APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

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

Date and Time
Thursday March 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Location
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.

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.

Committee Members Present
Cameron Chandler, Jenny Knopf, Shafara Douglas

Committee Members Absent

(Tajma) LaShea Davis

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, Jane Hray, Michelle McDonald

I. Opening Items

A. Record of 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 Mar 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

C. Invocation

Shafara Douglas gave an invocation.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Jenny Knopf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Reading of Mission and Vision Statements

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

F. Approve Consent Agenda (Meeting Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes) Previous Minutes

Motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and minutes from LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting on 02-24-26.
With no objections, the consent agenda was approved.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Topics for Discussion

A. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Ivey welcomed Jane Hray who presented updates to the Gifted and Talented program that included a revised guidance document outlining services for identified gifted and talented students, as well as academic enrichment programs. The document includes updates on programming models, identification requirements, and evaluation processes. Key changes include clarifying the focus on talent development for kindergarten through

second grade and an achievement-focused model for third through fifth grades. The presentation also highlighted the addition of a school psychologist, which has expanded testing opportunities and identification capabilities. The committee discussed the importance of being good stewards of funds while providing quality programming for high-achieving students.

The committee discussed changes to the gifted and talented program structure, proposing a shift from a pull-out model to a cluster class model for 4th grade due to growing cohort sizes and potential disruption in the current model. Plans to implement capstone projects in grades 4 and 5, with teachers having flexibility to design appropriate projects rather than following a strict template were outlined. The discussion also covered the need for gifted and talented endorsed teachers, particularly for middle school honors classes, and explored options for providing this certification, including tuition reimbursement for staff members.

There was focus on discussing curriculum and scheduling decisions for middle school programs, particularly regarding gifted and talented students. Recommendations were presented for clustering gifted students in special classes rather than using a pull-out model, noting developmental concerns about middle school students' preferences for group settings.

The committee discussed curriculum options for middle school, including iReady for math, potential Houghton Mifflin materials for reading and writing, and McGraw-Hill Inspired Science, with particular attention to state adoption requirements and funding implications.

The committee also reviewed changes to the social-emotional learning curriculum.

Dr. Ivey reviewed resolutions to be presented to the Board: Curricula, YASS Loan, and the proposed updates to the testing security policies and grading practices.

Dr. Ivey reviewed sucession planning: Executive Leadership and Sustainability Planning and Dr. Ivey’s Legacy Plan. There has been progress on the executive leader search with 42 applicants received, and phase three of the process beginning next week.

III. New Business: Requests for Future Agenda Topics/Committee Recommendations

A. Committee Action Items

- Full Board approval of the curriculua recommendations.
- Ms. Hray provides an update on compliance requirements and possible ramifications of not having teachers GT endorsed.
- Dr. Ivey will align with HR best practices on the new sixth grade teachers who are actively seeking GT endorsements.
- Mental wellness options to be presented at the May committee meeting.

- Staffing request consideration (2.0 FTEs;1.0 FTE for hybrid admin & 1.0 for full time resource for EA/JA).

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen

Documents used during the meeting

- Academic AEGT Program Guide Updates Overview Slides for Board Academic SubCommittee.pdf
- Academic GT & AE Programming Document (Modifications Version) (1).pdf
- GT & AE Programming Document (DRAFT 2026) (1).pdf
- Academic 20260326 Liberty STEAM Charter School (1).pdf
- ALL REVISED 2025 Alumni Award Agreement_Loan + Grant_Liberty STEAM Charter School.pdf
- ALL Ivey's LSC Legacy Plan (6).pdf
- ALL Liberty STEAM Charter School_Executive Leader Succession and Sustainability Planning 2026 (1) (1).pdf
- ALL LSC ED Succession Plan.docx.pdf
- ALL Succession Planning Finance Committee (3) (9).pdf
- ALL DIY-Sabbatical-Guide_Updated-Jan-2024.pdf
- ALL Durfee-Sabbatical-Report-FINAL.pdf
- ALL NEW Sabbatical Readiness.pdf
- ALL Creative Disruption.pdf
- ALL Succession Charter CEO Excellence Framework v2.0.pdf
- ALL Liberty Steam Focus Group Insights FINAL.docx.pdf
- ALL Ideal Candidate Profile for Deputy Superintendent - FINAL.pdf