

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Thursday, November 14, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, November 14, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

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/2013>

Action Agenda

A-1 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Quest Middle School of West Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Edwin Strickland and others discussed the proposed charter school.

A representative of the Little Rock School District spoke in opposition to the charter. Gary Newton and Chuck Cook responded.

A question and answer period followed.

The applicant withdrew the requests for waivers of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-129, 6-16-102, 6-16-1204, and 6-21-304, and Section 9, Curriculum, of the Standards for Accreditation.

The applicant modified the request for a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a) to specify the grading scale implemented by the charter would be more rigorous than the one required in statute and the request for a waiver of 9.03.4 of the Standards for Accreditation to state that all 38 units will be offered by the time the charter has its first senior class.

The applicant requested waivers of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(c)(1)(A), requiring a board member to be physically present at a meeting to be counted for purposes of a quorum or to vote, ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools, and Sections 4-8 of ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously to approve the open-enrollment charter application for Quest Middle School of West Little Rock, with the requirement that expenditure reports for health services and counseling be submitted to the ADE in September 2015.

A-2 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas

Amanda Kight discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Witonski moved, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously in a roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for Redfield Tri-County Charter School. Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns with the curriculum and projected first year financial balances; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum and financial concerns; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns with sustainability; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns over finance and capacity; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum, finance, and sustainability concerns; Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum and budget concerns.

A-3 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County, Sunset, Arkansas

Sally Wilson and representatives of Edison Learning discussed the proposed charter school.

Superintendent Gary Masters of the South Mississippi County School District expressed concerns about the charter school.

Mr. Mike Malone of Edison responded to the concerns.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Walters moved to approve the charter, and additional discussion followed.

The applicant withdrew the waiver request pertaining to student/teacher ratios and clarified that they would comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-31. A discussion of the 38 units and ALE followed.

Dr. Walters withdrew her motion.

Mr. Hernandez moved, seconded by Dr. Walters, and carried unanimously to table the application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County to allow time for the applicant to consult with ADE staff and address the panel's remaining concerns.

A-4 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County, Osceola, Arkansas

Sally Wilson discussed the proposed charter school.

Superintendent Gary Masters of the South Mississippi County School District expressed concerns about the charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

The applicant withdrew the waiver request pertaining to student/teacher ratios and clarified that they would comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-31. A discussion of the 38 units and ALE followed.

Mr. Hoy moved, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and carried in a 3-2 vote to table the application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County to allow time for the applicant to consult with ADE staff and address the panel's remaining concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.