

First State Military Academy Board Meeting Minutes

19 November 2024

Quorum present, in-person and Zoom meeting called to order @ 1737

Moment of Silence

Pledge to US Flag

Board Members Present: In-Person: S. Kidner, K Yencer, K Palasia, M Orlando, H Contant. Via Zoom: R. Payus, R Capitan (late), C Martin

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

Special Guest(s): Kendall Massett from DCSN, and Tim Sawyer of Barbacane and Thornton CPA to present our 2024 Audit.

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve 22 October Minutes 2nd, Passed 7 to 0.

Public Comment: None.

Tim Sawyer presented the finding of the annual audit of FSMA, reports presented. All aspects of the school's financial processes, programs, accounts show no discrepancies or illegal activities.

Treasurer's Report: R Vascik. No Report.

Principal's Report: B Newman. Submitted. Reported 433 total Cadets. Draft FY'25 budget and basic numbers in packet. Expenditures are about 33.68% and we are about 33% into FY25. Ongoing need to raise some additional revenue for coming year. Discussion again about the deposits owed by parents, totaling \$112,000 approx. To date \$6000 has been remitted to the school, and that deadline approaches.

Motion to accept Web Report of 31 October as presented, 2nd, Passed 8 to 0.

"Dashboard". Report attached. Noted almost 100 cadets in Fall sports. High than normal absentee rate for teachers has stabilized.

Bleachers – Blair N noted that FSMA may have an opportunity to get used "home stands" from Sussex Tech HS, but we pay for their transportation and re-erection on site. First quote from a contractor was some \$114,000. The school must raise some \$50k to \$70k to fund this outside of operational money. These costs do not include any site/concrete work for the stands once here. Discussion about how/where to seek these dollars.

Commandant's Report. No Report

Introduction of Ms. Kendall Massett from the DE Charter School Network. She offered some observations about the coming Session and specifics on completed changes to Reg 275 and HB354 (allows for preference/acceptance of dependents of currently serving or retired active and reserves

forces personnel in charter schools with a “minor modification”). FSMA will seek this change to our charter.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning and Development: H Contant – Will be seeking a new date for the Vision 30 group.

Marketing/Communications: R Payus – No Report.

Finance/Treasurer: R Vascik – No Report.

Academic: K Palaisa – Reported the CTE application will be submitted this week. Discussion about Justice Gary Trainor’s visit to the school, and his offer of having cadets visit the DE Supreme Court while in session. Kelly P then noted the intersection of her current class work and the legal exercise currently in the classroom. She will coordinate with Reggie C on this visit.

Board Governance: R Capitan – Reported his continuing conversation with Justice Trainor. See above. Also had a visitor today.

Facilities: K Yencer. Noted no solutions yet to the drill pad completion. Mike O reported that FSMA must fill out a request through DOD to seek support from the DE ARNG to do work on the drill pad. This solution is not acceptable. He will pursue additional contacts within the Guard and DAFB.

Kevin Y noted for the bleacher project, he will provide an estimate on the site work/pillars for the stands.

CBOC: S Kidner – Meeting this Thursday.

Organizational Issues: S Kidner – Reported on the endowment language created by the attorney. Overall seems acceptable with a few corrections. Noted a question as to how the money can be invested if held in FSF. Will seek some additional information. Will vote on language at Dec Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn Board at 1900, 2nd Passed 7 to 0.

Next Meeting: 17 December 2024 at 1730