

Sarasota Military Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

06 NOVEMBER 2024

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Dr. Thomas J. McElheny, Former Capt, USMC, Chair
Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair
Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary
Pete Skokos, Treasurer
Brent Bogart, Former LT, USN
Heather Koester, Former SGT, USAR
Jerry Neff, BG, USA (Ret)
Ron Skipper, Former Capt, USAF
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)
Michael Tollerton, Former CPT, USA (virtual)

Absent: Carlos Moreira, 1st Sgt, USMCR; SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance; SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School; LTC Cheryl Korwin, Assistant Head of Middle School; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director; SMA-CPT Ellie De Murias, MS Faculty Representative; Ms. Nikki Orth, PTCC President

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, Head of High School/Academy Provost
SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School (virtual)
MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI (virtual)

Guests in Attendance: Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret); SFC Ernesto Ramirez, HS Faculty Representative; Mr. Herb Jones, Chair Emeritus (virtual); SMA-CPT Makayla Francis, ELA Instructor (virtual)

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair McElheny moved to amend the agenda to include Lt Col Scott Lempe's presentation during the Treasurer's Report, to move the bylaws report before the Nominating Committee Report, and to add a COO position; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the 04 October 2024 Minutes:

COL Knisely moved to approve the 04 October 2024 minutes; Chair McElheny seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Head of Middle School Report: SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report.

Head of High School/Provost Report: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She stated a meeting scheduled with the Sarasota County School Board is set for January and she would the Charter School Renewal Contract would be submitted by Friday after board signing.

BG Jerry Neff moved to approve the signing of the Charter School Renewal Contract; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

COL Knisely moved to approve the out-of-field instructors; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman discussed data provided on where students are coming from and their district as well as details on the Veterans Day Parade. She provided an update on damages to both campuses from Hurricane Milton. Chair McElheny stated the Facilities Committee is discussing on plans for the high school campus on whether to upgrade or move, with either option not needing the damaged wing. LT Brent Bogart stated the fire department could fire up a building as instructional training and clean up debris.

SAI Report: MAJ Russ Osterfeld provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the upcoming events for all military activities including Raiders team heading to States and the Military Ball.

Academy Athletics Report: N/A

Staff Representatives: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. Lt Col Lempe provided a budget presentation and discussed his concerns with the budget, including capital, depreciation values and cash flow. Chair McElheny stated the most important role as directors is financial responsibility and must move forward on conservative focus on a balanced budget every year. COL Knisely inquired as to FEMA efforts on damages to high school campus, in which Lt Col Lempe replied that he would reach out to the county's CFO and inquire as to where our FEMA package stands.

Bylaws Committee: Chair McElheny requested to revise the bylaws to a minimum of seven directors instead of a maximum of eleven.

Ms. Heather Koester moved to revise the bylaws to a minimum of seven directors instead of a maximum of eleven; Mr. Pete Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee:

COL Knisely moved to nominate the reinstating of Lt Col Scott Lempe as a new director on the board; Mr. Ron Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny discussed the efforts and goals of the Facilities Committee, with knowledge of the budget and capital, to move forward.

PTCC Report: N/A

Board: N/A


Old Business: N/A

New Business: SMA-COL Bowman discussed Wreaths Across America Sponsorships, Pledge for Adopt-a-Cadet, and the upcoming Beret Ceremony on 7 November.


Public Comments: Chair McElheny stated that Vice Chair Erica Gregory was the honorary speaker at this year's Veterans Day Parade, with Ms. Michael Tollerton speaker last year. COL Knisely stated that he was nominated for the Veteran of the Year for Sarasota.

The next board meeting will be on 17 December 2024 at 2:30 pm at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm.



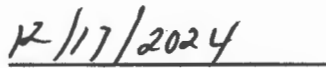
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date

Ron Skipper