

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

23 August 2022

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

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner; H Contant, K Stark, R Capitan, L Stapleford, R. Payus, R Ott, Via zoom: C. Martin (late)

Staff/Founding Committee Members: In-Person: L Auster Principal, R Wallace SMI

Special Guests:

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 26 July minutes, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Public Comments: Ms. Andrea Cook, former math teacher of FSMA wished to address the Board in reference to her recent leaving the school. She provided both an oral and written statements as to her specific concerns surrounding the non-hiring of her husband as Baseball Coach for last year's spring season.

Mr. Robert Cote, the Clayton Town Manager introduced himself to the Board and offered his help in any issues related to the town.

Treasurer's Report: S. Kidner. WSFS banking statements presented. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Check for frontloading USDA payments was deposited, will show up next month. Ending balance in both accounts about \$37,458. Escrow accounts remain unfunded. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2nd, passed 8 to 0.

Finance and Principal's Report: L Auster. Draft budget not ready yet, with meetings scheduled with the contractor and Administration. Cadet count at 444. Noted transportation fuel costs for FY'23 will be about \$100,000 more expensive (fuel), pushing total transportation to \$683,000. Reported \$0 remaining in Cares Act I (ESSER) and Cares Act II (ESSER II) budgets. ESSER III budgeted approx. \$323k remaining.

Lengthy discussion about 26 day pay period or 27 day pay for all teachers. Noted if moving to 27th pay, total increased funding from school will be about \$55k. Motion to have 26 pay periods + 1 for FY'23 and to use ESSER III funds, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

Discussion about TI graphing calculators for SAT prep and use. Motion to approve \$3,600 to purchase 118 calculators for Jr's, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

Noted a new math teacher hire – Mr. James Rutherford.

Discussion about two policies that need to be update/created and posted to school's website. Direction given to Principal in the creation of a "Plagiarism Policy for FSMA" to be posted in student handbook, and to have policy ready and next Board meeting. Next reviewed the lack of Suicide Prevention Policy on school's website, Motion to post school's policy on website, 2nd Passed 8 to 0. Under Academics –

discussed purchase of "Delta Math" program to help support cadets in math and improve scores. Motion to approve purchase of Delta for \$900, 2nd Passed 8 to 0. Finally discussed purchasing Dyslexia Wilson and Calculus in both digital and book formats for AP classes. Motion to approve \$12,000 for these programs, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

Web Report was not presented, and both Aug and Sept will be submitted at Sept Board meeting.

Noted annual audit from Barbacane and Thorton has started.

Commandant provided brief overview of various events with SOC in August. Noted significant concerns with USMC funding delays and non-committal of re-imburement of funds in August/September if FSMA spends these dollars. Expectation FSMA will be the #1 USMC JROTC program in Region – besting 60 other schools. Award presented at Induction Day.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: Heather C – No Report.

Finance/Treasurer: Jim B. – No Report.

CBOC: Scott K – Reported next meeting to be held 15 September.

Academic: Katie S – Discussed review of state vs FSMA numbers in Math and English, and how to improve our lower scores. Noted U of D average SAT score is 1210 to 1360. Will be asking teachers for projects that we can highlight. Will continue to work with Marketing Comm.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Still working through issues and to update By-laws to now reflect change in duties of Principal and new Commandant.

Facilities: Chair Kevin Y – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: Leslie S. – Noted to delay full implementation of branding program as we communicate teacher and student slots that remain open for this school year. Also need to Increase on-line presence.

H/R: Scott K – This committee will be adjourned until call of the Chair.

Organizational Issues: Asked Board members to complete their CBI's before next Board meeting.

Closing Remarks: None

Meeting adjourned 1930. **Next Meeting:** 27 September 2022 in St. Michaels Hall.