

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

20 JUNE 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

Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Linda Long

Pete Skokos

Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret) (virtual)

Herb Jones, Chair, SMA Foundation (virtual)

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

Absent: Heather Koester; Brian Crupi, LTC, USAR; Cynthia West, RN Lt, USA (Ret); Jim Tollerton; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

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

SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School (virtual)

SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance

SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director (virtual)

SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School

SMA-LTC Cheryl Korwin, Assistant Head of Middle School

Guests in Attendance: Dr. David Thompson; Ms. Brenda Canales, PTCC President; SMA-MAJ Ashley Wyka, HS Math Department Chair; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Performing Arts Department Chair; Ms. Dottie O'Neill

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to Approve the 09 May 2023 Minutes:

Ms. Linda Long moved to approve the 09 May 2023 minutes; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny stated the resignations of the following board members as Dr. Brian Crupi, Ms. Cynthia West and Mr. Jim Tollerton. He mentioned Vice Chair and Treasurer Scott Lempe would be resigning to be part of staff.

Vice Chair Lempe exited the conference room. Chair McElheny discussed the reorganizational chart to include the roles and responsibilities of the interim superintendent and academy provost. SMA-COL Christina Bowman stated the process of the superintendent search still needs to be defined.

Chair McElheny stated the search committee recommends Vice Chair Lempe as interim part-time superintendent.

Ms. Erica Gregory moved to approve Vice Chair Scott Lempe as interim, part-time superintendent; Mr. Pete Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny stated Mr. Skokos and Ms. Gregory will be part of the superintendent search committee. He welcomed Vice Chair Lempe back into the room to congratulate him with the board. Vice Chair Lempe delivered his resignation from the board.

CEO/Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the successful hiring of great staff on both campuses with only a few positions still open. SMA-BG Lempe inquired as to the plans for campus facilities over the summer. SMA-LTC Steve Kok replied the middle school's gym was refinished and deep cleaning is underway along with forty-five interactive televisions installed at the high school as well as deep cleaning, chrome book carts updated, and walkway roofs waiting for millage funds to restore. COL Knisely inquired as to the condition of our busses in which SMA-LTC Kok replied that the motor was built for one bus and need to rebuild another. SMA-COL Bowman stated a meeting with SSAS on the possibility of assisting each other with joint bus drivers. She mentioned the annual conflict of interest form need to be filled out by each board member.

Ms. Long moved to approve the board-meeting schedule for 2023-24; Ms. Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the preparation of the middle school facilities and reviewing testing data from previous year.

SAI Report: Chair McElheny stated a new SAI to start would be responsible in driving character and leadership development.

Academy 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. SMA-LTC Kok discussed increases in FRS, health insurance and property and casualty insurance along with increase to bus driver pay and increase to fuel. He stated the need for board approval of the tentative budget due to the district by end of month with the actual budget due by end of September.

COL Knisely moved to approve the 2023-24 tentative budget; Ms. Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-LTC Kok recommended a 2% raise to faculty and staff.

COL Knisely moved to approve the 2% salary raise for 2023-24; Ms. Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Staff Representatives: N/A

PTCC Report: N/A

Chair Report: Chair McElheny thanked the board for their efforts this year and proceeded with the board nominations.

COL Knisely moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Linda Long as the Assistant Secretary; Chair McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Long moved to approve the nomination of COL Ben Knisely as the Secretary; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Erica Gregory as the Vice Chair; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

COL Knisely moved to approve the nomination of Dr. Thomas McElheny as the Chair; Ms. Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Peter Skokos as the Treasurer; Ms. Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny stated for board members who may need to renew the course for Sunshine Laws to comply. He mentioned the need to identify priorities in creating goals for the future of the academy. Chair McElheny encouraged the board to attend with him and his table to the Operation Patriot Support's event, *Evening with Heroes*, on 7 September at The Grove in Lakewood Ranch to support fellow board member's Mr. Skokos' cause.

CEO/Head of High School Evaluation: Chair McElheny discussed the process of the chair to evaluate the CEO and Head of High School position. He stated that both evaluations would be shared at the next board meeting and welcomes feedback for full transparency.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A


Public Comments: N/A

The next board meeting will be on 29 August 2023 at 2:30 pm at the High School campus.


The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am.




Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date