

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

24 March 2026

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, K Yencer, T Wilson; K Palasia, P Hughes, M Orlando, R Capitan  
Via Zoom: R Payus, C Martin, G Bailey (late)

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

Motion to Approve Agenda 2nd, Passed 9 to 0.

Special Guest: Jocelyn Tice/Tice Consulting. Provided an introduction of her business and background and discussed a series of grant applications FSMA will be seeking for the flex building. Noted the Lowes Grant was submitted, with Laffey McHugh and Welfare due in April. Noted that March and April are the biggest months for grant applications.

**Public Comment: None**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 24 February '26 Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

**Treasurer's Report:** P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Feb. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$193,244 as of 28 February '26. Noted a number of deposits in-hand but not reflected in this statement. Still working with USDA to withdraw from our "Savings Loan Acct" #509 for their automatic payments.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 10 to 0

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Total Enrollment 424. Applications at 205, with 89 students signing first year agreements (FYA). FY'26 budget presented. Expenses still trending behind budget, putting school in positive position. Money from the Districts of \$129k was finally paid. Noted the 50%MIP is paid and up to date. Overall financial position remains steady. Principal noted Open House events in coming schedule, 1 and 14 April at 6:00PM. For the Open House event last month, radio ads were ineffective. PSAT and SAT were held in March.

Motion to Accept Web Report for January as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 10 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report Attached.

Commandant's Report. Added the new MI's are working out well - quickly into the groove. Reported drill meets are continuing, and the Regional will be at Dover HS. Cadet inspections will be held 1 April.

**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 on “Charter Con” and Skills USA events. Noted at Skills USA event FSMA did very well in the leadership categories. Discussion about the use of AI in the classroom and by students and policy impacts. More discussion at next Board meeting in April.

**Board Governance:** R Capitan – No Report.

**Facilities:** K Yencer – Brief discussion about parking lot and expectation they will begin in March or early April. Discussion about the Flex building and other related costs.

**CBOC:** S. Kidner – Ryan Payus reported meeting was held 19 March. Financials are steady.

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

**Closing Remarks:** None

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0 at 1847.

**Next Meeting:** 28 April 2026 at 1730