

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2026

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

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner, T Wilson, P Hughes, K Yencer Via Zoom: G Bailey and K Palasia, M Orlando, G Bailey, C Martin (late) R Payus (late)

Staff: In-Person: Mr. Blair Newman, Principal.

Motion to Approve Agenda 2nd, Passed 8 to 0. S Kidner noted Executive Session for legal update.

Public Comment: None

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 16 June '26 Minutes 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

Treasurer's Report: P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from June. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$94,309 as of 30 June '26. \$210 Deposit noted from R Payus covering Delmarva Digital. Noted an additional withdraw that must be re-deposited into the other account. Discussion about the front-load of the USDA loan payment in August.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, 2nd Passed 8 to 0

Principal's Report: B Newman. Submitted. Total Enrollment for September looks to be 440. Applications at 306, with 150 students signing first year agreements (FYA). We now have a waiting list. Furthest north will be Claymont this year. Most cadets are coming from the Smyrna, Ceasar Rodney and Capital School Districts.

Reported math teacher has been hired. Also noted SOC is 10-13 August. First year Cadets report 20 August and returning Cadets return 21 August. Asked for support on the FSMA Golf Tournament scheduled for 2 October/Jonathan's Landing.

Final FY'26 budget presented. Expenses remained below budget. FSMA spent 92.6% of budgeted funds with 100% school year completed. Estimated carryover to be \$2.6mm and exceeding 130 days cash position. Total revenues for FY'26 exceeded 104%, contributing to the strong cash position.

FY' 27 draft budget presented. Overall position, if numbers stay as predicted, FSMA will meet 74 days cash by June '27. This includes approximately \$400k for the pole building project, expected to be started by August 2026.

Motion to Accept Web Report for end of May '26 presented, 2nd, Passed 10 to 0.

“Dashboard”. No Report.

SMI. No Report.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: Open – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – Reported Delmarva Digital security measures are now in place on the Board’s website for donations.

Finance/Treasurer: P Hughes – No Report

Academic: K Palaisa – No Report

Board Governance: Open - No Report

Facilities: K Yencer – Discussion about the pole building – getting permits. Dave M cannot manage this project unfortunately. Discussion on getting three different quotes, and other legal issues, if applicable.

CBOC: S. Kidner – Noted July meeting did not happen, too many conflicts. Will shoot for August.

Organizational Issues: S Kidner – Reported we have Crystal Trust coming to campus in August and three other applications out for consideration.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 1830 to discuss update on a legal issues, 2nd Passed 10 to 0.

Motion to return to regular Board Session at 1849, 2nd , Passed 10 to 0.

No action necessary.

Closing Remarks: S Kidner noted we will have Mr Adam Gerber, Esq. joining us in September and Mr. Bob Killen will be replacing Kelly P as the teacher rep in August. Looking at one or two more members.

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2nd Passed 10 to 0 at 1851.

Next Meeting: 25 August 2026 – 1730