

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
16 June 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. David Welker. Absent: Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mr. Tom Shinn, Mr. James Bean, Gen David Mize, Mrs. Carol McCall.
2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Downing; second by Mr. Charpentier; all in favor.
3. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing gave financial report.
 - i. Through April, school in strong financial health
 - ii. Positive cash flow for the year
 - iii. Performance better than budget due to lower transportation costs
 - iv. Some clean up related to real estate that will be done before year closes out
 - v. Concern for the future given state of current funding for schools and overall budget constraints associated with pandemic
 - vi. Continue to focus on donations and grants to support budget; necessary to bridge gap between state funding and budget needs
 - vii. Discussion of NY Times article related to charter schools receiving PPP funding despite wealthy benefactors; NOMMA studied the issue in depth and concluded with third party support that PPP funding was necessary – due primarily to funding gap and expected decline in donations
 - viii. NOMMA has also not benefitted from state/federal funding for physical plant,
 - ix. NOMMA received \$1.346M in PPP funding, all being spent on payroll funding in compliance with established loan criteria
 - x. Last year’s budget assumed 925 students, actual was 953
 - b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report.
 - i. Staff was brought in on March 15th for two days of training/instruction pertaining to transition to online school training
 - ii. Distributed 60 additional laptops and 20 hotspots; over 100 students provided low cost internet access; 10,000 parent contacts over the period
 - iii. Special needs staff provided intense interaction with students
 - iv. Counselors appointed to oversee technology program and manage issues
 - v. Conducted mental health training/screening every Friday

- vi. Only had 9 cadets with no contact, despite sending certified letters to check status
 - vii. 90 students to enroll in summer school
 - viii. Weekly staff meetings via Zoom; daily conferences with LAPCS and state authorities
 - ix. Two days of graduation ceremonies on May 23rd/24th; each individual cadet received diploma; 96% participation rate
 - x. Enrollment in process; on track for total count of 985 cadets by 1 Oct.
 - xi. Conducting interviews for vacant positions and hiring based on need
 - xii. Completed cadet promotions; placed third in MS Raider fitness competition
- c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
- i. No School Performance Score (SPS) will be issued this year due to school year modifications associated with pandemic
 - ii. Only score based on cohort graduation rate, which was 93.1% for last year (class of 2019)
 - iii. Difficult to monitor college attendance and post-graduation activities due to reporting inconsistencies
 - iv. Class of 2020 unofficial graduation rate estimated at 97.6%; 165 graduates with 4 potentials in August; 44 with jumpstart career diploma; 121 with TOPS University diploma; 190 industry-based credentials earned; 63% of all graduates received at least one industry-based credential
 - v. 65 plan to attend college; 46 plan to attend community college; 20 plan to enter workforce; 34 plan to enlist in military (largest to date – 14 already enlisted)
 - vi. 78 students should qualify for TOPS scholarship funding
 - vii. Total value of scholarships offered to class of 2020 was \$3.1M
 - viii. Discussion of academy attendance: had one student receive endorsement last year, but did not receive appointment (did receive ROTC scholarship)
- d. Development Update – Commandant gave the update.
- i. Working with development consultant, who has performed well thus far
 - ii. Received \$30,000 from GPOA
 - iii. Ongoing fundraising efforts have come to a halt or been redirected due to COVID; some major donors are making strategic discussions to not fund schools in lieu of other efforts
 - iv. Consultant has developed individual donor cultivation plan
- e. Facilities Update – Commandant included in General update.

- i. Cleaning company began deep cleaning yesterday, with school personnel assisting
 - ii. Completed roof repairs
 - iii. Procured pressure washer to enhance ongoing maintenance
 - iv. Completed termite/pest control work
 - v. Completed renewal of leases across street, including two additional suites, totaling 9 suites; rate of \$3/sq. ft. remains the same
 - vi. Inquired about use of unoccupied building across the street (with ADD); may happen, which would provide additional storage
 - f. Nominating Update – Mr. Staines gave the report
 - i. Committee spoke with three candidates: Clarence Becknell, Joseph Cao, Ray Thombs
 - ii. Overview of three candidates ensued; all were viewed as strong candidates
 - iii. Motion to invite all three candidates by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Downing; approved unanimously
- 4. New / Unfinished Business – Commandant mentioned the following:
 - a. Campus expansion update: still in discussions with ADD. Unknown whether or not the Port of New Orleans is still interested in a presence at Fed City.
 - b. Reopening Plans: NOMMA’s staff is researching options and discussion same with LDOE and others. LDOE draft standards are under review for implementation. NOMMA has drafted operating principles to guide the school’s planning and actions.
 - c. Scenarios to Plan for: Full Return, Full Remote or Hybrid (there are several of these)
 - i. Procedures are in development for many issues, including classroom density, transportation, arrival/departure, food service, classroom transitions, rest rooms, PPE and facility cleaning. Refinement will continue as further guidance is received with many important decisions yet to be made.
 - ii. Technology must be sufficient for students and faculty to be effective under all scenarios.
- 5. Initial Discussion of Draft 2020 Budget:
 - a. Introduce to Board today with meeting in July to include a formal budget meeting for approval.
 - b. Based on 960 students and filling 10 desired additional faculty and staff positions.
 - c. Assumes no increases in compensation for the vast majority of the existing faculty and staff (only exceptions are for increased responsibilities).
 - d. Anticipated a 15% reduction in local portion of MFP and a 2.5% inflation factor on normal operating costs.
 - e. It meets technology requirements for full remote scenario.
 - f. Bottom line: first draft budget produces a \$303k deficit.

6. Public Comment:
 - a. Ms. Jennifer Heard attended the meeting and offered her congratulations to the faculty and staff for an excellent job during the pandemic. Ms. Heard is a parent of two students and indicated that she was speaking for herself and several other parents who felt the same way. The board acknowledged this praise and thanked her for attending.
7. Remarks from Board Members: N/A
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Downing, second by Mr. Welker. Motion was approved unanimously.