

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel
Wednesday, October 14, 2015

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 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. Debbie Jones, Vice Chair; Annette Barnes; Dr. Mark Gotcher; Bobby Lester; Jennifer Liwo; Ivy Pfeffer; Greg Rogers; and Dr. Eric Saunders

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/2015>

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

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

Senator Joyce Elliott addressed the Panel.

Representative Bill Gossage addressed the Panel.

Representative George McGill addressed the Panel.

Representative Julie Mayberry addressed the Panel.

Ms. Coffman asked the Panel members if they had reports to share.

Ms. Coffman stated that some Panel members and staff would be attending the National Association of Charter School Authorizers Leadership Conference on October 19-22, 2015.

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

Report-2 Update on Charter Application Cycles

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Mary Perry provided an update on the Department's work with charter applicants and reminded the Panel that they will be considering three open-enrollment charter applications on October 14 and 15 and possibly considering six district conversion charter applications at the next Panel meetings in November. She also provided the Panel with proposed meeting dates for 2016 to be considered at a future meeting.

Report-3 Warren Middle School Gifted and Talented Services Report

Public School Coordinator for Gifted & Talented and Advanced Placement Dr. Mary Stein provided the Panel with her analysis and approval of the Gifted and Talented Services Report provided by Warren Middle School to the Department.

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 – July 15, 2015
- Arkansas Arts Academy Report

Action Agenda

General Counsel Kendra Clay provided the Panel with directions for the proceedings. She also explained the public voting procedures to the Panel and the audience.

Ms. Perry explained the information provided to the Panel in each applicant packet attached to the agenda.

A-1 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Arkansas Connections Academy, Bentonville, Arkansas

Dr. Dennis Beck, Board Chair, presented the Panel with Arkansas Connections Academy's request for an open-enrollment public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to table the application and provide a list of additional information to be provided by the applicant.

A-2 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Friendship Aspire Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas

This request was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

A-3 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Friendship Lead Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas

This request was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

A-4 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Future School of Fort Smith, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Trish Flanagan, School Founder, presented the Panel with Future School's request for an open-enrollment public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Barnes, and carried unanimously to approve the application.

A-5 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas

Amanda Kight, Board Member, presented the Panel with Redfield Tri-County Charter School's request for an open-enrollment public charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Gotcher, and carried unanimously to deny the application.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alexandra Boyd.