LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting June 11, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 6/11/2026 at 700 Dublin 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 Ross Kukish, Trustee Ken Woods, Trustee Jason Nero, and Secretary Lori Finn. Executive Director Mike Harner was 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. Trustee Walsh read the mission statement. ED Harner shared two mission moments: 1) Jimmy Smith, a member of the community, came into the school and asked about the Fishing Club students were participating in. He said he observed the students and said they were polite, respectful and clean. He donated all of his fishing equipment to the school for them to use. 2) The 700 Dublin Rd facility opened this week.

Chair Sweet reviewed Policy BEDH (Public Comments).

I. **Public Comments**

A. Andrew Alajajion (parent) shared his disappointment that the LCA physical education teacher has chosen not to return to LCA next year. He emphasized how important a robust athletics program is for second education.

B. Vicky Gulla (parent): She asked for some additional time to speak because she was unable to share her comment at the recent special meeting due to a problem with the Zoom link. She was provided 4 minutes for the comment she had planned to share at that meeting. She discussed grievances and policy.

II. **Secretary's Report.** Trustee Finn presented the Secretary's Report. **Trustee Walsh moved to approve the minutes from the 5/11/26 Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Somero seconded. Motion approved unanimously (7-0-0).**

III. **Treasurer's Report**: Ms. Blundell presented the May 2026 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Analysis as of May 31, 2026. **Trustee Walsh moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Trustee Nero. Motion approved unanimously (7-0-0).**

IV. **Leadership Report:** ED Harner presented the Leadership Report.

A. **Hillsdale Membership:** ED Harner reported that the school originally applied to be a member school as part of the charter process, referencing the Barney Charter School model. Lionheart opened as a curriculum only school. Since that time, the Hillsdale program now offers a path for curriculum schools to apply to become a member school, with membership being the more prescriptive option. Potential benefits discussed included access to training and marketing resources, increased visibility, and assistance with recruiting and developing teachers aligned with the classical philosophy. Potential concerns included possible restrictions on modifying curriculum materials.

   Trustee Walsh moved to proceed to the next step in evaluating whether Hillsdale membership would be a good fit for the school through an application and evaluation, seconded by Trustee Woods. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

B. **Budget Revision:** The Board reviewed a proposed budget revision. ED Harner reported that the estimated capital cost for the multipurpose room had been reduced from approximately $300,000 to $200,000. Staffing projections were also updated to include the addition of a seventh/eighth grade science or math teacher. The revised budget decreases the projected surplus by approximately $45,000 while increasing surplus cash flow by approximately $85,000.

   Trustee Somero moved to accept the revised budget as presented seconded by Trustee Sweet. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

V. **Board Business**

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

1. **Multipurpose Room (10 Sharon Rd): Multipurpose Room (MPR):** Trustee Kukish is awaiting HVAC drawings and expects to receive a cost estimate next week. Hutter is currently reviewing permitting requirements. **Trustee Nero moved to approve up to $250,000 for the build-out of the multipurpose room to allow Trustee Kukish to finalize plans and execute a contract with Hutter. Trustee Kukish seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).** The Board discussed using available cash on hand as needed, with financing through HEFA or a loan against the school's endowment fund.

   The Finance Committee will review and propose revisions to the Board's borrowing policy.

2. **700 Dublin Rd and Debt:** The Committee reported that the second mortgage has been paid off. Approximately $68,000 remains available, and the term has been extended through August. Updates were provided on recent facility projects, including pavement striping. Remaining facility projects include lighting and vestibule.

3. **Fundraising**: Fundraising efforts have generated approximately $104,000

to date.

4. **Investments**: The Committee discussed the possibility of realizing a portion of investment gains and transferring funds to a money market account to provide a one-year financial buffer in the event of weaker market performance next year.

5. **Tax-Exempt Status**: Representatives met with the Town of Peterborough assessor regarding the school's tax-exempt status and to verify that the property is being used for school operations.

B. **Organizational Committee:** Trustee Sweet provided an update on the Organizational Committee. ED Harner noted that there will be one small edit to the dress code in the Family and Student Handbook –boys will not be permitted to wear earrings or noserings. The Family and Student Handbook and the Employee Handbook will be approved at the August 2026 meeting.

C. **Academic Committee:** Trustee Finn provided an update on the Academic Committee. A graduation requirements policy is still in development. The Board discussed the possibility of combining the Academic and Organizational Committees, citing overlap in committee functions and membership. **Trustee Sweet moved to combine the Academic and Organizational Committees into a single committee, seconded by Trustee Woods. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

VI. **New Business**

A. **Trustee Sweet presented the Board Planning Calendar for next year.**

B. Conflict of Interest Policy signed.

C. There will be no Regular Board Meeting in July 2026, but a Board training may be scheduled.

D. The Regular Board Meeting for August 2026 will be rescheduled

Annual Meeting

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. and was immediately followed by the Annual Meeting.

I. Board Member Terms

- Four Board member terms were up for renewal: Finn, Nero, Walsh, and Sweet.
- Trustee Finn indicated that she would be willing to serve another term. Trustee Nero moved to renew the term of Trustee Finn for 1 year, seconded by Trustee Sweet. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).
- Trustee Nero announced that he will not be returning to the Board for the upcoming year.

- Trustee Walsh also announced that he will not be returning to the Board for the upcoming year.

- Trustee Sweet indicated that she would be willing to serve another term of 1 year. Trustee Finn moved to renew the term of Trustee Sweet, seconded by Trustee Kukish. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

II. Election of Officers

The Board elected officers for the upcoming year as follows:

- **Chair:** Trustee Sweet [motion by Somero, seconded by Walsh; approved unanimously (7-0-0)]

- **Vice Chair:** Trustee Woods [motion by Trustee Sweet, seconded by Trustee Somero; approved unanimously (7-0-0)]

- **Treasurer:** Trustee Somero [motion by Sweet, seconded by Woods; approved unanimously (7-0-0)]

- **Secretary:** Finn (motion by Ross, seconded by Walsh; approved unanimously)

III. Committee Assignments

- Trustee Kukish was appointed Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Trustee Sweet will serve as Chair of the combined Academic/Organizational Committee.

IV. **Board Succession Committee: Trustee** Walsh presented the Board Succession Committee's recommendation of Caleb White for Board membership. Trustee Walsh moved to offer Caleb White a position on the Board, seconded by Trustee Woods. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0). The Board approved a one-year initial term for Mr. White as a new Board member.

Trustee Nero moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. T**he motion was seconded by Trustee Walsh. Motion approved by roll call:** Walsh, (yea); Woods (yea); Finn, (yea); Kukish, (yea); Somero (yea), Sweet (yea), Nero (yea). Caleb White was invited to attend. The non-public session began at 7:34 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 8:13 pm. In the non-public session, the board approved a compensation-related personnel action.

Trustee Walsh moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Trustee Somero. Motion approved unanimously (7-0-0).

Trustee Nero moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Lori L. Finn