

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
February 18, 2016**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, February 18, 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>

**Action Agenda**

Ms. Coffman welcomed the members of the Panel and the audience. She introduced the Panel members and then recognized state legislators in attendance.

Ms. Coffman provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings.

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 Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal AND Priority Status Hearing: SIATech Little Rock Charter School**

Dr. Linda C. Dawson, Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer, presented the Panel with SIATech Charter School's request for renewal and addressed the school's priority status.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Barnes, 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.

**A-2 Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Priority Status Hearing: Little Rock Preparatory Academy (5-8 campus)**

Executive Director Ben Lindquist addressed the priority status of Little Rock Preparatory Academy.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Ms. Barnes, and carried unanimously to take no action regarding the priority status.

**A-3 District Conversion Public Charter School Priority Status Hearing: Blytheville High School—A New Tech School**

Director Teryn Spears addressed the priority status of Blytheville High School—A New Tech School.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer, and carried unanimously to take no action regarding the priority status.

**A-4 District Conversion Public Charter School Priority Status Hearing AND Request for Amendment: Osceola STEM Academy**

Principal Christel Smith presented the Panel with Osceola STEM Academy's amendment request and addressed the school's priority status.

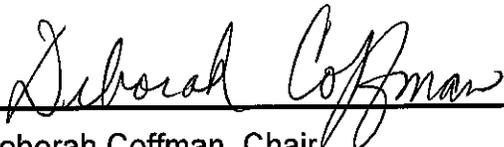
A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer, and carried unanimously to accept the amendment request and take no action regarding the priority status.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.*

  
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Deborah Coffman, Chair