

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

27 July 2021

Moment of Silence - Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1733

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner; L Stapleford, K Yencer, J Berg. Via zoom: L Gratteri, H. Riegel, K Stark (late), V Watson.

Special Guest: Ms. Hope Rugelumira

Staff/Founding Committee Members: In-Person: P Gallucci

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

Secretary's Report: 22 Jun minutes not presented.

Introduction of Ms. Hope Rugelumira to the Board, replacing Ms. Stacey Clark who left in January '21

Public Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: J Berg. WSFS banking statements presented. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Noted minimal interest earned. Payments (on a 30 day pay) continue for construction work on maintenance building and parking lot. Both the USDA front load check and the \$150k from the school (construction) are awaiting DOE approvals. Total in both accounts approx. \$207,000. Escrow accounts remain unfunded. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2nd, passed 8 to 0.

Finance Report: Commandant Gallucci. Final review of FY21 budget - based on 458 Cadets with all revenues accounted for. Local revenue funds show \$1.305m for the year and is complete. Spending is complete at 100% for FY '21 budget. Spending for June was approx. \$196,707. Highlights include transportation costs and fall sports supplies. Noticeable increase in student activities that includes graduation and prom. Also purchased 120 new Chromebooks in FY'21. Discussed federal grants. No dollars remaining in Cares Act I (ESSER) and Cares Act II (ESSER II) budgets. ESSER III budgeted approx. \$722k, plan was approved by DOE. Outlook has risen to approx.. \$2.090m. 75 days cash has been met.

Web Report presented, Motion to approve Web Report, 2nd passed 8 to 0.

CBOC: S. Kidner. Noted number of the same items as reported by Commandant on spending. Overall position of the school financially is strong. Next meeting will be 16 September.

Commandants Report: Report Attached. Enrollment looks to be between 485 and 490 Cadets for FY'22. Meetings are ongoing. SMI was absent - Commandant provided a review of trips and events to include coming SLC for the Cadet Cadre and then SOC for incoming new Cadets in August. Frist day of Fall sports will be 16 August. Also provided some concerns with the school's telecommunication equipment and our security system. Both are close to end of life, with security system unable to expand. Discussed costs for replacement vs. upgrading current

systems. Will return next month to provide options/costs on both security and telephone systems.

Finally, discussed DOE's new "Low Enrollment Policy" and its potential impact on FSMA (high schools) versus PCS (elementary schools) and if we fail to have enough cadets - the action DOE could take towards a school.

Academics - Pat G. No report.

Athletics - Pat G. No report.

Executive Session:

Motion to move into Exec. Session to discuss personnel matters and pay, 2nd passed 8 to 0 at 1831.

Motion to return to regular Board Session, 2nd passed 8 to 0 at 1859.

Motion to accept the resignations of the three teachers as noted and for reasons given, and to accept the hiring of the following teachers for positions discussed: Jehnai Aikens, Tasha Jackson, Jennifer Tuppeny, Teresa Tridente, Dr. William Kroen, and Katy Handschuh, 2nd passed 8 to 0.

Discussed the potential of a one-time bonus pay of \$1000 for all staff and teachers at school. Will be presented at August Board meeting.

Covid:

Chair opened discussion about FSMA Opening Strategy as it relates to Covid, with intentions to open without any restrictions, except for bus travel and to maintain our sanitizing protocols. Commandant reported the finding of the parent survey that indicates almost 100% open without restrictions. Noted however, the sample size was very small, even though parents were informed of school's intention to open w/o restrictions in the survey. Commandant then reported teacher responses indicating 50-50 split as to mandatory mask wearing. However, teachers are clear students must be full-time in the classroom and hybrid was unacceptable.

Consensus was to maintain our current policy, examine the SLC and SOC programs in August, and to potentially hold a "Special" board meeting on 17 or 18 August to make any final adjustments for opening school, with or without any restrictions.

Committee Reports:

Communication/Marketing/Enrollment: Chair Leslie S. Update everyone on Annual Giving and starting at Induction Day. Will create a booth or table to get parents informed. Discussed various contact means including emails. Will work on the pieces for August meeting. No update on "Graduation Snapshot" completed.

Facilities: Chair Kevin Y. Construction projects moving quickly now - parking lot completed except for bumpers. Framing of maintenance bldg. started. Sewer issues and potential "wet tap" for building. CM Dave McGuigan reported on a couple of details of the projects so far to

date and issues remaining. Also discussed HITT locker concrete pad was placed near Swagger Hall and getting a quote for demo of garage. Painting completed on Morrell Hall and St Michaels.

H/R (Open): This committee shall be discontinued until call of the Chair.

Organizational Issues:

Discussed seeking a one-day Strat Planning Session/Retreat with Board and School Leadership in August. More details to come. Welfare Grant will be submitted in Fall 2021.

Closing Remarks None.

Meeting adjourned at 1952. **Next Meeting:** 24 August in Media Center.