

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
28 April 2021
5:00p.m.

Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. James Bean, Mr. Doug Downing, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mrs. Carol McCall (ZOOM), MajGen David Mize, LtCol Tom Shinn, Mr. Tony Staines, MGySgt Melanie Young, Quorum present.

Absent: Mr. Anh Joseph Cao, Mr. Peyton Bush, CW03 Ray Thombs, Mr. John Charpentier, Mr. David Welker

Note: CW03 Ray Thombs has moved out of the area and has resigned from the board.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Staines; second by Mr. Downing; all in favor unanimously.
2. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing made comments; NOMMA Financial Director gave report:
 - i. Through March, school remains in strong financial health
 - ii. Positive cash flow for the year is strong. Cash position represents approximately 7 ½ months of average operating expenses.)
 - 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 \$23 million. The Net Asset Position has improved to \$11.7 million.
 - b. General School/MCJROTC Update – Commandant provided the report.
 - i. The school is open in “Charlie” protocol. This entails 50% of those cadets who chose hybrid option to be on campus on any given school day. This results in a cadet being on campus for in-person instruction 2 to 3 days per week. Transition to “Charlie” protocol allowed for an entire week of additional instruction to be added to the calendar.
 - ii. Of note, at the beginning of this semester, 70% of cadets/families chose to return, while 30% chose to remain fully virtual.
 - iii. The school hosted a visit from Dr. Vallas and members of Arkansas Charter School support organization. This group is planning to open a military-style charter school in Arkansas.
 - iv. The school hosted a visit from members of Iberia bank, including James Reiss, Hunter Hill and Cleland Powell.

- v. Graduation plans are similar to 2020 with target dates of 5/20-21.
 - vi. There are no confirmed COVID cases currently.
 - vii. Approximately 75% of employees are vaccinated.
 - viii. JROTC Regional Director visited the school and was impressed. NOMMA is requesting additional Marine Instructors to support increased and sustained student count.
- c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
- i. LEAP testing begins the second week of May. We are planning in person testing at the school for 350 cadets per day.
 - ii. ACT: Ms. Long explained that ACT testing scores for those cadets that entered NOMMA as part of our first 8th grade class were 1.5 points higher than those that entered later.
 - iii. TOPS: 56 students have earned TOPS.
 - iv. 59% of cadets graduating have earned industry credentials.
 - v. 5 cadets are doing internships and 15 will this summer.
 - vi. ASVAB testing
- d. Facilities
- i. We are doing a thorough COVID cleaning of the facilities.
 - ii. Debris from burned building will be removed this month.
- e. Development Update– Commandant gave the report
- i. We submitted a request for a \$30,000 grant to New Schools For New Orleans to help with Summer School.
- f. Nominating Update
- i. Board Member Mr. Ray Thombs has moved and resigned from the board due to moving out of state.
 - ii. We now have 13 members of the board.
3. Unfinished Business
- a. Campus Expansion Update.
 - i. Troy Carter won the runoff for congress and will be leaving the ADD board. Expect an interim chair to be named.
 - ii. There was a difference between the two appraisals for the property that we are looking at. A third appraisal may be needed.
4. New Business
- a. NMTC Wind Down Transaction and Organizational Realignment
 - i. Jacob Capraro, attorney, explained the board resolution to remove ancillary entities, simplify and reduce expenses. The resolution authorized the dissolution or merger of entities no longer needed after the completion of the New Markets Tax Credit Transaction. He also explained that Col Ebbert is authorized to sign the documents with this resolution.
 - ii. Mr. Downing made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs. McCall seconded. All in favor unanimously.
 - b. Summer School Discussion

- i. Due to the pandemic, the amount of virtual instruction, and lost learning, NOMMA will be hosting a much more robust summer school this year to provide necessary instruction and support to cadets.
- ii. Anticipating approximately 350 cadets for summer school, but summer school is voluntary for the students.
- iii. A teacher survey was conducted to determine level of interest in supporting NOMMA's Summer Learning program. Several teachers expressed interest. Additional science teachers may still need to be hired.
- iv. ESSER grant will help with necessary funding for summer school.

c. Graduation Discussion

- i. The school has been in the process of planning the graduation for May 21st and 22nd with a "drive in" graduation, similar to what was successful last year. The planning for this event has been in place for months and seeks to balance appropriate recognition of our Seniors and their accomplishments with health and safety concerns.

5. Public Comment: None

6. Remarks from Board Members

- a. Col Ebbert commented on the recent US News and World Report school rankings that NOMMA was ranked 6th best public school and 18th best in the state.
- b. The Commandant made the following comments:
 - i. We are entering the second phase of one app and we are doing advertising on multiple avenues.
 - ii. The next board meeting is scheduled for 26 May 2021.
 - iii. Tier 3 financial disclosures are due in May.
 - iv.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Staines, second by MGYSGT Young. Motion was approved unanimously.