



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VERTUS HIGH SCHOOL

November 17, 2020

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) via video conference on November 17, 2020
at 4:00 p.m. EST

Quorum and Attendees

The following directors were present:

Bryan Hickman
Victoria Van Voorhis
Evan Gallina
Mike Mandina
Dr. Fred Johnson
Tim Brown

The following staff members were present:

Julie Locey

Call to Order

Mr. Bryan Hickman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and acted as Chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Gallina acted as Secretary of the meeting. Mr. Hickman then announced that the meeting was ready to proceed with its business. All directors could hear and be heard by each other. Mr. Hickman then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Governance and Resolutions

Motion #1. Approval of Prior Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on October 20, 2020. Following discussion, and upon a motion made by Ms. Van Voorhis, seconded by Mr. Hickman, the Board unanimously approved the Prior Minutes.

Motion #2. Approval of Calvin Gantt to the Board of Trustees:

The Vertus Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Calvin Gantt as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on January 31, 2024, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving David Carr is formally adopted upon SED’s approval.



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Following discussion, and upon a motion made by Ms. Van Voorhis, seconded by Mr. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the addition of Mr. Gantt to the Board of Trustees.

Charter Renewal Application and Related Matters

The dates for the renewal site visit will be December 15th and 16th.

School Reports

Principal Report: Ms. Locey gave an update on school activities, including the continued challenges facing the school in the midst of the current pandemic, especially as Monroe County experiences an increase in cases and faces a reduction of in person capabilities. Vertus will continue to hold in person school, so long as the State of New York allows. Vertus has expressed concern for the number of students who have fallen behind throughout the pandemic and the learning loss that has occurred. Although nothing has been formalized, a comprehensive plan to help catch those students up whom have fallen behind is being discussed.

CFO Report/Finance Committee: It is with a heavy heart that Vertus announced the passing of Mr. Jason Trzeciak, the Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Locey, with guidance of the Finance Committee, has decided to lean on our existing accountants to help bridge the gap and help with succession planning to find the most permanent organizational solution and replacement for Mr. Trzeciak.

The Finance Committee chair, Tim Brown, reported that the committee has reviewed the latest revised budget that Mr. Trzeciak completed prior to his passing, showing lower revenues caused by the reduction in enrollment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Locey will continue to manage operations including various offsetting cuts to expenditures so as to manage cashflow. However, a formal revision to the budget will not be done until it is clear what changes the state may make to school funding. Ms. Locey will continue to manage the financials with the guidance of the Board and Finance Committee until someone is appointed to do this work.

Fundraising Committee: Evan Gallina reported that the Fundraising Committee has engaged a Grant Writer and will have the first formal meeting on November 19, 2020. The Committee has also engaged Causewave to help Vertus' fundraising and enrollment efforts. Members of the Fundraising Committee have had multiple meetings with Causewave to date and are feeling very confident in the strategy that they will propose and pursue. Vertus has also been awarded a \$50,000 grant from E3 Rochester that will most likely be received in January of 2021.

Executive Session

At 4:53, the board went into executive session.

Adjournment



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Questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting and general discussion ensued throughout the meeting. Upon a motion by Dr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Gallina and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. EST.

Evan Gallina
Secretary of the Board

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
VERTUS HIGH SCHOOL**

November 19, 2020

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Fundraising Committee via video conference on November 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. EST

Attendees

The following directors were present:

Evan Gallina
Mike Mandina

The following staff members were present:

Julie Locey
Michael James

The following members of Grants 4 Good

Margit Brazda Poirier
Amanda Smythe

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m, upon arrival of all confirmed members of the Fundraising Committee.

Topics of Discussion:

- School and Board representatives met with the leadership team of Grants4Good to give an introduction to Vertus.
- The Board had recently approved the proposal by Grantss4Good to engage them as 3rd party to help secure funds from national foundations and government grants.
- Ms. Locey gave an extensive background on Vertus to G4G so that they could best understand our origins, our vision, our goals, and our students.
- The group discussed the most dire needs of the school and where the most shortcomings are so that we can attack those areas via grant writing.
- It was noted that Vertus must have specific asks for the grants/foundations.

Action Items:

- G4G to enter the search phase for funding, and identified multiple ideas throughout the meeting
- Vertus to provide G4G where funds have come from thus far

Evan Gallina
Secretary of the Board