

**Minutes**  
**Charter Authorizing Panel**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Deborah Coffman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Deborah Coffman, Chair; Dr. Debbie Jones, Vice Chair; Annette Barnes; Dr. Mark Gotcher; Bobby Lester; Jennifer Liwo; Ivy Pfeffer; Greg Rogers; and Dr. Eric Saunders

Absent: none

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2015>

**Action Agenda**

General Counsel Kendra Clay provided the Panel with directions for the proceedings. She also explained the public voting procedures to the Panel and the audience.

Ms. Coffman recognized state legislators in attendance.

Senator Uvalde Lindsey and Representative James Sturch addressed the Panel.

**A-1 Hearing of Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: LISA Academy**

This request was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

**A-2 Hearing of Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff**

Program Manager Curtis Shack presented the Panel with Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff's request to amend the charter by changing the grades served from 5-12 to K-8.

Student Council President Sandie Kindle, student Frank Brown, and parent Doresia Henderson addressed the Panel.

A question and answer period followed.

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

**A-3 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Cave City High School Career and Collegiate Preparatory School**

Representative Michelle Gray addressed the Panel.

Superintendent Steven Green, Principal Marc Walling, and Interventionist Cheryl Bell presented the Panel with Cave City's request for a district conversion public charter school.

Dr. Richard Dawe, President of Ozarka College, and Deborah Frazier, Chancellor at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, addressed the Panel.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer, and carried unanimously to approve the charter.

**A-4 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Fayetteville Virtual Academy**

Director of Development Holly Johnson, Superintendent Dr. Paul Hewitt, and Associate Superintendent Dr. Kim Garrett presented the Panel with Fayetteville's request for a district conversion public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Pfeffer, seconded by Dr. Jones, and carried unanimously to approve the application.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.*