

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

27 May 2025

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1706.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Palasia, G Bailey, M Orlando, P Hughes. Via zoom – H Contant, C Martin (late) R Capitan (late)

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

Motion to Approve Agenda, 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 29 April Minutes 2nd, Passed 6 to 0.

Introduction and welcome/vote for Mr. Paul Hughes for joining the FSMA Board as our new Treasurer. Motion, 2nd Passed 7 to 0

Public Comment: Ms. Terresa Craig, parent of a senior, asked the Board to consider allowing her son and other Eagle Scouts to wear the "Eagle Scout Rope" for graduation. She offered the honor for all scouts to obtain this rank and included seeking permission for any Girl Scouts that achieved their similar ranking to wear that cord as well.

Treasurer's Report: R Vascik. Absent. S Kidner presented WSFS statements from April. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$145,227 as of 30 Apr. Noted \$14,617 in Escrow.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2nd Passed 9 to 0

Principal's Report: B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. 91 Cadets signed for September. Final FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 82.3% of budget and we are about 83.3% into FY25. Longwood Grant application was denied noting our outcomes were not strong enough. They also cited uncertainty as to how we would match the grant. Ongoing concerns with cafeteria operations and noted little options available without significant grant support to purchase equipment.

Offered his thanks for a great Community Day on 17 May, and recognized Kelly P and Kathleen S for their outstanding efforts. Estimated 250-300 members of the public attended. Also discussed 2nd Annual Golf Tournament scheduled for October has started.

Motion to accept Web Report of February as presented, 2nd, Passed 9 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted another significant increase in teacher absences. Also noted high truancy rate for cadets. Meetings being held. Discussed if the location of the cadet had any impact on attendance... ie. If they live father away, they tend not to attend. There is no correlation between attendance and distance.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported awards night went very well. Noted \$1.4mm in scholarship award monies. Reported FSMA attendance at Police Chiefs Assoc meeting/School Presentation.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: H Contant – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – No Report.

Finance/Treasurer: R Vascik – Absent.

Academic: K Palaisa – Discussion about Community Days and support from the Rotary Club for their strong support.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Reported WSFS representatives visited campus last month after long effort to get it scheduled.

Facilities: K Yencer - Absent – Blair N Reported some top soil is needed, but all work done. Inspections are set to be completed Friday. S Kidner reported drill pad funding still getting worked.

CBOC: S Kidner – Reported CBOC met last week, and numbers remain consistent. Unclear on 75 days cash position, however.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, 2nd Passed 9 to 0 at 1750.

Motion to return to regular Board Session, 2nd Passed 8 to 0 at 1931.

Motion to present new approved Principal Contract to Mr. Blair Newman for FY'26 and out-years, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0. Board Chair will meet with Principal as soon as practical to allow time for discussion if needed.

Organizational Issues: S Kidner – No Report.

Motion to adjourn Board at 1934, 2nd Passed 8 to 0.

Next Meeting: 24 June 2025 at 1730