

NEW ORLEANS
MILITARY & MARITIME
ACADEMY

Meeting Minutes

30 June 2021

5:00p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Col Terry Ebbert, at 5:05 p.m.

Roll call – Col Ebbert, Mr. Cao, Mr. Downing, Dr. Grace, Mrs. McCall (ZOOM), LtCol Shinn, Mr. Staines, Mr. Welker (ZOOM), MGySgt Young. Quorum present.

Absent: Mr. Bean, Mr. Bush, Mr. Charpentier, MajGen Mize.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve May 26 Board Minutes by Mr. Stains, seconded by Mr. Downing; all in favor unanimously.

2. Reports and Recommendations

- a. Financial Report – Presented by NOMMA Finance Director. The school remains in strong financial position. Bonds payable are due in 2034. Notes payable were repaid in May. We are currently below budget on expenses due to open positions, property and other services as cadets were not on campus early on in the school year due to COVID. This is the second year for this because of the pandemic but that will change once we resume full, on-campus, in-person classes this Fall. Transportation and Food Services costs are expected to rise next year due to increasing costs for yellow bus service (in part to cover high insurance rates in LA). Of note, the school is not required to provide yellow bus service, but does so as an additional service. Motion to approve, all in favor unanimously.

- b. General School Update – Commandant gave the update. Summer School is in full swing and is going well. There are some attendance issues that are concerning and the NOMMA staff has been reaching out to parents to notify and address these concerns. NOMMA continues to work through various policy, procedures, and responses to both employee and parental communications. NOMMA is taking a proactive approach by commissioning an external agency to conduct an in-depth analysis of our current financial practices and procedures to identify vulnerabilities, recommendations on best practices and ensure integrity in the NOMMA financial domain. Operations Director will be involved in a Zoom session with the LDoE in regards to our upcoming school year and they will provide guidance for full reopening and COVID-related support. LDoE is supporting a full return to campus for students but indicated they will be delegating authority to the LEA re specifics about reopening.

NOMMA has completed JROTC Summer Camps for Marksmanship, Physical Training, and Drill & Color Guard. Two more camps to be held before conclusion of summer training. Senior cadets completed a community service project that involved writing letters that were sent to occupants of the VA Medical Center, New Orleans Juvenile Justice Center and to the Ronald McDonald House. The letters were very well received. One Military Instructor (MI) will not be returning

next year one new MI candidate has been offered a position and has accepted. NOMMA has submitted one of our cadets for the prestigious “Legion of Valor” award. This cadet will also be our Battalion Commanding Officer for the next school year.

c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update. Summer School kudos to NOMMA’s Summer School Director and Assistant Principals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The 1st part of summer school was the LEAP 2025 remediation; 154 cadets enrolled; average attendance rate of 72%. 211 tests were conducted. Thus far, we have received the results back for 187 tests indicating 81 cadets successfully passed the exam and 106 unsatisfactory scores. The second part of summer school was credit recovery. 188 were enrolled for this portion. Many started working virtually, from home, on 7 June. Cadets were all invited on campus this past Monday. So far 77 have passed their course work. Attendance was an issue during this phase as well. NOMMA has frequently reached out to parents to emphasize the need for their cadet to get to campus and attend classes. The School Year 2021-2022 schedule is being designed to address lost learning and will include mechanisms and best practices for students to begin to catch up to grade-level standards. 3 seniors have passed all their courses and we will hold an impromptu graduation for them. Those who did not pass their LEAP 2025 will be eligible to retake the exam. The third part of our summer school is for our 8th grade cadets who did not successfully complete courses. 43 of 44 have been present. A committee will meet to make recommendations regarding promotion to 9th grade or offer 9 Transitional as an alternative (a 5th year).

We have planned a robust course of Professional Development (PD) for our new and returning faculty/staff. New faculty/staff will report 28 July and all employees the following day. Employees will receive presentations on Human Resources, Operations and grade and department level PD sessions.

The OneApp 8th grade enrollment is not where it should be. Some parents have complained that their rising 8th grader put NOMMA down as their first choice and they did not get accepted yet there are still available seats. There has also been an issue with military dependents being told they are not accepted into NOMMA when, in fact, they are a priority for our school. Another issue has been with siblings not being accepted. We are holding a meeting with OneApp representatives to address these issues. The pandemic has negatively impacted our enrollment and we are working to fix this.

d. Facilities Update – Commandant gave the report. Renovations continue to the computer labs to optimize use of the large spaces and create seven additional offices and one conference room; all of this is very much needed giving the growth of the school and employee base; project is expected to be completed the next two weeks. Reconfiguration of the weight/athletic room housed in Suite 112 of the NOMMA Annex (parking garage) continues; new equipment has been purchased for this project. The Operations Director has worked to professionalize the appearance of our school with exterior and interior improvements. These projects will continue through the summer. Our northern windows (Bldg 71) have been problematic and a source of

leaks over the past several years. A contractor has been engaged to provide a solution that includes, sanding, re-glazing and re-painting them all and they are already much improved.

e. Development Update– Commandant gave the report. Two grants have recently been submitted.

f. Nominating Committee – NSTR. Recommendation to review By-Laws and adopt best practices for board management.

3. Unfinished Business – Commandant provided.

- a. Campus Expansion: Mr. Bush serves as lead for this endeavor. The draft option amendment was sent to ADD and there has been no response yet. Their June 18th board meeting was cancelled. Both ADD and NOMMA are to get bank appraisals. Our appraiser has been on site but not yet sent their formal appraisal.

4. New Business – None.

5. Public Comment – None.

- a. Remarks from Board Members – Col Ebbert facilitated a visit from Mayor Cantrell to the NOMMA campus earlier this month. It was a great visit and the mayor was able to engage with our cadets and faculty, hear about our mission, and learn about the Academy. The mayor remarked that she was “all in,” regarding NOMMA’s mission. She also noted that she was excited about and in support of the possibility of adding a Public Safety/Law Enforcement/First Responder pathway to our Jump Start curriculum.

6. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn and move to Executive Session at 6:10 pm by Mr. Downing; second by LtCol Shinn.

7. Executive Session

8. Next Meeting Date: Tentatively scheduled for July 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Budget Meeting Minutes

The SY 2021-2022 Budget Meeting was called to order by Board President, Col Terry Ebbert, at 6:23 p.m.

Roll call – Col Ebbert, Mr. Cao, Mr. Downing, Dr. Grace, LtCol Shinn, Mr. Staines, Mr. Welker (ZOOM), MGySgt Young. Quorum present.

Absent: Mr. Bean, Mr. Bush, Mr. Charpentier, Mrs. McCall, MajGen Mize.

No public present although advertised well in advance in accordance with LA policies.

1. Present/Adopt SY 2021-2022 Annual Operating Budget

Commandant provided opening remarks. Presented overview of SY 21-22 budget and praised those who have worked on this budget. Remarks included key factors of revenue sources and anticipated expenses (transportation, COVID-related), as well as addition of new positions (eg: Data Manager) that are much needed at NOMMA and standard positions at many other high schools. From a personnel standpoint, there is also a focus on rebuilding the counseling department including hiring 4 new counselors and adding a new Social Worker position, 504 Coordinator. NOMMA's nurse departed due to reassignment of her active component military spouse. Due to COVID, qualified nurses are difficult to recruit. NOMMA is considering highering a medical/nursing support service that has been recommended by other high schools and a university; this is an essential need due to ongoing matters associated with COVID-19.

Finance Director presented a very detailed budget proposal to the board for action. Motion to accept the proposed SY 2021-2022 Operating Budget by LtCol Shinn, second by Mr. Staines; unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn and unanimously approved at 6:40 p.m.