

**Minutes**  
**Charter Authorizing Panel**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, November 19, 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.

**A-1 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Gentry High School Conversion Charter**

Superintendent Dr. Randy Barrett and Assistant Superintendent Judy Winslett presented the Panel with Gentry's request for a district conversion public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

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

**A-2 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Hot Springs World Class High School**

Principal Lloyd Jackson, Director of Secondary Education Dr. Stephanie Nehus, and Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez presented the Panel with Hot Springs's request for a district conversion public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

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

**A-3 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Springdale School of Innovation**

Associate Superintendent Dr. Megan Witonski presented the Panel with Springdale's request for a district conversion public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

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

#### **A-4 Request to Postpone Open-Enrollment Priority School Hearings**

Executive Director of the Arkansas Public School Resource Center, Scott Smith, addressed the Panel requesting to postpone the open-enrollment priority school hearings scheduled to take place in December.

Regional Vice President Lenisha Broadway, of Lighthouse Academies and Director Dr. Valerie Tatum, of Covenant Keepers Charter School, addressed the Panel.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to postpone the open-enrollment and district conversion priority hearings to February.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.*