

SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

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 (virtual)
Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary
Scott Lempe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) (virtual)
Carlos Moreira, MAJ, USMCR
Jerry Neff, BG, USA (Ret)
Charles Shugg, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)
Ron Skipper, Former Capt, USAF
Michael Tollerton, Former CPT, USA
Richard Swoope, COL, USA (Ret) (virtual)
W. Scott Wallace, GEN, USA (Ret)

Absent: SMA-LTC Abby Williams, Assistant Head of High School; SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, Athletic Director; 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 Caitlin West, Assistant Head of High School
SMA-LTC Bryan Burns, Assistant Head of Middle School (virtual)
MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI
SMA-LTC Steve Kok, Director of Finance
SMA-MAJ Savannah Kalka, Assistant Director of Finance

Guests in Attendance: CW4 Wes Rinehart, AI; SMA-MAJ Michael Finley, Performing Arts Department Chair; SMA-MAJ Marsha Umana-Reinig; SMA-CPT Esther Jaffee, HS Faculty Representative (virtual); Amber Martin, PTCC President; Maria Urrestta, PTCC Treasurer; C/MAJ Sam Bonser; Cadet Sage Rogovin; Mr. Vincent Tortora, Pellegrino, McFarland & Tortora, PA; Mr. Herb Jones (virtual); Mr. Bob Luger (virtual); 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.

Chair McElheny stated there are three amendments to the agenda including the approval of the workshop minutes, the withdrawal of the school improvement plan, and the alumni recognition after the Treasurer's Report.

COL Ben Knisely moved to approve the amendments to the agenda; Brig Gen Charles Shugg seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the 26 August 2025 Minutes:

Vice Chair Erica Gregory moved to approve the 26 August 2025 minutes; Mr. Carlos Moreira seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve the 25 August 2025 Workshop Minutes:

Brig Gen Shugg moved to approve the 25 August 2025 workshop minutes; GEN W. Scott Wallace seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Christina Bowman introduced cadet Sage Rogovin to the board who earned the A/P Honor of Distinction Award as a junior cadet for the number of A/P exams she had successfully taken with an average score of 3.5 and above. Sage shared her story of pursuing enrollment into the US Naval Academy to become a fighter pilot.

Chair McElheny introduced Mr. Vincent Tortora of Pellegrino, McFarland and Tortora, P.A. for the audit presentation. Mr. Tortora discussed a few changes, but stated a clean audit would be submitted once approved.

COL Knisely moved to approve the FY 2025 Audit; 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 one factor to cadet success is having families involved and on campus as often as possible, resulting in 80% of new cadets had families attend the epaulet ceremony. Dr. Korwin stated 25 cadets attended the leadership conference in Disney, and cadets were encouraged to attend the Honor Flight Welcome Home at Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport. She mentioned open enrollment beginning on October 1st and that 45% of classes have 25 students or more.

CEO/Head of High School: SMA-COL Christina Bowman provided a read-ahead report. She shared her appreciation with CSM Jack Phinney for building the relationship and growing the Honor Flight Program. SMA-COL Bowman stated the withdrawal of the 2025-26 school improvement plan is to continue revising and the need for approval of the out-of-field instructors on both campuses.

COL Knisely moved to approve the out-of-field instructors for both campuses; Mr. Ron Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

SMA-COL Bowman provided an update on the COGNIA accreditation and beginning phase two, which compiles of surveys from families and cadets. Chair McElheny complimented SMA-COL Bowman with the visit that

morning with district's Dr. Brandon Johnson with an extraordinary presentation given by the regimental staff. He stated that the district has services that can be provided to our cadets and faculty.

Athletics Report: SMA-COL Bowman stated that Athletic Director, SMA-MAJ Charlie Carver, is grateful for the donations and support to the athletic department.

MS Faculty Representative: SMA-MAJ Marsha Reinig-Umana provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the staff's positive comments with the healthcare benefits, collaboration and communication with the administration, creating a collegial atmosphere on campus, and core values presented during first period. SMA-MAJ Reinig-Umana mentioned a few areas of concerns such as the condition of the property, large class sizes, compensation package, and long term plans with both campuses. Chair McElheny responded the board would meet with the staff quarterly to answer any questions directly.

SAI Report: MAJ Russ Osterfeld provided a read-ahead report. He discussed the upcoming events for Color Guard, Drill and Raiders, with mention of the Military Ball in November. C/MAJ Sam Bonser stated that any donations to the military ball would be appreciated and to provide guest speaker recommendations if possible.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-LTC Steve Kok provided a read-ahead report. He discussed balance sheets for both campuses and FTE based on enrollment for both campuses. SMA-LTC Kok explained the increase in expenses for July including textbooks, Windows 11 update to all computers, and additional software update.

Leadership and Ethics Conference Committee: Ms. Michael Tollerton provided an update on the conference. She shared the flyer and introduction letter mailed to Sarasota County's public, private and charter high schools. Ms. Tollerton discussed a conversation with the Education Foundation and shared they were on board and excited about the conference initiative.

PTCC Report: Ms. Amber Martin provided a read-ahead report. She stated a successful book fair, PTCC presence at both open houses, and scheduled a meet and greet on 2 October, and starting a committee for Wreaths Across America to ensure success this year.

Chair Report: Chair McElheny discussed meeting with different firms and banks that produced options of school construction, leasing and purchasing.

Alumni Recognition: In an effort to share success stories of past SMA alumni, COL Knisely shared the story of past Regimental Commander, Vaeda Hammond.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

Board Comments: Ms. Tollerton stated she would send out a more clarified email on the Leadership and Ethics Conference. She inquired as to the status of adding a cadet to the board specifically, in which SMA-COL

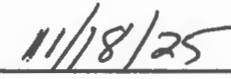
Bowman replied that C/MAJ Sam Bonser would be attending every board meeting. Ms. Tollerton inquired as to whether the cadet has voting ability on the board, to which Chair McElheny recommended SMA-COL Bowman to work out the details.

The next board meeting will be on 14 October 2025 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

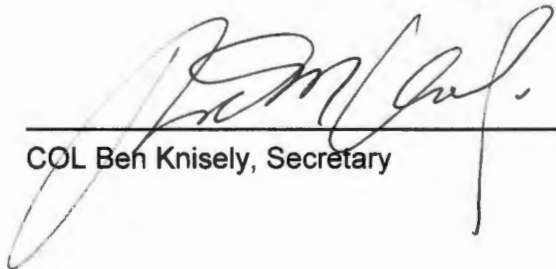
The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm.



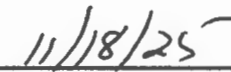
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date