

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Vertus Charter School Public Hearing**  
**October 8, 2013**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Vice President White, President Evans, Commissioner Adams and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

Vice President White opened the hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Vice President White stated that Education Law subdivision 2857(1) and regulations of the Commissioner of Education 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 119.4 require the Board to conduct a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of notice of an application for a new charter school.

Vice President White explained that the Board of Education of the Rochester City School District is conducting this public hearing to gather community input regarding the application of the Vertus Charter School.

The proposed Vertus Charter School will be a grade 9-12 secondary school. The mission and purpose of the Vertus Charter School will be to prepare leaders of character for the community and the workplace, through career preparation, personalized, year-round, academic curriculum, strong relationships, and character education.

Vice President White then requested public input and questions regarding this school.

Vertus Charter School Board of Trustee Member, Bryan Hickman, spoke about the experience of the founders, Perry White and Leigh McGuigan, in serving high-risk populations. He noted the Charter School is based on four key design elements, including: strong relationships, personalized year-round academics, character development, and career preparation. Mr. Hickman also mentioned that every student will earn a Regents diploma as well as a technical certificate or job credential that will enable him to support himself. Upon graduation, each student will choose the post-secondary pathway that is right for him: university, community college, further technical training, or a good job.

Commissioner Adams inquired as to why the address listed in the Charter School's application submitted to the New York State Board of Regents was that of Klein Steel.

Vice President White concluded the hearing at 6:25 p.m.