

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

26 May 2026

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1739.

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

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

Staff: In-Person: Mr. Blair Newman, Principal. COL Bob Wallace, Commandant

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

Public Comment: None

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 28 April '26 Minutes 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

Treasurer's Report: P Hughes. Presented WSFS statements from Apr. Reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Ending Balance of \$146,273 as of 30 April '26. Deposits noted. USDA should be making direct withdrawals from the appropriate account next month.

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

Principal's Report: B Newman. Submitted. Total Enrollment 424. Applications at 258, with 120 students signing first year agreements (FYA). Seeking about 150 first year students.

FY'26 budget presented. Expenses remaining below budget, putting school in strong position. Overall financial position remains steady. 75% expenditure but 83% of budget year. Easily meet 72 days cash position by 30 June 2026/end of fiscal year. Noted FSMA pay to G&L completed for their work on the parking lot and will be seeking reimbursement from DelDOT.

Motion to Accept Web Report for end of April '26 presented, 2nd, Passed 9 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report Attached.

Commandant's Report. Reported our Naval Honors Report is due Quantico in June. Believes FSMA will again be awarded a Naval Honors High School for '26-'27 School year. No news on a new Commandant for the school.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: Open – No Report.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – Reported his conversation with Delmarva Digital on expenses with Board website. Will discuss the HTTPS security standards and increased cost. Current costs run \$465/year not including new security.

Finance/Treasurer: P Hughes – No Report

Academic: K Palaisa – Reported AI survey has been sent out and seeking responses back from our teachers.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Reported again a visitor from the Children’s Beach House to the school in May.

Facilities: K Yencer – Absent.

CBOC: S. Kidner – Ryan P reported good meeting and discussed some of the financials in a bit more detail. Next meeting in June.

Organizational Issues: S Kidner – Reported the grant process is moving along nicely and another \$10,000 gift from Ms Janie Libby for the pole building.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 1826 to discuss update on a legal issue and compensation for staff and faculty, 2nd Passed 9 to 0.

Motion to return to regular Board Session at 1911. 2nd , Passed 9 to 0.

Motion to bring all staff and faculty closer to parity to the Smyrna School District pay for FY’27 school year – starting on 1 July 2026, 2nd , Passed 9 to 0.

Closing Remarks: T Wilson asked if we may expand the Open House events with Club tables and sports program representatives. S Kidner again noted three Board member retirements this summer.

Motion to Adjourn the Board meeting, 2nd Passed 8 to 0 at 1918.

Next Meeting: Change of date – 16 June 2026 at 1730