

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on February 9, 2023

Draft Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on February 9, 2023 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry Tanner. Board members present were: Chairman Tanner, Kim Lavalley, Leo Plante, Andrew Alajajian, Kevin McDonald, Bailey Sweet, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board) and Kerry Bedard (ex officio and Executive Director). Chairman Tanner noted that this is a public meeting and that notice of the same had been duly posted in accordance with state law.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Tanner.

Chairman Tanner read the School Mission of LCA.

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting for public comments. Hearing no public comments, he then closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Richard Merkt presented his Secretary's Report, consisting of the draft Minutes of the Board's Regular public meeting held on January 12, 2023. On motion of Mr. Alajajian, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, the Minutes of the meeting were approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Chairman Tanner abstaining).

As a Treasurer's Report, Vice Chair Lavalley invited Caitlyn Blundell, CPA, (via Zoom) to discuss LCA's January 2023 financial reports. Ms. Blundell reported that LCA's cash flow remains positive. Revenues have exceeded budget estimates, while most of LCA's operating expenses have continued to trend below budgeted amounts. Information technology expenses are an exception, running higher than budget projections. Ms. Blundell noted that cash flow is expected to tighten this summer, pending receipt of per pupil payments in early fall. LCA will utilize its Line of Credit to cover any cash shortfall experienced during this period. Vice Chair Lavalley moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Mr. Plante, and the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Executive Director Bedard reported significant school issues, including driving academic excellence, fostering the school’s culture, continuing to build the faculty and support team, planning for the 2023-2024 academic year, and managing both finances and fundraising as LCA prepares for growth. She presented an update on current student enrollment, as well as growth targets for 2023-2024 as LCA adds two sections in existing grades and expands by adding two new sections in grade Six. She also reported on student registrations and projected open seats based on budget targets for 2023–2024. In general, the recruitment and registration process is looking favorable at the moment, with registration of siblings of current students playing a significant role, which is a positive commentary on LCA’s record over its first 100 days of operation.

Executive Bedard noted that the current faculty and staff are expected to remain for academic year 2023–2024 and that efforts to hire additional school personnel are also looking positive. She commented that LCA will start the process of assessing new enrollees early, to make sure that LCA is well-positioned to respond to the particular needs of newly-entering students. Current students in grades Three, Four, and Five will have their academic progress evaluated through the standard state assessment tests.

Committee Reports began with Vice Chair Lavallee, who reiterated that the Finance Committee is confident that LCA finances are in good shape at present. Mr. Merkt stated that the Policy Committee had no report to offer at this time. Ms. Sweet reported that the Fund-Raising Committee, consisting of herself and Mr. McDonald, is planning a broad-based fund-raising event for LCA to involve more families and expand the school’s donation base.

Mr. David Bedard, who is an active school volunteer and was in the audience, provided a comprehensive review of Facility issues, including present building deficiencies, corrective actions, plans for future expansion, and estimated costs for each phase of anticipated growth.

The Board agreed that, in view of the Executive Director’s success to date in recruiting qualified hires to meet LCA’s personnel needs, the Hiring Committee will defer to her judgment, unless she finds that she requires assistance in the process. Vice Chair Lavallee noted that the Board is due to review the Executive Director’s job performance in the near future.

Under New Business, Chairman Tanner discussed the desirability of forming an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of LCA acquiring ownership of its school property or, should this goal not be achievable, what other actions on LCA's part may be appropriate and feasible. He appointed Mr. Alajajian, Mr. Bedard, and Dr. Fred Ward (also in the audience) as members of the ad hoc committee, which he will chair.

The Chairman noted that no non-public session of the Board is necessary.

Chairman Tanner noted that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6 p.m. at LCA. Future Regular Board meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at LCA.

Vice Chair Lavallee expressed thanks to the members of the Board and members of the audience for their support on pending legislation in the New Hampshire General Court relating to public charter school and parental school choice.

Mr. Merkt moved that the meeting adjourn, Vice Chair Lavallee seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon Chairman Tanner declared the regular meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary