

In The Matter Of:

*DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL*

February 18, 2020

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ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

FEBRUARY 18, 2020
10:00 a.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

PANEL MEMBERS (IN PERSON):

DR. IVY PFEFFER	Chairperson/DESE Deputy Commissioner
MR. GREG ROGERS	DESE Asst. Commissioner - Fiscal and Admin. Services
MS. TOYCE NEWTON	Past State Board of Ed. Member
DR. ANGELA KREMERS	Deputy Director - CTE, Dept. of Career Ed.

PANEL MEMBERS (VIA TELEPHONE):

DR. NACCAMAN WILLIAMS Past State Board of Ed. Member

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT DESE Attorney

ALSO APPEARING:

MS. TRACY WEBB	DESE Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support
MS. KELLY McLAUGHLIN	DESE Public School Program Advisor

LOCATION:

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Auditorium
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas

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E X H I B I T S

A-4: HOT SPRINGS JUNIOR ACADEMY

EXHIBIT ONE (1)
 Desegregation Analysis

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning, everyone. We are going to call the February 18, 2020 Charter Authorizing Panel meeting to order. Thank you for all being here.

We have a few members missing today, but we do have Dr. Williams with us by phone, and we have Ms. Newton, Mr. Rogers, and Dr. Kremers here for the meeting.

So before we get started with our Consent Agenda I was going to see if any of our members had any updates they wanted to report or share anything, any visits that they've done, or new information?

Okay. So seeing none, we'll go ahead and move on to the approval of the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: We have our minutes from our December meeting on the Consent Agenda. So if you've had time to review those, I will entertain a motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

DR. KREMERS: Second.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I have a motion and a second to approve.

1 All those in favor say "aye."

2 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. The Consent Agenda is
4 approved.

5 ACTION AGENDA

6 A-1: 2020 OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So we will go ahead and move
8 on to our Action Agenda today. And Ms. Webb, I
9 believe, will present our first Action Agenda item.

10 MS. WEBB: Good morning. Tracy Webb, Charter
11 Office.

12 The first item on the agenda is the Open-
13 Enrollment Charter Application. So the application
14 has been updated with, of course, the new year. The
15 questions have remained the same on the application;
16 the only thing we've changed is the format. So in
17 the past we've had the CERT Committee -- or any
18 feedback that was given from ADE units was recorded
19 in there, and then the responses from the applicant
20 were also recorded -- or sometimes it was put on a
21 separate sheet and not recorded within the document.
22 So what we're trying to do is just make this a very
23 clean document so when they come to you and to the
24 State Board that you know exactly what they're asking
25 for and it doesn't have all the back-and-forth in it.

1 So that's what we hope to do.

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Do any Panel Members
3 -- do you have any questions about the application or
4 any of the changes made?

5 (A MOMENT OF SILENCE)

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I did want to ask a question
7 because I know a few times over the last year some of
8 the -- when we've gotten the applications there have
9 been several unresolved issues, and even to the point
10 where we've actually had maybe Legal come up and try
11 to clear up all the concerns before we even got into
12 questions for the applicant. Do you think that this
13 process is going to assist with that or should we --
14 are there any other considerations or recommendations
15 that we might be able to consider? Because I think
16 probably everyone has been frustrated at times. I
17 know even in one meeting Ms. Newton just -- we went
18 ahead and decided we needed to not go on with
19 consideration because the application itself --

20 MS. WEBB: Sure.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- even -- and I know the
22 work that your team puts into it. So, I'm wanting to
23 know how we might help?

24 MS. WEBB: Our goal this year is to meet with
25 those applicants individually -- instead of just

1 doing it through email, sending the information back
2 and forth, where sometimes really the meaning is not
3 conveyed a hundred-percent. So we hope to have a
4 meeting with each one of those applicants for open-
5 enrollment and district conversion to go over all
6 that feedback from ADE units and discuss that with
7 Legal involved; so that way, you know, we get to work
8 with them one-on-one and it's not back-and-forth in
9 email or text.

10 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any other comments or
11 thoughts about that?

12 Okay. Well, if there aren't any questions or
13 discussion, I guess we would need to make a motion to
14 approve the new -- the updated application.

15 MS. WEBB: Yes. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Do I have a motion?

17 MS. NEWTON: I do. I move to approve.

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion from
19 Ms. Newton.

20 DR. WILLIAMS: I move.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: A second from Dr. Williams.

22 All those in favor say "aye."

23 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

24 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. The application has
25 been accepted for the 2020 -- that was for the open-

1 enrollment.

2 A-2: 2020 DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So item number two
4 then.

5 MS. WEBB: So same thing with the District
6 Conversion Charter Application. The questions have
7 remained the same; it's just the format that is
8 changed. And so, again, we will -- our intention is
9 to meet with each of those applicants individually
10 prior to coming to the CAP meeting so we can discuss
11 all the feedback from ADE units, as well as Legal.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any questions or
13 discussion on that topic?

14 All right. If not, we can have a motion to
15 approve.

16 DR. KREMERS: I move to approve the District
17 Conversion Application.

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

19 MS. NEWTON: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I have a motion and a second.
21 All those in favor say "aye."

22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you.

24 Those two items have been approved.

25 A-3: REQUEST FOR OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT:

1 HAAS HALL ACADEMY

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So we are at number three, an
3 amendment request for Haas Hall Academy. Ms. Hyatt,
4 you are recognized.

5 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt with the Division.

6 We received notice from Haas Hall this morning
7 that they wish to pull their amendment request from
8 the agenda for consideration today; so they're not
9 here.

10 It doesn't take a motion or anything, but since
11 we didn't have time to update the agenda it will be
12 pulled. And we'll notify the Panel if they resubmit
13 it for a future date.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

15 A-4: REQUEST FOR OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: HOT
16 SPRINGS JUNIOR ACADEMY

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we are moving on to
18 item number four, which is an amendment request from
19 Hot Springs Junior High Academy. Ms. McLaughlin, you
20 are recognized.

21 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Kelly McLaughlin
22 with the Charter Office.

23 Our action item four is Hot Springs Junior

24 Academy. On October 21, 2016, the Charter

25 Authorizing Panel approved the application for Hot

1 Springs Junior Academy. It is approved to serve
2 students in grades 7 and 8 with a maximum enrollment
3 of 600. We do have representatives of Hot Springs
4 Junior Academy appearing before the Charter
5 Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the
6 current charter.

7 Just as a reminder, they will have 20 minutes to
8 make their presentation. If there's any opposition,
9 they also have 20 minutes. And then the District has
10 5 minutes for rebuttal.

11 We do have Taryn Echols, Assistant
12 Superintendent, and Natasha Lenox, Principal here.
13 And you will want to swear them in.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So will all
15 representatives of the charter and anyone speaking in
16 opposition please stand to receive the oath? If you
17 will raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm
18 that the testimony you're about to give shall be the
19 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

20 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. You -- go ahead and
22 come on up. You have 20 minutes to make your
23 presentation. And if you'll state your name and
24 title for the record, you'll be recognized.

25 MS. ECHOLS: Sure. I'm Taryn Echols, Assistant

1 Superintendent, Hot Springs School District. And I
2 have with me -- there she is -- Natasha Lenox,
3 Principal, Hot Springs Junior Academy.

4 And so our amendment request today comes for
5 Grade Configurations.

6 Currently, the Junior Academy campus serves
7 grades 7 and 8. We passed a millage in 2016, and we
8 are nearing the end of our completion of all the
9 projects for that millage. Part of that millage was
10 a 7-8-9 Junior Academy campus. And so what we're
11 asking for to the current Junior Academy conversion
12 charter is to change the grade configuration from 7-8
13 to 7-8-9. 10-11-12 will stay with our Hot Springs
14 World Class High School; they will move from 9-12 to
15 10-11-12. Our goal in the District is for all of our
16 students to leave with a value-added diploma and we
17 feel that moving our students, three on one campus
18 and three on another campus, will better help us
19 serve our students that we have currently.

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

21 MS. ECHOLS: And that's all I have.

22 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And is -- there's not
23 anyone here in opposition, is there?

24 MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)

25 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. So if

1 you're ready for questions --

2 MS. ECHOLS: Sure.

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- we can go ahead.

4 Ms. Hyatt, is there anything that you need us to
5 consider before questions?

6 MS. HYATT: It's nothing big. I accidentally
7 omitted the desegregation analysis from the agenda,
8 so I have copies for everyone. There were no
9 concerns. But because you're required to look at
10 that if they're adding a campus, I have it for you;
11 so I'm going to pass it out to you guys. But no
12 concerns.

13 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you.

14 (WHEREUPON, A-4 Exhibit One (1), the
15 Desegregation Analysis, was marked for identification
16 and entered into the record.)

17 Well, let's start with questions. Ms. Newton,
18 do you have any questions --

19 MS. NEWTON: No, I don't.

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- for the District?

21 Mr. Rogers?

22 MR. ROGERS: Nothing.

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Kremers, do you
24 have any questions?

25 DR. KREMERS: No questions.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Williams?

2 DR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I do. This is more just to
3 get the -- just a little background in their
4 thinking. I notice the recent trend has been for
5 high schools, at least here in northwest Arkansas, to
6 move the 9th grade to the high school, that campus.
7 And I notice this is kind of -- I think this is a
8 good move. A lot of times the enrollment is based on
9 -- facilities drive that sometimes. What is the
10 thought process behind shifting -- I mean, let me get
11 this right now -- moving the 9th grade down to the
12 junior high, whereas a lot of times the shift that's
13 being -- is having the 9th grade on a high school
14 campus?

15 MS. ECHOLS: So the good thing about our
16 conversion charter is the location of the new Junior
17 Academy campus is adjacent to the high school; so the
18 students really will have a fluid opportunity to move
19 from campus to campus as 9th graders. We do have
20 several students that are going to be enrolled in our
21 IB diploma program and our NYP program, and so those
22 students will take courses still at the high school
23 campus. Some of our PE courses and elective courses
24 will be offered at our high school campus. So the
25 grade configuration will be 7-9, but students will be

1 able to take courses at our high school. So what
2 we're planning here is kind of what in turn will be a
3 super-campus. Grades 7-12 will be adjacent to each
4 other, but 9th grade students will have the ability
5 to be fluid across both campuses.

6 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Ms. Echols, is -- so it looks
8 like the 9th grade is really the one that will --

9 MS. ECHOLS: Yes, ma'am.

10 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- see the biggest change --

11 MS. ECHOLS: Yes, ma'am.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- going from, you know,
13 strictly being high school to the junior high. What
14 -- are there any other, you know, kind of big changes
15 that the 9th graders will see? Are there like any
16 different supports that will be put in place for
17 them?

18 MS. ECHOLS: We are going to do -- make sure
19 that we do a really good job of educating our 9th
20 grade students, that will be 9th graders next year,
21 about what it means to be a 9th grader. Because
22 oftentimes, when you go to a high school campus that
23 starts with 10th grade sometimes the 9th grade misses
24 out on the credit pieces and the important pieces of
25 what happens to your transcript when you actually

1 become a 9th grader. So we are going to add some
2 additional supports from our current high school
3 counseling staff to help train and support our two
4 counselors at our Junior Academy to make sure that
5 they're fully supportive of what needs to happen to
6 the 9th graders on that campus. We also are adding
7 some additional pieces during the enrichment time
8 that they currently have on the schedule -- it's two
9 days, 45 minutes a day -- that both of our campuses
10 have an enrichment time. But we're going to add some
11 pieces at the 9th grade level to make sure that we
12 provide wraparound supports for our 9th grade
13 students.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. I've been
15 able to see the construction so far; so it looks
16 pretty impressive. I'm not sure which --

17 MS. ECHOLS: It's very impressive.

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- which campus that I was
19 really looking at, but it's really exciting.

20 MS. ECHOLS: They're right beside each other. I
21 looked at the last construction report over the
22 weekend and they're pretty much almost done with the
23 classroom wing of the building. It's three-story.
24 We actually have kind of a model class in there where
25 there's a partition in between the second level and

1 the third level, and so they can team teach two
2 classes at one time; so we'll really be able to do
3 some cross-curricular instruction on that campus. So
4 we're very excited about it -- very, very excited for
5 our students to have the opportunity to have a new
6 building. I'm very excited for Ms. Lenox to open a
7 new campus because it's very rare that you get the
8 opportunity to do that in education, to open a new
9 building. So, I'm very excited for our community and
10 our students.

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Panel Members, any
12 other questions?

13 DR. WILLIAMS: Just another thought. Given the
14 proximity of the two campuses, the lower grades will
15 be clearly delineated from the high school; there
16 won't be any -- I know you mentioned that the 9th
17 grade would be able to go back and forth, which makes
18 sense, for the courses they'll be taking. But the --
19 what's the grade levels -- 7 through 9, will it be
20 pretty clear that the 7th and 8th grade would be
21 separated from the high school?

22 MS. ECHOLS: Yes, sir. The way that they've
23 done the building is 7th grade is going to be on the
24 top floor; 8th grade primarily is going to be on the
25 2nd floor; and our 9th grade courses -- classes in

1 the Junior Academy building are located on the bottom
2 floor, and so they will have access to the high
3 school. But 7th and 8th graders won't have that same
4 access.

5 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. ECHOLS: Uh-huh.

7 DR. WILLIAMS: Oh, one other thought. What's
8 your total enrollment between the two buildings?

9 MS. ECHOLS: Oh, total enrollment between the
10 two buildings will be about 12- to 1300.

11 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. All right. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Hyatt.

13 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt with the Division.

14 Just one thing I forgot to say while I was up
15 here -- on the Junior Academy's request, one of the
16 things that they've listed is a continued waiver of
17 Oral Communications paired with Civics. I believe
18 that's a course embedding and that's done through an
19 approval process through Mr. Coy's office. So that
20 wouldn't be a waiver in the traditional sense that
21 we're thinking about; that's just the approval
22 through Mr. Coy's office. So I don't think that it
23 needs to be listed on the amendment request today
24 since they have that approval through a separate
25 avenue. So if we could -- if I'm understanding

1 correctly, then if we could just remove that from
2 this amendment request.

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Can you confirm if
4 you're willing to do that?

5 I'm having trouble getting my application packet
6 to pull up. I've had trouble with my internet today.

7 MS. HYATT: Here's a copy.

8 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So, were there any other like
9 new waivers that were on there?

10 MS. ECHOLS: No, ma'am.

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So will you-all pursue
12 the embedded --

13 MS. ECHOLS: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- course through --

15 MS. ECHOLS: Yes, ma'am. We have it right now
16 in 9th grade. It's a course called Citizenship
17 Seminar.

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

19 MS. ECHOLS: And so it's a semester course where
20 students get their Oral Comm. and Civics credit
21 through that half-semester course. And so we do plan
22 on continuing to offer that with our 9th grade
23 students at the Junior Academy.

24 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So you do not need a
25 waiver from offering that course; correct?

1 MS. ECHOLS: No, ma'am.

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. So if
3 there's no other questions, then if we have a motion
4 to approve the amendment request --

5 DR. WILLIAMS: So moved.

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Motion by Dr.
7 Williams.

8 MR. ROGERS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Second by Mr. Rogers.
10 All those in favor say "aye."

11 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Congratulations, and
13 your junior high amendment request has been approved.

14 A-5: REQUEST FOR OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: HOT
15 SPRINGS WORLD CLASS HIGH SCHOOL

16 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And we will go ahead and move
17 to the last item on our Action Agenda, which is an
18 amendment request for the Hot Springs High School.
19 So --

20 MS. NEWTON: Can we approve both of those
21 together with the voting sheet?

22 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. Well,
23 we can do both of those -- I think we can do both of
24 those at the same time --

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- since it's the same
2 district. I mean this is --

3 If I'm understanding correctly, Ms. McLaughlin,
4 this is just now for the high school; correct?

5 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We'll let you go ahead
7 and -- but we can record our votes at the same time.

8 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Okay. Item 5 is Hot Springs
9 World Class High School.

10 On November 19, 2015, the Charter Authorizing
11 Panel approved the application for the high school.
12 The charter is approved to serve students in grades
13 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 1200.

14 And we do have Ms. Echols here to make the
15 presentation, and also Kiley Simms, Principal.

16 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Echols, you are
17 recognized.

18 MS. ECHOLS: So consistent on what I talked to
19 you all about with the configurations for the Junior
20 Academy, we're just looking to change the charter
21 configuration for the high school to 10-12 from 9-12
22 to keep the fluid campus that we have. So it will be
23 two separate campuses, but they're fluid beside each
24 other, but we need to change the configurations for
25 both 7-9 for the Junior Academy and 10-12 for the

1 high school.

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So your enrollment for
3 the high school on the application, it looks like
4 you've listed 1200?

5 MS. ECHOLS: That was the maximum capacity at 9-
6 12. So right now we have about 950 students 9-12; so
7 that will go down some once we move a grade level to
8 the Junior Academy.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

10 MS. ECHOLS: It will go down about 250 students.

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So when Dr. Williams
12 asked that question a minute ago, it made me catch
13 that. So, on the junior high maximum enrollment you
14 had 600 listed on the application. Is that going to
15 be sufficient for the junior high numbers?

16 MS. LENOX: 470 now.

17 MS. ECHOLS: So add 250 more -- we probably will
18 have to change that.

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Ms. Hyatt, we -- I just
20 noticed that. I think maybe that was something on
21 the application that maybe didn't get changed,
22 because the high school number stated 1200 and the
23 junior high, if I'm not mistaken, 600. So I don't
24 want them to get caught into a situation where we've
25 approved something that --

1 MS. HYATT: What I -- I think the cleanest thing
2 to do would be go ahead and hear the high school and
3 vote on the high school. And then we can go back and
4 add an enrollment increase to the middle school
5 through a separate motion, if that needs to be done.

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Sorry we didn't catch
7 that a minute ago --

8 MS. ECHOLS: That's okay.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- when Dr. Williams was
10 asking --

11 MS. ECHOLS: Well, we should've caught that
12 coming in.

13 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- that question.

14 So, okay. Let's look -- do you have any
15 questions then about the high school?

16 MS. NEWTON: No, I don't.

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No questions?

18 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Mr. Rogers and Dr.
19 Kremers indicated no questions.)

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Williams, did you
21 have a high school question?

22 DR. WILLIAMS: Sorry, I was on mute.

23 No. No questions for the high school. It flows
24 in line with the junior high request.

25 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Very good.

1 If -- Ms. Coffman looks like she's -- she may
2 have something we need to look at.

3 MS. COFFMAN: Deborah Coffman, Public School
4 Accountability.

5 Just for the record, we did send an email to
6 Superintendent Nehus and said that with the change
7 from 7-8 to 7-9 that there is a potential
8 accountability impact for both Hot Springs Junior
9 High Academy and Hot Springs World Class High School,
10 because there potentially can be a graduation rate
11 now at the junior high because of the 9th grade
12 class. We received a response that, "Yes, I fully
13 understand the accountability changes that will take
14 place."

15 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you.

16 Okay. So since we don't have any questions I
17 will entertain a motion to approve the amendment
18 request for the high school.

19 MR. ROGERS: Motion for the amendment request
20 for the high school.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Rogers made a motion to
22 approve.

23 DR. KREMERS: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And a second.

25 All those in favor say "aye."

1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Congratulations. It
3 was unanimously approved.

4 A-4: HOT SPRINGS JUNIOR ACADEMY (continuation)

5 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Now let's go back to the
6 junior high request.

7 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt with the Division.

8 I don't think you need to rescind your previous
9 action. I think if the representatives from the
10 school will just tell you what they need their
11 enrollment increase to look like you can just make a
12 motion to improve -- approve -- excuse me -- the
13 enrollment increase as they state.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Do you have a request
15 for us?

16 MS. ECHOLS: Yes. So we would like to request
17 to increase the number to 800 --

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

19 MS. ECHOLS: -- from the 600 that it's currently
20 at.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Are there any
22 questions or discussion about the request to increase
23 the number at the junior high to accommodate the LEA
24 change?

25 Okay. No questions. Do I have a motion to

1 approve?

2 DR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I have a question. I'm
3 sorry; it took me a minute to think through this.

4 Now you're moving the 9th -- all of the 9th
5 grade is coming down to the junior high. Never-mind.
6 I was thinking the opposite. No question.

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Keep us in check, Dr.
8 Williams.

9 Okay. So if there aren't any questions, do I
10 have a motion to approve?

11 DR. KREMERS: Move to approve.

12 MR. ROGERS: Move to approve.

13 DR. WILLIAMS: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

15 MS. NEWTON: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I have a motion and a second.
17 All those in favor say "aye."

18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. We have
20 unanimous approval.

21 MS. ECHOLS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And thank you for being here.

23 And thanks everyone for helping us to think
24 through. We'll go ahead and record responses for
25 both item A-4 and A-5 in the online system.

1 DR. KREMERS: Do we need to note anything on
2 these for that approval?

3 MS. HYATT: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

4 DR. KREMERS: Do we need to notate any of that
5 on our voting sheet for the last piece?

6 MS. HYATT: You can enter for all three motions,
7 just one response. That'll be fine. That covers all
8 three since it was part of the same kind of plan.

9 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

10 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We'll just let each
11 Panel Member speak to all three motions that we just
12 approved when you -- that way, you don't have to talk
13 three different times.

14 So, Dr. Kremers.

15 DR. KREMERS: I approve all three motions. No
16 concerns for the reconfiguration for the best flow of
17 students within your facilities.

18 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Rogers.

19 MR. ROGERS: I voted for all three motions. I
20 had no concerns at this time with them.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Ms. Newton.

22 MS. NEWTON: I also voted to approve, with the
23 explanation being the reconfiguration would serve to
24 positively affect educational access.

25 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And Dr. Williams.

1 DR. WILLIAMS: I support all three motions. The
2 amendment allows the District flexibility needed for
3 the 9th grade students' education.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Well, congratulations.
5 And I know you're looking forward to the new
6 facilities and we look forward to those opportunities
7 for your students.

8 MS. ECHOLS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So that was the last
10 item on our agenda. Is that correct?

11 MS. WEBB: Yes.

12 NEW BUSINESS

13 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I wanted to check with
14 Panel Members. I know -- I think it was in November,
15 Ms. Webb, when you provided the update on open-
16 enrollment charters and overall performance. I don't
17 know that we ever get kind of a report on district
18 conversion charters. So I was going to check with
19 the Panel Members to see if there was interest in, at
20 our next meeting, just kind of getting an overview
21 with district conversion charters, like we'd had with
22 the open-enrollments. Is that something you would
23 like them to prepare?

24 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Panel Members
25 indicating yes.)

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So it does look like
2 that is something -- is there -- were you comfortable
3 with the format from the last time, or is there
4 additional information that you would find to be
5 helpful?

6 DR. KREMERS: It was helpful. No suggestions.

7 MR. ROGERS: (inaudible)

8 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. And,
9 again, it can be, you know, kind of a high-level
10 overview that just gives us some thoughts as to
11 whether or not, you know, there -- you know, what
12 questions we might have or things we might need to
13 consider for future district conversion requests.

14 So, okay. Ms. Webb, when is our next meeting
15 and what do we need to be thinking about?

16 MS. WEBB: Tracy Webb, Charter Unit.

17 Our next meeting is scheduled for March 17th. I
18 don't know that we've always had a March meeting, so
19 it may be that we do not need to have one in March
20 and we can move to April.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

22 MS. WEBB: Currently, I don't think we have
23 anything that's been submitted for the meeting --
24 requests.

25 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we'll go ahead and

1 leave the March meeting on the schedule for now.

2 At what point would we decide whether or not,
3 for ease of people making other plans, if needed?

4 MS. WEBB: If we haven't had anything submitted
5 in the next -- by this week, I would think it would
6 be okay to cancel that meeting and wait till April if
7 anything else --

8 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So you'll just be in
9 touch with us as -- if there's going to be any change
10 to the March date?

11 MS. WEBB: I will.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Does that sound good
13 to everyone?

14 Okay. All right. Is there any other business
15 that we need to consider today?

16 ADJOURNMENT

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Well, if not, I will
18 accept a motion to adjourn.

19 MS. NEWTON: Move to adjourn.

20 DR. WILLIAM: So moved.

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Got a motion and a
22 second.

23 And I'm assuming all are in favor?

24 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AFFIRMATION)

25 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. If anyone is opposed,

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please let me know.

All right. Thank you. We are adjourned.

(The meeting was concluded at 10:31 a.m.)

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A-4: HOT SPRINGS JUNIOR ACADEMY

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter Authorizing Panel, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on February 18, 2020, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: February 22, 2020.

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
 Certificate No. 670

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