

# **Sarasota Military Academy**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**17 DECEMBER 2024**

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#### **Board of Director Members' Attendance**

##### **Present:**

Dr. Thomas J. McElheny, Former Capt, USMC, Chair  
Brent Bogart, Former LT, USN  
Heather Koester, Former SGT, USAR (virtual)  
Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Carlos Moreira, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, USMCR  
Jerry Neff, BG, USA (Ret)  
Ron Skipper, Former Capt, USAF  
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)  
Michael Tollerton, Former CPT, USA

**Absent:** Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair; Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary; Pete Skokos, Treasurer; SMA-COL Christina Bowman, CEO/Head of High School; SMA-COL Tom Vara, Head of Middle School; Dr. 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-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School  
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School  
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance  
MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI

**Guests in Attendance:** CSM Jack Phinney, JROTC Instructor; SFC Ernesto Ramirez, HS Faculty Representative

Location: SMA High School

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

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### **Motion to Approve the 06 November 2024 Minutes:**

Mr. Ron Skipper moved to approve the 06 November 2024 minutes; BG Jerry Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

**Head of Middle School Report:** SMA-COL Tom Vara provided a read-ahead report. Chair McElheny commended Dr. Cheryl Korwin on a job well done with testing.

**CEO/Head of High School:** SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. SMA-LTC Caitlin West stated the biology scores outranked the state.

**Mr. Brent Bogart moved to approve the School Recognition Funds to be evenly distributed; Ms. Michael Tollerton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

**SAI Report:** MAJ Russ Osterfeld provided a read-ahead report. He discussed a new service academy cohort program and working with SMA-LTC West on components and recruitment with middle schools. Chair McElheny inquired if the academics is in accordance with what is needed for this new program in which SMA-LTC Abby Williams replied the classes are available through a minor alteration in scheduling. BG Neff stated that he and Ms. Tollerton could assist, as they are both on the nominating committee for service academies. Ms. Tollerton recommended SAT and ACT preparation to be included in the program. Chair McElheny inquired if there is an existing SAT/ACT preparation course available in which SMA-LTC West replied there is not currently one. Mr. Carlos Moreira stated that he would also volunteer his services to get involved with this new program. Chair McElheny inquired if interviewing skills are currently offered in which MAJ Osterfeld replied that this is offered during LET 4 JROTC class.

**Academy Athletics Report:** N/A

**Staff Representatives:** N/A

**Treasurer's Report:** SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the current FTE and expected expenses for campus improvements. SMA-LTC Kok stated the accounting firm has allowed SMA to transfer account to Ms. Glassmoyer's new firm.

**Mr. Bogart moved to approve the transfer of 990 from Kerkering Barberio accounting firm to Pellegrino, McFarland and Tortora P.A. and transfer accounts from Kerkering Barberio accounting firm to Ms. Jenny Glassmoyer; Ms. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

Lt Col Scott Lempe discussed meeting with SMA-LTC Kok and SMA-CPT Savannah Kalka on current financials and the outstanding debts for both campuses. Chair McElheny asked the board for suggestions on how to move forward and ideas for additional funding.

**Bylaws Committee:** Chair McElheny stated a recommendation to SMA-COL Bowman was made on reviewing our bylaws and articles of incorporation.

**Ms. Tollerton moved to approve the review of bylaws and articles of incorporation; Mr. Moreira seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

**PTCC Report:** N/A

**Chair Report:** Chair McElheny thanked SMA-COL Vara for his years of service to SMA and wish him the best in his next endeavor. He discussed the top priority of the CEO is to be financially responsible and Lt Col Lempe would work closely with SMA-COL Bowman as he has extensive school planning. Chair McElheny stated the need to increase FTE with quality programming and teachers and to engage the parents and faculty for suggestions. SFC Ramirez mentioned a few scheduling options in which Mr. Moreira stated to present at the next board meeting. Lt Col Lempe inquired as to ways to obtain honest feedback from the staff.

**Board:** N/A

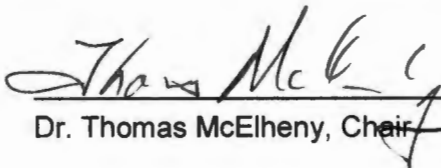
**Old Business:** N/A

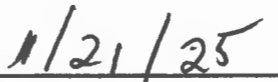
**New Business:** N/A

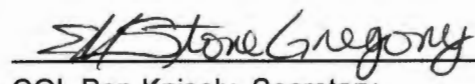
**Public Comments:** N/A


The next board meeting will be on 21 January 2025 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25pm.

  
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Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair

  
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Date

  
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~~COL Ben Knisely, Secretary~~

  
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Date

ERICA STONE GREGORY, VICE CHAIR