



BOARD OF VISITORS

201 SMITH HALL, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

VMI Board of Visitors Special Meeting Minutes Feb. 28, 2025

A special meeting of the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors was held Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, at 9 a.m. in Lexington, Va. pursuant to notice posted on vmi.edu and the Commonwealth Calendar. A recording of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M32PCQV3huo>.

Members Present

John Adams '96
Teddy Gottwald '83
Jonathan Hartsock '00
Jamie Inman '86
Bill Janis '84
Terry McKnight '78
Steve Reardon '84
Kate Todd
Tom Watjen '76
Damon Williams '90

Members Participating Virtually

Ernie Edgar '87 (Florida)
Hugh Fain '80 (Richmond)
Conrad Garcia (Richmong)
Jim Joustra '76 (Florida)
Meaghan Mobbs (Ukraine)
Nancy Phillips (Blacksburg)
Maj. Gen. Jim Ring '88 (Sandston)

Others Present

Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins '85
Col. Bill Wyatt
Patrick O'Leary
Nathaniel Cline

John Adams called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He welcomed new board members Jonathan Hartsock and Steve Reardon who had been appointed by the governor on Feb. 26, 2028.

Maj. Gen. Wins provided an update on strategic enrollment management efforts. He told the board admissions recruitment for the fall continues to look very strong. He said the Institute has 2,036 completed applications and 1,383 appointments. 211 deposits have been made to date. Maj. Gen. said all of these numbers track ahead of last year.

The superintendent relayed to the board some concerns and questions our admissions team has received recently. He said the team was receiving a number of calls concerned about federal aid as a result of the U.S. Department of Education's "Dear Colleague" letter. Maj. Gen. Wins believes the Institute is in compliance with the letter but is awaiting guidance from the Attorney General's office. The admissions team has also received concerns about the possibility of a reduced number of ROTC scholarships.

A motion was made by Bill Janis and seconded by Teddy Gottwald to move into closed session. The motion passed unanimously, and the board entered closed session at 9:12 a.m. to discuss:

1. Matters related to the employment, assignment, appointment, or performance of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body, and evaluation of



performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), relating to the evaluation of the Superintendent's performance and/or discussion of individual personnel matters.

2. Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7), pertaining to actual or probable litigation of the Institute.
3. Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (8).

A motion was made by Bill Janis and seconded by Kate Todd to certify the closed session. A roll call vote of the members present was taken. The motion passed as the board returned to open session at 11:43 a.m.

Bill Janis made a motion, seconded by Teddy Gottwald, to extend the superintendent's contract beyond its current expiration date of June 30, 2025. The motion failed six votes to 10. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Ernie Edgar, Hugh Fain, Conrad Garcia, Terry McKnight, Tom Watjen, and Damon Williams. Those voting against the motion included Teddy Gottwald, Jonathan Hartsock, Jamie Inman, Bill Janis, Jim Joustra, Meaghan Mobbs, Nancy Phillips, Steve Reardon, Kate Todd, and John Adams.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.