

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING

JUNE 17, 2009

MINUTES

Board of Directors in Attendance:

Robert Windom, M.D., Chairman

LTG Howard Crowell, Jr., USA (Ret), Vice Chairman

Mr. Fred Derr, Treasurer

Dr. Cilia Edmundson

Mr. Herb Jones

Mr. Billy Robinson

Mr. Woody Wolverton

Administration in Attendance:

Mr. Daniel Kennedy, Headmaster, CEO

Col. Stephen Cork, Commandant

1. Dr. Windom, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes. LTG Crowell moved to approve the minutes of May 22, 2009 as written. Dr. Windom seconded. Vote; minutes approved unanimously.

- Agenda skipped to the Audit Committee report due to Auditor Groups arrival and presentations.

3. Auditor Presentation's:

A. CPA Associates. Current auditing firm used by SMA. They reviewed and advised the details of their submitted proposal. They gave a brief overview of the proposal. After the presentation, Woody Wolverton addressed an issue of keeping records at home and wanted to know what their thoughts were on the subject. They commented that this was unusual but with the check and balance controls in place and using two signatures on all checks it seemed to work for SMA. They are willing to come to a meeting any time. The last time they came to a SMA BOD meeting was in 2007. LTG Crowell stated we should request the auditors attend a board meeting once a year.

B. Kerkering and Barberio. They reviewed and advised the details of their submitted proposal. They offer a large local firm with up-to-date standards and technology. Kerkering and Barberio also stated that they currently work for and with Sun Coast Academy Charter School, Manatee Community College as well as the Out of Door Academy. They are red book certified and dedicated to education.

C. King and Walker. Mr. King reviewed and advised the details of their submitted proposal. He stated that his firm has 20 years extensive and intensive government auditing experience. He also stated the firm has employees experienced with the knowledge and standards from the US Auditor General. This is a seven member firm. Their main focus is on charter schools. They do not do taxes. Mr. King emphasized that his firm does not and has not added expenses after the submitted audit quote - no extra charges and no surprises.

Comments and Discussion followed after all presentations. Mr. Derr said it is a good idea to change auditors from time to time and that it is in the best interest of an organization to get 'a fresh look' at the books. Mr. Robinson agreed and further stated that a change every 3 to 5 years is a good idea. Mr. Derr favors Kerkering and Barberio. Mr. Jones likes the idea and added that the Kerkering and Barberio firm is in our area and strongly supports many community functions and activities.

LTG Crowell made a motion to select the Kerkering and Barberio accounting firm. Mr. Robinson seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

4. LTG Crowell stated that the Audit Committee was advised by several parents with concerns related to the ESE Department. The Audit Committee recommends an investigation. Daniel Kennedy informed them that this project has been organized and started last week.

The Audit Committee was informed that a few of the seniors were caught trying to deface SMA property. LTG Crowell would like the seniors to be held responsible for their actions and not dealt with lightly. Mr. Kennedy stated that he had written a severe reprimand to each of them. Additionally, Mr. Kennedy stated that he requested the students involved communicate the poor judgment and wrong choices they made to the current and future SMA student body. It is believed that this will discourage behavior of this type by anyone in the future. The Audit Committee Chair, LTG Crowell, made a motion that this be acted on by Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Robinson seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

Mr. Kennedy read one of the letters of apology from one of the students involved. Elke Olree, President of the PTCC, commented that she spoke to one of the seniors involved and they were very remorseful.

LTG Howard Crowell moved that Mr. Kennedy's letter be used for the future students. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

5. Executive Summary - Dan Kennedy, Headmaster.
 - A. FCAT scores: Excluding Pine View School for the Gifted, SMA was noted as number one in the district for Writing and Science. SMA out-scored Riverview HS (hereafter RHS) in these areas. (RHS has the International Bachelorette Program.) Overall, an excellent performance for SMA. Mr. Kennedy also stated that there was room for improvement.
 - B. The Boys and Girls Raider Teams each won their Florida State competition. (These teams were awarded state championship rings.)
 - C. Rifle Team competed in Ohio at the International Army ROTC Shooting competition. They were awarded 8th place. Earlier in the year they competed in Florida and won first place.
 - D. SMA was named a 5 Star School by the FL DOE (Florida Department of Education) for the 7th year in a row. We are the only district high school awarded this distinction.
 - E. Elke Olree, President of SMA PTCC, coordinated a trip for SMA Cadets and parents to China for the 2008 Summer Olympics. Additionally, thanks to her leadership, the trip was a success.

- F. The SMA Show Chorus performed two outstanding live events and visited New York to observe Broadway plays.
- G. SMA enrollment requests have been strong with gifted students. ESE enrollment will be lower for the upcoming school year.
- H. SMA has been flooded with quality teacher applicants and 7 new full time teachers have been hired. We will continue to offer Mandarin Chinese and SMA will be one of the few schools in the country offering Classical Arabic taught by a teacher from the middle East.
- I. SMA students, faculty and parents plan a visit to Europe this coming year with a stop at Normandy Beach.
- J. SMA Cadets attended each monthly Tiger Bay meeting last year with the Headmaster.
- K. SMA Cadets provided color guards to many organizations around the county last year.
- L. SMA participated in both the Veterans Day parade and the Memorial Day Parade. We had nearly all Cadets present and about 600 parents marching with the regiment. (It was an awesome sight.)
- M. We conducted a fine farewell formation for Dr. Pillot.
- N. The new building was completed in 90 days and it was ready for the opening of the 2008-2009 school year.
- O. The cafeteria and school offices are currently being remodeled and are expected to be completed prior to the upcoming school year.
- P. Graduation was dignified and extremely well attended. (There were no beach balls or air horns [unlike the other schools].)
- Q. We were accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges for another five year period. Without this accreditation, our academic credits would be nearly worthless.
- R. For the second year in a row SMA won first place among blood contributing high schools in Florida. The program has been this success thanks to Col. Bill Brockman.
- S. Our drug testing programs continues with those found positive being suspended until they are enrolled in an intervention program. Monitoring is stepped up for these youngsters and there are no second chances.
- T. Our pipers now number about 30 - more pipers than RHS.
- U. Our mighty Herb Jones Drum Line performed for the Reds at the Ed Smith Stadium. We received a nice letter from the owner. An excellent video was prepared which I will show the board in the future.
- V. I approved 20 cadets for reassignment next year due to excessive absences, poor grades and/or discipline reasons. These cadets have been replaced with students from our waiting list.
- W. We are conducting an audit of ESE procedures. A report should be ready for the August meeting.

- X. Discipline procedures have been upgraded with a staff member in charge of each grade level. Col. Cork will oversee the discipline program.
 - Y. Bob Lechner just returned from Orlando where he was invited to present by the SACS. He has been asked to present at the National SACS convention.
 - Z. We are meeting with W.G. Mills today to obtain an overview of a financing program that may allow an early start of the construction of the phase-three building. Details TBA.
 - AA. We just received a tax refund that can be applied to next year's budget. (The amount of the refund is 2 cents. I'm really not kidding.)
6. Finance report: Mr. Derr addressed the financial statements opening the discussion with SMA currently has one million dollars in cash – a strong asset to liability ratio. Mr. Derr went on to state that SMA budget finances have been planned on a conservative basis. Col. Cork added details related to the statements. Mr. Jones would like to get the numbers earlier so that he can be better prepared. Col. Cork stated that he will get these to the Board earlier in the future. LTG Crowell moved to approve the current finance report and budget for school year 2009-2010. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

Discussion on district money. We plan on having around 700 students and we get paid for 663. The county pays funds for a portion of the registered and assigned SMA students during the school year and reconciles the balance at a later date. We have a number of students that go to SCTI and MCC and we only get a portion of the monies for them.

SMA increased teacher's salaries for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year to meet district salaries practices.

7. LTG Crowell stated that at the next Board meeting we should have a combined faculty meeting with the Board meeting. A kickoff for the new school year. This will be August 19th at 8:00 a.m. He thinks that we should have some refreshments and have it a part social meeting for a team building opportunity.
8. Mr. Jones stated that Kerkering and Barberio included the organizational and operational review expense within their proposal.
9. Public Input: Mr. Lechner gave a report on his visit to Orlando for the SACS Accreditation meeting. Mr. Jones recommended we cover Mr. Lechner's travel expenses. Mr. Kennedy stated that he will be compensated. Mr. Jones wanted to know when the National Conference would be held. Mr. Lechner did not have a specific date as yet.

Mr. Lechner also mentioned that the 3 member US Concert Band Chamber Music will be performing at SMA at Nov. 2. On February 24th, the entire 30 member US Army Chorus will come to SMA to perform.

10. Col. Cork showed a SMA slide presentation. This presentation was used to highlight SMA's accomplishments. LTG Crowell stated that if this is to be used for fund raising that Col. Cork should add some pictures of the students in actual activities here at the school. LTG Crowell also suggested that the building in the upper left hand corner of the slide that showed SMA should be deleted since it is an apartment building that does not belong to SMA.
11. Dr. Windom suggested that we have an active alumni account. Mr. Kennedy agrees and he thinks a previous student should head this up.
12. Dr. Windom heard from some parents that are concerned that SMA is getting too large. They prefer the smaller school environment. If the SMA grows larger, we could lose the 'small school environment'. He also stated we should concentrate on getting this school to be the best before starting another school.

Dr. Edmundson responded that the Board had already approved the school's population to go to 700 and that the Board has given their permission for Mr. Kennedy to look for other sites to build another school.

13. Col. Cork and Mr. Kennedy are speaking to W.G. Mill's and will bring back information for the Board's consideration.
14. Mr. Wolverton has a client that is donating \$100,000 to SMA. He is also sponsoring a local golf tournament with funds directed to benefit SMA.
15. Board Officer Elections: Dr. Windom informed the Board of Directors that he will not be running for any office this time.

Mr. Jones made a motion that LTG Crowell be the new Chairman of the Board. Mr. Derr seconded that motion. Vote; approved unanimously.

LTG Crowell made a motion to nominate Mr. Jones as Vice Chairman, Dr. Edmundson seconded this motion. Vote; approved unanimously.

Dr. Edmundson made a motion that Mr. Derr continue in his capacity as Treasurer. Mr. Robinson seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

LTG Crowell addressed the topic that we nominate someone for BOD Secretary. Dr. Windom nominated Mr. Billy Robinson. Dr. Windom then made a motion to elect Mr. Robinson BOD Secretary. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.

16. Mr. Jones would like the Board of Directors and the new Chairman to consider honoring Dr. Windom, outgoing Chairman, to honor and recognize his many years of devotion to SMA by naming a building after him. Discussion followed. Topic tabled for a future board meeting.
17. LTG Crowell recommends that the Board of Directors should consider and seek new people for the Board. Discussion followed in agreement.
18. LTG Crowell urges the Board membership to spend more time at SMA and participate in the events that the school has during the year. Dr. Edmundson would like Mr. Kennedy to remind the Board of any events that are coming up in his Executive Report each month.
19. Penny Schroeder wanted to know if the new positions on the Board would have any effect on the Audit Committee positions or require changes. LTG Crowell made a motion that the Vice Chairman of the Board should head up the Audit Committee. Mr. Derr seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.
20. Mr. Jones made a motion that Dr. Windom be on the Audit Committee. Mr. Wolverton seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.
21. LTG Crowell made a motion that Mr. Derr be a member of the Audit Committee. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote; approved unanimously.
22. LTG Crowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote; approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

LTG Howard Crowell, Jr., USA (Ret), Chairman, SMA BOD

Daniel Kennedy, Headmaster & CEO, SMA