

## First State Military Academy Board Meeting 27 October 2020

Moment of Silence - Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1736

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner; L Stapleford, H Reigle, R Capitan, J Berg, K Yencer, L Gratteri, V Watson Zoom: K Stark,

**Staff/Founding Committee Members:** In-Person: P Gallucci, COL B Wallace; Zoom: S Clark.

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

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

**Public Comments:** First speaker (via zoom) was Paul Collier, FSMA teacher. He spoke of his concerns about going to Hybrid at 50%, noting the lack of time to plan, concerns over risk to teacher safety, and other public health factors and the coming flu season. He asked for a delay until January '21.

Second speaker (via zoom) was Ms. Sarah Unruh, FSMA teacher. She offered her concerns over timing and this is too fast to plan, and just learned of this plan last Friday. Also noted her concerns with safety.

Third speaker (via zoom) was Board member Katie Stark. She spoke on behalf of 2 teachers who could not attend, but indicated their concerns with moving to 50%, and concerns over health and safety. She noted concerns CDC issues. She then offered some teachers support 50% plan. Also noted concerns with "hall" duty, no teacher input until late, and need for more planning time.

Fourth speaker was a letter submitted by a parent Ms. ToniAnn O'Leary, as presented by Reggie C, seeking to expand our number of Cadets and offering her ideas for a more cadets in the building.

No other comments - Public Comment Period was closed.

**Treasurer's Report:** WSFS banking statements for Sept '20 presented. Noted ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month. Noted minimal interest earned. \$500 Board contribution was deposited. Checking account has approx. \$5,600. Escrow accounts established. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed 9 to 0.

**Finance Report:** Commandant Gallucci. Estimated revenues for FY21 are based on 441 Cadets from May count, however, unit count is delayed until 13 Nov. 2020. Current enrollment looks to be 462 Cadets so revenue numbers will increase. Local funds for year are estimated at \$1.171m, but expected to be higher next month. Spending is approx. 25% of FY '21 budget. Transportation total for FY'21 still expected to be \$570,000. Ongoing discussion about spending for PPE and other cleaning supplies. Discussion on laptops - 40 ordered and still due, ordered 20 more. Induction Day video not finished.

Web Report presented. Motion to approve Web Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> passed 9 to 0.

**CBOC:** S. Kidner. Next meeting 19 Nov. at 1:00pm, Media Center.

**Commandants Report:** Report Attached. Discussion about the Phase 2 Hybrid Plan will be held after this and Academic report.

Current enrollment at 461 Cadets and holding. Survey conducted as to our Phase 2 re-opening and 73% favor Hybrid learning, with only concerns if we implement a 33% plan vs. the 50% plan. There will be 129 families that will stay 100% remote/on-line instruction. Discussion about DE Sec of Education's visit on 20 October. Briefed the Open House for 14 Nov and creating a series of videos for future use.

SMI discussed the Marine Corps Ball set for 6 November, already approaching sold out capacity of 250 people. Regional Director expected to visit on 19 Nov. Head table discussion and guest speaker. will continue to move forward.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Academic:** Ms. Stacey Clark. Reported PSAT testing on 29 Oct. Discussed college application week for Seniors. Briefed status of grant applications and some curriculum development support, including grading for equity study and research. Look to seek about \$35,000 in new grant funding, of that \$22,000 will be used for teacher support work.

#### **Phase 2 Hybrid Model Discussion:**

Commandant briefed the plan that was provided last week to the Board. He offered his review of the efforts to keep both teachers and cadets safe; discussed some of the logistics involved in further opening school; the survey of parents; the meetings with the staff and teachers about both plans; provided the DPH "Responding to Covid in Schools" document, and finally; recommended the Board adopt the 50% Hybrid Model effective Monday, 2 November 2020.

Board discussed the concerns raised during the public comment period, as well as offered reasons to move forward. Discussion about on-line learning vs. in person and impacts on Cadets; Question about potentially delaying implementation for several weeks, and discussion around issues surrounding lack of substitute teachers to cover the classroom. After additional debate, a motion was made to adopt the Phase 2 Hybrid Model at 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed 8 yes, to 1 no.

**Communication/Marketing/Enrollment:** Chair Leslie S. Discussed ongoing Committee work on "telling our story". Offered some thoughts about the Open House and putting the final touches on the "Snapshot Card" for the Open House. Looking to expand the use of testimonials from parents and former cadets.

**H/R (Open):** This committee shall be discontinued until call of the Chair.

**Facilities:** Chair Kevin Y. and Reggie C. Reported the EP Henry Paver project completed two walkways - look great. Holding to until contact with EP Henry for a photo/ribbon cutting. Some delay in getting the farmhouse project moving. Will require some portable building to store maintenance equipment before demo begins. Discussed the painting project for Morrell and St. Michaels Hall - three bids were gained. Motion to approve up to \$7500 for the painting contract, 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed 9 to 0.

**Organizational Issues:** Annual Board Holiday Dinner set for 15 December. Asked Board members to make their dinner selections.

**Closing Remarks** None. Meeting adjourned at 1943. **Next Meeting:** 17 November 2020, 1730, Media Center.