

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

17 JUNE, 2021

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

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

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chairman, SMA Foundation Inc.
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary; Mr. Kimball Bobbitt, Treasurer; Mr. Pete Skokos; 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-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

Guests in Attendance: Mrs. Ruth Jones; MSG Johnny Browning; Mr. Scott Lempe; Dr. Brian Crupi; Ms. Cynthia West

Location: High School Campus and Virtual

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

LTC Ben Weiss presented to the board MSG Johnny Browning for winning the Army Instructor of the Year Award which included over 1700 programs and over 4000 instructors. Chair Herb Jones presented a check as a token of appreciation to the school.

Motion to Approve the 11 May, 2021 Minutes:

Mr. F. Steven Herb motioned to approve the 11 May, 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 stated that the Assistant Head of School position at the high school has been filled and completed the exit interviews for all employees except one bus driver. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned salary increase to teachers need to be determined and will report back to the board once completed.

Community Outreach Director Report: SMA-MAJ Dr. Todd Brown provided a read-ahead report. Chair Jones thanked Dr. Brown for his services to SMA.

Technology and Data Impact Report: N/A

SMA Prep Head of School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He stated that the promotion ceremony was very successful and working with SMA-LTC Ryan Lee on quarantine protocols and school discipline.

SMA Prep Athletics Report: N/A

Instructional Design & Curriculum: N/A

SMA Head of School Report: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He stated currently finalizing positions and room assignments and preparing for the new school year. SMA-COL Fout mentioned developing key areas from strategic plan such as reading. He stated an increase in AP enrollment but not enough students to pursue the Dual Enrollment on campus this semester through USF. LTG Howard Crowell inquired as to enrollment numbers in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the numbers are still not confirmed as registration with the county has not been completed.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned how impressed he was from the prep formation and the Regimental Commander at the prep is excellent. Chair Jones stated that both graduations have been the best thus far with everyone happy including the General Crowell Award to David Casas.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Harvey provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Fout stated the majority of concerns are mentioned in the strategic plan for solutions.

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 May 31st with a YTD Profit and Loss per campus. Mr. Warren Hudson mentioned that he is hopeful to be able to present a proposed budget for next year considering a few uncertainties such as the district reimbursing any COVID expenses as well as the state providing additional funds. He stated a grant extension till August is needed.

PTCC Report: N/A

Committee Reports: Mr. Hudson stated that the new mission statement has been approved and is broken down within three (3) categories of sub-committees. SMA-COL Bowman presented for the first sub-committee of preparing students for college, career and citizenship. She thanked the teams for meeting and discussed the goals were to bring SMA back to an "A" rated school; for staff to take ownership; vertical alignment of a grade 6-12 curriculum; to integrate technology into learning; acquire and retain highly effective instructors; and provide professional development to staff. Mr. Crowell stated that the mentioned goals should be turned into a marketing piece. Mr. Hudson agreed as right now there are twenty-six pages of measurable steps.

Vice Chair McElheny presented for the second sub-committee of building character. He stated that the school's foundation of teaching the seven JROTC values allows SMA to continue to be unique and those values are expanding into the classrooms and marketing.

Mr. Hudson presented for the third sub-committee of recruitment and retention. He discussed a goal of improving the retention rate by 5% each year. Mr. Hudson mentioned the need for a balanced budget with a contingency account to fund programs as well as a three year plan to increase salaries with Foundation funds.

Mr. Herb motioned to approve the Strategic Plan; Ms. Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He presented the current dashboard for the Foundation with a breakdown of funds obtained thus far. Mr. Robles stated he would like to create a roundtable asking what SMA has done for them as well as building more partnerships within the community. Vice Chair Thomas McElheny stated that the community is still unaware of SMA and its mission and how important branding and marketing is.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

Chairman: Chair Jones thanked everyone for making SMA what it is today including the many directors over the years as well as the current ones and the faculty and administration. He stated that the education a cadet receives at SMA is second to none and thanks SMA-COL Bowman for making life a little easier for him. Chair Jones thanked the first Vice Chair, Mr. F. Steven Herb, for his service along with the current Vice Chair, Dr. McElheny. He states that Mr. F. Steven Herb and Mr. Kimball Bobbitt will also be leaving the board.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Mr. Hudson presents three new board members to be nominated. He introduced Mr. Scott Lempe as a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who has worked HR as well as COO to the Sarasota County School District. Mr. Hudson also introduced Dr. Brian Crupi as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves and is now a practicing dentist who has also taught math in New York. He also introduced Ms. Cynthia West as an Airborne qualified and nurse at SMH who is a chairman of the nursing council and has three of her four children attend SMA. Ms. West is also the founding SMA PTCC President.

Mr. Herb motioned to approve all three prospects as new directors with the SMA Operating Board; Ms. Tessa Suplee seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Herb motioned to approve Dr. Thomas McElheny as Chair, COL Ben Knisely to remain as Secretary, and Mr. Warren Hudson as Vice Chair; Ms. Suplee seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman presented the meeting schedule for next year with quarterly meetings at the prep.

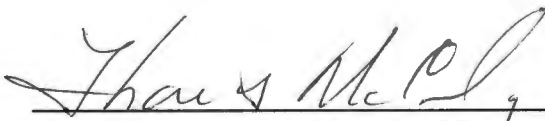
Vice Chair McElheny motioned to approve the meeting schedule for next year; Ms. Suplee seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Public Comments: An incoming parent stated that only a search for military schools in the area that SMA was mentioned and how she wouldn't have found it any other way. LTG Crowell states how this meeting has given an array of information including the challenges, history and successes of SMA. He stated the importance of marketing of the strategic plan and being better known to the community.

SMA-COL Bowman presented to the board a video compiled for Chair Herb Jones. She presented to Chair Jones an inscribed saber and flowers to Mrs. Jones for their unwavering support to SMA since its inception. SMA-COL Bowman also presented the SMA coin to Mr. F. Steven Herb for his support throughout the years and a mug to our new Chair, Dr. Thomas McElheny.


The board stated to name Mr. Herb Jones as Chairman Emeritus

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.



~~Mr. Herb Jones, Chairman~~
Thomas McElheny

9/21/21
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary
Tessa Suplee for Ben Knisely

9/21/21
Date