

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

25 January 2025

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1731

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, K Palasia, R Ott, R Capitan, H Contant  
Via zoom – G Bailey

**Staff:** In-Person: B Newman, Principal, COL B Wallace, Commandant.

Motion to Approve “Revised” Agenda, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 17 December Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 to 0.

**Public Comment:** Brief remarks from Candace Blackwell parent of a FSMA Cadet.

**Treasurer's Report:** R Vascik. Absent. S Kidner presented WSFS statements from December. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Noted Ron Vascik donation of \$1000. Noted \$11,609 in Escrow.

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. Enrollment shows 201 applications. Running ahead of last year. 23 Cadets signed for September. Draft FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 50.5% of budget and we are about 50 into FY25. Ongoing need to raise some additional revenue for coming year. Deposits owed by parents (uniforms, computers, SOC, and meals) improved slightly with some \$16,000 collected from the \$95,000 approx. owed. Discussion about late fee letter issued in May for non-payment, a \$75.00 late charge.

Discussion about unsustainable cafeteria operations and review of purchasing own equipment. Board asked Principal to begin work-up on the project.

Motion to accept Web Report of 31 December as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 to 0.

Presented FSMA FY '25-'26 School Year Calendar for review and vote. Motion to accept next year's School Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

“Dashboard”. Report attached. Noted almost 100 cadets in Winter sports to include MCJROTC events. Higher than normal absentee rate for teachers continues.

Bleachers – Blair N provided update delivery of bleacher components has started. More to be transported from Sussex Vo-Tech. Discussed again breakdown of fundraising, to include the use of this year's MCI monies and the Steele money (\$50,000) coming to the school directly. The Board must raise approx. \$15,000 to fund this outside of MCI, Steele, and golf money. Steele money received by mid-Feb. and remaining Board money in by 1 March.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported next year will be the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USMC and signed the contract with Balley's for next Fall. Will seek some additional funds to support the higher costs at Balley's/Dover Downs.

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss cadet discipline and personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1835

Motion to return to regular Meeting Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0, at 1900.

Motion to handle the personnel issue of a former employee discussed in Executive Session by letter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0. No action required on Cadet issue.

**Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Planning and Development:** H Contant – No Report.

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – Discussion about FSMA Flag designs and final versions submitted. Motion to accept “Bull Dog with Crest and white background, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0. Will be sent back to Cadets for final changes and camera ready art-work.

**Finance/Treasurer:** R Vascik – Absent.

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Discussion about Federal/Approved CTE programs that can be utilized by FSMA. More to come at next meeting.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan – Reported he will be sending out the Trust/Endowment Language for action at next month’s meeting.

**Facilities:** K Yencer - Noted the plans have been submitted to the Town of Clayton for review... he has pulled a license to work this project. Larry M will get the approvals. Reggie offered he will be seeking support for the Drill Pad from WSFS giving program.

**CBOC:** S Kidner – Reported meeting was held in January, with focus on “75 Days Cash” issue.

**Organizational Issues:** S Kidner – Change the April Board Meeting to the 29<sup>th</sup>... NOT the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion to adjourn Board at 1925 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 6 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 25 February 2025 at 1730