

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL
MAY 19, 2020

(Via Zoom/Livestream due to Covid-19)

A P P E A R A N C E S

PANEL MEMBERS:

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. NACCAMAN WILLIAMS	Past State Board of Ed. Member
MR. PHIL BALDWIN	CEO, Citizens Bank
DR. ANGELA KREMERS	Deputy Director - CTE/Ark. Dept. of Career Ed.

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
MR. FREDDIE SCOTT	DESE Operations Manager

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 10:36 a.m.

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PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning, everyone.

Today is May 19th, and the Charter Authorizing Panel meeting is now called to order. I'd like to welcome everyone. It looks like we've got a fairly small group here this morning and -- to go through our agenda today.

I think that since this is our second time of hosting the meeting virtually I think we're pretty well prepared for everything. But just in case, are there any questions?

Ms. Webb, we have -- it looks like we have everyone here except for Ms. Newton. Is that correct?

MS. WEBB: Yes, ma'am. And I didn't get an email from her at any point, so I'm really not sure if she's going to be here or not.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So let me make sure I've got my agenda pulled up.

Okay. So let's go through and just do a roll-call really quickly to check everyone's sound, and if we've got any technical difficulties we can make adjustments.

All right. So, Mr. Rogers.

MR. ROGERS: Yes, ma'am.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Coming in clear.

2 Dr. Kremers.

3 DR. KREMERS: I'm here. Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning.

5 Dr. Williams.

6 DR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Baldwin.

8 MR. BALDWIN: Yes, I'm here. Good morning.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning.

10 All right. And just to check -- Ms. Newton.

11 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. So if she
13 does join, if someone wants to send me a message or
14 something in case we're in the middle, we'll just --
15 we'll make a note of that.

16 **CONSENT AGENDA**

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we'll go ahead and
18 get started with the consent agenda from the last
19 meeting. And if you've had a chance to review that,
20 are there any questions about the consent agenda?

21 Okay. And if there are no questions, if we have
22 a motion to approve the consent agenda we'll take
23 one.

24 MR. ROGERS: So moved.

25 DR. WILLIAMS: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion and a
2 second to approve the consent agenda.

3 All those in favor say aye.

4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

5 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So the consent agenda
6 is approved.

7 **A-1: REQUEST FOR OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT:**
8 **HAAS HALL ACADEMY**

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And we will now move on to
10 our action agenda, and we have -- first on the action
11 agenda is the request for an amendment to Haas Hall
12 Academy's open-enrollment charter school. Let's see.
13 We have -- I think I saw, yes, Superintendent Dr.
14 Schoppmeyer on Zoom, it looks like.

15 SUPT. DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am. Good
16 morning.

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning. Good morning.

18 So we need to go ahead and swear in any
19 representative of the charter and -- do we have
20 anybody in opposition --

21 MS. McLAUGHLIN: No.

22 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- Ms. Hyatt? Okay. All
23 right.

24 So, Dr. Schoppmeyer, if you will raise your
25 right hand we'll swear in. Do you swear or affirm

1 that the testimony you're about to give shall be the
2 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

3 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. So for our
5 procedures you will have 20 minutes to do a
6 presentation on your amendment request. And then we
7 will have an opportunity to ask questions.

8 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: All right. Thank you very
9 much.

10 Haas Hall Academy is asking that we take the
11 Bentonville charter and put it in with the
12 Fayetteville charter. We want to streamline our
13 policies and procedures, streamline our governance
14 structure. It would help in eSchool and eFinance as
15 far as bank reconciliation, cycle reports, and
16 payroll -- just do it once, not do it twice -- and so
17 record requests for scholars could be in one
18 centralized location instead of at two.

19 Bentonville Haas Hall Academy is ranked the
20 number 8th high school in the state -- in the
21 country, and number 1 in Arkansas, according to U.S.
22 News and World Report. And Haas Hall Academy/
23 Fayetteville is ranked 36th in the nation and ranked
24 number 2 in the state of Arkansas.

25 So we'd like to go ahead and combine the two and

1 have -- stop the duplication of duties for everybody
2 and go ahead and just streamline it down into one.

3 That's all I have.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So since we have no
5 one in opposition we will go ahead and open up for
6 questions. So [cough] -- excuse me -- Dr. Kremers,
7 I'll start with you.

8 DR. KREMERS: I didn't have any questions.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Baldwin.

11 MR. BALDWIN: Yes, really just one question. It
12 sounds like a reasonable request. And I guess I was
13 just curious in this world that we live in now with
14 the pandemic how that affects this with any -- and I
15 know this may not even be on point to your request,
16 but just a curiosity question about plans for opening
17 school back when that time comes.

18 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Supt. Schoppmeyer and
19 his attorney, Mark Henry, speak together briefly.)

20 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: We're consistent across all
21 campuses through eLearning and do live instruction,
22 and then we also have packets that we deliver to
23 scholars as well. So we're -- it's not going to
24 affect our ability to educate any scholars. As far
25 as reopening in the fall, we'll follow the Governor's

1 initiative and go with whatever he says.

2 MR. HENRY: Please track a day in the life right
3 now with your students.

4 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Sure. A day in the life of
5 Haas Hall right now is we have classes at 8:00, 9:00,
6 10:00, and 11:00, and there's about a 20-minute
7 timeframe where each faculty member does a live
8 instruction, and then there's time built in to get
9 help with homework or any other assignments that
10 they're working on. So we're able to get together
11 and do live instruction every day.

12 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Supt. Schoppmeyer and a
13 female in his office speak together briefly.)

14 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Teachers are also -- have
15 built-in hours from 12:00 to 2:00 every day so they
16 can help any scholar that has any kind of assistance
17 issue that they need. We're going to hopefully get
18 Candace or Schoology as our platform and start
19 utilizing that this coming year so that we have an
20 online platform that'll be consistent across all four
21 campuses as far as how you log in, those kinds of
22 things.

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Baldwin, did you
24 have additional questions?

25 MR. BALDWIN: No, that was good. Thank you.

1 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Rogers.

3 MR. ROGERS: I just wanted to know with this
4 amendment request, when would this charter have come
5 up for renewal?

6 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: This calendar year.

7 MR. ROGERS: So when will the renewal be now?

8 MS. WEBB: 2022 is the expiration for their
9 Fayetteville campus.

10 MR. ROGERS: So why was the need -- what was the
11 need for the amendment right now if it was coming up
12 for renewal? I don't -- I guess I'm just trying to
13 understand the timeline.

14 MS. HYATT: I think, just to clarify, the
15 renewal it expires June 30, 2020. So they should
16 have -- if they were going to participate in the
17 renewal cycle, they should have submitted an
18 application last year for a renewal hearing in
19 December. They chose not to submit a renewal
20 application and instead submitted this amendment
21 request to merge the campuses after December. We got
22 the amendment request sometime this month. So if the
23 amendment request is not approved, they don't have a
24 renewal application and they didn't do a renewal
25 hearing, so the charter will expire on June 30th.

1 MR. ROGERS: Of this year?

2 MS. HYATT: Yes.

3 MR. ROGERS: Why was the renewal not done?

4 MS. HYATT: That would be a question for them.

5 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: We intended to merge the two
6 -- the campuses together all along. In fact, we
7 talked about this for years and decided it was an
8 opportune time to do it once the charter was going to
9 come up, that we could go ahead and take care of it
10 at that time.

11 MR. ROGERS: But you didn't file the renewal, so
12 you were counting on knowing how we were going to --
13 we were just going to approve it? I guess that's
14 what I'm worried -- what I'm trying to figure out.

15 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: We were not taking it for
16 granted. No, sir. We looked at various things, but
17 the opportunity to bring them all under one umbrella
18 has been the desire since -- well, probably for four
19 years now.

20 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Inaudible comments by
21 Mr. Rogers and Supt. Schoppmeyer as they begin
22 speaking at the same time.)

23 MR. ROGERS: I'm sorry, what was that? I'm
24 sorry.

25 MR. HENRY: This is Mark Henry. I'm kind of

1 afraid because I -- I don't -- this is his campus.

2 Good morning, everybody. Thank you for your time.

3 This application was not submitted just this
4 month as a late issue; we've been in talks with the
5 Department and their attorneys for awhile. And in
6 fact we had made the request and then postponed it
7 the hearing twice. So this was not an oops, we've
8 got to do something quickly, hurry it up; it's a
9 situation that we've been working with APSRC for
10 awhile and this has been our plan. The meeting today
11 is late, but -- because we originally scheduled it
12 earlier and I had a conflict, and then, of course,
13 the Covid crisis hit as well. So that's just where
14 this landed. This is not a last-minute issue, taking
15 for granted anything, with all due respect. It's an
16 issue we've been talking with the State for many
17 months. And it's been a strategic decision, with the
18 understanding with, you know, the streamline issues
19 and the efficiencies that we can build and the top
20 ranking of both schools it would not serve as a
21 material distraction to anybody.

22 So we apologize if it appears that we have, you
23 know, been caught without a renewal, that this is our
24 last option. This was part of our plan for quite
25 sometime. We apologize for that appearance, if

1 that's how you're seeing it.

2 MR. ROGERS: That -- I mean that helps a little
3 bit. That's what I was trying to understand was the
4 timelines weren't adding up for me. So that's -- I
5 was just needing to understand that.

6 So in the Bentonville application, when you were
7 doing that at that time, you were always planning on
8 merging both the campuses? So that was discussed
9 back then as well?

10 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: We would like to have, yes,
11 but we went ahead and opened up two initially and
12 then --

13 MR. HENRY: Why?

14 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Because there was an
15 opportunity to receive federal funds. So we received
16 the federal funds, the start-up money.

17 MR. ROGERS: Okay.

18 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: And then after, oh, a couple
19 of years or so I would say that we decided we wanted
20 to combine them all, but we felt we'd wait until an
21 opportune time or a time when it needed to be done --
22 and that happens to be now.

23 MR. ROGERS: Okay. All right. Thank you.

24 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you, sir.

25 MR. HENRY: And what was the amount of that

1 grant?

2 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: \$500,000.

3 MR. HENRY: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Williams, do you have
5 questions?

6 DR. WILLIAMS: Yes. You know, actually, Dr.
7 Schoppmeyer, I was under the impression -- and this
8 was me, not you all -- I made an assumption, which
9 you should never make an assumption -- Rogers -- is
10 Rogers-Haas Hall under Fayetteville already?

11 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, it is. Yes, sir.

12 DR. WILLIAMS: So Bentonville was the only one
13 that was not up under it?

14 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: That's correct.

15 DR. WILLIAMS: I had assumed that Bentonville
16 was already part of the whole Haas charter school
17 network pretty much. So I'm assuming that they were
18 basically -- well, what would change in the
19 operational aspect of the school?

20 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: I think it would simplify
21 tasks for everybody involved at the administrative
22 level, as well as staff level; that we could stop
23 doing duplication of activities and be more efficient
24 and effective.

25 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Good. You know, actually

1 it makes sense to me. I'm just surprised that this
2 hadn't already been done. Both schools are --
3 actually all the schools are functioning -- are high-
4 functioning schools. So I have no concerns.

5 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

6 DR. WILLIAMS: I just hope -- administratively,
7 I'm assuming that there will be some savings and
8 things will be uniform throughout your charter
9 network?

10 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, sir.

11 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

12 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: It does look like Ms. Newton
14 has been able to join us.

15 Ms. Newton, are you there?

16 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Ms. Newton, have you been
18 able to join us?

19 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We may be having some
21 technical difficulty.

22 DR. WILLIAMS: I had texted her. She can hear
23 us, but I'm not sure whether we can hear her.

24 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Gotcha. Okay. So, Ms. Webb,
25 are you the host for the meeting?

1 MS. WEBB: I am. And she is not muted, so I'm
2 not sure what the issue is.

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. As the host you ought
4 to be able to mute anybody who's not muted.

5 MS. WEBB: Yes. And she's not muted.

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

7 MS. WEBB: Oh, you want me to do some others,
8 yes.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Can you mute --

10 MS. WEBB: Yes, I can. Sorry.

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Hyatt, how do we
12 need to handle if -- you know, in terms of any
13 questions or anything like that if we're having the
14 technical difficulty with Ms. Newton?

15 MS. HYATT: She -- if she has the ability to use
16 the chat box, she could type the questions in the
17 chat box, if she's got questions. I would like it in
18 some way that we can tell it's coming from her, so --

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

20 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. She has no questions.
21 She's texted me.

22 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. What we'll need her to
23 do though in the future is if there's any
24 communication she'll need to put it in the chat box.

25 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yeah.

2 DR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, she may be like I am; I'm
3 not as sharp on this, especially on my iPad.

4 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Well, it's difficult.

5 DR. WILLIAMS: Oh, she's saying she also texted
6 Tracy.

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Yeah. So, Ms. Webb,
8 if we can keep up with her communication -- that's
9 probably better if she's communicating with Ms. Webb
10 or Ms. Hyatt, rather than --

11 DR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- another panel member.

13 DR. WILLIAMS: Totally agree.

14 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

15 Okay. So, Dr. Schoppmeyer, sorry about that.
16 Thanks for being patient with us working through
17 this.

18 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So I think everyone seems to
20 understand that this is a request, you know, to be
21 merging all the campuses together and it's something
22 that other charters have done. The -- and, Ms.
23 Hyatt, you said then the renewal now would be in 2022
24 for all their campuses?

25 MS. HYATT: Yes, ma'am.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And then -- and, Dr.
2 Schoppmeyer, remind me, you have three campuses or
3 four campuses?

4 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Four.

5 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Four. Okay.

6 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Fayetteville, Springdale,
7 Bentonville, and Rogers.

8 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So one of the things
9 that I'm thinking about, you know, I know at times of
10 renewal one of the things we like to do is kind of go
11 back and look at the goals of the charter, go back
12 and, you know, kind of talk about, you know --
13 because a lot of times over time goals need to be
14 updated, need to be reflective of, you know, how to
15 -- what does growth need to look like, so -- and I
16 know that the communities there in northwest
17 Arkansas, there are -- they're all in the same region
18 but there are probably some unique things to each
19 independent community. But when you create this
20 overall charter that is overseeing everything, it's
21 always good to kind of really step back and reflect
22 and look at goals, you know, for the collective whole
23 but also for the individual things.

24 So, you know, as we go forward today and make a
25 decision on approving this request it doesn't

1 prohibit us from asking Haas Hall to come back
2 earlier than 2022 and just kind of -- after they've
3 had a chance to maybe reflect on what does the --
4 what does now this larger organization really look
5 like. So I'd be curious to hear some of -- like Dr.
6 Schoppmeyer -- what his response to that would be,
7 and then some of your responses if, you know, we
8 might possibly just want them to come back and look
9 and see, you know, are there some updates that
10 they're going to do to their goals. Because it may
11 be that, you know, that it doesn't necessarily fit by
12 just combining everything.

13 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Yeah, absolutely. I'm
14 willing to do whatever y'all want me to do. I mean
15 I'm fine with coming back in front of you again and
16 talking about Haas Hall Academy and how it changes.
17 I think it's going to change for the better by having
18 all the schools under one umbrella, there's no doubt
19 about that. It's going to make things much more
20 efficient and effective for us as an entity to be
21 able to provide a high-quality education for our
22 scholars.

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any thoughts by panel
24 members?

25 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I mean I think that --

1 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Other conversations not
2 related to the CAP meeting were coming through the
3 Zoom feed.)

4 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: I wasn't able to hear the
5 question; I apologize.

6 MR. ROGERS: I was just going to say, yeah, I
7 mean it's not that I'm opposed to this, right, but it
8 is a lot of change. And not having, you know, the
9 timeline to understand -- so I do like that if we
10 wanted to bring him in before '22, we could. But I
11 don't know right now with the way they're performing
12 if I would want to set a date right now. I think
13 that would be something that I would probably ask the
14 Charter Unit to kind of see how all the change goes
15 and then bring something to us once we have a little
16 bit -- once they get going and see how things are
17 going at that point.

18 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, diversity is a huge
19 commitment of ours and we're making huge strides on
20 our diversity statement or commitment with the report
21 that we turn in to the State Department every year.
22 So that gives us an opportunity to come back.

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I think that's a good
24 suggestion, Dr. Schoppmeyer, if that's kind of an
25 already built-in report that you do. So, you know, I

1 like that idea.

2 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So are there any other
4 questions by panel members, or comments?

5 Okay. Ms. Hyatt, are there any remaining issues
6 regarding this item?

7 MS. HYATT: No, ma'am.

8 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So I think if that's
9 the case then it's time to make a decision. We can
10 have a motion to accept the amendment request, we can
11 -- or if there's any other -- any thoughts, we can
12 discuss that now.

13 DR. KREMERS: I move to approve the waiver
14 request.

15 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We have a motion by
16 Dr. Kremers to approve.

17 Do I have a second?

18 MR. BALDWIN: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I think we have a
20 second by Mr. Baldwin.

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a unanimous
24 vote to approve the amendment request.

25 I'll ask though just for the record, any

1 opposed?

2 Okay. It was a unanimous vote to approve the
3 amendment request. So congratulations, Dr.
4 Schoppmeyer.

5 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And we hope all is going to
7 continue to go well as you finish up the school year
8 with remote learning and start planning for the fall.

9 SUPT. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you very much. I hope
10 y'all have a great day.

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you.

12 Miss -- do we need to record our responses in
13 the online form?

14 MS. McLAUGHLIN: (Nodding head up and down.)

15 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. That was sent out
16 earlier.

17 Was that sent out by you, Ms. McLaughlin?

18 MS. McLAUGHLIN: (Nodding head up and down.)

19 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So let's go ahead -- I
20 don't have that pulled up right now, but I'm going to
21 -- since this is recorded, I'm not going to ask us to
22 all go back and give our rationale. But we can --
23 I'm going to give everybody a minute to record your
24 responses. And I put the link in the chat box just
25 in case anybody was like me and searching for it.

1 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

2 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. It looks like everyone
3 is finished with their comments. Overall, the --
4 most panel members didn't have any concerns and felt
5 like it was appropriate to bring the campus under one
6 administratively consolidated organization approach.
7 So -- and we can follow-up later on if we feel like
8 it would be a good idea to check in with them on
9 progress of having them all underneath one charter.

10 **A-2: REVIEW OF DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOLS**

11 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So, all right. If there are
12 not any questions, we can move on to the next agenda
13 item and that will be presented to us by Ms. Webb.

14 MS. WEBB: Good morning. Today, I have a
15 proposal for our review of the charter process. So
16 in the past, for all other school districts every
17 summer we create a risk assessment to determine if
18 they need onsite or some type of monitoring. So I'm
19 going to pull up that document to give you a sample.
20 We are in the process of revising that.

21 Are you able to see my screen?

22 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Several panel members
23 answered affirmatively).

24 MS. WEBB: Okay, great.

25 So this is the one for the districts that we

1 normally do and there are several risk factors, as
2 you can see going across, and there's different point
3 values for each one. For regular school districts,
4 we find that a private audit is pretty telling as far
5 as if they're high risk or not, as well as if 40% or
6 more of their students are in need of support in
7 reading, and so on. And so there's just different
8 things that we feel are a -- that contribute to them
9 being at risk.

10 In the past, our charters have been part of the
11 overall risk assessment. And sometimes with charters
12 they have characteristics that are a little bit
13 different, and so there are some other things that
14 really indicate risk for them.

15 And so my suggestion or recommendation is that
16 we maybe create a risk assessment for both open-
17 enrollment -- and these things -- these items will be
18 a little bit different, and we're still in the
19 process of -- this is a draft. And so I would send
20 this out and get some feedback from everyone, as well
21 as some other ADE unit leaders, to make sure that we
22 have the right things on here that will identify
23 risks for charters. And then I also have one for
24 district conversions which is shorter, but it is a
25 little bit different because they're within another

1 district. And so what we really want to know are
2 where are those things that make that district
3 conversion at risk by itself and not within --
4 they're not within the larger school district.

5 So today, if I filled this out for charters, for
6 district conversions which were what we were
7 reviewing, the one that would be -- that would
8 qualify as high-risk just with these factors was
9 Blytheville. And you heard from Blytheville last
10 month; they came and did an annual report for you,
11 and I think they've selected to not renew their
12 charter. They do have one year left. But that would
13 be the only one that qualified at this time. [cough]
14 excuse me.

15 So my recommendation is that if we completed
16 this separately for open-enrollments and separately
17 for district conversions we could present this risk
18 information along with monitoring information. So
19 once we do this in the summer we would monitor those
20 districts that are high risk; we could present that
21 information to you in October, and then you could
22 select those charters that you wanted to bring back
23 in November during the review of charters. And that
24 way, you would also be informed for -- renewal
25 hearings are in December, and so that would also give

1 you information when you decide whether or not to
2 renew a charter instead of renewing and then you
3 wouldn't hear that information until in the spring.

4 So, any questions about that process?

5 We've done that for the last year or two for
6 regular -- our regular school districts and it's
7 worked well, and that's how we identify those to be
8 monitored. And so I think it would work well for the
9 open-enrollments and district conversions as well.

10 DR. WILLIAMS: I think this is an excellent
11 plan. It would give us some good criteria to look
12 at. Thank you for your work on this, and your team.

13 MS. WEBB: So I would like to send that out to
14 you and just get some feedback from you, to take a
15 look at it, so that it would be ready to go for us to
16 complete this summer.

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yes. Tracy, I want to echo
18 what Dr. Williams said. I think where we were
19 struggling is, you know, we -- there's so much
20 information to look at and, you know, when you're
21 trying to make a determination it's hard not to feel
22 overwhelmed and feel like, well, you know, you almost
23 need to look at everything for everybody. And this
24 just kind of gives some anchor points to say, you
25 know, if several of these things are problematic,

1 then it's really worth a deeper look. And so I
2 agree, I think this is going to be very helpful. I
3 appreciate you letting us have feedback.

4 MS. WEBB: Sure. For me, I've needed it to make
5 more sense in the process of how things are rolled
6 out, and so I wanted you to have information before
7 you made renewal decisions. I mean I feel like this
8 would be good information to have, especially if we
9 do an onsite review or a deeper monitoring for those
10 schools, that that would give you information when
11 you make those decisions.

12 DR. KREMERS: I think it's a great opportunity
13 to build in consistency also in kind of looking at
14 how we make some of the decisions and kind of that
15 consistent view as we look across the different
16 schools. So I think it's a great thing to add.

17 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I agree too. And I think
18 even thinking about new -- you know, new charters, I
19 think it also gives us things to look for in
20 applications and to make sure that either it's, you
21 know, being covered in an application or that a new
22 charter, you know, could speak to -- because we know
23 going in, you know, we need to really be approving
24 strong applications, because if they're going to be
25 missing components at the beginning it's going to be

1 really hard to catch up. So I think this could even
2 help us out when we start in August with our review
3 of new open enrollments.

4 So what do you need from us with this? Do you
5 just want to follow-up and then we --

6 MS. WEBB: So what I'd like to do is -- we're
7 still trying to make sure that we have the right
8 items on there and be consistent. So the point
9 values that we gave for our regular school districts,
10 we want to give those same point values on the risk
11 assessment to the district conversion open-
12 enrollment. And so we're about to I think finalize
13 our regular school district monitoring document, and
14 then internally if we could just have a few
15 conversations. And then I'd like to email that out
16 to you, the draft risk assessment, and just let you
17 provide any feedback or any changes that you think
18 need to be made or suggestions so that we can make
19 sure that we have a great tool to use this fall.

20 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Well, we'll be looking
21 for that and really appreciate it.

22 **CLOSING COMMENTS**

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Is that
24 the end of our agenda then?

25 MS. WEBB: It is.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. That may be a record.

2 MS. WEBB: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And, Ms. McLaughlin, I want
4 to apologize because I kind of speeded through this
5 with it being so short, and I still am getting used
6 to doing all of these meetings online, and I did not
7 let you present the first item. So, I'm sorry.

8 MS. McLAUGHLIN: That's okay. No problem.

9 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So please --

10 MS. McLAUGHLIN: I thought maybe the rules and
11 the procedures changed.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No. No, they didn't. And,
13 you know, all of y'all always, you know, feel free if
14 I get on here and go too fast -- I'm just ready for
15 us to be able to all be back together in person. I
16 have a much easier time when we're sitting face-to-
17 face. But I am appreciative of the video technology
18 that makes it available so that we can continue. So
19 anyway, but --

20 MS. WEBB: Dr. Pfeffer --

21 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- I did want to apologize.

22 MS. WEBB: Dr. Pfeffer, we currently do not have
23 any amendment requests to hear in June or July, and
24 so right now we do not have any agenda items for
25 those months.

1 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we'll try to be
2 mindful -- if anything were to come up, we will try
3 to be mindful though to not spring anything on
4 anybody. And so our next planned is then in August,
5 and will that be the open-enrollment new --

6 MS. WEBB: It will, yes.

7 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right.

8 Anybody have anything to talk about or share
9 before we sign off?

10 So now I'm giving you two months off.

11 DR. WILLIAMS: We'll take it.

12 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right.

13 Ms. Hyatt, do you have anything? Mr. Scott?

14 MR. SCOTT: (Shaking head from side to side.)

15 MS. HYATT: I have nothing.

16 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Well, good
17 job, everybody. And please keep us updated if there
18 are any -- you know, any changes or adjustments. But
19 if there's nothing else, I'll accept a motion to
20 adjourn.

21 DR. WILLIAMS: So moved.

22 DR. KREMERS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. We will
24 adjourn. Thank you, all.

25 **(The meeting was concluded at 10:36 a.m.)**

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, via Livestream/Zoom due to Covid-19, on May 19, 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 to the best of my ability.

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: May 21, 2020.



Sharon K. Hill

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
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