

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

9 MAY 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 (virtual)
Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Linda Long
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret) (virtual)
Jim Tollerton

J. Allison Archbold, Trustee, SMA Foundation Inc. (virtual)

Absent: Heather Koester; Pete Skokos; Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret); Herb Jones, Vice Chair, SMA Foundation Inc.; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School; 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; 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 (virtual)
MAJ Clarence Arrington, Senior Army Instructor
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School

Guests in Attendance: Ms. Deidre Jones; Ms. Jeannie Whipple, PTCC Vice President; SM-CPT Samantha Miller, Middle School campus (virtual); SMA-CPT Elizabeth Green, Middle School campus (virtual)

Location: SMA Middle School

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 11 April 2023 Minutes:

Ms. Erica Gregory moved to approve the 11 April 2023 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA Foundation: Chair McElheny discussed conversation with Foundation Chair Herb Jones to focus on three areas of family, friends, and businesses. He stated in-house training would be scheduled on how to ask for donations for a larger gift effort.

Chief Executive Officer/Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the scores for progress monitoring with positive increases for ELA. SMA-COL Bowman also discussed enrollment for the 2023-24 school year with an increase to the middle school transition rate. She provided an update to job openings, interviews and upcoming year-end events. Chair McElheny inquired as to the JROTC positions filled in which SMA-COL Bowman replied that Cadet Command approved one position and waiting on another.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the enrollment numbers, staff positions needed for next year, and the upcoming eighth grade promotion ceremony on 23 May.

SAI Report: MAJ Arrington provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the success of the color guards out in the community, Rifle team to Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, and the JROTC Awards Ceremony. MAJ Arrington stated a high attendance for juniors who attended a West Point briefing by an academy representative. He mentioned that he would be stepping down as wrestling coach next school year.

High School Athletics Report: N/A

Middle School Athletics Report: N/A

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

Mr. Jim Tollerton moved to approve Wells Fargo's recommendation to switch from LIBOR to SOFR; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-LTC Kok discussed entertaining two additional bids for cleaning services, recommended keeping City Wide Facility Solutions as their bid was lower, and the quality of cleaning has increased. He also discussed bids for two additional insurance brokers with Brown and Brown and has recommended keeping Brown and Brown for this year.

Staff Representatives: N/A

PTCC Report: A read-ahead report was provided. Ms. Jeannie Whipple discussed an update to the account balance and the restructuring of the PTCC organizational chart.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny mentioned two successful tours of each campus for a prospective board member. He stated the progress of the strategic plan is on track with

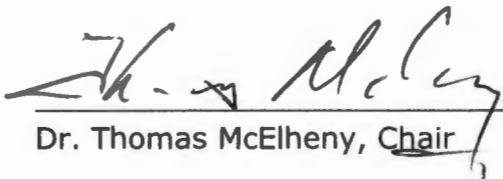
Old Business: N/A

New Business: Mr. Tollerton stated a successful conversation with the new president of New College in which SMA-COL Bowman stated she would schedule the president to visit formation.

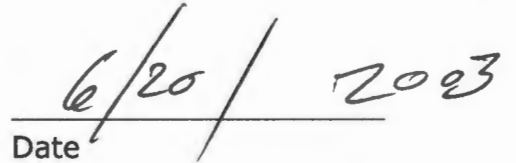
Public Comments: Ms. Deidre Jones discussed her concerns as a high school parent. Chair McElheny assured Ms. Jones the specific areas have been addressed and the board is committed to improving both campuses.

The next board meeting will be on 20 June 2023 at 10:00 am at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.



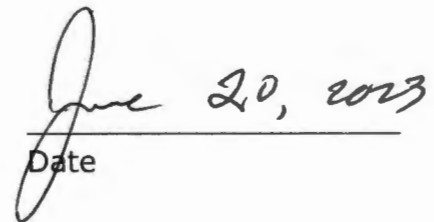
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



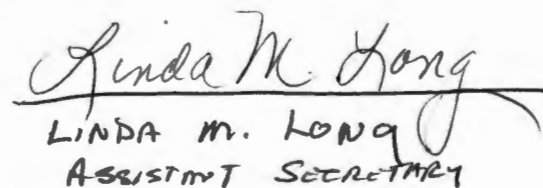
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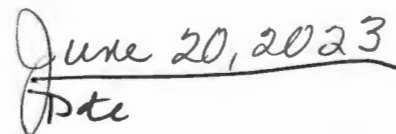
COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date



LINDA M. LONG
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Date