

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
February 19, 2016**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Friday, February 19, 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, provided the audience with instructions pertinent to the proceedings, and then recognized state legislators in attendance.

Senator Joyce Elliott addressed the Panel.

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 Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Academic Performance Hearing AND Request for Amendment: Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan, Interim Superintendent, presented the Panel with Quest's amendment request and addressed the school's priority status.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Pfeffer, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried unanimously to deny the amendment request and take no action regarding academic performance.

A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Quest Middle School of West Little Rock

This item was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: eStem Public Charter School

Chief Executive Officer John Bacon presented the Panel with eStem's amendment request.

Kathy Kohler, President of Little Rock Education Association, spoke in opposition of the amendment request.

Mr. Bacon provided a rebuttal to the opposition presented.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Pfeffer, and carried by a six-to-one vote to approve the amendment request.

A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Future School of Fort Smith

School Founder Trish Flanagan presented the Panel with Future School's amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to approve the amendment request.

A-5 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Haas Hall Academy, Fayetteville

This item was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

A-6 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: KIPP Delta Public Schools, Blytheville

Managing Director of Operations Anna Millham presented the Panel with KIPP Delta's amendment request.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Saunders, and carried unanimously to approve the amendment request.

A-7 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: LISA Academy

Superintendent Atnan Ekin presented the Panel with LISA Academy's amendment request.

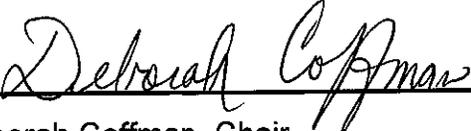
A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. Rogers, and carried by a vote of six-to-one to approve the amendment contingent upon the availability of the proposed location.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.



Deborah Coffman, Chair