APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING

NOTIFICATION OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING

Date and Time
Monday January 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Location
Liberty STEAM Charter School
15 School Street
Sumter, SC 29150

This meeting is held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. A copy of the agenda has been made available to the local media & general public.

Directors Present
Cameron Chandler, Dexter WJ Davis, Elayne Brunson, Greg Thompson, Jenny Knopf, Kimberly Rauschenbach, Marion Newton, Rodney Thompson

Directors Absent
Ken Lee

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present

Dixie DuRant, Tiffany Rhodes

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Greg Thompson called a meeting of the board of directors of Liberty STEAM Charter to order on Monday Jan 30, 2023 at 5:58 PM.

B. Invocation

Rev. Newton provided an invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance led by Scholars

A group of scholars led the committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr. Thompson welcome all members of the audience to the meeting.

II. Reading of the Mission & Vision Statement

A. LSC Mission Statement

Ms. Knopf read aloud the mission statement.

B. LSC Vision Statement

Mr. Davis read aloud the vision statement.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Today's Meeting Agenda

Kimberly Rauschenbach made a motion to approve the agenda s presented by the staff.
Rodney Thompson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (October 24, 2022)

Kimberly Rauschenbach made a motion to approve the minutes from LSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING on 10-24-22.
Cameron Chandler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (December 5, 2022)

Kimberly Rauschenbach made a motion to approve the minutes from LSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING on 12-05-22.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Board Recognition

A. Staff Recognition

- Dr. Ivey and Mr. Thompson recognized the lead teacher, teaching fellow, and operations staff members of the month from November, December, and January.
- Dr. Ivey and Mr. Thompson next recognized the staff members that have been rated Level 5 Effective from the 21-22 LEEA evaluation cycle.

B. Community Partner Recognition

Dr. Ivey and Mr. Thompson recognized members of the community who have recently partnered with the school by time, resources or monetary donations.

V. Board Appreciation Highlights

A. Stakeholder Testimonials

- For Board Appreciation month, LSC invited different stakeholders to come and share words of appreciation for the board members including a set of parents, two teachers and community members to include Lefford Fate, The Honorable J. David Weeks, and The Honorable Kevin Johnson. Those all spoke about the impact that Liberty has been on the community and their own personal lives.
- A group of scholars came up with Ms. Cox to sing a song for the board members.

VI. Public Participation

A. Public Participation

There were no speakers during this time.

VII. Executive Director's Report

A. Updates from the Interim Executive Director

- Mr. Jenkins, Regional Director to Senator Tim Scott spoke to the board members about his recent tour of Liberty and the importance of having Sen. Scott visited Liberty to see the impact that we are making on a small community in South Carolina.

- Dr. Ivey provided an update as the Interim Executive Director and reported that 35/38 of the monthly goals for January 2023 are on-track and/or completed.

VIII. Academy Highlights

A. Academy Highlights

- Ms. Middleton and Mr. Vaughn reported about the monthly progress to goals from the culture team including the eagle store, CCC, SEL curriculum, and the mentorship program with community members and parent volunteers.
- Ms. Hatifeld provided updates from the instructional leadership team. She reported out about LEAA observations, MTSS, MAP testing, parent volunteer hours, as well as community projects.
- Ms. Hardy provided the updates from the Operations Leadership Team. She reported out about the attendance and persistence to date, hiring for the 23-24 school year, and fun activities that have taken place at the academy. She spoke on the fresh fruit and vegetables program as well as having the entire MERT team fully trained in First-Aid and CPR.
- Ms. Pack gave an update from the SPED team to include professional development taking place for the SPED team, updates from the IEP and 504 conferences that have taken place to help scholars receive the services that they need, and finally the hiring of a teaching fellow for the Super Shark classroom to assist Ms. Vohs.

IX. Board Committee Updates

A. Executive Committee

- Mr. Thompson gave an update from the executive committee. He spoke about the great strides that the finance team have made over the recent months to implement changes and learn new procedures.
- Ms. Chandler spoke about the instructional salary scale that was presented to all committee members during their meetings this past week. Ms. Chandler spoke about the board's commitment to those who work the closest with children should be paid more fairly as compared to an average of salary scales from seven nearby surrounding school districts to ensure LSC remains as one of the highest paying schools locally, regionally, and in the state.

Cameron Chandler made a motion to enter into a year-long agreement with Sweatman Strategies to provide strategic planning services to the LSC Board of Directors. Elayne Brunson- 2nd the motion- unanimously approved.
Elayne Brunson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Instructional Salary Scale as presented by the Interim Executive Director.

Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Finance Committee

Dr. Thompson provided an update from the finance committee echoing Mr. Thompson praises the implementation of new control mechanisms and being diligent and resourceful with the funding. No action taken from the finance committee.

C. Academic Excellence Committee

- Ms. Knopf provided an update to the board about the MAP testing results. It is common to see an average of 8-10 point growth from the fall to the winter testing scores.
    - Kindergarten reading improved by 8 points and math by 16 points.
    - First grade reading improved by 6 points and math by 11 points.
    - Second grade reading improved by 6 points and math by 9 points.
- Ms. Knopf provided an update about the academic calendar for the 23-24 school year as well as the proposed uniform policy revisions. She spoke about the date collected and the task forces that were created to ensure that all stakeholders were included in the decision making process.
- Ms. Knopf gave an update from the preschool taskforce and the mid-year staff satisfaction survey.

Jenny Knopf made a motion to approval of the 2023-24 academic year calendar as presented by the Interim Executive Director which most closely aligns with Sumter School District and received the endorsement of nearly 70% of surveyed parents & staff members. This motion is for a two year approval of the calendar. 23-24 and 24-25.
Kimberly Rauschenbach seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Jenny Knopf made a motion to approval of the 2023-24 revised scholar uniform policy to expand uniform options through the elementary academy as presented by the Interim Executive Director which reflects the endorsement of the Parent Teacher Organization.
Elayne Brunson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Development Committee

Dr. Ivey reported that during the month of December Liberty received $320,000 in private donations. We have currently received $25,000 in grants and are waiting to hear back from many others.

E. Governance Committee

- Ms.Chandler reported from the Governance Committee about the upcoming election and the two appointed seats (Thomspon/Chandler) as well as two elected seats (Lee/Brunson.)

Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the proposed annual board of directors election timeline as presented by the Interim Executive for the 2 expiring appointed board seats and 2 expiring elected board seats ahead of the official installation of new board members for the March meeting.
Dexter WJ Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

X. Additional New Business

A. Strategic Planning: Site 2 Updates

- Dr. Thompson gave an update on Site II regarding permitting and demolition. The current construction team has put our their bids for specific jobs and awaiting the response. They have gone ahead and signed contracts for items that have long lead times for high priority items. Ms. Hardy has begun gathering quotes for technology along with food services and security.
- Mr. Davis asked for an update regarding safety at the Elementary Campus. The board and team have worked endlessly to plan and implement safety and security for the new campus and with the support of board members, we have been approved for an SRO for this coming school year. We are awaiting an answer from local law enforcement agencies to secure officers for both campuses next year.

B. Updates from Network Leader Coaches

Next, we received updates from Network Leader Coaches, Julie Poluszejko and Steve Khadam-Hir. Ms. Poluszejko spoke on her visit to the school and how she is working closely with Ms. Hardy while she transitions from one campus to two, how they are going to remove current barriers and continue to grow her skill set. Mr. Khadam-Hir gave his 360 summary and each board member was provided with a copy of those results.

XI. Executive Session

A. Purposes of Discussion of Personnel Matters

Greg Thompson made a motion to enter into executive session for the Purposes of Discussion of Personnel Matters at 7:18.
Dexter WJ Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Purposes of Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements

Greg Thompson made a motion to add Purposes of Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements to executive session at 7:18 p.m.
Kimberly Rauschenbach seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XII. Action Items

A. Return from Executive Session

Greg Thompson made a motion to return from executive session at 7:36 pm.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Item (s) Related to Discussion of Personnel Matters

Greg Thompson made a motion to return from executive session at 7:36 pm.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the resignation of Mr. Ken Lee from the LSC Board of Directors and to leave the seat vacant for one month.
Dexter WJ Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Cameron Chandler made a motion to appoint Dexter Davis as the chair of the Development Committee.
Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Cameron Chandler made a motion to freeze enrollment for the remaining 22-23 school year.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XIII. Closing Items

A. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Mr. Thompson thanked the board members for their time and participation during this evening's meeting.

B. Good of the Order

There was no discussion during this time.

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Rhodes