APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

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

Date and Time
Thursday May 21, 2026 at 1:00 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, Cameron Chandler, Jenny Knopf, Shafara Douglas

Committee Members Absent
Glenn Huggins (Committee Non Director)

Ex Officio Members Present
Trevor Ivey

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, 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 May 21, 2026 at 1:00 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

Jenny Knopf read the mission and vision statements.

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

Motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the minutes from LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting on 04-23-26.
With no objections, the consent agenda was approved.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Topics for Discussion

A. Executive Director's Report

Committee members received comprehensive academic and organizational updates from Ms. Smiling, Dr. McDonald, and Dr. Ivey focused on student achievement, instructional improvement, organizational culture, and planning for the 2026–27 school year.

Ms. Smiling presented updates related to kindergarten and first-grade academic performance, CSI scholar growth, intervention implementation, and differentiated instructional supports. Early literacy and math performance trends were reviewed, noting

stable Tier 1 instruction and a continued focus on strengthening differentiated small-group instruction through expanded implementation of UFLI and Bridges intervention supports, co-teaching models, and targeted intervention groupings. Strong CSI scholar growth outcomes were highlighted, including positive reading and math growth among intervention subgroups.

Dr. McDonald presented updates regarding progress monitoring, instructional coaching and co-teaching structures, staffing and academic forecasting, Cognia feedback, professional development, PLC development, teacher-led planning initiatives, and leadership alignment efforts.

Dr. McDonald presented an instructional curricula request for May 26 board consideration and approval: National Geographic Learning/Cengage NG World History: Great Civilizations, 1st Edition for Grade 6, Houghton Mifflin Into Literature for Grades 6–8, and Everfi Platform Eagles Excel for Grades K–12. Administration noted that the proposed curricula align with organizational academic priorities, instructional improvement efforts, and South Carolina Public Charter School District requirements for formal board approval of new instructional materials.

Discussion included development of monitoring structures for instructional implementation, plans to strengthen coaching and PLC systems, and summer professional development focused on collaborative instructional planning, common formative assessments, and vertical alignment. Leadership also shared updates regarding teacher-led pacing and curriculum planning initiatives designed to strengthen instructional alignment, staff empowerment, and teacher voice in organizational decision-making.

Dr. Ivey reported continued progress toward organizational academic goals, with reading proficiency increasing from 60.5% to 67% and math proficiency improving into the low 70% range compared to the prior year. Long-term organizational targets remain set at 85% proficiency in both reading and math. He anticipates that the majority of organizational goals for the year will be met.

He reported strong SPARK staff survey results with rankings at or above the 95th percentile across measured domains, and positive progress in student and staff culture indicators.

Additional discussion included inclusion classroom performance analysis, technology and science curriculum recommendations under review for budget alignment, staffing projections for the upcoming school year, climate survey considerations, and preparations for upcoming graduation ceremonies and end-of-year events.

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

A. Committee Recommendations

Committee members were reminded to submit future agenda topics to Dr. Ivey.

Action Steps

1. Finalize implementation and progress-monitoring systems for UFLI and Bridges interventions.
2. Continue staffing efforts for:
    - Part-time physical therapist
    - Scholar Support Specialist
3. Submit curriculum and technology recommendations for FY27 budget alignment.
4. Conduct additional review of inclusion classroom performance data before revisiting class-size recommendations.
5. Expand differentiated small-group instructional practices in K–1 classrooms.
6. Develop stronger PLC structures focused on teacher-led data analysis and intervention planning.
7. Finalize and communicate summer professional development schedules and opportunities.
8. Build first-quarter pacing guides, assessments, and instructional resources before the school year begins.
9. Complete leadership summer planning sessions focused on vertical alignment and operational coordination.
10. Develop communication strategies to ensure staff understand how their feedback is shaping organizational decisions.
11. Continue refining climate survey understanding and accountability reporting processes.
12. Second reading of FY27 budget May 26 with FY27 budget final reading and approval in June.
13. Finalize logistics and participation details for graduation ceremonies and celebration events.

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 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen