



Veritas Board Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | 5:30– 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Lara Butler		Sonya Fleck	✓	Libba Fyke		Nick Getschman	✓
Tierney Jackson Smith	✓	Matt Weathersby	✓	Derek King	✓		
Chrissy Geibel	✓	Wendy Lawhead	✓	Rudy Walker	✓		
Eric Folk	✓	Deshaun Rice	*				

✓ In-Person

* Phone

Call to order: 5:49 PM

Executive Director Report:

- Nick provided handout

- ☐ 6th: 50 scholars
- ☐ 7th: 51 scholars
- ☐ 8th: 43 scholars
- ☐ Total enrollment – 144

- Quarter 3 Updates

- ☐ Academics

- ✓ Semester 1 Benchmark Data (Handout)
- ✓ iReady Winter Benchmark Data (Handout)
- ✓ TNReady Testing: April 14 – May 2

- ☐ Non-Instructional

- ✓ Daily Schedule Updates
 - GRIT – Independent/class reading
 - Enrichment – Sports, Media & Film, Chess, Book/Creative Writing Club, “Girls with Pearls”

- ☐ Athletics

- ✓ Wrestling and Boys Basketball seasons are complete
- ✓ Track (Girls & Boys) – Spring

☐ Operations

- ✓ 25-26 Official Enrolment Period: February 2025
- ✓ Staff Recruitment/Retention
- ✓ PTO – Food & Resource Drive
- ✓ Transportation training

Financial Report:

- Nick provided handout

☐ Current Net Worth: \$947,299.75

- ✓ Operating Account: \$867,266.02
- ✓ Reserve Account: \$50,000.00
- ✓ Student Award Savings - \$30,033.73

☐ Pending Grants/Gifts/Revenues

- ✓ TISA Payment 2/20/25 – \$173,131.95
- ✓ Title 1 Reimbursement 2/15/25 - \$\$13,895.00

Committee Updates:

Finance:

- Sonya/Matt/Tierney

☐ Strategic cash management – repurpose student award account.

- ✓ House student and faculty awards.
- ✓ Review account for greater interest return.

☐ Full funding study has not been completed.

☐ Eric Folk will join this committee for the remainder of the academic year.

Academic Oversight:

- Nick/Derek/Wendy

☐ Inviting Kim Ware to next board meeting to receive update on metrics/tracking.

☐ Reunion

- May split out to various audiences (current students, college, post college)

Governance:

- Operations *Chrissy/Lara/Libba
 - ☐ Review facility plan and board documents.
 - ☐ Prepare to complete Nick's review.
 - ☐ Formalizing succession plan.
 - ☐ Recruit and onboard new board members.

- Development *Rudy/Tierney
 - ☐ Currently collaborating with Kim Ware on various topics to ensure the reunion occurs in 2025.
 - ☐ Exploring options to enhance social media awareness.
 - ☐ Community awareness
 - ☐ DeShaun Rice will join this committee for the remainder of the academic year.

Board Chair Update:

- ☐ Tierney and Nick walked the board through some 2025 goal setting targets.
 - Facilities – **Finance Committee**
 - No urgent concerns.
 - Prepare for the unknowns.
 - Academic Goals – **Academic Oversight**
 - Non-Profit Partnerships
 - Student Performance
 - Growth Goals – **Governance Development**
 - 150 scholars
 - Increase visibility in neighborhoods and feeder schools.
 - Governance - **Governance Operations**
 - Succession planning for ED and board members
 - State of Education – **Governance Operations**
 - Monitor legislative changes
 - Action item: Watch TCSC

Motions:

- ☐ Tierney presented December 3rd board minutes for review.
 - o Sonya motioned to approve minutes.
 - o Matt seconded the motion.

Notes:

- Updates from Elizabeth Fiveash (CEO Tennessee Charter School Center)
 - Special Session (this week)
 - TN Education Freedom Scholarship
 - Anticipating the bill to pass.
 - The bill more than likely will be taken to the floor on 1/29.
 - Potentially conversation of MSCS takeover.
 - Legislators are very frustrated with MSCS.
 - TCSC is watching to understand how this will affect charters (renewals, new applications, who makes decisions...)
 - Considering need to adjust process for charter application approval to allow working around potential anti-charter political opposition.
 - Assessment & Accountability
 - Charter schools have a greater impact with an autonomy approach towards educating scholars.
 - Two budget requests:
 - TISA funding for charter schools
 - Current funding per charter student: \$500 - Asking funding to increase to \$900
 - There is an approximate budget gap/deficit of \$1,500 in funding.
 - The gap is associated with facility expense other line items not absorbed by normal TISA funding.
 - One-time \$10M budget match by philanthropy grant(s).
 - Offer low interest loans to charter schools for facilities.
 - Federal Grant Freeze
 - A temporary block has been put into place until Monday 2/3/25.
 - Additional guidance will be provided during the week of 2/3/25.
 - Learning from the Houston, Texas school district take over.
 - Charter schools continued to get approved after the takeover.

Next Board Meeting: March 4, 2025

Adjourned: 7:32 PM