

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

25 February 2025

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1735

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: R Payus, K Yencer, K Palasia, M Orlando, R Capitan. Via Zoom: G Bailey (late), C. Martin

**Staff/Founding Committee Members:** In-Person: B Newman, Principal, B Wallace Commandant

**Guest(s) Present:** Mrs. Candace Decker present via video.

Motion to Approve Agenda, and to add Executive Session to discuss personnel issue was made at 1738, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 28 Jan minutes at 1739, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 6 to 0.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** R Payus led a brief discussion of the WSFS Banking Statement. WSFS banking statements in packet. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Transfer on monies from school's general account into WSFS account showing \$216,150 total. Escrow withdraw made. Noted \$1000 board member donation will post in Feb, and interest from MM account. Motion to accept Treasurer's report at 5:40, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Reported 433 total Cadets. Presently 218 applications and 49 cadets signed for '26 school year, slightly ahead of last year.

Collections on past balances rises slightly to \$20K.

Principal Newman indicated intent to apply for Dupont Longwood Foundation Grant by Feb 28. FSMA was not awarded this grant upon last application. Reattempting this application with a renewed strategy to demonstrate improvement in students' math scores through measurable attributes. This strategy recognizes the Grant's desire to show demonstrable results.

Productive discussion ensued relative to Interaction With Law Enforcement policy. Board members Martin and Capitan commented on deficiencies including: 1) Policy seems to handcuff the responding officer by restrictive language, 2) Policy fails to address responsibilities of SRO, 3) Obfuscates issues of administrative and judicial warrants.

Jan budget numbers and Final FY'25 budget in packet. Fiscal discipline is noted as spend is tracking very closely to budget.

Motion to accept Web Report of 31 Jan as presented at 1804, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

Final FY'25 budget enjoys nearly \$600k in unplanned revenue from increased revenue streams, the biggest of which was operations revenue. This represents a balance resulting in nearly 66 days cash.

Motion to accept FY'25 Final Budget at 1809, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

“Dashboard”. Report attached and reviewed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Planning and Development:** H Contant was not in attendance. No report. Noted that R Capitan has brought five visitors within the last month. R Payus noted intent to resume the project with H Contant at the earliest availability.

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus - No report.

**Finance/Treasurer:** R Vascik not in attendance. Treasurer's report as above.

**Academic:** K Palaisa - Forensic Science Pathway approved! Only school in Delaware with CTE forensics pathway.

Presented the newly formatted Bulldog Newsletter that is being distributed weekly.

Organizing a career fair for Apr 10 focusing on occupational trades.

Organizing a carnival at school. Seeing to market this is a 10-year celebration.

Seeking to put remaining garden grant money to use.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan - Reports that he has laid the groundwork for WSFS Cares grant, and that it is time to submit the application. A discussion of the amendment to the bylaws to establish an endowment fund ensued.

Motion to approve the amendment to FSMA BOD bylaws establishing an endowment fund at 1829, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

**Facilities:** K Yencer. Regarding bleacher project, footers to be dug this weekend. Inspection needs to be done in preparation for concrete pour. Message from Kinder that drill pad is paid for.

**CBOC:** S Kidner - absent. Net CBOC meeting is Mar 20.

**Executive session:** R Payus - Motion to move to executive session at 1839, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

Motion to exit executive session at 1851, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0>

Not action taken in executive session requiring board approval.

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

Motion to adjourn Board at 1851, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 25 Mar 20245 at 1730