

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
23 March 2021
5:00p.m.

Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. Peyton Bush (ZOOM), Mr. John Charpentier (ZOOM), Mr. Doug Downing, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mrs. Carol McCall (ZOOM), MajGen David Mize, LtCol Tom Shinn (ZOOM), Mr. Tony Staines, Mr. David Welker, Quorum present.

Absent: Mr. James Bean, Mr. Anh Joseph Cao, CWO3 Ray Thombs, MGySgt Melanie Young

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Welker; second by Gen Mize; all in favor unanimously.
2. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing made opening comments then deferred to NOMMA Finance Director to present:
 - i. Through February, school remains in strong financial health
 - ii. Positive cash flow for the year with a strong cash position (7 months)
 - iii. Financial Statements are now consolidated for several of the multiple entities created as part of the school’s construction. With eliminations between those consolidated entities, the balance sheet is now larger for property and cash. Property is now up to \$16 million with Total Assets up to \$22.5 million. The Net Asset Position has improved to \$11 million.
 - iv. Commandant reviewed several positive developments:
 1. The annual audit was completed on time and with zero findings and expressed gratitude to NOMMA’s financial team.
 2. In 2020, the school received \$1.346 million in PPP which was forgiven in January of 2021 as well as \$278k in support from the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF).
 3. In 2021, the school does not qualify for PPP, but will compete for funds from the ESSERF which are reportedly much higher than in 2020.
 4. Initial discussion of NOMMA SY 2021-22 Budget to include BESE MFP Task Force unanimous vote to recommend 2.75% increase for MFP formula, split into 1.375% increase to the unrestricted Level 1 per pupil portion of the formula and a 1.375% increase to the restricted Level 3 portion of the formula for teacher and support staff raises, \$400 and \$200

respectively, as asked by the Governor. Initial estimates of projected NOMMA revenue and expenditures were discussed.

- v. Mr. Giustiniano reviewed the plan to combine entities for NOMMA's benefit. The proposed changes will take place in May and July 2021 with the desired goal of streamlining the multiple entities down to 2: NOMMA Inc. (the school) and NOMMA Real Estate, LLC.
 - vi. NOMMA Finance Director informed the board that the school was changing payroll providers to improve service and save expense. Benefits of transition include improved employee onboarding, staff communication, employee data access, and uses a better platform for the Finance Director and HR Specialist to operate and manage activities.
- b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report.
- i. Commandant introduced two (2) new employees: security team member, Mr. Greg Cantrell, who will also be coordinating and supporting Board meetings and Operations Director, Mr. George Jacobs, USMC (Retired).
 - ii. The school returned to in person learning using a hybrid model on January 25, 2021, with 25% of students on campus on any given day.
 - iii. 70% chose to return, while 30% chose to remain virtual.
 - iv. Began school year with official count of 1,027 students and were at 998 as of 3/1/2021.
 - v. The school offered virtual open houses for prospective students. First OneApp application round closed 31 January; next round will for applicants will open in April. Overall the numbers are good, but 8th grade applications are down YOY. The school is working on an advertising campaign to increase interest to get back to former levels.
 - vi. Graduation plans are similar to 2020 with target dates of 5/21-22.
 - vii. There are no confirmed COVID cases currently, with only 3 self-isolating due to contact.
 - viii. 69% of employees are vaccinated with an expectation that there will be at least 75% by the end of the school year.
 - ix. Staff morale is strong – they appreciate the consistent communications and the school's approach to managing through the pandemic. Employee retention remains steady.
- c. JROTC continues in a modified fashion. Activities include Marksmanship competitions, Cyber Patriot (computer network defense exercise/competition) and Color Guard in support of community organizations. Approximately forty (40) cadets are scheduled to take the ASVAB test. JROTC awards will be issued this year. JROTC Regional Director scheduled to visit next week.

- d. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
 - i. 153 Cadets were enrolled in LHSAA sports.
 - 1. The school has its first JV Baseball team so that program is growing.
 - 2. There were 27 Track athletes.
 - 3. There were 21 Soccer athletes and the team finished 15th overall in 4A.
 - 4. There was good participation in Wrestling, Girls Softball as well as Boys and Girls Powerlifting.
 - ii. ACT:
 - 1. March 9th all NOMMA 11th and 12th graders were invited to take the test. 363 accepted and 353 took the test.
 - 2. March 30th all 10th graders will take the test.
 - e. Development Update– Commandant gave the report
 - i. NOMMA raised \$94,500 during the 2020 calendar year.
 - ii. NOMMA has 4 applications currently in process.
 - f. Nominating Update – Mr. Staines gave the report
 - i. Nothing to report
3. Unfinished Business – Commandant and Mr. Bush provided:
- a. Campus expansion update: ADD Board met on 3/19 and voted to approve the plan for ADD to negotiate a deal with NOMMA based on a draft term sheet. Next steps are to obtain a 3rd valuation and refine certain aspects of the term sheet.
 - b. A capital campaign along with exploring other alternatives to financing was discussed. A motion was made by Gen Mize and seconded by Mr. Welker to empower the Commandant to form a non-profit foundation to hold funds for real estate acquisition and development for the school’s expansion plans. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Reopening Plan – Commandant provided:
- a. The City of New Orleans and CDC updated guidelines allow for increased density. The school will move from 25% density (Bravo) to 50% density (Charlie) to begin 12 April 2021. There was unanimous consent among NOMMA Administration to make this change. This will be in place for 4 school weeks before end-of-year testing begins.
5. Public Comment: N/A
6. Remarks from Commandant – need to schedule 3 more Board Meetings before the end of the fiscal year.
7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Gen Mize, second by Mr. Staines. Motion was approved unanimously.