In The Matter Of:

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

February 23, 2021

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**ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

A P P E A R A N C E S

PANEL MEMBERS:

MS. DEBORAH COFFMAN	Chairperson/ADE Asst. Commissioner - Public School Accountability
DR. NACCAMAN WILLIAMS	Former State Board of Ed. Member
MR. PHIL BALDWIN	CEO, Citizens Bank
MS. SONJA WRIGHT-McMURRAY	Division of CTE - Assoc. Director for Career Readiness
MS. KARLI SARACINI	ADE Asst. Commissioner - Educator Effectiveness & Licensure
DR. ERIC FLOWERS	ADE Asst. to Director

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

   MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT   DESE Attorney

ALSO APPEARING:

   MS. TRACY WEBB   DESE Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support

LOCATION:

   ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION - Auditorium
   #4 Capitol Mall
   Little Rock, Arkansas

I N D E X

1   P R O C E E D I N G S

2   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Good morning. The February

3   23, 2021 meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel is

4   called to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to the

5   Department of Ed. auditorium and ask that you please

6   silence all electronic devices.

7   The Charter Authorizing Panel oversees the

8   authorization, renewal, revision, and revocation of

9   charters.

10   I'm Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner for

11   Public School Accountability. On our Zoom today is

12   Phillip Baldwin, CEO at Citizens Bank.

13   Good morning, Mr. Baldwin.

14   Sonja Wright-McMurray, our Director of Career

15   Readiness Work-Based Learning for the Division of

16   Career and Technical Education, another DESE member.

17   Good morning.

18   And then we have two new members to welcome this

19   morning: Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner for

20   Educator Effectiveness here at DESE.

21   Good morning, Ms. Saracini.

22   And Dr. Eric Flowers, Assistant to the Director

23   here at DESE and working with ADE as well.

24   So good morning, Dr. Flowers.

25   And we may kind of keep a lookout to see if we

1   have any more board members that join us. Our other

2   two members are Dr. Naccaman Williams and Toyce

3   Newton.

4   So good morning, everyone. And with that, let's

5   look at our agenda today.

6   CONSENT AGENDA

7   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We're going to start with our

8   Consent Agenda, approval of the minutes from the

9   January Charter Authorizing Panel meeting. Any

10   conversation --

11   MR. BALDWIN: I move --

12   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- or changes?

13   MR. BALDWIN: I move approval.

14   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Second.

15   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I have a motion by Mr.

16   Baldwin, a second by Ms. Wright-McMurray to approve

17   the minutes as presented.

18   Any discussion?

19   All those in favor?

20   (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

21   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Motion passed.

22   ACTION AGENDA

23 1. CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST - LISA ACADEMY

24   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Ms. Webb, you are

25   recognized for Action Agenda Item Number 1.

1   MS. WEBB: Good morning. This morning we have

2   LISA Academy who has submitted an amendment request

3   to add a new campus, increase the enrollment cap, and

4   add additional waivers. LISA's charter was approved

5   in 2004 and the school serves students in grades K-

6   12. The 20-21 enrollment cap is 3,432 students with

7   approval to increase annually to 4,382 by 33-34

8   school year.

9   Today we have Dr. Bogrek, superintendent, and

10   Dr. -- or Ms. Luanne Baroni, the assistant

11   superintendent, that I think will be presenting along

12   with a couple other members of their team to answer

13   any questions you may have.

14   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

15   Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt, would you like to go over

16   our process today, because we do have new panel

17   members.

18   MS. HYATT: Sure.

19   Good morning. Let me know if you can't hear me.

20   I'm having to do a phone computer situation.

21   So you'll want to swear everyone in, except for

22   their attorney, before they begin to present.

23   They'll have 20 minutes to give their presentation on

24   their amendment request.

25   And, Tracy, correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't

1   believe anyone has signed up to speak in opposition.

2   So you'll just go into the additional 5 minutes,

3   if it's necessary. Following that, you'll have the

4   opportunity to ask questions of the Division, to ask

5   questions of LISA, and then vote. And at the time

6   that you guys vote, if you've got questions about

7   what types of actions you can take I'll be here to

8   answer those questions.

9   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: If all persons speaking on

10   behalf of LISA Academy will stand and raise your

11   right hand. Do you swear or affirm that the

12   testimony you're about to give shall be the truth,

13   the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

14   (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

15   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

16   All right. You're recognized, if you will be

17   sure to state your name and title for the record.

18   SUPT. BOGREK: Morning, with respect to Charter

19   Panel Members. I would like to thank you for the

20   opportunity to present our amendment request. Ms.

21   Luanne Baroni is going to present our amendment.

22   DR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Can you hear me?

23   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes. Good morning, Mr.

24   Williams.

25   DR. WILLIAMS: Well, I can't hear Ms. Coffman.

 1   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible, not at the

 2   microphone).

 3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

 4   Good morning, Dr. Williams.

 5   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

 6   DR. WILLIAMS: It looks like your individual

 7   mute button is on, from my end.

 8   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes, but we're -- we should

 9   be live from the auditorium.

10   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

11   DR. WILLIAMS: Phil, can you hear okay?

12   MR. BALDWIN: Yes, I can hear her fine, Nac.

13   Can you hear me?

14   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Tracy, do you want to text

15   him and ask him to reboot?

16   Let's give him a minute.

17   DR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to log off and log back

18   in.

19   [A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]

20   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

21   MS. BARONI: Oh, okay. Where is it, on the

22   side, top?

23   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

24   MS. BARONI: Oh, I gotcha.

25   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And, Luanne, you need to

1   bring that microphone closer to you.

2   MS. BARONI: Okay. Which one, both?

3   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

4   MS. BARONI: The one on the right?

5   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

6   MS. BARONI: Okay.

7   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: One is green.

8   MS. BARONI: Okay. How is that? Is that good?

9   Yeah, I'll speak louder. So cue me when you're ready

10   and I'll --

11   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah, I'm just waiting for

12   Dr. Williams to be able to log in.

13   Tracy, let me know if you see him pop on.

14   MS. WEBB: (inaudible, not at mic)

15   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: He is?

16   Dr. Williams, are you able to hear us now? Good

17   morning, Dr. Williams.

18   DR. WILLIAMS: Morning. I'm good to go now.

19   Thank you.

20   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Dr. Williams,

21   before we get started I just want to introduce you to

22   two of our new Charter Panel members: Karli Saracini

23   and Dr. Eric Flowers.

24   DR. WILLIAMS: Pleasure. Thank you.

25   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Baroni, thank you for

1   your patience. And we'll get started --

2   MS. BARONI: Okay.

3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- at your convenience.

4   MS. BARONI: Thank you.

5   My name is Luanne Baroni. I am the assistant

6   superintendent and director of communications for

7   LISA Academy. And it's my pleasure to come before

8   you this morning to present our --

9   MR. BALDWIN: Madam Chair, we cannot hear her.

10   Her mic may not be on.

11   MS. BARONI: So we need more microphone from me?

12   There are green lights on them.

13   MR. DAN DAVIS: Yes, they're on. Use your

14   teacher voice.

15   MS. BARONI: Okay.

16   MR. DAN DAVIS: There we go.

17   MS. BARONI: So can you hear me now?

18   Okay. So, first, a little background

19   information on LISA Academy for those of you who

20   aren't familiar with LISA Academy.

21   Which button do I push? That button is not

22   going. This is the morning of technical challenges.

23   Yeah, that's what I thought.

24   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

25   MS. BARONI: Okay.

1   MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible)

2   MS. BARONI: There we go.

3   A little background information on LISA Academy

4   to begin with. LISA Academy is a tuition-free public

5   charter school with a comprehensive college

6   preparatory program focusing on science, technology,

7   engineering, and mathematics. All of LISA Academy's

8   schools have been accredited by the Arkansas

9   Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

10   since our opening in 2004. As you can see, we have

11   multiple schools in both Little Rock, North Little

12   Rock/Sherwood, and in Springdale.

13   To go over what our growth plan is, I'll talk

14   about the hubs that we have and our plans for the

15   future. We have our central Arkansas hub which

16   consists of two different K-12 systems, one in Little

17   Rock, which is -- consists of three buildings: a K-5

18   building, a 6-8 building, and a 9-12 building. And

19   then in North Little Rock/Sherwood we have a K-5

20   building and a 6-12 building on the same campus but

21   bordering the two cities, North Little Rock and

22   Sherwood. In northwest Arkansas, we currently have a

23   Springdale campus that houses a K-8 building. We

24   have been approved to open a new facility in Rogers

25   to serve the Rogers/Bentonville area. That planned

1   start is in the fall of 2022. We'll start with the

2   lower grades building and then eventually we'll have

3   all grades K-12.

4   What we're here to talk to you about today is

5   our plan for a statewide learning center program with

6   a hybrid school.

7   LISA Academy has had demonstrated success. One

8   of those things is that we have had significant

9   growth. All of our campuses had significant growth

10 on the most recent state testing. These are our

11 current letter grades which are now I think two years

12 old, because we've all kind of been in pause. We

13 were hopeful to bump a couple of those up because

14 several of those grades are sitting right on the

15 border of the next letter grade up. We are doing

16 everything we can to make sure next time there are

17 letter grades that those that can move up will move

18 up. That's our goal is to make sure our students are

19 succeeding. We have had consistent performance over

20 the years with a 95% or better graduation rate each

21 year, with a 95% or better college acceptance rate.

22 A hundred percent of our schools showed growth on the

23 last ACT Aspire. We have a 13-to-1 student-to-

24 teacher ratio and our average class size is around

25 17.

1   Our growth and success are evident. And one

2   thing to point out is you can see the growth here

3   with our enrollment over the years. This has been a

4   steady and deliberate growth that we've experienced.

5   We have been careful to manage that as we've gone

6   through the years, as we're growing, to make sure

7   that we're upholding our quality as we're growing.

8   We've tried to respond to the demand in the community

9   but also be sure that we can service the students.

10   And as you can see from the accolades listed here, we

11   have continued to uphold that quality in what we're

12   doing in all of our schools.

13   Another key part of who LISA Academy is involves

14   diversity. We have been named the most diverse

15   school district in the state of Arkansas. We have

16   over 35 languages spoken by our LISA families, we

17   have an 80% minority enrollment, and we have over 60%

18   free-and-reduced lunch participation. This diversity

19   has shown a steady increase over the years, and

20   particularly in low-income and minority student

21   populations. And as you can see from our most recent

22   demographics, currently our largest student

23   population is Black or African American, followed by

24   Hispanic/Latino, and then by White, and then followed

25   by other races. We're very proud of this and we've

1   made a deliberate effort to make sure that we're

2   serving the populations within the communities that

3   we serve.

4   An important thing to think about is why we're

5   doing STEM education, why is STEM so important. A

6   couple of things to point out is that's where the

7   market is going. As you can see from this slide, 91%

8   of software jobs are outside of Silicon Valley; they

9   are not just in a narrow place like they used to be.

10   And 67% of computing jobs are outside of the tech

11   sector, so they're in other industry and in other

12   businesses. And as you can see from this data, low

13   digital skill jobs are in the decline while medium

14   and high digital skill jobs are rapidly increasing in

15   demand. We can only imagine what this graph will

16   look like by the time our -- today's kindergarten

17   students graduate from high school and college. STEM

18   and technology is very important in industry for our

19   students to be prepared for.

20   Why we're asking you for a hybrid school is an

21   important question, and to give you some of the

22   rationale on that I'd like to review a few things

23   about that:

24   We believe that a hybrid model is the future of

25   schooling. We've seen how important being flexible

1   and allowing different models is in the past year.

2   We believe that there's a demand for innovative and

3   flexible school options for families in the state of

4   Arkansas. A hybrid model will allow for technology-

5   integrated education and we'll be able to teach 21st

6   century skills to students, even in those rural areas

7   that maybe are not getting that currently.

8   We believe also the hybrid model will allow us

9   to provide academic and social/emotional support that

10   may be not available in an all-virtual model.

11   A couple of important pieces of our rationale is

12   that it offers a unique model for the state that's

13   different from just a purely virtual option. In a

14   recent Credo study of completely virtual schools, it

15   showed that students who are enrolled in exclusively

16   virtual perform significantly below those in

17   traditional brick-and-mortar schools. We believe

18   that a hybrid option will give students the

19   opportunity to have a combination of both traditional

20   school combined with the home instruction to allow

21   that flexibility but to give the support that an

22   onsite opportunity gives.

23   The model that we're developing right now and

24   coming before you to talk about today would involve

25   multiple features. All of our students would be

1   required to attend onsite a minimum number of days to

2   receive academic enrichment and intervention. We

3   would recommend strongly weekly attendance. Students

4   will be required to attend onsite for all mandatory

5   testing. All of the core digital curriculum will be

6   taught by LISA Academy teachers and all of our

7   students will be provided with the required

8   technology, computers, devices, Wi-Fi, anything that

9   they need to be able to participate in the program.

10   Participation in onsite extracurricular activities is

11   strongly recommended but not mandatory. What we're

12   looking at offering for our students will include

13   some of the programs, as many as possible, of what

14   we're doing currently with our onsite. That would

15   include a rich enrichment program, tutoring program,

16   offering onsite high school courses, hands-on

17   activities, clubs, extracurricular activities,

18   sports, and other programs that are offered in our

19   onsite schools. This will vary some obviously based

20   on the campus or satellite learning centers offering

21   and the level of enrollment at each of those. We

22   also will offer online homework help and IT support

23   based on the faculty that are available. Our student

24   services will be an important part of what we're

25   going to provide. We'll provide that either

 1   virtually or through contracted services. Students

 2   will need to come onsite to a satellite or campus

 3   learning center for special services that require

 4   that face-to-face delivery. We'll have broad course

 5   offerings supported by our onsite campuses. We'll

 6   have educational resources available through

 7   nationally recognized curriculum and portals, such as

 8   the LMS that we're currently using, Schoology.

 9   Training will be provided for parents and students on

10   the use of online learning resources. We will

11   provide counseling services for our students, both in

12   the hybrid as we do on our regular campuses. And

13   we're going to require mandatory onsite face-to-face

14   with parent-teacher and student-teacher conferences.

15   The hybrid learning centers are going to be in

16   two different forms. The first would be campus

17   learning centers that we'll locate in Little Rock and

18   in northwest Arkansas. The second form of learning

19   centers would be our satellite learning centers that

20   we'll base across the state -- open across the state

21   and that will be based on the regional demand. The

22   hybrid learning centers -- the campus learning

23   centers will first be opened where we already have

24   facilities on our LISA campuses in central Arkansas

25   and northwest Arkansas, and then the satellite

1   learning centers will be open throughout the state in

2   all of the regions where there's a demand. These

3   centers will be located in churches, libraries,

4   community centers, or other safe locations -- and we

5   say "safe locations" because we want to make sure

6   that what we're doing for our students can provide

7   them with a safe educational environment. We have

8   plans to work with whoever the property owners are

9   where we're leasing or borrowing space to do this so

10   that we can make sure we can have help and safety

11   requirements at the forefront of that to provide for

12   a safe environment for our students. We'll have

13   administrative offices for the hybrid school at our

14   West Middle School campus at 21 Corporate Hill and

15   this will also serve as one of our campus learning

16   centers. We have some space available there because

17   we're using two buildings for a middle school there

18   now on that campus. The second campus learning

19   center will initially be housed at LISA Springdale on

20   Holcomb Street in Springdale.

21   We'll provide breakfast and lunch programs

22   through learning centers, weekly shelf staple meal

23   packages. We've learned a good bit about that

24   through the pandemic and we've been able to provide

25   that for our students and make sure that those

1   students who need those meals can get those meals.

2   This is just an idea, just to use a little

3   imagination of what a learning center might look like

4   and some of the things that we might have our

5   students involved in. As you can see, we plan to

6   have small group interactions with students and

7   teachers at our satellite and campus learning

8   centers. We plan to have hands-on activities with

9   things like robotics and manipulatives to make sure

10   students are learning and growing and get that

11   personal attention that they need.

12   The campus learning centers will provide onsite

13   high school courses, special services as needed, meal

14   services, enrichment and tutoring in ELA math and

15   science which has been a strength of LISA Academy

16   over the years. We'll have faculty office hours for

17   one-on-one meetings. We'll have STEM experiments,

18   hands-on activities, Makerspace projects like we have

19   on our onsite campuses. We'll offer competition and

20   non-competition clubs, sports, fieldtrips, things

21   like our fall festival and graduation and other

22   onsite activities. We'll provide family support

23   events, like curriculum and technology training,

24   college and FAFSA application nights, virtual and

25   onsite home visits which has been something that's

 1   been at the core of LISA Academy to offer those home

 2   visits to our families, and onsite counseling

 3   services as well as the virtual counseling services.

 4   Our satellite learning centers will offer similar

 5   programs to our onsite campus learning centers with

 6   our enrichment and tutoring, special services, meals,

 7   STEM competition clubs. Just some of the examples

 8   are like Science Olympiad, coding, MathCounts, and

 9   then things like drama, creative writing, chess, e-

10   sports. And we'll have faculty office hours for that

11   one-on-one instruction and support. All of this, of

12   course, will be developed based on what the demand is

13   and how many staff we have on campus at our satellite

14   learning centers. All this will be supported by our

15   LISA school hybrid teachers and tutors.

16   These are the regions that we're envisioning

17   reaching through our satellite learning centers. As

18   I mentioned before, we already had plans for the

19   central and northwest as a beginning point and then

20   as we have demand we will begin to reach out into

21   those other areas and develop those satellite

22   learning centers to reach those populations that are

23   further from central and northwest Arkansas.

24   This is a sample 6th grade schedule that we've

25   developed just to give you an idea of what a day

1   might look like in the life of a LISA Academy hybrid

2   student. Students will receive their main

3   instruction online through the learning platform

4   every weekday, as well as supplemental support onsite

5   a minimum number of days per week. The clubs, sports

6   and extracurricular activities will be offered on

7   multiple days. And as you can see in this, the

8   yellow highlighted is the time the student would

9   spend on campus, both with onsite interaction with a

10   LISA Academy teacher, as well as afterschool kinds of

11   activities with robotics and sports and other

12   extracurricular activities.

13   This is a projection of what we envision our

14   enrollment over the next several years. It's not

15   carved in stone at this point because of course we

16   don't know what the full demand is until we offer the

17   school. But right now, we're looking at beginning

18   relatively small, rolling out in the beginning with

19   K-9 and then adding grades and adding enrollment as

20   demand dictates. So as I said, this is not carved in

21   scone -- stone right now, but it is something that we

22   think is a reasonal project -- reasonable projection

23   of where we might go with our enrollment.

24   A second piece of what we're presenting to you

25   today is a request to ask for an enrollment increase

1   of our Springdale campus. The Springdale campus was

2   originally approved for 300 students. There have

3   been extensive renovations to the building and that's

4   increased the number of classrooms which will allow

5   for the additional growth that we foresee on that

6   campus. In addition, the surrounding property has

7   been upgraded, a new parking area added, and that has

8   helped with traffic flow and with access to the

9   building. So in addition to asking for our hybrid

10   school today we're asking for an increase of 200

11   which would be the maximum capacity on this campus in

12   Springdale. We're already kind of pushing that right

13   now with what we're projecting for next year, so we'd

14   like to be able to offer up to 500 seats on that

15   campus.

16   So, in summary, our amendment request consists

17   of asking for an enrollment increase of 1,050 for

18   grades K-12 in our hybrid school and that would be

19   grown over the next several years. We'd like the

20   flexibility to open that school in the fall of 2021

21   with limited grades, then offer grades as the demand

22   and learning centers dictate. Our grade offerings

23   will be annually re-evaluated and revised, if

24   necessary. We would like to maintain all the waivers

25   currently held by LISA Academy and add additional

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 1              waivers that would be just for the hybrid school.

 2              We'd like the flexibility to house our current LISA

 3              Academy West 6th graders in either of our middle

 4              school buildings which are side-by-side at 21 and 23

 5              Corporate Hill Drive.  And, as I just mentioned,

 6              we're asking for an enrollment increase of 200 for

 7              LISA Academy Springdale campus.

 8                   That concludes the presentation.  Thank you for

 9              your time and attention.  And we'll be happy to

10              address any questions at the appropriate time.

11                   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN:  Thank you.

12                   Typically we go to hear legal review.  I wonder

13              if there are any questions right off the bat that we

14              need to address before we get into all of the

15              waivers.  Any clarifying questions?

16                   Mr. Baldwin, any clarifying questions?

17                   MR. BALDWIN:  No, I'm good.  Thank you.

18                   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN:  Dr. Williams?

19                   DR. WILLIAMS:  No clarifying questions.

20                   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN:  All right.  Thank you.

21                   Ms. Hyatt, if you'll begin the review of

22              waivers.

23                   MS. HYATT:  Sure.  Thank you, Ms. Coffman.

24                   First of all, I would just like to commend LISA

25              for all of their work on the amendment request.  When
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1   I did the initial legal review there were lots of

2   outstanding issues, and we met yesterday and worked

3   through a lot of things. So they really did put in a

4   lot of work into the amendment request, so I would be

5   remiss if I didn't say thank-you for that because it

6   makes my job a lot easier.

7   LEGAL REVIEW OF WAIVERS

8   MS. HYATT: There are kind of three things I'd

9   like to talk about. First, in the waivers requested

10   it includes a waiver of 2(d)(1) in the Standards,

11   which says schools must maintain an appropriate

12   balance of print, non-print, and electronic media for

13   their students. I don't believe that that's

14   necessary. I think every school has the ability to

15   provide whatever is appropriate for their model in

16   terms of a mix of print, non-print, and electronic

17   media. Based on what is included in their

18   application and my conversations with them I believe

19   they will be meeting that standard, so I don't think

20   that the waiver is necessary. And they might have a

21   response to that or additional information they'd

22   like to present.

23   MS. BARONI: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

24   The waiver of 2(d)(1) actually is a part of a

25   waiver that we already hold, so it's not a new

 1   request for a waiver. And I believe that that was

 2   part of a package of waivers that rolled over for

 3   charter schools who had previous waivers under other

 4   standards.

 5   Tripp Walter, if you can help -- our legal

 6   counsel.

 7   But I believe that was just part of a package

 8   that was rolled over, so it's not a new request we're

 9   asking for for this hybrid school.

10   We need legal clarification on that.

11   MR. WALTER: Madam Chair, Members of the Panel,

12   Staff -- Tripp Walter, Staff Attorney, APSRC.

13   I have discussed this issue with LISA, and Ms.

14   Baroni or Dr. Bogrek can jump in if I go astray here.

15   But after discussions with Ms. Hyatt and reviewing

16   the model with LISA administration I believe that

17   they no longer wish to go forward with the waiver of

18   2(d)(1) as it applies to this amendment request only.

19   MS. HYATT: Okay. So I'll move on.

20   The next is not really a remaining legal

21   concern, but I did want to give LISA the opportunity

22   to explain to the Panel. They have requested some

23   pretty extensive waivers of safety and facilities

24   standards and laws as it will relate to their hybrid

25   model. Specific to the hybrid school, initially I

1   had some concerns about that, but yesterday during

2   our meeting they really gave a good explanation about

3   how they plan to insure student and staff safety. So

4   I think that would be helpful if they would provide

5   you with a little bit of that information so everyone

6   can be assured that students and staff will be safe.

7   MS. BARONI: Yes, that's something that we did

8   have a long discussion about. And the reason we've

9   asked for those waivers are really because we don't

10   have all of the satellite places nailed down yet. We

11   want to make sure that you as a panel, and any

12   parent, of course, is assured that we will have

13   safety requirements in place. We plan to train any

14   staff that are going to be in a satellite location in

15   first-aid so that we make sure that they're trained

16   to provide that first-aid. We will provide

17   appropriate drills and trainings for students based

18   on whatever the facility is. As you can imagine, you

19   know, we're picturing in our minds they're in a

20   rented room in the back of a library. We don't know

21   what that facility is going to be structured like.

22   So that's why we're asking for those waivers, just so

23   that we're not held to the strict requirements that

24   would be required if we owned the entire building or

25   leased the entire building. We lease some of our

1   facilities now and we adhere to all of those in those

2   leased facilities, so this is not the situation that

3   we would ask for a waiver on our campus facilities.

4   We're going to do those just like we do in our owned

5   buildings, the same as in our fully leased buildings.

6   We're just asking for those waivers because of the

7   satellite locations and the nature of those that it

8   might simply be a room in a church, a room in a

9   library, a room in a community center, and we don't

10   know right now what exactly that's going to look

11   like. But we do want to assure everyone that we will

12   put in place whatever safety measures are necessary

13   to be sure that our students are safe, that our staff

14   is trained, that our students are trained to be able

15   to operate their safely.

16   So if there are specific questions about that

17   I'd be happy to answer those.

18   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Wright-McMurray.

19   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Just for my knowledge,

20   what is the follow-up process? It just sounds like

21   that we're -- we would be giving the okay in advance

22   of knowing what the facilities are going to be. So

23   what would be the follow-up process to insure that

24   whatever is selected is appropriate and in line with

25   what needs to happen? That's just for my knowledge.

1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Hyatt, do you want to

2   address that?

3   MS. HYATT: Sure. So in terms of what's

4   automatic, nothing really. So once we give -- once

5   the Panel -- if the Panel approves, they will have

6   the ability to open these satellite sites. They

7   would have waivers from some of these school building

8   requirements. So essentially they would be able to

9   use whatever kind of satellite sites that they

10   wanted. They would be required to meet whatever

11   their -- is in their application, whatever they're

12   presenting to you today in terms of safety and in

13   terms of location of those sites. But it's common

14   that we have schools that want to expand and they

15   don't have a building already, but instead have an

16   idea of what type of building and an idea of where

17   the building is going to be. Of course, you can, in

18   whatever kind of approval you do, build something in,

19   like they need to report to the Division what sites

20   they select or that the Division needs to do a onsite

21   visit whenever they lease those spaces. But that's

22   not going to be automatically built-in; it would be

23   something that the Authorizing Panel would need to

24   build into their approval.

25   DR. WILLIAMS: A question, please.

1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes, Dr. Williams.

2   DR. WILLIAMS: Isn't there a -- is there a

3   process in place that when a school comes up with a

4   new building that the ADE reviews that building in

5   some form, or they can just come up with any building

6   as a charter school? Or any school could just come

7   up with any building and call it a school?

8   MS. HYATT: So in a traditional sense there are

9   all types of facility rules that apply to traditional

10   public school buildings. When it comes -- in the

11   charter context, typically they have waivers of

12   having to abide by the facilities manual that says

13   you have to have this many square feet, and typically

14   they have also waivers of requirements to do drills

15   and safety procedures in the same way that a

16   traditional school would have to do. Typically, in

17   an initial application the school does not have a

18   building; they just have a general idea of where they

19   want the building to be -- and there's not a lot of

20   requirements there, especially once the waivers start

21   to come in. Sometimes you'll have a school -- like

22   when LISA has done expansions in the past, it came

23   with a building, so we had a better idea of what that

24   would look like. But sometimes it's a little bit

25   more vague. Of course, they always have to make sure

1   that students are going to be warm, safe, and dry,

2   and they have to make sure that students and staff

3   are going to be safe.

4   DR. WILLIAMS: Sorry, I couldn't find my mute

5   button here.

6   So given -- I like the point about the warm,

7   safe, and dry piece. Is that verified in some form

8   by ADE?

9   MS. WEBB: So, it is not. They are not required

10   to have the same facilities inspections that normal

11   school districts do. However, in order to receive

12   facilities funding they have to have those

13   inspections completed and submitted to ADE to receive

14   that funding. So, not required unless they want the

15   funding.

16   DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. My follow-up question

17   would then be to LISA Academy, is whether they're

18   going to apply for facilities funding. I'm just

19   trying to track and see if there's going to be a

20   process, following up on Dr. Wright-McMurray's

21   question. If they're going to apply for facilities

22   funding -- I'm also concerned that, you know, you can

23   just put the schools anywhere. And the short answer

24   might be just we just need to require the -- for them

25   to come back to ADE; for ADE to take a look at the

1   building or the facility might be the short answer.

2   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Baroni, I think the

3   questions that's been asked are do you plan to apply

4   for facilities funding in the future, and then I

5   think they're looking for a better description of

6   what type of satellite facilities you might be

7   considering or not considering.

8   SUPT. BOGREK: Yeah, we might not be eligible

9   for facilities funding -- he can correct me --

10   because of not having five days instruction. I'm

11   sorry. Yeah, I think we aren't eligible for

12   facilities funding, my understanding, because we

13   don't have -- our main instruction is not, you know,

14   in-person. So this is why I think a hybrid school is

15   not eligible for facilities funding.

16   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Talk a little bit about how

17   you might select a satellite site.

18   MR. WALTER: The satellite site, in our initial

19   counties we are going to use our campus buildings,

20   our LISA North and LISA -- I'm sorry -- LISA West

21   building and LISA Springdale initially. And after

22   that, you know, the other regions we might have

23   satellite learning centers based on the demand.

24   Again, we we're going to use like educational

25   facilities like churches or libraries or community

1   centers, which means, you know, they have -- you

2   know, they have some education. Just we are going to

3   be interested in those locations. Again, we aren't

4   going to have contract or I'm not going to select,

5   you know, (inaudible). We want to make sure they

6   will have the same standards like our campuses. So

7   we want to make sure it's safe and, you know --

8   again, those places are going to be used

9   periodically, not every time. And, again, our

10   requirement is students are going to come in-person

11   every other week at minimum -- but every week, as

12   commanded. So we will keep the same, you know,

13   quality, you know, facilities, like, you know, that

14   we are going to have for sort of like learning

15   centers. But we can cooperate with the Department of

16   Education; whenever we will rent something or

17   whenever we lease something we send, you know, the

18   contract to DESE for approval. Again, there's an

19   approved process so DESE can, you know, still command

20   and maybe deny, you know, if you don't feel

21   comfortable. So there is an approval process for the

22   leasing, you know, we are going to send to you.

23   MR. WALTER: Thank you, Madam Chair and Members

24   of the Panel.

25   Dr. Bogrek stated a lot that I was going to.

 1   We've had those discussions about making sure that

 2   LISA administration is going to be talking with the

 3   potential -- the owners of potential buildings to

 4   make sure that that all coordinates with the

 5   standards that would apply in a LISA brick-and-mortar

 6   facility.

 7   I wanted to just take a minute of your time, if

 8   I may, to explain the parameters we're asking for.

 9   What we're asking for -- what's on the table now so-

10   to-speak or live in the application is just a waiver

11   from that part of the standards that talks about

12   school safety policies. That's the only thing that's

13   being requested here. You may note that in the

14   remaining section of the waivers there were issues

15   that Ms. Hyatt brought up concerning defibrillators,

16   drills, et cetera. We have discussed those with her

17   and those are not things that are being requested

18   now. So that -- the standards waiver -- and Ms.

19   Hyatt can correct me if my understanding is wrong --

20   I believe that's the only thing on the table now. So

21   just to make sure that -- this waiver may not be as

22   widespread and pervasive as you think.

23   MS. HYATT: So it appears to me that it would be

24   having emergency plans, using the panic button,

25   following the facilities manual, and the safety

1   policies, having the school safety policies in place

2   -- and I think that's the extent. But I do think

3   it's a little bit more expansive.

4   And just while I have a second, I do -- and this

5   would come up, of course, as LISA pointed out, that

6   there is a multi-year lease. It has to be approved

7   by Secretary Key in order for a school to enter into

8   a multi-year lease. If it was a single-year lease,

9   of course it would not fall under that same provision

10   and rules that requires that approval. I haven't had

11   time to research this particular point enough, but

12   there may be additional legal concerns about having

13   satellite official school sites in church buildings.

14   That's something that might not necessarily be

15   allowed. That same concern is not there for other

16   types of community buildings. But, of course, in

17   religious buildings having an official school site

18   could present additional problems, and that's

19   something that, you know, we'll need to look into and

20   LISA will need to look into the legality of that.

21   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Hyatt, I think we've --

22   have we not had a charter in a church building

23   before? We just had to make sure that the area was

24   free of any secular signage or literature.

25   MS. HYATT: That's right. If you will I'm sure

1   remember the school Covenant Keepers, they did lease

2   space from a church. I believe that the space that

3   they leased was, yeah, a more or less religious

4   building that was part of the church but was not in

5   the actual church space. So, of course it would

6   depend; it's not necessarily prohibited. But if you

7   had a small church building in a rural place in

8   Arkansas where you have a conference room right next

9   to the worship area that might be different than

10   having a space in Little Rock where you have a whole

11   separate building on a church campus. So it would

12   just kind of depend -- and, again, I would need to

13   look into it more and LISA would need to look into it

14   more, but that could present some additional issues.

15   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Other questions?

16   Ms. Hyatt, any other waiver concerns?

17   MS. HYATT: There's just one last legal concern.

18   It doesn't have to do with waivers but more the

19   requested flexibility on grade expansion. To my

20   knowledge, we've never granted that type of

21   flexibility to a charter school before where they

22   have the flexibility to determine when they will be

23   adding additional grades without the approval of the

24   Panel. Of course, we have approved expansion

25   schedules -- like in Friendship will be K-2 this

 1   year, next year will be K-3, next year K-4 -- where

 2   they have outlined those things in their amendment

 3   request or in their license request. But to my

 4   knowledge, we've never approved a school to just

 5   decide which grades they're going to add on their own

 6   and when they will be adding them. There's nothing

 7   in law that specifically prohibits that. My concern

 8   really comes from the monitoring and transparency

 9   perspective; you know, we'll need to know which

10   grades are being offered when in order to make sure

11   that we have that information for monitoring. Also,

12   in terms of transparency to the Division and to other

13   stakeholders and parents, I think it's important that

14   people know which grades are going to be offered at a

15   school. And there's not, to my knowledge, any

16   information in the presentation or in the application

17   that lays out the criteria of how they'll determine

18   which grades they're adding when. And so that is a

19   little bit concerning to me.

20   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes. I would add to the

21   accountability issues that go with that just scream

22   red flags for me.

23   Would you like to address that?

24   MS. BARONI: Well, I think one of the concerns

25   we have about being held to the projected yearly

1   enrollment in the grade bands is the current

2   situation we're in with the pandemic and with the

3   whole virtual/onsite piece. One of the ideas that we

4   are not sure of how it's going to play out is how

5   many of our current students would prefer to roll

6   into the hybrid model. And if there are students we

7   have right now who are 10th, 11th or 12th grade who

8   wanted to go into our hybrid model in the fall, if we

9   were to restrict it to only having that K-9 that

10   first year we would not be able to allow them to do

11   that. So I think that's where we were kind of

12   looking at having some flexibility on how we roll

13   that out, particularly as it would impact our current

14   students who might prefer to go to the hybrid model.

15   And, yes, you know, we can't predict who's going

16   to want to join our hybrid model down the road in

17   other parts of the state. But on the front-end of

18   that, I think that was one of our concerns that if we

19   had 300 current students who wanted to, you know,

20   change over to the hybrid model then that leaves us

21   with 89 spots for anyone else. So that's where we

22   felt like it could be pretty restrictive to our

23   parents being able to choose that and we wanted to at

24   least allow some flexibility to be able to tweak that

25   if there's a demand with our current students, in

1   particular.

2   PANEL QUESTIONS

3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, Panel Members, I have a

4   ton of questions, but I want to start with you.

5   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: No, go ahead.

6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: No. No, go ahead. I'll mark

7   mine off as we go.

8   Ms. Wright-McMurray.

9   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So currently are you guys

10   utilizing a hybrid model with your students at the

11   moment?

12   MS. BARONI: Are we utilizing what? I'm sorry.

13   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Are you currently

14   utilizing -- you have a hybrid model in your schools

15   right now? Because, you know, you know, the nature

16   of how it is right now some students are virtual,

17   some are hybrid. Are you guys currently utilizing

18   that model?

19   MS. BARONI: I wouldn't call it a hybrid as we

20   perceive as hybrid model. Of course we're offering

21   virtual, you know, for parents who want the virtual

22   right now and we're allowing them to come back on

23   campus. We had a big influx back the second

24   semester, after the winter break, but we're not

25   really doing that as a hybrid piece as we're

 1   proposing. So they're either virtual or they're

 2   onsite now.

 3   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So you don't have any

 4   students right now that are like 80 days and things

 5   like that?

 6   MS. BARONI: No, we do not. We either have all

 7   virtual --

 8   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Is there any way you can

 9   gauge or estimate from the students that you

10   currently have that are utilizing some of the virtual

11   that are coming back on campus to be able to

12   determine what your numbers could potentially look

13   like to give you an opportunity to at least have --

14   MS. BARONI: Right, have some ideas.

15   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: -- something more concrete

16   to be able to share what that's going to look like?

17   MS. BARONI: I think Mr. Sahin has done some

18   study on that and may be able to better answer that

19   question.

20   MR. SAHIN: Hello. My name is Sahin, I'm the

21   assistant superintendent.

22   So right now we have 1570 digital learning

23   students, virtual students out of 3300. So next

24   year, you know, it may be -- we cannot know, we

25   cannot -- it may be from 300 to 1,000, we don't know

1   right now.

2   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: And so just to -- I'm

3   sorry.

4   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Was it a third? Did you say

5   a third of your students are digitally learning right

6   now?

7   MR. SAHIN: 1570.

8   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 1570.

9   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: And that makes up what

10   percent of your overall student enrollment?

11   SUPT. BOGREK: It's around 45%.

12   MR. SAHIN: 45%.

13   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay.

14   I'll let you go on. I'll wait with mine.

15   DR. FLOWERS: (inaudible, mic not on)

16   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers, they can't hear

17   you.

18   DR. FLOWERS: Okay. You talk about -- can y'all

19   hear me now? Can you hear me now?

20   MR. SAHIN: Yes.

21   MR. DAN DAVIS: You have to speak into the

22   microphone there.

23   DR. FLOWERS: How about now?

24   MR. DAN DAVIS: There you go.

25   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah.

1   DR. FLOWERS: Okay. Okay.

2   So you talk about the satellite learning centers

3   and placing them in the regions based upon demand.

4   So, talk to me about the criteria, how you're going

5   to define demand. So, for example, let's say if I

6   have -- I find a location let's say in maybe the

7   Texarkana area. I may have a student within that

8   region that's actually 40 miles away one-way. So

9   talk to me about how you will say "based upon demand"

10   in regards to that criteria and location to support

11   your students.

12   MR. SAHIN: So we are not going to open the

13   satellite learning centers right away. What we're

14   going to do, we're going to look at the applications

15   --

16   DR. FLOWERS: Okay.

17   MR. SAHIN: -- and we're going to have like pre-

18   applications so that -- to be able to determine the

19   interest from that area. If we know that there's

20   enough demand -- let's say 50, but of course it may

21   change -- then we are going to assess and then we are

22   going to say, hey, we can have an office for them

23   here for our students and then we may open a

24   satellite learning center there.

25   DR. FLOWERS: Okay. And this could take place

1   simultaneously amongst multiple regions, is what

2   you're saying?

3   MR. SAHIN: Yes. Yes. But the regions are --

4   we are in right now in our mind is southeast -- our

5   southwest, other than, you know, northwest and --

6   DR. FLOWERS: Sure.

7   MR. SAHIN: -- central Arkansas. Yeah.

8   DR. FLOWERS: Okay. Thank you.

9   SUPT. BOGREK: The purpose of, you know, this,

10   you know, a hybrid school is -- you know, we are

11   contacted by different part of the state; that's come

12   up, you know, often at LISA here. This is a K-12

13   system, so we cannot go to every area; you know, we

14   cannot have enough enrollment or we don't want to

15   hurt any like rural districts. So (inaudible) all

16   the state they can take LISA Academy; you know, if we

17   can make the small satellite learning centers, we can

18   serve for the whole state. So this is maybe another,

19   you know, purpose of, you know, my ratifying for

20   this.

21   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Saracini.

22   MS. SARACINI: So when you talk about these

23   satellites and the applications, do you kind of have

24   a number of the demand? Like is it going to be 25

25   before you open a site? I think that's kind of what

1   I was waiting for. I mean do you have those process

2   or procedures in place of if it's 25 applications

3   from an area then we open? I think that's the one

4   thing that we're probably struggling with that we

5   wanted to know.

6   SUPT. BOGREK: We have not decided, you know, on

7   a number yet. Again, we would like to see also --

8   again, we would like to see the grades -- what

9   grades, you know, we have for the 25. If all of them

10   are like kindergarten/1st grade, it can be easy. But

11   if they are distributed in each grade level, one or

12   two students -- so we need to see -- we have not

13   decided that criteria. But after this we are going

14   to go out and look at our policies, criteria, minimum

15   requirements to put in contracts. So we will work

16   more on what will be, you know, the rubric. So, we

17   are going to work on that but we don't have a number

18   as of now, today. Our total enrollment is 1,050 so

19   based on our total -- you know, our cap, we will come

20   up with a reasonable number, you know. But we are

21   hopeful in each region, like, you know, southeast,

22   northeast, you know, at least open one satellite

23   learning center. So this is our, you know,

24   intention, but we would like to see first of all the

25   demand.

1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So let me follow-up on that

2   question, because in the presentation it said that

3   you wanted the students to come onsite --

4   SUPT. BOGREK: Yes.

5   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- at least every-other-week.

6   And so I would assume they would come to the

7   satellite site, and so that might be quite some drive

8   if the satellite sites are not determined. And there

9   was also a statement in there that onsite special

10   services would require -- that required face-to-face

11   would be offered in those sites.

12   And so I understand what you're doing with your

13   two sites that you have currently, so I'm assuming

14   that most of your enrollment is going to center

15   there. Because I would be hard-pressed as a parent

16   from Texarkana to think that I'm going to have to

17   drive to Little Rock to the nearest site because I

18   don't know how many other parents are going to select

19   this option.

20   And so that's what we're trying to kind of wrap

21   around in our mind. How would you logistically meet

22   the expectation that you have for the students? And

23   at the same time, if that student really wanted to be

24   involved in those other activities that you've got

25   listed -- if they're going to take full effect of the

 1   offerings that would be quite a journey -- a daily

 2   journey or any journey.

 3   SUPT. BOGREK: You know, right now we have, you

 4   know, open enrollment where anyone can apply at LISA

 5   from any part of the state (inaudible). You know, we

 6   recruit students from England, from Cabot, so we

 7   have, you know, a broad area. But our, you know,

 8   expectation is then we have a satellite learning

 9   center or a campus learning center so the people

10   around there they can enroll. And then if we have a

11   huge demand from another area we can open another

12   satellite learning center and then they can enroll.

13   So I think it's going to be step-by-step. I

14   don't think, you know, the first year they can apply

15   from all parts of the state, but we will add most.

16   Like our current satellite learning center up here,

17   we want to make sure if you are going to enroll you

18   need to come, you know, every-other-week, you know,

19   in person. So parents, they will love that. There

20   will be our like learning centers and then if they,

21   you know, can come in they can, you know, enroll.

22   But again our goal is hopefully in each region. But

23   it can be very difficult to open a satellite learning

24   center in any part of the state. In rural areas, it

25   is not possible because of the cap or because of, you

 1   know, affordable -- because of, you know, our

 2   program. So I can -- we are hoping then we have, you

 3   know, like learning centers -- parents, they will see

 4   -- if they feel comfortable to drive there, they can,

 5   you know, apply and enroll. But hopefully in a few

 6   years we will start to open more satellite learning

 7   centers.

 8   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin, questions?

 9   MR. BALDWIN: Yes, thank you. I appreciate the

10   discussion. And obviously LISA Academy is very

11   successful; you guys have good grades, good scores.

12   I'm proud of what you do with the students.

13   I think that -- and I don't know if this is a

14   question or just a comment. But my hope is that we

15   can work through the waivers so that the Panel feels

16   like there's sufficient oversight over the class

17   progression, a question that was raised earlier, and

18   then also over the building selection and safety.

19   And maybe there's -- maybe we do that through the

20   approval motion that we provide. But I think that to

21   me is -- are the two questions in my mind.

22   And, Madam Chair, I've got to sign-off at 10:00

23   for a banking matter. I'm sorry about that conflict.

24   So I appreciate the chance to raise my questions

25   right now.

1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Williams, questions?

2   DR. WILLIAMS: No additional questions. I had a

3   couple listed and they have already been asked. And

4   I think Mr. Baldwin summed up my comments.

5   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a few questions. I'm

6   going to start with the Springdale campus. You have

7   currently 300 cap for the Springdale campus and you

8   want to add 200 more. Have you had -- do you have

9   students on a wait-list there?

10   SUPT. BOGREK: Yes. We have also an enrollment

11   projection, you know. We are hoping to get more next

12   year and the following years. Again, the initial

13   application was 600, but we were approved 300 at that

14   time. It's close to, you know, our cap. And then,

15   again, as Ms. Baroni said, we, you know, required

16   additional facilities; so we increased, you know, to

17   parking lot and then playground -- and also we added

18   more classrooms inside the building. So another

19   building kept us, you know, around 500, and we have a

20   demand for the school.

21   Mr. Sazci is on the line, I think, if --

22   Mr. Sazci, can you tell them exactly how many

23   students are on the wait-list and also your current

24   enrollment?

25   (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

1   SUPT. BOGREK: Maybe he's disconnected.

2   Again, we have a wait-list and we are, you know,

3   confident that, you know -- confident that, you know,

4   I think in a few years we can, you know, grow the

5   cap.

6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. One of the things that

7   you didn't go in -- you got your data?

8   SUPT. BOGREK: Currently, right now we have 133

9   new applications for the school. We're going to have

10 a lottery tomorrow. We have 133 applications for

11 next school year.

12   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. One of the things that

13 you talked about was that LISA teachers would teach

14 the core classes. So what I wanted to know is will

15 you have a dedicated staff for the hybrid school or

16 are you asking teachers from your other facilities to

17 also be the hybrid teachers?

18   MR. SAHIN: Yes, we are going to have dedicated

19 staff for the hybrid school. But, of course, we are

20 going to share our LISA experience and LISA -- some

21 of our LISA teachers. So what we're going to do,

22 we're going to select some best teachers who are

23 actually -- who are teaching best virtually, by

24 looking at the -- you know, the performance or by

25 getting references from the principals. So we are

 1   going to have some of our teachers from LISA Academy.

 2   Of course, we are not going to hurt LISA Academy, you

 3   know, traditional buildings. But who are teaching

 4   good virtually, we are going to offer them to the

 5   hybrid school and we are going to have -- recruit

 6   some from outside as well.

 7   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Baroni, I'd like for you

 8   to give us a little more detail on onsite special

 9   services. So where I want to have more understanding

10   is around dyslexia, special ed., interventions that

11   are needed for our students. Talk to us about what's

12   in your mind around onsite special services.

13   MS. BARONI: Mr. Sahin might be the perfect

14   person --

15   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

16   MS. BARONI: -- to address that.

17   MR. SAHIN: So, yeah, I had a meeting with our

18   special education coordinator last week. So most of

19   the special education services can be given

20   virtually, online, but some need to be one-on-one and

21   with the teacher -- let's say, for example,

22   occupational therapy. So those students would need

23   to come to the satellite office or campus so that

24   they can meet with our, you know, occupational

25   therapy teacher or other teachers.

 1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And what about

 2   dyslexia?

 3   MR. SAHIN: Districts here -- right now,

 4   dyslexia is -- I had also a meeting with our dyslexia

 5   coordinator. Most of the dyslexia services can be

 6   taught, can be given virtually. So it's going to be

 7   given mostly virtually.

 8   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And services to your English

 9   for speakers of other languages?

10   MR. SAHIN: Yes. Right now, it's also given

11   virtually. We use a system, Elevation -- Elevation.

12   So it is mostly our English learning -- English

13   language arts teachers who work with Elevation and

14   our ELL students, but also the other teachers.

15   They're due to meet with our EL coordinator and

16   they're due to get the accommodations, which is also

17   included in Elevation. So they're also giving -- the

18   other teachers are also going to give the

19   accommodations.

20   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So one of the things that you

21   mentioned in your presentation was that you would

22   have mental health services, I believe -- behavioral

23   mental health. Would you like to expand on that?

24   MS. BARONI: Well, we --

25   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Social/emotional support --

1   MS. BARONI: Yeah.

2   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- is what it says.

3   MS. BARONI: We currently have counselors on all

4   of our campuses who serve in -- serve the role of the

5   traditional school counselor kinds of things. But we

6   have ramped that up a bit to offer more intensive

7   mental health kinds of counseling services on our

8   campuses. I believe next year on our elementary

9   campuses we'll have at least two counselors on our

10   campuses serving our students because we've seen a

11   need for more of that, more therapy kinds of services

12   for students. So our plan is to offer that as well

13   for the hybrid students. Those who are served by our

14   learning centers on campus could, of course, access

15   those counselors who are on campus. We will also --

16   as Mr. Sahin said, we'll have a dedicated staff for

17   the hybrid school, and included in that will be the

18   counseling services.

19   MR. SAHIN: Can I answer?

20   MS. BARONI: Sure.

21   He's been working on this, so I'll let him

22   address it.

23   MR. SAHIN: I'm also a parent of 6th grade and

24   9th graders at LISA Academy. Of course I also ask

25   them, you know, how do you like our advisory and

 1   counseling services. So my 6th grade student, she

 2   said she's in a weekly meeting with our advisory

 3   teacher and our 9th grade student is meeting weekly

 4   with the counselor. And I said to my kids, "What

 5   would you do if you have a problem?" And she said,

 6   and he said, that the counselors almost every weekday

 7   say, "If you have a problem, you can have a one-to-

 8   one meeting with me." And also, you know, if the

 9   problem is more serious they can also refer to the

10   other services.

11   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I think that answers most

12   of the questions I have. I'm assuming that your

13   students, the virtual students, hybrid students would

14   have cameras and things so that they can have

15   interaction with teachers and --

16   MS. BARONI: We would provide all the technology

17   they need. We're currently one-to-one with

18   Chromebooks already, so we've had a good bit of

19   experience with that. We also during the pandemic

20   made a huge effort and we're very successful in

21   getting internet access to students, as we mentioned

22   earlier. A lot of our kids are not right in the --

23   you know, the central Arkansas, but are outlying

24   areas, some of them couldn't afford internet service;

25   some of them have bad connections. So we provided

1   hotspots to those and would do the same for those who

2   need it in our hybrid model.

3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So in the class schedule it

4   was obvious for me that there would be synchronous

5   and asynchronous learning?

6   MS. BARONI: Yes.

7   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes. And you did allude to a

8   learning management system or an LMS or a --

9   MS. BARONI: Uh-huh.

10   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- CMS. Would you expand on

11   that?

12   MR. SAHIN: So our plan is to get

13   internationally recognized curriculum, so we are in

14   touch with some of the providers, like Edgenuity,

15   EDconnect for the virtual school K-12. So we are

16   determining the best for our students.

17   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Are you using one currently?

18   MR. SAHIN: We are using Schoology for our

19   digital learning students right now.

20   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I think my last concerns

21   -- and they're not really as concerning as I would

22   feel more comfortable knowing that we're just going

23   to say, okay, we're going to be K-12, that we need

24   some grade configuration, whether the students -- you

25   have students in each grade level or not. And I

 1   would -- I guess I'm concerned about the equity for

 2   students at -- that's not easily accessible to the

 3   current sites. And so I wonder if it's a great long-

 4   term goal to have multiple satellite sites, that

 5   maybe right now you're announcing the two that you

 6   have with future plans to announce other satellite

 7   sites opening, if that makes more sense to our panel

 8   members, if that -- I don't know. It's up to y'all

 9   to discuss that.

10   Yes, please.

11   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Thank you for your

12   additional explanation that did frame some more of an

13   understanding. And I guess as I'm just thinking

14   about it, and especially when I think about our

15   students that will require special services, from

16   what you described -- and I'm just trying to think

17   through this -- it just seemed like that there would

18   be an additional burden on some of those students to

19   have to attend more than students that didn't require

20   special services. And I'm just trying to get a sense

21   of what that would look like again geographically.

22   If I'm needing to transport my student more often

23   than a student who maybe didn't require special

24   education, what's that going to look like for that

25   family and those students? And I'm just trying to

 1   get a better understanding of that.

 2   MS. BARONI: Yeah. You know, and I -- we can't

 3   say that we know exactly how that's going to look,

 4   but what we do know is that we would certainly work

 5   on developing IEP that's appropriate for that student

 6   who needs those special services and to provide them

 7   in the least -- or in the best way; not to put an

 8   extra burden on the families, but to reach out in

 9   whatever ways we can to provide those services. I

10   agree, you know, there might be a case where someone

11   might feel like they need to come to campus more, but

12   we would try to deal with that on the front-end and

13   make sure we're very thorough in our IEP preparation

14   so that we can come up with a plan that's manageable

15   and makes it accessible for those students who might

16   be in a more remote area.

17   SUPT. BOGREK: Ms. Coffman, I would like to add

18   just so you know to your question about enrollment

19   projections. Again, since we are right now having a

20   pandemic it's changing our, you know, plans and, you

21   know, making last-minute, you know, changes. In this

22   hybrid model, if, you know, it's going to be

23   approved, we would like to support other schools --

24   for example, providing all kinds of, you know,

25   instruction like virtual, hybrid, and traditional

1   from every school, and, you know, that includes

2   administration. So maybe just asking for flexibility

3   maybe kind of for next year in case some schools they

4   will just focus on traditional methods and they will

5   just be moved to, you know, our hybrid school. So

6   our hybrid school can focus on, you know, other

7   methods, like, you know, virtual or hybrid next year

8   only, and then the other schools they can focus on

9   traditional methods, you know. So this is something

10   we are asking kind of flexibility if we need to move

11   our regional high school virtual students to hybrid

12   school just for next year. This is why, you know, we

13   ask for that flexibility.

14   But on -- you know, otherwise, you know, our

15   plan is starting K-9 and then adding one more grade

16   level. And we don't want to fill all the cap, you

17   know, the first year because we want to (inaudible)

18   for the whole state, so this is why we want to go

19   gradually, you know -- next seven years. So this is

20   why, you know, we haven't added on the projection.

21   But for next year, again, we would like to have

22   flexibility to move some of our current students to

23   this school and then other schools can just focus on,

24   you know, traditional methods.

25   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I understand that.

1   Accountability is not that flexible, and that's the

2   problem is until we know and till you're turning in

3   your LEA request for an LEA number for this school

4   and knowing what the grade-span will be determines if

5   in accountability you'll be in the elementary, the

6   middle, or the high school cohort. And so at some

7   point it has to be decided before -- by the end of

8   the LEA cycle for applying for a number.

9   SUPT. BOGREK: We are -- you know, our

10   application is K-9 for the first year, and on the

11   projection for K-9 is like in the high school

12   category, I guess, you know, in terms of LEA. So we

13   are going to have, you know, K-9 for sure for new

14   students. But for, you know, again, (inaudible), we

15   would like to ask for flexibility if we are going to

16   have some maybe 10th, 11th, and 12th graders for next

17   year, only, you know, in case, you know, (inaudible).

18   But, again, you are experts --

19   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah. So if you're having

20   even one 10th, 11th, or 12th grader, for

21   accountability purposes it has to be set. And so

22   that's the place where it kind of gets hung-up. It's

23   not that -- I mean it's not that we don't want to

24   give you flexibility; it's just that you have to fit

25   into one of those categories and you have to declare

1   which grade levels that we're pulling data from.

2   MS. HYATT: Ms. Coffman, could I add something

3   onto that? This is Mary Claire.

4   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Sure.

5   MS. HYATT: That just made me think of an

6   additional kind of concern, is if you're going to

7   have current students that are 10th graders enroll

8   you would also have to let non-current 10th grade

9   students enroll if there were spots available in your

10   enrollment cap. You couldn't just say we're only

11   going to allow currently set 10-12 -- 10 through 12

12   students to enroll in the hybrid model. If you're

13   going to have one student in any of those grades,

14   then any student who applied, if there was still

15   space in the enrollment cap based on the lottery, you

16   would have to allow those students to enroll also.

17   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Additional questions?

18   Ms. Saracini, any additional questions?

19   MS. SARACINI: (shaking head from side to side)

20   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers?

21   DR. FLOWERS: (shaking head from side to side)

22   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Williams?

23   DR. WILLIAMS: (shaking head from side to side)

24   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin?

25   (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

 1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I guess the only place I'm

 2   hung is I just -- I need to know a grade

 3   configuration. And is your grade configuration and

 4   your -- so you have 1,050 as your recommended cap. I

 5   think we just -- I'm just hung right there at grade

 6   configuration. I mean I wouldn't be doing my due-

 7   diligence if I just said we had to make a decision.

 8   SUPT. BOGREK: I think we can, you know, change

 9   our enrollment projection to K-12 for students. So

10   we can have K-12, you know, if you feel comfortable

11   that way. So it means we can enroll, you know, any

12   grade level, you know, the first year.

13   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: What grade, K what?

14   SUPT. BOGREK: K-12. You know, the first year

15   we can go with K-12 -- you know, any grade level we

16   can continue.

17   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. I mean you can --

18   SUPT. BOGREK: Yeah.

19   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- you can say for this next

20   school year I'm going to be a K-12 school.

21   SUPT. BOGREK: Yeah. Yeah, we can do that.

22   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then if you determine

23   that you're not filling all your grades the next year

24   we can come back and revise your LEA number with --

25   SUPT. BOGREK: Yeah, sure.

 1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- the appropriate grade

 2   configuration.

 3   SUPT. BOGREK: Sure.

 4   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I'm fine with that.

 5   SUPT. BOGREK: Okay.

 6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: It's --

 7   MS. BARONI: That would give us the flexibility

 8   --

 9   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah.

10   MS. BARONI: -- for the current students that

11   you were talking about.

12   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah. Okay.

13   SUPT. BOGREK: Yeah. My understanding was we

14   were applying for K-12 too, but the first year we're

15   not going to have maybe enough 10th, 11th, 12th

16   graders for that. The first year we cannot aim to

17   have, you know, all grade levels. The school is a K-

18   12 school, you know, initially that we applied for.

19   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I think what Mary Claire is

20   saying though, if you say you're going to be a K-12

21   then you have to open up all of your grades for the

22   lottery.

23   MS. HYATT: (Nodding head up and down)

24   SUPT. BOGREK: Okay. Yeah.

25   MS. BARONI: So we would have to have sections

1   available at every grade level.

2   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. And then if you don't

3   fill them, you know, there will be just zeros in

4   those grades and then you could make adjustments the

5   following year.

6   Panel Members, any other conversations around

7   satellite sites?

8   You're good?

9   All right. If there's no further discussion,

10   I'm ready for a motion.

11   MS. HYATT: Just a reminder, based on what Mr.

12   Baldwin and Dr. Williams said, you are free to put

13   some parameters on the approval motion, if that's the

14   will of the Panel, such as having Division approval

15   of satellite sites or having them report those sites

16   to the Panel, whatever you want. You have

17   flexibility. I just wanted to make sure you guys

18   knew that before you made your motions.

19   DR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to make a motion but I'm

20   trying to make sure I've caught up with all the

21   changes from the original waiver request, is kind of

22   what I'm trying to do. So is the -- for the hybrid

23   model, is the grade configuration now K-12? Is that

24   what was decided?

25   MS. HYATT: (Nodding head up and down)

1   DR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

2   Okay, Ms. Hyatt, I'm going to trust you to clean

3   this up.

4   Okay. I move that we approve the waiver for the

5   hybrid model for K-12 for the satellite sites, for

6   there to be a review by ADE of those sites for

7   compliance. And also -- let me know if I need to

8   make this a second motion -- but to approve the

9   increase in enrollment for the LISA Academy/

10   Springdale site.

11   MS. HYATT: It's fine to do it all in one

12   motion. That's fine with me.

13   DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. That concludes my motion,

14   if it's -- I am open for any friendly amendments, if

15   needed here.

16   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Second?

17   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I believe I can second

18   that. I feel like everything was included in here.

19   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I have a motion by Dr.

20   Williams, a second by Ms. Wright-McMurray to approve

21   LISA Academy's request for a hybrid K-12, including

22   enrollment cap and a review of satellite sites by

23   ADE.

24   How did I do, Mary Claire?

25   MS. HYATT: (Gave a thumbs-up)

1   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Any discussion?

2   DR. WILLIAMS: Just to note on that motion also

3   was the increase in the -- did you do the increase in

4   enrollment?

5   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

6   DR. WILLIAMS: Okay, you did. Okay.

7   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

8   DR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

9   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: The enrollment cap increase.

10   All those in favor?

11   (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

12   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Motion passes.

13   So if you'll give us a second, we'll write our

14   notes into our voting sheet and then I'll ask each

15   member to read those notes to you.

16   SUPT. BOGREK: Thank you so much. Thank you.

17   MR. SAHIN: Thank you.

18   (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

19   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, Ms. Baroni, the two sites

20   that are mentioned in your application are already

21   school sites.

22   So I think -- and Ms. -- Dr. Williams, correct

23   me if I'm wrong -- your intent is if they add

24   additional satellite sites that the Department be

25   notified so that we can review those?

1   DR. WILLIAMS: That is correct. It'll be

2 additional sites.

3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

4   DR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for clarification.

5   (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Williams, when you're

7 ready.

8   DR. WILLIAMS: Okay, here we go. I recommend --

9 no, hold on, that's not me. It was good though, but

10 it wasn't me.

11   I support the motion. The hybrid school model

12 creates an opportunity for students to engage in the

13 educational system during Covid and this model could

14 possibly lead to a new way of reaching and engaging

15 students.

16   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Wright-McMurray.

17   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I tried to make sure I put

18 everything in here.

19   I recommended approval of LISA Academy's request

20 for inclusion of the modification of grade levels for

21 K-12, allowance of ADE to review and approve

22 satellite locations prior to operations, and increase

23 the enrollment of the Springdale location. I believe

24 this will provide more opportunities for students to

25 receive the quality education LISA has demonstrated

1   at their existing locations and expand it to more

2   locations across the state.

3   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers.

4   DR. FLOWERS: I approved the request for the

5   modifications (inaudible, mic not on)

6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

7   Ms. Saracini.

8   MS. SARACINI: I recommend approval on the

9   further -- from further explanation from the LISA

10   Academy's administration, as well the allowance of

11   DESE to review the satellite learning centers.

12   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Thank you and

13   congratulations.

14   Ms. Webb, do you have any other business before

15   the Panel today?

16   MS. WEBB: On March 16th we do have one item on

17   the agenda.

18   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: March 16th, one item already

19   on the agenda.

20   Any other business, Ms. Hyatt?

21   MS. HYATT: Not on my end. Sorry, no, not on my

22   end.

23   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Then I'll accept

24   a motion to adjourn.

25   MS. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I move to adjourn.

65

1   DR. WILLIAMS: Second.

2   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Motion by Ms.

3   McMurray, second by Dr. Williams.

4   All those in favor?

5   (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

6   CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: The meeting is adjourned.

7   Thank you, everyone.

8   DR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Great discussion

9   today.

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12   (The meeting was concluded at 10:27 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS   )
) ss.
COUNTY OF SALINE   )

    I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter Authorizing Panel, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on February 23, 2021; that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

    I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

    I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

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