DRAFT

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday June 26, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Location
100 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 PK-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, Sumter STEAM Charter (SSC) 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
(Tajma) LaShea Davis, Cameron Chandler, Shafara Douglas

Committee Members Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

(Tajma) LaShea Davis called a meeting of the LSC Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee Committee of Liberty STEAM Charter to order on Thursday Jun 26, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Douglas gave an invocation.

D. Opening Remarks

Ms. Davis welcomed committee members to the meeting.

E. Approval of Meeting Agenda

With no objections, the meeting agenda was approved.

II. LSC Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

A. Discussion Topics

The Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc Committee convened for its initial meeting to review new legislation impacting enrollment procedures at Liberty STEAM Charter School. The committee discussed key areas of consideration to ensure alignment with the law while maintaining equity and clarity in the admissions process.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Background and Context: The committee reviewed the purpose of its formation, stemming from newly enacted legislation allowing military enrollment preference for charter schools. The intent is to recognize and support military-connected families through equitable enrollment access.

2. Review of Relevant Charter, State, or Federal Guidance: Committee members examined applicable sections of the Liberty charter agreement, state laws, and any relevant federal statutes or best practices concerning enrollment preference for military families.
3. Summary of Current Admissions/Enrollment: An overview of current admissions and lottery process was provided, outlining current preferences and how changes might be integrated.
4. Discussion of Areas Where Preference Could Be Integrated: The committee explored where within the admissions framework a military preference might be applied, including lottery priority, mid-year enrollment, and waitlist procedures. Received information from Palmetto Scholars Academy regarding their current military enrollment lottery procedures.
5. Define Desired Outcomes: The committee identified two primary deliverables:

   • A draft policy outlining military preference language
   • Procedural guidance to support consistent implementation

6. Determine Deliverables and Timeline: Members discussed target dates for:

   • Draft policy development by July Retreat
   • Board presentation and approval at the September Meeting
   • Communication rollout prior to the next enrollment window October - December 2025

7. Identify Required Stakeholders or Collaborators

   • Executive Director
   • Enrollment Coordinator
   • Legal Counsel
   • Charter Sponsor (SCPCSD)

8. Definition of “Military-Connected” Families: The committee began to define this term, referencing state guidance and sample definitions. Potential criteria include active-duty status, reserve, and National Guard.
9. Application and Documentation Process: Preliminary ideas were shared about how families would indicate their military status during application and the type of documentation required to verify eligibility once accepted.

III. Closing Items

A. Next Steps

- Dr. Ivey will draft a policy based on the information received and criteria discussed.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen