

Sarasota Military Academy

School Advisory Council

January 19, 2011

**Attendance:** Terry Lipman, Dan Kennedy, Jim Young, Michael Spetsios, Rebecca Paquette, Vera McClaugherty, Debarah Conlon, Kevin Houghtaling, Kris Howard, Ashley Reyes, Nadine Neal, Kaisen Mitchell, Josh Payne.

**Meeting was called to order** by Terry Lipman at 7:42 a.m. The November minutes were accepted with first motion by Deb and seconded by Josh Payne.

**Headmaster Report:** Enrollment is flat going into the second semester. The number of students who left at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester matches the number of new students enrolling for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The rest of the headmaster's report is being put on hold due to the high volume of new business this month.

**New Business:** Col. Kennedy stated that it is SAC's responsibility to distribute funds received by the state for our recent "A" grade. He believes SMA will receive somewhere in the neighborhood of \$52,000. A disbursement proposal had been received by SAC members via email prior to today's meeting. Major Sylvia Gillotte, chairman of the English department, was in attendance to introduce the proposal she and her department initiated.

Major Gillotte pointed out that there is a phenomenal amount of extra work that the English department and other core class departments have had to do in order to reach this "A" grade. She is not trying to diminish the input from all departments at SMA, but wishes to recognize those that have gone "above and beyond" in order to see this grade attained. She proposes a percentage-based disbursement, with core teachers receiving the highest percentage. She then broke the staff of SMA into four divisions, allocating a smaller percentage to each division, beginning with those core teachers. She was thanked for her proposal, and discussion ensued. Denise Spetsios introduced a proposal brought by Deb Colon (who could not stay for the entire meeting) Deb proposes a percentage-based disbursement as well, as the staff's bonus each would receive.

Ken Cowles stated he feels that the money should be spent on the school and facilities, and not given to individual teachers and / or staff.

Josh Payne stated he feels the teachers/staff should receive the majority of the money, with some percentage (he suggested 20%) set aside for capital improvements at SMA. Ashley Reyes and Nadine Neal both stated they have seen extra efforts of the core teachers over the past two years. Other students agreed with these opinions. Denise Spetsios as well, stated that if a student has a good teacher, he is more likely to succeed, regardless of the school "grade". One less-than-adequate teacher in a great school can harm a student more than a school considered to be a "D" school. The teacher makes the difference.

Colonel Steve Cork suggested that our technology department is in great need of new computers, which he acknowledged are already on order, and at this time are set to be paid for from the general budget. They are \$1000 each, and 30 are ordered.

Ken Cowles motioned that we set aside a specific dollar amount for non-recurring capital improvements and the rest going to the staff, the same percentage to each, based on their salaries. This motion was seconded by Vera McClaugherty. More discussion continued, with this not being voted on.

Col Cork and Mr. Kenneday both wish to go on record stating they will have no opinion as to how the money is disbursed. As members of the SMA staff they request not to receive any portion of the monies, no matter how it is disbursed.

Vera McClaugherty suggested that 50% of the money goes to capital improvements at SMA and 50% goes to teachers, based on their salaries (Deb Colon's proposal). Discussion continued. It was stated that teachers should get a higher amount than non-teaching staff (which should happen if we base the amount on salaries). Joshua Payne suggested that 20% be set aside for non-recurring capital improvements, and 80% be distributed to all staff, based on salary. Kevin Nasby stated that the above proposal seemed fair, even to non-teaching staff, in his opinion.

Denise Spetsios motioned that 20% of funds be set aside for non-recurring capital improvement:80% would be distributed to all teachers/non-teaching staff, based on their salaries, with everyone receiving the same percentage bonus. Then seconded by Joshua Payne. Voted on: "for" – 10, "against" – 1 "abstained" – 1. Passed.

Colonel Kennedy commended all on the process completed.

Michael Spetsios motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:58 a.m. seconded by Joshua Payne.

Adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Recording secretary, sub: Denise Spetsios

Next SAC meeting scheduled 1/31/2011 (Monday)