

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
May 16, 2018**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, in the auditorium of the Arkansas Department of Education. Dr. Mike Hernandez, appointed chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

Present: Dr. Mike Hernandez, appointed chair; Toyce Newton; Dr. Jeremy Owoh; Kathi Turner; Dr. Naccaman Williams; Mike Wilson

Absent: Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, chair

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/2018>

John Kaminar provided an overview of emergency procedures and logistics of the newly renovated auditorium.

Dr. Hernandez introduced the members of the Panel and welcomed all in attendance.

Dr. Hernandez provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings.

**Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Owoh and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

1. CAP Minutes:
  - a. March 14, 2018
  - b. April 26, 2018
2. Updated Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting Calendar
3. Quest Academy of Pine Bluff Non-Renewal Notification

**Action Agenda**

Staff Attorney Jennifer Davis provided the Panel with directions for the proceedings. She also explained the public voting procedures to the Panel and the audience.

**A-1 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendment: Osceola Stem Academy, Osceola**

Shantele Raper, Director of Federal Programs and Special Projects, and Christel Smith, Principal, presented the Osceola STEM Academy charter amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Turner, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to approve the charter amendment request.

**A-2 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendment: Polk County Virtual Academy, Mena**

Benny Weston, Superintendent, presented the Polk County Virtual Academy charter amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Owoh, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried unanimously to approve the charter amendment request.

**A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Arts Academy, Rogers**

Mary Ley, Superintendent, presented the Arkansas Arts Academy charter amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Newton, and carried unanimously to approve the charter amendment request.

**A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Charter School Amendment: Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock, Little Rock**

Joe Harris, Executive Director for Friendship Education Foundation, presented the Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock charter amendment request.

Michael Poore, Superintendent of the Little Rock School District, opposed the amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Turner, and carried unanimously to approve the charter amendment request.

### **A-5 Consideration for Action: Rockbridge Montessori School, Little Rock**

Jennifer Davis provided the Panel with an explanation of the possible actions that the Panel could take on the charter.

William Felton, Superintendent, presented the Rockbridge Montessori School financial viability review.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Newton, and carried unanimously to revoke the charter effective June 30, 2018.

### **Reports**

Dr. Alexandra Boyd, Charter Schools Unit Director, presented the Panel with instructions for the review of the reports. Dr. Boyd asked that the second report be heard first, and the Panel agreed.

#### **R-2 SIATech Charter School Report**

Katie Hatley, Superintendent, presented an annual report to the Panel.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Newton, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to accept the school report.

#### **R-1 Pine Bluff Lighthouse Academy Report**

Lenisha Roberts, Executive Director, presented an annual report to the Panel.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Owoh, seconded by Dr. Williams, and carried unanimously to accept the school report.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Ms. Newton, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Freddie Scott*

  
Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair