

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

23 May 2023

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1735

Board Members Present: In-Person: R Payus, K Yencer, R Ott, K Stark S. Kidner, R Capitan; via zoom: None

Installation of Mr. George Bailey – Board Member. Motion to accept George Bailey as a FSMA Board member, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Guest: Chuck Taylor/Chapel

Staff/Founding Committee Members: In-Person: R Wallace Commandant; B Newman Acct Principal

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 25 April Board Minutes, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Guest: Chuck Talor sought Board direction for the Chapel and his next steps to bring it back “on line” as a functioning space for the school. He will begin the process of reaching out to the community and others for support. Kevin Y will meet him to tour the Chapel determining what building issues are present and create a punch list with estimated costs.

Public Comment:

Ms. Candice Decker spoke of her concerns with the posted documents and when they are available, and seeking more information from financials that are posted.

Mr. Jeremy Leidy spoke again of his ongoing concerns with the Math Dept., and specifically the lack of available curriculum for review. Noted again his concerns with work assignments and plans for the future in the math department.

Ms. Elizabeth Colombo offered her concerns with transparency and believes the Board and the Administration is not communicating with parents. She also noted minutes were not posted and concerns with academics. She too noted her frustration with curriculum, as well as goals for the future.

Treasurer's Report: S Kidner. Presented the WSFS banking statements. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Ending balance in both accounts about \$115,882. No invoices paid or due. Receipts total \$4061, that includes Bleacher Fund and donation from Payus Family. Escrow accounts remain unfunded. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2nd, passed 7 to 0.

Principal's Report: B Newman. Reported overall financials showing increased performance and budget efforts indicate school's position has improved with an estimated \$1mm in carryover, excluding earmarked Federal funds. FY'23 Budget presented still shows some \$22,000 owed by families for the cafeteria. Noted spending reflects 80.3% at this point in budget year, but 83.3% of fiscal year is complete. Currently estimating we will now make 75 days cash this June 30th will be met. Motion to accept Web Report as presented, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Blair N then asked for some ideas about replacing the backstop net out front of the football field. Kevin Y will explore two solutions – costs on a new tall chain link fence and replacing with a stronger net.

Next, reported Cadet count at 434. 249 active applications for FY'24 school year. New cadet meetings have begun and will continue. Open House date Weds 24 May at 1800. Report Attached

Commandant provided brief overview of various events to include Senior Trip, Graduation Practice on 31 May at 1000, and the SLC and SOC dates. Report Attached.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: H Contant – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – No Report.

Finance/Treasurer: R Vascik - No Report.

Academic: K Stark – Noted her “Google Docs” for uploading all the Boards information. Also noted ongoing work around testing and AP Exams. Lack of interest in cadets and noted no strong policies for failure to take these exams. Wants to emphasize this testing as critical. Also discussed the 10 point vs the 7 point grading scale for all Cadets. More discussion at the Administrative level. Also noted the increased failure rate of freshmen and not prepared for HS.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Will be presenting update Bylaws prior to next Board meeting with vote in June. New “Board Handbook” will be presented after bylaws are completed. Broader discussion about Google Docs and how to upload these into the system. Also discussed “Meeting Owl” and its use for meetings and recordings.

CBOC: S Kidner – Next meeting will be 25 May at 1300.

Facilities: K Yencer – Will coordinate with Chuck Taylor and work up costs on backstop netting.

Motion for **Executive Session** to discuss personal matters, 2nd, passed 7 to 0 at 1914.

Motion to return to **Regular Session**, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0 at 1959. No action required by Board.

Organizational Issues: Asked Board members to finish background checks. Noted all Renewal docs are due 1 October 2023 to DOE.

Meeting adjourned 2000. **Next Meeting:** 27 June 2023 at 1730.