

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
October 19, 2017**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, October 19, 2017, in the auditorium of the Department of Environmental Quality building. Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

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/2017>

**Reports**

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

Dr. Pfeffer 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: Minutes- August 15, 2017  
Minutes- August 16, 2017  
Minutes- August 17, 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 Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Arts Academy**

Mary Ley, Superintendent, and Matt Young, Elementary Principal, presented the Panel with the Arkansas Arts Academy request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to approve the request.

**A-2 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendment: Cross County Elementary Technical Academy**

Mindy Searcy, Elementary Principal, and Stephen Prince, High School Principal, presented the Panel with the Cross County Elementary Technical Academy request.

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

**A-3 Request for District Conversion Charter School: Polk County Virtual Academy, Mena School District**

Benny Weston, Superintendent, and Paulette Sherrer, Federal Programs Director, presented the Panel with the Polk County Virtual Academy request.

A question and answer period followed.

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

**A-4 Discussion of State Board Requested Review: Arkansas Connections Academy**

Dr. Pfeffer asked for clarification from department staff on the State Board's October 12, 2017, request that the Charter Authorizing Panel conduct a financial review of Arkansas Connections Academy.

Staff Attorney Jennifer Davis advised that the discussion of the request be added as an agenda item.

It was moved by Dr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Williams, and carried unanimously to add the discussion as an agenda item.

Alexandra Boyd, Charter Unit Director, presented the background on the State Board request.

A question and answer period followed.

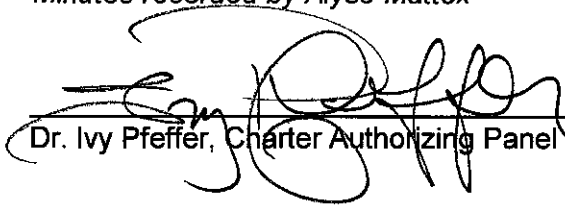
It was moved by Ms. Newton, seconded by Ms. Turner, and carried unanimously to conduct a financial review of Arkansas Connections Academy at the November 15, 2017, meeting.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Alyse Mattox*



Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair