

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

24 February 2026

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1732.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, T Wilson; Via Zoom: K Palasia, G Bailey, P Hughes. R Ott, M Orlando

**Staff:** In-Person: Mr. Blair Newman, Principal. COL Bob Wallace Absent.

Motion to Approve Agenda with Executive Session, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

Motion to Approve Theresa Wilson as the Parent Board Member, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Candace Decker spoke about the recent FSMA Bulldog Classic Drill Meet and how well it went, and the level of competition.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 27 Jan '26 Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 Yes, 1 Abstention.

**Treasurer's Report:** P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Jan. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$218, 165 as of 31 January '26. Noted one payment of \$185 to Project Manager for expense reimbursement. Still working with USDA to withdraw from our "Savings Loan Acct" #509 for their automatic payments. Account ending in XXX 110 has been closed.

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 201, with 52 students signing first year agreements (FYA). FY'26 budget presented. Noted we have spent approx. 54.71% of budget but at 54% of the fiscal year... trending behind. Still due from Districts of \$129k which has not been paid, but all final payments were due in December. Noted the 50%MIP is paid and up to date. Overall financial position remains steady.

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

Principal noted Open House held on 18 February. Radio ads were played, but when asked of the parents attending only 2 families raised their hands. It did not seem to work in driving attendance. Discussion about how to penetrate our demographics. Discussed future events to include PSAT and SAT in early March.

"Dashboard". Report Attached. Still had a number of student absences.

Commandant's Report. B Newman reported next drill meet at Seaford HS on 28 Feb. No other items for discussion.

**Committee Reports:**

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

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

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

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Reported that her forensic class took a tour of the DAFB Port Mortuary recently. Noted recent Blood Drive had over 40 donors. Noted participation in Skills Team USA and that leadership event. FSMA will be taking 3 Cadets to compete.

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

**Facilities:** K Yencer – Brief discussion about snow removal this past weekend, and interior work to include rubber flooring for the pole/flex building, and other costs. Kevin will review our total costs spreadsheet before submittals.

**CBOC:** S. Kidner – Next CBOC will be held on 24 March

**Motion for Executive Session at 1816 to discuss two legal matters, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Passed 9 to 0.**

**Motion to Return to regular Board meeting at 1838, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Passed 8 to 0.**

No action required by Board.

**Organizational Issues:** S Kidner – Brief discussion noting the hiring of Tice Consulting to help with the capital campaign for the flex building. Again, welcomed Theresa Wilson to the Board.

**Closing Remarks:** Ryan P noted that P Hughes and T Wilson need some board training and to get with K Kubota to schedule. Some additional discussion about how to reach more people about the school, YouTube, Facebook, Tik Tok, and how to engage our alumni.

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1841.

**Next Meeting:** 24 March 2026 at 1730