

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
October 15, 2019

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Auditorium. Panel Chair Dr. Ivy Pfeffer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Phillip Baldwin, Dr. Angela Kremers, Toyce Newton, Greg Rogers (Action Agendas A and B-1 only), Dr. Naccaman Williams, Mike Wilson.

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2019>

Dr. Pfeffer introduced the Panel members and provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings.

Consent Agenda

1. CAP Minutes - August 13, 2019

Mr. Rogers moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the CAP minutes from August 13, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Attorney Mary Claire Hyatt provided the directions for the proceedings and explained the voting procedures.

Action Agenda

**A-1 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request:
Arkansas Connections Academy**

School Leader Darla Gardner of the Arkansas Connections Academy presented an overview of the amendment request for a waiver of Arkansas School Law that will allow board members to meet remotely and be allowed to both count toward quorum and vote in Executive Sessions.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the amendment request. Motion carried unanimously.

**A-2 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment
Request: River Valley Virtual Academy**

Principal Jennifer Feeny presented remotely via phone an overview of the amendment request for a waiver of A.C.A. 6-16-102(a)(5) Unstructured Social Time/Elementary Recess Time.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Dr. Kremers, to accept the amendment request of the applicant. Motion carried unanimously.

**A-3 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment
Request: The Excel Center, Little Rock**

School Director Tomiko Davis and Goodwill Industries of Arkansas President and CEO Brian Marsh presented an overview of the amendment requests to serve students with an increased enrollment cap from 125 to 350, a waiver for the School Counseling Improvement Act, and a waiver for sections of the Employee Sick Leave Standard.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Baldwin, to approve the amendment requests for an increased enrollment cap to 350, and modifications to the waiver requests to include Employee Sick leave and only sections 6-18-2003 (2) (a) pertaining to the Counseling Licensure Act. Motion carried unanimously.

**A-4 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment
Request: LISA Academy, Little Rock**

Superintendent Dr. Fatih Bogrek, Assistant Superintendent Louanne Baroni of LISA Academy and Superintendent Donna Broyles of Little Rock Preparatory Academy presented an overview of the application requests for the following:

1. Transferring the Collegiate Choices dba Little Rock Preparatory Academy (LRPA) charter to LISA Academy, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Reconfiguring LISA Academy Chenal, LISA Academy West Middle School and LISA Academy West High School by adding a new campus at 6711 W. Markham St. Little Rock, AR.
3. Rename schools to provide consistency and clarity.
4. Increase LISA Academy's enrollment cap by 432 to accommodate LRPA's current cap.
5. Existing LISA Academy waivers will remain in place and

additional waivers are requested for the whole district.

6. LISA Academy intends to change the name of the new transferred school's sponsoring entity to Little Scholars of Arkansas Foundation ("LISA Academy")

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the amendment request in Item #1 to transfer the Collegiate Choices dba LRPA school to LISA Academy beginning in the 2020- 2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the amendment request for items #2 - #6. Motion carried unanimously.

Lunch Break at 10:57 a.m.

Reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

**B-1 Hearing for District Conversion Public Charter School Application
Request: Southside Junior High School, Batesville**

Superintendent Roger Rich presented an overview of the application for a district-conversion public charter school to serve students in grades 7-8 with a maximum enrollment of 600.

Senator Stew Smith and Senator James Sturch each spoke in support of the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Baldwin moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the application request of the applicant. Motion carried unanimously.

**B-2 Hearing for District Conversion Public Charter School Application
Request: Adventure Online Academy, Waldron**

Superintendent Daniel Fielding presented an overview of the application for a district-conversion virtual public charter school to serve students in grades K-12 with a maximum enrollment of 150. District 9 State Senator Terry Rice was featured in a video in support of the application.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the application request of the applicant. Motion carried unanimously.

**B-3 Hearing for District Conversion Public Charter School Application
Request: Centerpoint Academy of Agriculture and Skilled Trades, Amity**

Superintendent Dan Breshears and Principal Dr. Nick Mounts presented an overview of the application for a district-conversion public charter school to serve students in grades 11-12 with a maximum enrollment of 75.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Kremers moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the application request with the proper adjustments to the waiver requests of the applicant. Motion carried unanimously.

**B-4 Hearing for District Conversion Public Charter School Application
Request: Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy, Mountainburg**

Superintendent Dr. Debbie Atwell and Principal Amanda Howard presented an overview of the application for a district-conversion public charter school to serve students in grades 5-8 with a maximum enrollment of 400.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to take the matter under advisement and conduct a hearing at a future session of the CAP. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for November 19, 2019.

Adjournment

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.



Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair