

**Minutes**  
**Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting**  
**November 15, 2022**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Karli Saracini, Phil Baldwin, Toyce Newton (Virtual), Kim Davis (Virtual), Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray

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**

Dr. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the CAP minutes from October, 18 2022. Ms. Saracini seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Action Agenda**

Ms. Tiffani Grayer, Director of School Performance delivered a brief presentation about accountability reports produced and released by DESE. The presentation focused on the ESSA School Index, trend data, weighted achievement, value-added growth, and school ratings. Ms. Grayer highlighted charter schools that were successful under each of these measures.

Ms. Newton questioned how lessons learned are shared with other traditional schools and charters. Ms. Coffman spoke about the public meeting/release of these reports and how schools shared in a collaborative way.

Dr. Wright-McMurray asked for more detail about how weighted achievement plays into overall ratings. Ms. Coffman provided information about why state averages looked the way that they do in the data.

Mr. Baldwin had a question about how the Panel should consider the impact of Covid on the data. Ms. Coffman talked about expected learning loss during and after the pandemic.

Mr. Davis spoke to the challenges to comparing state averages to actual charter performance. He also indicated the challenge of considering a school on the move with a low letter grade.

Ms. Summons presented the Panel with summary charts of enrollment/performance data.

**III.1. Action Item #1 Review of Open-Enrollment Charter Schools**

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

**Description:** The Charter Authorizing Panel has an opportunity to review data related to open-enrollment charter schools and ask questions about the success of the schools.

Ms. Coffman reminded panel members of the schools that would be appearing before the panel in December for a renewal hearing.

Mr. Baldwin was interested in Jacksonville Lighthouse Academies. With a drop in the grades, he wondered if there is something that could be done to better support the school.

Dr. Wright-McMurray wants to get a sense of what is causing a decrease in letter grades for our virtual charter schools.

Mr. Baldwin asked about a comparison of charters to traditional schools in their area.

Ms. Newton asked about learning loss and how the schools are addressing the issue and what they are doing to advance the learner.

Ms. Saracini would like to see what steps schools have put in place and how they have allocated their ESSER funds. She would also like to look at attendance data/rates.

Dr. Wright-McMurray would like additional information about Scott Elementary under the Academics Plus Charter.

Ms. Coffman reminded the panel that they should be intentional about considering the mission of the school.

The Charter Office can make a sheet with quick links to the ESSA School Index for schools in question.

### III.2. Action Item #2 Review of District Conversion Charter Schools

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

**Description:** The Charter Authorizing Panel has an opportunity to review data related to district conversion charter schools and ask questions about the success of the schools.

Ms. Coffman reminded Panel members of the schools that would be appearing for a renewal hearing in December. She also reminded Panel members to schedule possible visits with charters through the Charter Office and Ms. Summons.

Ms. Wagner with Legal reminded Panel members of FOIA guidelines should more than one panel member make a visit to a school.

Dr. Wright-McMurray would like additional information about the virtual/online programs that are open under the district conversion umbrella.

The Panel decided to table acceptance of the reports until spring when more information is available.

Ms. Summons reminds the Panel of the December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> renewal hearings.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Ms Saracini moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Wright-McMurray. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.



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Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair

