

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Thursday, January 16, 2014**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, January 16, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; 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/2014>

Action Agenda

A-1 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Fountain Lake Middle School Cobra Digital Prep Academy, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Superintendent Darin Beckwith and other district representatives discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Dr. Walters, and carried unanimously to approve the district conversion charter, with an enrollment cap of 500 students and without waivers of Sections 18.02 and 18.03 in the Standards for Accreditation.

A-2 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Pea Ridge Career and Technical Academy, Pea Ridge, Arkansas

Superintendent Rick Neal and other district representatives discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

During the discussion, the applicant withdrew the request to waive Section 10.01.4 of the Standards for Accreditation.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried unanimously to approve the district conversion charter.

A-3 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Warren Middle School, Warren, Arkansas

Superintendent Marilyn Johnson and other district representatives discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Hoy, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried unanimously to approve the district conversion charter without waiving 10.02.2 of the Standards for Accreditation.

A-4 Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: The Academies of West Memphis, West Memphis, Arkansas

Superintendent Jon Collins presented a video that discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and carried unanimously to approve the district conversion charter with the additional waivers of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-102 and 6-18-211 and the department rules governing mandatory attendance for students in grades 9-12.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.