

**Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees
10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, NH
Special Meeting on March 28, 2024**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on March 28, 2024 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Barry Tanner. Board members present included: Chairman Tanner, Vice Chair Kim Lavallee, Bailey Sweet, Kristie Greenwood (via Zoom), Lori Finn, Kevin McDonald, Jason Nero, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board), and Kerry Bedard (*ex officio* and Executive Director). The Chairman noted that this was a public meeting and that notice of the same had been duly posted in accordance with state law.

The meeting commenced 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," discussing one class's letter of protest to King George III (part of a history lesson) and a testimonial letter received from a school parent.

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting for Public Comments. No public comments were offered, whereupon Chairman Tanner closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Richard Merkt presented his Secretary's Report, consisting of draft Minutes of the Board's Regular Meeting held on March 14, 2024. On motion by Trustee Sweet, seconded by Trustee Nero, the Secretary's Minutes of said Regular Meeting were approved without change by a vote of 8-0-0.

The Minutes of the Board's Regular Meeting held on February 22, 2024 were not yet available in final draft and were tabled until the Board's Regular Meeting on April 11, 2024.

The Finance Committee reported to the Board on its review of the proposed 2025 Budget for LCA. Following opening remarks by Committee Chair Nero, Executive Director Bedard presented a summary of the proposed school budget for 2025. The Board discussed the challenge of addressing staffing needs with balancing the budget without excessive reliance on donations and fund-raising.

At Chairman Tanner's suggestion, Vice Chair Lavallee reviewed various questions about the proposed budget submitted by Trustees. It was noted that current year donations received by LCA are in line with budget expectations. Questions about staff growth, different categories of instructors, future anticipated donations, proposed new positions, and the future of the Charter School Program grant were also discussed.

Given the number of open questions about the proposed 2025 school budget, Vice Chair Lavallee suggested dividing the issue, approving funding for salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes for teachers and teacher's assistants to enable LCA to move forward with

offering contracts for the 2024-2025 academic year. The cost of doing so (excluding the cost additional proposed new teacher's assistant positions) was estimated by LCA's accountant, Caitlyn Blundell, at \$1,341,403 or approximately 48% of the requested budget. Trustee Merkt moved that the Board approve and appropriate this sum for the purpose suggested by Vice Chair Lavallee, Trustee Finn seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the Board by a vote of 8-0-0.

The balance of the proposed 2025 school budget request will be further considered by the Finance Committee, which will report its results at the Board's Regular Meeting scheduled for April 11, 2024.

Chairman Tanner asked Trustees if they had read the Charter School General Assurances, compliance with which is a government regulatory requirement. The Trustees responded that they had and were in agreement with them, whereupon Chairman Tanner deemed the requirement satisfied.

The Policy Committee presented the following of mandatory/standard proposed policies for Board approval, which were discussed and approved by Board motions as indicated:

- 1) Data & Records Retention; approved Lavallee/Tanner 8-0-0;
- 2) Administration of Federal Grant Funds; approved Merkt/Lavallee 8-0-0;
- 3) Drug-Free Workplace; approved Finn/Nero 8-0-0; and
- 4) Employee References and Verification; approved Sweet/Lavallee 8-0-0.

A proposed Grievance Process policy was referred to the Policy Committee for discussion and return to the Board at its April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Trustee Finn moved that the Board enter a non-public session of the Special Meeting pursuant to RS 91-A:33, II(a), for the purpose of discussing public employees of LCA. Trustee Sweet seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, each of the Trustees voted in favor of the motion (8-0-0) (whereupon Trustee Greenwood departed the meeting).

The Board entered the non-public session at 8:02 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 9:22 p.m. on motion of Trustee Bailey, seconded by Mr. Nero, which also directed that the Minutes of the non-public session be sealed. The motion was approved by approved by a roll-call vote of 7-0-0 (Trustee Greenwood having departed the meeting prior to the non-public session). The decision of the Board was to direct the Board Chairman and Board Secretary to meet with the Executive Director to address Board concerns with respect to personnel and other issues at LCA.

Chairman Tanner noted that the next Regular Meeting of the Board will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Trustee Merkt moved that the Regular Meeting adjourn, Trustee Lavalley seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon Chairman Tanner declared the Special Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary