

NEW ORLEANS
MILITARY & MARITIME
ACADEMY

Meeting Minutes
8 December 2021
5:00p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Col Terry Ebbert, at 5:05 p.m.

Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. James Bean (ZOOM), Hon. Anh Joseph Cao (Late), Mr. Doug Downing (ZOOM), Mr. Hudson Ellis, Dr. Marcellus Grace, MajGen David Mize, Mr. David Welker (Late), MGySgt Melanie Young.

Absent: Mr. Peyton Bush, Mr. John Charpentier, LtCol Tom Shinn, Mr. Tony Staines.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve October 27, 2021 Board Minutes by Dr. Grace, seconded by MGySgt Melanie Young; all in favor unanimously.
2. Reports and Recommendations
 - a. Financial Report – Presented by NOMMA Finance Director and Mr. Doug Downing. School is in strong financial standing. Comparable to previous report. 7mm cash in hand. 12.3mm net assets. 136k under budget due to Federal/State grants. There is currently a lag in getting requests for reimbursement. School expenses currently under by 360k due to unfilled positions. Under Other Services, we are 218-219k under budget. Waiting for November invoice from food services. Board approved stipends for staff/faculty were approximately 155k. Computer lab remodels came in under budget.
 - b. General School Update – Commandant gave the update. Introduced our newest board member, Mr. Hudson Ellis. Currently we are in testing season. We have a vacancy and have made an offer to a new HR Specialist. We still have a need for a Math, Science and Spanish teacher. We recently joined a new Math teacher and are hoping to make an offer to a science teacher soon. We also experiencing worker shortages with our food service provider. This has caused a disruption to our daily schedule since we need to bring the Annex cadets over to main cafeteria to pick up food and take back to Annex cafeteria to eat. Enrollment stands at 949 cadets. Our military dependent enrollment indicates a large enough population to qualify for federal impact aid; administration is taking steps to apply for the program. There are still continual challenges with our bus provider. Operations Director is working on solutions. Significant events since our last board meeting: revisiting our security posture and procedures; NOMMA hosted a visit from State Senators and Legislators and Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools members on 9 November to observe our Marine Corps birthday cake cutting; the event was covered by local TV stations; NOMMA admin has been working with Laborde Marine regarding maritime opportunities and potential internships; Massachusetts Maritime Academy visited this past Friday and discussed their institution with faculty and cadets; recently met with the representatives and President Stanton McNeely from the University of Holy Cross and discussed

potential opportunities. Mr. Cao noted that there were opportunities for internships in Washington DC for our seniors.

JROTC – hosted successful meet this past Saturday at JRB Belle Chasse. A total of 7 teams competed – we could not compete since we hosted the event. NOMMA Color Guard is supporting CAMAN Ball again this year.

Intent for SY 22-23 is to decrease enrollment projections to ensure we do not dilute the quality of our services. Current and anticipated future teacher and worker shortages, combined with the need for additional classrooms, work spaces, and assembly areas have prompted the decision to reduce overall student count next year.

c. Academic Update – Principal gave the update. 3 Open Houses with approximately 183 applications. We hope to have 125 8th seats next year and currently we have 50 8th apps listing us as their 1st or 2nd choice. We could have 75 9th grade seats and so far we have 43 apps listing us as their 1st or 2nd choice. Attendance at initial Open House started out small and has grown larger with each event. NOMMA had 45 prospective cadets and their families at our most recent Open House, December 7. 70% of our cadets come from outside of Orleans Parish. We have been running an advertising campaign to promote our school and open houses. This year, due to the pandemic and operating in a virtual environment, LDE produced simulated school performance scores. NOMMA's simulated score is a B. NOMMA adhered to city guidelines during the pandemic and so spent a significant portion of the pandemic school year in a virtual environment, as did many New Orleans based schools. Many other schools throughout Louisiana, were on-campus, in-person. Our assessment scores aren't where we'd like them as a result of challenges encountered during the pandemic, including teaching/learning in a virtual environment. Our official SPS remains an A.

d. Facilities Update – Nothing to report.

e. Development Update– Nothing to report.

f. Nominating Committee – Nothing to report.

3. Unfinished Business – Commandant provided.

- a. Campus Expansion – We received a reply from ADD to our campus expansion proposal. NOMMA will need to review and provide a response to the ADD BoD. ADD is soliciting a Request For Interest from local entities to operate the fitness center. Mr. Downing will draft a letter to respond.

4. New Business – None.

5. Public Comment – None.

6. Remarks from Board Members – Electronic thank you card of support to faculty and staff, from the board, will go out Friday morning. Proposed board meeting dates for remainder of 21-22 school year were disseminated. Please review and update calendars.
7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm by MajGen Mize; second by MGySgt Young; all in favor unanimously.
8. Executive Session was called for 6:36 p.m. and adjourned at 6:48 p.m.
9. Next Meeting Date: January 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.