



Libertas Academy Charter School

Development & Governance Committee Meeting (Virtually)

Published on October 5, 2026 at 2:22 PM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday October 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM EDT

Location

Via Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5069946767?pwd=QXEvbzlhb0tYZWE4VHI6MCtrVFIGUT09>

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			11:00 AM
A.	Welcome back to Kari and Lauren	Modesto Montero	5 m
B.	Record Attendance	Paul Mancinone	1 m
C.	Call the Meeting to Order	Paul Mancinone	1 m
D.	Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes Paul Mancinone	2 m
	Approve minutes for Development & Governance Committee Meeting (Virtually) on September 1, 2026		
II. Development			11:09 AM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. 2026-27 Development Updates • BOY Grant Updates • Holiday Basketball Tournament - Upper Academy proposed these dates: 12/17 - 12/18 • FYI - FY27 Development Plan (attached)	Discuss	Modesto Montero	10 m
B. Friendraising • Potential BoT members • FYI - upcoming update of bylaws to be reviewed during November DC meeting	Discuss	Modesto Montero	10 m
C. Ten Year Anniversary Celebration • Review run-of-show • Review sponsorship letter • Review sponsorship list • Roll out strategy: the sponsorships	Discuss	Emma Gianoplus	30 m
III. Other Business			
IV. Closing Items			
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Paul Mancinone	

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:

Related Material:
Minutes for Development & Governance Committee Meeting (Virtually) on September 1, 2026

APPROVED



Libertas Academy Charter School

Minutes

Development & Governance Committee Meeting (Virtually)

Date and Time

Tuesday September 1, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Location

Via Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5069946767?pwd=QXEvbzlhb0tYZWE4VHl6MCtrVFIGUT09>

Committee Members Present

M. Montero (remote), P. Mancinone (remote)

Committee Members Absent

None

Guests Present

C. Resto (remote), E. Gianoplus (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Confirm New Committee Chair

- Governance & Development Committee Chair is responsible for: confirming the monthly meeting agenda and facilitating the monthly meetings.
- C. Resto nominated P. Mancinone, P. Mancinone accepted.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

P. Mancinone called a meeting of the Development Committee of Libertas Academy Charter School to order on Tuesday Sep 1, 2026 at 11:05 AM.

C. Record Attendance

D. Approve Minutes

No minutes to approve given that this is the first Governance & Development Committee Meeting of the 26-27 school year.

II. Development

A. 2026-27 Plans

- Review FY27 LACS Development Plan in detail, specific focus on: major priorities, sources of funding, 10-Year Anniversary Celebration, and constituent engagement calendar.
- Align on first draft plan of the 10-Year Anniversary project plan during October 2026 meeting.
- M. Montero-Forman notes that the majority of support that the school needs from the board is: recruitment of new board members, cultivating corporate sponsorship relationships, and inviting personal and professional networks to the 10-Year Anniversary Celebration event.
- E. Gianoplus sends the final draft of the FY27 Development Plan prior to the October 2026 Governance & Development Committee Meeting for formal approval before being shared with the full BoT at the October BoT meeting.

B. Fundraising

- M. Montero-Forman, C. Resto, and P. Mancinone discuss how to identify new potential board members who are connected to the vision and mission of Libertas, or how to cultivate these relationships.
- All discussed opportunities to bring folks to the school for a tour.
- E. Gianoplus sends a list of monthly tour dates after the meeting to P. Mancinone and C. Resto.
- P. Mancinone follows up with M. Montero-Forman about potential board recruit.
- E. Gianoplus sends LACS "one-pager" to the Governance & Development Committee Meeting members to bring to discussions about Libertas Academy BoT recruitment.
- M. Montero-Forman brings BoT recruitment materials to the full October BoT meeting.

III. 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 11:39 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
P. Mancinone

Coversheet

2026-27 Development Updates

Section:	II. Development
Item:	A. 2026-27 Development Updates
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	FY27 LACS Development Plan.docx.pdf



FY27 Development Plan

July 2026 - June 2027

I. Summary of Plan

As Libertas Academy moves into its second decade, our development strategy will focus on securing the philanthropic resources necessary to ensure that students not only access college, but have the preparation, guidance, and support needed to persist through graduation and achieve long-term economic mobility.

In other words, the goal is to move from a traditional college access narrative to a broader college completion narrative: getting students through the college door is only the beginning.

This builds directly on the previous development plan's recognition that alumni support—including mini-grants for financial hardships and the "Cash for Transcripts" program—can help address barriers to college matriculation and persistence.

FY27 Development Priority: Raise \$1,000,000 for the Libertas College Success Initiative

By June 30, 2027, Libertas Academy will secure at least \$1,000,000 in philanthropic revenue to launch and strengthen the Libertas College Success Initiative through a combination of foundation grants, corporate partnerships and sponsorships, individual giving, and the 10-Year Anniversary Celebration.

This fundraising effort will simultaneously strengthen Libertas Academy's long-term development infrastructure, expand its network of donors and partners, and deepen relationships with individuals and organizations invested in college access and student success.

FY27 Development Priorities

1. **Priority #1:** Secure \$1M in philanthropic revenue for college persistence.
2. **Priority #2:** Plan and execute a successful 10-Year Anniversary Celebration.
3. **Priority #3:** Identify 3-5 new Board of Trustee recruits.
4. **Priority #4:** Build a compelling, fundable college persistence strategy and case for support that can be used strategically YoY.
5. **Priority #5:** Strengthen and expand relationships with donors, foundations, corporations, alumni, and community partners.

II. Overview of Our Fund-and-Fundraising Program

Mission of Development Committee

The mission of the Development Committee is to ensure that the organization's total development program is in concert with the organization's strategic direction and needs. The Committee serves as the mechanism by which board members and other volunteers are involved in the fund-and-friend-raising efforts.

Assumptions of our Fund-and Friend-raising Program

Libertas Academy's resource development program is based on the following assumptions.

1. All members of the organization- the Board, staff, and volunteers- must embrace the idea of and play an active role in fund-and-fundraising efforts.
2. Successful fund-and-fundraising is based on the fostering of long-term relationships with foundations, individual donors, and corporations.
3. A balanced mix of consistent engagement strategies is key to our success.

III. Sources of Funding

Libertas Academy will pursue a diversified fundraising strategy across four primary revenue streams:

Revenue Source	FY27 Goal	Primary Strategy
Foundations	\$700,000	Multi-year and project-based grants focused on college persistence, alumni success, and postsecondary outcomes.
Corporate Partnerships & Sponsorships*	\$150,000	Corporate sponsorships, employee giving, and strategic partnerships. *This is considered separate from 10-Year Anniversary Celebration sponsorships.
Individual Giving	\$50,000	Major gifts, annual giving, individual cultivation, etc.
10-Year Anniversary Celebration	\$100,000	Sponsorships, ticket/table sales, and event-related giving.
Total	\$1,000,000	

IV. Constituent Engagement & Relationship Development

This plan identifies relationship-building as its core assumption: successful fundraising depends on long-term relationships with foundations, individuals, and corporations, supported by consistent engagement.

Key Engagement Strategies

Donor Cultivation

- Individual donor meetings
- Personalized school tours
- Student & alumni engagement
- Impact updates
- Invitations to school events
- Targeted fundraising communications

Foundation Engagement

- Introductory meetings
- Personalized school tours
- Program updates
- Grant reporting
- Relationship mapping
- Multi-year funding conversations

Corporate Engagement

- Sponsorship opportunities
- Employee engagement/volunteering
- School visits
- Career exposure opportunities
- 10-Year Anniversary Celebration Sponsorships
- Strategic partnerships connected to college and career success

Board Engagement

- Board prospect identification
- Introductions to potential donors
- Donor cultivation
- Personal giving
- Event attendance and hosting
- Stewardship of personal relationships

Donation Stewardship Framework

- **All donors:** timely thank-you + tax acknowledgment + impact communication
- **\$1K+:** personalized impact update + invitation to engagement opportunities
- **\$5K+:** personal leadership contact + school visit/tour + customized stewardship
- **\$10K+:** individualized impact reporting + leadership cultivation
- **\$25K+:** executive-level relationship management + customized reporting/recognition
- **\$50K+:** strategic partnership approach + multi-year funding conversation
- **\$100K+:** transformational partnership + customized impact reporting + leadership engagement

V. Annual Constituent Engagement & Development Calendar

Month	Development Priority	Key Activities
July	Stewardship	EOY Newsletter + thank yous; finalize FY26 grant calendar
August	Planning	Introduce FY27 college persistence priority; finalize annual development plan; send 10yr Save-the-Date; confirm 10yr goals, budget & fundraising target
September	Case for Support	Launch college persistence messaging; finalize gala sponsorship structure; develop 10yr narrative and initial sponsorship materials
October	Cultivation	Q1 Newsletter; identify potential honorees, speakers & sponsors for 10yr; begin 10yr sponsorship outreach; identify alumni/ student stories for 10yr
November	Giving Tuesday + 10-Year Sponsorships	Giving Tuesday campaign; continue 10yr sponsorship outreach; secure early sponsors; develop event program
December	Year-End Giving + 10yr Planning	Year-end solicitation; secure major 10yr sponsors; confirm 10yr logistics; continue 10yr program development
January	Campaign Momentum + 10yr Launch	\$1M campaign update; launch 10yr sponsorship campaign; finalize invitation + ticket strategy; develop 10yr materials
February	Foundation Push + 10yr Promotion	Q2 Newsletter; send 10yr invitations; continue 10yr sponsorship cultivation
March	10yr Planning + Major Gifts	Finalize 10yr logistics; continue sponsorship + ticket sales; secure auction/raffle support; follow up with major donors + foundations
April	10-Year Anniversary Celebration (April 10th)	Execute 10-Year Anniversary Celebration on April 10; celebrate students, alumni, staff, families, and partners; share the College Success Initiative; steward sponsors and attendees; Q3 Newsletter; SSD/Graduation invitations along with 10yr thank-yous; secure major stakeholder RSVPs for EOY events
May	SSD + EOY Event Promotion	Continue outreach for SSD and graduation;

		move new prospects from the 10yr celebration into ongoing cultivation; Senior Signing Day on May 27
June	Graduation + End-of-Year Close Out	Graduation on June 11; complete FY27 fundraising results; submit EOY grant reports; begin FY28 planning
July	Stewardship	EOY Newsletter + thank yous; finalize FY27 grant calendar

VI. Roles & Responsibilities

Development is an organizational responsibility. Below is an overview of the general roles and responsibilities of the Board, Development Committee, and Libertas Academy staff.

Board of Trustees

- Adopt a fundraising plan and set fundraising goals in accordance with the budget
- Make personal contributions
- Identify and introduce prospective donors
- Attend key fundraising and engagement events
- Support 10-Year Anniversary Celebration sponsorship and attendance
- Review progress towards the \$1M goal

Development Committee

- Advise on fundraising + development strategy
- Review the fundraising pipeline monthly
- Identify and cultivate prospective donors
- Participate in donor solicitations
- Support 10-Year Anniversary logistics planning and sponsorship
- Monitor progress toward annual development goals
- Report recommendations and progress to the Board

Executive Director

- Serve as a primary relationship-builder with major donors, foundations, and corporate partners
- Participate in major gift cultivation and solicitation
- Communicate organizational priorities and impact
- Serve as a key external ambassador for the College Success Initiative
- Support development strategy and case for support
- Engage Board members and leadership in fundraising

Director of External Affairs

- Create and manage the annual development plan and fundraising calendar
- Create and manage Development Committee agendas in Board OnTrack
- Manage the donor database
- Lead grant prospecting, applications, and reporting
- Coordinate donor meetings, tours, and engagement opportunities
- Develop fundraising materials and communications
- Lead the refinement of the College Success Initiative case for support
- Coordinate 10-Year Anniversary Celebration planning, publicity and execution
- Track and report fundraising metrics
- Partner with school leaders to gather impact stories and data
- Coordinate donor stewardship and recognition
- Develop funder-specific proposals and budgets aligned with initiative strategies

Vantage in Philanthropy

- Lead grant prospecting and support grant applications
- Support foundation and corporate relationship management
- Support the 10-Year Anniversary Celebration communications + stewardship

Coversheet

Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

Section:	II. Development
Item:	C. Ten Year Anniversary Celebration
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	10-Year Gala Sponsorship One-Pager_draft_10.5.26.pdf 10 Year Gala_ROS_draft_10.5.26.pdf



LIBERTAS ACADEMY

CHARTER SCHOOL

Dear Friends of Libertas Academy,

We welcome your early and important involvement in a Libertas Academy Charter School milestone event to celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2027!

On April 10th, 2027, ***A Decade of Roaring Excellence Gala*** will honor ten years of bold vision, extraordinary people, and student success while bringing the Libertas Academy and Greater Springfield community together in our new school building. Inspired by our Libertas Lion identity, this will be a vibrant *Roaring Twenties* fueled celebration of Libertas Academy accomplishments. This special event also funds opportunities for the next generation of Libertas students to embark on a rigorous college preparatory experience and a course set to and through college.

Please join us as a generous Gala Sponsor of this event that firmly establishes the Libertas Academy Alumni Advancement Fund so that our graduates have the support needed to complete their postsecondary education. The enclosed sponsorship levels and benefits for ***A Decade of Roaring Excellence Gala*** ensure that you are recognized in this Libertas Academy milestone and that your charitable support makes a lasting impact on Springfield students and families.

As you consider this sponsorship invitation, we are pleased to also enclose a fact sheet of ten years of mission impact, including that **Libertas Academy was named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Out of 1,800+ public schools across the state, Libertas is one of 56 schools to receive this distinction.**

This 10th anniversary event commemorates the successful blueprint of our public charter middle and high school and the dedication of the many teachers, students, families and partners who are building a community where today's scholars become tomorrow's leaders, role models and changemakers.

I personally look forward to welcoming you to ***A Decade of Roaring Excellence Gala***.

With gratitude and joy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Modesto', is placed over the printed name.

Modesto Montero-Forman
Founder & Executive Director



Ten years of growth have brought Libertas to an exciting new chapter—one where our community continues to raise the bar and our scholars continue to rise to meet it.

- **2026 School of Recognition:** Libertas was named one of 56 Schools of Recognition statewide, **placing us among approximately 3% of Massachusetts public schools** recognized by DESE for outstanding performance.
- **Top 30% of Massachusetts public schools:** Libertas ranked in the 71st percentile of all Massachusetts public schools for the 2025–26 school year.
- **Top statewide growth in Math & ELA:** Libertas ranked #3 in Massachusetts for Mathematics Student Growth and ELA Student Growth on the 2025–26 MCAS.
- **100% four-year college acceptance:** 100% of Class of 2026 graduates who applied to a four-year college were accepted.
- **Broad college access:** 60% of Class of 2026 graduates were accepted to seven or more four-year colleges.
- **Making college affordable:** 97% of Class of 2026 graduates attending a four-year college will pay less than \$10,000 per year.
- **A home built for our scholars:** In March 2025, Libertas moved into a new school building in downtown Springfield—built exclusively for Libertas.
- **On the court:** During the 2025 season, the Boys Varsity Basketball team earned the program's first-ever state tournament victory, advancing to the Round of 16.
- **On the parade route:** In March 2026, the Big Red Drumline earned Best Drumline honors at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- **Two graduating classes:** Libertas has now celebrated two graduating classes of 109 scholars, who are continuing their journey into college, careers, and beyond.

Celebrate the Journey. Invest in What's Next.

Graduation doesn't mean leaving the Libertas community—it means carrying the Libertas community forward into college, careers, and beyond. As we celebrate 10 years, help us ensure every Lion continues to have the support and opportunity to thrive through the Alumni Advancement Fund.

Support the Alumni Advancement Fund through this event.



A DECADE OF ROARING EXCELLENCE



Libertas Academy Charter School
April 10, 2027 | VIP Reception at 5PM

Sponsorship Opportunities

All sponsorship levels include event recognition, reserved seating, and VIP reception access with Libertas board members and senior leaders for sponsors and their guests.

Title Sponsor - \$25,000

- Name featured on all print and electronic marketing as "Presented by..."
 - 16 tickets and two reserved tables for 8
 - 6 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in the sponsor's preferred name
 - Invitation to make opening remarks
 - Press release and social media post recognizing sponsorship
 - Full page program advertisement
-

Valedictorian Sponsor - \$10,000

- 8 tickets and one reserved table for 8
 - 4 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in the sponsor's preferred name
 - Recognition during opening remarks
 - Social media post recognizing sponsorship
 - Full page program advertisement
-

Salutatorian Sponsor - \$5,000

- 4 tickets and half of a reserved table for 8
 - 2 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in the sponsor's preferred name
 - Half page program advertisement
-

Dean's List Sponsor - \$2,500

- 2 tickets and quarter of a reserved table for 8
 - 1 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in the sponsor's preferred name
 - Quarter page program advertisement
-

Honor Roll Sponsor - \$1,000

- 2 tickets and quarter of a reserved table for 8
- Program advertisement listing



A DECADE OF ROARING EXCELLENCE



Libertas Academy Charter School
April 10, 2027 | VIP Reception at 5PM

Select Your Sponsorship Commitment

Please fill out the information below to indicate the sponsorship level that you / your company would like to select in celebration of Libertas Academy's 10-year anniversary celebration.

☐ *Title Sponsor - \$25,000*

- Total tickets requested (up to 16): _____
- 6 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in this name: _____

☐ *Valedictorian Sponsor - \$10,000*

- Total tickets requested (up to 8): _____
- 4 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in this name: _____

☐ *Salutatorian Sponsor - \$5,000*

- Total tickets requested (up to 4): _____
- 2 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in this name: _____

☐ *Dean's List Sponsor - \$2,500*

- Total tickets requested (up to 2): _____
- 1 Alumni Advancement mini-grants given in this name: _____

☐ *Honor Roll Sponsor - \$1,000*

- Total tickets requested (up to 2): _____

I/we are unable to attend. Please find enclosed in the return envelope a tax deductible donation in the amount of: _____

Please make checks and other contributions payable to: Friends of Libertas Academy Charter School, Inc., with "Alumni Advancement Fund" in the memo line. For credit card purchases, please select your sponsorship online:

Contact Information

We will reach out upon receipt for details regarding guest names, event recognition, and logistics.

Name, Title, Business Name

Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Bucket	Time	Activity	Location	Owner	Details
VIP Reception	5:00	VIP reception opens	Main Entrance Pride Cafe		- Guests check in at the main office desk < scanning system + backup clipboards > - Coats checked in front of the conference room < folks given coat ticket > - VIPs directed towards the Pride Cafe
VIP Reception	5:00 - 5:40	Networking, drinks, alumni/student interaction	Main Entrance Pride Cafe		- Participants: SLT, Board, \$1K+ sponsors, select alumni + students - Open bar and appetizers available - Alumni and student circulate - Speakers + playlist providing background energy
VIP Reception	5:40 - 5:55	VIP Remarks + Persistence Grant Stories	Pride Cafe	Modesto	- Modesto welcomes VIP guests and briefing frames the evening and the importance of investing students beyond graduation - 1 alumni who received a persistence grant shares a 2-3 minute story about how the grant supported their first year of college - 1 current senior shares a 2-3 minute reflection on how a persistence grant could support their transition to college - Modesto closes by thanking guests for the partnership + support
VIP Reception	5:55 - 6:25	Continued networking, drinks, alumni/student interaction	Pride Cafe		- Open bar and appetizers continue - Alumni + student circulate and engagement guests - Speakers + playlist continue - Staff begin preparing for VIP transition to gym at 6:25
VIP Reception	6:25	VIPs transition to gym	Pride Cafe	Emma	- Emma announces transition and directs VIP guests to gymnasium - VIPs find assigned seats - Emma confirms VIP seating, stage, AV, dinner setup, and guest arrival are ready
Main Event	6:30	General admission opens	Main Entrance LA Hallway Gymnasium		- Guests check in at the main office desk < scanning system + backup clipboards > - Coats checked in front of the conference room < folks given coat ticket > - Staff directs guests toward gym, bar, appetizers, photo opportunities, and raffle items
Main Event	6:30 - 7:00	Cocktails, appetizers, photos, timeline, seating	Main Entrance LA Hallway Gymnasium		- Press is stationed at designated backdrop near loading dock entrance and interviews pre-identified guests - Cash bar/s open inside gym - Seating chart is prominently displayed at gym entrance - Tables are fully set with silverware, glassware, water, napkins, and programs - High tops strategically placed with cocktail napkins - Cheerleaders circulate with raffle ticket sales < venmo or cash > - Stage and AV are ready - Sliddeck with sponsor information runs continuously - DJ playing soft background music
Main Event	7:00	Everyone seated	Gymnasium	Emma	- Emma makes microphone announcement asking guests to take their seats - Event team confirms door/entry areas are cleared and all guests are seated before program begins
Main Event	7:00 - 7:10	Welcome / dinner instructions	Gymnasium	Hector	- Emcee takes stage, welcomes guests, introduces himself, and briefly previews the evening - Emcee provides clear instructions for dinner service and directs guests to assigned buffet stations
Main Event	7:10 - 7:50	Dinner + 10-Year slidedeck	Gymnasium		- Guests get dinner and begin eating - 10-Year slideshow runs continuously throughout dinner - DJ playing soft background music - Emcee/Emma monitors timing and prepares guests for transition to program
Main Event	7:50 - 7:55	Anniversary Video	Gymnasium		- Lights dim, anniversary video plays - Brief hold for reaction/ applause before lights come up
Main Event	7:55 - 8:15	Opening Remarks	Gymnasium		- Lights come up - Emcee returns to stage and welcomes guests into the formal anniversary program - Emcee recognizes and thanks sponsors, board members, and elected officials in attendance. **if elected officials are present, brief remarks occur here - Emcee introduces Modesto - Modesto shares the founding story, reflects on Libertas' first 10 years, and transitions into the Community Conversation
Main Event	8:15 - 8:40	Community Conversation	Gymnasium		- As Modesto takes his seat, emcee introduces the remaining participants: major funders, 1 alumni, 1 student, 1 parent, 1 leader, and 1 teacher - Conversation is structured around three themes: the beginning, the impact, and the next 10 years - Emcee acts as moderator to keep responses concise and manage transitions
Main Event	8:40 - 8:50	10 Years of Service + Modesto recognition	Gymnasium		- Modesto presents 10 Years of Service awards (brief and personal recognition) - Patrick presents award honoring Modesto - Time for applause and photographs
Main Event	8:50 - 9	Former board chairs + next 10 years	Gymnasium		- Patrick stays on stage, emcee invites all other former board chairs to the stage < Kwame, Lauren, Kari > - Kwame opens with brief reflection on Libertas' early years - Other former chairs offer brief reflections - Patrick closes by connecting Libertas' first decade to the vision for the next 10 years - Emcee officially transitions the evening into celebration!
Main Event	9 - 10PM	Dance Party	Gymnasium		- DJ begins once queued by emcee - Cash bar remains open until 9:45 - Event team begins discreet end-of-night cleanup/prep while maintaining guest experience