

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Board of Directors in Attendance:

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

Mr. Herb Jones, Vice Chairman

Mr. Fred Derr, Treasurer

Dr. Celia Edmundson

Mr. Woody Wolverton

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Billy Robinson, Secretary

Robert Windom, M.D.

SMA Staff in Attendance:

Col. Dan Kennedy

Col. Stephen Cork

LTG Crowell, Chairman, brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

LTG Crowell asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes of August. Having no discussion, he made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Mr. Derr seconded. No objections. Minutes approved.

Financial Report:

Mr. Jones mentioned that Kerkering & Barbario are on campus as contracted. They sent questionnaires out to the Board members to check if they had seen any evidence of fraud. It was standard practice. Mr. Derr mentioned everything is going well. There are no concerns. Due to the summertime construction, cash flow is down to \$832,000. [\$500,000 in new renovations; net worth being 2.6 million]

LTG Howard Crowell moved to accept the financial report. Mr. Jones seconded. Financial report approved as presented.

LTG Crowell relayed to the Board that Billy Robinson has resigned for family personal issues. Billy Robinson wanted to express his pleasure at being on the Board and that his decision had nothing to do with anything concerning SMA or the Board. Mr. Jones suggested that we send Billy Robinson a letter of appreciation. The Board expressed regret to learn of this decision.

Mr. Jones moved to nominate Dr. Edmundson as Secretary of the Board. Dr. Edmundson accepted this position. LTG Crowell mentioned the minutes will now go directly to Dr. Edmundson for review before presenting them to the Board.

Dr. Magenheimer, CEO and Medical Director of Suncoast Community Blood Bank, was present to make a special presentation to SMA on behalf of the local blood bank. He specifically noted and honored Col. Brockman for his efforts and achievements. SMA won the statewide award for the best collection percentage of blood in a high school program. This is the second year in a row that SMA has been awarded this honor. He is also here today to present the National Award to SMA for outstanding service in blood transfusion services from the American Association of Blood Banks.

Mr. Jones would like a press release pertaining to this. Mr. Kennedy noted his intent to see that this was accomplished.

Headmaster's Report: Mr. Kennedy handed out his report to all of the board members to see. The points that were covered were:

1. 2009-10 opening. District observation visit.
2. Enrollment
3. ACLU Challenge

4. Panitch Trial
5. Overview of School Grade. Points Earned: 506. AYP Score: 90%
6. ACT Scores
7. Open House/PTCC meeting.
8. Discipline improvements
9. Lunch procedures
10. Reading Initiatives
11. School Improvement Plan (SIP). Approval).
12. Academic Leadership Team (Approval)

The packet that was handed out by Mr. Kennedy will be archived with the current minutes.

A brief overview: Mr. Kennedy mentioned how smoothly everything is running this year. We have 713 students at this time. SMA is staying on the block schedule and all of the other high schools have gone back to the 6-7 classes per day. This makes it very difficult for students to change schools. Mr. Kennedy believes we will not have as many students coming in during the year like we did previous years.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that we had a Veteran's Art Show and one of the pieces of art was a large nude. He stopped by the show to check on it and it was obvious to Mr. Kennedy that the picture was inappropriate and he required the picture to be removed or covered if the group was going to continue to use the SMA facility. Mr. Kennedy had the painting covered. The ACLU is investigating the situation.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned a law suit against Steve Panitch, a former teacher at SMA, would soon open and that he may have to testify in this case.

Mr. Kennedy went over the school grade with the Board and how the county graded the school. He checked the DOE Website and found out that we were only 18 points away from an A. SMA tested 99% of the students in the 10th grade. This percentage is extremely high. Mr. Kennedy also mentioned that every high school dropped a letter grade. We met 37 of the 38 criteria. (See hand out).

Mr. Kennedy handed out the School Improvement Plan for the Board to read over at another time. He expressed thanks to Christina Bowman for help and efforts; noting the long hours she spent on it and that she did a great job.

Mr. Kennedy informed the Board of some of the steps SMA is taking to improve. JROTC has implemented the March to Success. Sylvan has offered to give our students a free ACT and SAT test and go over it with their parents to see what the student's need to work on. Pam Donehew and Elizabeth Elliott are computer testing students in reading comprehension.

The components for the new Sarasota County School Board grading system include the total number of students taking the ACT and SAT tests; students taking dual enrollment and AP classes; graduation rate and passing FCAT scores. Mr. Kennedy informed the Board that we won't get our grade until October of next year. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that he has informed the teachers that we cannot afford to drop another letter grade. This would be devastating to the school.

Mr. Derr wanted to know if this would affect us from a financial point of view. Mr. Kennedy stated not at this time but if we dropped another grade it would affect our enrollment. And then that would affect our financial picture.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that the first open house went extremely well as well as the first PTCC meeting. He is very proud of the job Elkee Olree is doing as President of PTCC.

Col. Cork then showed a slide show on his new revised disciplinary policy. His new disciplinary team consists of: Bill Brockman, Jodi Kopacz, Christina Bowman, and Keith Hall. He went over the standards for referrals, electronic devices, tardiness, hall passes, student's uniform guidelines, and faculty uniform policy. He handed out a copy of the plan to the Board members. Col. Cork went over the revised Student Success Team procedures. Col. Cork also spoke about working on the Mentoring Miracle Mile program. ; encouraging faculty members to be mentors for students. LTG Howard Crowell mentioned that a number of these issues had been brought to his attention as the Audit Committee Chairman last year and it seems that you [Col. Cork] have "nailed it". He stated that he hopes this really works and that he is very pleased with these changes. One important area was that the teachers were not being supported and if this system works it will be great. LTG Crowell stated that supporting the teachers would elevate the process. Mr. Jones also stated that SMA is on the right track.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that we have 713 students eating and that we have a small breakfast program for those students that need it. SMA is serving approximately 150 students and we only get one check out lady. Parents are volunteering their time to help.

LTG Howard Crowell identified the new committees, called for a status report. The Academic Leadership Team will review our academic program and it will consist of Dan Kennedy, some Dept. Chairpersons, at different times when they are needed. The Academic Leadership Team will be headed up by Dr. Edmundson. They will meet on the 29th at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that SMA has some new activities. A SMA parent is starting a ham radio club. Another has started a sailing club. Golf is starting soon. All of the coaches at SMA are volunteers.

LTG Crowell congratulated Dan Kennedy for his comprehensive report and that it was the best one in 7 years.

LTG Crowell reminded the Board that the Committee Teams needed to publicize their meetings.

Audit Committee: Mr. Jones said that he is awaiting the auditor's report. He would like to call on different Board members at different times depending on the subject area.

The Long Range Planning Committee is chaired by Dr. Windom who will report at next meeting.

The Charter Review Committee will pass today due to the resignation of Mr. Robinson.

The Development Committee is chaired by Woody Wolverton. He mentioned that he has a lot of friends to work on this with him. He thought that SMA could have a golf tournament and that could earn approximately \$20,000 next summer.

The Alumni Committee: is chaired by Elke Olee. Elke had a book for everyone to sign at the open house and she is starting a SMA Face Book account. Elke mentioned that our school has been invited to Wreaths Across America.

New Business:

LTG Crowell would like to address some ideas on fundraising.

Mr. Jones went to the SMA Interact Club that was held here and was very impressed.

LTG Crowell visited Culver Military Academy and met with the Headmaster there. One of the things Culver tries to do is to get students to do what is right because it is the right thing to do.

Christina Bowman, Grade Level Administrator mentioned that SMA is initiating the Positive Behavior Support System. She is working on getting this in place. This is also for faculty and staff.

Next meeting will be October 15th at 2:00 p.m.

General Board discussion on the new financial format; LTG Crowell showed Col. and Mrs. Cork an easier to follow financial format.

Woody Wolverton discussed how important etiquette and courtesy is in our society. Acclamation proposal for the Headmaster to accept the etiquette test from Woody Wolverton.

Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wolverton seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 3:45.

LTG Howard Crowell, Chairman

Dr. Celia Edmundson, Secretary

