

APPROVED



Vertus
HIGH SCHOOL

Vertus High School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday January 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location

MCC Downtown Campus

Trustees Present

A. Bell, C. Gantt, D. Johnson, E. Gallina, J. O'Connell, J. Wynn, V. Van Voorhis

Trustees Absent

D. Paul, M. Mandina, S. David-West

Guests Present

J. Locey, L. Bennett

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

V. Van Voorhis called a meeting of the board of trustees of Vertus High School to order on Tuesday Jan 20, 2026 at 5:10 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

D. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 12-16-25.

E. Gallina seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Consent Agenda Items

A. Month At A Glance

Levy provided a summary about the meeting with parents and some of the topics that important to them. It was a lively conversation and helped enhance the importance of keeping parents involved in the process for their students.

We discussed strategies about how to get more parents involved. Also, students have just begun Regents. Vertus staff volunteered to help and we had a great turnout.

B. Recruitment Update

Enrollment is strong. Our 10th grade enrollment is very high and recruitment from other charter schools with students looking to transfer to Vertus.

Schoolwide open house was a great event and we had a lot of buzz about the possibility of a middle school for Vertus. We have 38 overall applications for next year (10 of them are for middle school, so we are tracking that information for future use).

C. Board Statistics

III. Finance

A. Budget vs Actual & Cash Flow

Budget remains strong. Cash is also looking strong. We are still down a few preceptors, but continuing to recruit to fill these positions.

B. Banking Update

A. Bell discussed conversations with a variety of banks to understand the fee structure to identify the best one to use for Vertus to allow cash reserves to gain the best interest possible. We are reviewing the investment policies to ensure that we remain compliant. A formal one-pager and vote will take place at the next meeting.

IV. Discussion Items

A. 21 Humboldt Lease Update

E. Gallina provided an update regarding our lease and shared that we have a formal notice that we expect to extend our lease for 5-years. We are requesting a formal response in writing.

J. Locey shared that we are waiting for the construction cost for the build-out of Vertus to accommodate for a middle school. We hope to have that information soon.

V. Committee Reporting

A. Governance

Statewide advocacy day for Charters Schools in Albany is scheduled for March 4, 2026. More information will be forthcoming. We were also informed that the per pupil aid for students is scheduled to go up (we still lack significantly behind other cities)

M. Sydor is interested in serving on the Vertus Board. He has taken a tour and met with T. Van Voorhis.

E. Gallina made a motion to Approve the resolution for M. Sydor to put him through the necessary process to be approved for the Vertus Board.

A. Bell seconded the motion.

Vertus Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting, which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Matthew Sydor as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on the third anniversary of his seating pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Matthew Sydor is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Closing Items

A. New Action Item Review & Report Out

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Gantt

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