

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**29 April 2025**

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1730.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, R Ott, K Palasia, G Bailey, M Orlando.  
Via zoom – None

**Staff:** In-Person: B Newman, Principal, COL B Wallace, Commandant.

Motion to Approve Agenda, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 25 March Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

Special Presentation - Discussion/Cafeteria: Ms. Melissa Gibason Cafeteria Supervisor presented issues around the purchase of equipment vs rental of equipment and brining the food service internal to the school. PCS cannot support. Next contract is up for renewal. Direct lunch costs are increasing and pass those costs along to cadets. Cafeteria loses about \$20k/year. More discussion needed.

**Public Comment: None**

**Treasurer's Report:** R Vascik. Absent. S Kidner presented WSFS statements from March. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$169,935 as of 31 Mar. Noted \$12,613 in Escrow.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. 81 Cadets signed for September. Final FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 72.34% of budget and we are about 75% into FY25. Longwood Grant application decision in about two weeks. Monies due by parents for sports and cafeteria improved. Better overall cash position. Ongoing concerns with cafeteria operations. Noted the resignation of Financial Assistant.

Motion to accept Web Report of February as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted significant increase in Spring sport participation. Discussion about teacher absences continue trending higher. Also noted high truancy rate for cadets. Meetings being held.

Law Enforcement Policy - Red-lined version submitted. Motion to accept "Law Enforcement Policy", 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported awards night will tomorrow night. R Payus attending.  
Discussion about Community Day and Ribbon Cutting for the bleachers on 17 May starting at 1000.  
Discussion about securing DE ARNG Black Hawk as static display. Mike O will lead.

**Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Planning and Development:** H Contant – Absent.

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – No Report.

**Finance/Treasurer:** R Vascik – Absent.

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Discussion about the recent Blood Drive. Coming Franklyn Institute school trip.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan – Absent.

**Facilities:** K Yencer - Bleachers – Reported tremendous progress. Millings and crushed concrete needed for underneath the stands. Noted need for some top soil. Brief discussion about Drill Pad/Expansion of the parking lot at Merrell Hall.

**CBOC:** S Kidner – Reported meeting will be held 20 May.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0 at 1828.

Motion to return to regular Board Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 6 to 0 at 1930.

No Board Action Required from Executive Session.

**Organizational Issues:** S Kidner – No Report.

Motion to adjourn Board at 1932, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 6 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 27 May 2025 at 1730