



LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting September 11, 2025

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 9/11/2025 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair Bailey Sweet. Other board members present included: Vice Chair Brian Walsh, Treasurer Dave Somero, Trustee Jason Nero, Trustee Ross Kukish, and Secretary Lori Finn. Trustee Ken Woods was excused. Executive Director Mike Harner and Principal Kenneth Dobbs 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 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chair Sweet, followed by a moment of silence in observance of the anniversary of September 11, 2001. Trustee Nero recited the mission statement. Executive Director Harner shared a mission moment focusing on a teacher who found a novel way of inspiring a student to come to school.

I. Public Comments:

- A. **Mackenzie Nichols** (teacher and parent) - Ms. Nichols voiced concern about the dress code, particularly related to hooded sweatshirts and jewelry. She read a written statement, which was submitted to the Board for the record.
- B. **Kristen Reida** (staff and parent) - Ms. Reida also voiced concern about the dress code, specifically regarding hooded sweatshirts.
- C. **Miranda Rosbach** (parent) - Ms. Rosbach voiced support for LCA policies prohibiting tobacco and technology devices at school. She requested consideration of a policy addressing endocrine disruptors and expressed concern about the lack of recess for middle school students, noting the importance of outdoor activity and physical movement.
- D. **Kim Lavallee** (former LCA Board Chair) - Ms. Lavallee said that the board and staff are doing "amazing", noted community excitement about the new building, construction, and new board members, and extended her continued support.
- E. **Ashley Hall** (parent) - Ms. Hall expressed concern about the dress code regarding hooded sweatshirts, citing prior difficulties when dress code changes were implemented in Year 2 after families had already purchased clothing.
- F. **Vicky Gulla** (parent) - Ms. Gulla asked that the school not change the uniform and voiced support for the previous comment about outdoor time and fragrances. She also spoke in remembrance of Augusta Petrone, reading from a book written by Augusta's father about schools in the 1950s and drawing parallels to current challenges. Ms. Gulla thanked the teachers, board, and administration for their careful hiring and for building a community where parents can find refuge, and emphasized Augusta's love for LCA

and the children

II. Secretary's Report: Secretary Finn presented the Secretary's Report. Trustee Walsh moved to approve the minutes of the 8/21/25 board meeting pending addition of the moment of silence for Augusta Petrone. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nero. All in favor, motion passed (6-0-0). Trustee Nero moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8/25/25, 9/2/25, and 9/8/25, seconded by Trustee Walsh. All in favor, motion passed (6-0-0). Trustee Somero moved to accept the minutes to the meetings held on 5/6/25 and 4/8/25, seconded by Trustee Walsh. The motion passed (5-0-1) with Trustee Kukish abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report: Accountant Caitlin Blundell presented [Monthly Financial Report & Budget Analysis](#) for August 2025. She reported that the school is currently operating at a deficit, which is typical for this time of year given that expenses accrue for two months before the first per-pupil aid payment is received. Major expenses included payroll and rent. Benefits costs were higher than anticipated, as more employees elected coverage than originally projected. Ms. Blundell also prepared a cash flow forecast through September 2026, which she will update monthly. Trustee Finn moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Trustee Kukish. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

IV. Leadership Report: ED Harner presented the [Leadership Report](#) and noted the need for clarification in the dress code regarding hooded sweatshirts. Trustee Nero moved to amend the language of the dress code to specify that hooded sweatshirts are permitted on activewear and spiritwear days. Trustee Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Trustee Walsh moved to refer the issue of jewelry in the dress code to the Dress Code Committee. Trustee Nero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Executive Director Harner presented the Faculty and Staff Handbook for review. Trustee Sweet noted one instance where the term "president" was used instead of "Executive Director" and requested that be corrected. She also requested that NH HB 510 be added to the handbook. Trustee Sweet moved to approve the handbook for AY2025–2026 with those changes. Trustee Nero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Dominik Dubravic presented a report on his [analysis of assessment results](#), and discussed steps implemented, and further recommendations.

V. Board Business

A. Finance Committee. Trustee Nero provided an update on the activities of the Finance Committee.

- a. Construction at 700 Dublin Road is progressing well, with a tentative completion date in mid-November. The plan is to move 7th and 8th grade into the new building following the Christmas break. Approximately \$400,000 remains in the contingency budget, and the project is currently on track
- b. ED Harner met with the building inspector and conducted a walkthrough of the south wing to discuss possible opportunities for the future if more classrooms are needed.
- c. The Building Subcommittee has started the process of developing a six-year plan to guide next steps when the current lease expires.
- d. Ashlee Wheel organized the first annual golf fundraiser which generated \$15k.

Thank you, Ashley!

B. Organizational Committee. Trustee Sweet provided an update on the activities of the Organizational Committee.

- a. [Cell Phone Policy \(JICJ\)](#): A draft policy was presented in response to NH RSA 189:1-a. The content reflects what has already been included in the LCA Student and Family Handbook; the change is that it will now stand as a formal board policy. The draft has been posted on the website. Trustee Nero moved to approve the policy on first reading as written and to move it forward for review and public comment. Trustee Kukish seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0). The policy will return for review at the October board meeting.
- b. A Parent Bill of Rights policy is in development, based on [HB 10 \(2025\)](#). The Organizational Committee will collaborate with LCA administration and stakeholders to address the required elements.

C. Academic Committee: There was no separate Academic Committee report. Relevant updates were included in the Leadership Report and in Mr. Dubravec's presentation.

VI. New Business

- A. Discussion of Chapter 5 - Governing with Greatness
- B. Q1 Training / Annual Strategic Planning - after the 10/9 Board meeting

Next meeting: October 9, 2025 @ 6 pm.

Trustee Walsh moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (i). Trustee Nero seconded. [(i)Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions.] Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea). Motion passed. Executive Director Mike Harner was invited to attend. The non-public session began at 7:44 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:40 pm. Trustee Somero moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Trustee Sweet. Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea). Motion passed. During the non-public session, the Board voted to approve a Security Integrity Committee consisting of Trustee Walsh, Trustee Kukish, and ED Harner.

Trustee Somero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori L. Finn

Approved 10/9/25