

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

25 March 2025

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1730.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, K Palasia, R Capitan, H Contant, G Bailey, M Orlando. Via zoom – None

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

Motion to Approve Agenda, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 25 February Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 to 0.

**Public Comment: None**

**Treasurer's Report:** R Vascik. Absent. S Kidner presented WSFS statements from February. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$192,560 as of 28 Feb. Noted R Payus donation of \$1000. Noted \$12,613 in Escrow. Noted Board check in the amount of \$15k to be sent to school to support bleacher project.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. Enrollment shows 260 applications. 73 Cadets signed for September. Final FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 65.4% of budget and we are about 66% into FY25. Discussion about Longwood Grant application submitted seeking \$300k for the Math Dept. Will require \$150k match each year from school for two years. Monies due by parents improved again to some \$20,000 collected.

Discussion about unsustainable cafeteria operations. Contractor provided quotes showing purchase of new equipment vs. rent. No difference in costs to school.

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

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted significant increase in Spring sport participation. Higher than normal absentee rate for teachers continues. Also noted high truancy rate for cadets. Meetings being held.

Law Enforcement Policy - Discussion delayed until next month.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported awards night will be 1May 2025 at the Flag Pole at 1800. Asked for Board Rep to participate.

**Committee Reports:**

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

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – No Report. G. Bailey reported he brought a visitor to the school and went well.

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

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Discussion about 10 year Recognition Day. Selected Saturday 17 May. Seeking support from DE Army Guard. Also recognize sponsors and conduct a “Ribbon Cutting” for the bleachers. Potential time from 1000 to 1300.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan – Reported Law Enforcement language will be ready for next month. Also reported work continues with WSFS Foundation on a tour.

**Facilities:** K Yencer - Bleachers – Reported all fabrication and welding done by Yencer Builders. Noted re-erection has begun, but wet weather has caused significant turf issues (will need repair). Noted will need some fill material and concrete pads for landings off the stands. Discussion about Drill Pad/Expansion of the parking lot at Merrell Hall.

**CBOC:** S Kidner – Reported meeting was held on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Noted overall fiscal position has improved.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1844.

Motion to return to regular Board Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1924.

No Board Action Required from Executive Session.

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

Motion to adjourn Board at 1925 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 29 April 2025 at 1730