# BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL 

MAY 14, 2019
10:00 A.M.

APPEARANCES
PANEL MEMBERS:

DR. IVY PFEFFER MR. GREG ROGERS

MR. MIKE WILSON
DR. NACCAMAN WILLIAMS
MR. PHIL BALDWIN
DR. ANGELA KREMERS

Chairperson/ADE Deputy Commissioner ADE Asst. Commissioner -

Fiscal \& Admin. Services Attorney \& Education Advocate Past State Board of Ed. Member CEO, Citizens Bank
Deputy Director -
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ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT
ADE Specialist

## ALSO APPEARING:

MR. REGINALD BALLARD
MS. KELLY McLAUGHLIN
MS. VIRGINIA PERRY MR. FREDDIE SCOTT

> Public School Program Coordinator
> Public School Program Advisor
> Public School Program Advisor Operations Manager

LOCATION:
Arkansas Department of Education

- Auditorium
\#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas
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PROCEEDINGS
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Good morning, everyone. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will call the May 14, 2019 meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel to order. I'd like to welcome everyone who's here. We'd ask that you check and silence your electronic devices.

And as my Chair -- as Chair it's my goal to facilitation a fair and responsible hearing. I will request that each person speaking please state your name and title for the record. I will ask that you continue to speak clearly in the microphone for the benefit of the Panel, the audience, and the viewing audience. This meeting is being live-streamed and recorded. And Ms. Sharon Hill, the court reporter, will be providing a transcript of the meeting and it will be posted on the ADE website.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So our first item on our agenda is to approve the Consent Agenda. So I'll give you a moment to look that over, and then I'll entertain a motion.

DR. KREMERS: So moved to approve the agenda -the minutes.

DR. WILLIAMS: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion and a
second.
All those in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
A-1: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT FUTURE SCHOOL OF FORT SMITH

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So let's move on to our action -- excuse me -- our action agenda. We've got several items on here today. And I believe Ms. Perry is going to present our first action agenda item.

MS. PERRY: Good morning. Virginia Perry, Program Advisor, Public School Accountability.

The first item on the agenda comes from Future School of Fort Smith.

On October 14, 2015, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the application for Future School of Fort Smith. The charter is approved to serve students in grades 10 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 450. Representatives of Future School of Fort Smith are -- well, actually Mr. -Superintendent Boyd Logan should be on the phone this morning for the Panel, if you have any questions for him, and to actually present the information on their amendment request.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we will have -- the
applicant will have 20 minutes in order to provide any information or update. So can you tell me again who we have on the phone, if you'll state your name and title for the record?

SUPT. LOGAN: Sure. I am Boyd Logan, superintendent of Future School. Can you hear me? CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I think we can. Can everyone hear Mr. Logan?

Okay. Yes, we can. So we'll let you go ahead and begin.

SUPT. LOGAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.
Yeah, I apologize for not being able to make it down today. We are graduating our first senior class today, so things are real exciting around here. We're having a senior breakfast this morning, and so I was -- and, of course, their graduation practice and all that good stuff. So I apologize for not making it down today and for being forced to call in. But a little bit of background on this, what we're requesting. So we're requesting an amendment to our Planned Instructional Day. We've already been granted this amendment for a one-year waiver for this year, and so we're requesting from the Panel that this to go into effect in the following school year and then it last for the duration of our charter.

This -- the background on this: this amendment was actually when we initially -- or this waiver was when we initially submitted our charter, the first year. This was added on as a bring-in agenda -- or as a bring-in waiver and distributed to the Panel for the Seat-Time waiver. It was -- we did go back and look through the transcript; it was referred to within those transcripts. And so it was actually whenever our charter was approved this waiver was actually approved as well. Whenever we had a visit from Standards and Assurance this year and went through, we didn't realize that this agenda was not -- or this waiver was not on our charter. So despite it was approved initially, it was actually not on our charter. So that then triggered this chain of events where we are now -- or we ask for a temporary oneyear waiver, adding it to our charter to bring it into compliance for this year. And then we're asking for this waiver to be added for the remainder of our charter for the following two years as well.

The reason we need this waiver -- one of our essential components of our school is the internship program. Our students are in off-campus internships on Wednesdays. We have a little shorter instructional day on that day. I do allow teachers
to be out visiting those internship sites as well. And so on those days of the off-campus internships we have a shorter instructional day on that day. So this is one of the fundamental pieces of our charter, the internship program, that allows students realworld learning experiences. And so we're humbly requesting that we be granted the charter -- I mean, the waiver.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you. Are you ready for questions --

SUPT. LOGAN: Sure.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- from the Panel? Well, I guess I should wait and see -- if your presentation is finished, is there anyone here for opposition? MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.) CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Well, we'll go ahead and move to questions then and I'll -let's see if anybody wants to -- do you have a question?

MR. WILSON: No.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers?
MR. ROGERS: I don't have anything.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Questions over here?
Okay. Dr. Kremers has a question.
SUPT. LOGAN: Sure.

DR. KREMERS: My questions are specific to the internship. The seat hours would be the request from $A D E$, but $I$ have a few questions regarding the internship component as well. And it may be just a follow-up that you'll need to do with the Department of Career Education, making sure, number one, that it's the right course code and that the requirements are being met based on the correct definition of "internship," and then what's actually happening. So on the seat time part that's one component, but also that they're meeting the requirements for internship from our component of it which would be the 180 hours of work time. And so by looking -- if they're only going Wednesdays for a 30-minute release of seat time, then are they getting enough of the work hours. So if you just want to talk about that for just a moment. And then also mentioning that with the internship it does require a supervision period for the instructor who would have at least one to 25 students, and also the requirement for that teacher to have the 4-12 endorsement for career preparation for the internship. So didn't know if you were aware of those components, if -- we just would need to schedule a meeting time to do follow-up on those pieces of it.

SUPT. LOGAN: Sure. So right now we're not operating underneath the CT internship program. We've been -- we've tried to work some with CT and we're investigating working with CT to bring this -bring our internship program that we have into alignment. I don't believe whenever we first started the internship program there was JAG, but there wasn't really the level of internship -- which I know that there's still some -- I believe that this is recently under development. So we actually -- this was part of our advisory program. We attach it onto our NOBLE 101, 201 and 301 course; it is not -- it's in addition to the curriculum. So their grade for their internship -- their grade for their internship is attached to their NOBLE grade; it's not attached to the internship grade at this point. But we are looking at -- we're interested in bringing that in. Our internship program is based off the Big Picture Learning model, which I believe right now we're the only Big Picture Learning affiliate in the state of Arkansas. This is a model that's been in existence for -- and seen a lot of success -- you know, for quite awhile.

And so we're more than willing to investigate and sit down with CT and see if we can figure out how
to bring this -- and really make it a model -- I would love for it to be a model for internships. And we have -- you know, almost $100 \%$ of our kids are at internship sites and some of those are for a semester at a specific site, some go for a year, and we've had some that have been at an internship site for three years, spanning the entire time of their high school career. And so it's really a vital part of what we do and our mission. So we would love to -- you know, to work with CT and to bring this within -- you know, underneath that umbrella.

DR. KREMERS: That's great. Thank you, Mr.
Logan. And are you currently using an ADE course code for that or a CT?

SUPT. LOGAN: We're actually -- we're using -so we tied a grade to our NOBLE 101, which is an ADE course code -- number 101, 201 and 301 , which is an ADE course code -- and had some real-world learning components in it. That program was piloted at eSTEM. My co-founder, Trish Flanagan, was the original CEO of NOBLE whenever it was started -- or founder of NOBLE. I mean, it's kind of -- it has morphed into a curriculum that the ADE-approved. So (inaudible due to phone cutting out) with the NOBLE program; it had a lot to do with social entrepreneurship, social good
entrepreneurship, and an apprenticeship type program. So it fits well. Our internship program does fit within that, as well as our advisory program fits in it. And so we're using that NOBLE coding right now, but we'd be interested in separating out the NOBLE from the internship and having two different codes working there.

DR. KREMERS: That's great. Okay. Thank you. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

SUPT. LOGAN: You're very welcome.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Williams has a question.

DR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
SUPT. LOGAN: Sure.
DR. WILLIAMS: And this may be one for either Mr. Logan or ADE. This is -- the request is only for a waiver for 30 minutes on Wednesday. Is that too restrictive? Do you need the flexibility -- are internships only going to be on Wednesday for the rest of the existence of the school? Or is there a need for any flexibility to -- maybe next year internships may be on a Tuesday or something? MS. PERRY: Well --

SUPT. LOGAN: Right.
MS. PERRY: -- the actual request is for just
the Planned Instructional Day.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MS. PERRY: It's not -- it won't specifically state that it's for 30 minutes on Wednesday. It's just for the standard that's associated with this title.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MS. PERRY: So they'll still have that flexibility.

DR. WILLIAMS: To move it from day to day, as needed, in the future?

MS. PERRY: Uh-huh.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. That's what I needed. Thank you.

SUPT. LOGAN: I will speak a little bit to that though. [Inaudible due to phone cutting out]. We're not exploring that option right now. We just feel like we need to -- we need instructional time until you really get your internship program locked down where you know it's a valued learning experience that -- you know, that that's well supported with the school, well scaffolded with the school. Their recommendation has been to not explore that 10 days of internship. So, you know, we're going to -- for the remainder of our charter, for the remaining two
years we're going to stick with the one day of internships at this point and then re-evaluate at the end of that.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. LOGAN: You're welcome.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Baldwin now has a question.

MR. BALDWIN: Can you describe for us what an internship program looks like?

SUPT. LOGAN: Absolutely, I'd love to. So our students enter in and they -- a lot of times you'll see internships are aligned with specific industry -and we do actually have some students that are involved at [inaudible]; they just started the internship program up here in Fort Smith. And so we have one student that's participating in that.

So the way ours works is when a student enters the 10th grade their advisor oversees sort of a career development curriculum or career exploration curriculum for them. And we're real excited about the opportunity to use Naviance or one of the other platforms -- and the State is providing those for us for next year, because we've been exploring paying for one ourselves. So we're excited that's going to
be an option next year [inaudible]. We're going to be at the fair in June to look at those and know which one we want to use. But they come in and they do a variety of interest inventories, career exploration pieces. They also start to kind of get taught what it means to be professional in the workplace. And what they do at that point is once they kind of narrow in on some areas they may want to focus on, they go through an exploration process. So they'll call 10 manifestations of that industry or of that occupation within our area. They'll call those 10, and from those 10 -- basically they're just informational interviews at this time. After that, they narrow that down. Hopefully out of those 10 some of them seem receptive to potentially doing a shadow day. So they'll go on three to four shadow days out of those initial 10, as they narrow them down. And then after those shadow days -- and hopefully -- it's almost like a speed-dating process -- in hopes that one of those kind of starts to culminate into an internship. Once they say, "I think I want to do my internship at this place," we call back for employment and see if they're interested in hosting the student. At that point the student's advisor will go out to an internship set-up
meeting and they'll lay out sort of the groundwork of what the internship is, what the student's expectations are around that, what the check-in procedures are, all that sort of thing. And then the student stays in that internship for a couple of weeks, just journaling on what they're seeing, what they're interested in. And at that point the advisor goes back to the internship site and they do what's called a project set-up meeting -- because our interns are not just supposed to be there sleeping and making coffee or doing things like that; they're actually supposed to be exploring a project that they're interested in that's going to bring benefit to the internship site, as well as, you know, feed the student's interest. So, you know, that can look a lot of different ways. You know, we have students who stay and do their campaigns for the Humane Society. We have one student that interns with a local gas company who is actually doing gas well auditing for them -- which how he finds that interesting [inaudible]. But he's very interested in mathematics and accounting and things like that. And so it just depends -- so what kind of steps -- it's not tied to a specific industry; it's really tied to the interest. At the end of the semester students do
finals, called exhibitions, and students come back and they present to their classmates for 25 minutes. They catalog a lot of their learning that they've had, within the school building as well, project out their goals. But a big piece of that exhibition is where they talk about what they've done with their internship, what their project was, they demonstrate something from their project or they can demonstrate to their classmates -- and really kind of encapsulate what they've learned out of that internship process. And so at the end of the semester they may go back to that internship and they can go through the process again. If they found out that I'm not interested in that field or, you know, this isn't a good fit, then they may start the inquiry process again and start finding a new internship.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. This is Ivy Pfeffer. And my question may be actually a little bit more for Department staff. But as I was looking through this and as I listened to you, it seems as if, you know, students may be actually -- there may be increased learning time. And I know that's not part of the planned instructional day, but at the same time it is part of their planned -- their plan for success there. So I just want to verify with the Department
that we feel that this is the most appropriate waiver for them. And is this waiver necessary in order for these students to have the opportunities that you're describing? Because $I$ love the sound of the opportunities and that all students are getting this -- you know, getting an opportunity to do this. But is this a -- I guess is this a necessary waiver? MS. PERRY: Well, when checking for their -well, for any school's adherence to the standard, we look at the bell schedule. So we look at the weekly schedule, the bell schedule for the actual class and the course for the actual school itself. And so when you look at the actual bell schedule, it's short; it falls short, even though there may be some extended learning opportunities. But it does come up short the 30 minutes on those Wednesdays; so it would be essentially 30 minutes a week. So as far as what's documented, it's not going to fulfill the requirements to meet the standard as it's set of the six-hour instructional day every day, because it's short on one of those days.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: But is that really a reason to have a waiver from the Planned Instructional Day or is it -- is that more just our problem with the documentation part that we need to look at how maybe
better to do that? Because, Mr. Logan, I'm assuming

SUPT. LOGAN: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- you know, your staff are still working the -- you know, the appropriate number of days based on their contracts and things like that. So I guess I'm just trying to think through is this something -- maybe Ms. Coffman may help me out here.

MS. COFFMAN: Deborah Coffman, Department of Ed. Yes, they would need a waiver of 1-A.5.2. They would need that to be in their list of waivers.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right.
Panel Members, does anyone else have a question?
Okay. Mr. Logan, do you have anything you'd -anything else to mention to us?

SUPT. LOGAN: No, I don't think so. I
appreciate your thoughtful questions and thank you all for hearing us on this and sort of -- because I know we're doing things that are a little bit different and -- but thanks for, you know, having faith in us to sort of carry through with what we're trying to accomplish here.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Hyatt, are there any remaining issues regarding this item?

MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. So I think at this time $I$ will accept a motion for this amendment request, if there's not any more questions.

MR. WILSON: I move the approval of the amendment.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I have a motion to approve. DR. WILLIAMS: Second.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And a second.
Any discussion?
All those in favor of the motion say "aye." (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
Okay. So, Panel, if you'll take a minute to record your votes. And congratulations; your amendment request has been approved.

SUPT. LOGAN: Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And if you want to stay on the line, we'll read through our feedback and that way you'll have that information.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Wilson, we'll let you go first.

MR. WILSON: I voted for the motion. I think
the school needs the flexibility to accomplish their stated mission, and it seems like they are.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers noted that he has no concerns and voted for the motion. Dr. Williams.

DR. WILLIAMS: I support the motion. The amendment will allow Future School students the opportunity to participate in internships that will enhance learning opportunities.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Kremers.
DR. KREMERS: I support the motion to approve the waiver for seat time instructional hours to provide internship learning opportunities.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And Mr. Baldwin.
MR. BALDWIN: I also support the motion. I feel the waiver is appropriate and supports the internship program.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you very much. And, Mr. Logan, I think Dr. Kremers will probably be available if you all do have any questions on the internships and as you want to expand those into those career pathways. So I would encourage you to reach out to her as well.

SUPT. LOGAN: Thanks. We look forward to doing that. And I'm going to go graduate some kids today.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Congratulations. SUPT. LOGAN: Thanks again.

A-2: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT CAPITAL CITY LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. So our next agenda item -- hang on just a moment, let me find my place here; my pages are mixed up. Yes, okay. So the next item on our agenda is a request for a charter school amendment for Capital City Lighthouse Charter School. So, Ms. Perry, will you tell us about this amendment request?

MS. PERRY: Sure. On October 15, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the application for Capital City Lighthouse Charter School. The charter is approved to serve students in grades K-12 with a maximum enrollment of 750 . Superintendent Lenisha Roberts is present today to request amendments to the current charter.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Will all representatives of the charter and anyone speaking in opposition please stand to receive the oath? Okay. If you'll raise your right hand -- do you swear or affirm the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And you have 20 minutes to present to us.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Good morning. We are requesting to --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Please state your name and title for the record.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Lenisha Roberts, superintendent for Capital City Lighthouse Charter School.

Today we come requesting two amendments; one is for Uniform Dates, as well as the District Student/Guidance Counselor Ratio. We did receive a one-year waiver from the Commissioner for the remainder of this year, but we want to request this waiver for the duration of our charter.

So with the Uniform Dates, we currently have 190 school days for our students. And, of course, the surrounding districts, they always get out a little earlier than we do, which sometimes, if parents have kids in both those schools and ours, it could cause some attendance issues. So we would like the flexibility to start before August 13th -- if need be, to move up the time to have more instructional time as well before State testing at our school. So we're asking for that waiver.

The District Student/Counselor -- Student/

Guidance Counselor Ratio, we're also requesting that amendment. We do provide those services and we do contract with a counseling center to provide all those services. But we also make sure that our students are receiving those services through our advisory where teachers are really working with the students on college and career readiness, as well as social and emotional learning -- but we do provide those services within our charter. And we have previously had these waivers with our initial charter approval.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Is there anyone here to speak in opposition?

MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No. All right.
Are you ready for questions?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. I'll start down here on my right. Do you have any questions, Mr. Baldwin?

MR. BALDWIN: So I'm reading your waiver request. Help me -- your requested Start Date for -August 13th is the date?

SUPT. ROBERTS: That's just when we're starting this year. But we put that down in order -- if we
needed to have the flexibility to push it up, we want -

MR. BALDWIN: How far would you push it?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Just a week.
MR. BALDWIN: Just a week?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Just a week.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And so I do want to be clear though. I think in the application it says "we are requesting a start date of August 13th?"

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am. So we are this year, but next year we'll probably pull it up. Because we don't have -- we didn't talk with teachers about like that this year, but we do want to have that in there in order to -- if we need to, for the upcoming years. We are starting August 13th this year.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: This year?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: But -- okay. And I just want to make sure then it would be clear that then the ask would be going a week earlier than August 13th? SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes. Yes.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. In the future?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am. That is correct.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And you do -- you said
you do have 190 days --
SUPT. ROBERTS: One hundred and --
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- of student/teacher
interaction?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am, 190.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So that's 12 more than what your surrounding school districts would have; correct?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Questions?
No questions?
DR. WILLIAMS: I just need a little bit of clarity here. I thought the same thing -- that August 13th is -- you're requesting a start-date of August 13th for this upcoming year. But are we considering a waiver for all future years in this request also?

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I believe that's -- I believe that's what she's asking.

SUPT. ROBERTS: That's correct.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So for the 2020-21 school
year they can be starting as early as August 6th; right?

SUPT. ROBERTS: That is correct.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. So August 13th is the
current start-date --
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
DR. WILLIAMS: -- for this coming year?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
DR. WILLIAMS: And you're requesting a week prior to. Okay. And this will allow you to balance the days between semesters, get more time in before testing and so-forth. Will you end school early -- a week earlier now?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes. That would allow us to end earlier, which right now we're going at least two weeks after the surrounding schools.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. That's what I needed to know. Thank you.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Do you have questions?
MR. ROGERS: No.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Wilson?
MR. WILSON: No.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No?
I do have a couple of questions then about your guidance counselor --

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- the ratio. Okay. And so you -- this is a waiver that you have had in the past?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So talk to me a little bit about what this looks like. Because I think this would be one that would give me concern as far as are students getting the right type of support that they need. So can you talk to me a little bit about what that would look like?

SUPT. ROBERTS: So, yes, ma'am. We do contract with counseling centers to provide services for our students. We also have a culture coordinator at every site that provides those services with our students where it relates to social and emotional learning, college and career readiness, as well as we have advisory built in where our teachers receive training to also provide services with students. But our counseling agency really provides the bulk of the ongoing support with our school. We do have one that's -- we have them on-site that are there during the week for therapeutic case management, as well as all other services through the agency, as well as partnering with the families.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So do you though have
a guidance counselor hired by the district? Do you have someone who fulfills that role?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes. We work with -- specific teachers have specific groups of kids that they particularly work with daily.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. But do you -SUPT. ROBERTS: No.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- do you have a guidance counselor?

SUPT. ROBERTS: We -- no. We have a waiver for the licensure for guidance counselor, but we don't have a particular -- like one set person --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. ROBERTS: -- with our students. We have approximately 200 students.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. PERRY: Can I just also add just very quickly for some clarity, because it'll come up again with another school that's asking for the same waiver. Under the old set of standards --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: You may need to get in the microphone, Ms. Perry.

MS. PERRY: I'm sorry. Under the old set of standards, a couple of the charters actually had a waiver from the Guidance Counselor position and also
the ratio requirement. During the standards transition last fall we didn't catch -- they didn't necessarily catch the ratio component. So a couple of them were missing the ratio component, so they had to come back and get the one-year standards waiver.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. PERRY: So they had the -- you know, the waiver of the position, but just not the ratio.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So this school already has a waiver from the position?

MS. PERRY: They do.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Just not from the ratio. Okay.

And so I think what I would ask you to do then is just to consider in the future if having a waiver from that position really is long-term what you want to be looking at, because I know you've been here and we've looked at some adjustments that you're making. I just feel very strongly that the role of the school counselor -- and even though you may be providing services to kids, there are -- you know, we want to make sure kids are being taken care of.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, absolutely.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So we can --
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: We can have that conversation in the future.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
MS. PERRY: One last thing.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yes, ma'am.
MS. PERRY: Their contract ends June 30th of 2020, so they'll be up for renewal shortly.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Perry. Okay.

DR. WILLIAMS: Just a follow-up question. As part of the waiver, it says "the ability to maximize instructional funding." Can you explain that?

SUPT. ROBERTS: On the Uniform --
DR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. It says -- and there are some excellent reasons of why you're requesting the -- for the following reasons, and one of the reasons was the ability to maximize instructional funding. And I just didn't quite -- to better balance the number of days a semester makes sense; extra time for students and so-forth, more instructional days before testing -- all of that is great. The ability to maximize instructional funding just kind of caught my eye and I wasn't quite -- you know, I'm sure you're already maximizing --

SUPT. ROBERTS: Well, yes. We already have the
teachers on contract; they're on contract 210 days. And so just to go ahead and just make sure we're just maximizing their time --

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
SUPT. ROBERTS: -- as well.
DR. WILLIAMS: It's teacher contracts?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
DR. WILLIAMS: That's --
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
DR. WILLIAMS: -- the part $I$ was missing.
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. Panel, any other questions?

All right. Are there -- Ms. Hyatt, are there any remaining issues that we need to consider? MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.) CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. Anything else for us?

SUPT. ROBERTS: No, ma'am. That's it.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Well, seeing that we don't have any other -- I will entertain a motion as to whether or not to approve this amendment request. DR. WILLIAMS: I move to approve the amendment as requested.

MR. WILSON: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion and a second.

Any discussion?
Okay. All those in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Panel Members, if you'll record your decision?

Congratulations.
SUPT. ROBERTS: Thank you.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers, we'll start with you on giving feedback.

MR. ROGERS: I voted for the motion. I support the amendment and see no concerns with the request.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Kremers.
DR. KREMERS: I support the motion to approve the waiver to allow more flexibility and alignment with surrounding districts.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Baldwin.
MR. BALDWIN: I support the motion for the same flexibility standards.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Williams.
DR. WILLIAMS: I support the motion. The waiver
will allow more days for teaching and learning prior to testing, more closely aligned to surrounding schools' ending date, and a better balance of days in each semester.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Wilson.
MR. WILSON: I supported the motion. I have no concerns with the request.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you everyone. A-3: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT HAAS HALL ACADEMY

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And we will move on to Item Number 3 on our Action Agenda, which is an amendment request from Haas Hall Academy.

MS. PERRY: On January 12, 2004, the State Board of Education approved the application for Haas Hall Academy. The charter is approved to serve students in grades 7 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 941. Superintendent Martin Schoppmeyer is on the phone to request amendments to the current charter. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Schoppmeyer, are you there?
[A MOMENT OF SILENCE]
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: I'm here. I'm sorry. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I'm going to go ahead and we need to swear you in.

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. You'll have 20 minutes to present your request.

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you.
Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Charter Authorizing Panel, good morning; I would like to thank you for the opportunity to call in this morning, as I have another engagement right after this.

Haas Hall Academy is requesting a waiver of 4C.2, Principal Licensure Requirements. We currently hold a waiver of Statute ACA 16-17-302, Principal Licensure. We request a waiver of the standard 4-C.2 for Principal Licensure Requirements to fully effectuate the Principal Licensure waiver. Haas Hall Academy currently has a waiver of Certification and requests a waiver of 4-C.2, Principal Licensure Requirements.

Haas Hall Academy is also requesting a waiver of Standard 4-E.2, District Student/Guidance Counselor Ratio. We currently possess a waiver of 4-E.1,

Guidance Counselor. Under the old 2015 Standards for Accreditation we have waivers for 16.0 , Support Service, specifically 16.01.1, Guidance Program, 16.01.2, Counselor or Guidance Position, and 16.01.3, District Student/Guidance Counselor Ratio.

During the standards transition process, the District Student/Guidance Counselor Ratio standard was not captured. Andrea Broshears is in charge of testing. Haas Hall Academy employs two guidance counselors who are independent contractors, who are responsible for the social and emotional services for our scholars. Ample space is allotted for each counselor to carry out their duties.

I'd like to start this beginning in the fall of 2019, and have it through the duration of the charter please.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you for your presentation.

Ms. Hyatt, is there anyone to speak in opposition?

MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So, Panel, we will move on to questions.

MR. WILSON: I have no questions.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No questions.

Okay. Dr. Williams?
DR. WILLIAMS: Oh, absolutely.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Schoppmeyer, Dr. Williams has questions.

DR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Dr. Schoppmeyer.
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Good morning, Dr. Williams, sir.

DR. WILLIAMS: Quick question: I was -- I understand -- could you give me a little bit of background on the two individuals that are currently serving as headmasters? I'm assuming that the principalship waiver would affect these two individuals?

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Correct. Yes, sir.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: I've got Larry Henry, who has been on staff for four years now; he's been headmaster of the Rogers campus for two. He is a phenomenal, just a phenomenal guy. And then here on the Fayetteville campus, Marilyn Schoppmeyer, my mother, who's not paid; she's just a volunteer. She has over 30 years experience and was Florida's Teacher of the Year; so she's really a mentor to me.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I understand on Ms. Schoppmeyer. What's a little bit of Mr. Henry's
background?
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Mr. Henry was ex-military and he also ended up being a newscaster for Channel 5 News and he's a journalist. And so his forte initially was to help us get our journalism program up to par for what Haas Hall Academy wants to have. And we now have a newspaper that's been in the Hall of Fame and we have a yearbook that's in the Arkansas Scholastic Hall of Fame. And so that's his background.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: And when I needed a leader for Rogers he was the logical choice, in my opinion.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Just a follow-up question: Rogers has been open now for how many years? Has it completed one year or two years?

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: It's just going to be completing its second year.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. And how have things been going over there under his leadership?

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Haas Hall in Rogers is the third-ranked school in the state of Arkansas, behind Haas Hall Bentonville, behind Haas Hall Fayetteville; and then number four is Haas Hall Springdale.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: So Larry is doing a phenomenal job creating a culture of academic awareness and one that inspires scholars to achieve. DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. That answers my question.

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Rogers, did you have a question for Dr. Schoppmeyer?

MR. ROGERS: No.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Ms. Perry, can you -- my question, $I$ think, is one you can answer. So, with both of these -- these are, again, kind of a clean-up from the transition from our old standards to new. They had already either -- had these waivers in the past and now just need it because of the change in standards; is that correct?

MS. PERRY: Correct.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Any other questions from the Panel?

Ms. Hyatt, are there any remaining issues?
MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
Dr. Schoppmeyer, anything else?
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: No, ma'am. Thank you for your time today.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. So, Panel
Members, we have an amendment request from Haas Hall. Do I have a motion?

MR. BALDWIN: Motion.
DR. KREMERS: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So I have a motion and a second to approve the amendment request.

Any discussion?
All those in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Congratulations, Dr. Schoppmeyer;
your amendment request was approved.
SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. The Panel will record
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And I'm going to break the tradition of having each one of you read out your responses because these are all pretty brief and all stating the same thing -- but based on the fact that the panel members didn't have concerns and that this is pretty much cleaning up waivers that were already in place; I think that was the justification.

So thank you, Dr. Schoppmeyer.

SUPT. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you very much. Have a nice afternoon.

A-4: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT JACKSONVILLE LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. We are moving right along. We are to Item Number 4; is that correct, Ms. Perry?

MS. PERRY: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. This is a request for an amendment for Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School. So, Ms. Perry, please update us.

MS. PERRY: On November 3, 2008, the State Board of Education approved the application for Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School. The charter is approved to serve students in grades $\mathrm{K}-12$ with a maximum enrollment of 1,019 . Superintendent Lenisha Roberts is appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to their charter.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. And I guess let's go ahead and swear in again. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're giving shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Go ahead and state your name again for the record and you're recognized.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Okay. Lenisha Roberts, superintendent, Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School.

So today we come before you to request two amendments -- one, again, for the Uniform Dates, and the second for the waiver for Principal Licensure. Both of these we had before in our initial charter and we're just trying to get them switched over -one, the Principal Licensure, to the new standards -to be under the new standards.

So as for the Uniform Dates, the same reasons as before. We are 190-day student days, 210 teacher days, and we do want to be allowed that flexibility to be more in line with the surrounding district schools, especially with ending the school year. But it will allow us to have more time on the front-end for instruction versus the back-end.

As for the Principal Licensure, we do want to be allowed the opportunity to attract the top talent from out-of-state if they don't actually hold that Arkansas licensure initially, as well as just being open to strong instructional leaders that we see in buildings that we may currently have or around the state that are in the process of obtaining that licensure. But we do want to also have that
flexibility with the Principal Licensure. But, again, that licensure -- principal waiver is under the old standards and we did have it initially in our previous --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Is there anyone here to speak in opposition?

MS. PERRY: (Shaking head from side to side.) CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. Panel Members, do you have questions?

Dr. Kremers.
DR. KREMERS: I think for the qualifications and licensure, as far as the out-of-state, is the plan for the principal to be based here or will they be based somewhere else with that license?

SUPT. ROBERTS: They're based here. But if they apply and they're from out-of-state and we end up bringing them in is what I was --

DR. KREMERS: But they wouldn't be working from another --

SUPT. ROBERTS: No, no, no, no, no -- not as principal. No, ma'am.

DR. KREMERS: What is the barrier that would prevent them from going ahead and obtaining the correct licensure to be qualified in Arkansas? SUPT. ROBERTS: Right. So as of right now just
reciprocity for some. But it just depends; we haven't had that issue. We've pretty much had our leaders in place, so it hasn't been -- but that was one of the rationales when we initially put that waiver into place and said we want to be able to attract them. The ones that we've attracted and that already had licensure, they received reciprocity. So we haven't had that issue.

DR. KREMERS: And then along with that, it's for both qualifications and responsibilities. Are there plans for the responsibility to change as well?

SUPT. ROBERTS: No. I mean, they still would serve as -- I mean, do the work of just a principal; no responsibility shifts.

DR. KREMERS: So it's kind of a request of a maybe or just in case?

SUPT. ROBERTS: Just in case. We haven't had that issue at all as it relates to that. But we do have principals now -- we do have some that do not have certifications that are working towards their certification.

DR. KREMERS: Are there a lot of other instances where we -- I think this is a request to staff -- are there any other waivers of this particular waiver currently with the new standards?

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And I'm looking here to see -- Ms. Hyatt -- did she step out?

MR. BALLARD: She stepped out. She'll be right back.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So for our staff, Dr. Kremers had asked is the waiver from licensure for principals -- is that a common waiver that has been granted to charter schools?

MS. PERRY: Actually, it is.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. PERRY: Tripp? Actually, it is.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So it's one that had been granted in the past and -- okay.

Something that you mentioned -- and I, you know, kind of want to pick up on that -- you -- with all the scenarios you gave though you indicated that your -- basically what you would see if that someone will be working toward --

SUPT. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- the licensure
requirements. Is that something you've done in the past or is that just a commitment that you would want to make that -- you know, you want the flexibility in hiring, but long-term you would seek to have that person fully licensed as an Arkansas administrator?

SUPT. ROBERTS: I would say both. As of right now, you know, we have one that just entered the Impact program where they'll be receiving theirs. And so that's my goal for them, and our network goals, to make sure that they do obtain their license.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. ROBERTS: So that's important.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yes, Mr. Baldwin.
MR. BALDWIN: If we approve this, is it a permanent approval of the waiver, forever, or is there a timeframe that you would have for each principal to obtain the right certifications?

SUPT. ROBERTS: We -- now we are asking for the duration of the charter. But is there a timeframe? It just depends on the load. We want to make sure they can balance the work and school. So I am considerate of that as they're going through the process, as long as they're continuing to work through the process, because we know that financial obligations do come with that. But they are working towards it -- and I do push that as one of their professional goals that they have to have.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And this may help. I'm -hopefully this will help. So currently if a licensed
educator is working to become an administrator that gets hired prior to that, they can be placed on what's called an $A-L-C-P$, an Alternative Licensure Plan, to complete that work. If the person though wasn't licensed as an administrator initially, then they wouldn't be able to be on that licensure completion plan. So in this case, if someone were hired maybe that had a background but maybe not actually licensed in education, you know, they would be prevented from hiring that person. So it does give them the flexibility. If they had someone in a leadership position that they wanted to be placed as principal in the school, this would allow them the flexibility to do that.

DR. WILLIAMS: That was my concern too, was, one -- you know, the reason I asked the questions of the previous school, of Mr. Schoppmeyer -- Dr. Schoppmeyer, about the individuals in the position -you know, we can grant waivers and you can have some pretty bad people in those positions.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Absolutely.
DR. WILLIAMS: And so given the fact that they're already educators makes a difference. But what if they're not educators? Then that would be a concern for me. And we may have good people in the
position currently, but there may come a time when those in the position are not as -- educators that we would expect them to be.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
MR. WALTER: Dr. Pfeffer, may I speak briefly? CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Please state your name for the record and you're recognized. MR. WALTER: Will do. Tripp Walter, Staff Attorney, Arkansas Public School Resource Center. I just wanted to add one thing that hopefully will allay some of the concerns the board has in the Principal Licensure. As you're aware, Lighthouse is a charter management organization and operates not only in Arkansas but several states. My understanding is what they do, probably more so with the building leadership end than with teachers, is they have the ability to pull folks or assign folks, if you will, from other parts of the system to come into the Arkansas schools. Which I think the importance of that is, to address Dr. Williams' question specifically, they are bringing in educators; they are bringing in persons who are -who have the qualifications and capabilities and have held these roles in the past, just in other states. And the only thing that perhaps they would be
lacking, if you will, is, as Ms. Roberts has explained, the licensure piece.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MR. WALTER: But they are going to be educators experienced in their field.

DR. WILLIAMS: Good deal. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any other questions?
Okay. If there are no more questions, I'll entertain a motion for this amendment request.

MR. WILSON: So moved.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I have a motion to approve from Mr. Wilson. Do I have a second?

DR. WILLIAMS: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any discussion?
All those in favor say "aye." (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Congratulations.
Panel Members will record their responses.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Roberts, the Panel is supportive of the waiver to update with current standards and give you that flexibility or to continue to operate with the flexibility you had.

Do any panel members want to give any additional
information?
I know we had a few concerns expressed about the leadership, but I think that with Mr. Walter's explanation that does help us feel better about the quality of leadership that will be sought in your school. So we appreciate your willingness to work with them on that.

All right. Thank you very much.
And I think we will continue on. Does anybody need a short break or are we good-to-go?

MR. WILSON: Keep going.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Keep going. All right.
A-5: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT PINE BLUFF LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: We are at Item Number 5, which is an amendment request for Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School.

MS. PERRY: On November 8, 2010, the State Board of Education approved the application for Pine Bluff Lighthouse Academy. The charter is approved to serve students in grades $\mathrm{K}-8$ with a maximum enrollment of 650. Superintendent Lenisha Roberts is appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to the current charter.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And if -- Ms. Hyatt,
do we -- if she's been sworn in once, do I keep swearing her in each time?

MS. HYATT: It's up to you.
MR. WILSON: She might not tell the truth this time; you never know.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. We're going to go ahead and keep moving because we know you've been sworn in.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: So, all right. You have 20 minutes.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Lenisha Roberts, superintendent, Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School.

Today we're requesting two amendments to our waivers, the same as Capital City -- the Uniform Dates, as well as the Guidance Counselor/Student Ratio, for the same reasons: for the flexibility and the surrounding districts and their start -- or end time is really the biggest -- bigger issue and to be allowed that flexibility to give more instructional time on the front-end of the calendar, as well as for the Guidance Counselor/Student Ratio. We do have that waiver for guidance counselor, so we are asking for that -- those two.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. So, Panel

Members, this would be identical to the Capital City request.

Does anyone have any questions?
Okay. And when will your charter end for this school?

SUPT. ROBERTS: It is three years.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: It's in three years. Okay. SUPT. ROBERTS: We would start the new in August.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. ROBERTS: But we have to come in yearly --
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. ROBERTS: -- for an update.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: To update?
SUPT. ROBERTS: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PEFFFER: Okay. All right.
All right. So if there are no questions, I'll entertain a motion.

MR. WILSON: Move approval of the waiver request.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a --
DR. KREMERS: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- a motion and a second.
All those in favor say "aye." (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Congratulations. That amendment request has been approved.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. Ms. Roberts, we appreciate you being here and we will see you in the future -- and appreciate you being here for all three of those.

SUPT. ROBERTS: Thank you.
A-6: REQUEST FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT SIATECh CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We'll move on with Item Number 6 on our Action Agenda. Ms. Perry, you're recognized.

MS. PERRY: On January 10, 2011, the State Board of Education approved the application for School of Integrated Academies and Technologies (or SIATech). The charter is approved to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 275. School director Katie Hatley is here to request amendments to their current charter.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So if I can get all of those who are here to speak regarding this charter to please stand to receive the oath. Okay. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to
give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. You are recognized. Please state your name for the record and you're recognized, 20 minutes.

MS. HATLEY: Okay. Good morning. I'm Katie Hatley, the director of SIATech Charter High School.

Madam Chair and other Panel Members, I come before you today -- one, the original request was for the Seat -- for the Class Size/Teaching Load waiver. We received the one-year request, but we would like for this waiver to be added to our other waivers. And the reason why is our students see their teachers twice a day because of the scheduling, and that was the reason, you know, for that. I thought we had it. But in the past we were able to submit an explanation as to why and that was cleared. But for the duration of the charter -- we've always been $100 \%$ accredited, so we've never had any penalties on that.

My second request, reason for coming, is the Board of Directors at SIATech voted to non-renew the contract with the management company. So this caused us to have to request a change in curriculum, change the name of the school and the staffing model, which
the previous model -- the superintendent was the CEO of the -- you know, the CEO of the management company. But moving forward with the change I will serve as the superintendent of the school.

And these changes will be effective July 1, 2019, and we would like the changes for the duration of the charter, the seven-year renewal.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Is there anyone here to speak in opposition?

MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.) CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So I guess we're ready to move to questions?

MS. hatley: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Wilson --
MR. WILSON: Not right now. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- any questions? Do you
want to wait a minute?
MR. WILSON: I might later.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers?
MR. ROGERS: I don't have any right now.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Questions?
DR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Quick question for you.
Does this change your mission in any way -- the name change and so-forth? We're aware of the good work that you-all do over there.

MS. HATLEY: Yes, sir.
DR. WILLIAMS: And the name-change, is it just a name-change as a result of the fact that you're changing management companies or does that signal a change in your curriculum and the work -- I mean, how you go about doing your work?

MS. hATLEY: Yes, sir. So the mission of -- you know, the wording will change. SIATech is a license brand --

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MS. HATLEY: -- so we could not carry on with that.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MS. hatley: The name that I put down I just put down because Ms. Perry gave me 10 seconds to come up with a name to submit my paperwork; so that is not the name, Panel, that I would like to move forward with. The actual name that $I$ would like -- and we've searched -- and I work really close with Chris Bell -- is Graduate Arkansas (AR). That's all we do is take that hard to reach population and -- you know, and take the steps to get them an accredited diploma.

DR. WILLIAMS: So we may see you later with the appropriate name --

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    MS. HATLEY: Yes, sir.
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DR. WILLIAMS: -- at a later date?
MS. HATLEY: With a branding. Yes, sir.
DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. That's fine. Thank you. DR. KREMERS: What are some of the curriculum changes -- curriculum instruction pieces that you plan to change? Because, of course, there's no public school rating just by the nature of the charter --

MS. HATLEY: Yes, ma'am.
DR. KREMERS: -- unlike the ESSA scoring and what not. But what are some of the changes you plan to do on the curriculum and instruction?

MS. HATLEY: I'm glad you asked. With the curriculum, CONTECH was a SIATech licensed curriculum, competency-based, everything. So we sought out and spoke with and collaborated with five curriculum companies, narrowed it down to two that we really felt that contained rigor but also contained interventions and things to help our students who've been out of school for awhile get back on track. And we narrowed that down to Edmentum and Edgenuity. And so I think, you know, after going back and forth, I think the board may want to go with Edgenuity.

DR. KREMERS: Could you just mention where do you see the gap is where you're changing companies?

I'm sure it was a multitude of reasons why you're changing the CMO. But really what were the gaps that you're hoping to fill now with this change and who you're looking for in replacement?

MS. hatley: Can I let my business manager speak to that so I don't -- Chris Bell.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Please state your name for the record, and you're recognized.

MR. BELL: It's Chris Bell. I serve as Business Manager for SIATech/Little Rock.

To speak to your question, there have been some gaps in services that we've seen over the past few years with the management company. They have -- more specifically, last year -- changed the service offerings and pulled back a lot of the services that were previously provided. Likewise, they also reduced the management fee, so -- but what we've seen over the duration of the last year is that the majority of the services are actually being provided by local staff; and so as of the change in the service agreement they were providing curriculum. Because that curriculum is delivered through technology, they were providing support for those technologies; they were providing general administrative support for the board; they were
providing $H R$ services and facilities management. All of those services, with the exception of the curriculum and the technology support, have already been provided locally. The curriculum Ms. Hatley spoke about under the adjustments there, we feel like that curriculum will be more -- better suited for us going forward. And then the technology support, we've contracted with a local vendor to provide that support and that vendor is working with -- I don't know the exact number, but I could probably rattle off about 10 other charter schools within the state that they're also providing support for and have so over the last 11 years, I believe.

DR. KREMERS: Okay. Thank you so much.
MR. BELL: Uh-huh.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And my question may also be more appropriate for ADE staff. But in looking at this, the curriculum and instruction standard kind of jumps out as a concern. And then looking at the nonrenewal with the current CMO and making that transition and changing in the staffing structure, is this something that we actually need -is this bigger than just a couple of amendment requests like we've been hearing today? Is this something that we actually need to have the charter
come back in and we do either a review of the charter or kind of $I$ guess a more comprehensive look? Because it sounds to me like there's -- and maybe it's a conversation for the Panel to have. But, Ms. Perry, can you --

MS. PERRY: Well, in most charter applications they just -- most applicants say that they'll have a curriculum that is based on the Arkansas academic standards. But SIATech, in their application, it didn't state that; it specifically selected and stated the name of one brand of one curriculum. So that's why they have to come before the Charter Authorizing Panel to actually change that, because it is part of their -- it's in their application; that's just part of their charter contract.

So I don't think that we ever really weigh-in on the selection process of a curriculum with a school.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And I'm not saying that that would be the purpose to bring them back. I'm saying the very fact that they are no longer with the same management company, they're changing their staffing structure, I would have questions about the governance. They're now listed as an independent charter, so $I$ want to know what the future looks like there -- and I just don't know that those are all
questions we want to get into today.
So I guess with my fellow panel members, what would you all like to do with regard to this? If you feel comfortable going forward with this, we can continue questions or --

DR. WILLIAMS: Here's a thought or a suggestion. One, we move forward with the request before us today, but schedule a time for them to come back in once they get things lined out like with the new name and provide us an overview of the curriculum and how it meets the Arkansas standards, and just kind of a more -- I appreciate your point, because at first I was just thinking, you know, minor changes. This is not a minor change. This is a major change. But at the same time, I don't want to disrupt the flow of the process for the school. But I think it would be great to learn more about the curriculum that they select. We're not selecting the curriculum for them, but they could come before us and give us an overview of the curriculum, how they're going to continue to serve. What always has impressed me about the school -- one is the leadership; and, two, it creates opportunity for students who normally wouldn't have an opportunity to -- they would probably be -probably incarcerated somewhere if they didn't have
this opportunity. So the school -- we support and respect your mission; that's a given. But given the changes that are -- you're bringing before us, I think we need to have more information, just doing our due-diligence.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. HATLEY: I have the information on the curriculum. I didn't know if I could present it or not, or when to present it.

DR. WILLIAMS: Here's a question for you --
MS. HATLEY: Okay.
DR. WILLIAMS: -- along those lines. One, will the curriculum and the name change -- is everything done?

MS. HATLEY: No. We've taken the steps to line up to get approval, but pretty much -- you know, like I said that $I$ was in favor of Edgenuity, not for the pricing but for the classes that they've offered us. They offered us the all core classes, all electives, plus the CTE library, the world languages library for $\$ 12,00$ a year -- 12, roughly.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Let me follow-up on that. For ADE, have you all reviewed everything that they're proposing to do?

MS. PERRY: Not thoroughly. And part of that is
because, like with the curriculum changes -- Ms. Mary Claire --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: We need to make sure everyone is speaking in the microphone.

MS. PERRY: I'm sorry. Part of the thing had to do with -- part of our process has to do with waiting for approval from the actual CAP. So as far as them moving forward with the curriculum selection, we really couldn't get into that until they actually received permission to have the amendment made to their charter and changed from the current curriculum before they moved forward.

DR. WILLIAMS: So the process would be for us to approve what's presented to us today and then to come back --

MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt, ADE.
So Ms. Perry is correct that if they had made these changes prior to getting approval by the CAP then they would have been essentially amending their own charter without your approval. So they did have to come before you to get permission to, you know, change the curriculum, change the name, and all of that.

In terms of then the flexibility to make those decisions, they would do that after your approval.

And one thing $I$ do just want to mention that $I$ don't think has been covered is that they do have -- my understanding is kind of a plan to transition through the end of the year, and that might be helpful information for you guys to have if you wanted to -MS. HATLEY: They're not going to change -we're set until -- we're set until July 1 . DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. MS. hatley: Yes, sir. Nothing will change. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So to clarify, there aren't any changes prior to July 1 ?

MS. HATLEY: No, ma'am. We'll finish out -CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And then after that would be when changes would occur?

MS. hatley: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. HATLEY: Sorry. That was key.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Rogers, did you have a question?

MR. ROGERS: No.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: No. Okay.
Dr. Kremers?
DR. KREMERS: I would almost say -- would it be prudent to wait to do the waivers until we kind of knew the larger story before -- since nothing is
changing until July 1, we could potentially meet and hear the full proposal at that time just as a consideration without doing the waivers yet?

MR. ROGERS: I don't --
DR. WILLIAMS: I heard Ms. Perry say --
MR. ROGERS: So, Mary Claire, if we didn't approve the waiver, they couldn't move forward right now --

MS. HYATT: That's right.
MR. ROGERS: -- even though their board has already voted July 1st to leave?

MS. HYATT: Yes.
MR. ROGERS: So Katie's school is kind of stuck in the middle if we don't approve this waiver, if I'm understanding right?

MS. HYATT: That's right.
MR. ROGERS: Because her board has voted to leave SIATech -- I mean, to leave the Nucor; the board has found somewhere else to go. So now she needs an opportunity to have -- till July 1st to implement it. And I think after sometime next year, if we wanted to bring them back in and look at -- see how things are going now under the new way, we'd actually be able to see what was happening then. I think right now we wouldn't really know what was
going on.
DR. KREMERS: Okay. Could you -- what is the difference between the Arkansas annotated code Teaching Load and then the ADE rules Class Size/ Teaching Load?

MS. HYATT: Sure. So they're kind of -- the way I explain it typically is like pieces of a pie. So there are the standards, the $A D E$ rules, and then the Arkansas code; so one is law, one is rule, and then one is the standards. And sometimes you have all three pieces, like in this case, where each one of those pieces contains something related to Class Size and Teaching Load; so in order to fully effectuate a waiver you have to have each of the three pieces. Sometimes you'll just see it as code or as rule because it's not in all three. But in Class Size it is, so they need all the pieces of the pie to come together to fully effectuate the waiver.

DR. KREMERS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Ms. Coffman, did you want to add something?

MS. COFFMAN: I do. Thank you.
Deborah Coffman, Arkansas Department of Ed.
I do want to clarify that SIATech does meet the guidance in rules to be excluded from a letter grade
or a school rating. But they do receive an ESSA School Index report, they are held accountable under federal guidance, and that they do get a thorough report card. Also in making this change, because there will be a name change there will need to be an LEA number request change that also needs to meet the timeline to start a new school year.

So I just wanted you to make -- let you know all of those things are included in the timeline. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. And another question for $A D E$ : are there any financial concerns with a different -- purchasing a different curriculum or making any of those changes?

MR. ROGERS: I was going to get Chris to address that.

CHAIRMAN PEFFFER: Okay.
MR. ROGERS: So how much was the management fee that you paid last year -- that the school paid last year?

MR. BELL: Yes. The management fee last year, for the 2018 fiscal year, was $\$ 288,670$. For this current year, again, there was a change in -- a reduction in the service provided and a change in the fee; it decreased to $\$ 149,240$. Based on the
discussions that were had during our previous two board meetings, the management company suggested that they would increase the fee again and that calculated fee would be $\$ 275,887$. The replacement of those services is going to cost us $\$ 60,760$. So we'll see an overall savings of $\$ 215,127$ by making this adjustment and that will be -- obviously that would be funds that will be made available for the school to service our children.

MR. ROGERS: And I just wanted to address -- to see what the difference is, what they're going to be able to still offer those finance services, HR services for less than $\$ 250,000$ they were paying. As far as on the $A D E$ side, we're showing they've got a healthy projected balance at the end of the year. So right now, there's not any fiscal issues that we see going on with this change. In fact, if it does go out the way they're budgeting it, it would only strengthen their financial situation.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any other questions from the Panel?

MR. WILSON: I have a couple of questions for Ms. Hatley in general.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. If you -- we need you in the microphone.

MR. WILSON: Turn myself on, if I can figure out how to do it.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I think it's on. Yeah, just

MR. WILSON: Yeah. Ms. Hatley, you've been in operation about eight years or so now?

MS. hatley: Yes, sir.
MR. WILSON: And do you have some method of tracking those kids that you're serving after they graduate from high school?

MS. HATLEY: Yes, sir. We have --
MR. WILSON: Can you follow them?
MS. HATLEY: -- a student tracker.
MR. WILSON: I'm sorry?
MS. HATLEY: We have a student tracker. And our students -- well, most students change their numbers at least every three months, even though these are at-risk parents. So we use email addresses. They always have the same email addresses. Some of their names might be -- might not be too good, but we track them with their email addresses.

MR. WILSON: What's your internal report card so-to-speak on how those kids are doing after they graduate, in general?

MS. HATLEY: Well, in general, they're doing
really well. A lot of our kids are in the military, doing really well. Like graduation is this Friday; we have two of our former students speaking -- one is a truck driver, went to school out-of-state, moved back in-state, and works for Pepsi-Cola. Another one is in the military, in the Guard, but he is in -going through LRPD Academy to be a police officer.

MR. WILSON: You've got about 18 kids graduating this year?

MS. HATLEY: Yes, sir, roughly.
MR. WILSON: So is that about the same as last year, the year before, or --

MS. HATLEY: It's a little more, and it
fluctuates. You know, it really fluctuates.
MR. WILSON: Can't really get much of a plan there because the kids come and go, I guess?

MS. HATLEY: Open entry, open exit.
MR. WILSON: I very much appreciate what y'all are doing.

MS. HATLEY: Thank you, sir.
MR. WILSON: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. So if there are no more questions, do you want to discuss?

DR. WILLIAMS: Just what are -- I'm looking to approve the waiver today. But is there any follow-up
that we're going to ask for?
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Panel, what are -- are you -what are you all thinking in terms of potentially looking at a follow-up and what might that look like? And, Ms. Hyatt, what would you --

MS. HYATT: I just thought I might tell you if you did approve it today, it might be beneficial for you to know exactly what you would be approving them to do since we've had a little bit of confusion.

So the first would be to grant the Class Size and Teaching Load waiver. The second would be to allow them to begin discussing the change in their curriculum, but not a specific -- you wouldn't be approving them to select a specific one; just to break from what they're using now and to decide on a new one. To change the name of the school. To break from the current CMO so that they would be an independent charter. And then to change the staffing structure.

And then if you wanted them to come back at a later time to give you an update on how that went or which curriculum they ended up choosing, you could do that. But that would be what you would be approving today if you --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.

MS. HATLEY: What she's -- I want to reiterate again, the name change we would like is Graduate Arkansas .

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I like the name. MS. HATLEY: When I had time to think about it. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So I think Ms. Hyatt did a good job of breaking down what we would be approving today -- or what we could be approving today, if we wanted to do that.

So in thinking about a motion, if someone wants to make a motion, we would -- we could possibly reflect what Ms. Hyatt presented to us and then -but also think about whether or not we would want them to come back maybe early Fall to give us an update and to look at anything that might be next steps to help support them. So --

DR. WILLIAMS: My only question, before I make a motion, is when would be a good time for you all to come back? If school starts this Fall, maybe we want to see in August or just before?

MS. HATLEY: Well, maybe September, Board. I think let us get through August --

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MS. HATLEY: -- and kind of get our feet on the ground and see what --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yeah. Mr. Ballard, what does the Fall schedule look like?

MR. BALLARD: August would be the new charter applications, and we don't meet in September.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So our schedule right now is August to hear new applications, so we would already be meeting in August. And then we have an October meeting schedule then I think for amendments or renewals, one of the two. So in thinking about your motion, you could think either August or October.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
MR. ROGERS: I just -- I have a question about
$\qquad$
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MR. ROGERS: If we did it in August, what would -- Graduate Arkansas, what would they bring to us? And that's why I was actually thinking October would be better, because that way we would see that they've chosen their curriculum, how the new curriculum is being done in the school, how the teachers are using that curriculum, and how the students are reacting to it. I think if we did it in August, it would still be a little premature because they're still implementing it. And so that's why I was just -- and
it's really what you want to see. But I think that that's what $I$ was thinking is $I$ want to see how well it's working, and that's why I was thinking October. DR. WILLIAMS: I'm good with either -- either one; so, October works. MS. HATLEY: October? DR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Are you ready for -CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I'm ready for a motion, if you have one.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I move that the waivers be approved as requested and that the current SIATech come back to us in October to give us an update, with a review by $A D E$ of how progress is being made. DR. KREMERS: Second.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say "aye." (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Congratulations. And if you'll give us a few minutes to record, we'll give you some specific feedback.

MS. HATLEY: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Thank you.

## [A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Baldwin, I'll let you go ahead and get us started.

MR. BALDWIN: Yes, thank you. I support the waivers to allow the school to move forward with their indicated plans. And I do also support the return in October to talk about the implementation of their curriculum.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Kremers.
DR. KREMERS: I support the motion to approve the waiver request due to the changes in the CMO. I agree for them to come back at a later time, in October, with an update. And I do appreciate the important mission that you provide.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Williams.
DR. WILLIAMS: I support the motion. Although there is a name change and a new management company, the school will continue its mission of serving students that need to get back on track for graduation. Also, we will get an update on the progress of changes in October.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Rogers.
MR. ROGERS: I support the motion. I think it's an opportunity for the school to continue to support their students. Obviously, there will be challenges
in not having a CMO supporting them, but I appreciate we're going to review in October.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And Mr. Wilson.
MR. WILSON: Same. I voted for the motion in order to assist the school or charter in its effort in transition, and monitor the progress in October. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you very much. Congratulations.

MS. HATLEY: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And we'll see you in a few months. And I know our folks will support you as needed.

MS. hatley: Thank you so much.
A-7: REQUEST FOR DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT - LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. The next item on our agenda is Number 7, and that would be an amendment request for Lincoln High School, which is a district conversion charter school.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes. Kelly McLaughlin, ADE.
On January 12, 2012, the Charter Authorizing
Panel approved the application for Lincoln High School. The charter is approved currently to serve students in grades 8-12 with a maximum enrollment of 850. We have Superintendent Mary Ann Spears and

Principal Courtney Jones on the phone for their presentation.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Spears, are you on the phone?

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes. Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. SPEARS: And Courtney Jones, our high
school principal, is going to present.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
SUPT. SPEARS: We're just basically wanting to do a grade reconfiguration.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Let me -- let's do a quick swearing you in. Are you ready?

SUPT. SPEARS: Okay.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Go ahead and please
present your amendment request to us.
MS. JONES: Okay. This is Courtney Jones.
We're just asking -- our district is
reconfiguring grades, so we are asking to move our charter from 8-12 to 9-12 in order to get our student building numbers a little more hopefully aligned throughout the district. So our request is just to make the charter 9 th through $12 t h$ grade, instead of 8th through 12th grade. Maximum number will remain the same.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So you did say move from 8-12 to 9-12; correct?

MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Panel Members, do you have any questions?

DR. WILLIAMS: Ah --
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yes. Okay.
DR. WILLIAMS: Yes. This is Dr. Williams.
Quick question -- now you're moving from 8-12 to 9-12. So what will the junior high look like now?

MS. JONES: Right now junior high -- well, it's -- currently, this school year we are a 4-7, and next school year we'll be looking at a 4-8. The current middle school has gone into the online course management system in order to get approval. So the 8th grade students will still be allowed to take high school credit courses, and so that will be the configuration for next year.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. So your -- by 8 moving from the high school down to the junior high there would be no loss of opportunities to take upper-level courses?

MS. JONES: That is correct. And we'll have -we have a couple of our high school teachers that will actually be traveling to the middle school to offer those courses, along with teachers that are currently at the middle school that have the license to be able to teach those courses.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
MS. JONES: You're welcome.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Dr. Kremers has a question.

DR. KREMERS: Will there be any concern for -I'm assuming this is in a different location. Are there any concerns for transportation or any barriers for those 8 th graders that would be kind of -- with the change?

MS. JONES: So we currently have a bus that runs back and forth. We're only about five minutes away. So we have a bus on standby. We already have transportation from the high school to the middle school, and middle school to high school. So we don't see any concerns with transportation.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Mr. Baldwin.
MR. BALDWIN: Yes, thank you. You probably said this but I did not hear it. Tell me again -- tell us again why you're making this change?

MS. JONES: We're trying to level the buildings. The high school had the most number of students for several years. And we're just trying to level the buildings out for the elementary, middle and high school.

MR. BALDWIN: Okay. So there's not any --
SUPT. SPEARS: We also --
MR. BALDWIN: There's not any challenge with 9th graders -- with 8th graders being part of the high school? You're not making this change because of some problem that you're having with that?

MS. JONES: No, sir, not -- we're just trying to make the buildings a little more equal.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Spears, did you have anything you wanted to add?

SUPT. SPEARS: No. No. I mean, that's probably it. I mean, we do feel it's a better fit to have -we're going to have 7th, 8 th and $9 t h$-- 6th, 7th and 8th in one building of our middle school, and then 4th and 5th will be totally separate. And we just feel like we're just evening out things and putting
kids together there.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Will this -- I'm just thinking too in terms of staffing. And for the Panel Members, one thing that sometimes is beneficial because of middle school licensure being 5-8 licensing, those -- they have more flexibility to be able to reach 7 th and 8 th grade students.

SUPT. SPEARS: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And you can have that crossover with secondary, but this may actually give them more flexibility with some of their staff.

SUPT. SPEARS: Absolutely.
MS. JONES: Yes.
SUPT. SPEARS: It will definitely help with staffing.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
DR. WILLIAMS: Can I state this a little different way? This is Dr. Williams.

What I was trying to capture is, will this amendment allow the District to better align student numbers to building capacity?

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Are there any other questions for the Panel?

If not, I'll entertain a motion. MR. BALDWIN: So moved.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion -MR. WILSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- to approve and -MR. WILSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- a second from Mr. Wilson. All those in favor say "aye." (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Congratulations, and it's unanimous approval for your amendment request. And --

SUPT. SPEARS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- we -- if you'll hang on for just a minute, we'll see if there's any specific feedback from any of the panel members.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So the Panel is unanimous in their approval of the motion because the amendment is allowing better alignment for students with building capacity. And so we appreciate y'all bringing this to us. And Ms. Coffman's team will work with you on getting your LEA changed to reflect this new configuration.

MS. JONES: All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Thank you.
A-8: REQUEST FOR DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT

- CABOT ACADEMIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. We are moving on to our last agenda item, which is Item Number 8. And this will be a conversion charter school amendment for Cabot Academic of -- Academy of Excellence. Correct? Is that right?

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. McLAUGHLIN: On March 8, 2004, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the application for Cabot Academic Center of Excellence. And the charter is approved to serve students in grades $7-12$ with a maximum enrollment of 500. Representatives of Cabot Academic Center is -- we have Assistant Superintendent Tammy Tucker and Center Director Michele Evans here today for their presentation.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And if you all will raise your right hand we'll swear you in. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? MS. EVANS: Yes.

DR. TUCKER: Yes.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you. And just
state your name and position for the record, and you're recognized. And you'll have 20 minutes.

MS. EVANS: Okay. Michele Evans, principal at Academic Center of Excellence in Cabot.

We're here today -- we hope to add grades 5 and 6. We currently serve 7-12. And we just see the need getting bigger and bigger each year, so we just want to start serving more kids.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I'll let the Panel start asking questions. So I'll start with Dr. Williams.

DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. You say the need is getting bigger. And could you just kind of define that need? You have 7-12, and you're going to drop down and add the additional 5 th and 6 th grades to this. So just talk a little bit about the need to bring those -- because you're looking like you kind of had junior high/high school.

MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.
DR. WILLIAMS: Now you're really bringing in middle school -MS. EVANS: Yes, sir. DR. WILLIAMS: -- as part of this. MS. EVANS: We kind of focus on the at-risk population. And the need has just arisen for
students that have social anxiety, drug problems, and we truly focus on those social/emotional skills in a smaller setting. And the need has just gotten bigger each year.

DR. WILLIAMS: So you're just reaching down -MS. EVANS: Correct.

DR. WILLIAMS: -- a little sooner than -MS. EVANS: Yes, sir. Hoping to make a change. DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BALDWIN: How did you determine to go down to 5 th grade? Why not go down below 5th grade? MS. EVANS: Our middle school is 5th and 6th grade, so that's the next logical group to add at this time.

MR. BALDWIN: Do you have the financial capability to do this and the staffing -- teacher staffing?

MS. EVANS: Yes, sir. We have added staff that are specifically middle-level certified 5-8 in all of the core content areas; so we feel like we can meet the academic needs of those students. But in a smaller setting we feel like we can really provide the attention that those students need to help them be more successful in school. We currently have two middle schools in our district, and they are very
large, around 800 students in each. So for those students especially that experience some of those social situations, anxiety, certain types of disabilities, it makes those very large settings overwhelming to some of our students. In our current facility we have a wonderful set-up where we can focus and provide a structure just for those middlelevel 5 th and 6 th grade students; so they would not be intermingled with the high school students, but we could really tailor to meet their needs.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Dr. Kremers.
DR. KREMERS: You answered my question about intermingling, so --

MS. EVANS: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: I think we were thinking the same thing, if that was -- just wondering. Because I know with your older students their schedules are a lot more flexible. So could you just give us just a real brief description of what the day might look like for the 5 th and 6th grades in this environment? MS. EVANS: It will pretty much be a traditional school day all day long, working on the core subjects. But then we're going to pull them out for intensive counseling sessions and try to give them skills so when they transition back to a regular
class or a bigger setting they have the life-skills that they need to be successful.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. Mr. Rogers, do you have questions?

MR. ROGERS: No, not right now.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Mr. Wilson?
MR. WILSON: Just a general question. I asked Ms. Hatley a while ago about your feel or your opinion on what happens to these kids after they graduate? Do you have some way of tracking them or do you try to figure out what you're doing is really working?

MS. EVANS: The best tracking system we currently have is through the Jobs for Arkansas Graduate, because she has to keep a focus on them, and the 11 th and 12 th graders are in that program that gets them that credit. And then the kids, we just keep in constant contact because of the relationships they build with the teachers and they come back and share their lives with us, bring their babies or whatever is going on in their lives. So --

MR. WILSON: What do you think?
MS. EVANS: I think we're very successful.
MR. WILSON: Successful?
MS. EVANS: Yes, sir.

MR. WILSON: I hope so. And I appreciate the work you're doing.

MS. EVANS: Thank you very much. Very rewarding.

DR. TUCKER: I would just add that I feel like we have many students that do graduate from our Academic Center of Excellence that might not make it had they only had the traditional high school setting as their only option. But because of the intensive support, the small setting, the very strong relationships that they form with their teacher advisors these students get a lot of support. And we've seen many walk across the stage at Verizon Arena that might otherwise not have made it.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. Any other questions for them from the Panel?

MR. ROGERS: What's the current cap for the charter school?

MS. EVANS: 500 .
MR. ROGERS: Okay. And then you're at 265 right now?

MS. EVANS: We run right around there. Yes, sir.

MR. ROGERS: And so these 5th and 6th graders are right now in your middle school and you're going
to move them to the new campus where your 7-12 are. But they won't be co-mingled --

MS. EVANS: Correct.
MR. ROGERS: -- with 7-12?
MS. EVANS: On a separate side of the building.
MR. ROGERS: Okay. Okay.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. If there are no questions, I'll entertain a motion.

MR. WILSON: Move the approval of the amendment request.

DR. KREMERS: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Any opposed?
All right. Congratulations. And we will record our feedback.
[A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: And Panel Members are supportive of the flexibility to bring in the middle school at-risk students and provide them with that early intervention.

So we appreciate y'all being here and waiting out the morning with us.

MISC. MATTERS
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: We have gotten through quite a bit in a short time.

MR. WILSON: Do we get a bonus for that?
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Yes, yes, bonus for sure, I think.

Mr. Ballard has a few things for us. But before you go into your part, can I add something that Mr. Wilson has asked about? And it was a very good question, you know, as far as being able to follow students, especially our charters that are serving the at-risk populations -- you know, how schools are following. And it was making me think about, you know, oftentimes in the past with the student services plan schools would talk about how they were following students after graduation -- but we've never really had really consistent data on that. And one of our ADE goals for our strategic plan is to insure that all students are successful a year after graduation, either enrolled in some type of postsecondary education or meaningful job experiences. So I think to kind of go to your point, I think that there are going to be a lot of opportunities in the next year for us to have multiple agencies working together and for us to be really looking at how do we
create those systems where we really can follow and track the success of our students. And that's going to help us to look back at all these different programs and options that are available and give us some really good information regarding success.

So let's kind of keep up that conversation though and looking at that, because I think that's a really good opportunity.

So, all right. So, Mr. Ballard, what do we -MR. BALLARD: All right.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- need to still discuss?
MR. BALLARD: So I do have a bonus piece for you
guys. I know you guys went through it pretty quickly.

Reginald Ballard, ADE.
We have Beebe School District would like to, for lack of a better word, withdraw their charter which would require a June meeting for this upcoming month. So we need to meet in June to take care of that matter.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. So could that be a meeting where everyone calls in?

MR. BALLARD: Sure. That could be --
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MR. BALLARD: Yeah. That can be a
teleconference.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. And the school district -- if the school district can, you know, provide all the information around -- and if we could get it in advance, and if Panel Members have any questions maybe funnel a lot of that to you in advance to try to have everything together for the day. And that way, when we call in maybe there wouldn't be --

MR. BALLARD: I can have that. Yeah.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: -- a lot of questions.
MR. BALLARD: Yeah. So I can put together a similar agenda packet --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MR. BALLARD: -- going over their documentations that they submit --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MR. BALLARD: -- as well as any questions that you may have in advance.

DR. KREMERS: Will there be options of dates for us for June, like you'll give us some options?

MR. BALLARD: So the date that I was looking at was June 11th, which would just be following the same cadence that we have for our traditional Charter Authorizing Panel meetings. I can work with the

Charter Authorizing Panel on the date that works best for the Panel.

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. June 11th, would that work for Panel Members?

MS. HYATT: I'm not going to be here on the 11th, but I think you guys will be okay without me. And I can try and call in. I'm doing a training that day, so --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. I'm just trying to think through -- I mean, this is -- the reason why -let's talk about the reason why we need to do this in June. Because what would become problematic is then all of a sudden if we have a hearing scheduled for this one and then what are their -- you know, what if there are some others. You know, how are we determining that this one is one that has to be heard and quickly?

MS. HYATT: So I believe that the school just contacted the Charter Unit yesterday, which is why we didn't have time to get it on this meeting's agenda. They want to relinquish their district conversion charter June 30th so that they would begin the new school year as just a traditional school -- or I think that's their plan, not have the charter in the new school year, which would mean we would have to
have it in June because July, August would be too late. So it's kind of an exceptional circumstance that it really has to be between now and June 30th that they present their request to you in order for it to be approved by July 1st.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: And the LEA change form has to be submitted to Ms. Jordan ASAP, so --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay.
MS. McLAUGHLIN: And they're already working on that, so --

CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. If everyone is agreeable then to June 11th, it's probably not something for -- that Ms. Hyatt has to change her plans over. And I know we can rely on someone else, you know, if we did have something emergent that came up. But if we could have information prior to so questions -- maybe we would have limited questions, that would probably be helpful -- that Panel Members could contact you in advance and we could be ready to discuss any concerns Panel Members had the day of. Okay. All right. So does that sound good? MR. BALLARD: That's good. Yes. CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: Okay. All right. Panel Members, is there anything else -anything anybody would like to discuss? Questions or
concerns?
We do have lunch in Room 201-A, so that's your bonus -- you get to have lunch before you leave. We'll spend a little more time together.

But if there's not anything else, then $I$ will entertain a motion to adjourn and see you June 11th -- or talk to you June 11th.

DR. WILLIAMS: Move to adjourn.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right.
MR. BALDWIN: Second.
CHAIRMAN PFEFFER: All right. We are adjourned. Thank you.
(The meeting was concluded at 11:45 a.m.)

## CERTIFICATE

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 State Department of Education, Charter Authorizing Panel, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 14, 2019, 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: May 21, 2019.

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

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

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| 14 (2) | 8:19;16:2 | 84:12;85:8,20;87:24 |  |  |
| 3:3;4:15 15(1) | 265 (1) | 7 |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 15(1) \\ & 21: 12 \end{aligned}$ | 275 (1) |  |  |  |
| 16.0 (1) | 52:19 | 7 (2) |  |  |
| 35:2 | 3 | $\begin{aligned} & 33: 17 ; 75: 17 \\ & \mathbf{7 - 1 2}(5) \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| 16.01.1 (1) | 3 | $82 \cdot 14 \cdot 83 \cdot 6,14 \cdot 88 \cdot 1$, |  |  |
| 16.01.2 (1) | 3 (2) | 4 |  |  |
| 35:4 | 33:12;40:12 | 750 (1) |  |  |
| 16.01.3 (1) | 30 (5) | 21:16 |  |  |
| 35:4 | 11:17;12:4;17:16, | 7th (3) |  |  |
| 16-17-302 (1) | 17;36:22 | 79:22,22;80:7 |  |  |
| ${ }^{34} 18$ (1) 16 | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 301(2) \\ 9: 12 ; 10: 17 \end{array}$ | 8 |  |  |
| 69:8 | 30-minute (1) |  |  |  |
| 180 (1) | 8:14 | 8 (4) |  |  |
| 8:12 | 30th (3) | 49:18;78:1;82:5,11 |  |  |
| 190 (3) | 30:6;92:22;93:3 | 800 (1) |  |  |
| 22:15;25:1,5 | 4 | 85:1 |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 190-day (1) } \\ 41: 12 \end{gathered}$ | 4 | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { 8-12 (4) } \\ 75: 24 ; 77: 2,9,16 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| 1-A5.2 (1) | 4 (1) | 850 (1) |  |  |
| 18:11 | 40:6 | 75:25 |  |  |
| 1st (3) | 4- (1) | 8th (7) |  |  |
| 64:11,20;93:5 | $\begin{array}{r} 34: 14 \\ 4-12(1) \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77: 6,23 ; 78: 18 ; \\ & 79: 13,22,23 ; 80: 7 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| 2 | 4-12(1) | 79.13,22,23,00.7 |  |  |
|  | 450 (1) | 9 |  |  |
| 20 (6) | 4:19 |  |  |  |
| 5:1;22:1;34:6; | 4-7 (1) | 9-12 (4) |  |  |

