

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

12 OCTOBER, 2021

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Ret), Chair
Mr. Warren P. Hudson, CAPT, USN (Ret) Vice Chair
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
Mr. Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Treasurer
Mr. Pete Skokos
Ms. Tessa Suplee, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Mr. Jim Tollerton
Ms. Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret)

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

Absent: Dr. Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR; Ms. Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret); Ms. Linda Long; Ms. Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret); SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of School, High School; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director, High School; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School; SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Chief Executive Officer
LTC Ben Weiss, Commandant of Cadets
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-COL Frederick Fout, Head of School, High School
SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of School, High School
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School
MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School

Guests in Attendance: SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Performing & Fine Arts Department Chair, High School

Location: Sarasota Military Academy High School Campus

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.

Motion to Approve the 21 September 2021 Minutes:

Ms. Cynthia West motioned to approve the 21 September, 2021 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Executive Director of Schools Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman mentioned that new hires to fill are currently the bus driver and science positions. She stated speaking with Mr. Daniel Kennedy, the Veterans Day parade marshal, on finalizing details for all our cadets grades six through twelve marching in the parade. SMA-COL Bowman discussed the current enrollment numbers by campus as well as the breakdown of accepted applications. She stated a date to be scheduled for the training session on the school grade.

SMA Head of School Report, Middle School: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the school improvement plan with the county concentrating on student growth and where gains can be attained.

SMA Middle School Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Vara stated that volleyball, basketball and cross-country are in season.

SMA Head of School Report, High School: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He stated an excellent turnout to the ASVAB test on campus and will have a session with the cadets to review their results. SMA-COL Fout discussed the PSAT for all tenth graders was administered that morning along with the site based SAT test for those seniors who needed to pass for graduation. He mentioned our SPIN event on the 3rd of November highlighting all academic clubs and classes and targeting new families and eighth grade middle school as well as the Veterans Day Parade on the 11th of November.

SMA High School Athletics Report: SMA-COL Fout stated a successful volleyball season ending in a great turnout for senior night honoring four seniors.

SAI/Commandant's Report: LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He stated four new color guards and the upcoming West Point trip with assistance in a grant from the SMA Foundation. LTC Weiss mentioned a scheduled trip to the Naval Academy and in the process of securing an Air Force Academy trip. He stated attending the Marine Birthday Dinner on the 10th of November along with cadets thanks to the board chair, Dr. Thomas McElheny. COL Knisely mentioned the two female alumni currently seniors at U.S. Military Academy at West Point are both leading the rifle team to the best season West Point has ever seen. LTC Weiss stated that the speaker at this year's Military Ball is the Director of Admissions at West Point.

Staff Representatives: SMA-MAJ Smith stated no staff concerns at this time at the middle school. SMA-COL Fout stated that he spoke with SFC Riess Pellegrino and will handle administratively.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok and treasurer Mr. Scott Lempe provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. He discussed a condensed profit and loss statement to highlight the Florida Retirement System and the ESSER funds. Mr. Lempe asked the board what they would like to see in a budget report to assist in clarification of monthly reports. Mr. Jim Tollerton recommended subcategories be introduced and COL Knisely suggested adding a column for the proposed budget so to compare. Mr. Lempe stated a workshop be scheduled with the board to go over budget. Mr. Pete Skokos offered his assistance to look into bonds and assessment values of buildings.

PTCC Report: Ms. West inquired as to whether we currently have a SAC in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the SAC is now handled by administration from when the two campuses united as one academy.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He discussed financials to include a breakdown of revenue from campaigns and expenses. Mr. Robles mentioned the grant provided to assist in the West Point trip. He discussed more community outreach with a presentation to the Kiwanis Club along with opportunities to present SMA to various events. Mr. Robles stated a flyer for business partnerships has been created to generate community and business outreach. He discussed quarterly meetings with the Education Foundation for updates and the partnership with New College of Florida starting with guaranteed admissions for our students meeting criteria.

Chair: Chair McElheny stated the Evening with Heroes event honoring our secretary, COL Ben Knisely, is later that week. He recommended speaking with Ms. West to engage her creatively on how to involve our alumni.

New Business: Chair McElheny stated the board meetings will be held at the middle school every other month starting next month at 4:30pm.

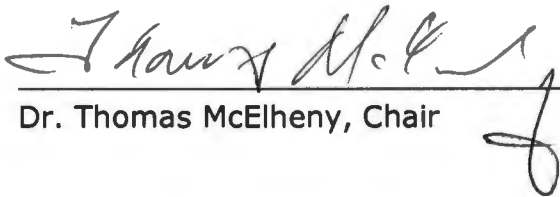
Ms. West motioned to approve the adjusted meeting schedule to every other month at the middle school campus at 4:30pm; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Old Business: N/A

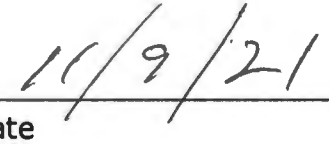
Public Comments: N/A

The next board meeting will be on 12 October 2021 at 4:30pm at the middle school campus.

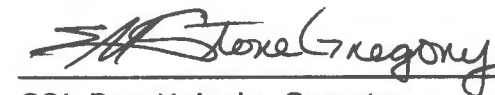
The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.



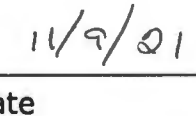
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary
FOR ERICASTONE GREGORY



Date