

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
6 October 2020
5:00p.m.

1. Roll call –Mr. Peyton Bush, MGySgt Melanie Young, Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. John Charpentier, Mr. Doug Downing, Mr. Tony Staines, Mr. Tom Shinn, Mr. James Bean, Gen David Mize, Mrs. Carol McCall. Absent: Mr. Joseph Cao, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mr. David Welker.
2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Downing; second by Mr. Shinn; all in favor.
3. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing gave financial report.
 - i. Commandant introduced Mr. Dennis LaFont, new director of finance and other new additions to the staff.
 - ii. End of year (June)
 1. Finished within 1% of budget on revenue and expenses
 2. Strongest cash position the school has ever had – includes \$1.36M of PPP money; we expect loan to be forgiven given it covered payroll
 3. Program efficiency: looks at revenue from state, grants and compares to expenses; historically, they have not covered expenses, and we were short again this year by about \$130K.
 - iii. Funding:
 1. Budget contemplated 960 students; currently have over 1,000
 2. Budgeted some reduction in MFP from state/local, but ended up with bigger cut (\$365 vs. budget of \$565 per student) – due to state portion of the funding.
 - a. Gen Mize asked what drove unexpected cut; previously received guidance that it would not change, but do not know what happened subsequently.
 - b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report.
 - i. Enrollment target was 985 for this year, current count at 10/1 is 1,029.
 - ii. Orientations completed for Teachers and Cadets during July/August. Teachers: small groups on campus over 2-week period. Cadets: completed in virtual environment. To comply with health and safety protocols, cadets were given a designated time in early August to pick up uniforms, class schedules, other materials on campus.

- iii. NOMMA is operating in a fully virtual mode of academic instruction as this time. Cadets/teachers working through expected initial issues associated with virtual environment transition, but have found effective rhythm in the following weeks.
 - iv. Cadets: first issue was attendance during early period; had as much as 20% not attending online on a given day
 - 1. Last week's average was 6.7%, which is comparable to last year at this time.
 - 2. Some minor discipline issues.
 - v. Teachers coming in one day a week by grade level; everyone seems to be adapting well to new schedule after weeks of training and development.
 - 1. Mr. Jeff Warner offered a few words: at NOMMA for 7 years and teaching public school in NO since 2007
 - a. Wanted to comment on the school's remarkable achievements, especially during quarantine.
 - b. Staff was called together several times during the summer to go through multiple planning contingencies – was thankful that all plans considered all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students and parents.
 - c. Commented that he thought our planning for current semester was exceptional, despite faculty reservations about changing their routine.
 - d. Cited presence of mind to provide development training for the faculty created much smoother transition to more online learning.
 - vi. Employees:
 - 1. 123 Employees on deck - most NOMMA has had in years
 - 2. Added Finance Director; pursuing HR and data resource managers.
 - 3. Title IX team in place and getting required training.
 - 4. Developing and implementing seclusion and restraint policy.
 - 5. Also implementing system to flag alarming cadet behavior while online/virtual.
 - 6. Number of LDOE deliverables due that were completed and submitted on time.
 - 7. Had approx. 150 cadets on campus today for ACT testing; next date on 10/20.
- c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
- i. Professional development: had 160+ hours of professional development in Aug/Sep.

1. Numerous reports from faculty members on the quality of development program.
 - d. Development Update – Commandant gave the update.
 - i. Challenging time for school fundraising – were declined grant requests from Rosa Mary; Freeman foundation and Baptist Communities
 - ii. Should get small grant from Cox Community Grant and have a number of pending grant requests.
 - e. Facilities Update – Commandant included in General update.
 - i. Renovation of two additional rental suites in Annex (Parking garage) is nearing completion.
 - f. Nominating Update – Mr. Staines gave the report
 - i. Mr. Clarence Becknel was unable to join the Board due to scheduling conflicts.
 - ii. Mr Thombs and Mr. Cao joined.
 - iii. Mr. Staines and Ms. McCall have been working on a Board handbook to frame Board member roles and responsibilities; plan to implement when complete.
4. Old Business:
- a. Campus expansion update (Gen Mize): We are making progress through several meetings, including with community advocate, to discuss strategy and approach to reaching an agreement with ADD
 - i. Dinner meeting with ADD representatives on 23 Sep.
 - ii. Additional meeting between ADD Board Chair and Community rep held on 25 Sep to discuss campus expansion efforts and alternatives for securing the land.
 - iii. ADD has made clear they cannot/will not give land for free, but there may be possibility of other arrangement that would get NOMMA additional funding to offset cost of the land.
 - iv. Critical to get land secured, either through purchase or long-term lease, for certainty of fundraising (need to have a plan to show prospective donors).
5. New / Unfinished Business:
- a. Pupil Progression Plan (Principal): required for all schools to submit. Three changes:
 - i. No longer have to provide, but we may provide, summer school
 - ii. May waive community service hours as graduation requirement
 - iii. Must pass quarters 2 and 4 to pass a course
 - iv. **Motion to accept revised PPP by Gen Mize, second by Mr. Cao; motion approved unanimously.**

- b. New Policy for COVID Protection: Louisiana ACT 9 and BESE requirements requires schools to adopt policies regarding health and safety regulations, including Interim COVID-19 Return to School Campus Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures. NOMMA's policy drafted, revised, reviewed and approved by counsel, and finalized; **Motion to approve by Mr. Cao, second by Mr. Charpentier; motion approved unanimously.**
 - c. School re-opening plan discussion (no vote required):
 - i. School currently in fully virtual environment.
 - ii. Cannot return this semester with all students, so considering hybrid plan with smaller subset of cadets attending on campus each day
 - iii. Will not return before October 26th because staff needs time to finalize plan and implement.
 - iv. Survey completed by parents to collect relevant information re preferences and other data
 - v. Hybrid model presented with explanation from Asst Principal
 - vi. Will most likely transition to hybrid model
 - 1. This plan provides best mix of in person vs. virtual, and also gives teachers sufficient time to prepare lesson plans for both different learning environments.
 - 2. Commandant and staff will make decision within next week and inform the Board – Board provided approval to do so.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Remarks from Board Members: None.
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Staines, second by Mr. Shinn. Motion was approved unanimously.