APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time
Monday June 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
Thompson Training Center
110 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.

Directors Present
(Tajma) LaShea Davis, Cameron Chandler, Greg Thompson, Heather Bass, Jenny Knopf (remote), Kimberly Rauschenbach, Marion Newton, Rodney Thompson, Shafara Douglas

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, Gifford Shaw

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 Jun 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

B. Invocation

Rev. Newton gave an invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr. Thompson opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and expressing gratitude to the members of the military who protect and serve our nation.

II. Reading of the Mission & Vision Statements

A. LSC Mission Statement

Mr. Thompson read the Mission Statement.

B. LSC Vision Statement

Ms. Chandler read the Vision Statement

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Today's Meeting Agenda and Minutes from Previous Meeting

Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes from LSC Board of Directors Meeting on 05-19-25.
(Tajma) LaShea Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Board Recognition

A. Community Recognition

The Board recognized and presented certificates to the following community members in appreciation of their outstanding support and contributions to Liberty STEAM Charter. Their

efforts have directly impacted student success and provided meaningful experiences that help make the Liberty difference:

- HYPE After-School Program
- Tandem Health
- The Item
- Sumter Economic Development

B. Staff Recognition

The Board recognized and presented a certificate to L'ara McAlister in honor of her outstanding achievement in being named the South Carolina Psychologist of the Year. Ms. McAlister was commended for her dedication to student well-being and her impactful contributions to the field of school psychology.

C. Charter Board Orientation Training

The Board recognized and presented a certificate to Director Shafara Douglas in acknowledgment of her successful completion of the required Charter Board Orientation Training. Her commitment to governance excellence and ongoing learning was commended.

V. Public Participation

A. Public Participation

There was none.

VI. Executive Director's Report

A. Updates from the Executive Director

Dr. Ivey presented updates on the following topics:

1. CSGF Updates: Efforts are ongoing in partnership with the Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) to support Liberty's strategic priorities. Updates included continued progress in alignment with long-term growth and sustainability goals.
2. AFO Accountability Rating System Review (SCPCSD): Liberty's AFO (Academic, Financial, and Operational) Accountability Rating from the South Carolina Public Charter School District was reviewed. Liberty remains fully compliant with all requirements outlined in the South Carolina Charter Schools Law.
3. Collective Leadership Efficacy Survey Results: Results from the recent climate and leadership survey were presented. The data reflected a strong, positive learning environment for students, with encouraging levels of teacher engagement and participation.

4. FY25 End-of-Year Organizational Goals Review & FY26 Goals Proposal: An overview of FY25 performance, noting strong committee engagement and positive year-end data was provided. The Board discussed proposals for FY26 goals, focusing on sustaining progress in high-performing areas and intensifying efforts to improve student achievement outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Ivey shared that Liberty STEAM Charter will undergo Cognia accreditation during the FY26 school year. Cognia accreditation is considered both rigorous and comprehensive. Preparations are underway to ensure a strong showing of alignment to standards of continuous improvement and excellence.
5. 10 Wins for the 2024–2025 School Year: The Board reviewed Liberty's top 10 achievements from the current school year, with a central emphasis on student success, academic gains, and strategic organizational improvements.
6. End-of-Year Goals Update Presentation: A data presentation was delivered to summarize Liberty's progress toward its end-of-year goals. The report supported strategic planning discussions for the upcoming academic year.

VII. Board Committee Updates

A. Executive Committee

Mr. Thompson commended the recent work of all Board committees. Members had been provided with substantial information in advance and engaged in thoughtful discussion across each area.

On behalf of the Executive Committee section, Mr. Thompson presented three items for Board approval.

1. FY26 Organizational Goals Proposal
   Ms. Chandler made a motion to approve the FY26 Organizational Goals Proposal. Rev. Newton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee
   Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the establishment of a Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee with membership including Ms. Davis, Ms. Douglas, and Ms. Chandler. Dr. Thompson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. FY26 Board/Committee Meeting Schedule
    1. Ms. Chandler made a motion to approve the FY26 Board/Committee Meeting Schedule. Ms. Davis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Governance Committee

Ms. Chandler provided the Governance Committee update that included the annual review of LSC policies and handbooks noting board action for several documents under the Policy Consent Agenda. The following policies and handbooks were reviewed with no recommended changes:

- LSC Board Governance Policies
- LSC Financial Policies and Procedures
- LSC Financial Operations Policies

Ms. Chandler made a motion to approve the Policy Consent Agenda consisting of:

1. LSC Whistleblower Protection Policy
2. LSC Scholar Enrollment Policy
3. LSC Scholar Attendance Policy
4. LSC Operational Policies
5. LSC Scholar and Family Handbook
6. LSC Human Resources Policies
7. LSC Personnel Policies Handbook

Ms. Davis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Finance Committee

Mr. Shaw provided a financial overview of FY25 highlighting a projected surplus and strong fiscal management, positioning the school well for the upcoming academic year. The positive performance of food services was also emphasized.

1. May Financials Close-Out: Revenue vs. Expenditures:

- Year-to-date financials indicate a positive variance, forecasting an estimated $200,000 surplus by year-end.
- Cash on Hand: Liberty maintains a strong financial position, with over 60 days of operating cash available.
- Year-End Forecast: Projections support continued fiscal stability through the end of FY25.
- Food Service: Positive financial performance was noted, reinforcing the program's operational efficiency.

2. Federal Reimbursements: An update was provided on FY25 federal reimbursements.
3. Construction Loan/Line of Credit: An update was provided related to the construction loan and line of credit.
4. Afton Partners Scope of Work Update: Progress was reported on the consulting engagement with Afton Partners who are assisting with financial planning and forecasting.

Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Finance Consent Agenda that consisted of:

1. Proposal for Insurance Policies

2. FY26 Proposed Budget Third Reading
3. Title I, II, III, IV Authorizations

Ms. Davis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thompson read into the minutes the three goals that accompany the FY26 Budget:

1. Maintain class sizes as small as possible by aligning staffing and resource planning with enrollment levels and academic priorities.
2. Ensure that all allocated funds and charitable donations are applied in a way to directly impact classrooms by prioritizing expenditures that support instruction and student outcomes.
3. Grow the reserve fund through operational funding sources to meet our financial milestones and long-term sustainability goals.

Mr. Thompson read into the minutes the Federal Authorizations including Title I, II, III, IV:

- To authorize the executive director to serve as the representative for the South Carolina Department of Education Application for Grants to meet the special educational needs of educationally deprived children under Title I of Public Law 103-382;
- for Grants to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality and by ensuring that all teachers are highly qualified through professional development activities for Title II;
- for Grants to provide instructional activities and services to meet the special educational needs of limited English proficient and immigrant students under Title III of Public Law 107-110;
- for Grants which are intended to improve the students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, LEAs, schools, and local communities by (1) providing all students with access to a well-rounded education; (2) improving school conditions for student learning; and (3) improving the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.
- And to authorize the executive director to allocate any federal programs allocations from SCPCSD to reflect the comprehensive needs assessment supervised by the boards' academic committee from April 2025.

D. Academic Excellence Committee

Ms. Bass shared highlights from the Academic Excellence Committee meeting:

1. LSC Leadership Development Program: The committee discussed the success of Liberty’s Leadership Development Program, under the direction of Ms.

Rauschenbach. The program is designed to build internal leadership capacity and support the professional growth of emerging leaders across the organization.

2. Proposed Core Values: The committee is in the process of developing Core Values intended to guide organizational culture and strategic direction.

E. Development Committee

Ms. Bass provided an overview of the Development Committee's current and prospective fundraising and partnership initiatives:

1. Key Funding and Grant Opportunities: Updates were shared on active and upcoming efforts with several partners and grantors, including:
    - Walton Family Foundation
    - SCDE Strategic Compensation Pilot
    - Charter School Growth Fund
    - Children’s Trust Fund of South Carolina
    - Connected Communities
    - Additional SCDE grant opportunities
2. PATH Initiative – STEAM Workforce Planning: Continued planning efforts are underway to advance the PATH Initiative, with a focus on developing robust STEAM workforce pipelines.
3. The LIFT Initiative was established as a professional development partnership to provide Dr. Ivey with direct insight from business and industry leaders. The first convening included Gregg Hoffman of NOVA Molecular. The committee is now seeking two additional industry leaders, one in business technology and one in industrial technology, to further support this strategic talent development effort.

VIII. Executive Session

A. Purposes of Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Property Contractual Agreements, Proposed Contractual Agreements, and/or Discussion of Personnel Matters, and Discussion of Executive Director's Annual Evaluation.

Kimberly Rauschenbach made a motion to Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements, Proposed Property

Contractual Agreements, Discussion of Personnel Matters and Discussion of the Executive Director's Evaluation.
Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Upon Consensus, the Board Returned to Open Session.

IX. Action Items

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

Rodney Thompson made a motion to Authorize Executive Director Dr. Ivey to Sign All Documents on Behalf of Liberty STEAM Charter School for a Loan in the Amount of $25 million from First Citizens Bank.
(Tajma) LaShea Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Monthly Personnel Report

Cameron Chandler made a motion to Approve the Executive Director's Monthly Personnel Report.
Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. FY26 Org Chart

Cameron Chandler made a motion to Approve the FY26 Organizational Chart.
(Tajma) LaShea Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Proposed Property Contractual Matter

Heather Bass made a motion to Authorize Vice Chairwoman Cameron Chandler and Executive Director Dr. Ivey to Sign all Documents on Behalf of Liberty for the Lease Agreement for Office Space.
Cameron Chandler seconded the motion.
This office space is with Thompson Construction with a zero dollar ($0) value. Mr. Thompson, Ms. Rauschenbach, and Dr. Thompson recused themselves.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Rodney Thompson	Abstain
Marion Newton	Aye
Jenny Knopf	Aye
Heather Bass	Aye
Greg Thompson	Abstain
Kimberly Rauschenbach	Abstain
(Tajma) LaShea Davis	Aye
Cameron Chandler	Aye

Roll Call

Shafara Douglas	Aye

X. Closing Items

A. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Mr. Thompson concluded the meeting by thanking Directors and Staff for continued support.

B. Good of the Order

There was no discussion.

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen