



Academic Committee Meeting

Lionheart Classical Academy

April 7, 2026

MINUTES

Present: Lori Finn, Sarah Paradis (Zoom), Bailey Sweet (Zoom), Brian Walsh (Zoom), Mike Harner, Fiona Byrne (Zoom)

1. Call to Order: 5:01 pm
2. Public Comment: None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Trustee Sweet moved to approve the minutes from the 3/9/26 Academic Committee Meeting, seconded by Ms. Paradis. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Topics of Discussion:

A) Executive Director Update

- In the process of hiring teachers for AY2026-2027. Fifth grade teacher hired and will start this year. High school math teacher hired. Made offers for kindergarden and first grade teachers.
- 700 Dublin update—everything is finished. Waiting for state inspection. Estimated start in May.
- The school is currently engaged in making student retention decisions and has held academic support meetings for students identified as at risk. During this process, a pattern has emerged indicating that many parents were not aware their child was struggling academically. In several cases, parents had not attended parent-teacher conferences, particularly in the lower grades. While teachers had made efforts to reach out, the school is exploring additional strategies to improve communication and ensure parents are more effectively informed about student performance.
- Will be changing composition curriculum for Grades 6-9 from IEW (Hillsdale recommended) to Writing and Rhetoric, which is more engaging. Writing Revolution will be used to introduce writing in 1st and 2nd grades.
- Enrollment for AY 2026-2027 currently 420.
- Proposed academic calendar nearly complete.

B) Grade 9 Academic Preview.

- **Courses Planned:** The decision has been made to offer composition to 9th grade instead of logic and rhetoric. There will also be three math courses offered in 9th grade—geometry, algebra, and pre-algebra. Grades 7 and 8 may be blended with 9 for some of these courses.
- In the process of deciding upon the role of athletics in high school

C) Graduation Requirements

- Some of the NH graduation requirements do not apply to charter schools. We will still need to fit in a NH government class.

- ED Harner will present a proposal for graduation requirements at May AC meeting.

D) **Grievance Process:** The need to establish clear timeframes within the grievance process 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. This proposal will be presented at the April board meeting.

5. **Action Items:**

- ED Harner will finalize draft academic calendar
- ED Harner will develop proposed graduation requirements for May AC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Next meeting: May 7, 2026 @ 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Harner', written over a horizontal line.

Minutes approved: 4/7/26