

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL**

June 19, 2025  
9:00 A.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

PANEL MEMBERS:

DR. SONJA WRIGHT-McMURRAY, Chair, Division of Career and  
Technical Education - Senior Associate Director  
DR. JOHN BACON, IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship - Executive  
Director  
MS. EDIE STEWART, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas - Senior  
Vice President  
MR. PHIL BALDWIN, Retired CEO, Citizens Bank  
DR. TINA MOORE, ADHE - Director of Workforce Development

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. LaBRIA BROWN

LOCATION:

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

**I N D E X**

Page

1. Action Agenda . . . . .	3
1.1 Charter Amendment Request for Academies of Math and Science. . . . .	4
Court Reporter's Certificate . . . . .	32

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

**1. ACTION AGENDA**

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So now we are on to our --

DR. SMITH: The action agenda.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So, Ms. Brown, would you please come forward so you can provide an overview of the procedures for today's action agenda.

MS. BROWN: LaBria Brown, Staff Attorney with the Department.

Dr. Wright-McMurray, you'll want to swear in everyone that will be giving testimony, except for attorneys. The applicants will have 20 minutes -- 20 minutes to present. To my knowledge, there's no opposition for any of the schools on the agenda.

A reminder: all parties, please state your name before you speak, even if you've talked to us before, so that we can have a clear record. Any community members or community partners that are here to speak on behalf of the school will need to speak during the 20 minutes. Any elected officials that are here can speak before the hearing, during the 20 minutes or at the conclusion of the -- of the testimony. That's up to the official and the school, how they want to move forward.

1                   Following the Charter's presentations, I'll go  
2                   through legal concerns and waivers, if any. Then,  
3                   the CAP members can address any remaining concerns  
4                   outside of legal or ask any other questions.

5                   CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Thank you.

6   **1.1 CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR ACADEMIES OF MATH AND**  
7   **SCIENCE**

8                   DR. SMITH: So, Panel, I would like to put into  
9                   the record here that the Academies of Math and  
10                  Science are requesting an enrollment cap increase.  
11                  In attendance today is Mr. Erik Greenberg, Chief  
12                  Executive Officer, and Ms. Brandi Adams, Chief  
13                  Operating Officer, from the Academies of Math and  
14                  Science, to provide rationale and answer any  
15                  questions you all may have regarding the enrollment  
16                  cap increase request.

17                  CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. All right.  
18                  Thank you.

19                  Okay. So all those giving testimony today on  
20                  behalf of Academy of Math and Sciences, please stand  
21                  and raise your right hand. And that also includes  
22                  anyone who's online. Okay. I think that's it.  
23                  Okay. Do you swear that the testimony or statement  
24                  you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth,  
25                  and nothing but the truth?

1 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

2 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Is anyone online with  
3 you today?

4 Okay. Great. Okay. Thank you. You may begin.  
5 And just a reminder when you speak please state your  
6 name and who you're with each time you come to the  
7 microphone and speak.

8 MR. GREENBERG: Erik Greenberg, CEO for the  
9 Academies of Math and Science.

10 Good morning, members of the Charter Authorizing  
11 Panel. It's a pleasure to be here. We want to just  
12 give a quick overview. It's kind of crazy to think  
13 that nearly two years ago we introduced ourselves and  
14 were seeking a charter in the state of Arkansas. We  
15 do have a quick update to provide you all based on  
16 our first year that just completed.

17 Let me see if I can -- there we go.

18 When you first sought a charter in the state of  
19 Arkansas, our goal was to specifically serve the  
20 highest needs areas with -- with very high economic  
21 challenges, academic challenges, et cetera. And we  
22 felt that -- that in choosing this location our --  
23 our number one goal was to create a community school.  
24 We feel like with coming from the state of Arizona  
25 and being a large school-choice community that the

1 thought of a community school is kind of archaic,  
2 it's a thing of the past, and we wanted to bring that  
3 back, especially in the -- in the areas in which we  
4 are going.

5 And so real fast I want to reintroduce you to  
6 the Academy Math and Science. Our vision is to  
7 provide the best education and the best environment.  
8 And we chose that very simple vision because you  
9 can't necessarily quantify it best. And it's our --  
10 it's in our ethos that we just continue to grow all  
11 the time. We're driven by our values of do whatever  
12 it takes, act with honor, and be vulnerable, candid  
13 and kind. Our objective is to offer an excellent  
14 education in those areas and those communities that  
15 we spoke about. Our goals are to have an A-rated  
16 school, have fully staffed and fully enrolled schools  
17 and continue to emphasize growth and development with  
18 our -- with our students.

19 So, in 2023, in looking for a location to bring  
20 our first AMS school to the state of Arkansas, we --  
21 we purchased the building -- the David O. Dodd  
22 Elementary building on Stagecoach, built in -- in the  
23 50s. As you can see from those few top pictures, it  
24 was in -- was in rough shape when we -- when we  
25 purchased it. And when we saw it for the first time

1           we absolutely fell in love with it. Our goal was to,  
2           as I mentioned, can we build a community school that  
3           really rallies the entire community, not just those  
4           who are going to attend the school -- but really  
5           rally the entire community and -- and create a school  
6           that could be kind of a gem for that location. So we  
7           -- we completed our construction. You can see some  
8           of the pictures. We renovated the entire building.  
9           We added a gym with additional classrooms on the  
10          back. We put in fields, basketball courts on the  
11          other side of the -- of the building as well, and we  
12          opened our doors this last fall. We were very  
13          excited that when we did a -- we had an open-house  
14          event a week before school started. We had over  
15          1,000 community members join. And I think one of the  
16          most humbling experiences for us is many who joined  
17          were former students of that school or their kids  
18          attended that school, and we were humbled to hear the  
19          appreciation for what we did to refresh and bring  
20          that school back to life, as it had been closed for a  
21          few years at that point.

22                 As I mentioned before, our goal was to really  
23                 create a community school. I'm here now, 600 and  
24                 some-odd days after we first brought our program to  
25                 your attention. We're really excited that after our

1 first year we -- we feel like we accelerated in our  
2 ability to create a community school. We carried  
3 enrollment of around 500 for the entire year, all  
4 full K -- K-8 students. And really the goal here was  
5 to build and create that foundation. We wanted to  
6 create more initial family engagement. We wanted  
7 families and parents to be more involved in their  
8 students' education. My colleague Brandi will --  
9 will talk about some of those things that we did.  
10 But we knew coming into -- coming into this  
11 environment and really seeking out those students  
12 with the most needs that if we can gather the entire  
13 community and really get parents engaged with their  
14 students then we would have a shot at really  
15 providing those -- those educational outcomes. And  
16 so we -- we were able to do that. We were able to  
17 participate in -- in many activities, many items. We  
18 experienced very high teacher retention, very high  
19 student retention, which we'll talk about in a  
20 second. But, mostly, what we're experiencing now,  
21 which is why we're here to seek an enrollment cap, is  
22 significant attention by others through referrals of  
23 our families, referrals of our -- of our staff and  
24 students to attend and be part of the journey that we  
25 are taking kids on.



1           Just a quick glance at -- at our first year.  
2           Our total enrollment was -- was 497. We hovered  
3           above 500 for a little bit, fell below for a little  
4           bit. We have about 83 percent free and reduced lunch  
5           eligible students; 54 students with IEPs; 33 English  
6           Language Learners; nearly 75 percent of our student  
7           population African American; 14 percent Hispanic; and  
8           -- and eight percent White.

9           We're extremely proud of the first year -- being  
10          the first year in Arkansas, and the first year of our  
11          organization being in an out-of-state. And we  
12          obviously love having others join me, being able to  
13          entertain some other school districts that came to  
14          look and check out our program. Obviously, the APSRC  
15          has been very instrumental in -- in us coming to  
16          Arizona, and building this strong program, and had  
17          them visit. We've had multiple members of the  
18          Department of Education come, including Secretary  
19          Oliva. And the Governor herself made -- came and  
20          visited one of our afterschool clubs, and we have a  
21          picture of that, which was an awesome opportunity for  
22          our -- our community.

23          I want to introduce my -- my colleague who will  
24          continue to go through some of our progress.

25          MS. ADAMS: Thank you. Good morning. My name

1 is Brandi Adams. I'm the Chief Operations Officer  
2 for the Academies of Math and Science.

3 And when I heard you say 20 minutes I got a  
4 little nervous because I could talk about this school  
5 all day. So I will try to keep it brief.

6 When we first opened in West Little Rock our  
7 executive director had an unexpected need to leave,  
8 and so I had the unique opportunity of coming out and  
9 being an acting principal, albeit probably not well.  
10 I tried to do my best and fill in, and I just fell in  
11 love with the school. So I would also invite any of  
12 you to come check it out as well. It's -- it's a  
13 great little place.

14 So I want to very quickly run through -- did I  
15 do the wrong thing? Yeah.

16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Can -- can we just  
17 pause for one second? Sorry. And I will actually  
18 pause your time too, so you won't be impacted. But I  
19 think that we're needing to get back into the Zoom  
20 again.

21 MS. MUNDELL: Do y'all want to get back in here?  
22 Is there anybody that needs to be in?

23 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Well, there were  
24 people that were online that were watching, and so I  
25 don't -- I don't know if we need to make sure that

1           they're able to participate. So are we back online?

2           MS. MUNDELL: Darrell says go ahead and  
3           continue.

4           CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Okay. All  
5           right. Sorry. Go ahead.

6           MS. ADAMS: That's okay. I'm fine.

7           So AMS Little Rock's curriculum is primarily the  
8           Amplify program. We use that across all -- all  
9           disciplines and also use the Wilson Reading System to  
10          do some targeted intervention at the schools. But as  
11          we all know, the real key to educating students is  
12          the staff. As long as you have a research-based  
13          curriculum you're doing the right thing. It's the  
14          people that make it come alive, and our staff there  
15          is just the coolest bunch of people I've ever met.  
16          So -- and we're really proud that in year-one at a  
17          brand-new school we were able to achieve 94 percent  
18          teacher retention, which is something that we're  
19          really proud of. And that's even carried through  
20          into next school year, so it's -- it's very helpful.  
21          To kind of move on to this next thing, having these  
22          teachers return is going to help us tackle the  
23          challenge that we have in front of us.

24          So this slide shows our initial fall screener  
25          data for K-3. I'd like to just highlight a couple of

1 items. So the -- the green indicates the students  
2 who are performing as expected, and the yellow are  
3 the -- the students that are deemed at risk. So you  
4 can see that at the beginning of the year we realized  
5 very quickly that we have our work cut out for us at  
6 the campus, specifically 3rd grade. Having only four  
7 percent of students performing as expected is -- is  
8 something that we are -- have been addressing all  
9 year and are going to continue to address. The math  
10 result is a little bit strong, more strong than --  
11 than the literacy. But, again, a lot of work to do.  
12 We're not satisfied until everything is perfect, so  
13 we have a lot of room to grow.

14 This just shows those same screener tests in  
15 comparison to the state. And, again, I can just turn  
16 your eye especially to the 3rd grade, we've really  
17 been targeting them with a lot of extra  
18 interventions. But they all started at four percent  
19 ready.

20 This is, again, same data but 3-8. I can draw  
21 your attention to again math, 3rd grade needing a  
22 little extra assistance and 7th grade came in  
23 particularly under-performing. We learned quickly  
24 that we have a lot of 7th grade students reading at a  
25 2nd grade reading level when they started. So a lot

1           of -- a lot of interventions.

2           That part is a little bit sad. I hate to be a  
3           downer like that, but this is a little bit of a  
4           positive. So these are NWEA, which is our progress  
5           monitoring tool, results that show the growth that  
6           students have achieved throughout the -- the first  
7           half of the year. So we're really excited,  
8           particularly that kindergarten group. Right? These  
9           are our first -- first little babies that are going  
10          to be with us through the whole thing, you know, K-8.  
11          And so to see that we have 40 percent of our  
12          kindergarten students achieving growth above the 80th  
13          percentile made us really excited. Also, very proud  
14          of the work that we did with the 8th grade and 7th  
15          grade in math. Science, kind of a little more  
16          standard achievement there. But in reading, again,  
17          our 1st grade had some pretty impressive growth as  
18          well. So this just shows that there -- we're making  
19          progress with the students that we -- we had, but  
20          still a lot of work to go.

21          Education -- obviously, we're all here to  
22          educate kids. It's what we're doing. It's our  
23          purpose for being here. But, as Erik mentioned, our  
24          real goal is to make sure that the students that  
25          attended AMS really felt at home there, accepted,

1 part of the bigger community, and sort of part of  
2 something bigger.

3 And so while academics is key, we really wanted  
4 to, again, create that community environment for  
5 students, so we went all out with the clubs. So we -  
6 - first year, clubs and sports, we offered a wide  
7 variety of opportunities. These were primarily  
8 teacher-led clubs and sports; so this is not only an  
9 opportunity for students to engage, but also teachers  
10 as well with their students. I personally got to  
11 reap the benefits of the cooking club on more than  
12 one occasion and that was pretty -- pretty good stuff  
13 in there. We've got a beautiful new gym, so our  
14 basketball team has been able to enjoy that. And  
15 really impressive, particularly the parliament, the  
16 Student Council, they are very involved in the  
17 school, do a lot of things. They were the ones that  
18 did the ribbon cutting for us when we opened the new  
19 building. They are a cool, cool bunch.

20 Again, family engagement, super -- super strong.  
21 I think one of the clubs that we're most excited  
22 about is what we call a Dads on Duty club, where we  
23 have dads of students that come in. They do all  
24 kinds of things with the kids. There's a picture  
25 here, you know, with a basketball game. But I've

1           seen them come in and have paper-wad snowball fights  
2           with kids in the -- in the -- during recess, and  
3           just, you know, show a presence on campus. They're  
4           present at drive line. They're just there to show  
5           that they're there to support their kids and -- and  
6           care about the school.

7           And, again, some more community involvement.  
8           We've been in parades, we've had huge Christmas  
9           celebrations at the campus where community members  
10          came in and sold their wares, a little marketplace,  
11          if you will. The kids have donated things to  
12          hospitals, just a lot of fun at the school and you  
13          just feel it when you walk in. But it's a -- it's a  
14          little community already after just a year, which is  
15          a really positive thing, so --

16          So that said, looking forward you can imagine  
17          that, you know, we're excited about what we've done  
18          with our 500 students this year. But we're looking  
19          beyond this school year and we're ready to serve more  
20          kids.

21          So I want to just chat with you about our  
22          enrollment projections on this next slide. So first  
23          thing I just want to highlight really quickly is we  
24          didn't move to Enroll Arkansas for an enrollment  
25          system for this school year. So that's a phenomenal

1           program and it has actually already helped us improve  
2           our tracking of enrollments. And so with that, we  
3           can share that as of the time this -- these slides  
4           were submitted we had 418 students of the 471  
5           eligible to return. Obviously, we expect our 8th  
6           graders to move on. So that is an 89 percent  
7           re-enrollment rate. And so that is filling up a lot  
8           of the spots that we have available and not leaving a  
9           lot of room for those that we have interested. So  
10          that's why we're here seeking approval for the  
11          enrollment cap increase to 750.

12                 Our trends are sort of outlined in the chart  
13          below. So, again, when we submitted this we had the  
14          418 re-enrolled. We had 322 new student  
15          applications. We tend to convert at about a 50  
16          percent rate. And so with that projected out with  
17          new applications continuing to come in month over  
18          month, we had projected that as of June we would  
19          still have those 418 re-enrolled and would probably  
20          have an additional 200 new students, for a total  
21          enrollment of 618 -- or -- yeah. I checked it this  
22          morning. We were pretty close. We have 615 enrolled  
23          as of today. So -- and with that trend continuing,  
24          we do expect that at the end of July, we'll be closer  
25          to 668. The building max capacity, if you will, is



1           750. That's why we're just asking to increase to  
2           that. We aren't expecting to get much higher for  
3           this year than 668, but we do continue -- we believe  
4           the interest will continue to occur.

5           So I'm going to pass it back off to Erik to talk  
6           about budget.

7           MR. GREENBERG: Erik Greenberg, CEO, Academy of  
8           Math and Science.

9           As Brandi mentioned, the full building capacity  
10          is 750. We have a few models here to show where we  
11          operated this last year, operating where we expect to  
12          operate moving forward, which is around the 650  
13          number, and then if we were to fill the school at max  
14          capacity, at 750. Ideally, that's not our plan nor  
15          intention. We want to keep the classrooms -- the  
16          class sizes at a decent size. But just to show what  
17          it looks like in those three area.

18          So there is one slight typo on here. We alerted  
19          Mr. Scott yesterday. The FY25 current model, the  
20          number of staff, that number is actually 43, not 50.  
21          So I apologize for that. Everything else trends out  
22          true.

23          So on the projected 651, which is what we're  
24          going toward right now and projecting out right now,  
25          51 total staff members for a total revenue of 7.4.

1 Salaries and benefits coming in at 3.3 with all of  
2 our additional expenditures, with the building lease  
3 being the largest outside of our human capital. We  
4 are projecting to end the year with just under  
5 400,000 as our -- as our ending balance. You can see  
6 how we are -- will project that out through FY27 and  
7 FY28. If we were to fill the building to capacity,  
8 you can see those figures in the 750 maximum in the  
9 last three columns. Again, not our desire to do  
10 that, but it shows the increase in staff members and  
11 a little bit of an increase on costs with all those  
12 additional students. Obviously, the financials look  
13 much better with that many students; however, for our  
14 goal of academic achievement, continuing to train and  
15 develop and retain our staff members and keep class  
16 sizes at a decent level, obviously that's not our  
17 intention.

18 We feel very comfortable after this first year  
19 with the enrollment that we have taking on all the  
20 first-year expenses that are part of a school that we  
21 will finish the year in a favorable place  
22 financially, carry that out into the enrollment  
23 increase going into next year. And then really, like  
24 I mentioned before, that -- that -- that future  
25 projection that we're showing is really kind of the

1           sweet spot for us to keep that and maintain moving  
2           forward at those numbers, at those rates. And if  
3           anything, we'll see increases -- additional increases  
4           in our salaries and benefits. As we retain staff,  
5           obviously, their -- their -- their salaries will  
6           increase additionally, more, over time.

7           Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.

8           CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. So before we  
9           get to any questions for you, I'd like to invite Ms.  
10          Brown to come up and let us know if there's any legal  
11          concerns with the amendment request.

12          MS. BROWN: LaBria Brown, Staff Attorney for the  
13          Department of Education.

14          Legal has no concerns.

15          CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Thank you.

16          Okay. All right. So, Panel Members, do we have  
17          any questions for the charter? I'll start with Dr.  
18          Moore.

19          DR. MOORE: Thank you for your presentation and  
20          sharing the great success that y'all have had over  
21          this past year.

22          I do have a couple of questions. You mentioned  
23          class size. What is your average current class size,  
24          and does that vary by grade? And what do you  
25          anticipate that changing to?

1 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. Currently, our average class  
2 size in kindergarten this year was pretty small. I  
3 think it was around 22 or 23 students per class.  
4 Upper grades, a little bit higher. I think our  
5 average was around 28. Across the board we do see  
6 potential for those to increase again as space  
7 becomes more and more limited and we only have, you  
8 know, so much room. So those could potentially go up  
9 to 30.

10 DR. MOORE: Okay. And, additionally, you listed  
11 that you have the one hour of daily student  
12 intervention blocks. Is that still going to continue  
13 or will the increase in size mess that up in your  
14 schedule?

15 MS. ADAMS: Yes. I forgot that I didn't say my  
16 name again when I started to talk. So, Brandi Adams,  
17 COO.

18 Yes. That is a core piece of our scheduling  
19 process. That intervention block is built in as a  
20 piece of the schedule and it's during their school  
21 day. So that will continue to be in place.

22 DR. MOORE: Okay. And then, as far as hiring  
23 new teachers, are you just looking at every single  
24 grade level or is it one grade level that seems to  
25 have the most interest and is growing? What's that

1 look like?

2 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. So we did add a couple of  
3 sections I want to say in 2nd grade. I would have to  
4 look. But it -- it was just in a few key elementary  
5 and then we had a few middle school positions to  
6 fill, which we actually have already filled. So  
7 we're prepared to have those staffed. Yeah.

8 DR. MOORE: Thank you. And that's all the  
9 questions right now. I may have a few more after  
10 others have gone.

11 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Dr. Bacon.

12 DR. BACON: Well, to just sort of follow-up on  
13 that last one. So looking at this budget with 476  
14 students currently, it says you have 50 staff. But  
15 then projected 651 -- so another 180, 175 -- it says  
16 51 staff?

17 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. That was -- no, it was a typo  
18 --

19 DR. BACON: Okay.

20 MS. ADAMS: -- and we realized after the fact.  
21 So the correct number is 43 staff --

22 DR. BACON: At present?

23 MS. ADAMS: -- current year, yeah, in fiscal  
24 year '25. So, good eye. That is absolutely not  
25 correct.

1 DR. BACON: So 51 would be the accurate  
2 projection for this coming year based on the students  
3 that you're --

4 MS. ADAMS: Yes, that's correct.

5 DR. BACON: -- projected to serve. Can I ask --  
6 my big question always, when people are growing and  
7 expanding, is sort of where they're -- where are you  
8 finding the kids and where are you finding the staff?  
9 So since we were talking about the staff, where are  
10 you finding your staff and sort of what are their  
11 backgrounds, experiences, credentials?

12 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. So we are finding them from  
13 -- I would say it's probably a mix. We have quite a  
14 few people coming from Little Rock School District,  
15 and then -- it's probably 50/50. And then 50 percent  
16 of staff coming from other charter organizations. I  
17 do think for a while we were very concerned about  
18 staffing across the board in our entire network. You  
19 know, teacher shortage is real. This year, we've  
20 noticed a change in that and like, you know, we could  
21 talk about the reasons for that. But we have had a  
22 lot of success staffing. As far as experience, these  
23 -- these candidates are coming in very experienced.  
24 So we're actually keeping an eye on that just to  
25 remain in the budget because our salary schedule

1 obviously rewards that experience. So I'm just  
2 thinking off the top of my head right now. Of the  
3 three special education teachers that we have, two of  
4 them are over seven years of experience in special  
5 ed. So across the board, a really -- a very  
6 experienced staff, with a few new -- newbies  
7 sprinkled in. So since I got to be there at the  
8 beginning of the year this year, we had -- five of  
9 the 43, only five brand-new teachers, it was their  
10 first-year teaching. The rest had experience in the  
11 -- in the role.

12 DR. BACON: So moving to students, you know, we  
13 have two other charter schools established here, one  
14 in Jacksonville and one Little Rock, that were on  
15 this consent agenda that were sort of down-sizing  
16 because their student population is not growing. How  
17 -- how is your student population growing like this?  
18 What -- what would you attribute that to?

19 MS. ADAMS: So a couple of things. We have a  
20 really targeted program to encourage students to  
21 refer friends and family. We're intentional about  
22 that and we communicate it and push it. We do  
23 believe that these community events also help bring  
24 that -- bring that in. We also have a very talented  
25 marketing department, quite frankly, and do digital

1 marketing on Google and Facebook, and that is also a  
2 key piece.

3 Do you have -- I know you're -- you have a lot  
4 of thoughts around that too. Yeah.

5 MR. GREENBERG: One other piece of that is this  
6 year we knew our first year we would -- we'd keep  
7 enrollment a little tighter with the first year. We  
8 actually have too -- a lot of families, they wanted  
9 to join but they wanted their entire families with  
10 all the siblings. And so there were actually a lot  
11 on our waiting list, waiting for more sections to  
12 open up. And so we weren't able to enroll as many as  
13 we wanted because they wanted all three kids or all  
14 two kids, as our K-5 grades really filled up very  
15 quickly at the start of the year. And so some of  
16 them were just hanging out, waiting, and we weren't  
17 able to enroll them that first year.

18 DR. BACON: I -- I may have more, but I'll let  
19 you go.

20 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Thank you.

21 Okay. Ms. Stewart.

22 MS. STEWART: My colleagues asked several of my  
23 questions already. So hats off to y'all for -- for  
24 the success and especially in a community that has  
25 obviously embraced you and -- and needs that



1           community type school environment. So I -- I love  
2           that model.

3                       Regarding -- I know we've talked a little bit  
4           about staff. That was primarily my -- my main  
5           questions, as well. But when you're talking about --  
6           you mentioned special ed. I was also wondering  
7           around support staff, like numbers. And then as  
8           you're expected to grow with special education, how  
9           are you breaking that down from a grade level  
10          perspective?

11                      MS. ADAMS: Yeah. So we are anticipating adding  
12          that third special education teacher next year. We  
13          are also adding paraprofessionals to the -- the staffing  
14          model. We have right now a dyslexia specialist and  
15          an ELD specialist that serve both roles this year.  
16          Given this need for increase, we're separating that  
17          role out and making that a two-person job. So we  
18          definitely see the need to expand those support  
19          services as we grow. We've also used some -- a lot  
20          of contracted special education providers for the  
21          more specialized things -- you know, the OT and --  
22          and -- and all that. So we expect to see that  
23          continue to be a need. I never like to ignore, being  
24          an operations person, the operations side too. So  
25          we've added day porters, as well, a different food

1 service vendor that is better prepared to handle a  
2 larger group of kids. So very mindful of the need  
3 for those additional support roles as well.

4 MS. STEWART: Great. Thank you --

5 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

6 MS. STEWART: -- for that.

7 Dr. Moore mentioned the, you know, student  
8 support. And I was also wondering about, especially  
9 when you were mentioning the literacy and math focus  
10 and interventions, how does that work, you know, as  
11 you expand, especially with standard K-3, where, you  
12 know, you're really focusing on those literacy skills  
13 in particular?

14 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. Do you mean, like, specific  
15 staff designated --

16 MS. STEWART: Yeah. Staff.

17 MS. ADAMS: -- for that? I don't believe we  
18 have a literacy like coach or anything in place. We  
19 use the paraprofessionals to do a lot of intervention work  
20 with the students. We also have two assistant  
21 principals at the campus that help lead that work.  
22 And I know I personally have seen them jump in and --  
23 and do some interventions themselves. But I'm trying  
24 to think if we have -- we don't have a specific  
25 literacy role.

1           MR. GREENBERG: It doesn't answer your question  
2 directly, but one thing that was a challenge in the  
3 first year is we only had a finite time to train our  
4 staff to our program at the beginning of the year.  
5 We're really looking forward to -- there was training  
6 throughout the first year, and all the additional  
7 training. We're very fortunate that we can leverage  
8 -- we have nearly 700 teachers across our entire  
9 school network. Our principal right now is in  
10 Arizona, joining all of our other principals getting  
11 leadership training. And so it just allows us more  
12 time to leverage all of the training and development  
13 that we can do. And so one thing -- I know it's more  
14 -- more generic, but one thing we're really looking  
15 forward to is more time to train and develop the  
16 staff that we have to hopefully be a little more  
17 effective in the classroom.

18           MS. STEWART: Okay. Yeah. Thank you. That's  
19 all I have.

20           CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Any other  
21 questions from any other panel members?

22           DR. BACON: This isn't really a question, more  
23 of a comment. You know, I know you all are new, and  
24 so we don't really have the formal academic  
25 performance data. And so if you were asking for

1 something more, I would probably do a lot more  
2 questioning of let's see some results. Honestly, if  
3 your facility holds 750, I don't know why you didn't  
4 ask for 750 when you first got approved. And so 600  
5 to 750 doesn't give me heartburn at this point. But  
6 I'll be very excited to see -- based on what you're  
7 describing, if you're having that kind of retention  
8 for students and staff, I'm -- I'm really excited to  
9 see academic performance-wise what this looks like.

10 MS. ADAMS: We're excited to show it. And I  
11 know it wasn't a question, but I -- I just have to --  
12 I can't stop. The thing that's really exciting about  
13 this is watching the -- the development over several  
14 years.

15 One thing I forgot to mention when I was going  
16 over that initial performance data is, you know, some  
17 people could have looked at those scores of those  
18 kids and been like, Oh, this is yuck. And we went,  
19 Yes, we picked the right community, like we did -- we  
20 did it right. So we know it's a long road, you know,  
21 to get where we need to be and acknowledge that, you  
22 know, it's going to be a couple of years. But we're  
23 going to get there. We're so proud.

24 DR. BACON: Sure.

25 MS. ADAMS: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay.

2 DR. MOORE: I have one more thing and -- I don't  
3 know, it's also sort of a comment, not necessarily a  
4 question. But you mentioned professional development  
5 for faculty and staff, and you also had that you use  
6 high-quality instructional materials. So just  
7 stressing that the AIMS initiative with DESE is very  
8 much not just the curriculum but training the  
9 teachers to use that curriculum. So just highly  
10 encourage that existing teachers and new teachers  
11 have training on the curriculum and the instructional  
12 practices aligned to that curriculum if that is not  
13 already being done, but you mentioned professional  
14 development. So I hope that's part of it.

15 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, for sure.

16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. So before I  
17 entertain a motion, just a bit of clean-up. If you  
18 could restate your names and your positions with AMS,  
19 just for the record, because we had quite a bit of  
20 conversation and we missed that.

21 MS. ADAMS: I'm sorry. Again, I'm Brandi Adams.  
22 I'm the chief operations officer for AMS.

23 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Okay.

24 MR. GREENBERG: Erik Greenberg, CEO for  
25 Academies of Math and Science.

1                   CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: All right. Thank  
2                   you.

3                   Okay. If there are no further questions, then  
4                   I'll accept a motion on the amendment request of  
5                   Academy of Math and Science.

6                   DR. BACON: I move to accept the request to  
7                   increase their cap from 600 to 750 students.

8                   CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay.

9                   MS. STEWART: Second.

10                  CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. So there's a  
11                  motion by Dr. Bacon, a second by Ms. Stewart to  
12                  accept the amendment request.

13                  All those in favor indicate by saying aye.

14                  (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

15                  CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Any opposed?

16                  Okay. Motion passes.

17                  Please go to your voting sheet.

18                  (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

19                  CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Dr. Moore.

20                  DR. MOORE: I approved the AMS amendment request  
21                  to increase their enrollment cap from 600 to 750  
22                  students based on their leading indicators of student  
23                  success. I look forward to seeing additional  
24                  evidence of student achievement in the future.

25                  CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Dr. Bacon.

1 DR. BACON: I voted to approve the amendment  
2 request due to community support and interest in this  
3 school. I look forward to seeing academic results in  
4 the coming years.

5 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. Ms. Stewart.

6 MS. STEWART: I vote for increasing the  
7 enrollment cap for AMS from 600 to 750 to allow for  
8 additional growth and impact of AMS educational  
9 offerings in the community.

10 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay. And I support  
11 the amendment. I voted for and support AMS's  
12 amendment request to increase their enrollment from  
13 600 to 750, for support of increased interest and  
14 ability to serve more students.

15 Okay. Thank you.

16 (The Action Agenda was concluded at 10:15 a.m.)  
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS )

) ss

COUNTY OF PULASKI )

I, Miranda McEntire, Certified Court Reporter #852, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties in the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 1st day of July, 2025.



MIRANDA MCENTIRE, CCR

Certified Court Reporter #852

