

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Wednesday, October 15, 2014**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Mike Hernandez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Vice Chair, Dr. Debbie Jones; Ivy Pfeffer; Cody Decker; and Dr. Eric Saunders

Absent: Annette Barnes; Deb Coffman

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/2014>

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Mike Hernandez welcomed the members of the panel and the audience.

Consent Agenda

C-1 Minutes – September 17, 2014

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Dr. Jones and carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action Agenda

A-1 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy

Mr. Wimberley, Chief Education Architect, discussed the request to amend the current charter by requesting an additional waiver of 9.03.4 of the ADE rules governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas public school districts to the extent that the rule requires courses to be taught annually, totaling 38 units of credit.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Pfeffer, seconded by Mr. Decker and carried unanimously to table the decision until a later time when the phase-in course schedule can be presented by the charter. 11:40 A.M. It was moved by Mr. Decker, seconded by Dr. Saunders and carried unanimously to take Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy off the table.

Mr. Wimberley presented the phase-in course schedule.

A question and answer period followed.

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

A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: KIPP Delta Public Schools

Mr. Shirey, Executive Director, presented the request to amend the current charter by requesting an additional campus in Forrest City and requesting additional waivers of Ark. Code Annotated § 6-13-616 regarding board of directors' member eligibility; Ark. Code Annotated § 6-13-634 regarding the size of a school district board of directors; Ark. Code Annotated § 6-17-301 regarding employment of certified personnel; Arkansas Department of Education rules governing educator licensure; Sections 5-9 of the ADE governing school district requirements for personnel policies, salary schedules, minimum salaries and documents posted to the district website; ADE rules governing public school services; and an amendment to the current lottery schedule.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried unanimously to approve all of the requested amendments.

A-3 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Arkansas Connections Academy, Bentonville, Arkansas

Dr. Beck presented the application for Arkansas Connections Academy Open-Enrollment Public Charter School.

Representatives from the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators spoke in opposition.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer and carried unanimously in a roll-call vote to deny the application. Mr. Decker voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns with technological controls; Ms. Pfeffer voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns with the teacher evaluation system; Dr. Jones voted in favor of the motion stating concerns with the plan for assisting students with weak learning coaches and curriculum standards; Dr. Saunders voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns with the waiver requested for procurement laws. It was moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Decker and carried unanimously to not allow resubmission of the application during the current application cycle.

A-4 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School, North Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Nichols-Anderson, Senior Vice President of Lighthouse Academies, presented the open-enrollment public charter school application for Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School.

Members from the North Little Rock School District spoke in opposition.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Decker, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried with a 3-1 vote to approve the application.

A-5 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Haas Hall Academy, Bentonville, Arkansas

Dr. Schoppmeyer presented the open-enrollment public charter school application for Haas Hall Academy.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer and carried with a 3-1 vote to approve the application.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Sky Bledsoe.