



LIONHEART CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting October 8, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School (“LCA”) took place on 10/8/2026 at 700 Dublin Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Bailey Sweet. Other board members present included Trustee Ross Kukish, Trustee Caleb White, Secretary Lori Finn (Zoom), Vice Chair Ken Woods (Zoom), and Treasurer Dave Somero. Executive Director Mike Harner and Fiona Byrne 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. Trustee Sweet noted that the virtue of the month was courage. Treasurer Somero read the mission statement. Executive Director Harner shared several mission moments. Mr. Allen, LCA history teacher, donated a copy of the Declaration of Independence to the school. A pop-up concert was held at LCA the previous week, and attendees shared how much they enjoyed the students and appreciated their thoughtfulness. Mr. Harner also expressed his appreciation for the supportive families in the aftermath of the tragedy involving Mr. Dobbs. Mr. Dobbs is expected to return the following week.

I. Public Comments: None

II. Secretary’s Report. Trustee Finn presented the Secretary’s Report. **Treasurer Somero moved to approve the minutes from the [9/10/26 Regular Board Meeting](#). Trustee Kukish seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).**

III. Treasurer’s Report:

A. Audit Presentation: Callie Chase and Kelli D’Amore of Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA, presented the annual audit report. The auditors reported that the audit was conducted in accordance with applicable auditing standards and that they expect to issue an unmodified opinion on LCA’s financial statements. They noted that all requested records and information were made available, and cooperation from management and personnel was excellent.

The auditors reviewed the school’s financial performance, including revenue, expenditures, assets, liabilities, and net position. Revenue reflected increased state per-pupil aid and a significant distribution from the charitable trust. Grant revenue decreased following the conclusion of previously received grants. Increased expenditures were primarily attributable to

instructional salaries and supplies associated with enrollment growth, as well as operations and maintenance. Net position increased largely due to the charitable trust distribution.

A comparison with other charter schools showed that LCA's per-pupil expenditures and instructional salaries were generally comparable to those of other schools. Executive Director Harner noted a discrepancy in the reported per-pupil cost calculation. The auditors will provide additional information regarding their methodology so the figure can be reviewed. Mr. Harner also noted that LCA is awaiting a Rural Schools grant, has received a CrossFit grant, and has applied for additional grant funding.

The auditors offered several recommendations regarding internal controls and financial procedures, including monthly reconciliation of gift records with QuickBooks, enhancements to the Investment Policy Statement, and review of the current \$1,000 capitalization threshold. These recommendations were presented as opportunities to improve administrative efficiency and align practices with current best practices.

The presentation also addressed new governmental accounting standards, risk management, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and financial sustainability. Areas for continued consideration included operating reserves, liquidity, revenue diversification, leadership succession, workforce retention, Board composition and engagement, and strategic planning. The Board also discussed pecuniary benefits.

Trustee White moved to accept the audit report as presented by Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA. Treasurer Somero seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

B. Monthly Financial Update: The [September 2026 monthly financial report and budget analysis](#) were presented and discussed. **Trustee Kukish moved to approve the September 2026 monthly financial report and budget analysis. Trustee White seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).**

IV. Leadership Report: Executive Director Harner presented the Leadership Report. The first progress report period has concluded, and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for next week. Overall, things are going well. The separation of the lower and upper schools is working well, and Mr. Harner expressed satisfaction with the culture being established at both schools.

The school is slightly short on substitute teachers, and positions have been posted. The sports programs are doing well, with considerable school spirit evident. Ms. Sabol has returned to teach music in the lower school. She will also organize the upper school choir. Students sing the school alma mater each day following the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Board Business

A. Finance Committee: Trustee Kukish provided an update on Finance Committee activities and ongoing school projects. Work on the multipurpose room remains in progress. The vestibule project has advanced to the drawing stage, but a permit is still needed. Master planning has become a priority, with weekly meetings taking place with

the architect. Trustee Kukish and Mr. Harner are working together on the scope and size of the proposed project.

Jason Nero attended a Finance Committee meeting and reviewed the school's investments associated with the endowment. The plan is to continue reviewing the investments with Mr. Nero every three months.

The Board discussed the Warren Street master plan. Current estimates indicate that approximately 35,000 square feet of additional space may be needed, rather than the 55,000 square feet initially anticipated.

Trustee Kukish noted that they intended to reestablish the building subcommittee, which was originally formed when Jason Nero and Treasurer Somero were involved. The subcommittee will be brought back to support planning and oversight of building projects.

- B. **Academic / Organizational Committee:** Chair Sweet provided an update on the committee's activities. Fiona Byrne presented a preliminary draft of the proposed graduation requirements. The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding possible graduation requirements and diploma options, including the number of credits required and the courses students would need to complete. Discussion included requirements for foreign language and fine arts, as well as how to balance New Hampshire graduation requirements with LCA's classical curriculum and available instructional time. No final decisions were made. Ms. Byrne will revise the proposed requirements and bring the revised proposal back to the committee for further discussion.

VI. New Business:

- A. **Emergency Operations Plan:** The 2026-2027 Emergency Operations Plan contains the same substantive content as the previous year's plan, with revisions to the layout and wording to ensure consistency between the lower and upper schools. The Board will review the revised plan when it is completed.
- B. **Hillsdale Membership:** The Board's previously expressed desire to pursue membership with Hillsdale College remains unchanged. Chair Sweet will communicate with Hillsdale regarding the process.
- C. **Sublease Update:** The sublease for the party leasing the warehouse space at 10 Sharon Rd. is approaching renewal. The tenant has indicated interest in renewing for a three-year term with a two-year extension option. Requested improvements include access to thermostat controls, brighter or additional overhead lighting, window coverings to block light, repairs to the overhead doors, and addressing a fall hazard associated with the elevator's high-wire railing. The Board discussed the need to investigate feasible solutions and associated costs. Chair Sweet will obtain a draft lease for further consideration. No action was taken.

Trustee White moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee. Trustee Kukish seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0). Fiona Byrne was invited to attend.

Treasurer Somero moved to exit nonpublic session. Trustee White seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White

(yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

Treasurer Somero moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Chair Sweet seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call: Somero (yea), Finn (yea), Woods (yea), Kukish (yea), White (yea), Sweet (yea) (6-0-0).

During the nonpublic session, the Board discussed a personnel matter and provided guidance to Ms. Byrne.

VII. The next meeting will be held on 11/12/26 @ 6 pm.

Trustee Sweet moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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

Lori L. Finn