

# Sarasota Military Academy

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2011

#### **Board of Director Members in Attendance:**

LTG Howard Crowell, Jr., USA (Ret), Chairman  
Mr. Herb Jones, Vice Chairman  
COL Ben Knisely, USA (Ret), Member  
Mr. Woody Wolverton, Member  
Dr. Celia Edmundson, Secretary

#### **Board of Director Members in Attendance via Speaker Phone:**

Mr. Fred Derr, Treasurer

#### **Board of Director Members Absent:**

Mr. F. Steve Herb  
Mr. Ron Ciaravella, Member

#### **SMA Executive Staff in Attendance:**

Mr. Dan Kennedy, Headmaster  
BG Frank Laudano, Commandant of Cadets  
Col. Bill Brockman, Director of Operations & Board Liaison

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Mr. Kennedy introduced new faculty and staff as well as visitors, Katrina Ward, District Charter School Liaison, and George Kennedy, her temporary assistant.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of June 23, 2011. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Knisely seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

Mr. Derr stated that there was a small financial loss in July because SMA was paid for 792 cadets instead of 835. Current assets to current liabilities are at a ratio of 2.28:1.

BG Laudano reported the financial history July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011. Mr. Kennedy stated projections came out better than originally forecasted. Chairman Crowell made a motion to accept the financials as presented; Mr. Knisely seconded and the amended budget was approved.

BG Laudano then presented the proposed budget for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. General discussion followed. Chairman Crowell made a motion to accept the financials as presented; Mr. Knisely seconded and the proposed budget was approved.

Mr. Derr complimented BG Laudano on a job well done.

**Headmaster's Report:**

1. Net FTE of 835 is expected. Approximately 23 cadets will attend Sarasota County Technical Institute and approximately 21 cadets will attend State College of Florida to include eight fulltime and two or three part time. Generally a departure of 10-15 cadets during the first two weeks is expected. There are more than 100 students on our waiting list for this school year. There are 84 gifted cadets enrolled this year. One cadet received a perfect FCAT score and will be recognized at morning formation.
2. AP dual enrollment book costs are up to \$140 per book. The option of electronic readers is being considered and the District is arranging for books to be downloaded to student's personal electronic devices.
3. Bus accident on 11 December 2010. One of the residents of Casa Santa Marta, Thomas Paine, has brought a lawsuit against SMA. He walked into the bus and the police report does reflect the pedestrian is at fault. The insurance company does have a copy of the police report.
4. The Scholl is now affiliated with FHSAA (Florida High School Activities Association) in Lacrosse and Soccer. Golf and Cross Country should be added next school year.
5. Pam Donehew is in rehab due to her back surgery and will be out another two or three weeks.
6. Faculty/Staff Insurance. SMA will be offering dental insurance but will not be paying the premium. Basic life insurance is being offers all employees for a cost of \$3,000. Staff will be advised tomorrow. The staff was given a choice of furlough days or decrease in benefits and they chose the decrease in benefits.

Discussion followed regarding offering salary increases to teachers of 3%, after the first semester evaluation of financials. Mr. Knisely stated he does not want to take anything else from teachers if the District isn't. Mr. Jones stated that there maybe a downturn and SMA should be building up reserves.

7. The District is meeting this month regarding moving capital funds from charter schools next year. This has a destabilizing impact on charter schools and he would like to see legislative action to fund charter schools equally with district schools. Charter Schools receive 30% of what other schools receive, and this may be eliminated. Mike Bennett is pursuing legislative action.

**Audit Committee Report:** No Report.

**Academic Leadership Committee Report:** No Report.

**Development Committee Report:**

SMA Foundation formation. Mr. Knisely gave a presentation to include foundation background, current actions, concept of SMA Foundation Committee, and recommendations. The hiring of Victoria Finley was discussed. Mr. Kennedy, BG Laudano and Mr. Wolverton will meet with Victoria Finley in the next two weeks to discuss her plans for the foundation which will be presented at a special Board of Directors meeting. It was discussed and agreed that Victoria Finley would receive a contract for \$15,000 compensation with a 1099 for a six-month period. Mr. Derr stated this would be the avenue by which to terminate the contact if necessary. Mr. Knisely stated an operational budget will be necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones to form a foundation committee; Mr. Knisely seconded the motion. Chairman Crowell opened the floor for nominations of a foundation committee chair. Mr. Wolverton nominated himself; Mr. Knisely made a motion to elect Mr. Wolverton as SMA Foundation Committee Chairman. Chairman Crowell seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Planning Committee Report:** No Report.

**Alumni/PTCC Report:**

Denise Spetsios represented the PTCC in the absence of Tonya Farley. She stated that SMA has 30 business partners. There is a meeting tonight and plans will begin for the Veteran's Day event. Mr. Kennedy expressed gratitude to Denise for all she has done for the SMA PTCC since 2004.

**Chairman's Report:** No Report.

**Old Business:** No Report.

**New Business:** No Report.

**Comments:**

Discussion followed regarding the next Board meeting. Chairman Crowell announced that the next Board meeting is Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The special meeting date for the development plan will be announced. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.



LTG Howard Crowell, Jr., USA (Ret), Chairman Dr. Celia Edmundson, Secretary

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