

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

18 JUNE 2024

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Dr. Thomas J. McElheny, Former Capt, USMC, Chair

Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair

Pete Skokos, Treasurer

Heather Koester, Former SGT, USAR

Jerry Neff, BG, USA (Ret)

Ron Skipper

Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)

Michael Tollerton, Former CPT, USA (virtual)

Absent: Herb Jones, Chair Emeritus; Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary; Brent Bogart, Former LT, USN; Carlos Moreira, 1st Sgt, USMCR; SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School; LTC Cheryl Korwin, Assistant Head of Middle School; MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director; SMA-CPT Ellie De Murias, MS Faculty Representative; SFC Ernesto Ramirez, HS Faculty Representative

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Head of High School/Academy Provost

SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: Ms. Kelli Anderson; LTC Scott Lempe; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Drumline Instructor; Ms. Nikki Orth, PTCC President (virtual)

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair McElheny amended the agenda to move the nominating committee first.

Nominating Committee: Chair McElheny moved to approve the nomination of Ron Skipper to the Board of Directors; Ms. Heather Koester seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the 28 May 2024 Minutes:

BG Jerry Neff moved to approve the 28 May 2024 minutes; Ms. Koester seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Head of Middle School Report: N/A

Head of High School/Provost Report: N/A

SAI Report: N/A

Academy Athletics Report: N/A

Staff Representatives: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He reported changes to expenses for the following year. LTC Scott Lempe recommended working with SMA-LTC Kok on breaking down the budget into two sections, one with millage and capital and one for expenses for a better picture on a 5-year plan. Chair McElheny recommended LTC Scott Lempe to continue to work with SMA-LTC Kok to breakdown revenue, expenses and capital.

Mr. Skokos moved to approve the preliminary budget for 2024-25; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Bylaws Committee: Vice Chair Erica Gregory discussed the long-term objective of committee with creating sub-committees to cover areas needed such as fundraising and to include the community, without obligation to joining the board. She recommended changing the name to Board Structure Review, instead of Bylaws Committee. Vice Chair Gregory stated the sub-committees and guidelines would be presented to the board for approval once finalized. She recommended a retreat in October/November.

Ms. Michael Tollerton stated that options need to be reviewed as to roles and statutes of board members with committees. She recommended alternating board and committee meetings to lessen burden of directors. Chair McElheny stated for SMA-COL Christina Bowman to check with counsel and review statute on committees.

PTCC Report: N/A

Chair Report: Chair McElheny assigned Mr. Skipper to research zoning laws and appraisers to maximize property value for an updated appraisal.

Board: N/A

Old Business:

Ms. Koester moved to approve a 3% retention bonus for 2023-24; Vice Chair Gregory seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

New Business: SMA-COL Bowman stated the directors need to sign the annual conflict of interest form for 2024-25.

BG Neff moved to approve an increase to capital purchases from \$750 to \$1000; Ms. Koester seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Koester moved to approve Chair McElheny as Chair for 2024-25; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Koester moved to approve Vice Chair Gregory as Vice Chair for 2024-25; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny moved to approve COL Ben Knisely as Secretary for 2024-25; Ms. Koester seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Ms. Koester moved to approve Mr. Skokos as Treasurer for 2024-25; Mr. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair McElheny moved to approve the 2024-25 Board Meeting Schedule; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Skokos moved to approve the 2024-25 Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman stated the district changed the reading plan to include literacy coaches on each campus with no classes. She also stated that if the new reading plan cannot be followed, that SMA is able to create and submit own reading plan for district approval.

BG Neff moved to approve the SMA Reading Plan; Mr. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

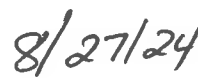
Public Comments: LTC Lempe inquired as to SMA-COL Bowman’s evaluation in which Chair McElheny replied it was completed utilizing the FSLA with the district. SMA-MAJ Michael Finley thanked the board. SMA-COL Bowman introduced Ms. Kelli Anderson of Sarasota County School District to the board and thanked her for attending.

The next board meeting will be on 27 August 2024 at 2:30 pm at the High School campus.

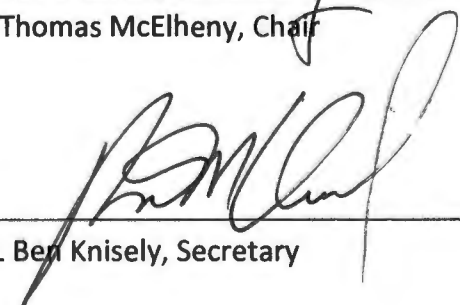
The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.



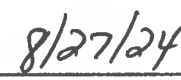
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date