

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

18 OCTOBER 2022

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

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

Peter Skokos, Interim Vice Chair

Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Heather Koester (virtual)

Linda Long

Richard Swoope, COL (Ret)

Jim Tollerton

Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret)

Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: Scott Lempe, LTC, USA (Ret), Vice Chair; Ben Knisely, COL USA (Ret), Secretary; Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR; MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor; SMA-MAJ Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of Middle School; MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of Middle School; MSG Teddy Grace, (Ret) Athletic Director, High School; SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School; Jeanine Signorelli, PTCC President

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Chief Executive Officer/Interim Head of High School

SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School

SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School

SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance

SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School

Guests in Attendance: SMA-CPT George Barbaresi, HS Faculty Rep; Ms. Brenda Canales, PTCC HS Vice President

Location: SMA High School

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

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 20 September 2022 Minutes:

Ms. Cynthia West moved to approve the 20 September 2022 minutes; Mr. Pete Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chief Executive Officer: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the current enrollment numbers and attendance report for the 2021-22 school year as well as followed up on a previous inquiry of the dual enrollment numbers. SMA-COL Bowman stated that her administrative team is working on increasing the attendance of seniors. Ms. West stated to have an attendance breakdown available at the next meeting of excused and unexcused absences.

SMA-COL Bowman stated that Vice Chair Scott Lempe asked for her to compile an organizational chart by campus including department chairs. Chair McElheny stated that this will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Richard Swoope inquired as to the charts presenting the positions in need to be filled to which SMA-COL Bowman replied yes with currently three long-term substitutes per campus.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He stated the first admissions meeting was successful. SMA-COL Vara explained that a couple of south county families have still not come back after Hurricane Ian and the main concern was to assist cadets and families in need.

Middle School Athletics Report: N/A

Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report.

High School Athletics Report: MSG Teddy Grace provided a read-ahead report.

SAI Report: MAJ Clarence Arrington provided a read-ahead report.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the profit and loss per campus and the FTE numbers for this semester. SMA-LTC stated the ESSER distribution and millage payment will help to increase working capital.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT George Barbaresi provided a read-ahead report. He stated that the faculty were very happy to hear that every south county family was called after Hurricane Ian and that SMA-COL Bowman reaches out to every cadet in the lunch line on their well-being. SMA-CPT Barbaresi stated that faculty were concerned about making up the lost work from two weeks of no school to which SMA-COL Bowman replied that nothing has been reported from the county and state.

PTCC Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report. Ms. Canales discussed the success of funds raised from the MS walk-a-thon and will be rewarding students and businesses in a different way since the walk was canceled due to the hurricane.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He explained his financial dashboard includes unrestricted and restricted funds that have been allocated to various programs. Chair McElheny inquired as to upcoming major campaigns to which Mr. Robles replied with the clay shoot on 20 March and the gala on 31 March. Ms. Erica Gregory inquired as to whether information on events has been sent to which Mr. Robles replied that once details have been confirmed, an email will be sent. Chair McElheny inquired to the board of any interested directors to attend the Military Ball to email him as seats are limited. Mr. Robles stated a table was purchased at the National Philanthropy luncheon in November to which SMA Foundation Treasurer, Mr. Frederick Derr has been nominated.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny discussed a successful board retreat on 15 October and shared his appreciation to Mr. Jim Tollerton for financial support. He stated the SMA Foundation and Mr. Robles will be assisting in the mission of SMA and the focus is on efforts. Chair McElheny

mentioned the Patriot Support dinner on 8 December chaired by a board director, Mr. Skokos, and that he has a table if other directors would like to attend. He stated the board retreat report will be sent out with action items for review.

Mr. Tollerton stated that he asked Vice Chair Lempe for his opinion of the board retreat to which he responded it went well but still has a lot of work ahead of us and may need the facilitator more. Mr. West stated that committees were formed to compile data on parents/guardians' involvement and academic achievements. She stated that a School Advisory Council (SAC) may need to be reintroduced as the board satisfying SAC fulfillment doesn't include current families. Ms. Linda Long inquired as to why SAC had ceased to which SMA-COL Bowman replied that the board decided to serve as SAC once the two schools combined.

Ms. Long stated that the SMA Color Guard were requested at the monthly Tiger Bay luncheons and will continue to present SMA with additional opportunities to be represented at these meetings. Chair McElheny mentioned he has a table for the Marine Corps Birthday Dinner and would like to invite 2-3 faculty and 4-5 cadets to attend.

Ms. Heather Koester suggested the board members attend the Military Ball at the beginning during the recession line only since limited seats for dinner. Mr. Tollerton and Mr. Skokos inquired as to which days board members can attend formation to which SMA-COL Bowman replied she will provide a few dates.


Old Business: N/A

New Business: SMA-LTC Kok stated the county asked for a traffic signal analysis when the middle school opened. He stated the county just confirmed the traffic signal is not necessary and SMA does not have to reserve funds for payment.

Public Comments: N/A

The next board meeting will be on 8 November 2022 at 4:30 pm at the Middle School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:22 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

12/13/22
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

12/13/22
Date