

**Minutes**  
**Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting**  
**July 19, 2022**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Karli Saracini, Mark Zellner, Toyce Newton (virtual), Phil Baldwin, Kim Davis

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website at the following: <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/about/archived-minutesvideo>

**II. Consent Agenda**

*Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the CAP minutes from June 14, 2022. Mr. Davis seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**III. Action Agenda**

**III.1. Consideration of Charter Amendments**

**III.1.a.** Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan for Southside Charter High School and Southside Jr. High

**Presenter:** Tally Harp, DESE District Support

**Description:** The Charter is requesting consideration of an Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan.

Ms. Harp spoke about the expedited review process that DESE employs to review Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans for the benefit of the new panel members.

Southside is hoping to add 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to their digital learning plans. Dion Stevens spoke on behalf of the district and offered comments to clarify the request.

Motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Baldwin. There was a second by Ms. Saracini. Motion carried unanimously.

**III.1.b.** Consideration for Cross County High School A New Tech School Amendment Request

**Presenter:** Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

**Description:** Cross County High School A New Tech School is requesting a waiver for Class Size and Teaching Load and Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation.

Ms. Summons presented on the part of DESE. Mr. Stephen Prince and Ms. Searcy presented on behalf of the district.

Mr. Prince is requesting a waiver of class size and teaching load for their incoming freshman class. This has been a historically large class within the district. Mr. Prince spoke about other initiatives that can support teachers should larger classes become a reality for the district.

Waiver is requested through the current cycle of the charter which is through June 2026.

Ms. James (DESE) indicated that applicant would need to add an additional statute to waive.

Motion was made by Ms. Newton to approve the amendment request. There was a second by Mr. Davis. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

*Ms. Saricini moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Newton. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.*



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Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair