

SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

24 JUNE 2025

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 (virtual)
Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) (virtual)
Jerry Neff, BG, USA (Ret)
Charles Shugg, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)
Ron Skipper, Former Capt, USAF
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret)
Michael Tollerton, Former CPT, USA

Absent: Brent Bogart, Former LT, USN; Heather Koester, Former SGT, USAR; Carlos Moreira, 1st Sgt, USMCR; MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director; SFC Ernesto Ramirez, HS Faculty Representative; SMA-CPT Ellie De Murias, MS Faculty Representative

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

SMA-COL Christina Bowman, CEO/Head of High School
Dr. Cheryl Korwin, Head of Middle School
SMA-LTC Bryan Burns, Assistant Head of Middle School (virtual)
SMA-LTC Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School;
SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School (virtual)
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance

Guests in Attendance: Regt S1 Samuel Bonser; Ms. Nikki Orth

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 29 April 2025 Minutes:

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the 29 April 2025 minutes; BG Jerry Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Head of Middle School Report: Dr. Cheryl Korwin provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned filling positions and making positive changes for the upcoming school year. Dr. Korwin stated one positive change is to focus more on the military culture with emphasis to military core values and the Leadership in Me values. Chair McElheny requested additional information on the Leadership in Me program.

CEO/Head of High School: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She mentioned currently filling up a few more positions, as well as addressing campus needs to be completed during the summer prior to first day. SMA-COL Bowman mentioned site visits from Mussman Architects went well and anticipating a first draft on campus improvements.

SAI Report: N/A

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed balance sheets for both campuses using the new budget format and FTE based on enrollment for both campuses. SMA-LTC Kok discussed the additional expenses with upgrading technology and air-conditioning units. Chair McElheny discussed the possibility of a salary raise based on final enrollment numbers. Brig Gen Charles Shugg stated to consider a raise if it is substantial, more than 1%. COL Knisely inquired as to a bonus over a raise, to which SMA-LTC Kok replied that a bonus was given utilizing ESSER funds, but that has since stopped so a raise would have to be decided.

SMA-LTC Kok presented the standard profit and loss budget to the board for approval.

Mr. Ron Skipper moved to approve the standard profit and loss budget; Mr. Pete Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

PTCC Report: SMA-COL Bowman stated she met with the new PTCC President and Treasurer to discuss the events for the school year with focus on Wreaths Across America and other community outreach.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny discussed the purpose on deriving the cost of building a new campus or upgrading the existing one and through additional research has decided to step back from Michael Saunders and the pursuit of new campus at this time. He mentioned discussions on different funding approaches that would be available. Chair McElheny stated the need to schedule a board workshop on the future of SMA in August. He discussed the two elements that will dictate the success of SMA for the future; first being student achievement, and second a formalized, synchronized, coordinated military base character and leadership development program.

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the nominations of current board members and positions for next fiscal year; Mr. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman presented the renewal of the annual conflict of interest policy.

Mr. Skipper moved to approve the proposed 2025-26 SMA Board Meeting Schedule; Ms. Michael Tollerton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

**Mr. Skipper moved to approve the 2025-26 Mental Health Allocation plan for submission to the district;
BG Neff**

**Mr. Skipper moved to approve the 2025-26 draft Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading plan for
submission to the district; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.**

Old Business: N/A


New Business: N/A

**Public Comments: Regt S1 Samuel Bonser shared the current needs of the athletic program and ways the
board can provide support.**


Board Comments:

The next board meeting will be on 26 August 2025 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

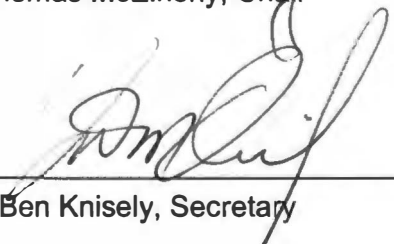
The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:19pm.



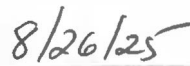
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date