

Sarasota Military Academy  
School Advisory Council Meeting

October 20, 2009

SAC meeting joined the Sarasota Academy Prospective Student Orientation at 7:15 a.m.

The September minutes were accepted with a first motion by Major McClaugherty and seconded by Ross Moore.

**Introduction:** Power Point with several clips from FOX News, SNN 6 and WWSB 7 were shown to the families. Major McClaugherty explained Block scheduling -- eighteen weeks equal one academic school year and classes at SMA in one semester equal one credit per class.

**Headmasters Report:** Greetings to the SAC members and the prospective parents and students. Formation is everyday and this shows us "the future is in good hands". The school displays Patriotism, Community Service, Honor Code, etc. The Honor Code is very critical and should a student fail to comply, after efforts to work with said students, he/she will be asked to return to the districted school. We have a 92% college bound success rate. A watershed moment experience for SMA was a few years back when one of our cadets was chosen out from a group of students to be hired for a very prestigious local company. There were many reasons why the student was chosen, such as being on time for the interview, dressed professionally, honoring conduct, eye contact, etc. Our students deserve nothing but the best in the business and this all starts in the classroom, our facility and staff are carefully chosen. We have two lawyers teaching within our facility; our Foreign Language Dept. has five languages to offer, we offer several styles of equitation, a tenth degree black belt Martial Arts instructor in our P.E. department, fencing, bag pipes, drum line, a retired officer that teaches the Forensics Science class, Lacrosse, rifle team and much more.

**New Business:** Guest speaker Col. Steve Cork welcomed the group to SMA. Morning Formation is a key stone event. It provides structure and discipline. Formation is a great way to begin each day and as we all observed, adults do not run the formation only students do the leading. JROTC has the credo "Building Better Citizens" this is the structure of the school -- element of self esteem and self confidence. A great example is our rappelling exercise. Cadets gain self confidence and with this activity. They will look back and realize the growth for the confidence for future decision making.

**Old Business:** Major McClaugherty presented a power point explaining SMA academics and striving for good grades along with learning fundamentals for leadership skills. "SMA teaches youngsters to take pride in our country; and we ask ourselves, "What can we do better?" (Cindy Wallace, former SMA parent, during an interview with FOX News) Major McClaugherty added that we work toward success in making the right choices, with this we do not tolerate wrong decisions on our campus. Cadet Mike Martino, our Regimental Commander, gave a student perspective about SMA via video clip, and how the school has helped him grow into a leader and given him a new direction for his future. A handout was available about SMA. The same information is available on the website. Mrs. Daysh distributed paperwork for registration and directions. We were dismissed in small groups with a parent volunteers to tour the campus.

With no other further business adjournment was made by Ross Moore at 8:50 a.m. A second to that motion came from the floor from Terry Lipman.

Next meeting is on Nov. 18, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. (the third Wed.) in room 22 Minutes submitted by Gale Downs

Major Vera McClaugherty

Foreign Language Department Chair  
Sarasota Military Academy

801 North Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941)926-1700

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**From:** DOWNS GALE  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** MCCLAUGHERTY VERA  
**Subject:** SAC minutes oct.20.09 draft