

NEW ORLEANS
MILITARY & MARITIME
ACADEMY

Meeting Minutes

27 April 2022
5:00p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Col Terry Ebbert, at 5:00 p.m.

Roll call – Col Terry Ebbert, Mr. James Bean, Mr. Doug Downing, MajGen David Mize, LtCol Tom Shinn, Mr. David Welker (ZOOM), MGySgt Melanie Young.

Absent: Mr. Peyton Bush, Hon. Joseph Cao, Mr. Hudson Ellis, Dr. Marcellus Grace, Mr. Tony Staines.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve February 23, 2022 Board Minutes by Mr. Downing, seconded by MajGen Mize; all in favor unanimously.
2. Reports and Recommendations
 - A. Financial Report – Presented by the Mr. Doug Downing and NOMMA Finance Director. School continues to be in strong financial position and continues to sustain good financial health and will be even stronger when we receive pending federal funding/grants. Bank balances cover 6.6 months of operating expenses. We are lagging on receipt of federal and state grants, primarily ESSER funds. Salaries and benefits are under budget. Question was asked if we are currently at normal spending levels – we are. We expect to receive an Employee Incentive Credit, which we originally did not think we were eligible for. The consultants will charge a 25% fee but the net receipt should be substantial and assist our 2022-23 budget.
 - B. General School Update – Commandant gave the update. LDE rep was at NOMMA on 24 Feb for annual visit/review; there were no findings. 21 cadets and 2 staff members completed a voyage on the Harvey Gamage between Gulfport MS and Pensacola FL; the voyage was coordinated with Sailing Ships of Maine and was a great success, with many positive reviews from cadets and staff. Recently hosted a visit from 8th District USCG Commander, RADM Richard Timme. Other maritime opportunities, including internship program with local maritime companies are moving forward. NOMMA continues to advance project to automate cadet application process for families. We are planning to hire consultants to conduct a thorough analysis of our IT posture and identify cyber vulnerabilities, and recommend best practices. Face mask requirement has been lifted and is now optional for cadets and employees. NOLA-PS and LAPCS recently held an open meeting to discuss issues and concerns surrounding school buses, including City of New Orleans Ground Transportation Bureau permitting requirement and process. NOMMA is planning on purchasing (2), 25-passenger school buses to be used for athletics and extra-curricular activities. Will work on obtaining CDL licenses for select staff members. Planning and execution of end-of-year activities, including multiple awards ceremonies, continues. NOMMA will conduct RFP process to select Food Service Provider for next and future years. NOMMA provided Color Guard for recent Navy League-sponsored Military Appreciation Day luncheon. NOMMA cadets and staff had a booth set-up at Air Show at JRB New Orleans. It was a great opportunity to showcase our school. For the first time, our female fitness team qualified for state meet but are unable to attend due to mandatory statewide testing. Since the last board meeting, we have identified our new principal. There were 15 initial applicants. Ultimately, Mrs. Alexis Long, current Assistant Principal, was determined to be the best candidate and will be NOMMA's new Principal.
 - C. Academic Update – Principal gave the update. Standardized testing will occur 4/25 through 5/13. End-of-year standardized assessments include: LEAP 2025, Advanced Placement, CLEP, ACT WorkKeys. Additionally, NOMMA

administers course-specific final exams during the last week of school. NOMMA will administer 1700+ LEAP 2025 assessments between 4/28 and 5/13 to students enrolled in 8th grade, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, English II, Biology, US History, and any student that has previously earned unsatisfactory. An invitation was extended to board members for all upcoming end-of-year awards ceremonies, concerts and graduation. The dates for these upcoming events were given and will be emailed to the board. Enrollment – last night we hosted our 8th Open House of year and it was well attended. Additional Open Houses are scheduled during May. Our goal of 125 8th graders is within reach as their numbers continue to climb. The remaining grades numbers look good for SY 22-23. Athletics have concluded for the school year. Both baseball and softball made it to the playoffs but were eliminated in the first round. Regional Track &Field meet was held in the last week. We had 3 athletes qualify for the state meet. This is the first time for NOMMA.

- D. Facilities Update – Dr. Grace recently assisted our Operations Director with roof assessment.
 - E. Development Update – Recently submitted for a \$20k Building Hope national grant; passed initial phase. Received a \$2k grant from Les Paul Foundation. Staff is working with development consultants to plan for next school year.
 - F. Board Membership Committee – Discussed resume for potential new board member. Motion to name Mr. Arnold Baker as new NOMMA board member was made by Mr. Downing, seconded by LtCol Shinn; all in favor unanimously.
3. Unfinished Business – Col Ebbert, Gen Mize, Mr. Bush provided.
- A. Campus Expansion – Proposal was made to ADD that was discussed at our last board meeting. 3 properties, plus the addition of the fitness facility. Discussion ensued regarding counterproposal. Mr. Bush, via phone, discussed purchase price and lease agreement. We are awaiting historical financial information to be provided from ADD. Commander MARFORRES visited today and is supportive of NOMMA's expansion plan, including acquisition of fitness center. NOMMA to commission Academy Economic Impact Study. Motion to authorize Col Ebbert and Mr. Bush to negotiate with ADD for land purchase, at board set price, plus long-term lease of fitness facility with terms acceptable by the board by Mr. Downing, seconded by LtCol Shinn; all in favor unanimously.
4. New Business –
- A. SPED Settings Video Surveillance Policy – Commandant provided. Policy required in accordance with LA Act 456. Drafted, reviewed by NOMMA Staff; reviewed by attorney. Motion to accept policy by MajGen Mize, seconded by Mr. Bean; all in favor unanimously.
 - B. Reimagine Grant Summary – Commandant provided.
 - C. FY 2022-23 Initial Budget Discussion – Commandant introduced; Finance Director provided.
5. Public Comment – None.
6. Remarks from Board Members – None
7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 6:24 pm by Mr. Bean, second by Mr. Downing; all in favor unanimously.
8. Next Meeting Date: May 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.