



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VERTUS HIGH SCHOOL

April 27, 2021

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) via video conference on April 27, 2021 (rescheduled from the April 20, 2021 meeting) at 4:00 p.m. EST

Quorum and Attendees

The following directors were present:

Victoria Van Voorhis
Bryan Hickman
Evan Gallina
Frederick Johnson
David Carr
Mike Mandina
Carol Garrett

The following directors were excused:

Timothy Brown
Calvin Gantt

The following directors were absent:

None

The following staff members were present:

Julie Locey

The following advisors to the Board were present:

Amy Brisson – DeJoy, Knauf & Blood, LLP

The following members of the public were present:

Call to Order

Ms. Tory Van Voorhis called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and acted as Chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Gallina acted as Secretary of the meeting. Ms. Van Voorhis then announced that



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the meeting was ready to proceed with its business. All directors could see, hear and be seen and heard by each other.

Governance and Resolutions

Resolution 1: That the board approve the minutes of the March Vertus Board meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Carr, and passed unanimously at 4:05 pm.

Resolution 2: That the board approve that the number of authorized Board of Trustee Members is hereby set at 9. The motion was moved by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Rev. Johnson and passed unanimously at 4:07 pm.

Finance Committee Report: In Mr. Brown's absence, Ms. Brisson reported on his behalf and reviewed school finances in depth. The Finance Committee continues to closely monitor the school's cashflow in the midst of the pandemic, and is pleased to announce that we received additional funds per and adjustment in payments from RSCD regarding the quantity of SpEd students currently enrolled. Due to tight budget monitoring and these additional funds, it is expected that the school will finish the school year in a strong cash position. The Finance Committee also continues to monitor all state and federal grants and support that are expected to be received.

School Reports

Principal Report: Ms. Locey gave an update on school activities. The school has invited the newest Regent, Regent Turner for a site visit. The school continues to operate at a reduced capacity, approximately 40% of student body is in the building, but hopes to get students back in the building as quickly as possible. As the school continues to adjust due to COVID regulations, it has had many visitors into the school to help build the career readiness programs. Spring NWEA tests will be administered on April 27th and 28th.

Fundraising Committee: It was reported that Vertus has continued its grant reachout, with grant applications now out to Wilmott Foundation, JM McDonald, the Florence Mueller Foundation, and the McGowan Foundation. Vertus has also received two small grants for the baseball program, one from Dick's Sporting Goods and Pitch in for Softball & Baseball. The work with Causewave continues.

Community Engagement Committee: Rev. Johnson gave a report on the Community Engagement Committee and discussed the most impactful events that Vertus could participate in. There were three main focal points of these discussions, of which are participating in the HBCU distinguished gentleman awards, revisiting the branding behind the Vertus dress code, and strengthening the relationship between Vertus and the local higher education institutions.



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Vertus has also been working on a community job fair, which will be located outside, in the parking lot, in June.

Charter Renewal Update: The Board received the Renewal Site Visit Document from NYSED, and sent back formal comments in which the Board deemed needed corrective action. The School will be up for the rechartering at the May meeting.

Strategic Plan Review: The board reviewed the Vertus Charter School Board of Trustees Strategic Plan. Ms. Van Voorhis reviewed the strategic plan in depth and discussed the potential opportunity to expand Vertus by adding lower grade levels. The board will discuss this further after receiving the charter renewal report in May.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting and general discussion ensued throughout the meeting. Upon a motion by Rev. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hickman, and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m. EST.

Evan Gallina
Secretary of the Board