APPROVED

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Development Committee Meeting

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

Date and Time
Tuesday September 22, 2026 at 8:00 AM

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
Brenda Hafner, Heather Bass, Kimberly Rauschenbach, Marion Newton

Committee Members Absent
None

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, LaQuanya Chambers, Travis Norton (Committee Non Director) (remote), Trevor Ivey

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I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Heather Bass called a meeting of the Development Committee Committee of Liberty STEAM Charter to order on Tuesday Sep 22, 2026 at 8:00 AM.

C. Invocation

Marion Newton gave an invocation.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Heather Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Reading of Mission and Vision Statements

Kimberly Rauschenbach read the mission statement, and Heather Bass read the vision statement.

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

Motion to With no objections, the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes were approved LSC Board of Directors Development Committee Meeting on 06-15-26.
With no objections, the consent agenda was approved.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Development Committee Topics for Discussion

A. Superintendent's Report

Family and Community Engagement Update: Dr. Hafner welcomed LaQuanya Chambers to present the Family and Community Engagement Services update:

- New Chromebooks have been received, including enough for an enrichment cart. The school is also moving forward with a new IT contract and implementation of Panorama to connect attendance, MTSS, discipline, and social emotional learning data.

- Current attendance is 97.5%. All 30 Attendance Success Plans were completed, with three TIPs and four AIPs currently in place. September activities included National Attendance Month initiatives and a review of attendance expectations for JA scholars.
- Recruitment preparations are underway for the October 1 lottery opening. Planned efforts include daycare outreach, a community event at Dillon Park on October 24, parent car magnets with QR codes, and continued block walks.
- Four withdrawals have occurred since the 10th day of school, with three seats expected to be filled the following week. Two additional withdrawals are pending. Current persistence is 99%.
- PATH teachers completed site visits, and the PATH Pre-Connect was held. PATH partners will also be invited to participate in Trunk or Treat.
- Family engagement efforts included the first Peace Academy session with 180 families participating, Sunrise with Someone Special, Open House, litter pickup, the By Name Project, Dad's on Duty, and continued partnership with the Salvation Army.

Annual Report and A.F.O. Update: Dr. Hafner informed the committee that the Annual Report and FY26 A.F.O. report are posted on the school website. The A.F.O. report provides information on academics, operations, governance, and finance. Liberty met its charter academic goals, maintained 98% certified staffing, achieved 100% Board governance training, remained in good standing with federal and IDEA compliance, completed its annual audit without identified concerns, and remained compliant with website posting and FOIA requirements. Instruction represented 60.96% of expenditures.

Dr. Hafner shared an overview of the LSC Forward in Action update, providing a snapshot of recent and upcoming activities across Liberty. The calendar is intended to keep Directors informed while recognizing that special notices and invitations will continue to be provided for events where participation is requested or meaningful.

III. Liberty STEAM Charter School Foundation

A. President and CEO's Report

Dr. Hafner welcomed Dr. Trevor Ivey to present the Liberty STEAM Charter Foundation and PATH Update: The committee received an update on Foundation priorities and the PATH program.

- Policy and advocacy milestones remain on track.
- Early College and Technical High School planning continues, with monthly alignment meetings underway. The committee was also informed that Liberty earned Cognia certification, becoming the 699th school to receive the certification at that time.
- Liberty was selected as one of six schools in the state for the Children's Fund and Mind Trust fellowship. Fellowship support includes customized coaching and

professional development in fundraising, finance, operations, and school leadership.

- Philanthropic giving totaled $160,000, including a $50,000 ATI Foundation award and a $100,000 Google award. Additional grant applications have been submitted and are pending.
- Grants and compliance work continues, including the $1.752 million USDE grant, which is awaiting additional state-level approval before claims can be submitted. Charter School Growth Fund milestones remain on track, including a planned November site visit and required data collection.
- PATH's Pre-Connect was successfully completed. Feedback was largely positive, with follow-up meetings planned to address partner scheduling, K-5 deliverables, and sixth-grade alignment ahead of Education Day.
- PATH partners will continue to receive recognition through social media, marquee signage, yard signs, and upcoming video features. Workplace visits were highlighted as a valuable component of the program.
- Monthly PATH touch points are being recorded and added to the school's YouTube channel to provide an accessible resource for partners and stakeholders.

Next Steps
Foundation priorities include developing a formal development plan, preparing for the Charter School Growth Fund site visit, completing the required data collection report, and continuing professional development in fundraising and communications. Board members were asked to remain collaborative thought partners and continue providing accountability around Foundation and PATH milestones.

IV. New Business

A. Future Agenda Requests/Committee Recommendations

No additional recommendations or reminders were presented. Committee members were encouraged to submit future agenda items to Dr. Hafner.

V. 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 8:27 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen

Documents used during the meeting

- DEV 20260922 FACES.pdf
- ALL 2025 AFOLiberty STEAM Charter School (5) (1)_page-0001.jpg (1).pdf
- ALL 20260921-22 Committee Week AFO (2).pdf
- ALL 202609 Committee School Updates (3) (1).pdf
- Foundation Liberty_STEAM_Foundation_Board_Update_September_2026.docx.pdf
- Foundation September Board Update 2026 .pdf