

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on October 12, 2023

Approved Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on October 12, 2023 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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, Vice Chair Kim Lavallee, Leo Plante, Bailey Sweet (via Zoom), Kevin McDonald, 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," highlighting three initiatives taken in recent weeks: 1) "After-school clubs" for 5th and 6th grade students, led by teachers; 2) Upgrades to the school playground; and 3) A student-led lemonade stand that raised significant funds to help pay for the playground upgrades.

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 September 21, 2023. On motion by Mr. Plante, seconded by Mr. McDonald, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting were approved without change by a vote of 6-0-0.

On invitation of the Vice Chair, two representatives of Nathan Wechsler & Company, LCA's independent auditors, conducted a

Power Point presentation summarizing the auditor’s findings from its audit of LCA as of June 30, 2023, including an outline of methods and metrics applied. The audit resulted in an unqualified “clean” audit opinion issued by Nathan Wechsler & Company for LCA. Mr. Tanner moved approval of the audit, which motion was seconded by Mr. Plante and passed by a vote of 6-0-0. Vice Chair Lavalley thanked the Nathan Wechsler representatives and commended Caitlyn Blundell, CPA, for her work in support of the audit.

The Treasurer’s Report followed, with Ms. Blundell reporting receipt today of a State Adequacy Funding payment that resolved the cash deficit and leaves LCA with a current cash balance of about \$902,000. \$465,000 remains available from LCA’s Charter School Program grant for qualified expenditure reimbursements. Mr. Plante moved approval of the September 2023 financial statements, Mr. Merkt seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

Executive Director Bedard presented her report to the Board, focusing on the following items: 1) LCS student enrollment is presently 274 students. She proposed that new enrollments be ended for the current year to avoid the distraction of bringing late-entering students into the system at this time. Mr. Merkt move to close enrollment for this year, seconded by Mr. Plante, which motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. 2) Mrs. Bedard reported on the Safety Committee, an Emergency Operating Plan due to be filed, and monthly safety drills. 3) She provided a report on LCA’s Year One State Assessment Scores (including Proficiency) and comparative Assessment Scores data from the State Department of Education.

Under Committee Meeting Updates, Vice Chair Lavalley noted that the Board Recruitment and Succession Planning Committee is continuing its outreach to identify potential candidates for Board membership. Finance, Facilities, and Strategic Planning Committee has held two meetings to date and is considering options to best address a capital need for additional classrooms next year. Under Fundraising & Development, Mr. McDonald commented that the committee is planning to hold its major Annual Fundraising event in Spring of 2024. He requested an updated list of existing school sponsors. The goal is to reserve a suitable venue and date, then issue a “save-the-

date” notice. The Policy Committee will recommend the Faculty and Staff handbook following legal review of proposed language changes.

Under New Business, an omission of required workers’ compensation insurance coverage by LCA’s former payroll firm resulted in a \$1,600 fine being levied by the State Department of Labor. The matter will be resolved by payment to avoid the expense and delay of an appeal.

Executive Director Bedard introduced Adam Jiminez-Schulman from the Results Ahead organization, a professional development group for charter schools that provides one-on-one coaching, observation, and professional development counseling sessions.

Vice Chair Lavallee requested a motion for the Meeting to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and RSA 91-A:3, II(d) to discuss public employees and legal contracts, inviting the Executive Director to remain. Mr. McDonald made the motion, seconded by Mr. Plante. On Roll Call vote: Mr. Tanner voted yes; Vice Chair Lavallee voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes, and Mr. Merkt voted yes. Vote result was motion approved by a vote of 6-0-0. The Meeting went into non-public session at 7:23 p.m.

The Meeting returned to public session at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Tanner made the motion (including sealing the Minutes of the non-public session), seconded by Mr. Plante. On Roll Call vote: Mr. Tanner voted yes; Vice Chair Lavallee voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes, and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The vote result was motion approved by a vote of 6-0-0. The results of the non-public session were as follows: 1) The Board will consider establishing a full-time position of security officer/facility manager to support the safety and security of all persons at LCA facilities; 2) The Executive Director will submit a list of recommended employee bonuses for the past school year for consideration by the Board.

Vice Chair Lavallee noted that the next Regular Meeting of the Board will be on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Plante moved that the Regular Meeting adjourn, Mr. McDonald seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 6-0-0,

whereupon Vice Chair Lavallee declared the Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary