

APPROVED



# Vertus

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Vertus High School

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 4:00 PM

#### Location

Vertus High School

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#### Trustees Present

A. Bell, C. Gantt, D. Johnson, D. Paul, E. Gallina, J. O'Connell, M. Mandina, S. David-West, V. Van Voorhis

#### Trustees Absent

J. Wynn

#### Guests Present

A. Brisson, J. Locey, L. Bennett, Sydor

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#### 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 Wednesday Feb 11, 2026 at 4:04 PM.

##### C. Approve Minutes

J. O'Connell made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 01-20-26.  
D. Johnson seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **II. Consent Agenda Items**

### **A. Month At A Glance**

### **B. Recruitment Update**

Recruitment is strong and we just has a tour of 8th graders for the 9th grade. There continues to be a strong interest in the middle school. There has also been an increase in students who are experiencing family issues, so there is an increase in connect with child protective services.

### **C. Board Statistics**

We had a discussion about attendance issues and the negative of impact of the cold weather on student attendance. We have the necessary transportation, so there is no concerns there. We are still trying to recover since the Christmas break when students get out of their routine.

There continues to be vibrant discussions amongst the accountability committee about how to increase attendance and participation. Primary issues are around behaviors that continue to be an issue (e.g. vaping, etc.). We are exploring multiple approaches to addressing this issues with students from an addiction standpoint.

## **III. Finance**

### **A. Budget vs Actual & Cash Flow**

A good month for contributions, including an additional \$25K as a result of the gala. We are projecting be above budget, so things are looking strong. There are also a few donor prospects that are being considered.

We are also in a strong position with cash, so all good at this time.

### **B. Banking Update**

Allie discussed the banking memo (distributed to the Board via BoardOnTrack). We explored a variety of banking options for Vertus (e.g., M&T Bank, Key Bank, Summit Federal Credit Union and Charles Schwab).

### **C. Banking Vote**

D. Paul made a motion to Resolved that after reviewing our alternatives, the Board votes to diversify our operating cash account in order to make the best use of our excess cash reserves by establishing a banking/investment relationship with Schwab.

M. Mandina seconded the motion.

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

#### **IV. Discussion Items**

##### **A. 21 Humboldt Lease Update**

Julie & Evan provided an update on the updated lease for 21 Humboldt. We are still awaiting the update from

We received an updated cost for the build out for the middle school. The estimated cost is \$6.8 Million. We are exploring how we can bring that cost down. We will continue to explore all of our options and continue the discussion.

##### **B. Graduate Projection**

Julie provided an update on graduation projects (see BoardOnTrack). We discussed the possible graduates from the 5-year and 4-year cohorts. Projection right now is about 75% (4-Year cohort), maybe as high as 81%.

#### **V. Committee Reporting**

##### **A. Governance**

The governance team discussed the off-sight meeting that is scheduled for June and how to use that effectively. We are encouraging board members to become more knowledgeable about the information available for training the board on BoardOnTrack.

We have areas of need on the board that we need to seek out (e.g., legal) as well as to update the standard operating procedure (SOP) around onboarding new board members.

We have committed to work with Julie to support that. We are also working on finalizing an updated job description for Julie so that the evaluation process through BoardOnTrack is more aligned with the job description.

##### **B. Academic Accountability Report Out**

The academic accountability committee provided the board with a deeper understanding of the breakdown of students that we truly serve at Vertus. Thus, the model and the investment in character building at Vertus is paying dividends in ways that we need to celebrate more.

We discussed strategies for how we are attempting to incentive student success and stamina. We also discussed how we are planning to incorporate responsible AI into the curriculum for the students.

## 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 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
C. Gantt

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