DRAFT

Liberty STEAM Charter

Minutes

LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting

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

Date and Time
Wednesday October 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Location
LSC Network Office, 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. **BOARD CORE VALUES:** Commit to Excellence, Lead with Integrity, Welcome and Expect Accountability.

Committee Members Present
Brenda Hafner, Cameron Chandler, Jenny Knopf (remote), Shafara Douglas (remote)

Committee Members Absent

None

Guests Present
Amy Hansen, Glenn Huggins (Committee Non Director), Micah Vaughn, Michelle McDonald

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I. Opening Items

A. Record of Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Cameron Chandler called a meeting of the Academic Committee Committee of Liberty STEAM Charter to order on Wednesday Oct 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

C. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision Statements, Board Core Values

The committee completed the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and reading of the school's mission, vision, and core values.

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

Motion to with no objections, the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. LSC Board of Directors Academic Committee Meeting on 09-21-26.
With no objections, the consent agenda consisting of the meeting agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Topics for Discussion

A. Superintendent's Report

State Assessment Results and Academic Performance
Dr. Michelle McDonald presented an analysis of the school's SC READY assessment results. Overall achievement remained stable compared with the previous year; however, student growth had declined.

Key findings included:

- Science: Fourth-grade science demonstrated notable improvement, with a decrease in the percentage of scholars in the lowest performance band and an increase in the highest performance band.
- English Language Arts: ELA remained a relative strength. Grade-level strengths included third-grade writing, research and evaluation across grades three through five, and fourth-grade reading vocabulary.

- Mathematics: Math reasoning was identified as a primary area for improvement, particularly patterns and algebra, numerical reasoning, and measurement and geometry.
- Reading: Informational text comprehension was identified as a priority in grades three and four. Fifth-grade writing was also identified as an area requiring additional instructional attention.

The committee was advised that changes to state assessment categories, particularly in mathematics, limit direct comparisons with some prior-year results. The presentation also noted that scholars in lower performance bands demonstrated growth, while some higher-performing scholars moved into the middle performance band, contributing to the overall decline in growth.

Instructional Priorities and Professional Development
The committee reviewed instructional strategies and professional development initiatives intended to improve scholar achievement and growth.

Key priorities include:

- Strengthening mathematical reasoning and informational text comprehension.
- Unpacking priority standards and identifying prerequisite skills and common misconceptions.
- Increasing explicit teacher modeling, guided practice, and checks for understanding.
- Continuing common formative assessments and using data during professional learning communities to adjust instruction.
- Maintaining successful instructional practices that contributed to improved science performance.

Professional development has included training on instructional rigor, Eureka Math Squared for kindergarten through fifth grade, and i-Ready mathematics for sixth grade. Additional curriculum coaching and classroom support are planned. Monthly collaborative planning opportunities and ongoing induction training for new teachers will continue.

Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum
Micah Vaughn presented an update on implementation of the school's social-emotional learning curriculum. The program focuses on character development, relationships, bullying prevention, and scholars' social-emotional competencies.

The curriculum addresses character traits including respect, empathy, cooperation, responsibility, perseverance, courage, gratitude, honesty, and creativity. Teachers are receiving implementation support, and progress is monitored through the curriculum platform.

Beginning-of-year assessments identified the following areas for continued focus:

- Kindergarten through third grade: Emotional recognition and self-control.
- Upper elementary grades: Social problem-solving and understanding others' perspectives.
- Middle school: Social problem-solving and understanding others, with continued attention to self-control.

Individual assessment reports were provided to families, and classroom reports are available to teachers to support instruction and scholar development.

Superintendent's Update
The committee received updates on school activities and upcoming events. The superintendent also reported that the independent auditors issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. The Finance Committee completed its review and planned to recommend acceptance of the audit at the October regular board meeting.

The committee was also informed that Tameko Wilson, Lead STEAM Enrichment Teacher for fourth and fifth grades, was named National Project Lead the Way Launch Teacher of the Year. Formal recognition was scheduled for the October 26 board meeting.

III. New Business

A. Requests for Future Agenda Topics/Committee Recommendations

Directors were asked to submit new business items for future agenda topics to Dr. Hafner.

Follow-Up Items

- Continue implementing targeted instructional strategies to strengthen mathematics, informational text comprehension, and identified grade-level priority areas.
- Monitor assessment data and use common formative assessments and collaborative planning to guide instructional adjustments.
- Continue curriculum coaching, professional development, and social-emotional learning implementation.
- Confirm with the Executive Committee whether sufficient time is available for a full academic presentation at the October board meeting.

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 3:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hansen

Documents used during the meeting

- Academic Cmte SC READY Data Review.pdf
- ALL SEL Break down 2026-27 School year.pdf
- 2026 Audit at a Glance.pdf
- ALL FY26 Audit Liberty STEAM Charter 2026 Financial Statements.pdf
- ALL 202610 Committee School Updates.pdf