APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Board Meeting

Notification of Scheduled Board Meeting and Annual Summer Retreat

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

Location
Thompson Conference Room
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.

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

Directors Absent
Jenny Knopf

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present

Amy Hansen, Gifford Shaw, LaQuanya Chambers, Michelle McDonald

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 Thursday Jul 24, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

B. Invocation

Ms. Rauschenbach gave an invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr. Thompson welcomed all attendees to meeting.

E. Reading of the Mission & Vision Statements

Mr. Thompson read the Mission Statement.

Dr. Thompson read the Vision Statement.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the meeting agenda and the minutes from LSC Board of Directors Meeting on 06-23-25.
Rodney Thompson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

III. Topics for Discussion

A. Board Education

- Cognia and Coaching: A Beautiful Marriage - Dr. McDonald provided an update on Cognia, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the US and internationally. The Cognia team is made up of educators with experience in strengthening schools and improving learner outcomes. She shared that the Accreditation Candidacy process has begun. The leadership team will decide how fast or slow the process moves ensuring LSC's goal of 85 percent scholar proficiency is achieved.

- Family and Community Engagement 2.0 - Ms. Chambers provided an update that included new strategies for ten day enrollment, family recognitions, operations leader fellow coaching, PEACE collaboration with USC CFEC, a structured committee for Dads on Duty and a Fifth Grade Roadmap for which a heatmap will be developed to track progress.
- Military Enrollment Preference Report Out - Ms. Davis reported that the Military Enrollment Preference Ad Hoc committee met in June to map out a strategy for implementing the new legislation impacting enrollment procedures. A logic map and strategic plan will be presented to committees in August and to the Board in September.
- PATH: Career Planning in Classrooms - Ms. Bass provided an update on this initiative that prepares scholars to choose a pathway leading them to desirable jobs in our community; aspires to connect scholars with industry mentors; trains scholars for success in their chosen career path; and harnesses the synergy of scholars, school, and business partners to strengthen the health of our community. Business and industry partners were identified based on alignment between career targets and technical highschools programs. This partnership will focus on the success of our scholars by identifying in-demand careers and target businesses to partner with classes.
- Good to Great: LSC Flywheel - Mr. Thompson introduced key concepts from Good to Great by Jim Collins describing the process of building momentum for sustained success and the likeness of organization growth to pushing a heavy flywheel with multiple inputs. Each Director will receive a personal copy of the book to explore the ideas further that align perfectly with the Board's commitment to Liberty STEAM Charter School. LSC's flywheel example includes selecting teachers infused with passion; building collaborative improvement teams; assessing student progress, early and often; achieving learning, each and every child; enhancing our reputation as a great place to teach; and replenishing the passionate teacher pipeline.

B. Board Assessment, Governance, and Strategic Planning

- Review of Board Self-Evaluation and Composition - Ms. Rauschenbach presented three areas identified by the Board as areas of improvement: Board Recruitment Pipeline, Development Board Training, and BoardSavvy Executive Director Succession Planning. Discussion included strategies currently in place to address the areas identified for improvement.
- Core Values Discussion - Ms. Chandler shared results of the Academic Committee's efforts to develop CORE values for the Board. The Board committed to three Board CORE Values, uniquely tailored to their role in advancing the LSC mission: To Commit to Excellence, Lead with Integrity, and Welcome and Expect Accountability.

C. School Priorities and Strategic Planning

- FY26 Organizational Goals; Back-to-School Readiness: Staffing, Facilities, Enrollment; and Safety and Emergency Preparedness - Dr. Ivey's updates included a review of organizational goals, that LSC is fully staffed and enrolled, an additional SRO has been assigned to the Junior Academy, emergency preparedness plans are in place, and LSC is ready to welcome scholars for the 2025-2026 School Year on Thursday, July 30.
- Financial Outlook and Facility Planning: Dr. Thompson informed the Board that a recent meeting with Afton Partners resulted in a positive financial outlook for Liberty STEAM, with encouraging updates on our fiscal trajectory. He also reported that our Certificate of Occupancy for the new facility is expected any day now, and that construction and long-term facility planning efforts remain on track and progressing well.

IV. Executive Session

A. Purposes of Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Property Contractual Agreements, Proposed Contractual Agreements, and/or Discussion of Personnel Matters

There was no executive session.

V. Action Items

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

There was no executive session.

VI. Closing Items

A. Closing Statement

Mr. Thompson thanked Directors, Dr. Ivey, and staff for their attendance.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen