

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

Absent: None

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

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2014>

Action Agenda

A-1 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: KIPP Delta Public Schools

Scott Shirey discussed the requests to waive Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-635, 6-17-1301 et seq., and 6-17-2205; and the request to change the start time of the school day from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

A question and answer period followed.

During the discussion, Mr. Shirey revised the request to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-1301 et seq. and instead requested to waive § 6-17-1304 .

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Dr. Walters, and carried unanimously to approve the requests as amended.

A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: LISA Academy and LISA Academy-North Little Rock

Superintendent Atnan Ekin, of LISA Academy, and Superintendent Fatih Bogrek, of LISA Academy-North Little Rock greeted the panel. Ms. Luanne Baroni provided an overview of the requests to merge LISA Academy and LISA Academy-North Little Rock, effective July 1, 2014, and the waiver requests.

A question and answer period followed.

During the discussion, representatives of the charters revised the waiver requests as follows:

- The request to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-501 et seq. was modified to only request waivers of §§ 6-18-502 and 6-18-503(a)(1).
- The request to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2301 was substituted for the request to waive § 6-17-2203; and

- The requests to waive 15.01 and 15.02 of the Standards for Accreditation were withdrawn.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried unanimously to approve the merger of the two charters and the waiver requests as amended.

A-3 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Cross County Elementary Technology Academy

Dr. Matt McClure explained the requests to amend the goals that had been approved in the applications for the Cross County elementary and high school charters.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to the Cross County Elementary Technology Academy charter.

A-4 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Cross County High School, A New Tech School

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to the Cross County High School, A New Tech School charter.

A-5 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Eastside New Vision Charter School (Warren)

Representatives from the Warren School District discussed the request to amend the methods of serving gifted and talented students that was approved in the application for charter.

It was moved by Dr. Walters seconded by Ms. Coffman, and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to the East Side New Vision charter.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.