

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

24 August 2021

Moment of Silence - Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1736

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner; L Stapleford, H. Riegel, C. Martin. Via zoom: K Stark, R Capitan.

Special Guest:

Staff/Founding Committee Members: In-Person: P Gallucci

Motion to Approve Amended Agenda to include Executive Session and Facilities Report earlier in meeting, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Secretary's Report: Both 22 Jun and 27 July minutes presented. Motion to Approve minutes, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Public Comments: Yes., Mrs. Conlin and Mrs. Franciso. Both spoke about their opposition to the mask mandate for their Cadets. They both said they are representing other parents who share their concerns. They asked the Board to take some action to allow the decision to be voluntary for students and staff, or to make a public acknowledgment of the FSMA's opposition to the mask mandate. There was little discussion from the Board - other than recognizing the issues around the mask mandate, and a commitment to begin and conduct school with as few restrictions as possible.

Treasurer's Report: S Kidner. WSFS banking statements presented. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Noted minimal interest earned. Payments continue for construction work on maintenance building. Both the USDA front load check and the \$150k from the school (construction) were approved - will show up in August report. Escrow accounts remain unfunded. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2nd, passed 6 to 0.

Facilities: Chair Kevin Y absent/CM Dave McGuigan reported. Construction projects moving quickly - parking lot completed; maintenance bldg. roofed and sided, and rough-in of sewer/water; sewer issue solved with holding tank, and; old garage completely torn down and removed. Noted interior work will start soon. Contract estimates and timelines are forthcoming for interior work.

Reggie C noted all Brick Doctor, PaverArt and EP Henry work completed. Discussed some recognition for all three "Partners" at Induction Day and even on a wall in Drexel Hall.

Finance Report: Commandant Gallucci. Incomplete report and no Web Finance Report because of computer issues with the State and our contractor (POC) is backed-up. Next month will have both July and August numbers. Provided the July total expense report. Current budget - based on 490 Cadets, yet current count is 480. Discussed federal grants. No dollars remaining in Cares Act I (ESSER) and Cares Act II (ESSER II) budgets. ESSER III budgeted approx. \$722k, plan was approved by DOE, spending has not started.

Web Report was not presented.

CBOC: S. Kidner. Next Meeting will be 16 September.

Commandants Report: Report Attached. Enrollment looks to be between 480 to 485 Cadets for FY'22. Meetings are ongoing. SMI was absent - Commandant provided a review of the SLC for the Cadet Cadre and reviewed the SOC conducted in August... all went very well. Discussed the PSO meeting on 13 August and another meeting to be held by Pres. Meeks later in September. First day of school is Thursday. All grades are in by Tuesday 31 August. Also provided an update about school's telecommunication equipment and our security system. Discussed last month, both are close to end of life, with security system unable to expand. Discussed costs for replacement vs. upgrading current systems. Discussed new hardware, software upgrades. Motion to approve \$28,000 contract with OmniMaven to replace all phones and software, 2nd, passed 6 to 0.

Again discussed DOE's new "Low Enrollment Policy" and its potential impact on FSMA (high schools) versus PCA (elementary schools) and if we fail to have enough cadets - the action DOE could take towards a school. Given approval to continue his concerns with DOE, but Board Chair asked to be updated as this goes forward.

Academics - Pat G. No report.

Athletics - Pat G. No report.

Executive Session:

Motion to move into Exec. Session to discuss personnel matters and pay, 2nd passed 6 to 0 at 1858.

Motion to return to regular Board Session, 2nd passed 6 to 0 at 1927.

Motion to accept the resignations of the three teachers as noted and for reasons given, and to accept the hiring of the following four teachers for positions discussed: John Zebley, Kelly Ann Palaisa, Ph.D, Kristin Schreckengost, and Charlotte DeSilva Davis, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Committee Reports:

Communication/Marketing/Enrollment: Chair Leslie S. Update everyone on Annual Giving and potential contract with Classy - a company that supports non-profits by using websites to help raise money. Discussed pricing, capabilities and other aspects of contract. Motion to pursue contract with Classy for up to \$3900 for "Annual Giving Campaign" to commence on Induction Day, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0. Discussion about taking photos/press release for Mr. Eric Long along with Paver Art and Brick Doctor during Induction Day. Discussed live telecast of Induction Day. No update on "Graduation Snapshot".

H/R (Open): This committee shall be discontinued until call of the Chair.

Organizational Issues:

Brief mention of Board Retreat on Saturday, 16 October in the Media Center - starting at 0900.

Welfare Grant will be submitted in Fall 2021.

Closing Remarks None.

Meeting adjourned at 1940. **Next Meeting:** 28 September in Media Center.