



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

Office of the President / Superintendent

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TO: All NMMI Constituents

FROM: MG (Ret) Jerry W. Grizzle, PhD

DATE: 11 April 2023

Re: Clarification

Based on comments received regarding my previous messages concerning our Middle School and Day Student initiatives, I believe it is important to clarify that they are two separate and distinct ongoing NMMI projects. To help end any confusion, I'll explain each individual project.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – INTERMEDIATE PREPATORY ACADEMY (IPA)

The middle school project, which has now been named the Intermediate Preparatory Academy (IPA), began over two years ago during the culmination of our Annual Strategic Assessment process. A strategic initiative for NMMI to consider starting their own middle school was presented by the authors, to the full Strategic Assessment committee. The Committee approved the initiative to remain part of the annual assessment. This assessment report was sent to me, and I approved the middle school initiative to remain part of the final assessment. The Assessment was then considered by the Board of Regents who approved the report that included the Middle School initiative.

At that point, we formed a committee to study the initiative and develop a plan of implementation. David West chaired the committee which met weekly, at the same time and same day, for over six months. The committee was open to any interested individual. No one was excluded from providing their input. The committee became a committee of committees as each aspect of the analysis required a separate group to explore that specific function and develop alternatives. Thus, Sub-committees such as Curriculum, Facilities, Finance, etc. were formed for in-depth study of the issues affecting establishing a middle school.

The work product of the Committee presented a comprehensive approach to the development of the middle school to a combined meeting of the NMMI Board of Regents and the Foundation Board of Trustees, on July 12, 2022. Both Boards endorsed the report and encouraged us to continue development of the school.

We were fortunate that a suitable building in Roswell was available. The building is a former medical office of 24,000 square feet, fully equipped and functional. HVAC and WIFI are in place and all that is needed is some interior renovation. The Foundation stepped in to purchase the building, enabling us to quickly implement our plan, instead of having to wait for approximately a year for State approval for us to buy the building. The sale was closed in February and renovation began almost immediately. NMMI will lease the building from the Foundation and then, over time, begin the process to purchase the building.



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Here is apparently where some of the confusion exists. The middle school building is not located on the NMMI Post. It is located approximately one mile straight north of Lusk Hall. The major street that NMMI is located on and is our address, is College Boulevard. The next major street north is 19th Street. This is the street the golf course is on. The next major street is Country Club, one mile north of College Boulevard. The address of the new building is 402 West Country Club. The building is directly across the street from Eastern New Mexico Medical Center. One final locator, if you have ever played golf on the NMMI golf course, the new building is situated along the 17th fairway.

Another point of confusion was the status of the middle school students. They are not domicile students. Their school day will begin in the morning and end in the afternoon. They will be dropped off and picked up similar to any non-domicile school. If referring to them as “day students” confused the separate issues of middle school and NMMI day students at the high school level, I apologize.

NMMI HIGH SCHOOL DAY STUDENTS:

This initiative is in the concept study phase. No action has been taken to approve or not approve enrollment of day students for high school. The initiative is to only study the concept of bringing Day Students back to NMMI with the object of filling empty chairs in our classrooms. The concept is not new to NMMI, as NMMI has enrolled Day Students numerous times in its history.

In view of the nationwide changing dynamics in education and declining enrollment trends, it is imperative that we consider all avenues of providing our education to potential students, rather than solely to the traditional military school-domiciled student. Higher Education has been hurt worse as those students are staying home and pursuing an education online. I shared the story of the Institution here in New Mexico that was applauded for having a 10% increase in overall headcount, then reported that 49% of their total enrollment was online. I ask you as readers to consider this question. How long do you think the State of New Mexico will support the infrastructure of a campus, where only half of the capacity is being used?

I want everyone to understand that our number one recruiting priority is the traditional, domiciled Cadet. However, we cannot limit our efforts just to that model. We must explore every way to not only fill the beds, but fill our classrooms.

The Day Student initiative committee will be formed and operated in a similar manner to that of the middle school committee with meeting day and times to be announced quickly. We need this committee process to function efficiently and effectively and complete its work to see if bringing in day students is a feasible concept. David West will chair the committee. He will determine the day of the week and time that the committee will meet. If you are interested, please participate. Please do not be an ‘armchair’ quarterback. The objective is for the committee to come to a conclusion, yes or no to the concept. If yes, then the committee will deal with methods of implementation. If no, then obviously no further discussions will be necessary. We have asked the committee to be prepared to present their recommendation to the NMMI Board of Regents during the November 2023 meeting. If the conclusion is to go forward with the initiative, we will begin implementation with the target of the second semester, January 2024.