

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

26 SEPTEMBER 2023

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Thomas J. McElheny, EdD, Capt, USMC (Former Marine), Chair
Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair
Pete Skokos, Treasurer
Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary
Linda Long, Assistant Secretary
Heather Koester
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)

Herb Jones, Chair, SMA Foundation

Absent: SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-BG Scott Lempe, Interim Superintendent
SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Provost/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
LTC (Ret) James Nelson, SAI
SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School
SMA-LTC Cheryl Korwin, Assistant Head of Middle School (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: Mr. Brent Bogart; Ms. Michael Tollerton; Mr. Carlos Moreira; SMA-CPT Ellie DeMurias, MS Faculty Representative; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Performing Arts Department Chair; C/COL Ayla Edwards; SMA-CPT Bryan Burns, HS Faculty Representative; Ms. Jennie Glassmoyer (virtual); Mr. Vince Tortora; Ms. Dottie O'Neill (virtual)

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 20 June 2023 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the 20 June 2023 minutes; Chair McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Christina Bowman introduced C/COL Ayla Edwards to the board. She discussed the three goals set forth by the regimental staff for this year as, 1). Improve the motivation of cadets and morale through JROTC, 2). Prepare for the JROTC Inspection in February with aim of a gold star standard, 3). Increase cadet involvement.

Ms. Jennie Glassmoyer discussed the audit with the amended budget for school expenditures itemization including the guidance and health services reallocation.

Ms. Heather Koester moved to approve page 30 in the amended budget; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny introduced three prospective board members to the board. Mr. Brent Bogart, Ms. Michael Tollerton and Mr. Carlos Moreira each presented their background and experiences and how they can benefit SMA by joining the board.

COL Knisely moved to approve to nominate the three prospective board members today; Vice Chair Erica Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

The three prospective board members exited the room.

Mr. Pete Skokos moved to approve to nominate all three prospective board members to the board; Ms. Linda Long seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Koester stated the level of experience and outreach to the community from all three new board members is so valuable. The board welcomed the three new board members back and congratulated them.

Mr. Vince Tortora discussed the audit as clean and in compliance.

Ms. Koester moved to approve the audit; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Superintendent Report: SMA-BG Scott Lempe provided a read-ahead report. He mentioned the opening day of both campuses was very smooth and noticed an increase in energy and positive atmosphere. SMA-BG Lempe discussed the technology upgrades with interactive televisions and additional chrome books as well as capital revenue priorities with the high school campus.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a successful first epaulet ceremony with the new cadets as special and the science position was filled.

Provost/Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She discussed a successful and well-attended SPIN event with special mention of the performances from our music department. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned building partnerships to enhance curriculum and raising expectations that started with summer homework packets. She stated that classes are stacked appropriately with an overall 19:1 for the academy.

SAI Report: LTC James Nelson provided a read-ahead report. He introduced himself to the board and mentioned upcoming events such as the Military Ball and the JPA accreditation in February. LTC Nelson stated his goal is to work on bridging efforts with the Middle School and plans to visit campus twice a week.

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 and the proposed budget for FY 2024. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned the board might need to reconsider funds that were forgiven of the Foundation two years ago to balance the budget.

Ms. Koester inquired as to how the board can assist in fundraising in which Chair McElheny replied the goals of raising the school grade and grow to adequate size will facilitate the board's assistance in driving admissions. SMA-BG Lempe discussed the reassessment of course offerings as he looks into 2024-25 budget. Vice Chair Gregory stated grants can be maximized with an increase, as current number is low.

Ms. Long moved to approve the proposed FY 2024 budget; Vice Chair Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

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.

Ms. Koester moved to approve the salary increase allocation for previous year raises; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Foundation Report: Chair Herb Jones invited the board to the next Foundation board meeting on 28 September at 11am. He stated that the Foundation might be able to assist in grant writing needs for SMA.

Staff Representatives: SMA-CPT Ellie DeMurias introduced herself and reported no issues or concerns at this time.

PTCC Report: PTCC provided a read-ahead report.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny discussed an updated protocol for future board nominees. He mentioned new guidelines for this school year with forms requiring parent/guardian signatures for nicknames and students participating in clubs.

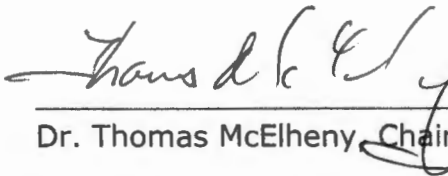
Old Business: SMA-BG Lempe discussed the kind of school we want to be starts with character development rooted in the JROTC values and college and career readiness.

New Business: SMA-BG Lempe stated the data achievement would be presented at the next board meeting.

Public Comments: SMA-MAJ Michael Finley stated the music department already feeds the high school through its programs. Mr. Moreira stated that USF has a grant-writing course that may be advantageous to SMA.

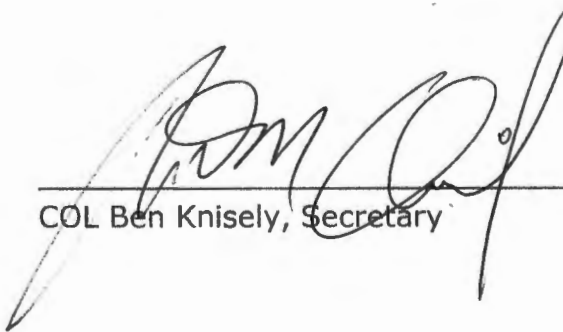
The next board meeting will be on 17 October 2023 at 2:30 pm at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:32 pm.



Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

10/17/23
Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary

10/17/23
Date