

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
February 17, 2016**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Deborah Coffman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Deborah Coffman, Chair; Dr. Mark Gotcher, Vice Chair; Annette Barnes; Bobby Lester; Jennifer Liwo; Ivy Pfeffer; Greg Rogers; Dr. Eric Saunders; and Stacy Smith

Absent: none

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2016>

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Ms. Coffman welcomed the members of the Panel and the audience. She introduced the Panel members, provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings, and then recognized state legislators in attendance.

Senator Blake Johnson addressed the Panel.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Items included in the Consent Agenda: Minutes – January 20, 2016.

Action Agenda

Staff Attorney Jennifer Davis provided the Panel with directions for the proceedings. She also explained the public voting procedures to the Panel and the audience.

A-1 Request for District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal: Cross County High School, A New Tech School

Superintendent Carolyn Wilson presented the Panel with Cross County High School's request for renewal.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Ms. Smith, and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of Cross County High School, A New Tech School, for five years.

A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal: Imboden Area Charter School

Director Judy Warren presented the Panel with Imboden Area Charter School's request for renewal.

Senator David Johnson addressed the Panel in support of the renewal application.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Ms. Barnes, and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of the charter for 5 years with an annual report of enrollment, legal fund balance, minus categorical funding, and minus federal funding.

A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal AND Priority Status Hearing: Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School

Dr. Valarie Tatum, Superintendent, presented the Panel with Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School's request for renewal and addressed the school's priority status.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried by a six-to-two vote to approve the renewal of the charter for 3 years,

A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal AND Priority Status Hearing: Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School

Regional Vice President Lenisha Broadway presented the Panel with Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School's request for renewal and addressed the school's priority status.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to approve the renewal of the charter for 3 years with an annual internal review and an annual appearance before the Panel.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.



Deborah Coffman, Chair