



**LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting April 9, 2026**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 4/9/2026 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Bailey Sweet. Other board members present included: Treasurer Dave Somero, Trustee Ross Kukish, Trustee Jason Nero, and Vice Chair Brian Walsh. Secretary Lori Finn attended via Zoom. Executive Director Mike Harner and Principal Ken Dobbs (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 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Sweet read the mission statement. Principal Dobbs shared a mission moment: Aksel Olson, 6th grade LCA student, delivered an inspiring speech on Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution at the state level of the American Legion Oratorical Contest, earning 4th place out of eight contestants.

I. **Public Comments:** None.

II. **Secretary's Report.** Trustee Finn presented the Secretary's Report. **Trustee Somero moved to approve the minutes from the 3/12/26 Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Walsh seconded. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Nero (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

III. **Treasurer's Report:** Caitlin Blundell presented the [March 2026 Monthly Financial Report](#) and [Budget Analysis](#). **Trustee Kukish moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Trustee Nero. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Nero (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

IV. **Leadership Report:** ED Harner presented the [Leadership Report](#). There is a waitlist in all grades. Current enrollment: 420.

ED Harner presented the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar. **Trustee Walsh moved to accept the calendar, seconded by Trustee Nero. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Nero (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

ED Harner also discussed a draft 2027 budget. He has not finalized it yet for a vote.

V. **Board Business**

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

1. **700 Dublin Rd Property and Tax Status**

- The property at 700 Dublin Road is currently in the bid aggregation phase, with all project bids being compiled.
- A meeting was held with the town assessor to review the property.
- A portion of the property will qualify for tax-exempt status based on its educational use. Other parts of the land may be placed into current use to reduce tax liability. Any current use designation will be filed for the next tax year.

2. **Facilities and Capital Projects:** Trustee Kukish provided an update.

- A revised paving estimate has been received; the current paving cost is approximately \$5,900.
- Awaiting a quote for the installation of a water bubbler.
- Three major projects under development:
  - a. **Site Lighting (700 Dublin):** A site lighting map is expected next week. Cost components include: \$1,100 per pole, light heads have been donated, bases total approximately \$13,000, additional costs will include conduit and electrical work.
  - b. **Vestibule Construction (700 Dublin):** Two primary construction options were discussed: 1) conventional wood construction (lower cost but would require a sprinkler system) 2) all-metal construction estimated at approximately \$46,000
    - Informal estimates were obtained from Jay Steel and White Construction. Jay Steel estimate ranges from \$40,000 to \$80,000 depending on use of steel vs. stainless steel, excluding additional components.
  - c. **Multi-Purpose Room (10 Sharon Rd):** Requests for bids were sent to Schroeder Construction, Cheshire Builders, and Hutter Construction. Schroeder Construction and Cheshire Builders declined to submit bids. Hutter Construction submitted a bid by the deadline. The project goal is to submit permitting documents by the end of April 2026.

B. **Organizational Committee:** Trustee Sweet provided an update on the Organizational Committee.

- [Toxic Chemicals and Pesticides Minimization Policy \(EBCH\)](#): Policy EBCH has been posted on the website for review and public comment for 30 days.. **Trustee Nero moved to approve Policy EBCH, seconded by Trustee Walsh. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Nero (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

- C. **Academic Committee:** Trustee Finn provided an update on the Academic Committee. Planning for ninth grade and discussion of graduation requirements continues. The need to establish clear timeframes within the [Grievance Process \(ACG\)](#) was discussed, as recommended by legal counsel. The proposed timelines include a requirement that grievances be submitted within 30 days of the incident and that appeals at each level be filed within 10 days of a decision. Trustee Somero suggested a small change to the wording. **Trustee Nero moved to advance the revised Grievance Process with edits for review and public comment, seconded by Trustee Walsh. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Nero (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

## VI. New Business

- A. **Board Succession** - Applications due 4/30/26. The Interview Panel will consist of Trustee Woods, Trustee Walsh, and Chair Sweet
- B. **Onboarding Packet** completed. A few additions needed.
- C. **Hillsdale Member** discussion will be deferred until the May Board meeting
- D. Chair Sweet sent the annual Board self-assessment to all members.
- E. **Next meeting:** Thursday, May 14 @ 6 pm

**Trustee Walsh moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (a). Trustee Nero seconded.** [(b)The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee. Chair Sweet recused herself from the session. Approved by roll call: Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Somero (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea) (5-0-1). ED Harner was invited to attend. The non-public session began at 7:55 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 8:20 pm. **Trustee Nero moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Trustee Walsh. Approved by roll call:** Walsh (yea), Nero (yea), Kukish(yea), Finn (yea), Somero (yea) (5-0-1).

**Trustee Walsh moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Lori L. Finn