APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Meeting

https://www.youtube.com/@thelibertydifference

Date and Time
Monday March 30, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
LSC Junior Academy, 1057 Broad 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 and general public.

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

VISION: In partnership with our families and community, our vision is to provide real-world interdisciplinary, 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.

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

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 Mar 30, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

B. Invocation

Marion Newton gave an invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance Led by Eagle Ambassadors

Greg Thompson welcomed the LSC Eagle Ambassadors to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Reading of the Mission and Vision Statements

Greg Thompson read the mission statement.
Cameron Chandler read the vision statement.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Meeting Agenda and Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to With no objections, the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting was approved LSC Board of Directors Meeting on 01-26-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Election of Officers

A. Nominations for Slate of Officers Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

Kimberly Rauschenbach made a motion to approve the slate of officers for the upcoming term as: Chair Greg Thompson, Chairman V. Chair Cameron Chandler, V. Chairman Secretary LaShea Davis, Sectretary Treasurer Rodney Thompson, Treasurer.
Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Board Recognition

A. Staff Showcase

The Board recognized thirteen staff members who achieved certifications or degrees.

The Board recognized newly minted National Board Certified teacher Katie Huggins and Libby Ortmann, a three-time National Board Certified teacher with over 40 years of experience in education. Mrs. Ortmann had the honor to pin Ms. Huggins.

B. Community Showcase

The Board recognized community partners from the By Name Project and Santee Watery Regional Transportation Authority for their support of and service to Liberty STEAM Charter school staff and scholars.

Mr. Payne joined Dr. Ivey in recognition Liberty STEAM Charter School for having received the Palmetto Silver Award for high academic achievement.

V. Public Participation

A. Public Participation

Kerry Fuller, lead teacher at LSC, announced that the readathon raised over $30,000, with proceeds going toward creating a library at the school.

VI. Executive Director's Report

A. Monthly Update

Dr. Ivey presented his monthly update included in the meeting packet. He noted the recent recommendation for Cognia accreditation and the award of a $2 million Yass Award Prize investment. The meeting also covered upcoming assessments, spring holidays.

Dr. Michelle McDonald will continue leading the implementation of recommendations from the Cognia accreditation external review for ongoing refinement.

Sally Harris organized LSC’s first out-of-state field trip experience for scholars, parents, and staff to the nation's capital.

Parents will be asked to complete the parent climate survey by Wednesday.

Micah Vaughn and Kendall Jones will announce the finalists for the Amazing Shake on April 17.

Board and staff continue to review partner assignments for the PATH initiative, add new partners for the new grade level, and share matches with teachers before summer break.

Stop 3 of the Navigator agreement exposure event is April 14 and will include the four core Liberty career clusters.

Board members have the opportunity to join a tour of the Junior Academy expansion on April 14.

VII. Board Committee Updates

A. Executive Committee Update

Greg Thompson provided an update on the recent executive committee.

The executive committee received the same positive reports you hear from all committees this evening. In addition, we reviewed the vetting of Non-Director Committee Appointments in accordance with our Bylaws Article VIII. It is my pleasure to make the following non-director appointments:

- Academic Committee: Glenn Huggins
- Development Committee: Travis Norton
- Finance Committee: Rachel Suchecki
- Executive Committee: Rev. Billy Bennett

Athletics Buildout Program for SC High School League Accredited Sports
Greg Thompson read the following statement:

"Building on the great work of our committees, I want to highlight another exciting initiative that reflects our commitment to developing the Liberty Scholar academically, socially, and physically.
We are actively seeking to build a middle school athletics program with the goal of offering six South Carolina High School League accredited sports: soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, and golf.

With our focus on both academics and athletics, the Liberty scholar will be a well-rounded, confident, and resilient young person who excels in the classroom, develops leadership and teamwork skills on the field, and carries the discipline and perseverance learned through sports into every aspect of life.

By laying this foundation now, we are creating structured, supportive opportunities that will help every scholar grow, explore their talents, and achieve their fullest potential.

This initiative reflects our commitment to providing the very best opportunities today, to ensure the very best outcomes for our scholars and for our community tomorrow. We are eager to share updates and progress as our athletics program develops."

B. Academic Excellence Committee Update

Due to Jenny Knopf's remote connection, Cameron Chandler updated the Board on the recent academic committee meeting.

The committee reviewed updates to the Gifted & Talented program (documentation included in the meeting packet), including cluster classes for 4th grade, capstone projects for grades 4–5, and expanded identification with a new school psychologist.

There was a review of middle school curriculum options, SEL updates, and staffing needs, along with GT teacher endorsements and funding considerations.

Cognia accreditation and transformational coaching initiatives were highlighted as key supports for instructional quality.

Dr. Ivey also provided updates, under final review of the governance committee, on executive leadership succession, the YASS loan, and resolutions on curriculum, testing policies, and grading practices for full board consideration.

Cameron Chandler made a motion to accept the proposed updates to the Gifted and Talented Program.
(Tajma) LaShea Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Development Committee Update

Heather Bass presented the Development Committee update that included the monthly Family and Engagement update for March highlighting enrollment at 911 scholars, strong attendance at 96.5% ADA, and continued family engagement efforts, including parent volunteer participation. The committee also noted that FY27 kindergarten enrollment is full with 151 new scholars.

Discussion centered on the College, Career, and Military Ready Roadmap, with a focus on strengthening scholar exposure to a broader range of career clusters—particularly engineering, skilled trades, and other high-demand fields. Plans are underway for a capstone presentation to showcase scholar experiences and learning.

The committee also reviewed progress on the PATH initiative, with all 37 partners recommitting for next year and increased interest in targeted grade-level engagement. Additional highlights included the $2 million YASS Award, updates on the executive leadership search, and exploration of early college opportunities.

Next steps include finalizing PATH partner assignments for FY27 and refining the roadmap experience to ensure scholars are exposed to key regional career pathways.

There was a proposal for Stop 3 of the Navigator agreement to provide exposure to include the four core Liberty career clusters as opposed to the original plan of the top three choices in order to expose scholars to more opportunities. The event will take place April 14.
Heather Bass made a motion to approve the amendment to Stop 3 Navigator Agreement to include all four core career clusters.
Kimberly Rauschenbach seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Finance Committee Update

Rodney Thompson provided the Finance Committee update noting a review of several key items related to LSC's fiscal health and ongoing financial planning. He invited Gifford Shaw to present the monthly financial reports.

gifford Shaw informed the Board of the school’s current financial position, noting approximately 25 days of cash on hand and enrollment slightly below target at 911 students. A major highlight was the $2 million YASS Alumni Award, including a $500,000 grant and $1.5 million 0% interest loan to support Junior Academy expansion.

The FY27 budget was introduced with projected revenues of $16 million and a potential $478,000 surplus to strengthen reserves, though concerns remain around funding Whole Child initiatives. Additional discussions included a facilities project at the primary academy, federal program planning deadlines, and progress on leadership succession and the executive search process.

The committee will continue refining the FY27 budget and facilities plans, with a board tour of the Junior Academy expansion scheduled for April 14. Recommended actions include moving forward with the YASS loan agreement and advancing the FY27 budget for first reading.
Rodney Thompson made a motion to approve the finance consent agenda consisting of the First Reading of the Proposed FY27 Preliminary Budget and the YASS Award Program Loan Agreement Resolution.
Heather Bass seconded the motion.
Rodney Thompson read the resolution into the minutes.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF

LIBERTY STEAM CHARTER SCHOOL
APPROVAL OF LOAN AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Liberty STEAM Charter School ("the School") has been awarded a coordinated funding package through the Yass Alumni Award Program administered by the Center for Education Reform (CER), including both a grant and a loan; and

WHEREAS, the loan agreement, dated March 24, 2026, provides for a loan in an amount up to $1,500,000 to support the School's facility expansion and enrollment growth (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the loan is to finance the build-out of facilities necessary to increase student enrollment and expand educational services in alignment with the School's mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has reviewed the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement and finds that entering into this agreement is in the best interest of the School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Liberty STEAM Charter School hereby approves the Loan Agreement with the Center for Education Reform in an amount up to $1,500,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Executive Director to execute the Loan Agreement and any related documents necessary to finalize and implement the loan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized to take any additional actions necessary to ensure compliance with the terms of the Loan Agreement and to carry out the Project as described; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be entered into the official minutes of the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED this 30th day of March, 2026.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Governance Committee

Cameron Chandler provided the governance report. The committee finalized reviews on leadership succession and Dr. Ivey's Legacy Plan, approved resolutions for curricula adoption (Math, Science, and SEL), and reviewed updates on grading, homework guidance, and testing security procedures.
Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the governance consent agenda consisting of Approval of the Executive Leader Succession and Sustainability Planning; Approval of

Dr. Ivey's LSC Legacy Plan; Approval of the Resolution for the Curricula Adoption; Approval of Best Practices in Grading and Home Work Guidance; and Approval of Testing Security and Procedures .
Rodney Thompson seconded the motion.
Cameron Chandler read the resolution into the minutes.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
LIBERTY STEAM CHARTER SCHOOL

Adoption of Instructional Curricula
Date: March 30, 2026

WHEREAS, Liberty STEAM Charter School is committed to providing high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials that support student achievement and whole-child development; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Public Charter School District requires formal board approval for the adoption of new instructional curriculum; and

WHEREAS, school leadership has reviewed and recommended the following curricula to support academic excellence and student growth:

- i-Ready Mathematics for grades 6 through 8
- McGraw Hill Inspire Science for grades 6 through 8
- CharacterStrong Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum (All Grades)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Liberty STEAM Charter School hereby approves the adoption and implementation of the above-listed curricula, effective for the upcoming academic term, as presented by school leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the South Carolina Public Charter School District in compliance with all applicable requirements.

ADOPTED this 30th day of March, 2026.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Executive Session

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

Cameron Chandler made a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed property contractual agreements, proposed contractual agreements, and discussion of personnel matters.
Jenny Knopf seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Upon consensus, the Board returned to open session.

IX. Action Items

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

B. Executive Director's Monthly Personnel Report

Cameron Chandler made a motion to approve the monthly personnel report.
Marion Newton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Greg Thompson reminded directors to submit requested agenda items to Dr. Ivey.
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

Documents used during the meeting

- 20260330 Executive Director Update (1).pdf
- March 2026 ED Updates (3).pdf
- Academic GT & AE Programming Document (DRAFT 2026) (1) (3).pdf
- Academic GT & AE Programming Document (Modifications Version) (1) (3).pdf
- Academic AEGT Program Guide Updates Overview Slides for Board Academic SubCommittee (1).pdf
- Academic 20260326 Liberty STEAM Charter School (1) (2).pdf
- ALL REVISED 2025 Alumni Award Agreement_Loan + Grant_Liberty STEAM Charter School (1).pdf
- Development Mar 25-26 FACE Update .pdf
- Finance FEBRUARY 26 Dash Board.xlsx - Google Sheets (1).pdf
- Finance Feb Rev Exp New Form (1) (3).pdf

- Finance FY27 Preliminary Budget (1).pdf
- 20260330 Board Resolution YASS Loan .docx.pdf
- ALL LSC ED Succession Plan.docx (2).pdf
- ALL Ivey's LSC Legacy Plan (6) (2).pdf
- Academic Best Practices in Grading Policy Update (5).pdf
- ALL Test Security Policy and Procedures.docx (2) (6).pdf
- 20260330 Board Resolution Curriculum Adoption to SCPSCD.docx.pdf
- 20260330 Executive Session LSC Personnel Report .docx (1).pdf