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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

MEDIA ADVISORY

July 29, 2014

CONTACT: Kimberly Friedman
PHONE: (501) 683-4788
kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov

WHAT: Charter Authorizing Panel Work Session

WHEN: 1 p.m. August 6, 2014

WHERE: Auditorium, Arkansas Department of Education, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock

The work session will not be live streamed.

Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Tony Wood appointed new members to the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Mike Hernandez, deputy commissioner, will serve as chair. Hernandez, the assistant commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services prior to being named deputy, served on the panel in 2013-2014. Dr. Debbie Jones, assistant commissioner of Learning Services, will serve as vice-chair.

Others appointed are Annette Barnes, assistant commissioner of Public School Accountability; Ivy Pfeffer, assistant commissioner of Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure; and Dr. Eric Saunders, assistant commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services. Cody Decker, assistant commissioner of Research and Technology, and Deborah Coffman, chief of staff, remain on the panel.

The Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013 designated the Charter School Authorizing Panel as the primary authorizer for all charters in the state. The act requires the commissioner to appoint ADE staff to the panel, which oversees the authorization, renewal, revision and revocation of charters.

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