



## **Agenda for Regular Board Meeting on February 28, 2022**

### **Location: Virtus Academy of SC**

2407 Pisgah Road  
Florence, SC 29501

**Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Mission Statement:** Virtus Academy will power student potential through project-based learning, leadership development, community service, and the spirited pursuit of excellence.

### **Presentation**

#### **Announcement regarding Public Comment**

1. Welcome/Opening
  - Began at 6:00PM
2. Dr. Thomas Ducey, Board Chair: Reading of School Mission
3. Roll Call
  - Amanda Tyner
  - Thomas Ducey
  - Carlos Washington
  - Don Strickland
  - Scott Kozacki
  - Glenn Hill
  - Les Echols
  - John Atkins (Via Zoom)
  - Paige Morris (Finances)
  - Mary Allison Caudell

Stacey Coleman not present
4. Approval of Agenda
  - Accept agenda as is
5. Public Comment
  - none
6. Approval of Minutes
  - Regular, January 25, 2022
    - i. no changes need to be made to board minutes- approved
  - COVID Report
    - i. 1 quarantine student since last Friday
    - ii. Discussion of COVID policy update to align with DHEC policy
      1. based on percentage of entire population
      2. no more close contact tracking
      3. If another outbreak happens- will look at changes.
7. Executive Session I
  - Motion to move into Executive Session at 6:04 PM
  - Grievance Hearing
  - Returned to General Session at 7:21 PM

- i. Action Item
  - 1. Bullying Policy created and implemented
  - 2. Decision stands as is-family can file again
- 8. Monthly Budget Report
  - Nero presented [Monthly Budget Report](#)
  - ESSER II Funds (spend down by 2023)
    - i. Total allotted-\$470,252.58
    - ii. Total spent to date - \$325,736.50
    - iii. Items ESSER II funds were spent on in December
      - a. January portion of salaries (counselor, primary TAs, SPED)
  - ESSER III Funds (spend down by 2024 but not before ESSER II is exhausted)
    - i. Total allotted-\$993,867.36
    - ii. [Plan](#)
  - GEER Funds Spend down by 2022
    - i. Total allotted- \$187,868.29
    - ii. Total spent to date - \$70,259.27
    - iii. Items GEERI funds were spent on in January:
      - a. MTSS Coordinator Salaries
      - b. Math Interventionists Salaries
      - c. Reading Interventionists Salaries
      - Custodial Salaries

Kozacki asked about the discretion of amount- Ducey noted that the school is no longer a rental; VASC owns the school and land

Ducey requested that Debt Service Ratio be included in the Monthly Budget Report- (Cash on hand and current debt) This is necessary in order to stay in compliance with the bond/loan.

Days cash on hand to be on the report as well (how many days that the school can operate with the cash on hand)

- 9. Preparation for 2022 Board of Directors Elections
  - Typically contact the Charter Alliance to handle Board of Directors Elections
    - Election is held in May- on boarding in June
    - Ducey requested to know if board members resign or stay on
    - Ducey encourage all board members to stay on the board even if their term is coming to an end
    - Ducey requested to have a few good candidates in case they are needed
- 10. Update on VASC website
  - Finalizing the website to Hostsinger-
    - i. Meeting on March 7th with the website designer
    - ii. Hoping to launch new website mid-March
    - iii. Mr. Strickland requested to update the mission statement on the website
    - iv. Dr. Ducey requested access to the current website

## 11. Principal's Report

- Academic Report
  - i. Dargan presented the NWEA MAP Student Achievement Norms
    - 1. Seen in the presentation
    - 2. Ducey asked if the investments that the board made this year are making a difference in the classroom
      - a. PBL- is an ongoing learning project
      - b. OG- yes; pushing into the classroom
    - 3. Strickland voiced concern about parents no know where their student stands regardless of grades
  - ii. Discussion about IXL
  - iii. Kozacki asked if there should be some type of grade normalization
    - 1. Consistent standard for grading students
    - 2. Rubric throughout grade levels
    - 3. Gradebooks were discussed
  - iv. Ducey asked if there were plans during the summer to help catch up students academically
- Enrollment Report
  - i. Ducey asked about diversity (~64% Caucasian and ~34% African American)
  - ii. Discussion about efforts to increase diversity
  - iii. Tyner requested exact number for diversity
  - iv. Tyner asked if there is a way we can screen students -
    - 1. Asked if other charter schools are doing to be aware of discipline issues
    - 2. Nero stated that she has contacted other charter schools and CIE for guidance about receiving students
    - 3. Asked Mary Allison Caudell for guidance
  - v. Ducey proposed an "Enrollment Policy" and include lawful reasons to deny enrollment
  - vi. Ducey asked Mary Allison Caudell about during Exclusion Hearing can they review previous discipline from other schools-Caudell encourage only VASC discipline records
- Personnel Report
  - i. 1 Staff member resigned
  - ii. 1 staff member on medical leave
  - iii. 1 staff member terminated
- **2022-2223 Hiring**
  - i. 6 New Teachers (Offers Accepted) HS ELA, Elementary & Early Childhood
  - ii. 1 New Teachers offered (HS Science)
  - iii. 1 Interview today
  - iv. 5th ELA replacement is a certified teacher and being considered for next year
  - v. Still need middle & high school math
    - 1. Suggested incentives (\$2500 sign-on bonus + yearly bonus up to three years)
      - a. Board discussed salaries, bonuses, and yearly incentives
      - b. Strickland suggested one time

- c. Tyner understands the reasoning behind the three year bonus
    - i. Asks about if they accept the bonus and then leave- is there anything that can be added to the contract
  - d. Ducey asked if ESSR funds can be used as a sponsorship for a candidate for math (visiting teacher)
  - e. Strickland asked if there needs to be two teachers at the 7th & 8th grade level in Math
2. Tutoring was discussed
- a. M-T 3PM-4PM every student is able to come

11. Executive Session II

Ducey made a motion to move to at 8:43 PM

- Contractual updates
- 2022/2023 School Calendar Approval

General Session at 9:12 PM

12. Action Items, if any, from Executive Sessions I and II return to

- Ducey-
  - i. I move that we uphold student A's discipline referral, but allow the parents to submit a response to be included in the student's file. Further, I move the governance committee to draft an anti bullying and harassment policy.
- Don Strickland made a motion for the approval of the non modified calendar that begins August 8th
  - i. Motion passes

13. Good of the Order

- For election keep the 2 year post employment for application
- High School Planning committee March 8th is meeting at SIMT to look at the classroom

14. Next Regular Meeting Date: March 29, 2022

15. Adjourn at 9:17 PM