

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

21 JUNE, 2022

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Ret), Chair
Mr. Peter Skokos, Interim Vice Chair
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
Ms. Tessa Suplee, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Mr. Richard Swoope, LTC (Ret)
Mr. Jim Tollerton

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

Mr. Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc. (Virtual)
Mr. Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.
Ms. J. Allison Archbold, Trustee, SMA Foundation Inc. (Virtual)

Absent: Mr. Scott Lempe, LTC, USA (Ret), Vice Chair; Dr. Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR; Ms. Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret); Ms. Linda Long; Ms. Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret); SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School; MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of Middle School; SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of Middle School; SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Chief Executive Officer
MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor (Virtual)
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-COL Frederick Fout, Head of High School
MSG Teddy Grace, (Ret) Athletic Director, JROTC Instructor (Virtual)
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School

Guests in Attendance: SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Music/Arts Department Chair, High School

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:49 pm.

Mr. Jim Tollerton gave an invocation and Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Tom McElheny formally welcomed Mr. Richard Swoope to the board. Mr. Swoope introduced himself as twenty-seven years active duty in the United States Army where he retired in 2006 to become a JROTC instructor in Hillsborough County. He stated that he is currently working with Veteran Affairs as Deputy Director of Emergency Management and sits with the Congressman and interview team for West Point candidates.

Chair McElheny discussed the focus points with short-term priorities of: 1). Fiscal Health; 2). School Grade; 3). FTE Increase Trend. He stated to remove new business from today's agenda for another date.

Chief Executive Director Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman stated the annual conflict of interest needs to be reviewed and approved. She discussed the staff surveys from the district to be positive for class culture but wanted more process and procedures and the student surveys showed 69% like SMA with 59% want to continue. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned inquiring with c/COL Akiel Reyes on the major goals this year for Regimental Staff in which he replied him wanting more students who want to be here and to continue to tell friends along with an increase in the 75% for college and career.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed the parent survey held by the PTCC was overall positive within the challenging curriculum and easy access to the counselors at the high school with mention of improvements to electives being offered, additional homework and increase of parent involvement at the middle school. She discussed the enrollment numbers for the 2022-23 school year in which Mr. Swoope inquired as to the trend on withdrawals.

Motion to Approve the 10 May, 2022 Minutes:

Mr. Tollerton moved to approve the 10 May, 2022 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Tollerton moved to approve the board meeting calendar as amended for 2022-23; Mr. Peter Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA Head of School Report, Middle School: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful promotion ceremony and well attendance from middle and high school students for the Memorial Day Parade. SMA-COL Vara commended SMA-CPT Kathy Simon on a job well done with substitutes, SMA-CPT Beth Harris with transportation, SMA-MAJ Lisa Currie with testing, and SMA-CPT Tina Hodges and MAJ Becky Morris with enrollment. He stated enrollment is in a better position than last year at this time. SMA-COL Vara discussed the hiring of staff for the open positions is going well. COL Knisely inquired as to the process of teachers receiving their certification within 36 months of hire in which Mr. Tollerton stated the SMA Foundation may be able to assist with scholarships for teachers.

SMA Middle School Athletics Report: N/A

SMA Head of School Report, High School: SMA-COL Fred Fout provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful Memorial Day Parade turnout as well with students from both campuses. SMA-COL Fout mentioned the new hires for the open positions including a new Business Entrepreneurship class required for all freshmen and sophomores that will tie into the JROTC financial curriculum for eleventh grade. He stated hitting the acceleration rate on school grade within the AP classes and passing of the exam as well as the ASVAB test. SMA-COL Fout reported an increase in AP classes to 160 students from 132 the year before. COL Knisely and Mr. Skokos inquired as to data on Dual Enrollment and achieving their Associates as well as college admissions compared to other high schools in which SMA-COL Fout replied that he will compile data and report at next meeting. Mr. Swoope stated to make the connections with ROTC scholarships. SMA-COL Fout introduced MSG Teddy Grace as the new Athletic Director.

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 and balance sheets per campus along with projected FTE count. Mr. Tollerton inquired as to the ESSER funds in which SMA-LTC Kok replied that SMA will receive funds for two additional fiscal years. Mr. Tollerton recommended to consolidate columns to include the profit and loss and depreciation. Chair McElheny commended SMA-LTC Kok, SMA-COL Bowman and team for all efforts to a positive proposed budget.

Mr. Tollerton moved to approve the proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny stated for Mr. Tollerton and Mr. Skokos to research further for a better understanding of the proposed versus actual budgets.

PTCC Report: N/A

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He welcomed and introduced new foundation trustee, Ms. J. Allison Archbold to the board. Mr. Robles discussed his financial dashboard to include unrestricted and restricted funds that have been allocated to Raiders, Rifle, Drill, Athletics and Music programs. He mentioned the upcoming gala set for March 25th and currently forming a committee of members with unique strengths. COL Knisely inquired as to the process on how funds are requested through the foundation in which Mr. Robles replied that most funds come through the Flanzer Matching Program and grant requests are submitted and foundation board approves. Mr. Robles mentioned a golf tournament set during the same week as the gala and still determining date and course. Ms. Tessa Suplee

recommended Sara Bay Country Club as they have reached out and offered their assistance.

Long-Range Planning Committee Report: Mr. Tollerton stated that the committee will be working with Chair McElheny and SMA-COL Bowman on a presentation for next board meeting.

COL Knisely moved to approve the minutes of the Long-Range Planning Committee; Mr. Tollerton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chairman: Chair McElheny announced the resignation of board director, Ms. Tessa Suplee. He thanked her for her support and dedication to SMA and SMA-COL Bowman presented her with flowers and the SMA coin.

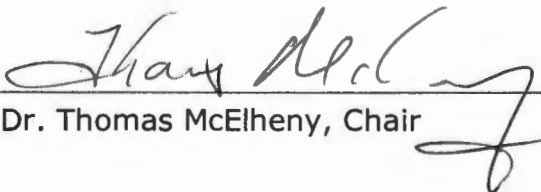
Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: SMA-MAJ Finley stated that he feels blessed to be part of SMA and was proud to see the number of cadets from both campuses who marched in the Memorial Day Parade.

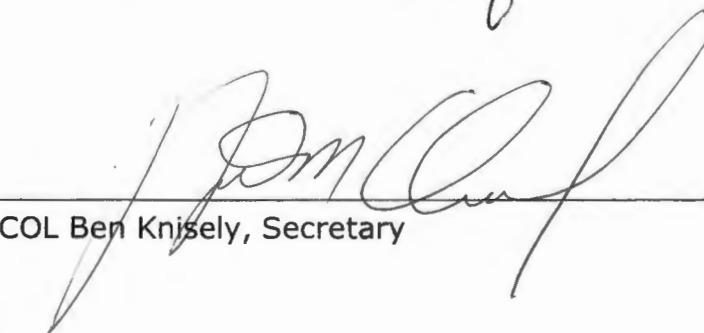
The next board meeting will be on 30 August, 2022 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:01 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

8/30/2022
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

8/30/2022
Date