

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on March 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 March 9, 2023 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Barry Tanner. Board members present were: Chairman Tanner, Kim Lavalley, Leo Plante, Andrew Alajajian, Bailey Sweet, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board) and Kerry Bedard (ex officio and Executive Director). Trustee Kevin McDonald was excused. 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.

Executive Director Kerry Bedard presented a Mission Moment, highlighting that LCA will hold its second annual student enrollment lottery (as required by state statute) at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 11 at the school. She noted that, so far, it appears that all families with children presently in LCA are renewing the enrollment of their children for the academic year starting this September.

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting for public comments. Dr. Fred Ward, a founding Trustee of the school, requested an overview of school finances for the next year. Chairman Tanner noted that LCA's new budget will be a topic of discussion at the Board's April meeting. He noted that budgets, by their nature, are always projections of revenue and expenses, but added that LCA's next budget will be informed by practical experience gained over the past year and will likely be a more accurate projection of both school revenues and expenses.

Veronica Lima (also in the audience) complimented Executive Director Bedard on her work ethic and dedication to leading LCA, its faculty, and its staff.

Hearing no further public comments, Chairman Tanner 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 February 9, 2023. On motion of Mr. Alajajian, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, the Minutes of the meeting were approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Vice Chair Lavalley invited Caitlyn Blundell, CPA, (via Zoom) to discuss LCA's February 2023 financial reports. Ms. Blundell reported that, for the most part, February 2023 was, from a financial point of view, a relatively "ordinary" month, with most line items reasonably close to budgeted amounts. Exceptions included per pupil state aid, which is lower than anticipated due to minor fluctuations in student enrollment and employee benefit expense, which is also lower than provided for in the operating budget. Ms. Blundell noted that a balance of approximately \$608,000 remains available under LCA's state charter school program grant to reimburse grant-qualified expenses. Based on LCA's current cash balance and recent receipts, she anticipates that the school will have sufficient cash on hand to operate through the beginning of the next academic year, when the new round of per pupil payments will commence.

Mr. Plante asked about eligibility of roughly \$50,000 in safety improvement expenses for grant reimbursement. It was noted that the New Hampshire Department of Education has requested additional documentation prior to ruling on LCA's eligibility for this reimbursement request.

Mr. Merkt moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, and the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Executive Director Bedard's report addressed a variety of school issues, including driving academic excellence. She noted that the faculty is very supportive of LCA's curriculum and discussed steps she is undertaking to continue to build the team, including providing specialist support for Singapore Math instruction and adding full-time teacher's assistants in Kindergarten this fall. In terms of fostering a school culture, a "Lionheart Olympics" event is being planned for this Spring. Work is also proceeding on a more flexible academic calendar for 2023/2024, which will require school parent support. LCA virtue

assemblies continue, with “Compassion” featured for February and “Integrity” for March.

Registration for the 2023/2024 admission lottery closed on March 8, and, with 144 registrations received, LCA is poised to hold another successful lottery on March 11 to fill available seats. The distribution of registrants is such that LCA will have competition for almost all of its available seats. The school will work with the State Department of Education to manage the lottery so as to maximize the number of students enabled to attend LCA, based on this year’s enrollment experience.

With respect to committee reports, Vice Chair Lavalley noted that the Finance Committee convened earlier in the evening; the Policy Committee did not meet. Mrs. Sweet reported on the Fund-Raising Committee in the absence of Committee Chair McDonald. The committee is receiving support from school parents and planning its first Annual Fund-Raiser for May 12 in Greenfield. In addition, it is planning to participate in Peterborough’s Children of the Arts event scheduled for May 20.

David Bedard reported to the Board on behalf of the Facility Committee, covering various maintenance issues, most notably damage to the fire alarm system caused by recent power outages. He also outlined capital expense items and outstanding projects, including roof replacement, HVAC issues, and Phase II construction of classrooms and multi-purpose space. Mrs. Sweet requested specifics with regard to needs to assist in targeting fund-raising efforts.

The Special Ad Hoc Committee on acquisition feasibility will meet with a potential capital fund source in a Special Meeting on March 23 to discuss possible capital funding strategies.

Under New Business, Executive Director Bedard mentioned that LCA will be involved in First Year Reporting, which will include audits, as well as End of Year reports to the State Department of Education and State Board of Education. A report to Hillsdale College on use of its licensed curriculum may also be required.

Vice Chair Lavalley noted key legislation pending in the General Court that affects charter school financial support and urged all present to voice their opinion before committee hearings scheduled for the week of March 13.

Chairman Tanner noting that there was no additional new business for the Board to address, Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Plante, moved that the meeting enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) to discuss legal contracts. Executive Director Bedard, Dr. Ward, Mr. Bedard, and Ashlee Wheel were requested to remain for the non-public session. On a roll call vote, Mr. Tanner voted yes; Ms. Lavallee voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. Alajajian voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0, whereupon the meeting entered into non-public session at 7:30 p.m.

Upon conclusion of the non-public session at 7:50 p.m., Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Plante, moved that the Board come out of closed session and that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. A roll-call vote was conducted. Mr. Tanner voted yes; Ms. Lavallee voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. Alajajian voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by the Board by a vote of 6-0-0. The decision of the Board in the non-public session was to request additional information regarding an offer to LCA to lease space and to conduct due diligence inspection of the roof and space involved.

Chairman Tanner noted that the next regular meeting of the Board will be at LCA on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6 p.m. A Special Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will be convened at LCA on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5 p.m. to discuss capital funding strategies.

Vice Chair Lavallee moved that the meeting adjourn, Mr. Plante seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 6-0-0, whereupon Chairman Tanner declared the regular meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary