

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

13 DECEMBER 2022

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, CAPT, USMC (Former Marine), Chair

Scott Lempe, Lt Co, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair/Treasurer

Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary

Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR

Erica Gregory, Lt Co, USAF (Ret)

Heather Koester (virtual)

Linda Long

Peter Skokos

Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)

Jim Tollerton

Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret)

Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc. (virtual)

Rafael Robles, Executive Director, SMA Foundation Inc.

Absent: SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-MAJ Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of Middle School; MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of 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 Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School

MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor

SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance

MSG Teddy Grace, (Ret) Athletic Director, High School

SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School

SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: SMA-CPT George Barbaresi, HS Faculty Rep; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 18 October 2022 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the 18 October 2022 minutes; Ms. Linda Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Board entered Executive Session.

Chief Executive Officer: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned the Youth Philanthropy Award won by our senior cadet, Lorenzo Liberti. SMA-COL Bowman read a letter from an SMA alumnus thanking SMA-MAJ Michael Finley for his impact as the drumline teacher on his music career after graduation. She stated that looking into the total instructional hours allowed SMA to give back the two professional days the county used to make up for hurricane days lost to our faculty on 9 January and 20 March.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned a successful visit with City Commissioner Erik Arroyo put together by the Spanish teachers to speak with the cadets about his family's journey from the Dominican Republic and his background in public office. SMA-COL Vara discussed cadets dismissed at the end of the semester and thanked Kathy Simon for organizing the staff luncheon.

Middle School Athletics Report: SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the first semester sports and tryouts for soccer and lacrosse commencing after the break.

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. He mentioned the Military Ball is that Saturday, 17 December. MAJ Arrington stated currently three nominations out of six open applications to the service academies. He stated three Raiders teams placed first in the Best Raider competition and the Rifle team is in Colorado touring the Junior Olympics Training Center.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the profit and loss per campus and the increase in FTE numbers for the second semester. SMA-LTC Kok mentioned that SMA's percentage of total salaries to overall expenses is in line with the majority of schools he learned about at the budget convention. Chair McElheny thanked Treasurer Scott Lempe and SMA-LTC Kok for presenting the financials in a cleaner and sharper format.

Staff Representatives: Both SMA-CPT Barbaresi and SMA-MAJ Smith discussed the concerns of faculty on both campuses are SMA meeting the new county raises.

PTCC Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report.

Foundation: Mr. Rafael Robles provided a read-ahead report. He explained his financial dashboard includes unrestricted and restricted funds that are allocated to various programs. Mr. Robles stated the change in financials presented reflects goals broken down by quarter as the board has requested. He mentioned the gala date and location and replied to Dr. Brian Crupi as to invitations will be sent out in January. Ms. Linda Long inquired as to when the donor acknowledgements from the Giving Tuesday campaign will be sent in which Mr. Robles replied that it will be sent before break. Mr. Jim Tollerton inquired as to the board making calls to donors in which Mr. Robles replied that he would like to implement it in January.

meeting. He explained the student body has changed from twenty years ago and we need to align ourselves with our strategic plan outlining the values and college and career preparation. Chair McElheny discussed the importance of structure and its impact on the new proposed organization chart handed out. He discussed the new county raises and how the increase of our footprint in the community can enable the possibility of meeting the county's salaries.

Chair McElheny discussed working with SMA-COL Bowman on allowing a later formation one time per month to enable the board to bring prospects to SMA. He mentioned the implementation of the CRM software would enable every prospect addressed properly through consistent communication to conversion. Chair McElheny stated the importance of identifying specific groups that have similar values and thanked Chair Howard Crowell and the SMA Foundation for covering the expenses of the software.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: SMA-LTC Kok discussed the financials of meeting the county's new salary increase on 18 November as well as the JROTC instructors' increase from the military. COL Knisely inquired as to an increase in the FTE from the county in which SMA-LTC Kok stated that no increase in FTE at this time. Vice Chair Lempe recommended the charter schools approach the county together for an increase in FTE and as the largest charter school in the county, Chair McElheny agreed with SMA initiating. Vice Chair Lempe recommended analyzing electives offered to increase value and class sizes. SMA-COL Bowman stated her concerns about the recent bus driver hourly pay increase to \$25, which exceeds SMA at \$19 and is no longer the highest in the county. She also stated that SMA provides faculty and staff with a better benefits package. Chair McElheny stated compassion, respect, order, and support towards faculty and staff will create loyalty and differentiate us competitively.

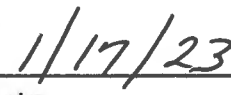
Public Comments: SMA-MAJ Finley announced the winter concert will be on 15 December at 6 pm in the gym of the high school campus.

The next board meeting will be on 17 January 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Middle School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm.



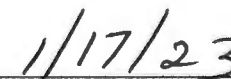
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date