Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting September 10, 2026

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on 9/10/2026 at 700 Dublin Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Chair Bailey Sweet. Other board members present included: Treasurer Dave Somero (Zoom), Trustee Ross Kukish, Trustee Caleb White, and Secretary Lori Finn (Zoom). Vice Chair Ken Woods was unable to attend. Executive Director Mike Harner, Fiona Byrne, and Ken 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 followed by a moment of silence in honor of the remembrance of tomorrow's memorial of 9/11. Trustee White read the mission statement. Executive Director Harner shared a mission moment. On 9/8, we started the fifth year of Lionheart Classical Academy, opened both campuses and , 9/8 started the 5th year, opened both campuses, and it went remarkably well. Many thanks to staff, parents, and friends who rallied to get both campuses ready for the first day.

I. **Public Comments: None**

II. **Secretary's Report.** Trustee Finn presented the Secretary's Report. **Trustee White moved to approve the minutes from the 8/6/26 Regular Board Meeting and the 8/18/26 Emergency Board Meeting. Trustee Kukish seconded. Motion approved by Roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (5-0-0).**

III. **Treasurer's Report**: Caitlin Blundell presented the August 2027 Monthly Financial Report and the Budget Analysis as of 8/31/2026.

There is an approximate deficit of $735,000 reported through August as the school has not yet received its state per-pupil aid funding. The funding is expected later in September, and the financial position is expected to change significantly once those funds are received.

Expenditures are generally tracking close to budget. Textbook and program-material expenses are currently ahead of budget due primarily to the timing of purchases. No significant concerns were identified in the August financial statements.

To manage the timing of cash receipts, the school transferred approximately $350,000 from its Schwab investment account and drew $200,000 from its NHHEFA working capital loan. These amounts are expected to be repaid following receipt of the anticipated state funding.

The Board was also updated on compliance matters. The annual audit is nearing completion, with draft audited financial statements expected shortly. The DOE-25 filing is in progress and is due by the end of September. Work on the Form 990 is scheduled to begin the week of October 12.

The monthly financial report and budget analysis from July 2026 was distributed to the Board and attached to the 8/6 meeting minutes.

Trustee Finn moved to approve the financials from July 2026 and August 2020, seconded by Trustee White. Motion approved by Roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (5-0-0).

IV. **Leadership Report:** ED Harner, Ms. Byrne, and Mr. Dobbs presented the Leadership Report. Ms. Byrne is now serving as principal for the lower school, and Mr. Dobbs is the principal for the upper school.

A general review of SAS results was provided. Students performed marginally better than last year in all areas, and notably better in some areas. Fourth, sixth, and ninth grade students will take the Classical Learning Test in the spring this year rather than the fall.

Trustee Sweet made a motion that, in accordance with our charter, the Board approves that Lionheart expands academic operations from K to 9th grade and institutes high school curriculum in the 2026 to 2027 school year. Trustee Kukish seconded the motion. Motion approved by Roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (5-0-0).

V. **Board Business**

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

1. **Multipurpose Room (10 Sharon Rd):** Still in progress, hoping to get it open for use by winter.

2. **700 Dublin Rd:** Work is progressing. The vestibule project is moving forward, with a conference call scheduled with the construction company to initiate the project. Lighting was completed. Trustee Kukish has been in communication with the State DOT regarding traffic signage. It was confirmed that the area does not qualify as a school zone; however, the school may be able to use flashing lights during designated high-traffic periods. An approval process will be required.

3. **Fundraising**: The second annual golf tournament was held on 8/24/26, and the school store fundraiser is complete. Total funds raised were $15K

4. **Investment Policy Statement: This revision has been posted on the website for more than 30 days. No feedback has been received. Trustee Kukish moved to approve the newly edited Investment Policy**

Statement, seconded by Trustee Sweet. Motion approved by Roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (5-0-0).

B. **Academic / Organizational Committee:** The Academic / Organizational Committee will meet on 10/1/26 @ 6:30 pm to discuss graduation requirements.

VI. New Business: Board Training Series - "What is the Lionheart Curriculum?" will occur following the November regular Board Meeting on 11/12/26.

VII. The next meeting will be held on 10/8/26 @ 6 pm.

Trustee White moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Sweet. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lori L. Finn

Approved 10/8/26