



# Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street  
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911  
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## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VERTUS CHARTER SCHOOL

September 21, 2021

### Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on September 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EST at Vertus Charter School, 21 Humboldt Street, Rochester, NY.

### Quorum and Attendees

The following directors were present:

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

The following directors were excused:

Timothy Brown

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:

Dekedrian Johnson (potential board member)  
Spencer Ash (potential board member)



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## Call to Order

Ms. Tory Van Voorhis called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. and acted as Chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Gallina 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 August Vertus Board meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Mandina, and passed unanimously at 4:16 pm.

**Resolution 2:** That the board approve that, 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, Spencer Ash be a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on January 31, 2024, pending approval by SED. The motion was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Mr. Carr, and passed unanimously at 4:17 pm.

**Resolution 3:** That the board approve that, 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, Dekedrian Johnson be a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on January 31, 2024, pending approval by SED. The motion was moved by Mr. Gallina, seconded by Mr. Hickman, and passed unanimously at 4:19 pm.

**Finance Committee Report:** Ms. Brisson reported on behalf of the finance committee and reviewed school finances in depth. The school is currently in a strong cash position and hopes that increased enrollment efforts will yield increased revenue. The Finance committee will be meeting with Michele Cain from Mengel, Metzger, and Barr to review the annual audit on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## School Reports

***Principal Report:*** Ms. Locey gave an update on school activities and noted that the school year is now in full swing as students returned to the classroom on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was also discussed that the recent shortage in school bus drivers in the Rochester District has been felt by the school. Overall, this has affected the attendance rate, however, the purchase of a replacement school bus has helped mitigate this problem. School enrollment is currently at our



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budget number, and recruiting efforts will continue in hopes of attracting more students as the fall semester continues.

**Fundraising Committee:** Vertus has experienced continued success on its grant writing efforts and have recently won 3 separate grants for a total of \$35,000. Vertus also is waiting to hear if they will become a United Way designated donor.

In prior discussions, the Board decided that it would be helpful to undergo diversity, equity and inclusion training. Mr. Gantt led a presentation starting at 5:00 pm, followed by a discussion with all present board members, about best practices when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Public Comment**

*None.*

### **Adjournment**

Questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting and general discussion ensued throughout the meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. Gallina, seconded by Mr. Hickman, and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m. EST.

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Evan Gallina  
Secretary of the Board