NEW ORLEANS
MILITARY & MARITIME
ACADEMY

Meeting Minutes
NOMMA Library
29 January 2025
5:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Col Terry Ebbert, at 5:06 p.m.

1. Roll Call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. Arnold Baker, Mr. James Bean, Mr. Doug Downing, Dr. Marcellus Grace, MajGen David Mize; Mr. David Welker

   Absent – Mr. Peyton Bush

2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve October 30, 2024 Board Minutes by Mr. Downing, seconded by Mr. Baker; all in favor unanimously.

3. Reports and Recommendations

   A. Financial Report – Presented by NOMMA Finance Director and Mr. Downing. Cash & US T-bills of $7.3M ($5.7M in T-bills) represents approximately 5.1 months of operating expenses which represents a strong liquid position. Total Net Assets of $13.1M represents a strong financial position. Total Revenues of $8,042k - under budget by $(56k). State and Local under budget by $(336k) due to MFP budgeted at $13,940 on student count of 925 vs being paid at $13,463 on student count of 887. Federal and State Grants – over budget by $155k – ESSERIII $279k, Food Services $(86k). Other Income over budget - $134k –Student Activity $70k, Interest Income $36k. Movie Shoot $20k. Total Expenses of $8,603k – under budget by $(26k). Salaries and benefits under budget by $(188k) due to open positions. Property services over budget by $103k due to repairs $134k, Custodial $(20k). Other Services over budget by $142k due to transportation $49k, Food Services $28k, resulting in Change in Net Assets before Depreciation of $(560k) which is under budget by $(30k). Capital Expenditures - Suite 112 renovations $190k budgeted at $175k. HVAC Fitness Center $82k budgeted at $100k.

   B. General School Update – Commandant gave the update. Our current student count is 938. The 24-25 budget was built on 925 cadets. Since October we've gained 15 new cadets and 24 have left. We have hosted 5 Open Houses since the beginning of school year; most recent last night. Our staffing level sits at 146 employees. We recently gained 3 new teachers in English, Math & Science. We also gained an administrator who will serve as our Policy and Compliance Coordinator, with the understanding this position is budgeted through 30 Jun. Since our last board meeting we have hosted a Veterans Day Luncheon Celebration, had our ceremonial cake cutting, held a recruiting event at Belle Chasse Academy, held an event-filled homecoming week and hosted our first ever Pep Rally. During the recent snowstorm, we converted 4 days to virtual learning; NOMMA's transition to virtual was noted in a recent media article. In accordance with Act 370, our Finance Director has been working to make sure our required financial information is accessible via LDoE website. Civil Rights monitoring process continues; it includes a desk audit with use of a lengthy checklist and an onsite visit this Spring. Our Charter was last renewed in

2016 for 10 years so we will be beginning the renewal process this year. Questions have been raised about what happens if ICE shows up at our school. We do have protocols in place to ensure we are acting in accordance with the law, and we are developing a policy with input from our attorneys. We are developing multiple other policies, some of which will require board approval. NOMMA's LDOE Annual Site Visit is scheduled for Monday 24 Mar. Maritime Day will be held on 25 Feb; our band/color guards will be marking in various Mardi Gras parades. Our JROTC Cyber Patriot team recently took first place.

C. Academic Update – Principal gave the update. They recently published our SPS and we received an 87.8 B, which is an 8.8 point increase. School Calendar adjustment due to 4 virtual days during snow/ice. We've removed our planned virtual days on 2/10 and 3/19 to in-person instruction. Upcoming events: 2/6 -Joint Armed Forces Color Guard, 2/10 to 3/17- ELPT & LEAP Connect. 2/25 - Maritime Day. During Mardi Gras we will participate in 8 events. 3/25 & 3/26 we will begin ACT. During our previous ACT, 164 Cadets showed growth. We have hosted ACT Small Group rotation with A Gershanik with an average gain of 2.2 pts. For the class of 2025, we expect 182 graduates. Class of '25 significant achievements include: POSSE finalist to Villanova University, 50+ college acceptances, 7 cadets enlisted in the Army National Guard, 2 Navy, 2 Army, 2 Coast Guard. Scholarships: $1,500,000. Athletics- Girls and Boys soccer are district champs! Playoffs this week (Friday Boys/Saturday Girls). Girls and Boys basketball are ending soon. Wrestling is midseason now, and the state championship is on 2/14-2/17. Upcoming athletics: Powerlifting, Softball, Baseball, Track. LHSAA Convention 1/30. Upcoming media: One of our senior cadets received the Legion of Valor and will be recognized on WGNO. WVUE is honoring one of our teachers with the Golden Apple Teacher Award and will be on campus soon to film their piece for the news.

D. Facilities Update – Operations Director provided. Approved funding from FEMA for remediation to the former 4th District building, due to damage from Hurricane Francine. Work that is being completed is to prevent further damage, to get the structure into "whitebox" condition, and to prevent the building from becoming an eyesore. Presently, the bldg. will be used for storage, future plans TBD. NOMMA has fair market value assessment completed of the Fitness Center leased space; the result indicated the current rent should be increased. A motion to increase the monthly lease payment, effective at end of current lease, to $2500 made by Mr. Downing, seconded by Mr. Bean; all in favor unanimously. The inspection of our buses continues to drag on due to City of New Orleans Ground Transportation Bureau failing to have space or time for inspections. We will continue to do our due diligence. Updated the board on the current status of the electrical panel at our Fitness Center. The work on the environmental remediation on NOMMA's most recently acquired lots continues; ADD stated that the company doing the work should be on site presently and complete the work by the end of February.

E. Development Update – NSTR. 25k picked up from Rex/Pro Bono Publico plus other smaller donations from individual donors.

F. Board Membership Committee – NSTR

4. Unfinished Business – Commandant provided.

   A. Campus Expansion/Capital Campaign Update – Conversations continue between NOMMA and ADC regarding details of original campus financing arrangement. NOMMA attorney has provided necessary documentation and explained NOMMA position to ADD/JW attorneys, including how best to resolve in advance of maturity date of 2034. Clarification of this matter is important and impacts NOMMA's ability to assume additional debt or raise money to support campus expansion. ADC is cooperating and working to conclude this matter with a solution acceptable to both parties. Discussion ensued in regard to the Capital Campaign and foundation. January is school board appreciation month and board members were presented with a small token of appreciation for all their efforts on behalf of our cadets and our school community.

5. New Business - Commandant provided

   A. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for HB 1 State Appropriation – A resolution of the Board of Directors of New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy, Inc. (the "Corporation") authorizing and directing the execution and delivery on behalf of the Corporation of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement among the Louisiana Department of the Treasury, the State of Louisiana, and the Corporation: and such other certificates, documents and/or instruments necessary or incidental in connection therewith. Motion to accept this resolution by MajGen Mize, seconded by Mr. Downing; all in favor unanimously.

6. Public Comment – None.
7. Remarks from Board Members – Mr. Baker invited the board to an event on February 6, hosted by the Honorable Sergio Fernandez de Cordova.
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 6:44 pm by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Welker; all in favor unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2025