

SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

23 JUNE 2026

Board of Director Members' Attendance

Present:

Dr. Thomas J. McElheny, Former Capt, USMC, Chair
Ben Knisely, COL, USA (Ret), Secretary
Pete Skokos, Treasurer
David Black
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
W. Scott Wallace, GEN, USA (Ret)

Absent: Erica Gregory, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Vice Chair; MAJ (Ret) Russ Osterfeld, SAI; SMA-CPT Jared Lauther, MS Athletic Director

SMA Administrative Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance: SMA-CPT Mick Fallis, HS Athletic Director; SMA-MAJ Marsha Reinig-Umana, MS Faculty Representative; SMA-MAJ Dawn Sudbury, MS Department Chair; SMA-CPT Kathy Simon, MS Office Manager (virtual); Fred Starling, The Starling Group; Chris Verville, The Starling Group; David Perry, Michael Saunders and Company; Simon Bacon, Michael Saunders and Company; Emmalee Legler, Jon Swift Construction (virtual); Jason, Jon Swift Construction (virtual); Adam Barker, OSports (virtual); Tristan Hermanson, Entech US (virtual); Samuel Bonser; Nikki Orth (virtual)

Location: SMA High School

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:29 pm.

Chair Thomas McElheny started the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair McElheny requested to amend the agenda with a presentation and consolidation blueprint by Mr. Fred Starling of The Starling Group to present first. He also addressed other priorities of the board to

move forward with the consolidation, the sale of the high school campus, and securing Michael Saunders and Company as the listing realtor.

Mr. Starling and Mr. Chris Verville presented to the board the three buildout options of the SMA Prep Middle School campus, explaining in detail the new athletic field, additional parking, and the plan for the storm water drainage. Mr. Starling discussed zoning with the county, traffic study, wetlands, and the needed next steps to ensure remaining on schedule. He further discussed the breakdown of the proposed budget.

Chair McElheny introduced Mr. David Perry and Mr. Simon Bacon of Michael Saunders and Company to discuss the plans on listing the high school campus. Mr. David Black explained the process of interviewing multiple firms to manage the sale of the high school campus. Mr. Perry shared the extensive research and time his team has put forth to provide potential buyers the many options the property can become.

Mr. Black mentioned his successful meeting with the team lead, Mr. Lee DeLieto, and stated he is comfortable in the recommendation of this team for the sale of the property. BG Jerry Neff inquired as to their thoughts on sale with a leaseback, to which Mr. Perry replied that it would be part of the negotiations as it could take anywhere from 18-24 months for permits. Mr. Bacon stated a developer can borrow zoning within one mile and the potential of this property can be eighteen stories of protected views to the bay, including 40% affordable housing. Chair McElheny commended Mr. Black in steering this initiative, utilizing his extensive expertise.

Chair McElheny introduced Ms. Emmalee Legler and her team from Jon Swift Construction to discuss options for the athletic field, along with bleachers, turf and lights. Ms. Legler explained that although Jon Swift Construction has much experience in completed school projects, they outsource all athletic fields to OSports. She introduced Adam Barker of OSports to explain options and costs to athletic fields. Mr. Barker discussed the range of costs with turf variations, and a possible track. He explained the process starting with hiring a design team to provide a field design that maximizes the space as NFHS certified, to include bleachers and/or a track.

Chair McElheny stated this decision to move forward does have a risk, but not doing anything would hold a bigger risk of losing the school. He directed the board with a 10-minute break.

Adjourned: 3:49pm.

Back to Order: 4pm.

Chair McElheny authorized the board to move forward with the process of consolidating both campuses to the SMA Prep Middle School campus, serving grades 6-12.

Mr. Ron Skipper moved to approve the consolidation of both campuses at the SMA Prep campus to serve grades 6-12 and to move forward in the process in the execution of the first phase allowing Mr. Fred Starling of The Starling Group to proceed in the rezoning; COL Ben Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Skipper moved to approve the allocation of 250k needed to execute phase one of the campus consolidation; COL Knisely seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Black moved to approve to engage Michael Saunders and Company as listing agent of the high school campus effective immediately and the agreed 3% in listing agreement; Mr. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved. Mr. Pete Skokos recused himself from vote due to a conflict of interest.

Motion to Approve the 19 April 2026 Minutes:

Brig Gen Charles Shugg moved to approve the 19 April 2026 minutes; Mr. David Black seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Head of Middle School: Dr. Cheryl Korwin provided a read-ahead report.

MS Faculty Representative: SMA-MAJ Marsha Reinig-Umana provided a read-ahead report.

MS Athletics Report: SMA-CPT Jared Lauther provided a read-ahead report.

CEO/Head of High School Report: SMA-COL Bowman provided a read-ahead report.

Brig Gen Shugg moved to approve the 2026-27 Comprehensive Evidence Based Reading Plan submitted annually to the district; Mr. Skipper seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Mr. Black moved to approve the 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

HS Faculty Representative: SMA-CPT Esther Jaffee provided a read-ahead report.

HS Athletics Report: Coach Mick Fallis provided a read-ahead report.

Cadet Report: N/A

SAI Report: MAJ Osterfeld provided a read-ahead report.

Treasurer's Report: SMA-MAJ Savannah Kalka provided a read-ahead report. She discussed the projected budget on 846 FTE, with the district projecting 869 FTE.

Mr. Black moved to approve the 2026-27 proposed budget based on 846 FTE; BG Neff seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report: N/A

Facilities Committee Report: N/A

Chair Report: N/A

PTCC Report: N/A

Alumni Recognition: N/A

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Chair McElheny stated approvals are needed of the 2026-27 Board Leadership.

COL Knisely moved to approve Dr. Thomas McElheny remain as board chair; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

COL Knisely moved to approve Ms. Erica Gregory remain as board vice chair; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

COL Knisely moved to approve Mr. Peter Skokos remain as board treasurer; Brig Gen Shugg seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

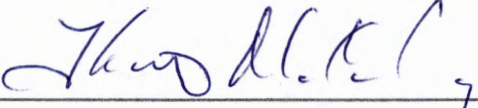
Mr. Skipper moved to approve COL Ben Knisely remain as board secretary; Mr. Skokos seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Public Comments: N/A

Board Comments: N/A

The next board meeting will be on 25 August 2026 at 2:30pm at the High School campus.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:17pm.



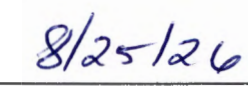
Dr. Thomas McElheny, Chair



Date



COL Ben Knisely, Secretary



Date