

APPROVED



## Veritas Preparatory Charter School

### Minutes

#### Governance Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Thursday January 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM

##### **Location**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 84901910623

Passcode: 636689

[\(US\) +1 929-205-6099](#)

Passcode: 636689

Meeting host: [ngauthier@vpcs.org](mailto:ngauthier@vpcs.org)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://vpcs-org.zoom.us/j/84901910623?pwd=vr9afxTKSOHINjqkf7PWZ8SmbM6J3i.1>

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##### **Committee Members Present**

A. Mendelson (remote), D. Fuller (remote), X. Delobato (remote)

##### **Committee Members Absent**

*None*

##### **Guests Present**

N. Gauthier (remote), R. Romano (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance and Guests

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Fuller called a meeting of the Governance Committee of Veritas Preparatory Charter School to order on Thursday Jan 16, 2025 at 10:05 AM.

### C. Approve Minutes

D. Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 11-08-24.

A. Mendelson seconded the motion.

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

## II. Governance

### A. Charter School Advocacy

#### Charter School Advocacy Week

The Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) is organizing Charter School Advocacy Week from February 3-7 to celebrate charter schools and advocate for equal funding.

- Board members are encouraged to register for the virtual kickoff rally on February 3 from 6:00-6:30 PM, even if they are unable to attend, to show support for Veritas Prep.
- Daily activities will include easy actions like emailing legislators to increase the Facilities Per Pupil (FPP) funding for charter schools, which is currently lower than district schools.
- The school invited MCPSA members to a recent parent education forum to mobilize families around Advocacy Week.
- Veritas has been asked to host a visit with three legislators - Senator Adam Gomez, Representative Carlos Gonzales, and Representative Orlando Ramos - to showcase the school and have students and parents speak about their positive charter school experiences.
- The goal is to build relationships with legislators and demonstrate constituent support for charter schools.

#### Shift in Advocacy Strategy

The MCPSA has shifted its advocacy strategy in recent years from pushing for charter school growth to focusing on increasing facilities funding.

- This approach has been successful, with two increases in facility funding achieved.
- The association also works to defend against anti-charter bills introduced annually.

- Advocacy efforts are challenging due to the strength of teachers' unions and limitations on charter schools' ability to mobilize staff and families for political activities.
- Public opinion of charter schools has decreased since a 2017 ballot initiative to increase the charter school cap, leading to a more defensive advocacy stance.
- The current strategy aims to protect charter school autonomies and increase facility funding rather than expand the number of charter schools.
- The association is working to rebuild public support for charter schools while facing increased unionization efforts and enrollment challenges.

## **B. Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying Title IX Policy Changes and Leadership Training Updates**

### **Title IX Policy Changes**

Recent federal policy changes have caused fluctuations in Title IX regulations.

- The school updated its policies and procedures based on 2024 changes, but regulations have now reverted to 2020 standards.
- The main difference is the threshold for Title IX violations; the 2020 rules require both persistent and severe behavior, while 2024 rules allow for either persistent or severe behavior to constitute a violation.
- The school is consulting with legal counsel on how to handle these policy changes and may propose a flexible approach to the board.
- The Office of Civil Rights is increasing focus on K-12 schools' Title IX compliance, including thorough investigations, training requirements, and notification procedures.

### **Training Program by McGrath Training Solutions**

The school leadership team attended a comprehensive training program by McGrath Training Solutions, focused on handling Title IX complaints, harassment, discrimination, and bullying investigations.

- The training provided valuable tools and protocols for documenting incidents, conducting investigations, and making decisions in complex cases.
- Key takeaways include the '50% and a feather' burden of proof standard for decision-making and the importance of creating a school culture where staff and students feel empowered to report concerning behavior.
- The training emphasized the need for clear documentation trails and proper handling of complaints to protect the school from potential litigation.
- The school plans to implement these protocols and may send additional staff for training to improve overall handling of such incidents.

## **C. Principal Search Update**

### **High School Principal Candidate**

The school has identified a top candidate for the high school principal position.

- The finalist will be visiting the school to meet with stakeholders.
- The leadership team plans to move forward with a decision and make an announcement the following week, coordinating communication plans with the candidate's current employer.
- The school leadership expressed enthusiasm about the quality of leadership they have been able to recruit for this important position.

### **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 11:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
D. Fuller

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

- Advocacy Week 2025 Email to Board Members.docx