

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on April 13, 2023

Draft Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on April 13, 2023 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Kim Lavallee. Board members present were: Vice Chair Kim Lavallee, Leo Plante, Andrew Alajajian, Bailey Sweet, Kevin McDonald, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board), Chairman Barry Tanner (via Zoom) and Kerry Bedard (ex officio and Executive Director). Vice Chair Lavallee 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 Vice Chair Lavallee.

Chairman Tanner read the School Mission of LCA.

Executive Director Kerry Bedard presented a Mission Moment, focusing on a recent musical quartet performance at LCA give by Monadnock Music. Mrs. Bedard noted that the performance inspired a good question and answer session at the conclusion of the musical performance.

Vice Chair Lavallee opened the meeting for Public Comments. No public comments were offered, whereupon she 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 March 9, 2023, as well as the draft Minutes of the Board's Special public meeting held on March 23, 2023. On motion of Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, the Minutes of both public meetings were approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Draft minutes of non-public portions of both meetings were also submitted and circulated, but held over until the next Board meeting for approval.

Vice Chair Lavallee invited Caitlyn Blundell, CPA, to present LCA's March 2023 financial reports. Ms. Blundell reviewed a summary of the March Financial

Report, noting that LCA will be subject to a grant compliance audit, as well as a State audit this spring. In response to a question from the Board, she opined that LCA has sufficient cash on hand to get through until the next per pupil aid payment in September. Mr. Merkt, seconded by Vice Chair Lavallee, moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, which motion was approved by a 7-0-0 vote of the Board.

Executive Director Bedard reported that LCA is now in quarter 4 of its first year of operation and is planning spring events. A new school calendar for 2023 - 2024 is in development, as is LCA's donor database. She reviewed current and projected student enrollment for 2023 – 2024 and advised that a parent information session is scheduled. She is currently interviewing teacher candidates, as LCA will require five new teachers when school opens in the fall. LCA presently has about 12 IEP students among its 184 students, and Executive Director Bedard noted that assessments will be needed for new students entering LCA in 2023 - 2024.

Turning to committee reports, Chairman Tanner reported for the Finance Committee that the new school budget is predicated on existing per pupil state aid figures, which affects both facility and staffing planning. Should the state increase per pupil aid from a total of \$7,400 to \$9,000, as has been proposed, LCA will be able to adjust its budget and still meet the approximate \$10,000 cost of educating each student. There will be a Special meeting of the Board in the near future to approve the proposed school budget.

Vice Chair Lavallee reported for the Policy Committee that a policy for Promotion and Retention of Students will be proposed, and the Committee has a template to guide it in proposing the policy.

The Fund-Raising and Family Outreach Committee reported events scheduled for April 15 (a dinner and fund-raiser) and for May 12. The committee is currently selling tickets and seeking corporate sponsorship for the latter event.

David Bedard reported to the Board for the Facility Committee, covering outstanding maintenance issues, Phase II construction of classrooms and multi-purpose space costs, and issues arising from the heavy snowfall during the March snowstorm.

Under New Business, Executive Director Bedard reviewed the proposed 2023 – 2024 LCA school calendar and discussed how it fulfills state instructional requirements. School is expected to commence on September 5, 2023 and end on June 14, 2024. Hours of operation will be adjusted. She has received both faculty and family input on the proposed calendar. Mr. Plante moved acceptance of the proposed school calendar, Mr. Alajajian seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 7-0-0.

Vice Chair Lavallee reviewed legislation now pending in the General Court that would increase charter school financial support and noted that interested parties could express their approval of such legislation.

Executive Director Bedard noted that the Safety Committee will schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss school-related safety issues.

Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Merkt, 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, and Mr. Bedard 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; Mr. McDonald voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon the meeting entered into non-public session at 7:16 p.m.

Upon conclusion of the non-public session at 8:09 p.m., Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Tanner, 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; Mr. McDonald voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by the Board by a vote of 7-0-0. The decision of the Board in the non-public session was to authorize Chairman Tanner to contact LCA's landlord on behalf of the Board to discuss possible acquisition of LCA's facility.

Vice Chair Lavallee noted that a Special meeting of the Board will be at LCA on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Sweet moved that the meeting adjourn, Mrs. Lavalley seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon Vice Chair Lavalley declared the regular meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary