



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Seacoast Classical Academy Chartered Public School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, 16 February 2026, 6:00pm

53 Carlton E Sockwell Way, Newton, NH 03858

Notice posted by 13 February 2026 on the schoolhouse front door

and at <https://seacoastclassical.org>

Trustees in Attendance: Linda Allard, Robert Chase, William Nadeau, Kate Riddell, Simcha Weller

Trustees attending remotely: Michael Gendre, Terence Waldron

Trustees not in Attendance: Cindy Lyons

Persons Appearing Before the Board: Eric Peterson - SCA Executive Director/Head of School, Stephen Palmer - SCA MS History Teacher, Elizabeth Boyle - SCA MS Math Teacher, Arlene Quaratiello - SCA MS English Teacher, Melissa Hannay - SCA MS Science Teacher, Krystal LeBrun - SCA Parent Council VP

Non-Public Session may be called at any time in accordance with RSA 91A:3 II.

1. Call to Order - RC called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. Trustee MG and TW participated remotely. No persons were present with either MG or TW. All votes will be by roll call.
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Reading - RC led the group in the pledge of allegiance. RC shared a video from Hillsdale College K-12 office entitled, An American Classic Education <https://vimeo.com/731356566/9918ab3ebd?fl=pl&fe=cm>
3. Public Comment - RC suggested that the Faculty presenters portion of the Principal's Report be moved to Public Comment to accommodate presenters.
Stephen Palmer, SCA Middle School History teacher, teaches grades 6–9 and is in his second year at Seacoast Classical Academy. Grades 6 and 9 focus on Ancient History, while grades 7 and 8 study U.S. History—from the Founding through the Civil War, and from the Civil War to the Obama Administration. Stephen is deeply committed to the mission and vision of the school. With a college minor in the Classics, he especially enjoys bringing primary sources to life in the classroom. Last year, the middle school placed a strong emphasis on strengthening scholars' reading and writing skills; this year, the focus has been on deepening comprehension.
Elizabeth Boyle, SCA Math teacher, taught for seven years prior to joining Seacoast Classical Academy. In her previous roles, she often struggled with student engagement and frequent curriculum changes. At SCA, she values the stability and depth of the curriculum, which allows her to engage scholars in meaningful mathematical

discussions. She has seen significant scholar growth as a result of these conversations. She also shared an interdisciplinary architecture project underway in grades 6–9 that integrates math, history, science, and writing.

Arlene Quaratiello, SCA English teacher, reflected on how the recently shown video deeply resonated with her—particularly the idea that strengthening our schools strengthens the future of our country. Her background includes teaching college English and Literature, as well as serving as a librarian at a local public library. She has greatly enjoyed teaching grades 6–9 at SCA and values both the meaningful work and the strong collegial relationships she shares with her fellow teachers.

Melissa Hannay, Middle School Science teacher, is in her first year at SCA. Prior to joining the Academy, she taught in public schools beginning in 2001 and often found her students disengaged. At SCA, she looks forward to coming to work each day, inspired by scholars who are genuinely excited about what they are creating and learning in her classroom. She also appreciates being part of such a collaborative and dedicated team. No further public comment.

4. General Correspondence - None.

5. Minutes

a. Public Meeting of 13 January 2026

WN moved to approve the public meeting minutes of 13 January 2026 as written. SW seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, MG/Yes, TW/Yes. Approved 7-0.

b. Non-Public Meetings #1 and #2 of 13 January 2026

WN moved to approve the non-public meeting minutes #1 of 13 January 2026 as written. SW seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, MG/Yes, TW/Yes. Approved 7-0.

WN moved to approve the non-public meeting minutes #2 of 13 January 2026 as written. SW seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, MG/Yes, TW/Yes. Approved 7-0.

6. Head of School's Report

a. Faculty / Staff intro - Presented during public comment.

b. Monthly Update - Eric Peterson introduced himself and shared both his personal and professional background, noting that the mission and vision of Seacoast Classical Academy are deeply compelling to him. Reflecting on the Hillsdale video, he emphasized his belief that every child is hungry to learn. He expressed how thrilled he is to be at SCA and shared that, in his first eight days onsite, he has already identified key areas that will require focused attention and growth: strengthening enrollment, expanding and developing faculty, and deepening the school's implementation of and immersion in the Hillsdale curriculum.

7. Finance

a. Treasurer's Report- TW shared the Treasurer's Report stating \$659,160.85 in all SCA accounts. There were two payroll periods since the last report. The third installment of State Adequacy funds are due in March, approximately \$567K.

b. NH HEFA Officer's Certificate Update & Board Resolution - KR moved to authorize Eric Peterson, SCA Executive Director / Head of School and Terence

Waldron, SCA Treasurer, to serve as authorized signatories for all transactions with NH Health and Education Facilities Alliance, effective immediately. WN seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, MG/Yes, TW/Yes. Approved 7-0.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Parent Council - KL shared that the Parent Council is creating a Spring SCA Vendor Guide. The Ski and Snowboard Enrichment Activity was a huge success and she hopes we can do it again next year. The first SCA/Ignatius Book Fair will take place in March. Tomorrow is the monthly Parent Council Meeting. The Mother/Son Game Night is scheduled for April 18th and the Daddy/Daughter Dance is scheduled for May 16th.
- b. Curriculum Committee - KR stated there are various curriculum initiatives in process as discussed in prior meetings.
- c. Fundraising Committee - WN reported that the Super Bowl Squares fundraiser, raised \$750 for the Academy. Dining Dollars from an evening at Street is forthcoming. He is finalizing an adult evening event at the Plaistow Cigar as well as a March Madness 50/50 raffle. Based on conversation, WN will look into the possibility of the school having a Venmo account.
- d. HR Committee - KR shared that the committee met early today and discussed the need for a policy for Paid-Time-Off (PTO), as well as other leaves such as sick and personal time.
- e. Facilities Committee - WN inquired about the state of the entry driveway. TW and RC will review the lease to better understand responsibilities.

9. Executive Director's Report

- a. Audits
 - i. Federal Single-Year Audit (CSP over \$750,000/yr) - RC stated the audit deadline is the end of March and there are a few questions they are looking to provide further details about.
- b. SY26-27 Budget Process & Status - RC stated that he and EP had an introductory conversation with Caitlin Blundell to start the budgeting process.
- c. Enrollment / Marketing - RC reported that current enrollment stands at 196 scholars. Re-enrollment commitments were due yesterday, February 15. SCA received 185 commitments, representing a 94% return rate. In addition, 18 new sibling-priority applications were submitted, bringing total pre-enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year to 203 scholars. SCA also received 87 new scholar applications to be included in the upcoming lottery on March 7. Administration will review how these applications align with grade levels and class sections, with particular attention to strengthening enrollment and marketing efforts in the upper school.

The Carriage Town News featured a story about SCA in its reintroduced publication in late January. A second article will be published in late February. LA will inquire as to the distribution methods of the newspaper and the possibility of providing copies to each SCA family.
- d. Facilities - *to be Non-Public Session at end*

- e. Grants / Fundraising - RC shared that a \$45,000 Safe Grant was approved and this will allow for an upgrade to the new classroom locks. Administration is following up with the lock company.
 - f. Human Resources - *to be Non-Public Session at end*
10. New Business - Activities for the 250th Anniversary of America in 2026 - LA shared initial discussions with Board members and administration.
11. Future Agenda - None.
12. Public Comment - KL inquired about additional adult support in the younger grades, with particular attention to kindergarten. Nina Meola requested Mr. Peterson to remind teachers to set up their online classrooms for the bookfair. Laura Segrin asked if there were plans for 10th grade. Mandy Aurelli asked if there was a time frame for a 10 grade decision.
- The Board took a recess at 7:55pm.
- The Board came back from recess at 8:00pm.
13. Executive Director's Report/Human Resources - Non-Public Session
- a. Trustees in Attendance: Linda Allard, Robert Chase, Michael Gendre (via phone), William Nadeau, Kate Riddell, Simcha Weller, Terence Waldron (via phone)
 - b. RC moved to enter Non-Public Session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or any levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant, KR seconded. Roll call vote to enter Non-Public Session: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, TW/Yes, MG/Yes. 7-0. Approved.
 - c. The Board entered into the Non-Public at 8:01pm.
 - d. KR moved to come out of the Non-Public Session. WN seconded. Roll call vote to come out of Non-Public Session: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, TW/Yes, MG/Yes. 7-0. Approved.
 - e. The Board returned to Public Session at 8:51PM.
 - f. KR moved to seal the minutes of this Non-Public Session because it is determined that divulgence of this information would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. WN seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, TW/Yes, MG/Yes. 7-0. Approved.
14. Adjournment - KR moved to adjourn. WN seconded. Roll call vote: LA/Yes, RC/Yes, KR/Yes, SW/Yes, WN/Yes, TW/Yes, MG/Yes. 7-0. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.