

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
August 17, 2017**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, August 17, 2017, in the auditorium of the Department of Education 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, Dr. Naccaman Williams, Mike Wilson

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 new members of the Panel and the audience.

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

**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 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School, Pine Bluff, AR**

Ms. Pat Hart, School Board President, and Dedrick Sims, consultant, presented the Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously to approve the application request.

**A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Applications: Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR and A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Applications: Friendship Aspire Academy at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR**

Mr. Joe Harris, National Executive Director, presented the Friendship Aspire Academy requests for charter schools in both Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

Ms. Alexandra Boyd, Director of Charter Schools, presented a letter of opposition submitted via email by Mr. Michael Poore, Superintendent of Little Rock School District.

Mr. Harris rebutted the opposition.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Newton, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried unanimously to approve the application request for Friendship Aspire Academy of Little Rock.

It was moved by Dr. Owoh, seconded by Dr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously to approve the application request for Friendship Aspire Academy of Pine Bluff.

**A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Ozark Montessori Academy, Springdale, AR**

Dr. Christine Silano, Superintendent, presented the Ozark Montessori Academy request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Hernandez, and passed with a four-to-one vote to approve the amendment request.

**A-5 Request for District Conversion Public Charter School Amendment: Springdale School of Innovation, Springdale, AR**

Dr. Megan Slocum, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Springdale School of Innovation request.

A question and answer period followed.

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

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Owoh, and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

*Minutes recorded by Freddie Scott*

  
Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair