

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

30 AUGUST 2022

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Ret), Chair
Scott Lempe, LTC, USA (Ret), Vice Chair (virtual)
Peter Skokos, Interim Vice Chair
Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary
Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR
Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Heather Koester
Linda Long
Richard Swoope, LTC (Ret)
Jim Tollerton (virtual)
Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret)

Howard G. Crowell, Jr., LTG USA (Ret), Chair, SMA Foundation Inc (virtual)
Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc. (virtual)
Frederick M. Derr, CAPT USN (Ret), Treasurer (virtual)
Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor; MAJ Becky Morris, 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
SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School (virtual)
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance (virtual)
MSG Teddy Grace, (Ret) Athletic Director, JROTC Instructor
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School
SMA-LTC Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of Middle School (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: c/COL Akiel Reyes Melendez; Jeanine Signorelli, PTCC President; Brenda Canales, PTCC HS Vice President; Jennifer Vigne, Education Foundation; SMA-CPT George Barbaresi, HS Faculty Representative; SMA-CPT Luciana Meadows, HS ESOL Instructor (virtual)
Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

SMA-COL Christina Bowman introduced the Regimental Commander, c/COL Akiel Reyes Melendez, to the board. c/COL Reyes Melendez discussed his goals for the year including uniform compliance and enforcement and to increase student involvement starting with a survey to all students. He stated that the staff is utilizing the Battalion leaders to assist in fundraising efforts with the Military Ball scheduled for 17 December. COL Ben Knisely stated that he is very pleased with the regimental staff and expressed the importance of delegating duties.

SMA-COL Bowman introduced Ms. Jennifer Vigne of the Education Foundation. Ms. Vigne discussed the partnership with SMA and the opening of the Student Success Center on campus with one full time and one part time staff. She explained the goals of the center with helping students compile plans for after high school. Chair Thomas McElheny stated how pleased he is to have Ms. Vigne and the Education Foundation involved with SMA. Mr. Jim Tollerton inquired on how to measure the success of the center in which Ms. Vigne replied that multiple metrics are used such as how long meetings with students and how many times. Mr. Tollerton inquired as to how often data would be provided in which SMA-COL Bowman replied data would be compiled quarterly.

Motion to Approve the 17 June, 2022 Minutes:

COL Knisely moved to approve the 17 June 2022 minutes; Ms. Cynthia West seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chief Executive Officer Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead. She discussed retention and FTE, the mission and vision poster in each classroom on both campuses and an update to the increase of hiring this year. Dr. Brian Crupi inquired on the vets to teachers program in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that outreach has just started and explained as to criteria needed. Mr. Tollerton inquired as to teachers that are out-of-field military and SMA-COL Bowman replied that two are alumni but none are military. SMA-COL Bowman requested approval from the board on the out-of-field roster.

Ms. West moved to approve the out-of-field teacher roster; Mr. Richard Swoope seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Tollerton inquired as to number of Spanish speaking staff in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that she would provide the number for next meeting. SMA-COL Bowman stated that this year is the highest number of ESOL students totaling 153. She explained that ESSER funds would be utilized to acquire an additional ESOL and ESE teacher. SMA-COL Bowman stated that she would be attending a Rotary meeting hosted by founder, Mr. Stephen Cork, with c/COL Reyes Melendez. She mentioned SPIN night on 14 September and a great discussion with high school faculty representative on high school culture.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful teacher training and orientation and focusing on filling last positions. COL Knisely inquired as to how many positions were filled by long-term substitutes in which SMA-COL Vara replied that three at the middle school and SMA-COL Bowman replied one at the high school.

SMA Middle School Athletics Report: N/A

SMA Head of School Report, High School: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She introduced MSG Teddy Grace as the new Athletic Director. MSG Grace explained the discount card program and the Business Sponsors in Education program that has already raised over 10k

so far. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned the additional green turf space on campus and the new wall wrap at entrance focusing on the JROTC values.

SMA HS Athletics Report: N/A

SAI/Commandant's Report: MAJ Clarence Arrington provided a read-ahead report. SMA-COL Bowman stated that Mr. Charles Cook has been meeting with the JROTC department regularly regarding students with open applications to the service academies. She mentioned funds available for those cadets who cannot afford tickets to the military ball. Dr. Crupi graciously donated 1K to the military ball.

Staff Representatives: SMA-COL Vara reported that staff were very appreciative of raise but inquiring on goal to meet the county. COL Knisely inquired as to the safety of the front entrance in which SMA-COL Vara replied that it is two weeks away from being complete.

SMA-CPT George Barbaresi reported staff are energized and happy and noticed students are more disciplined and prepared this year.

Media Report: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report and balance sheets per campus. He explained the fiscal year end and the interest rate swap, which exchanges a fixed rate to floating. SMA-LTC Kok was pleased to report a positive budget that resulted from cuts and also includes the increase in diesel fuel. He discussed the eight-year track record with and without the swap that resulted in seven out of eight years positive without the swap. SMA-LTC Kok stated that he would compile data for bonds as well. Chair McElheny recommended for Interim Vice Chair Pete Skokos, SMA-LTC Kok, Mr. Tollerton and foundation Vice Chair Herb Jones to jointly discuss alternate banking options.

PTCC Report: Ms. Jeanine Signorelli provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the month's updates with a new pen and pencil set added to the spirit shop and 15K given to the middle school for needed turf. Ms. Signorelli mentioned upcoming events such as the middle school walkathon on 1 October and virtual challenge at the high school. She explained the goals for this year is to increase community engagement.

SMA-COL Bowman inquired as to the feedback on the postcards mailed out in which Ms. Signorelli replied that no data has been retrieved. Ms. Signorelli was pleased to report both the middle and high school vice presidents are very engaged with their respective schools. Mr. Tollerton inquired if PTCC can be present at the workshop. Chair Crowell stated that a new middle school teacher needs to be identified for the interact club to communicate with the Rotary member, Mr. Ted Simon.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. Mr. Robles discussed his financial dashboard to include unrestricted and restricted funds that have been allocated to various programs. Mr. Robles mentioned the increase fundraising goal for this fiscal year in line with the strategic plan. He stated upcoming events such as the gala scheduled for 25 March and a skeet shoot potentially scheduled for 20 March.

Mr. Robles mentioned the first speaker scheduled for 16 September of the Alumni series that will add value to core of cadets. Ms. West inquired as to the focus on sports may take away from

military activities and the core aspect of the school. Mr. Robles presented a bookmark to the board that was given to each staff member representing this year's theme of resilience. Chair Howard Crowell stated that the next foundation board meeting has to change from 20 October and will provide a new date. Mr. Robles stated that the foundation is in search of a new board member and any suggestions to provide to Chair Crowell or himself. Mr. Tollerton stated that a parent could be a member of the foundation board, which is different from the rules of the operating board.

Nominating Committee: Chair McElheny introduces Ms. Heather Koester as a prospective director of the operating board.

Interim Vice Chair Skokos moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Heather Koester as a new director to the operating board; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Long-Range Planning Committee Report: Mr. Tollerton stated that the committee would host a retreat on 15 October from 9am to 3pm at the Church of Palms with Ms. Robyn Faucy as the facilitator focusing on long-term vision and measurables that are attainable. He stated that donated funds would cover the expenses for this workshop.

Chairman: Chair McElheny stated the retreat would be action-oriented focusing on a new enhanced way of doing business. He mentioned meeting with SMA-COL Bowman, Mr. Tollerton and Vice Chair Scott Lempe on the agenda.

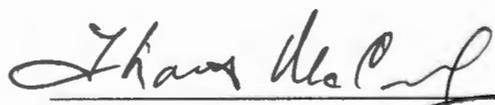
Old Business: N/A

New Business: Mr. Tollerton stated the bylaws require board terms and recommended reviewing the bylaws to include broad cross inclusivity of parents and community.

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 20 September 2022 at 4:30pm at the Middle School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:54 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

9-20-22

Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

9-20-22

Date