

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

28 April 2026

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1734.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, C. Martin, P Hughes, M Orlando, R Capitan, G Bailey, Via Zoom: K Palasia

**Staff:** In-Person: Mr. Blair Newman, Principal. COL Bob Wallace, Commandant, Cathrine Kubota, Dir of Curriculum.

Motion to Approve Agenda 2nd, Passed 9 to 0.

C Kubota – Discussion on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by our cadets and teachers, the use in the classroom and what policies or guidance should the school adopt in our use of AI, both by the cadets and faculty. Focus was on using AI for testable cadet work product. Concerns over validation, continuous use, loss of potential learning, etc. Discussion about returning to require hand-written tests. Potential of a survey of the faculty on their thoughts and concerns. Discussion at next Board meeting.

**Public Comment: None**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 24 March '26 Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

**Treasurer's Report:** P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Mar. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$171,386 as of 22 April '26. Deposits noted. Made contact with USDA on our "Savings Loan Acct" #509 for their automatic payments.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Total Enrollment 424. Applications at 234, with 112 students signing first year agreements (FYA). FY'26 budget presented. Expenses still trending behind budget, putting school in positive position. Noted the 50%MIP is paid and up to date. Overall financial position remains steady. Principal noted Open House events in coming schedule, 7 May at 6:00PM. Asked for approval of the '26-'27 School year Calendar, Motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0.

Motion to Accept Web Report for January as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report Attached.

Commandant's Report. Reported drill meets have finished for the year. Awards Ceremony on 30 April – with our first West Point acceptance. Noted Minute Man Challenge went very well for FSMA. No news on a new SMI for the school.

**Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Planning and Development: Open** – No Report.

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – Reported some Board website issues/payment issues. Looking for access to the back of the house on the site.

**Finance/Treasurer:** P Hughes – No Report

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Reported on FSMA taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the State for Financial Literacy this year.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan – Reported some visitors to the school for May, including the Rotary District Governor.

**Facilities:** K Yencer – Noted great job on parking lot job by George and Lynch.

**CBOC:** S. Kidner – Reported next meeting will be 21 May.

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

**Closing Remarks: Noted the retirements for three Board members this summer.**

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0 at 1859.

**Next Meeting:** 26 May 2026 at 1730