

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
February 15, 2017**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Deborah Coffman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Present: Deborah Coffman, Chair; Dr. Mark Gotcher, Vice Chair; Stacy Smith; Bobby Lester; Ivy Pfeffer; Greg Rogers; Dr. Eric Saunders; Lisa Haley, Annette Barnes (joined in PM session)

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/2016>

**Reports**

Ms. Coffman welcomed the members of the Panel and the audience.

Ms. Coffman provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings. There were no reports provided.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda: Minutes- December 13-15, 2016 and January 18, 2017.

**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 Public Charter School Amendment: Warren Middle School**

Principal Kathy Cornish presented the Panel with the Warren Middle School request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. Rogers, and carried unanimously to approve the amendment request for a waiver change.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Coffman adjourned the meeting until 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Deborah Coffman, Chair, called the meeting back to order at 1:24 p.m.

**A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: KIPP Delta Public Schools**

Executive Director Scott Shirey presented the Panel with the KIPP Delta amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried unanimously to approve the amendment request.

**A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Connections Academy**

School Leader Darla Gardner presented the Panel with the Arkansas Connections Academy amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Smith, and carried on a 7 – Yay, 1 Abstain vote to approve the request.

It was moved by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Barnes to convene a special meeting in March 2017 to further discuss financial matters with respect to the 6-17-1117 waiver.

**A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Virtual Academy**

Superintendent Dr. Scott Sides presented the Panel with the Arkansas Virtual Academy amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Sides withdrew the Arkansas Virtual Academy request.

No action was required.

**Discussion**

A discussion period followed on compliance concerns with Rockbridge Montessori Academy. The focal areas for discussion were special education, governance and financial matters.

It was moved by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Lester, and carried unanimously to conduct a review during its next meeting on March 15, 2017.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Ms. Barnes, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Freddie Scott*

  

---

Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair