inquired if the next board meeting can be in person. SMA-COL Bowman inquired if the board meeting can be moved as it is scheduled on the prep's graduation date in which the board agreed the next meeting will be in person on 17 June at 1pm.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

The next virtual board meeting will be on 17 June, 2021 at 1:00pm.

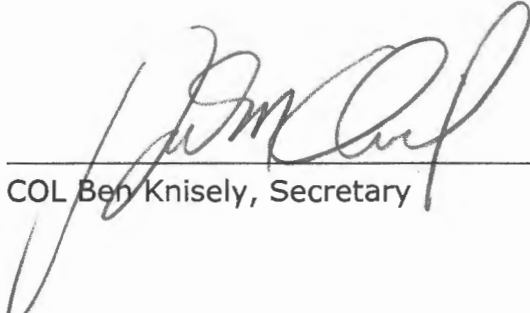
The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.



Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman

7/19/2021

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

7/19/2021

Date