

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

12 APRIL 2022

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Ret), Chair

Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary

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) (Virtual)

Mr. Jim Tollerton

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

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

Absent: Mr. Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Treasurer; 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; MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor; 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

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

MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of School, Middle School

Guests in Attendance: Ms. Susan Hartman, PTCC President; Ms. Jeanine Signorelli; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Music Department; SMA-CPT Jeanette Marks, Marine Science, High School

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm. Everyone in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 12 March 2022 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely motioned to approve the 12 March 2022 minutes; Mr. Jim Tollerton 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 current enrollment numbers for next school year on both campuses. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned a successful visit from Sarasota County board member candidate, Dawnyelle Singleton, as she enjoyed formation and meeting the cadets. She stated that Ms. Singleton accepted an invitation to join the high school staff meeting virtually for an introduction along with a Q&A.

SMA-COL Bowman stated that the route coordinator, SMA-CPT Beth Harris, was able to reassign bus stops to accommodate a second Manatee County bus for the middle school and mentioned that our bus drivers are currently paid higher than the county. She mentioned receiving incremental funds from the ESSER grant. Chair Thomas McElheny inquired to the funds being used for teachers and their salaries in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that required proof of funds used will not allow distribution towards teacher's salaries.

SMA Head of School Report, Middle School: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful spring dance and the completion of first part of FSA writing. SMA-COL Vara commended all who participated in a great Raiders Rise and Run Event with over 400 participants and proceeds benefit both high and middle school Raiders teams.

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 commended the testing coordinator, SMA-CPT Alex Teicheira, for managing a busy testing schedule. SMA-COL Fout stated both Raiders teams had a great time rappelling at the 40ft. wall at Booker High School. COL Knisely inquired as to a new Commandant in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the SAI will finish the year and going forward will depend on the budget and numbers.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

SAI/Commandant's Report: MAJ Clarence Arrington provided a read-ahead report.

Staff Representatives: N/A

Media Report: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. SMA-LTC Kok discussed the profit and loss for both campuses. Chair McElheny discussed of a meeting with Wells Fargo and Mr. Scott Lempe, SMA-COL Bowman, and SMA-LTC Kok to discuss future banking with Wells Fargo.

PTCC Report: Ms. Susan Hartman provided a read-ahead report. She introduced Ms. Jeanine Signorelli as the new PTCC president for 2022-23. Ms. Hartman discussed filling the available

board positions as well as awarding twenty-two (22) grants for the year thus far. She provided the upcoming events on both campuses and will present a year-end info graph at the next board meeting. Ms. Hartman provided a list of recommendations to include the increase of volunteer participation and registration and to record volunteer hours. Chair McElheny complimented and thanked Ms. Hartman for her tremendous effort and volunteer and inquired as to what the board can further do in which Ms. Hartman replied that having board members on campus and events means a lot to cadets and staff.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the financials including total donations and expenses thus far. Mr. Robles stated he rekindled a relationship with a past donor who extended two scholarships for two cadets who have committed to attending Florida State University. Mr. Tollerton inquired as to the status of the New College of Florida partnership in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the technology department is currently working with New College. Mr. Tollerton inquired as to presenting a list of seniors and the schools they are attending at the next board meeting.

Mr. Robles discussed upcoming events with an alumni reunion for the classes of 2011 and 2012 on 22 April and the Giving Challenge at noon on 26 April thru noon on 27 April. He stated that emails with more information would go out to discuss the instructions for the peer-to-peer campaign. Mr. Robles stated that the goal is 35K unmatched and has a donor who will also match the match at the first 10K.

Mr. Robles discussed the 20th Anniversary Gala on 25 March 2023 with a venue to be determined. He stated he is currently looking for co-chairs of the committee who has community connections. Ms. Signorelli stated she could pass the contact information of someone she knows at the Sarasota Art Museum. Mr. Robles presented a copy of the SRQ Magazine brand story consisting of a 4-page spread and the video compiled by SRQ Media should be complete by graduation. Chair McElheny commended Mr. Robles for assisting in the recreation of SMA's image in Sarasota.

Marketing and Communications Report: N/A

Long-Range Planning Committee Reports: Mr. Tollerton stated that resources within the SMA Administration and the PTCC has assisted in creating the committee. He stated that land sites the school board may have available will be presented at the next board meeting. Chair McElheny stated that land acquired by the county could be released to a charter school by lease or own.

Chair: Chair McElheny recommended Mr. Scott Lempe as the new Vice Chair.

Ms. Linda Long motioned to approve Mr. Scott Lempe as the new Vice Chair; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny recommended every meeting start with SMA's vision, mission statement and reviews of fiscal health, FTE stabilization and expansion, vision statement of what we are going to be at the school, and increase school grade. He inquired to the board as to what they would like to see as a high school and middle school as part of the strategic vision.

CEO Evaluation: N/A

Old Business: Chair McElheny asked of the board to review the CEO evaluation and provide feedback to SMA-COL Bowman prior to next board meeting. He stated that the timeline is to start the new year with goals and objectives. Mr. Tollerton stated that the goals and objectives of the CEO need to tie in with the vision and mission statements. COL Knisely recommends that the CEO do the evaluations of the heads of schools in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she follows the PRIDE evaluation that includes her evaluation and the scores of cadets. Ms. Long inquired if that can be shared with the board in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that it could. Ms. Erica Gregory inquired on presenting more information on the process of increasing the school grade. Dr. Brian Crupi inquired as to holding a golf tournament in which Chair McElheny replied that Dr. Crupi and Ms. Tessa Suplee could take the lead. Chair Howard Crowell stated that the SMA Foundation Board of Trustees meeting is 27 April.

New Business: Mr. Tollerton inquired as to the feasibility of adding the junior achievement program in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that it could be incorporated into 9th grade.

Public Comments: MAJ Becky Morris presented sixth grade enrollment numbers and asked the board to consider weekly reports. SMA-COL Bowman stated that she could scan the report and email to the board.

The next board meeting will be on 10 May 2022 at 4:30pm at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:07 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

5/18/22

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

5/8/22

Date