

September 2023 Board Report

As the Seahawk Nation settles into the 2023-2024 academic year, the board of directors would like to take an opportunity to update our community regarding some recent changes to the board and the administration at DMA. On September 26, 2023, the board of directors held their first meeting of the school year. The board would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Heath Kahrs who has fulfilled his term as Chairman of the board. Heath has been a member of the DMA board of directors for the past six years and has graciously agreed to remain on the board as past Chair for the 2023-2024 academic year to ensure continuity during this transition. At the meeting, the board also welcomed a new slate of executive committee members. Congratulations, to the new executive committee:

- Chairman: Michael Berardi
- Vice Chair: Brian Rostocki
- Treasurer: Don McLamb
- Secretary: Helen Barbato

Last month, the Seahawk Nation also welcomed new leadership. Dr. Sharon Kurfuerst will be serving as the Commandant for the 2023-2024 academic year. LCDR John Butler has also joined the Seahawk Nation as the Senior Naval Science Instructor. Dr. Kurfuerst and LCDR Butler have spent significant time reviewing the policies and procedures in place at DMA, as well as the school's adherence to these policies and procedures, to ensure the school is in standard with both internal and external regulations. Consistent with all board meetings, the board heard public comment at the September 26, 2023 board meeting. During the public comment, feedback from parents was heard by the board. The board would like to extinguish concerns expressed during public comment and emphasize that no substantive changes have been made to the Cadet Code of Conduct but would also like to stress that enforcement of the existing Cadet Code of Conduct will be prioritized during this school year. The board invites the Seahawk Nation to refamiliarize itself with the existing Cadet Code of Conduct, which was signed by the cadets at the beginning of this school year. If you need an additional copy of the Cadet Code of Conduct, you can access it, and all other existing DMA policies at the below link.

<https://demilacad.org/policies/>

The board takes community feedback seriously and will, timely and appropriately, consider the feedback provided. We would like to confirm that DMA is financially secure and that the DMA board and leadership remain committed to inspiring its cadets to carry out its mission of Scholarship, Leadership, and Citizenship. DMA also remains committed to maintaining its status as a Distinguished NJROTC Unit with Academic Honors, to its athletics program, and to providing the cadets with an excellent foundation for academic success in a safe and supportive environment.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors