

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

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Dr. Mark Gotcher, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Deborah Coffman, chair (Action Items 3 & 4 only), Dr. Mark Gotcher, Vice Chair, Stacy Smith; Bobby Lester; Dr. Ivy Pfeffer; Greg Rogers; Dr. Eric Saunders; Lisa Haley

Absent: Deborah Coffman, Chair, (absent for Action Items 1 & 2); Annette Barnes; Dr. Eric Saunders (absent for Action Item 3 only)

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

Dr. Gotcher welcomed the members of the Panel and the audience.

Dr. Gotcher 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. Lester, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Items included in the Consent Agenda: Minutes- February 15, 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 Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA)

Principal Darla Gardner presented the Panel with the ARCA 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.

A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: School for Integrated Academics and Technologies (SIATech)

Executive Director Katie Tatum presented the Panel with the SIATech 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 Hearing and Potential Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School: Rockbridge Montessori School

Sarah Gober of Rockbridge Montessori School was present to answer questions.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Mr. Rogers, and failed with a 2-4 vote to revoke the charter.

It was moved by Dr. Pfeffer, seconded by Ms. Smith, and carried with a 4-2 vote to table until the next meeting.

A-4 State Board of Education Request for Review of Covenant Keepers

Mary Perry presented the Panel with the Covenant Keepers information.

A question and answer period followed.

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

Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Smith, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelly McLaughlin



Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair