NOMMA PROGRESS UPDATE

25 Sept 2011

FROM: COMMANDANT AND PRINCIPAL

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following actions have taken place since the August board meeting:

Personnel:

* The Biology Teacher, resigned his position. We hired an interim replacement, who resigned after 2 weeks. An experienced substitute, with Biology, Music, and Math experience, is currently in place and doing well. Dr. Garcia is conducting a search for a replacement teacher.
* The Special Education Teacher, resigned her position. Dr. Garcia was able to replace her the same day a fully certified special education teacher who had previously proven an excellent substitute teacher.

Financial:

* Budget update will be presented for 2011-2012 school year.
* Personnel costs mainly finalized, MCJROTC Instructor pay will start being received in September and October. Still working additional paid MCJROTC Billet issue.
* Majority of operating costs have now been better defined, still pending janitorial and food service contract updates. This has enabled better budget forecasting.

Facilities:

* Col Davis has resolved majority of facility issues working with RSD and Sodexo contract team.
* Renovation and construction update to be discussed during executive session due to contract sensitivities.
* Minor water damage was noted during TS Lee.

Curriculum:

* Dr. Garcia stabilized all schedules and curriculum. A final round of schedule changes allowed for grouping of Cadets into final period classes based on accession testing enabling acceleration, remediation, or other supportive curriculum.
* Louisiana Virtual School is fully underway, allowing a wider variety of electives and specialized educational plans.
* Dr. Garcia has been in contact with Southeastern Louisiana University regarding student teacher training and observation. The initial student observer will be on deck 27 Sept and 4 October. SELU will make a site visit in the Oct/Nov timeframe, opening up further opportunities for linkage and support.

Students:

* We presently have 105 Cadets enrolled. Student withdrawals significantly slowed, but have been offset by some new additions. Majority of withdrawals now due to parents moving for jobs or orders. Most new students are moving from outside region.
* We are still receiving requests for admission and anticipate minor growth through September.
* Drill team try has mostly stabilized with approximately 30 cadets on the team. Color Guard try outs will be held within the Drill team. Plan is for 2 color guard details.
* Students have been survey for clubs and sports, we are developing plans now to address our first forays into these areas.
* We are planning our first Dance for 21 October from 6-9 (approximately). It will be student and staff only. Board is welcome to attend and help chaperone.

Public Affairs and Community Relations:

* Mrs. Elen Dunford, the wife of the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, along with Mrs. Hummer, the wife of the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, both visited NOMMA on 10 September for an hour. Feedback was positive and there is still intent to have a larger audience of Generals and spouses visit in January timeframe.
* Public affairs contract required final payment due to contract structure and work performance.
* Parent night was held on 19 September; approximately 50% of parents showed up during the event, majority of feedback was positive.
* Parent Advisory and Fundraising Committees are being formed now.
* Col Davis and Dr. Garcia met with the Women Marines Association on 15 September; the WMA will be visiting NOMMA on 5 October and are very interesting in helping in any way.
* Face Book site is getting continued hits from Parents of Cadets with positive feedback received.
* NOMMA website has been updated to include Board Members and updated information.
* Col Davis has coordinated site visits from Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans on 6 October and the Krewe of Rex on 4 October.
* Col Davis met with the President of the Silicon Bayou Chapter of the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association. They are very interested in supporting NOMMA in a variety of ways. Col Davis will present to the Chapter on 4 November Annual meeting.

Board Support:

* Fundraising is of increasing concern now to establish connections in timely fashion.
* Col Davis and Col Ebbert are working to bring aboard 2 more members. A meeting was held this week with one of the potential members and another group is being approached on 4 October.
* The leadership team is prepared to present at any events that the Board can provide to continue to increase awareness of NOMMA in the local community.