

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
April 26, 2018**

The Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) met on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at the Arkansas Department of Education in the PLSB Conference Room 105C. Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

Present: Dr. Ivy Pfeffer; Dr. Mike Hernandez; Toyce Newton (Remote); Dr. Jeremy Owoh; Kathi Turner; Dr. Naccaman Williams (Remote); Mike Wilson.

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

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

Action Agenda

Dr. Alexandra Boyd, Director of Charter Schools Office, provided the Panel with directions for the proceedings.

A-1 Consideration for Open-enrollment Charter School Hearing Request: Rockbridge Montessori Charter School

Dr. Boyd presented the Panel with following information:

- Placement of the school on the upcoming May 16, 2018, CAP meeting agenda, and
- Concerns expressed by ADE staff for the financial viability and capability of the school to close the 2017-2018 school year with a positive fund balance

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to place Rockbridge Montessori Charter School on the May 16, 2018 CAP meeting agenda for a full review. Members of the Panel expressed an interest in receiving the following information prior to the meeting:

- Narrative on how this financial situation surfaced
- Financial Viability Plan if afforded an opportunity to continue
- Fiscal Report (Revenue to Expense; YTD 2017-2018 Financials; Federal and National School Lunch Funding Report
- Clear processes and timelines pertinent to the decisions that the Panel could make

**A-2 Consideration of Amendment Request for Open-Enrollment Charter School:
Friendship Aspire Academy, Little Rock**

Dr. Boyd presented a request from Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock to amend the April 26, 2018, CAP meeting agenda to hear an amendment request. Scott Smith of APSRC spoke on behalf of the school's request to be heard and placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the State Board of Education upon approval to assist their efforts to start school launch planning and enrollment activities as early as possible.

Lori Freno, ADE General Counsel, expressed the legalities pertaining to Open Meeting Laws, procedural actions required for amending the agenda and amending the request, timing as well as waivers for said request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried on a 4-2 vote to add the agenda item to the April 26, 2018, CAP meeting agenda.

Further questions and answers followed concerning the need to ensure the ADE Rules Governing Charter Schools were followed in terms of notification and hearing procedures.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried on a 4-2 vote to hear the Friendship Aspire Academy amendment request during this session.

A question and answer period followed.

Lori Freno addressed legal concerns that holding the hearing may be in violation of Section 4.02.5 of ADE Rules Governing Charter Schools without having prior written approval from the Commissioner's office to the Panel.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to expunge the prior vote.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded Dr. Williams, and carried unanimously to reconvene at 8:00 AM on April 27, 2018 to consider the Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock amendment request, pending Commissioner approval and satisfying the requirements of Section 4.02.5 of ADE Rules Governing Charter Schools.

Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Minutes recorded by Freddie Scott

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair

Mike Hernandez
EP