APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday October 23, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Location
LSC Network Office
108 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.

Committee Members Present
(Tajma) LaShea Davis (remote), Cameron Chandler, Jenny Knopf, Shafara Douglas

Committee Members Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
Kim Harrelson, Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, Kelli Carlisle, Michelle McDonald, Valarie Smith

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 Oct 23, 2025 at 12:30 PM.

C. Invocation

Cameron Chandler gave an invocation.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Jenny Knopf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Reading of Vision and Mission Statements

Jenny Knopf read the vision statement.
Cameron Chandler read the mission statement.

F. Consent Agenda Approval of Meeting Agenda and Previous Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting on 09-22-25.
With no objections, the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the previous meeting minutes was approved.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Topics for Discussion

A. Executive Director's Report

Committee liaison Dr. Michelle McDonald welcomed Teacherpreneurs Valerie Smith and Kelli Carlisle for the October report-out on Transformational Coaching. Their presentation emphasized strategies for building teacher capacity and enhancing instructional culture.

Key highlights included: Seven Things to Thrive, Coaching Support, Coaching Styles, Feedback, and Resources. Teacher reflections shared initial resistance evolved into strong appreciation, and teachers reported desiring more time with their coaches. Ms. Smith and Ms. Carlisle noted that a new culture has been established, and teachers now actively seek help and collaboration, signaling a positive transformation in professional culture.

Additionally, they shared information on the Just Write Reader Program, which provides early literacy support through decodable texts and home-to-school reading connections

designed to build foundational reading fluency. The program is designed primarily for early elementary grades. LSC has identified funding for the PA.

Executive Director's Report: Dr. Ivey shared several major updates and initiatives. The ED's Academy Best Practices Task Force has been created to promote collaboration, consistency, and innovation across the network. The task force will consist of seven decision committees: Special Education Decision Committee, Junior Academy Decision Committee, Culture and Code of Conduct Decision Committee, Joint Decision Committee, Primary Academy Decision Committee, Miscellaneous Decision Committee, Athletics and Sports Offerings (PA, EA, JA)

Each committee will have a captain with additional participants identified by that captain.

- Committees formed: October 15–20; Committee kickoff: October 27; Captain meeting: October (date TBD)

Dr. Ivey looks forward to providing ongoing updates on progress and implementation.

- FY25 Financial Audit: LSC received a clean audit with no recommendations.
- Cognia Accreditation: Cognia surveys will take priority; POSIPs will be paused for November to allow completion.
- Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF): With a milestone met, LSC is on track to receive a payment expected in December 2025.

III. New Business

A. Director Suggested Agenda Topics for Future Presentation

Committee members were asked to contact Dr. Ivey for future agenda topic presentation requests.

IV. Closing Items

A. Committee Recommendations

2026–27 School Calendar: May be amended to allow teachers to conduct kindergarten testing during the first week of school with staggered attendance for kindergarten scholars.

Continued emphasis on Transformational Coaching as a driver of teacher growth and scholar achievement.

Ongoing attention to scheduling challenges to ensure equitable instructional support for staff and scholars with additional needs.

B. 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,
Amy Hansen

Documents used during the meeting

- Academic Committee Presentation 10.23.25.pdf
- FY25 Audit Icon.pdf
- Liberty STEAM Charter 2025 Financial Statements (1).pdf