Minutes of the March 17, 2025
Meeting of the Vance Charter School Board of Directors

I. Call to Order / Welcome/ Invocation:

A. Travis Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Directors, called the March 17, 2025 meeting of the Vance Charter School Board of Directors (the "Board") to order.

B. The agenda is attached as "Attachment A."

C. The following board members were present: Jill Perkinson, Gill Frazier, Megan Wilkins, Morgan Leigh Stall, John Daniel, John Sossamon II, Allison Capps, Nikki Cheatham, Jennifer Honeycutt, Rob Bailess, Travis Thompson, and Trey Brown.

D. The additional individuals were present: Dr. Brian Mathis, Executive Director, High School Principal, Susan Satterwhite, K-8 Principal, Julie Finch, Athletic Director, Lance Stallings, Liz Brown, Teacher Representative, and Gerry Koinis, Board Attorney.

II. Public Comment: None

III. Approval of Minutes

Travis Thompson announced that board members should have received minutes of the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting and asked for any corrections or a motion to approve. Allison Capps made a motion to approve the minutes. Nikki Cheatham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting.

IV. Administration Report:

A. Executive Director's Report: Dr. Brian Mathis offered the Administrative Report to the Board as follows:

1. There were 60 disciplinary referrals since last Board meeting: 36 disrespectful/disruptive behavior and there were 15 cell phone or ear pod misuse referrals.

2. The current enrollment is 948 students.

3. Spring break will begin on March 31 and students will return on April 7.

4. Performance framework Items submitted this month are:

- GOV4 – Board Nepotism Policy

B. Testing Updates: Julie Finch, K-8 Principal, and Susan Satterwhite, High School Principal offered a testing update as follows:

1. There has been an effort to test all students together at the same time but there have not been enough Chromebooks and that now is possible.

2. The updated testing schedule is available online on the VCS website.

3. ACT for High School Juniors was on March 11. There was a statewide software issue. All four of the main locations began approximately 2 hours after it was supposed to start.

4. VCS filed for a misadministration. The State of North Carolina has allowed each student to decide whether they would like to re-test or not.

5. Dr. Mathis stated the minimum ACT composite score moved to 19

6. Dr. Mathis stated that consolidating the testing schedule into one week, with the exception of AP exams, is a positive move and allows for more instructional time.

C. Athletic Director's Report: Lance Stallings offered the Athletic Director's Report to the Board as follows:

1. There are many individual accomplishments to highlight: Bridger Stewardson was named Conference Swimmer of the Year, Katherine Suther was named to the All-District Team for Women's Basketball, and Gary Wilkins was named Conference Player of the Year for Men's Basketball.

2. The Varsity Men's Basketball Team won its first Conference Tournament Title in school history.

3. The Winter Banquet is scheduled for March 19.

4. During the winter sports season, 63 students participated and 41 earned a 4.0 weighted GPA, or better. All teams earned a 3.0 or better unweighted GPA average. Combined the winter teams' unweighted average GPA was 3.6.

D. Finance Presentation – Prestige School Solutions

Dr. Mathis introduced Kathy Davies, Brian Solomon, and Kristy Nicholson from Prestige School Solutions. The Finance Committee invited them to present their potential proposed financial support services.

1. Kathy Davies presented what Prestige School Solutions, formerly Acadia, has done and how they can continue to support VCS. Prestige, formerly Acadia, has handled VCS's account since the school opened.

2. The Prestige team discussed Prestige's history, challenges, plan for the future, mission, operating system, results achieved, customized solutions, and how they can continue to service VCS.

3. Prestige provided an overview of their Select Platform which will show financial metrics in real time with an ACH process.

4. Mr. Solomon stated VCS is not currently on the Select Platform as VCS is currently on the classic platform.

5. Following the presentation, there was Board discussion about the pricing offered by Prestige for bases services, with a discount when compared to current pricing, and grant assistance services.

6. There was Board discussion about challenges faced with Prestige and Dr. Mathis stated they have significantly improved since December 2024, they have a track record over time, and Prestige is willing to provide a one-year agreement.

7. After discussion, Jennifer Honeycutt made a motion to move forward with a one-year agreement with Prestige, subject to finalization of an agreement by administration and outside legal counsel. Rob Bailess seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the same.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance: The Finance Report was offered by Jennifer Honeycutt, as follows:

1. For the month ending February 2025, there is a surplus of $205,518.74. This time last year, VCS had a reported surplus of $659,000.02.

2. Prestige has created a visual summary of VCS's financial metrics which is now included in the financial report package. The new report gives a quick visual of how our finances are performing against the benchmark.

3. VCS has more than double its necessary days of cash on hand at 121 days.

B. Building & Grounds: No Report.

C. School & Community Relations: No Report.

D. Student Recruitment: Allison Capps reported the Lottery was closed on February 28 at 11:59 pm. There were 624 applications in total and there were applicants in each grade. It was another successful lottery.

E. Policy & Personnel: Trey Brown stated that outside legal counsel had reviewed the possibility of modifying Board policy 400A to allow for preference for coaches who have coached at VCS for successive seasons. After review, it was determined that the statute would not allow for the potential policy change so it will no longer be under consideration. Additionally, Trey Brown announced that board member applications will soon be made available and the process will open on March 31 and go through the month of April.

   When board member applicants apply, the process will state that by applying, the applicant submits to the VCS Volunteer process. Allison Capps made a motion to do a volunteer background check when an applicant applies and it will add to the decision-making process as to whether someone may be considered further. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

   Trey Brown stated the application process will be handled the same way it has been in the past.

VI. Old Business: None

VII. New Business.

Travis Thompson stated that our next committee meetings will be held on April 7 and the next board meeting will be on April 14.

VIII. Closed Session: Personnel and Real Property

A. John Daniel made a motion to move into closed session. John Sossamon II seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the same.

B. Nikki Cheatham made a motion to come out of closed session. Megan Wilkins seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the same.

IX. Adjournment: Allison Capps made a motion to adjourn. Her motion was seconded by John Daniel and unanimously approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,
This the 14th day of April, 2025

By C. Gill Frazier, II
Secretary to the Board