

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, November 21, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; 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/2013>

Action Agenda

A-1 Continuation Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County, Sunset, Arkansas

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to pull the charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County off the table.

Leah Mallon of Edison Learning addressed the waiver requests of the 38 units and ALE.

Questions and answers followed.

Marion School District Superintendent Don Johnson and West Memphis School District Superintendent Jon Collins expressed concerns about the charter and answered panel member questions.

It was moved by Mr. Boardman, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried by a 5-1 roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County. Mr. Hoy voted against the motion; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated fiscal concerns; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion due to financial concerns and a concern about sustainability; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns about plans for successful long-term sustainability; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion due to financial concerns; and Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion due to the lack of a clear governance structure.

A-2 Continuation Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County, Osceola, Arkansas

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and approved unanimously to pull the charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County off the table.

Sally Wilson and Leah Mallon stated that the waiver requests for this application were identical to the requests for the application just discussed.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried unanimously in a roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County. Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion for the reasons previously stated; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion due to concerns about finances and sustainability; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion because of financial implications; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons that she previously stated; Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion because of academic concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.