

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

11 APRIL 2023

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, Capt, USMC (Former Marine), Chair
Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair/Treasurer
Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary
Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR
Heather Koester
Linda Long (virtual)
Pete Skokos
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)
Jim Tollerton

Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc.
J. Allison Archbold, Trustee, SMA Foundation Inc. (virtual)

Absent: Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret); Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret); MAJ Becky Morris, Assistant Head of Middle School; SMA-MAJ Leslie Smith, Athletic Director, Middle School; SMA-CPT George Barbaresi, HS Faculty Representative

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
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 Lisa Currie, Assistant Head of Middle School (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Music Department Chair; SMA-CPT Bryan Burns, HS Campus; Ms. Brenda Canales, PTCC Vice President

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:29 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 7 March 2023 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the 7 March 2023 minutes; Mr. Jim Tollerton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA Foundation: Vice Chair Herb Jones discussed the resignation of the Executive Director of the Foundation. He stated working on restructuring the Foundation and welcome recommendations on prospective trustees. Mr. Jones thanked the boards for their attendance and sponsorships to the 20 Year Celebration.

Chief Executive Officer/Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the updates to raising expectations compiled by the expectations committee and that the next step is to include parents and cadets. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned a wonderful change of command ceremony and the upcoming change of responsibility ceremony within the next few weeks.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the enrollment numbers and staff positions needed for next year.

SAI Report: MAJ Arrington provided a read-ahead report. He stated the Drill Team is heading to states in Lakeland and fifty-three juniors tested for ASVAB.

High School Athletics Report: N/A

Middle School Athletics Report: N/A

SAI Report: MAJ Arrington provided a read-ahead report. He stated that the leadership boards for next year's Regimental Staff is 8 March with the selection after Spring break. MAJ Arrington mentioned two upcoming trips to the National Flight Academy and the Coast Guard. He stated the Change of Command Ceremony was 6 April and the Change of Responsibility Ceremony is 13 April.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the year-to-date profit and loss per campus.

Mr. Tollerton moved to approve the IRS tax form 990; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Strategic Budget Committee: Chair McElheny discussed the fiscal health of the budget and the correlation to the school grade. He stated a budget workshop to be scheduled on fiscal health of new organizational chart.

Superintendent Search Committee: Chair McElheny stated that COL Knisely and Ms. Linda Long would also serve on the committee. He discussed extending the search time to ensure a fair and balanced search.

Staff Representatives: N/A

PTCC Report: A read-ahead report was provided. SMA-COL Bowman stated a reorganization discussion was successful.

Mr. Pete Skokos moved to approve the authorization of the chair to hire counsel for the Academy with no restrictions to then report at following board meeting; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

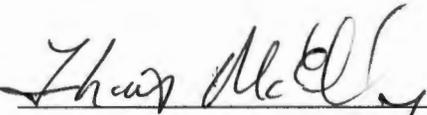
Old Business: N/A

New Business: Chair McElheny stated the charter school discussion would be placed on the agenda next meeting.

Public Comments: SMA-MAJ Michael Finley recommended faculty to connect with the cadets and curriculum on each campus by frequent campus switches.

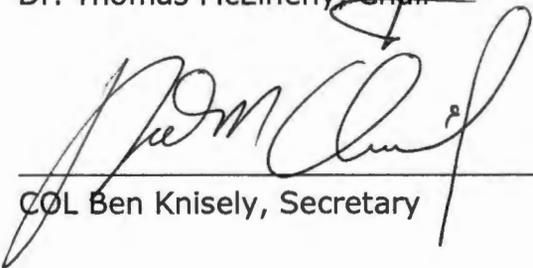
The next board meeting will be on 9 May 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Middle School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:32 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

5/9/23
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

5/9/23
Date