

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy  
Meeting Minutes  
30 October 2018  
5:00pm

1. Roll call – Col Ebbert, Mr. Bean, Mr. Bush, Mr. Downing, Ms Finkbeiner, Ms. McCall, Gen Mize, Mr. Shinn, MGySgt Young. Absent: Mr. Charpentier, Dr. Grace, Mr. Staines, Mr. Welker
2. Approval of minutes:
  - a. Minutes from October 28 and previous meeting approved: Motion by GEN Mize, second by Ms. McCall; all in favor
3. Financial report: report given by Mr. Downing
  - a. Currently tracking \$200-300K better than budget
  - b. Cash reserves still at 2.5 months of operating budget
  - c. Don't anticipate negative surprises
  - d. Annual audit work complete and we are expecting draft of final in next week or so
  - e. Had workers' comp audit in September and expect about \$4K back
  - f. We currently have counsel reviewing the legal documents to effect the transfer of ownership of the Master Tenant entity to NOMMA. This entity was necessary as part of the historic tax credit structure. It was originally planned that this transfer would occur in January 2019, but with the failure of FNBC and subsequent purchase of their interest by Twain Financial, the opportunity was presented to effect it in November. Once our counsel gives us his approval of the documents we will execute the transaction.
4. General School Update: report given by Col Schlafer
  - a. Noted positive atmosphere and feedback from Cadets and Faculty
  - b. Discussion of successful visit by Secretary Devos and Congressman Scalise
  - c. Discussion of incident related to student bringing weapon to school; student was temporarily expelled (45) days, in accordance with State and Orleans parish guidelines. Parent decided to withdraw cadet from NOMMA.
  - d. Personnel levels are healthy with the exception of a Dean having health issues and needing temporary replacement
  - e. Col Schlafer looking to bring on Operations director and additional Marine instructor
    - i. Currently has a candidate for each position and looking to make offers shortly
  - f. Commentary on student population – Hispanic population has increased by 11% in past 2 years (now at 26% of total), many of which are not native English speakers; school staff members have met with LDoE reps and are

exploring best approach to ensuring native Spanish speakers can thrive at NOMMA.

5. Academic Update: report given by Mr. Garbarino
  - a. Received results for ACT test (Senior class last year); results were in line with State averages and above most area schools
  - b. Discussed new formula for determining LA school grades, including measurement of student growth and need to achieve “Mastery” or above, vice “Basic”, to be counted as on grade level to earn points on the School Performance Score.
    - i. Grading methodologies within various categories have changed.
      1. NOMMA received grade of “C” grades in 2 different subcategories.
    - ii. Changes in student population are impacting schools statewide, so likely to be further dialogue and changes
    - iii. Net result was NOMMA dropping from A to B (missed A grade by .4)
      1. Important to note percentile ranks for overall grades within each population demographic
  - c. NOMMA hosted a DoE special ed mtg and staff benefited from the information provided
  - d. We are currently tracking for Naval Honor School
    - i. One way to improve chances here is to bring in outside speakers, so Col Schlafer will be looking to enhance the speaker program and invited board members to address cadets.
6. Facilities update: report given by Col Schlafer
  - a. NOMMA will stand food service audit in January ; preparations have begun
  - b. In accordance with MoA signed this past summer, NOMMA has begun use of LSU Health Foundation fitness center; need to ensure tight procedures are in place and monitor cadet behavior to ensure continued use of the center
    - i. Emphasizes need for school gymnasium
    - ii. Received score of Excellent from on recent NOFD directed fire drill
  - c. Issue with cadet bringin weapon on campus has created concern with students and faculty, so Board considered and discussed appropriate physical security measures (including technology)
    - i. Col Ebbert recommends staff develop plan for protective measures for Board consideration
    - ii. The Board will continue to proactively look for measures to provide for adequate protection in addition to reinforcing school culture to avoid issues – the concept is to address both the symptom and the root cause
  - d. Proposals reviewed and considered for development of campus expansion master plan

- i. Based on cost and school architecture experience, a selection was made.
      - ii. Motion by Mr. Downing to select Sizeler, Thompson, Brown; Ms. Finkbeiner second; motion approved
    - e. Motion to approve and authorize the execution of the lease for the NOMMA Annex, located in the Federal City retail complex at 501 O'Bannon Street, New Orleans, LA 70114 by Ms. McCall, second by Mr. Downing; motion approved
- 7. Development report: report given by Mr. Bush
  - a. Current campaign stands at \$736,000, which includes a donation of stocks and one donation spread over multiple years.
  - b. Next item for Board consideration will be positioning requests for larger facility expansion vs. current campaign
  - c. Outstanding grant requests include:
    - i. Pro Bono Publico (\$35K) – expect to hear in November
    - ii. Selly (\$50K) – expect to hear November
    - iii. Libby Dufour (grant not yet submitted – plan to request \$100K)
    - iv. Schleider Foundation (\$250K)
    - v. Rosa Mary
  - d. Status of Bollinger match:
    - i. Awaiting confirmation that year 1 gifts from two donors will count toward match – assuming the answer is yes, then match funds stand at \$156K
- 8. Board Member Recruitment: Col Schlafer gave the report
  - a. Col Schlafer recommended parent as new Board member: Mrs. Erin Beaty
    - i. Mrs. Beaty is Naval Academy Graduate, husband is Navy Commander and has two sons at NOMMA
  - b. Motion to nominate Mrs. Erin Beaty as new Board member by Gen Mize, second by MGySgt Young; motion approved
- 9. New Business:
  - a. Col Schlafer will be briefing MFR on 8 November – educating MFR Marines on NOMMA is critical to increase awareness and ensure local Marines are aware of the school
  - b. Col Schlafer mentioned ethics training for Board, to be scheduled at a later date
  - c. Mrs. Finkbeiner asked about being alerted to NOMMA events so she could attend more – Col Schlafer mentioned that event information would be disseminated to the board and that a school committee will be reviewing changes and enhancements to the school website to provide better information on upcoming events

10. Public comment period: no comments

11. Remarks from Board Members

a. None

12. Adjournment: motion by Mrs. Finkbeiner, second by Ms. McCall; motion approved