

# **Sarasota Military Academy**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**9 NOVEMBER, 2021**

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#### **Board of Director Members' Attendance**

##### **Present:**

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Ret), Chair  
Mr. Warren P. Hudson, CAPT, USN (Ret), Vice Chair (by phone)  
Mr. Scott Lempe, LTC, USA (Ret), Treasurer  
Dr. Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR  
Ms. Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Ms. Linda Long  
Mr. Pete Skokos  
Ms. Tessa Suplee, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Ms. Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret)

##### **Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chair, SMA Foundation Inc.**

Mr. Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc.  
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

**Absent:** Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary; Mr. Jim Tollerton; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of School, High School; SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of School, High School; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director, High School; SMA-LTC Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, Middle School; MAJ Becky Morris, 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-COL Tom Vara, Head of School, Middle School  
SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of School, Middle School

**Guests in Attendance:** Ms. Susan Hartman, PTCC President of High School; C/COL Abigail Koester

Location: SMA Middle School

The chairman called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

C/COL Abigail Koester distributed Military Ball Invites to the Board of Directors and requested their attendance to the ball on 18 December at 6pm.

**Motion to Approve the 12 October, 2021 Minutes:**

Ms. Tessa Suplee motioned to approve the 12 October, 2021 minutes; Mr. Scott Lempe seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

**Executive Director of Schools Report:** SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed enrollment numbers for the 2022-23 school year thus far and agreed to the projected numbers from the district. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned the hiring of a new bus driver.

**SMA Head of School Report, Middle School:** SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful Halloween dance as well as anti-bullying and Breast Cancer Awareness days. SMA-COL Vara mentioned enrollment meetings going well and preparing for the upcoming Veterans Day parade bussing the middle school cadets to the high school.

**SMA Middle School Athletics Report:** N/A

**Technology and Data Impact Report:** N/A

**Instructional Design & Curriculum:** N/A

**SMA Head of School Report, High School:** SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful SPIN night highlighting classrooms and the high and middle school music programs with a great turnout from eighth grade parents.

**SMA HS Athletics Report:** N/A

**SAI/Commandant's Report:** LTC Weiss provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the Rifle competition in Alabama where a cadet finished in the top ten out of sixty shooters at a collegiate level. LTC Weiss stated that our best raider individual male placed fourth and our female individual, Rebecca Pilcher, placed first place at the Best Raider competition in Georgia.

**Staff Representatives:** N/A

**Media Report:** N/A

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Scott Lempe and SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. Mr. Lempe discussed the additions to the spreadsheets that were incorporated based on prior recommendations. He stated that a policy on fund reserve is needed and should also be listed in budget. SMA-LTC Kok discussed the breakdown of expenses and millage funds. Chair Thomas McElheny inquired as to an explanation of the ESSER funds in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that ESSER I and II have been approved and awaiting for ESSER III to be distributed. Mr. Lempe stated that a budget to actual will be provided every quarter rather than monthly. Chair McElheny requested highlighting trends as part of the monthly report.

**PTCC Report:** Ms. Susan Hartman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed a successful Candy for Cadets supplying 700 cadets with bags of candy in thirty minutes. Ms. Hartman stated nominating three freshmen to the PTCC board to ensure all voices are heard. She mentioned the upcoming Veterans Day lunch for staff and working with Mr. Rafael Robles and SMA-SFC Angela Cohen for outreach. Ms. Cynthia West stated that she will meet with Ms. Hartman to discuss opportunities for a stronger parent participation.

**Foundation:** Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He distributed all printed materials thus far to the board including the strategic plan, a tri-fold to be also served as a mailer and the flyer to the community. Mr. Robles stated that he is attending community events such as the Kiwanis of Siesta Key and National Philanthropy Day. He discussed financials to include a breakdown of revenue from campaigns and expenses.

Mr. Robles discussed upcoming events such as Giving Tuesday on 1 December and the year-end appeal. Mr. Lempe inquired to a consistent message board can relay when speaking to the community in which Mr. Robles replied that the consistent message comes from the printed pieces just provided.

**Marketing and Communications Report:** N/A

**Committee Reports:** N/A

**Chairman:** Chair McElheny stated the focus is on the budget, retention rate and school grade. He commends SMA-COL Bowman on efforts on balancing the budget and stated that the budget will now be approved after school has commenced. Chair McElheny mentioned the school grade workshop on 8 December providing an opportunity for the board to express their wishes.


**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** Mr. Lempe inquired as to the results of the climate survey at the end of last school year in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that responses from all was very positive. Ms. West inquired as to comparing our results with other schools within district in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that it is on the district site. Vice Chair Warren Hudson shared his concerns with the low percentage of responses and suggested students complete this survey while still in class for a higher completion rate. Chair McElheny stated the workshop is scheduled for 9am on 8 December at the High School.

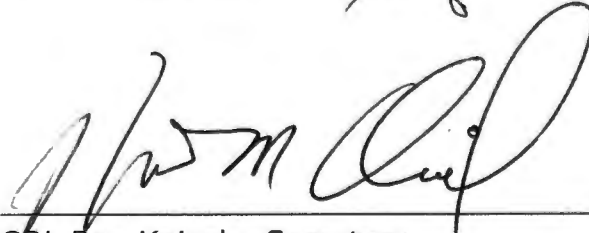
**Public Comments:** N/A

The next board meeting will be on 14 December, 2021 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.

  
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Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

12/20/2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

12/20/2021  
Date