APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

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

Date and Time
Thursday April 23, 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
(Tajma) LaShea Davis (remote), Cameron Chandler, Jenny Knopf, Shafara Douglas

Committee Members Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, Emily Hatfield, Glenn Huggins (Committee Non Director), Lauren Horne, Rashyra Smiling

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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 Apr 23, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

C. Invocation

Jenny Knopf gave an invocation.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Jenny Knopf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Reading of Mission and Vision Statements

Shafara Douglas read the mission statement.
Cammy Chandler read the vision statement.

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

Motion to With no objections the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the previous meeting minutes was approved. LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting on 03-26-26.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Topics for Discussion

A. Executive Director's Report

The committee reviewed academic progress, acknowledging that last year’s SC READY science scores fell below expectations. In response, leadership has implemented targeted improvement strategies, including a comprehensive review of the science curriculum to ensure stronger alignment with state standards.

There was focus on several key instructional and operational priorities. A deadline was set of April 30 to complete a linking study for Grades 3–5 and will explore Simplified Science as a potential K–5 curriculum option, including obtaining pricing. Evidence-based resources from the What Works Clearinghouse to support instructional decisions will be researched.

The committee will further examine recent inclusion class size changes by gathering teacher feedback and reviewing academic data to ensure there is no negative impact on student achievement. A strategic working group will be developed to focus on the future structure of K–1 inclusion class sizes pilot.

Elementary scholars will participate in an upcoming SC READY boot camp, with at least two days dedicated to science. While current performance is rated at six out of ten, leadership expressed optimism about continued growth, noting that scholars are currently performing above dashboard proficiency levels.

At the Primary Academy, end-of-year testing has not yet begun and will commence in the coming weeks.

Current benchmark data reflects performance in the low 70s. Leadership emphasized the importance of both academic preparation and student mindset, highlighting efforts to strengthen motivation through increased family engagement, including parent-written encouragement notes and visual supports.

Dr. McDonald will align with EA DCI to develop a sustainable model for testing proctors, including identifying the appropriate staffing group.

From an academic perspective, leadership is exploring the possibility of reducing inclusion class sizes. A task force will be established to study this option and provide recommendations to the Academic Committee before advancing to the full board.

Staffing updates included two current instructional vacancies (6th grade writing and art), with active candidate pipelines and a goal of full staffing by the May board meeting.

Recruitment is also underway for key support roles, including counselors, a scholar support specialist, and a special populations instructional support specialist. This hybrid role is designed to both teach and coach special education staff, supporting anticipated growth in exceptional needs services. Positions contingent upon budget considerations.

The second reading of the FY27 preliminary budget is scheduled for the May 26 board meeting.

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) is in progress and must be submitted by May 15, with a site audit scheduled for May 7. Stakeholder feedback continues to guide funding priorities, especially in small-group instruction and intervention staffing.

Board member attendance for upcoming graduation ceremonies will be confirmed for May 27 for fifth grade and May 28 kindergarten.

The Deputy Superintendent search is on track, with finalists identified and interviews scheduled.

A draft FY27 organizational chart is in progress expected to be presented for Board approval in June. Incoming senior hires will significantly reshape reporting structures.

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

A. Directors were reminded to submit agenda topics to Dr. Ivey

- Complete the linking study for Grades 3–5 by April 30.
- Explore Simplified Science as a potential curriculum option for next year.
- Obtain a quote for Simplified Science (K–5 access).
- Research resources from the What Works Clearinghouse to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Dr. McDonald, in collaboration with EA DCI, will identify a sustainable pathway for testing proctors, including determining the appropriate group to support this work.
- Conduct further research on the inclusion class size changes, including:
    - Gathering feedback from general education teachers
    - Reviewing academic data to determine if there is any adverse impact on scholars

Cammy Chandler will lead a strategic working group focused on the future of K–1 inclusion class sizes.

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 PA MAP Presentation .pdf

- Data Analysis.pdf
- SC READY Science Grade 4 Test Blueprint (2025-26)_v.2.pdf
- 2025 SC READY Science Grade 4 Sample Items.pdf
- ALL 2026 LSC Federal Programs Parent Feedback Survey (1).pdf
- ALL 202604 Federal Needs Assessment.pdf
- ALL PA Staff April Pulse Check.pdf
- ALL Kinder April Pulse Check.pdf
- All 1st Grade April Pulse Check.pdf
- ALL EA Staff April Pulse Check.pdf
- All 2nd Grade April Pulse Check.pdf
- All 3rd Grade April Pulse Check.pdf
- ALL 4th Grade April Pulse Check.pdf
- ALL 5th Grade April Pulse Check.pdf
- ALL 5th Grade Scholar Survey.pdf
- All 2026 Spring Possip (1).pdf
- Academic 20251201_Bylaws_Amended_Nonmaterial_Change_Section_8.01 (7) (1).pdf
- Academic 20250623_LSC_Enrollment_Policy_Board_Approved_.docx (1).pdf
- Academic Crossing the Finish Line.pdf