

APPROVED



Veritas Preparatory Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday March 31, 2017 at 8:15 AM

Location

Veritas Prep Charter School 1st floor conference room or Dial-in number: 866-848-2216,
Conference Code: 7783935205

Trustees Present

A. Mendelson, C. Alves, C. Wistreich (remote), D. Fuller, D. Janes, J. Crowell, L. Abbate, L. Doherty, M. Landon, M. Sweet, R. Sela, T. Gabinetti

Trustees Absent

A. Martin, G. Moody

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

D. Fuller, M. Landon, R. Sela

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned

C. Alves, D. Fuller, J. Crowell

Guests Present

D. Raymond, Denise Ford, Rachel Romano

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Mendelson called a meeting of the board of trustees of Veritas Preparatory Charter School to order on Friday Mar 31, 2017 at 8:12 AM.

A. Mendelson introduced Denise Ford, a potential new board member. The members introduced themselves.

C. Approve Minutes

L. Abbate made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 01-27-17 Board Meeting on 01-27-17.

D. Janes seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve February Board Meeting Minutes

D. Janes made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 03-03-17 Board Meeting on 03-03-17.

L. Abbate seconded the motion.

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

E. Board Contribution

II. Facility Purchase

A. Authorize Executive Director to sign revised commitment letter from Peoplesbank for Facility Purch

M. Sweet provided a brief update on the facility purchase date. A potential closing date of May 3rd. Everything thing is on track to be prepared for the closing date.

M.Sweet provided an overview of the recent changes to the commitment letter the board will be voting to approve. Discussion regarding the terms, financial covenants, and terms for Friends of Veritas Prep Charter School, and the financing for the HVAC system, enrollment. M. Sweet suggested the Financial committee review the financial covenants and projections during their next meeting to report at the next Board meeting and send information to C.Wistreich. R. Romano commented on the benefit of owning the building.

M. Sweet commented that a vote will be conducted at the next board meeting on the sublease Springfield Prep Charter School.

R. Sela arrived.

M. Landon arrived.

D. Fuller arrived.

L. Abbate made a motion to formally authorize R. Romano to execute the commitment letter with PeoplesBank on behalf of Veritas Prep Charter School.

L. Doherty seconded the motion.

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

III. Executive Director

A. 2017-2018 School Calendar

R. Romano commented on the school calendar for the 2017-18 aligns closely with Springfield Public Schools. She discussed change to professional development with high staff retention rate, snow days, last day of school, extended day/extended year. D. Janes asked about school breaks and snow days. R. Sela is a State decided schedule to coordinate all school districts. R. Romano commented on the benefits of aligning with Springfield Public School schedule.

L. Doherty made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar.

L. Abbate seconded the motion.

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

B. DESE Grant Update

R. Romano provided an update on the school turnaround grant with DESE. Veritas Prep Charter School was awarded the proposed grant amount. She provided an update on staffing changes effected by receipt of the grant. She mentioned recent discussions on the potential for more funding opportunities. L. Doherty requested a copy of the grant be sent to the board.

IV. Academic Achievement

A. Dissemination

R. Sela provided information on what has been reviewed in the past few academic achievement meetings. She discussed dissemination specifically, and the brainstorming to being development a cohesive plan. D. Janes provided information on his recent discussions on potential dissemination opportunities. L. Doherty asked about standardized testing schedule. R. Romano commented on the testing schedule. R. Sela commented that all students in grades 4 and 8 will take the test online and testing in general. R. Sela commented on the interim testing, grading and assessment review and uses.

V. Finance

A. Financial Update

R. Romano provided an update on the relationship with Central Source. The school will be moving to another company for financial services shortly. The company also provide technical services which will be valued in the future. M. Sweet mentioned a termination right be included in the new contract. A. Gabinetti mentioned an FY18 budget will be

presented at the next board meeting. R. Romano provided information on staffing changes.

C. Alves left.

D. Fuller left.

J. Crowell left.

VI. Governance

A. Board Recruitment

L. Abbate commented on recruitment efforts, the need for help with recruiting a strong board, continued strong board attendance and the views of the new Secretary of State.

R. Romano commented on the Charter School Association Action committee that is working with charter school boards on advocating and responding to potential legislation that would remove autonomy and financial support from charter schools. R. Romano commented on the need for closer allied relations with school districts. M. Sweet commented on the need for public relations and getting our good work to the public.

VII. Other Business

A. High School Matriculation

A. Mendelson introduced Alex Kim, 7th and 8th grade counselor to the board to provide an update on high school matriculation. A. Kim provide background on his role and the process to transition 8th graders to Springfield Public School district, charter or private high schools. R. Romano mentioned a new honors high school academy that recently visited the school. He also mentioned the balloting program. M. Landon asked about Alumni contact. R. Romano commented on a more formalized communication is needed and work is beginning on that with a survey. Alumni have visited the school and worked with teachers on course selection. A. Kim talked about the program Excel Academy for Alumni contact.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Mendelson

L. Doherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Landon seconded the motion.

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