

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
26 March 2019
5:00p.m.

1. Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. James Bean, Mrs. Erin Beaty, Mr. Peyton Bush, Mr. John Charpentier, Mr. Doug Downing, Ms. Nicole Finkbeiner, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mrs. Carol McCall, Gen David Mize, Mr. Tom Shinn, Mr. Tony Staines, Mr. David Welker, MGySgt Melanie Young. Absent: none.
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. Tracking ahead of budget; adjusting for timing we are roughly \$100-150K ahead of budget.
 - ii. Mr. Downing raised topic for discussion regarding school’s financial objectives; specifically, should the school endeavor to meet its financial objectives using MFP money, or should it rely on external fundraising/grants to meet all obligations
 1. Col Ebbert commented that he thought we should not rely on additional funding
 2. Mr. Downing suggested we discuss in context of the budget discussion.
 3. Commandant mentioned the Community Benefit Report, an annual requirement in relation to the New Markets Tax Credit program; report is being prepared and will be submitted on time (NLT 31 Mar).
 - b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report
 - i. We were the first school in LA to submit grant application into SuperApp for school year 2019/2020; we are answering questions received and will resubmit in the next few weeks.
 - ii. Sent two, 10-cadet groups to tall ships for one week cruises; cadets reported a great experience – lessons learned include maritime specific, but also leadership work ethic, etc.
 1. School leadership is trying to make this an annual event for cadets
 2. Tall Ships of America is and Louisiana Community & Technical College System representative are trying to add additional voyages and a media event during May (asked NOMMA to be the participating school) – scheduling will be tough, but Commandant we can arrange/support; the bigger

issue is the cost of \$10,000, so NOMMA will need to find a source of funding to cover the experience

- iii. Author of “Responsibility Centered Discipline” will be coming to campus to provide professional development sessions and train staff on this approach that addresses student behavior. Commandant stressed importance of buy-in from and training for entire NOMMA staff.
 - iv. JROTC update: IG inspection on 22nd of March; good report and Regional Inspector commented that it was the best impression of cadets he has had to date.
 - 1. 16 Cadets attending Xavier military appreciation lunch
 - c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update
 - i. State representative visited for annual inspection and made several recommendations
 - 1. Recommended sending key faculty leadership to seminar in Baton Rouge over the Summer; also recommended sending a rising star to campus leadership seminar in Baton Rouge, so he is working to identify that person
 - ii. Gave ACT test as required by State to Junior class
 - 1. Also offered to let Senior retake and had 98 of 150 elected to retake to try and improve scores
 - iii. Started program to provide students opportunity to visit college campuses and response was overwhelming. Conducted tours to UNO, Tulane and Loyola
 - 1. Hosting another tour in first week of April for fee; currently have waiting list for those tours
 - a. Visiting Nichols, LSU and Southeastern
 - 2. Plan to do at least two next year, one in Fall for Seniors and one in Spring
 - iv. We are looking to add selectively to the faculty, in particular Math, and have begun touring various universities to recruit more proactively
 - 1. Teacher retention has improved significantly over last year (3-4 known departures); we have also begun implementing new process for notifying teachers who are not asked to return (earlier and with better feedback)
 - v. Commandant mentioned we participated in a regional robotics competition last week; NOMMA sent 9 cadets (vs. 5 last year)
 - 1. Most teams had corporate funding and were much larger
 - d. Facilities Update – Commandant gave facilities report.
 - i. Nothing significant to report
4. Capital Campaign update

- a. Commandant provided general update around wrapping up 8th grade expansion campaign and beginning thought process around fundraising for larger expansion
 - b. Met with financial team last week to discuss various funding sources, including bond attorneys and tax credit brokers (Crescent Growth Capital)
 - i. Potential sources included Opportunity Zone, Historic tax credits, New Market Tax Credits and bonding programs
 - c. Development team is working to define the overall funding need, what sources we can rely on and what we will need to ask for from donors
 - i. Will be important that we are able to frame the ask and demonstrate progress around planning to improve the chances of success
 - d. Gen Mize discussed the team we would hire to help raise the funds – they helped with the original deal and have background to help us navigate the process
 - i. Getting consent of our current bondholders is major aspect of getting this expansion done, and they are best positioned to facilitate that process because of their understanding of the existing deal and knowledge of the various financing alternatives
 - e. Motion to approve Commandant and selected Board members to pursue engagement with third parties for fundraising project by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Downing; motion was approved.
5. Old Business – None.
6. New Business
- i. Ms. Finkbeiner asked Principal to read questions she submitted regarding textbooks, as well as answers Principal prepared in response
7. Public Remarks – None.
8. Remarks from Board Members – None.
9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Staines. Motion was approved unanimously.