

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

28 October 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, R Ott, M Orlando, P Hughes, K Yencer, R Capitan.  
Via zoom: K Palasia, G. Bailey (L)

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

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

Special Guest – Tim Sawyer/Joe Manfre of Barbacane and Thornton. Presented this year's audit of the financial position of the school. Overall, the school is in good shape meeting or approaching standards in all financial framework categories. Noted that escrow payments were started late last year and this year noted full up-front payments made. Copies of the report were presented.

**Public Comment:** Mr. John Burriss spoke about re-starting the Leo Club here at school.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 23 Sept Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

**Treasurer's Report:** P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Sept. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. The \$12k for escrow deposited in September. Ending Balance of \$319,427 as of 30 September.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. September enrollment 424. Draft FY'26 budget presented. Currently only \$1.378m budgeted rollover for 30 June 2026. Noted we have spent approx. 24.1% of budget but at 25% of the fiscal year... trending behind budget. Noted Grant applications submitted to Fusco Foundation, but will hold for McDonald and Crystal Trust applications next year. Noted believes an additional \$512k in revenue from state despite student count lower.

Motion to accept Web Report for September as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report Attached.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported USMC Ball for 5 Nov at Bally's Dover Downs has been sold out. Noted 10 Cadets seeking support for their tickets. Money raised from Board to cover those costs.

**Committee Reports:**

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

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – No Report.

**Finance/Treasurer:** P Hughes – No Report

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Noted CTE program on 10 Oct somewhat disappointing. Spoke about trying to create a program for other schools sending their students here for leadership development.

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

**Facilities:** K Yencer – Bleachers and Concession stand are complete. Dave McGuigan reported update on parking lot. Approvals done and G&L proposal completed. All to be sent to CRF/DeIDOT for approvals.

**CBOC:** S. Kidner – CBOC next meets in November.

**Organizational Issues:** S Kidner – Still in need of a Parent Rep for the Board. Discussed the “Project Tracking Sheet” and use thereof.

Motion to Go into Executive Session for a teacher personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0 at 1841.

Motion to Return to Regular Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1920. No action required by Board.

Discussion and then motion to change dates of the November and December 2025 meeting dates, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 to 0.

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0 at 1926.

**Next Meeting:** 18 November 2025 at 1730