

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

27 January 2026

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1736.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

Board Members Present: In-Person: None. Via Zoom: S. Kidner, R Payus, M Orlando, K Yencer, K Palasia, C. Martin (late), G Bailey, P Hughes

Staff: In-Person: None. Via Zoom: Mr. Blair Newman, Principal. COL Bob Wallace, Commandant

Motion to Approve Agenda with Executive Session, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Public Comment: None.

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 16 Dec Minutes 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Treasurer's Report: P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Dec. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$243,265 as of 31 December '25. Noted one payment of \$1691 to the Principal for reimbursement. Still working with USDA to withdraw from our "Savings Loan Acct" #509 for their automatic payments.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2nd Passed 8 to 0

Principal's Report: B Newman. Submitted. Total Enrollment 424. Applications at 184. Final FY'26 budget presented. Noted we have spent approx. 48.31% of budget but at 50% of the fiscal year... trending behind. Noted remaining due from Districts of \$296K not been paid, but all final payments were due in December. Discussion about what if they do not pay. Noted the 50%MIP is paid and up to date. Overall financial position remains steady.

Motion to Approve the Final FY'26 Budget, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

Motion to Accept Web Report for December as presented, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

Principal noted we have an Open House on 28 January. However, given bad weather and ice... and school closed so far this week, it was cancelled. Radio station said they will run our ads again for the 18 Feb date. Discussed we have one resignation for June – a math teacher who will be moving to Brazil. Noted two appointments – Alex Carter for Dean of Students, and Curt Thomas for Driver Education effective June 2026.

"Dashboard". Report Attached.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported next drill meet at DMA is scheduled for 31 Jan., but may get cancelled because of snow/ice. Offered his initial observations of our new 1st Sgt MI that came aboard in Jan. We now have 6 full time MI's.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: Open – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – No Report.

Finance/Treasurer: P Hughes – No Report

Academic: K Palaisa – No Report.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Absent.

Facilities: K Yencer –Waiting for DelDOT to provide the “Notice to Proceed” to the school. Paving will most likely not get done until Spring '26.

CBOC: S. Kidner – Next CBOC was held and overall fiscal health of the school is good. Discussed reaching out to Tice Consulting again to run the Sports Flex Building project this spring. Max pricing of \$5000. CBOC next meets in March.

Motion for Executive Session at 1820 to discuss a personnel and legal matter, 2nd , Passed 8 to 0.

Motion to Return to regular Board meeting at 1844, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

No action required by Board.

Organizational Issues: S Kidner – Brief discussion again about Board slots open and getting interviews done in Feb.

Closing Remarks: None

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2nd Passed 8 to 0 at 1846.

Next Meeting: 24 February 2026 at 1730