



LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting August 21, 2025

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 8/21/2025 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Bailey Sweet. Other board members present included: Vice Chair Brian Walsh, Treasurer Dave Somero, Trustee Jason Nero, Trustee Ken Woods, Trustee Ross Kukish, and Secretary Lori Finn. Executive Director Mike Harner and Principal Kenneth Dobbs (via Zoom) were also in attendance. 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 Chair Sweet, followed by a moment of silence dedicated to LCA founder and supporter, Augusta Patrone. In recognition of Augusta, Chair Sweet read a written remembrance from Augusta's Sister, Mitzi. Trustee Kukish recited the mission statement. Executive Director Harner shared a mission moment recognizing the work that the teachers and TAs have done all summer long and the enthusiasm in the school now in anticipation of the students starting back. All of the Lionheart virtues are embodied in the faculty and staff.

I. Public Comments: None.

II. Secretary's Report: Secretary Finn presented the Secretary's Report. Trustee Somero moved to approve the minutes from both the 6/12/25 Regular Board Meeting and the 7/16/25 Board Training. Trustee Nero seconded the motion. All in favor (7-0-0), motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report: Trustee Somero presented [Monthly Financial Report & Budget Analysis](#) for July 2025. He indicated that we are waiting for our per-pupil-aid payment. Legal expenses are up. He inquired about a training expense related to Singapore Math; it was clarified that this covered the cost for a trainer to visit the school. He also asked about an expense from Dunkin Donuts. Ashlee Wheel said she is looking into it. Trustee Nero moved to accept the financials, seconded by Trustee Walsh. All in favor, motion passed (7-0-0).

IV. Leadership Report: ED Harner presented the Leadership Report. He noted that we are close to our budgeted goal for enrollment. We have waitlists for K-3. A fifth grade teacher resigned last week, and interviews are being held now. He noted that interviews will continue until the right match is found. We are also down one TA who moved out of the area. Club sports will be offered this fall—cross country and soccer. The lower grade teachers will be training on Literacy Essentials at Seacoast, and next week at Lionheart, teachers will participate

in training on Singapore Math. We have a tentative commitment by Dr. Kenneth Calvert (Hillsdale Academy) to speak on classical education on 10/29. We are also hoping to get Dr. Dan Copeland to present. ED Harner also gave a shout out to Mrs. O'Neill and Mrs. Sabol who have been working tirelessly over the past few weeks transitioning to their new spaces.

ED Harner presented the family handbook. No changes from the 2024-2025 handbook with the exception of the dress code and attendance policy. The most recent dress code (approved 3/13/25) has been added, along with gray leggings and gray sweaters for girls. Also, the attendance policy when approved will be included. Trustee Somero moved to approve the 2025-2026 handbook with the language of the approved attendance policy, seconded by Trustee Nero. All in favor (7-0-0), motion passed.

V. Board Business

- A. **Trustee Term.** The Board voted for Trustee Woods to serve a one-year term at the June 2025 meeting. He has agreed to serve for two years. Trustee Nero moved to change the previously approved one-year term for Trustee Woods to a two-year term. The motion was seconded by Trustee Finn. All in favor (7-0-0), motion passed.
- B. **Committee Assignments.** Trustee Walsh agreed to serve on the Academic Committee, and Trustee Woods agreed to serve on the Organizational Committee.
- C. **Finance Committee.** Trustee Nero provided an update on the activities of the Finance Committee.
 - a. He thanked an anonymous donor for a generous donation made today. He also thanked Trustee Kukish for his time and effort into the demo of the art room.
 - b. Construction update: construction at 700 Dublin Rd is progressing. There are additional items that will fall within the contingency (e.g., fire alarms, quote for the roof). We have a tentative plan which hinges on the completion of the elevator which will hopefully be finished by October or November. We will need to do some landscaping this fall.
 - c. At the most recent Finance Committee meeting, the committee discussed developing a plan for additional classrooms at 10 Sharon Road, if needed. The building inspector has consistently requested such a plan. A request was made for approval of up to \$5,000 to cover architectural design services for 10 Sharon Road, with the understanding that three estimates will be obtained. Trustee Walsh moved, Trustee Somero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Trustee Nero announced the formation of a Building Committee as a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a six-year plan to guide next steps when the current lease expires. Members will include Trustees Kukich, Somero, and Nero. The committee's target for completion is the end of 2025.
 - e. Ophir Sternberg committed to increasing rent relief to \$200k for the 2025-2026 year toward his \$1M pledged commitment. Trustee Walsh moved to accept this donation, seconded by Trustee Nero. All in favor (7-0-0), motion passed. Ashlee Wheel organized the first annual golf fundraiser which generated \$15k. Thank you, Ashley!
- D. **Organizational Committee.**
 - a. [Staff Conduct Policy \(GBEB\)](#): This draft policy has been on the website, and there have been no feedback. Trustee Nero moved to approve this policy as

written, seconded by Trustee Walsh. No further discussion. All in favor (7-0-0). Motion passed.

- b. [Attendance Policy \(JH\)](#). This draft policy has been on the website and has been reviewed by the attorney. He had no issue with the content, as written, but he did have some grammatical changes. We will remove the bullet point under “Unexcused Absences” about incomplete immunization records. Trustee Sweet moved to approve the Attendance Policy (JH) with the removal of incomplete immunization records being considered an unexcused absence and making recommended grammatical changes. Trustee Finn seconded. All in favor (7-0-0). Motion passed. This will be added to the 2025-2026 Family Handbook.
- c. Non-Public Minutes Release request from former trustee Kevin McDonald. Trustee Nero moved to give him access of non-public minutes only of meetings in which he was present, seconded by Trustee Walsh. Trustee Woods and Trustee Kukish abstained. All other board members approved (5-0-2), motion passed.
- d. Trustee Sweet moved to approve the Annual Organizational 2025-2026 Calendar, seconded by Trustee Walsh. All in favor (7-0-0), motion passed.
- e. Board members from Seacoast Classical Academy would like to meet with members of the LCA board sometime at the end of September.
- f. Meeting with seacoast. Their board would like to meet our board. Not as a whole board. End of sept.
- g. Governing for Greatness: Chapter 4. Trustee Woods moved to approve an annual review of fiscal controls by the Finance Committee each January. Trustee Nero seconded. All approved (7-0-0). Motion passed.

E. **Next meeting:** September 11, 2025 @ 6 pm.

Trustee Walsh moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (b) and (e). Trustee Nero seconded. [(b)The hiring of any person as a public employee. (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.] Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea). Motion passed. Fiona Byrne and Principal Dobbs (via phone) were invited to attend. The non-public session began at 7:12 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:30 pm. Trustee Sweet moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Trustee Walsh. Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea). Motion passed. During the non-public session, the Board voted in non-public session to approve a temporary staffing arrangement, pending attorney review.

Trustee Sweet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori L. Finn

Minutes approved 9/11/25