

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**22 October 2024**

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

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

**Board Chair noticed we will be conducting an Executive Session earlier in the meeting after Principal's Report.**

**Board Members Present:** In-Person: S. Kidner, R Payus, K Yencer, K Palasia, M Orlando, R Capitan. Via Zoom: R. Vascik, G Bailey. C Martin

**Staff/Founding Committee Members:** In-Person: B Newman, Principal, B Wallace Commandant

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

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

**Public Comment:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** R Vascik. WSFS banking statements in packet. Ongoing USDA withdrawals totaling some \$24k each month continue. Transfer on monies from school's general account into WSFS account showing \$309,764 ending balance. Escrow withdraw made. Delmarva Digital invoice will show next month. Concerns about insufficient fund fees applied, trying to get those waived. Some interest made. Motion to Accept Treasurers report, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. Draft FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 25.85% which is tracking higher than last year. Ongoing need to raise some additional revenue for coming year. Discussion about the deposits owed by parents, totaling \$112,000 approx., for uniforms, chrome books and cafeteria. Letter to parents was signed and will be going out soon. Noted Golf Tournament was a great success last week. Totals indicate \$30,000 so far raised.

Motion to accept Web Report of 31 August as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 9 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted almost 100 cadets in Fall sports. No trends in cadet absences. Noted still higher than normal absentee rate for teachers.

Commandant's Report. Submitted. Offered some additional comments on loss of significant funding from the USMA totaling around \$25,000. Only \$6200 this year. Noted Raiders Meet coming up hosted by FSMA.

**Motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0 at 1806.**

**Motion to return to regular Board Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 9 to 0 at 1837. No action/vote required by Board.**

**Committee Reports:**

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

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – Noted the Clayton letter was signed and delivered. Also noted the deposit letter was signed and it will be sent to parents.

**Finance/Treasurer:** R Vascik – Discussed creating an endowment fund for the school and two different ways: Create a budget line item using same Board and EIN, but adjusting bylaws and new checking account, or creating totally separate “Trust” board that is completely new organization, with new EIN and bylaws. Discussion and recommend we pursue using internal process and adjust the current FSMA bylaws. Report next month.

**Academic:** K Palaisa – Reported National Honors Society is hosting a “Ghost Hunt” at school to raise money. Discussion they will not have to look far... Asked Board on behalf of Ms Stark, purchasing some 433 “planners” for each student. Asked for some additional details and asked if this can be brought forward next month.

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

**Facilities:** K Yencer. He offered a 80 X 80 concrete pad will be about \$15,000 in concrete and another \$4000 in wire mesh. If dirt has to be moved and forms purchased, approx.. total \$25-\$30k. Asked if the DE ARNG might be willing to lay the pad, Mike O. will seek guidance from DE National Guard.

**CBOC:** S Kidner – No Report.

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

Motion to adjourn Board at 1851, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 7 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 19 November 2024 at 1730