

# First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**17 December 2024**

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, R Payus, K Yencer, K Palasia, M Orlando, R Capitan, R Vascik Via Zoom: H Contant (late)

**Staff:** In-Person: B Newman, Principal, COL B Wallace, Commandant, K Kubota, Curriculum, and K Swierzbinski, Operations.

Motion to Approve "Revised" Agenda, 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to Approve 19 November Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 7 to 0.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** R Vascik. Presented statements from both Oct and Nov and reported USDA withdrawals occurring without issue. Noted some interest payment. Noted \$9606 in Escrow. No incoming deposits.

**Principal's Report:** B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. Enrollment shows 134 applications vs. 94 last year, same time period. Draft FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 43.13% of budget and we are about 42.3% into FY25. Ongoing need to raise some additional revenue for coming year. Significant discussion again about the deposits owed by parents, totaling now \$95,000 approx. To date \$11,380 has been remitted to the school. Board asked Principal to start calling parents and report back at next meeting as to success rate.

Motion to accept Web Report of 30 November as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed 8 to 0.

Presented the DOE Annual Report which is due to Del Dept of Education by early January. Motion to accept the FSMA DOE Annual Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted almost 100 cadets in Winter sports to include MCJROTC events. Higher than normal absentee rate for teachers has stabilized.

Discussion about poor turnout of parents for both the PSO meeting and Bleacher Fund meeting organized by the Principal. Discussion around engagement of parents.

Bleachers – Blair N provided update on contract signed with First State Fabrication as the cheapest price to transport and re-construct bleachers at FSMA for \$144,000. Contract is broken into two phases; First phase is to transport and stack at school, and the second phase to re-erect/build on site. Discussion

about other available funds/monies needed to complete the construction of both the stands and the drill pad. The school must raise some \$30k to fund this outside of MCI, Board funds, and golf money. Kevin Y provided additional info on footer work and costs as well as construction timing.

Motion as follows:

The Board hereby commits the following monies to support the FSF contract and the drill pad construction with \$30,000 from the golf tournament, \$15,000 from the Board account, \$50,000 plus interest from the Steele account, and up to approx. \$79,000 from school's general MCI budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

Commandant's Report. B Wallace reported next year will be the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USMC and he has approached Balley's for hosting our event next Fall. Will seek some additional funds to support the higher costs at Balley's/Dover Downs.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Planning and Development:** H Contant – Will be seeking a new date for the Vision 30 group and will ask this group to take on the Bleacher Fund project.

**Marketing/Communications:** R Payus – No Report.

**Finance/Treasurer:** R Vascik – Reported previously.

**Academic:** K Palaisa – No Report.

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

**Facilities:** K Yencer. See notes above on bleachers and drill pad. Noted the footers will be much larger than expected. Mike O noted there is no solution from the DAFB facilities engineers or the DE ARNG to help work on the drill pad.

**CBOC:** S Kidner – Reported next meeting will be in January 2025.

**Organizational Issues:** S Kidner – Endowment language will be voted upon at next Board meeting.

Discussion about the Blue Gold Liaisons and FSMA's relationship with those individuals from the US Naval Academy. Noted Board member Ray Ott is a Blue Gold Officer for the USNA.

Discussion about FSMA Flag designs and versions submitted. Noted the "Bulldog" garnered the most support. Asked the Commandant to go back to the Cadets and provide three different versions of this flag and will review in January 2025.

Motion to adjourn Board at 1901, 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 8 to 0.

**Next Meeting:** 28 January 2025 at 1730