APPROVED

Veritas Preparatory Charter School

Minutes

Governance Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

Date and Time
Friday April 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Location
Join Zoom Meeting
ID: 84901910623
Passcode: 636689

Meeting host: ngauthier@vpcs.org

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://vpcs-org.zoom.us/j/84901910623?pwd=vr9afxTKSOHINjqkf7PWZ8SmbM6J3i.1

Committee Members Present
A. Errichetti (remote), A. Mendelson (remote), D. Fuller (remote), R. Leonard (remote)

Committee Members Absent
X. Delobato

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

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 Friday Apr 17, 2026 at 10:04 AM.

C. Approve Minutes (1)

A. Errichetti made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 11-21-25.
D. Fuller seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve Minutes (2)

A. Errichetti made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 03-13-26.
D. Fuller seconded the motion.
anne made motion
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Governance

A. Charter Renewal: Common Criteria for Charter Schools & Committee Alignment

The Governance Committee reviewed the charter school accountability and renewal process, led by Rachel. She provided an overview of the three core areas of charter school accountability: faithfulness to the charter, academic success, and organizational viability. Rachel outlined the renewal timeline, noting that the application will be prepared by the school team and brought to the Board for review and approval prior to submission in late July 2026. Following submission, the Department will engage a contractor to conduct a site visit. Committee members asked whether both campuses would be visited; Rachel shared that while she was not certain, it is likely both schools would be included. She also described the role of focus groups during the site visit process and will confirm how many trustees are expected to participate so the Board can plan accordingly. Members who have participated in prior renewal cycles shared their experiences, including the types of questions typically asked. Rachel emphasized that reviewers will come well-prepared, having already examined annual reports, audits, and all submitted data from the past five years, and will use the visit to probe more deeply into any identified areas of concern.

The committee discussed academic performance as a key area of focus, particularly efforts to restore achievement data to pre-pandemic levels. While progress has been made, members acknowledged it has not yet met internal expectations. However, given the absence of Department intervention, the Board should be prepared to speak to the school’s strategy for accelerating achievement and meeting accountability goals. Ongoing monitoring will continue through the Academic Achievement Committee, with particular attention to subgroups that are not yet demonstrating sufficient growth. These areas will be addressed directly in the renewal application narrative.

Teacher Highly Qualified (HQ) status was also discussed as a known area of concern. Rachel noted that the school has been working diligently to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and to support staff in passing required MTEL exams. While the school has faced challenges in meeting this requirement in the post-pandemic context, the management team has implemented several strategies, including covering the cost of MTEL exams and aligning compensation increases with HQ status. The Board's decision to strengthen teacher compensation has created additional urgency, as teachers must achieve HQ status to be renewed in their roles. The goal is to reach 100% highly qualified teaching staff by the start of the 2026–2027 school year, and the application will highlight the progress made toward this target.

The committee then reviewed the DESE Common Criteria for Charter School Success, discussing how each criterion and its indicators are embedded in the school's practices and systems. Particular attention was given to organizational viability, with members noting confidence that the school is meeting or exceeding expectations across the criteria. The full body of evidence supporting these areas will be included in the renewal application, which the Board will have the opportunity to review in draft form.

Committee members with prior experience in charter renewals shared additional insights, including Bob Leonard reflecting on his experience with Springfield Prep, Aaron Mendelson on past Veritas renewals, and Ann Errichetti on participating in focus groups. These perspectives helped ground the discussion in practical expectations and reinforced the importance of preparation and alignment across the Board.

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 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Fuller

Documents used during the meeting

- Charter School Performance Criteria.docx