



Veritas Preparatory Charter School

Minutes

Academic Achievement Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday June 11, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Location

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

Committee Members Present

A. Errichetti (remote), L. Doherty (remote), R. Sela (remote)

Committee Members Absent

A. Gomez, A. Hickson-Martin, M. Freeman

Guests Present

A. Clark (remote), N. Gauthier (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Sela called a meeting of the Academic Achievement Committee of Veritas Preparatory Charter School to order on Thursday Jun 11, 2026 at 8:32 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

II. Academic Achievement

A. Annual Meeting Preparation: State of the School Reports

The committee met to review and provide feedback on the State of the Schools presentation being prepared for the Board of Trustees Annual Retreat. At the outset of the meeting, members noted that the recent appointment of Andres Gomez to the committee had increased the quorum requirement to four members. Because quorum was not present, the committee agreed to proceed with discussion and defer any formal actions, including approval of prior meeting minutes, until the next meeting.

Discussion centered on the structure and purpose of the State of the Schools presentation. Committee members reflected on prior board presentations and emphasized the importance of clearly connecting identified needs, strategies implemented, and resulting outcomes rather than presenting data in isolation. Rachel explained that this year's retreat differs from previous years because it coincides with the school's charter renewal process, creating an opportunity to step back and examine trends and outcomes across the last five years rather than focusing solely on annual results. The committee discussed using the presentation to identify patterns, raise strategic questions, and lay the foundation for a broader strategic planning process supported by Barr Foundation funding and an external consultant. Members agreed that the presentation should not attempt to answer all questions but rather surface important areas for future exploration, including enrollment configuration, facilities, school design, and long-term academic outcomes.

The committee reviewed preliminary middle school academic data. Early MCAS results indicated that grades six through eight are currently performing at or above 2019 levels, although final writing scores have not yet been incorporated into the results. Members acknowledged that fifth-grade performance remains an area of concern and discussed the need to frame results within the context of changing student demographics and instructional approaches. Committee members suggested comparing school performance against state averages over time as a more meaningful measure of progress. The group also reviewed MAP growth data and ACCESS results for multilingual learners, highlighting a significant increase in students exiting language support services. Staff shared that students receiving intervention support during a dedicated intervention block demonstrated particularly strong outcomes. Operational indicators were also discussed, including middle school staff attendance, which remains significantly above state averages, and chronic absenteeism rates, which have improved substantially due to consistent systems and practices.

The committee then reviewed high school academic and culture data. Amy presented progress aligned to the high school's annual priorities, including instructional coaching, habits of success, advisory programming, schedule redesign, campus culture, and student accountability. Members reviewed grade distribution trends showing increases in students earning A and B grades, growth in Early College participation, and overall enrollment gains. The committee also discussed significant reductions in student referrals compared to the prior year and reviewed suspension data, noting that increases were largely attributable to a more consistent accountability system and should be viewed within the broader context of school culture improvements. Attendance remained a major focus area, with leadership describing efforts to strengthen expectations and improve student engagement. Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining college readiness as a central theme throughout the presentation given its significance to the school's mission and long-term outcomes.

The committee discussed the value of incorporating national academic achievement trends into the presentation. Members agreed that national data demonstrating widespread declines in reading and mathematics performance would provide important context for understanding the school's results and help frame current challenges within broader educational trends. The committee supported including data previously presented by teacher Nathan Pang to provide additional perspective and support meaningful discussion during the retreat.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on how to balance accountability with realistic expectations. Rachel raised questions about whether existing academic performance metrics, particularly MCAS proficiency targets, continue to serve as the most meaningful measure of success given the school's expanded mission and focus on college readiness. Members discussed the tension between maintaining ambitious goals and avoiding a culture in which staff feel unsuccessful despite meaningful progress. The committee explored questions related to curriculum implementation, student independence, school structure, enrollment size, grade configuration, and facilities as potential factors influencing long-term outcomes. Trustees emphasized the importance of grounding any future strategic discussions in a clear understanding of current academic performance and programmatic realities.

The committee concluded by discussing the structure of the Board Retreat presentation. Members recommended that the State of the Schools segment serve as a concise foundation for discussion rather than an exhaustive review of data. Strategic questions should be embedded throughout the presentation and reserved for discussion at the conclusion of the report. The committee also discussed the use of pre-reading materials to provide board members with additional context before the retreat. Leadership noted that portions of the charter renewal materials may serve this purpose. The committee agreed that the presentation should conclude with the story of Elijah Frederick, whose journey from a challenging middle school student to an associate degree recipient and graduation speaker exemplifies the school's mission and long-term impact on students.

The meeting adjourned with agreement that leadership would continue refining the presentation, incorporating national context, cohort-level trend data, strategic questions, and student success stories to support meaningful discussion at the Annual Board Retreat.

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 9:38 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Sela

Documents used during the meeting

None