



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911
Fax (585) 254-1251

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

July 27, 2021

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) was held on July 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EST, in person at the school.

Quorum and Attendees

The following directors were present:

Victoria Van Voorhis
Bryan Hickman
David Carr
Calvin Gantt
Frederick Johnson
Mike Mandina

The following directors were excused:

Timothy Brown
Evan Gallina
Carol Garrett

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:

None



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911
Fax (585) 254-1251

Call to Order

Ms. Tory Van Voorhis called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and acted as Chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Hickman acted as Secretary of the meeting. Ms. Van Voorhis then announced that 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 June Vertus Board meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Mandina, seconded by Rev. Johnson, and passed unanimously at 4:11 pm.

Resolution 2: That the board approve the meeting dates submitted by Ms. Locey, with the April date set at April 26 rather than April 12. The meeting dates will be posted on the Vertus website. The motion was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Mr. Gantt, and passed unanimously at 4:17 pm.

Principal Report:

Ms. Locey gave an update on school activities, keying off her Month at a Glance report to the board. The summer session has about 120 students, with two thirds of them attending in person and others working remotely. There is no hybrid offering. The plan for the fall is 5 days a week of in-person instruction, as the past year has proven that in-person instruction is far more effective both academically and for student socialization.

Enrollment of new students for the fall is moving ahead more briskly than previous years, with 58 applicants either fully enrolled or nearing completion of enrollment paperwork. An additional 19 applicants have been accepted by Vertus but haven't started paperwork. To meet enrollment goals, it is estimated that an additional 50 applications will be needed, which is believed to be possible based on past summer application experience.

Course completions and credits earned were in line with previous months, given that June is a short month leading up to graduation.

Finance Committee Report: In Mr. Brown's absence, Ms. Brisson reported on his behalf and reviewed school finances in depth. Due to extremely tight cost controls throughout the pandemic, the fiscal year ended with a surplus estimated to be just over \$179,000 or 3.5% of revenues, in line with NYSED expectations. The school ended the year with a cash balance



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911
Fax (585) 254-1251

sufficient to fund operations through until the November payment from RCSD makes up for the low payments in July and September, which do not take new enrollees into full account. The on-site audit will take place between August 23 and September 2.

Accountability Report

As reported in the committee meeting minutes, the school is reviewing a range of math and reading intervention programs to allow better interventions with the many students who arrive at Vertus 3 or 4 years behind in these subjects. The school is looking for proven programs based on good research and science.

Given the correlation between attendance and student progress, a new Attendance officer role has been created and a working group will focus on ways to draw students in through more interesting offerings and incentives.

Other Committees

Governance: two prospective board members are going through the vetting process. The Finance, Fundraising and Community Engagement committees will report at the August meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting and general discussion ensued throughout the meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Hickman, and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m. EST.

Bryan Hickman
Secretary of the Board Meeting