



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
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Tel (585) 747-8911
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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VERTUS HIGH SCHOOL

April 26, 2022

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on April 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. EST in person at Vertus Charter School.

Quorum and Attendees

The following directors were present:

Victoria Van Voorhis
Evan Gallina
(Reverend) Frederick Johnson
Mike Mandina
Bryan Hickman
Calvin Gantt
Dekedrian Johnson

The following Directors were excused:

David Carr (illness)
Spencer Ash
(Reverend) Carol Garrett

The following directors were absent:

None

The following staff members were present:

Julie Locey
Timothy Hill
Levi Bennett

The following advisors to the Board were present:

Amy Brisson – DeJoy, Knauf & Blood, LLP

The following members of the public were present:

John O’Connell, prospective board member



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Call to Order

Ms. Tory Van Voorhis called the meeting to order at 4:06 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 approves the minutes of the March Vertus Board meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Mandina, and passed unanimously at 4:55 pm.

Resolution 2: *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 John O'Connell as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on January 31, 2024, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving John O'Connell is formally adopted upon SED's approval.*

The motion was moved by Rev. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Gantt, and passed unanimously at 4:57 pm.

Finance Committee Report: Ms. Brisson reported on behalf of the finance committee, and informed the board that the projected surplus for the year is slightly higher than the budget, based on student enrollment and various small grants received. It was also reported that the school is the recipient of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation grant, which is a total of \$178,000, to be given over three years, for the mental health program to benefit the students.

School Reports

Principal Report: Ms. Locey is proud to report that March was the highest attended month of the year so far. 143.73 course credits were earned in March and 444 courses were completed, putting the student body on track for a successful academic year. With spring sports returning, the baseball and outdoor track team are in full swing with full rosters. May 4th will mark the school's first-ever Voices of Valor Chorus concert, which will showcase the school's new acapella class. The school is prepared for the NYSED mid-term site visit, which will occur on June 2nd and 3rd.

Ms. Locey took the board through the results of a comprehensive staff survey. The feedback from all levels of staff is generally positive and in alignment with the school's mission and



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culture. The areas showing concern were a desire for an increase in salary, more planning time and more professional development. Ms. Locey is already taking action in those areas and others.

Mr. Levi Bennett presented a plan to raise the visibility of Vertus in the community so that more parents of potential students will understand what the school can do for their teenage boys. The plan includes a number of public events, including a Jazz Concert in conjunction with Rochester's Jazz Fest. A lengthy discussion ensued. Applications for the school are up significantly compared to last year to date.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting and general discussion ensued throughout the meeting. Upon a motion by Ms. Van Voorhis, seconded by Mr. Hickman, and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. EST.

Evan Gallina
Secretary of the Board