



Memorandum of Information

APPROVED

To: Board of Trustees, South Carolina Public Charter School District

From: Catherine Watt, Director of Charter Development

cc: Chris Neeley, Superintendent

Date: August 13, 2020

Re: Sumter STEAM Charter School Amendment Request

Summary: The mission of Sumter STEAM Charter School is to work to provide all students with equal access to a world-class PK-12 education in an academically rigorous and student-centered learning environment, creating graduates who will be thoughtful and engaged citizens prepared to take on the leadership challenges of the 21st century. The school will serve students in grades K-1 during its first year of operation in 2012-2022, adding one grade level each year until it is serving grades K-12 at capacity.

The Board of Sumter STEAM seeks today to formally change its name to **Liberty STEAM Charter**. The committee has acquired a property at 15 School Street in South Sumter which formerly served as Liberty Street Elementary School prior to integration. Built in 1949, Liberty Street was erected for the purpose of educating African American children. Sumter STEAM's planning committee has engaged the community and supporting stakeholders in suggesting a new name for the school which reflects both the legacy of the former Liberty Street Elementary as well as the new school's mission and unique educational programming model. By changing the school's name, the planning committee will continue the Liberty legacy of excellence and pride by providing school choice to Sumter County families who simply want an alternative to the status quo.

Documentation: Please see the attached Charter Amendment Request Form and the signed Board Resolution.

Timeline: Effective August 13, 2020.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.