



LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting November 13, 2025

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 11/13/2025 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 Ross Kukish, Trustee Ken Woods, Trustee Jason Nero, and Secretary Lori Finn (via Zoom). 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. Chair Sweet then read the mission statement. ED Harner shared two mission moments. He expressed his deep gratitude to Augusta Petrone for her bequest of \$1.19m and noted that LCA students made Veterans Day cards and delivered them to Spring Village.

I. Public Comments: Austin Sloan, LCA PE teacher, announced the start of basketball. He is seeking a volunteer coach for one of the boys' teams.

II. Secretary's Report: Secretary Finn presented the Secretary's Report. **Trustee Nero moved to approve the minutes of both the Regular Board Meeting and Board Training held on October 9, 2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kukish and approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea).

III. Treasurer's Report:

- A. Caitlyn Blundell presented the October 2025 [Monthly Financial Report](#) & [Budget Analysis](#). She noted \$1.2 million in gifts, \$50k in lease aid revenue from the state. The HEFA loan was repaid on 11/5. ED Harner noted that the Founders loan has been paid, and the invoice was received earlier today. **Trustee Nero moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Trustee Somero. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea). Chair Sweet requested biweekly cash flow updates going forward.
- B. Chair Sweet indicated that we received Form 990 from Nathan Wechsler, representing the final component of the audit. **Trustee Somero moved to accept and sign the 990, seconded by Trustee Walsh. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea).

IV. Leadership Report:

- A. Principal Dobbs presented the [Leadership Report](#). ED Harner highlighted LCA's first Literacy Night, at which approximately 40 parents received guidance on supporting literacy at home. A corresponding math-focused event will be held in January.
- B. Student Handbook Recommendations
 - a. ED Harner requested a revision in the language about party invitations. **Trustee Nero moved to accept the change, seconded by Trustee Sweet. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea).
 - b. ED Harner noted that the new law regarding parents' rights includes requirements related to student clubs. Because the bylaws do not currently address clubs, he recommended adding language outlining their purpose and requirements to the student handbook. **Trustee Walsh moved to accept the first review of this addition, seconded by Trustee Nero. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea). The proposed changes will be posted on the LCA website for public comment and brought forward for final approval at the December Board Meeting.
 - c. ED Harner reported that Tal Bayer from NHDOE visited LCA and toured both facilities. The visit was positive, and Mr. Bayer was helpful and supportive during his visit. The NH SBOE meeting will take place on November 19 in Salem for a hearing regarding LCA's recharter for the upcoming year.
 - d. Chair Sweet recognized and congratulated ED Harner on completing his first full year with Lionheart.

V. Board Business

- A. **Finance Committee.** Trustee Nero provided an update on the activities of the Finance Committee.
 - a. Trustee Nero expressed his gratitude to Augusta Petrone for her generous bequest, noting she was a backbone of the school and the community. He stated that we are deeply grateful to her and all of the other LCA founders. Trustee Nero indicated that the Finance Committee has been discussing options for the bequest. One option under strong consideration is establishing the Augusta Petrone Endowment Fund, which would be unrestricted. The fund could be structured so that a percentage is drawn annually, allowing it to continue in perpetuity, while also creating an avenue for future contributions. Trustee Nero recommended identifying an advisor to manage the investment. Chair Sweet recommended exploring the possibility of paying off the secondary mortgage on 700 Dublin Rd. In the interim, Trustee Nero suggested depositing the funds into a money market account so they can accrue interest while the long-term plan is finalized. **Trustee Nero moved to place the funds into the Schwab Prime Advantage Money Market Fund, seconded by Trustee Woods. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea).
 - b. Fundraising efforts are proceeding well. Ashlee Wheel reported that 289 pies were sold in the pie fundraiser and that total fundraising for the year has exceeded \$18,000.
 - c. Development of the 6-yr Plan remains in progress. Trustee Nero is hopeful that a

draft will be available by the end of the year.

- d. Benefits - Executive Director Harner reported that continuing with Insperity next year will likely increase costs by approximately 9%. An alternative plan would result in a smaller increase but may shift additional risk to employees. Trustee Woods will review the available options and provide guidance.

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

- a. [KBB Parent Bill of Rights](#) policy has been on the website. It was developed in collaboration with Matt Wagoner, an LCA parent. He recommended including additional language regarding objections to instructional materials. [JLDBB](#) - Suicide Prevention & Response policy has also been posted on the website. **Trustee Walsh moved to advance KBB and JLDBB for initial review with minor edits, seconded by Trustee Nero. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea).
- b. Trustee Finn presented proposed revisions to [DAF](#) (Administration of Federal Grant Funds), [EHB](#) (Records Retention Schedule), and [JICI](#) (Weapons in School Policy). **Chair Sweet moved to advance the revisions to DAF, EHB, and JICI for review, seconded by Trustee Woods. The motion was approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea). The revised policies will be posted on the website for review and public comment.

C. Academic Committee: No update

VI. New Business

- The Board discussed Chapter 7 in Governing for Greatness. The chapter focused on facilities. 10 Sharon Rd is zoned for commercial use, and 700 Dublin Rd is zoned for rural.
- A confidentiality policy is being developed.
- **Next meeting:** December 11, 2025 @ 6 pm.

Trustee Somero moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a, e, i, l). Trustee Walsh seconded. (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee; (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation; (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions; (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero (yea). Executive Director Mike Harner was invited to attend. The non-public session began at 7:38 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:23 pm. Trustee Walsh moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Trustee Somero. Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Woods (yea), Sweet (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea), Nero. During the non-public session, the Board voted on a personnel matter.

Trustee Somero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lori L. Finn', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lori L. Finn

Minutes approved 12/11/25