

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy  
Meeting Minutes  
21 July 2020  
5:00p.m.

1. Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. Doug Downing, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mrs. Carol McCall ZOOM), Gen David Mize, LtCol Tom Shinn, Mr. Tony Staines, CW03 Ray Thombs, Mr. David Welker (ZOOM)

Absent: Mr. James Bean, Mr. Peyton Bush, Mr. John Charpentier, MGySgt Melanie Young

2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Downing; second by Gen Mize; all in favor unanimously.

3. Reports and Recommendations

- a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing gave financial report.

- i. Through May, school remains in strong financial health
- ii. Positive cash flow for the year
- iii. Performance better than budget due to lower transportation costs
- iv. Just under \$5M in cash
- v. Concern for the future given state of current funding for schools and overall budget constraints associated with pandemic
- vi. Continue to focus on donations and grants to support budget; necessary to bridge gap between state funding and budget needs
- vii. NOMMA has received \$1.346M in PPP funding, all being spent on payroll funding in compliance with established loan criteria. It appears that the PPP funding will be forgiven
- viii. Results are better than budget by \$500K mostly due to last year's budget assuming 925 students when actual was 954 and a decrease in transportation expense

- b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report.

- i. Extraordinarily busy summer for members of Administration; significant effort involved with development of school reopening plans, including various scenarios (virtual, hybrid). NOMMA participating in frequent conference calls with LDOE, LAPCS, and other schools and organizations.
- ii. Finalizing hires for this next school year
- iii. Target for October 1 is 985 students (presently at 1,074); there are 30 students with incomplete data which the staff is working to complete
- iv. PASS – Program NOMMA is planning to follow intended to reduce the amount of out-of-school suspensions. Instead we will provide

space in one of the leased classrooms across the street where the suspended students would muster during the suspension period. This will allow the cadet to remain on campus, continue academic work, and for designated staff members to mentor, monitor and facilitate the academic progress and also address behavioral issues in a constructive manner.

- v. MCJROTC camps for the summer have been cancelled due to the pandemic.
- c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
  - i. Summer School – 12 8<sup>th</sup> graders have passed, 8 are still working; 13 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders have finished, 46 are still working.

A small number of those still working will complete shortly after the school year begins; most will complete before the school year begins

- ii. 21 cadets have taken the ACT this summer; 60 cadets took the LEAP2525 this summer
- iii. Career Technical Education Summer 2020 Summary

NOMMA CTE Coordinator has been involved with the following projects:

Operation Spark – Focuses on partnering with schools to reach computer coding and software development. 7 cadets participated in month of June with 8 hours shadowing Spark employees and 8 hours of virtual site visits with Spark partner companies who have hired past Spark participants (DXC Technology, GE, Lucid)

YouthForce NOLA Summer Internship – 8 cadets participated, completing over 60 hours of soft skills and work readiness with an additional 50 hours spent with an employer partner involved in digital media, healthcare and skilled crafts with each cadet earning \$1,200.

2020 Super Summer Institute – 4 teachers attended training to earn certifications to teach industry based courses aligned to Jump Start pathways (one Computer TIA IT Fundamentals – Cyber; two Operation Stark – Cyber; one Quest for Success – All pathways)

- d. Facilities Update – Commandant gave the update.
  - i. Completed renewal of leases across street, including two additional suites, totaling 9 suites; rate for new suites remains the same as rate for previously leased suites. Renovation plans have been finalized for use of new spaces
  - ii. Cleaning company completed deep cleaning of school to include waxing of floors

- iii. Unused hallway lockers will be removed which will result in expanded hallway space
  - iv. Leveled area behind school which will provide adequate space for an obstacle course; a concrete pad was poured to provide space for an additional dumpster
  - v. Building 2 across the street was secured only for the purpose of providing additional storage area
  - vi. A new bell system is being installed in all of the school facilities/spaces
- e. Development Update– Commandant gave the report
- i. The school was invited to submit a full grant application to Selley Foundation
  - ii. NOMMA Development Consultant is revising an individual donor cultivation plan which will be disseminated to board members for approval when completed
- f. Nominating Update – Mr. Staines gave the report
- i. Mr. Joseph Cao and CWO3 Ray Thombs accepted nominations to the NOMMA Board of Directors
  - ii. Mr. Clarence Becknell declined as he is seeking his doctorate and one of his classes meets on Tuesday nights (coincides with Board Meetings). He can still advocate for the school and participate in committees as needed.
4. Old Business – Commandant provided:
- a. Campus expansion update: still in discussions with ADD.

There is a scheduled ZOOM meeting with ADD this Thursday (July 23) at 2 PM which is open to all Board Members. Currently information/data is being compiled/completed for the meeting which will include school needs/requirements.

Still unknown whether or not the Port of New Orleans is still interested in the expanded cruise ship terminal at Fed City. If so there are legal and practical considerations concerning parking, security and available remaining space for the expansion of the school (i.e., athletic/drill field, gym, additional classrooms, etc.)

5. New Business – Commandant provided:
- a. Reopening Plans: NOMMA finalized planning, courses of actions and operating procedures to guide the school under three opening scenarios: Standard (Full Return) - Classroom, Virtual (Full Remote) – All computer based or Hybrid – Combination of both
  - b. NOMMA was planning to reopen the school using the Hybrid scenario, however; since Orleans Public Schools announced earlier today they were to

begin its school year fully virtual, NOMMA is reconsidering its plan to open Virtual as well, taking into consideration that NOMMA is in the footprint of the Orleans Public School system and over 30% of NOMMA's cadets reside in Orleans Parish. Orleans Parish also stated that they will revisit the fully virtual status after Labor Day.

- c. The Commandant noted that a survey was recently concluded which queried all teachers and parents of which scenario they would prefer opening with. Results conveyed a broad spectrum of concerns with results across the board.
- d. There were various discussions among Board members concerning the pros and cons of which scenario to reopen with and possible issues if the NOMMA opened with another scenario other than Orleans Public Schools plan.
- e. The Commandant also stated that orientation will be held for faculty and students which would fully explain and cover the Virtual scenario; parents will also be provided necessary information.
- f. The consensus of the Board is that it concurred with the plan to reopen under the virtual scenario. Board voted unanimously in favor of the plan
- g. To reiterate the Commandant stated that NOMMA has the resources to supply each and every cadet an individual laptop computer with a hotspot if the cadet did not have connectivity at home. Also, NOMMA has more than sufficient technology for students and faculty to be effective under any scenario, which will also provide a seamless transition when transitioning between scenarios.
- h. After further discussion concerning when a transition could be made in the future or if NOMMA should or should not mirror what Orleans Parish is doing (which included discussion of Jefferson Parish Schools plan, which is a hybrid scenario), a motion was brought to the board:

“The Commandant will draft a letter to the parents explaining that NOMMA will reopen initially with the Virtual scenario and that NOMMA is ready to quickly and efficiently transition to the Hybrid scenario when pandemic conditions in the Orleans area improve.”

Mr. Downing moved to approve the motion; second by Gen Mize. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment: N/A
7. Remarks from Board Members: N/A
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Downing, second by Gen Mize. Motion was approved unanimously.

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Budget Meeting Minutes  
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Commandant presented the proposed 2020 Budget:

- a. Based on 960 students (target is 985, currently at 1,047)
- b. Assumes no increases in compensation for the vast majority of the existing faculty and staff (only exceptions are for increased responsibilities)
- c. Assumes a 12% rate reduction in the local portion of MFP no reduction in the state rate compared to last year
- d. ROTC instructor reimbursement revenue has been calculated based on the reimbursement percentages provided by Quantico
- e. Other public grants are based on pending amounts applied for or amounts confirmed by DOE:

IDEA	\$123,565
Title I	\$278,950
Title IIA	\$35,895
Title III - Immigrant	\$10,000
Direct Student Services	\$9,295
High Cost Services	\$254,762
GEERF	\$39,479
8g	\$8,582

- f. Grant income for school lunch program based on estimates provided by our food service consultants
- g. Operating expenses are based on last year numbers with an increase of 2.5% (inflationary factor)
- h. Additional salary expense due to the additional hiring of one ROTC instructor, 3 core hires, 2 PASS associates, one additional English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language instructor and one part-time occupational therapist
- i. Rent rates are based on current lease agreements with the additional suites from across the street
- j. Fee income is primarily from meal sales in the cafeteria based on sales from last year increased by the additional student count for upcoming year
- k. The budget provides for a positive change in Net Assets from Operations of \$380,246
- l. The budget also includes capital expenditures of \$100,000 for improvements to new classroom space, \$24,039 for the new PA system, \$13,625 for AV upgrades and \$78,260 for software

Mr. Staines motioned to approve the 2020 – 2021 Budget as presented; second by Mr. Downing. Motion passed unanimously.