

APPROVED



## Veritas Preparatory Charter School

### Minutes

#### Academic Achievement Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Thursday September 12, 2024 at 8:30 AM

#### **Location**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://vpcs-org.zoom.us/j/3131719731>

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#### **Committee Members Present**

A. Errichetti (remote), A. Hickson-Martin (remote), L. Doherty (remote)

#### **Committee Members Absent**

M. Freeman, R. Sela

#### **Guests Present**

N. Gauthier

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#### **I. Opening Items**

**A. Record Attendance**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

A. Errichetti called a meeting of the Academic Achievement Committee of Veritas Preparatory Charter School to order on Thursday Sep 12, 2024 at 8:36 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

A. Errichetti made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Achievement Committee Meeting on 08-08-24.

L. Doherty seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Academic Achievement**

### **A. Data Dashboards**

#### **Key Points**

- Amy presented data on homework completion rates and attendance rates across grade levels, highlighting the correlation between these metrics and MCAS scores.
- The group discussed the importance of homework and strategies to support students, including exploring external tutoring services and free homework help apps.
- Attendance data showed the middle school performing well, while 10th graders at the high school were struggling to meet the 95% daily attendance goal.
- The group reviewed the implementation of new ELA and science curricula, noting the benefits of having well-designed lesson plans for coaching teachers.
- Rachel mentioned an upcoming parent meeting to promote the importance of attendance and homework to families.
- The group approved the previous meeting's minutes.
- Andrea suggested involving students more in discussions about the importance of attendance.
- Amy shared the school's interventions for chronically absent students, including personalized outreach and home visits.

#### **Middle School Attendance Performance**

The middle school is performing well with a 96.4% average daily attendance rate, exceeding the goal of 95%.

- Fifth, sixth, and seventh grades are particularly strong.
- Eighth grade is close to the target.

#### **High School Attendance Issues**

The high school's attendance rate is lower, especially for 10th graders.

- The school is launching intervention processes to address this issue.

### **Chronic Absenteeism Monitoring**

Chronic absenteeism is being closely monitored.

- Students who missed two or more days in the first few weeks are flagged for intervention.
- Data shows that these students are likely to remain chronically absent throughout the year.

### **New Attendance Tracking Systems**

The school has implemented new systems to track and respond to attendance issues promptly.

- This includes personalized phone calls to parents of chronically absent students.
- Case managers are assigned for severe cases.

### **Attendance Incentives**

To incentivize attendance, the school is offering a raffle for a \$100 gift card for students with 100% attendance.

- This is an increase from the previous year's 95% threshold.

### **Homework Completion and MCAS Performance**

Data shows a strong correlation between homework completion rates and MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) performance.

- Students meeting expectations on MCAS typically complete 75-80% of their math homework.
- They also complete 60-70% of their reading homework.

### **Middle School Math Homework Discrepancies**

Middle school math homework completion rates vary widely between classes, ranging from 42% to 90%.

- The school is investigating reasons for these discrepancies, including differences in teacher grading practices.

### **High School Homework Data Collection**

High school homework data is limited as teachers are just beginning to record homework assignments consistently.

### **Interventions for Homework Completion**

The school is considering various interventions to improve homework completion.

- These include exploring external tutoring services and free apps that can assist students with homework problems.

### **High School No-cell Phone Policy**

The high school has implemented a no-cell phone policy, confiscating phones at the door.

- This has led to noticeable improvements in student engagement and social interaction, particularly during lunch periods.

#### **Removal of Food Delivery Services**

The removal of food delivery services has been well-received by teachers.

- This change has reduced disruptions.

#### **Parent Engagement Challenges**

Parent engagement in school meetings has decreased since the pandemic.

- This presents a challenge for communication and involvement.

#### **Ongoing Adaptation Strategies**

The school continues to adapt its strategies for student support, data tracking, and curriculum implementation.

- These adaptations aim to address ongoing challenges and improve student outcomes.

### **B. Curriculum Updates**

#### **New ELA Curriculum Implementation**

A new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum has been implemented in the middle school.

- Early observations indicate that it allows for more effective coaching of teachers.
- It also enables clearer identification of instructional issues.

#### **Math Curriculum Re-examination**

The math curriculum, while not new, is being re-examined with insights gained from the ELA curriculum implementation.

- Teachers are being encouraged to follow lesson plans more closely to ensure learning objectives are met.

#### **New Science Curriculum Implementation**

A new science curriculum, OpenSciEd, has been implemented in both middle and high schools.

- This curriculum is more inquiry-based, which may align better with anticipated changes to the state science tests.

#### **Shift to Pre-written Curricula**

The shift to pre-written curricula across subjects is expected to improve instruction quality and consistency.

- It will also facilitate better support for diverse learner needs.

### **III. 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 9:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
N. Gauthier

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### **Documents used during the meeting**

- MS Homework - September Meeting.xlsx
- MS Homework 2 - September Meeting.xlsx
- HS Homework - September Meeting.pdf
- Student Attendance \_ Veritas Prep Charter School Partner Portal \_ Open Architects - September Meeting.pdf