

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on January 11, 2024

Approved Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on January 11, 2024 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Vice Chair Kim Lavallee. At Chairman Tanner's request, Vice Chair Lavallee chaired the meeting. Board members present included: Chairman Barry Tanner (via Zoom), Vice Chair Kim Lavallee, Bailey Sweet, Kristie Greenwood, Lori Finn, Kevin McDonald, Jason Nero, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board), and Kerry Bedard (*ex officio* and Executive Director). The Vice Chair 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 Vice Chair Lavallee.

Executive Director Bedard recited the School Mission of LCA.

Executive Director Kerry Bedard presented a "Mission Moment," reporting on LCA's Christmas Assembly, including carols, which was a positive experience enjoyed by students and staff alike.

The Vice Chair opened the meeting for Public Comments, explaining the public comment process. No public comments were offered, whereupon she 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 December 14, 2023. Mr. Merkt expressed thanks to Trustee Sweet for having taken the Minutes, as Mr. Merkt chaired the meeting. On motion by Mr. Nero, seconded by Mrs. Finn, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting were approved without change by a vote of 7-0-1 (with Mrs. Lavallee abstaining due to her absence from the meeting).

The Treasurer's Report followed, with Caitlyn Blundell reporting a strong cash position and net surplus due in part to recent receipt of State Adequacy Funding payments and well-controlled budget expenses. LCA has a current operating cash balance of about \$970,000 and accounts receivable of about \$70,000. Approximately \$446,000 remains available from LCA's Charter School Program grant for qualified expenditure reimbursements. Mrs. Sweet moved approval of the December 2023 financial statements, and Mr. Merkt seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 8-0-0.

Executive Director Bedard presented her monthly report to the Board, noting: 1) LCA's First Year Audit Report presentation to the New Hampshire State Board of Education is now scheduled for February 8, 2024; and 2) About 100 new student registrations for 2024-2025 have been received, monthly parent information sessions will be conducted, and the state-mandated enrollment lottery is scheduled for March 16, 2024 at LCA. Mrs. Bedard introduced Principal Mercy DeMasi and Director of Student Support Fiona Byrne to discuss challenges and practical aspects of bringing LCA's Classical Education to a student population of 270 with diverse backgrounds and levels of academic proficiency.

Principal DeMasi briefed the Board on various assessment tools used at LCA to provide both qualitative and quantitative measures to assist staff in delivering appropriate educational services to students. She highlighted the advantages of utilizing teacher's assistants to facilitate this process, described the broad range of performance capabilities found in LCA's student body, and discussed how the staff addresses the differing needs of students.

Director Byrne discussed LCA's existing population of students with individual education plans, described the evaluation and eligibility process, and noted how LCA also applies procedures to identify other students who will benefit from Targeted Interventions to address specific identified needs. The current number of IEP's is determined in part by available resources, and more students can be assisted if further resources can be dedicated to the process.

Following the comments by Principal DeMasi and Director Byrne, Board members expressed their appreciation to both of them for the

comprehensive presentations, noting how they provided the Board with a better understanding of how student body performance assessments and individual student needs evaluation processes work.

Under Committee Meeting Updates, Trustee Sweet reported that the Strategic Planning Committee will participate in development of a three-year budget plan for LCA, which will also entail a review of existing facilities and future needs driven by anticipated student enrollment growth over the next three years. Trustee Lavalley reported that the Finance Committee is being expanded to meet LCA's needs, and Trustee Nero inquired about the status of stock previously gifted to the school. Chairman Tanner will follow up this item to determine the present value and liquidity of the gift. Trustee McDonald indicated that increasing job duties do not afford him sufficient time to chair the Fundraising and Development Committee, and Trustee Greenwood agreed to take over chairing this committee. The Policy Committee will review a list of mandatory policies identified by Executive Director Bedard and determine how many of these can be summarily approved for LCA to satisfy regulatory mandates. Action by the Trustee Security Committee was tabled for future committee discussion, including measuring school family interest in and support for action on this issue.

Under New Board Business, Vice Chair Lavalley advised the Board that a Board Member Training session will be conducted on January 20, 2024 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and urged all Board members to attend, if possible.

Vice Chair Lavalley requested a motion for the Meeting to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) and RSA 91-A:3, II(I) to discuss legal contracts and real estate matters, inviting the Executive Director to remain. Mr. Merkt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Sweet. On Roll Call vote: Mr. Tanner voted yes; Vice Chair Lavalley voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mrs. Greenwood voted yes; Mrs. Finn voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes, Mr. Nero voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. Vote result was motion approved by a vote of 8-0-0. The Meeting went into non-public session at 8:00 p.m.

The Meeting returned to public session at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Merkt made the motion (including sealing the Minutes of the non-public session), seconded by Mr. McDonald. On Roll Call vote: Mr. Tanner voted yes; Vice Chair Lavallee voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mrs. Greenwood voted yes; Mrs. Finn voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes, Mr. Nero voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The vote result was motion approved by a vote of 8-0-0. The results of the non-public session were as follows: 1) Chairman Tanner will solicit a meeting among a non-quorum of the Trustees and LCA's landlord to discuss issues relating to the lease agreement; and 2) The Board has designated Trustee Nero to conduct research into the range of available options open to LCA to meet future needs as the school expands beyond grade 8 and to report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Lavallee noted that the next Regular Meeting of the Board has been rescheduled to take place on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sweet moved that the Regular Meeting adjourn, Mrs. Finn seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 8-0-0, whereupon Vice Chair Lavallee declared the Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary