

**DMA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: December 15, 2025**  
**Start Time: 18:06 hours**  
**Adjourn Time: 19:20 hours**  
**Meeting Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes**

**Present:** Helen Barbato, Don McLamb, Dan Newcott, Jelena Batula, Cheryl Davis-Robinson, Jennifer McCloskey, CAPT Dan Bates, Nicole Krajewski, Brian Rostocki

**Zoom:** Chris Kenny

**Absent:** Scott Green

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to Order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At 18:06 hours, Chairperson McCloskey called the December DMA Board meeting to order, following the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None required</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Comments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary's Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The secretary's report for November 2025 meeting distributed for approval.  First: Krajewski  Second: Batula  Vote: unanimous – approved</li> </ul>	None Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commandant's Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACADEMIC AND PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marking period 2: There will be one week of classes when cadets return from winter break, with mid-terms occurring the week of January 12, 2026.</li> <li>• Cadets gave a presentation on DMA at the Red Clay Consolidated School District meeting. Cadets would like to give</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None Required</li> </ul>

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	<p>the same presentation at one of the DMA, Board agreed to have the cadets present at a Board meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Update – Winter sports are up and running <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wrestling placed in a couple of recent tournaments.</li> <li>○ Girls’ basketball team won the DMA Invitational.</li> <li>○ DIAA situation: Boys basketball participated in a tournament during the “dead time,” (summer). Cadets played, coach did not coach. Cadets were not supposed to wear DMA jerseys, said they would not wear the jerseys and they did wear the DMA jerseys. DMA signed a document with DIAA not to wear DMA jerseys during such tournaments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall School Choice update: To date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 211 applicants for 9<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>○ 35 applicants for other grades</li> <li>○ Total of 246 applicants</li> <li>○ Interviews started on 12/15 and are expected to run 4 days. Good candidate interviews so far.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Department of Education visit is scheduled for 12/16/25. This is their yearly visit, where they will walk the halls, review instructional materials, strategy, etc.</li> <li>• Special education audit that occurs yearly is schedule for 12/17/25.</li> <li>• FOIA Request Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request for information was made from a data service company in Dover, and the information is readily available as part of public record.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dan is requesting that we create a FOIA policy. This policy will detail out the procedure for future requests, including timing, hourly charge for time, cost for copies, etc. Dan included policy examples so that the governance committee can assist with creating a formal policy.</li> <li>● Request from DE Charter Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MIT would like to conduct a study and has asked for cadet addresses to send a survey.</li> <li>○ DMA would like to further understand the purpose for the survey. Perhaps Kendall Massett could come to a DMA Board meeting and explain the purpose of the MIT survey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>JROTC Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Military Ball was last Thursday. It was very successful. Last year the Ball was in March and this year it was in December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approximately 110 cadets and guests attended.</li> <li>○ Guest speaker was former Navy Lieutenant Senior Chief McClain.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Captain Bates visited the VFW on Churchman’s Road. VFW voted to give \$1K donation to DMA. State VFW representative would like to increase contact with DMA. DMA will invite him to a Thursday inspection/parade.</li> <li>● The Admiral visit is still being rescheduled, no date update as of the meeting.</li> <li>● CO invited Delaware Online to visit, and the visit was last Thursday. DMA will link the visit on their home page.</li> <li>● DMA Band and Choir Upcoming events: visiting DE Park and Casina for an outdoor concert; visit to Nemours; visit to VA Hospital, to name a few.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any upcoming community service events: Stockings for Soldiers, Color Guard for the Pearl Harbor event on 12/7</li> <li>• Drill team won the competition at Kingsway High School.</li> <li>• December 11 is the Military Ball.</li> <li>• CAPT Bates will be talking to the two VFWs that will be combining.</li> <li>• Holiday concert on 12/17.</li> <li>• Graduation speaker will be Mike McCann, State Trooper (who was also State Trooper of the year) who is a 2006 DMA graduate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke about getting more alumni relations involved with the school; looking to start an alumni association.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer's Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report: Report Provided by Don McLamb</b></p> <p><b>Financials of 11/30/2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41.7% through our Fiscal Year (5 of 12 months)</li> </ul> <p><b>Revenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cadet count of 555 was approved by the Secretary of Education. Budget numbers are now final.</li> <li>• DMA's request for 990 tax return extensions was approved. Ken is working with Barbacane to finalize. The tax return is due April 15, 2026.</li> <li>• \$5.1 million has been collected, which is 54.1% of budgeted revenue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ YTD Collected \$645K less in revenue than last YTD 11/30/2024.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local funding still remains under last year's collections. Last year, DMA collected \$1.3M by November and currently only collected \$100K YTD. The amount collected from local funding is currently under the YTD budget amount by</li> </ul>	None required

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	<p>approximately \$1,050K. All prefunding from districts received (Appo paid in December). Final amounts are coming but still outstanding is Appo, Brandywine, Colonial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FYI: No official deadline to make Final payment, but Department of Education requests that payment is made by 12/31/25.</li> <li>● Navy Aid and ROTC YTD revenue is up \$59K from last YTD.</li> <li>● Admin fees YTD revenue is up \$46K from last YTD.</li> <li>● Donation and fundraising YTD revenue is up \$27.8K from last YTD.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● \$4.12M YTD expenses have been incurred, which is 43.4% of budgeted expenses.</li> <li>● Expenses to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Salaries are over YTD budget amount by 6%.</li> <li>○ Health Insurance expense: over YTD budget amount by 13% or \$43K, which is about the same as last month.</li> <li>○ Other professional services: Sub-teachers, data service center and other professional services are over YTD budget by \$30K to \$76K YTD. Total budget for the year is \$110K.</li> <li>○ Currently have a YTD surplus of \$1.8M.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● There are no items of Revenue or Expense that have an unexplained material variance from budgeted amounts.</li> <li>● Currently have a YTD surplus of \$1.0M.</li> </ul> <p>First: Batula</p>	

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	Second: Krajewski <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote: unanimous – approved</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Committee</li> </ul>	<b>Finance Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026.</li> </ul> <b>Citizens Board Oversight Committee (CBOC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met on 12/3. All committee members were present. Reviewed and approved April-September 2025 transactions.</li> <li>• Reviewed and discussed the following statements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10/31/25 Financial Statements.</li> <li>○ Local fund balance as of 9/30/2025.</li> <li>○ Audit statements for YE 6/20/25.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finalized meeting calendar for the rest of the school year: meetings scheduled for 2/18/26 and 5/20/26.</li> </ul>	None required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview with Jennifer Dempsey occurred before this board meeting.</li> <li>• Still looking for 1-3 new board members.</li> <li>• Committee will review the new FOIA policy next meeting.</li> <li>• Committee will review the amended bi-laws that were updated when Sharon Kurfuerst was head of school.</li> <li>• Next meeting is 5pm on January 26, 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Excellence Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Board Meeting</li> </ul>	The next Board meeting will be <b>Monday, January 26, 2025.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Session</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to go into executive session</p> <p>First: McCloskey Second: McLamb</p> <p>Start: 19:00 End: 19:20</p> <p>Motion to come out of executive session</p> <p>First: Rostocki Second: Barbato</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First: McCloskey</li> <li>• Second: Rostocki</li> <li>• Vote: Affirmative – Unanimous</li> </ul> <p>Adjourned 19:20 hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required.</li> </ul>

Respectfully Submitted /s/ *Helen Barbato*