

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy
Meeting Minutes
8 December 2020
5:00p.m.

Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. James Bean, Mr. Anh Joseph Cao, Mr. John Charpentier (ZOOM), Mr. Doug Downing, Mrs. Carol McCall (ZOOM), Gen David Mize, LtCol Tom Shinn, Mr. Tony Staines, CWO3 Ray Thombs, Mr. David Welker, MGySgt Melanie Young. Quorum present.

Absent: Mr. Peyton Bush, Dr. Marcellus Grace

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Mr. Staines; second by Mr. Welker; all in favor unanimously.
2. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Mr. Downing gave financial report.
 - i. Through November, school remains in strong financial health
 - ii. Positive cash flow for the year with a strong cash position
 - iii. Performance better than budget due to lower operating costs
 - iv. Donations lagging
 - v. Continue to focus on donations and grants to support budget; necessary to bridge gap between state funding and budget needs
 - vi. NOMMA has received \$1.346M in PPP funding, all spent on payroll funding in compliance with established loan criteria. It appears that the PPP funding will be forgiven
 - b. General School Update – Commandant provided the report.
 - i. Began school year with official count of 1,027 students (presently at 1,015); 3.7% are military dependents
 - ii. Approx 80 students have Individual Education Plans, thus are qualified special education students
 - iii. Approx 150 students are English language learner students
 - iv. Continue to operate in virtual environment as preparations are made for end of semester student testing this month
 - v. Currently there are 6 confirmed student COVID cases and 2 confirmed teacher COVID cases. Contact tracing has been completed
 - vi. Attendance rate is tending high (Virtual) relative to surrounding parish averages
 - vii. 2 teachers resigned from the school due to COVID issues
 - viii. 171 students sat for the LEAP test today
 - ix. JROTC – NOMMA designated Naval Honor School for 2019 – 2020 due to superior performance with MCJROTC program
 - x. NOMMA will participate in the upcoming Cyber Patriot competition

- xi. Color Guard supported the Terrytown Fire Department flag retirement ceremony
- c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update.
 - i. 90.2% of last year’s students returned this year
 - ii. 9.6% of the students this year have disabilities (1st time NOMMA met this requirement)
 - iii. A large number of students in all grades are on the D or F list with at least one subject with this grade. At this time unless reversed, 12 seniors may not graduate. This is a trend experienced by all schools due to the virtual learning experience
 - iv. NOMMA’s ACT scores have slightly deteriorated over the last year. NOMMA provides ACT training to the eligible students before the tests are administered
 - v. NOMMA finished the Cross Country season. 6 males finished 16th overall out of 40 schools in the state meet. NOMMA had one female finish 2nd in the district meet.
 - vi. The wrestling team fielded 8 cadets with a finish of 7th out of 12 schools in the latest tournament.
 - vii. Boys & Girls basketball and girls soccer have begun their seasons
- d. Facilities Update – Commandant gave the update.
 - i. The renovations of Suites 108 & 113 are completed. Waiting on the Certificate of Occupancy and Fire Marshall inspection
 - ii. Cleaning company completes deep cleaning of school nightly
 - iii. Currently in process of improving computer operating facilities/spaces
- e. Development Update– Commandant gave the report
 - i. NOMMA was awarded a \$35K Selley Grant
 - ii. Further discussion in Old Business
- f. Nominating Update – Mr. Staines gave the report
 - i. Nothing to report

3. Unfinished Business – Commandant provided:

- a. Campus expansion update: still in discussions with ADD

An appraiser has been ID’d to perform an appraisal on the land to be developed. ADD performed an appraisal which valued the property at \$2.3MM a couple years ago. The consensus is that this appraisal is too high. When NOMMA’s appraisal is completed NOMMA will engage a mediator to negotiate price and facilitate with ADD.

A draft proposal/term sheet capturing the structure of the property transfer is being prepared for submission to ADD for consideration

4. New Business – Commandant provided:

- a. Seclusion and Restraint Policy – All local education agencies (LEAs) must have local written guidelines and procedures for appropriate responses to the behavior of students with disabilities that may require immediate intervention in the form of seclusion and restraint. Now required to be written and published. Key considerations include defining, using, and reporting seclusion and restraint.

Policy provided to board members for review and comment.

Motion to approve the Policy by Lt Col Shinn, 2nd by Mr. Downing. Approved Unanimously.

- b. Grievance Policy (for parents/guardians) has in the past been a part of the handbook. Now it is required to be separately written and published.

Motion to approve the Policy by Mr. Staines, 2nd by Mr. Downing. Approved Unanimously.

- c. Reopening Plans: NOMMA continues to conduct planning to reopen the school after Christmas break. Considering multiple models, including Traditional (Full Return), Virtual (Full Remote), Hybrid (Combination of each) at 25% or 50% student capacity. Whatever Phase the city will be in based on the COVID trends/data will contribute in determining which plan or combination of plans NOMMA will implement.
- d. Currently parents of 30% of the cadets prefer to have virtual learning continue for the 2nd semester. NOMMA will continue to educate these students via the virtual method. Going forward, NOMMA will use Edgenuity, a self-paced program to teach, support and reinforce all on-line virtual learning. A teacher will be assigned as a mentor to the student for this process.
- e. Consideration must also include the yellow bus transportation for students – morning and afternoon transportation, keeping in mind the bus company and their requirements for insurance and commitments to bus drivers.
- f. The Commandant stated that the current thinking is that the students will return to school on the 19th of January. A parent/teacher survey will be completed which will contribute to the decision of which program to bring the students back in. State and city guidance will also be considered.
- g. There were various discussions among Board members concerning the pros and cons of which scenario to use and what school systems in other parishes are doing during this pandemic.
- h. The Commandant also stated that a decision may not be able to be finalized until January due to the unknown COVID trends in the state and local area. However, a communication will be sent to all parents explaining all options to parents before the Christmas break begins.
- i. A suggestion was made by the Board to consider a day where struggling students will come in one day of the week for additional guidance/tutoring/mentoring. The Commandant explained that is already part of the various instructional models.

- j. Commandant also stated that NOMMA is prepared to adjust on-campus student population based on status of COVID percentages and changes to city's reopening phase, if necessary.
5. Public Comment: N/A
6. Remarks from Board Members: MGySgt Young thanked the city for replacing the flags flown over the Molly Marine statue. The Commandant stated the Algiers Mardi Gras Committee will be awarding a \$1,500 grant to NOMMA on Dec. 15.
7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Downing, second by Mr. CAO. Motion was approved unanimously.