



# Vertus Charter School

COURAGE, LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY

*Vertus Charter School prepares leaders of character  
for the community and the workplace.*

## **Vertus Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2015**

**2 Austin St., Rochester, NY**

Board members present: Bryan Hickman, Mike Mandina, Todd Oldham, Ty Kelly,  
Ken Wasnock

Staff members present: Leigh McGuigan, Perry White, Josh Pincus,  
Jemeul Thompson

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hickman at 5:07 p.m.

The board was introduced to Jemeul Thompson, Vertus' newly hired Manager of School Culture and Non-academic Programming. Mr. Thompson outlined his background and laid out his initial vision for this new position.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wasnock and seconded by Mr. Kelly, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

**Resolved**, that the minutes from the meeting on March 12, 2015 are approved.

In celebration of the midway point in Vertus' academic school year, Dr. McGuigan showed a presentation of photographs taken during the first two quarters.

### **CEO Report**

Dr. McGuigan distributed the Jeri Chapman's written report of the NYSED check-in visit that took place on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The report was positive overall. The only reported deficiency was in enrollment of English Language Learners, which the board acknowledged is an inevitable challenge for a new charter school in the current environment.

Dr. McGuigan also shared with the board a letter from Dr. Gerald Ardito, Assistant Chair and Professor of STEM-D Education at Pace University. Writing about his recent visit, Dr. Ardito praised the Vertus staff's interactions with students, stating "Every single one was marked by respect, professionalism, and deep caring to serve the students."



## **Finance Report**

Dr. McGuigan presented the financials through February 2015. The February actuals were in accordance with expectations, with Vertus underspending by approximately \$44,000.

## **Enrollment Update**

Mr. White presented an update on Vertus enrollment, currently at 93 students, with a year-to-date daily average of 99 students. He also reviewed attendance trends and plans for future direct marketing campaigns. Various promotional options were discussed, with a strong emphasis on billboard advertising.

## **Development Report**

Mr. White presented the development report, noting possible future funding sources. In particular, he discussed a newly available Farash facilities grant with multiple funding levels. Dr. McGuigan and Mr. White have opted to pursue the higher level, applying for \$182,000 to cover new technology, equipment, and furniture.

Mr. Hickman cited the Peter and Marion Schwartz Foundation as a promising new funding source.

The board also discussed the election of officers, which is required on an annual basis. The positions of Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary will need to be filled for the upcoming year. Mr. Hickman assumed responsibility for discussing these roles and their progression with board members, stating that he will report back at the next monthly meeting. The possibility of adding board members was also discussed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

**Resolved**, that the meeting is adjourned.