APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 24, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Location
Liberty STEAM Charter School
Network Office
117 N. Main 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.

Mission: Liberty STEAM Charter (LSC) works to provide all students equal access to a world-class K-12 education in an academically rigorous & student-centered learning environment, creating graduates to be thoughtful & engaged citizens prepared to take on the leadership challenges of the 21st century.

Vision: In partnership with our families & the community, Liberty STEAM Charter (LSC) will provide interdisciplinary, real-world, personalized, and project-based learning experiences through a STEAM-based academic program where graduates become the next generation of leaders, employers, and employees who contribute to the economic well-being of their communities and families.

Committee Members Present
Cameron Chandler (remote), Jenny Knopf, Trevor Ivey

Committee Members Absent
Marion Newton

Ex Officio Members Present
(Tajma) LaShea Davis

Guests Present
Amy Hansen

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Jenny Knopf called a meeting of the Academic Committee Committee of Liberty STEAM Charter to order on Thursday Apr 24, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

C. Invocation

Ms. Knopf provided an invocation.

D. Reading of the Mission Statement

Ms. Davis read the mission statement.

E. Reading of the Vision Statement

Ms. Chandler read the vision statement.

F. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Knopf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

G. Approval of Consent Agenda

Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes from BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACADEMIC COMMITTEE MEETING on 02-27-25.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Old Business

Dr. Ivey shared opening remarks that included how to leverage Ms. Hansen to be more efficient and how we can work smarter in between meetings moving them in the direction of

what each committee chair wants to focus on. Committee members have been challenged to consider suggesting and adopting CORE values, such as if we are not focusing on children, we should not be talking. He thanked directors who were able to attend the Staff of the Year event and noted for those unable to attend, there will be plenty of opportunities for future events to celebrate the great people and great things happening at Liberty. He was pleased that the Teacher of the Year process has produced two state finalists, Dr. Michelle McDonald and Ms. Adria Vaughn.

Dr. Ivey provided information on the 2025-26 school year hiring updates noting, while there is one outstanding position, he is encouraged that urgency will be given to fill that position in order to open school for FY26. All welcome to Liberty events for new staff have been scheduled and invitations shared.

Dr. Ivey provided an update on the Spring Rally Cry. He shared encouraging information regarding the parent/guardian climate survey results for learning environment, social and physical environment, and home school relations. These results along with the student and staff survey results that will be completed in June or July will be included on the State Report Card.

Dr. Ivey noted the GT scholars were originally scheduled to present STEAM Workforce Development findings at this meeting; however, the student presentations from STEAM day will take place during a field trip on May 20 at the Sumter Economic Development Building, and directors are invited to attend. Additional details are forthcoming.

B. New Business

Dr. Ivey shared the Spring MAP student achievement review and the action plan push to SC READY.

He was pleased to report that Liberty is on track to meet three of the four goals that have never historically been met, breakfast and lunch participation, average daily scholar attendance, and parent volunteer hours. The remaining goal, academic proficiency for reading and math, currently shows 5 out of 10 scholars at the EA are reading on grade level and 6 out of 10 are doing math on grade level.

Upcoming potential policy changes include promotion and retention, the grading manual, and attendance policy. While the attendance goal is on track, and the truancy rate decreased by two-thirds, there is concern regarding an increase in medical absences.

Welcome to Liberty is Saturday, April 26. There are only 14 out of 150 students who still need to RSVP for this mandatory event for new scholars and parents as part of the Enrollment Roadmap.

Dr. Ivey and LaQuana Chambers visited Movement School in Charlotte, NC. This charter school serves students in grades k-five and is similar to Liberty. Movement, which is expanding to Atlanta and Charleston, is the closest school to LSC that is a member of the Charter School Growth Fund portfolio.

Dr. Ivey welcomed Network Scholar Intervention Specialist Lara McAlister and SPED Populations Coordinator Nicky Pack who shared an update on MTSS, or Multi-Tiered System of Supports, a framework used by schools to provide targeted support to students who are struggling academically, behaviorally, or socially. MTSS is organized into tiers of support, with Tier 1 being the most basic and universal support for all students, and Tier 2 and 3 providing more intensive interventions for students who need additional help. Ms. McAlister stressed the need to review the data around the need for support, e.g., is it an individual scholar, a class, is it a grouping of boys or girls, from a sector of town, etc., to ensure that Tier 1 is being met prior to recommending students to Tier 2.

III. Other Business

A. Agenda Items from Committee Members

There were no agenda items from committee members.

IV. Executive Session

A. Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements, Proposed Contractual Matters, and Personnel Matters

There was no executive session.

V. Committee Action

A. Any Action Related to Executive Session Item(s)

There was no action.

VI. Closing Items

A. Next Steps

Ms. McAlister was tasked to investigate progress monitoring for SEL, to look into Panorama Education, which offers a comprehensive, actionable view of every student in one system, to see if it is a good fit for Liberty or propose the easiest method of a measurable component of Tier I fidelity of implementation, and to schedule a strategic meeting with Mr. Vaugh to review Tier I for the elementary academy.

B. Good of the Order

C.

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Knopf