



LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting May 8, 2025

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 5/8/2025 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Bailey Sweet. Board members present included: Treasurer Kristie Greenwood, Trustee Jason Nero, Trustee David Somero, Trustee Brian Walsh, and Secretary Lori Finn. Chair Kim Lavalley was unable to attend. Executive Director Mike Harner, Principal Kenneth Dobbs, and Accountant Caitlin Blundell (Zoom) were also in attendance. Vice Chair Sweet noted that this was a public meeting and 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 Sweet. Principal Dobbs recited the mission statement and shared the following mission moment demonstrating the virtue of responsibility. Two Lionheart students in a car when the national anthem came on, they explained to their sibling how to show respect, demonstrating virtuous living and responsible citizenship.

I. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

II. Secretary's Report: Secretary Finn presented the Secretary's Report. Trustee Nero moved to approve the minutes from the 4/12/25 Regular Board Meeting and the 4/24/25 Emergency Board Meeting. Trustee Somero seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0-0), motion passed. While the minutes are correct for the 4/12/25 meeting, the meeting is listed on the website with a date of 4/10/25. This will be corrected.

III. Treasurer's Report: Caitlin Blundell presented the [Monthly Financial Report and Budget Analysis for April 2025](#). Ms. Blundell noted that the net surplus is down by about \$53k from this time last year, but it is still very much in line with historical trends, and it is a good indicator of strong financial stability. Cash on hand is about \$1.1 million—a decrease of about \$290k from March 2025. That drop is due to routine operating expenses and ongoing school costs. It is still significantly ahead of where we were at this point last year in terms of cash. We are in a very strong position heading into the summer months. Annual fundraiser was held in April. In April alone, we have \$27,493 reported as revenue for the event. There is an estimated \$28k in additional Stripe payments. Revenue from the fundraiser in April were about \$60k.

We have already reached our revenue goal, so we are 103% of our budgeted revenue. With the one additional per-pupil aid payment that will be coming this summer, we will be way ahead of what had been budgeted for revenue. We are 82% of our annual budget, which is perfect for

this time of year. Trustee Greenwood moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Trustee Walsh. All in favor (6-0-0), motion passed.

IV. Leadership Report: ED Harner presented the [Leadership Report](#). In addition, he noted that we filled our new kindergarten class, and we still have waiting lists for eight of nine grades. We held our kindergarten assessment yesterday.

Also, he mentioned that Ann Sophie Edwards, our reading specialist, has done a great job this year working with some students who had had some reading challenges. We are starting to see the results of her hard work.

V. Board Business

- A. **Proclamation:** Trustee Walsh and a fourth grade Lionheart student read a [proclamation](#) recognizing our teachers and Teacher Appreciation Week. Trustee Finn moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Trustee Nero. All in favor (6-0-0), motion passed.
- B. **Finance Committee:** Trustee Nero provided an update on the activities of the Finance Committee. We are expected to close on the property at 700 Dublin Rd at the end of the month. The preliminary design has already been completed, so construction should start almost immediately after the closing.
- C. **Organizational Committee:**
 - a. **Daily Physical Activity Policy (IMAH)** - This draft was approved by the organizational committee and has been posted on the website for review. Trustee Somero moved to send IMAH forward for approval at the June 2025 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Walsh. No further discussion. All in favor (6-0-0). Motion passed.
 - b. Drafts of two new policies: [Use of Tobacco \(ADC\)](#) and [Admission of Homeless Students \(JFABD\)](#), were posted to the website. No discussion on ADC. Trustee Somero questioned this sentence in JFABD: *The Academy shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.* The Board agreed to replace that sentence with this one: *The Academy shall ensure that homeless students are protected from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.* Trustee Greenwood moved to approve ADC as written and JFABD with the above change. Trustee Finn seconded. No further discussion. All in favor (6-0-0). Motion passed.
 - c. We are looking for grant opportunities.
- D. **Academic Committee:** Trustee Finn provided an update on the activities of the Academic Committee that was not already covered in the Leadership Report.
 - a. **Professional Development**
 - Daniel Coupland from Hillsdale coming in August for 2-day teacher training
 - Singapore Math trainers coming in August for 3-day teacher training
 - Security training in August
 - PE teacher and a 7th grade teacher will be attending a special training at Hillsdale (Iliad Athletics) to make PE more functional and team-based
 - b. **Curriculum:** 8th grade textbooks may be more expensive than anticipated,

although ordering directly from publisher is a cheaper option.

c. Updates

- Building a library over the summer, and looking for donations of reference books
- Hoping to begin a sports program in the fall (possibly track, cross country, and/or golf)

E. Board Training - Governing with Greatness: The Board revisited and completed Chapter 1, including a discussion of student outcomes found within the Accountability Plan. There was a question about development of a proprietary test to assess proficiency in US History and Civics. Development should have begun in the Fall of 2021. ED Harner noted that this may not be necessary since we are using the Classical Learning Test. He said he will get more information so we can determine how to proceed. Chapter 3 was also reviewed.

Vice Chair Sweet announced the next regular board meeting would be held on 6/12/25 @ 6 pm.

Trustee Nero moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (a), (d), and © for Board succession and planning. Trustee Walsh seconded. [(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.] Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Somero (yea), Sweet (yea), Greenwood (yea), Finn (yea). Motion passed. The non-public session began at 6:54 pm

The Board returned to public session at 7:44 pm. Trustee Greenwood motioned to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session, seconded by Trustee Nero. Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Somero (yea), Sweet (yea), Greenwood (yea), Finn (yea). Motion passed.

During the nonpublic session the Board voted to extend the deadline for Board applications to June 1, 2025.

Trustee Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Nero. Public meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. Finn