ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2015 Application
District Conversion Public Charter School

Deadline for Receipt of Submission: Tuesday, July 28, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Name of Proposed Charter School:

Gravette High School Career Academy

Any application that is substantially incomplete will not be forwarded to the authorizer for consideration. An application will be considered substantially incomplete if it does not provide enough information to enable staff at the Arkansas Department of Education to provide a meaningful review.

Arkansas Department of Education
Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
501.683.5313

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2015 APPLICATION
DISTRICT CONVERSION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Proposed Charter School: Gravette High School Career Academy

Grade Level(s) for the School: 9 - 12 Student Enrollment Cap: 500

Name of School District: Gravette School District

Name of Contact Person: Mr. Jay Chalk

Address: 609 Birmingham St. SE City: Gravette, Arkansas

ZIP: 72736 Daytime Phone Number: (479) 787-4100 FAX: (479) 787-4108

Email: jay.chalk@gravetteschools.net

Charter Site Address: 406 6th Avenue SE

City: Gravette, Arkansas

ZIP: 72736 Date of Proposed Opening: August 15, 2016

Name of Superintendent: Dr. Richard Page

Address: 609 Birmingham St. SE City: Gravette, Arkansas

ZIP: 72736 Daytime Phone Number: (479) 787-4100

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide the mission statement of the proposed school.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide students a personalized education resulting in the obtainment of industry-based knowledge, skills and training,. The students will be equipped to enter the local and regional industry as skilled workforce partners that have the necessary training to be successful. The students will also be equipped with extensive service experience, professional work ethic, and the essential academic standards that will enable them to enter the skilled workforce or to also pursue postsecondary education if they so choose.

Briefly describe the key programmatic features that the school will implement in order to accomplish the mission.

Applicant Response:

By implementing a valuable and strong relationship with Northwest Arkansas Community College, Northwest Technical Institute, local business and industry, the Gravette High School Career Academy will provide students with industry specific training, career centered learning, and real-world experiences in career based classes and laboratory settings.

Students who successfully complete the offered programs will graduate with a value-added diploma that will enhance their exit options to include nationally recognized industry certification, concurrent college credit, and technical certification. Technology will be infused into the instructional process through on-line blended learning strategies, thereby allowing students upon successful completion to pursue immediate employment or further post-secondary education.

C. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL

The applicant for the proposed charter school, if approved by the authorizer, agrees to operate the educational program described below in accordance with the provisions described within this document, Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-101 et seq., the State Board of Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools, and the attached assurances.

Provide a narrative description of the various components of the proposed charter school by responding to the following prompts:

1. Describe the results of the public hearing, which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this public charter school. Provide copies of supporting evidence.

Applicant Response:

A public meeting was held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Gravette High School Performing Arts Center to discuss the proposed establishment of the Gravette High School Career Academy. The meeting was publicized for three consecutive weeks (Wednesday, August 5, Wednesday, August 12, and Wednesday, August 19) in the local newspapers, The Westside Eagle Observer and The Bella Vista Weekly. The meeting was also advertised on the school district website. Information relating to the public meeting was discussed at different community civic and business meetings, and information was presented to the district faculty by Dr. Richard Page, Superintendent, and Jay Chalk, High School Principal, during faculty meetings.

Mr. Jay Oliphant, President of the Gravette School Board, welcomed stakeholders and facilitated the meeting. The agenda was as follows:
Welcome - Mr. Jay Oliphant, Gravette School Board President
Background and Description of Conversion Charter School - Dr. Richard Page
Academy Overview - Mr. Jay Chalk
Programs of Study - Mr. Jay Chalk
Question and Answer Session
Conclusion - Dr. Richard Page, Superintendent

Attach documentation to demonstrate that each of the following requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-201 was met:

A. The notice of public hearing was distributed to the community, certified school personnel, and parents of all students enrolled at the public school for which the school district initiated the application.

B. The notice of the public hearing was published in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district in which the school will be located ***at least three weeks prior to the date of the meeting.***

2. Give the mission statement for the proposed charter school.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide students a personalized education resulting in the obtainment of industry-based knowledge, skills and training,. The students will be equipped to enter the local and regional industry as skilled workforce partners that have the necessary training to be successful. The students will also be equipped with extensive service experience, professional work ethic, and the essential academic standards that will enable them to enter the skilled workforce or to also pursue postsecondary education if they so choose.

3. Describe the educational need for the school by responding to the following prompts. Include the innovations that will distinguish the charter from other schools.

Complete the following charts to include 2014 literacy and mathematics performance assessment data and graduation rates for the district in which the charter would be located and the schools closest to the proposed charter.

DISTRICT DATA			
District Name	Gravette School District		
District Status	Needs Improvement		
	LITERACY 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	MATH 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	Graduation Rate 2013-2014 2014 Report Card Percent Graduated
All Students (Combined)	82.97	83.14	80
Targeted Achievement Gap Group	74.24	75.18	74.42
African American	N<10	N<10	N<10
Hispanic	72.13	74.24	N<10
White/Caucasian	84.43	84.80	81.82
Economically Disadvantaged	77.01	76.06	67.65
English Language Learners/ Limited English Proficient	66.67	75.00	N<10
Students with Disabilities	39.67	48.85	92.31

CAMPUS DATA - CAMPUS PROPOSED FOR CONVERSION TO CHARTER			
District Name	Gravette School District		
Campus Name	Gravette High School		
Grade Levels	9 - 12		
Campus Status	Needs Improvement		
	LITERACY 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	MATH 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	Graduation Rate 2013-2014 2014 Report Card Percent Graduated IF APPLICABLE
All Students (Combined)	96.15	95.10	80.00
Targeted Achievement Gap Group	93.55	95.49	74.42
African American		100.00	100.00
Hispanic	100.00	92.86	50.00
White/Caucasian	95.74	95.11	81.82
Economically Disadvantaged	94.55	98.35	67.65
English Language Learners/ Limited English Proficient	100.00	85.71	0.00
Students with Disabilities	86.67	88.46	92.31

CAMPUS DATA - HIGH SCHOOL CLOSEST TO THE PROPOSED CHARTER LOCATION			
District Name	Gravette School District		
Campus Name	Gravette High School		
Grade Levels	9 - 12		
Campus Status	Needs Improvement		
	LITERACY 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	MATH 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	Graduation Rate 2013-2014 2014 Report Card Percent Graduated
All Students (Combined)	96.15	95.10	80.00
Targeted Achievement Gap Group	93.55	95.49	74.42
African American	0.00	100.00	100.00
Hispanic	100.00	92.86	50.00
White/Caucasian	95.74	95.11	81.82
Economically Disadvantaged	94.55	98.35	67.65
English Language Learners/ Limited English Proficient	100.00	85.71	0.00
Students with Disabilities	86.67	88.46	92.31

CAMPUS DATA - OTHER CAMPUS IN FEEDER PATTERN OF PROPOSED CONVERSION CHARTER			
District Name	Gravette School District		
Campus Name	Gravette Middle School		
Grade Levels	6 - 8		
Campus Status	Needs Improvement		
	LITERACY 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	MATH 2014 ESEA Report Percentage Achieving or Advanced	Graduation Rate 2013-2014 2014 Report Card Percent Graduated IF APPLICABLE
All Students (Combined)	83.98	80.99	
Targeted Achievement Gap Group	75.45	69.20	
African American	N<10	N<10	
Hispanic	76.92	60.71	
White/Caucasian	85.53	82.64	
Economically Disadvantaged	78.33	71.01	
English Language Learners/ Limited English Proficient	64.29	64.29	
Students with Disabilities	37.25	33.33	

Explain the educational need for the charter in light of the academic performance by the district, the campus proposed to be converted, and at the schools in the same feeder pattern as the proposed charter. Explain other significant factors. Be certain to include the source for information presented.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District is located in western Benton County with Gravette High School within the city limits of Gravette, Arkansas. The school district has an approximate population of 1839 students with Gravette High School containing a population of 600 or so students. Gravette High School's overall academic performance is high with GHS receiving numerous academic awards. Even with high academic standards, many Gravette High School graduates do not attend post-secondary institutions or receive technical training after high school. Gravette High School has a two-year average of 42% of graduates not attending a post-secondary institution or technical school. This data helps to enforce the need for a conversion charter school to provide a large population the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful when entering the workforce. A conversion charter school will also enable certain Gravette High School Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) students the opportunities to be more highly engaged in curriculum that is relevant to their interests and goals. Gravette High School's graduation rate is greatly affected by the economically disadvantaged sub-group. Only 67% of the economically disadvantaged students graduated in 2014. An increase in vocational opportunities would enable Gravette Schools the ability to increase the sub-group's retention by offering programs that provide relevancy and interest.

If the performance of students at schools and or/districts not noted in the previous charts demonstrate the need for the charter, provide the student performance data and its source and explain.

Applicant Response:

Gravette School District believes that providing our students with the opportunity to acquire certain workforce skills and knowledge will help not only our students but our community as well. According to the U.S. Census Data, only 17.4% % of the Gravette citizens hold a post-secondary degree and 18.3% of Gravette citizens are living below the poverty level. A survey conducted by the Department of Human Services titled the 2014 Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment, surveyed students in grades 6, 8 and 10 and found that only 22.2 % completed college. Graduates of Gravette High School Career Academy will help to remedy the negative community factors mentioned.

Describe three (3) innovations that will distinguish the charter from other schools.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will be located in Gravette, Arkansas which lies in the extreme Northwest corner of the state. Northwest Arkansas is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. The region is home to some of the largest employers in the state such as Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, and JB Hunt Trucking. The companies that reside within our region are actively pursuing individuals to fill their employment vacancies and have met with the Gravette School District to express their support for the career academy initiative. The general concern by the business and industry representatives is the need for employees who possess both entry level technical skills and the essential workplace skills needed for the 21st century workplace. Many of the businesses in our region, in order to find employees that contain the appropriate qualifications, are forced to recruit from outside Northwest Arkansas. These companies have a need for a highly skilled workforce that contains the industry knowledge and skills to fill these vacancies. The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide the community and region a highly skilled and employable workforce that is currently needed in our community and region.

The Gravette School District is aware that the traditional school setting does not always meet the needs of all students or provide what is best for all students. Keeping this in mind, the Gravette High School Career Academy will provide enhanced exit options culminating in a value-added diploma for graduates which will include technical and industry certifications.

Currently many of our students do not have the ability to utilize career centers and technical schools that are within a 45 to 60 minute one-way commute from Gravette High School. Due to travel time restraints and program costs, none of the district's current students are attending a regional career center. The Gravette High School Career Academy will eliminate these barriers. The Gravette High School Career Academy will have the ability to give students the opportunity to gain the essential workplace knowledge and skills needed to gain industry

recognized technical and industry certifications upon graduation.

The Gravette School District is aware that 42% of graduates do not attend a post-secondary institution. The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide all students post-secondary opportunities through a concurrent credit option. Students will have the ability to receive up to 18 college credit hours to apply to a two year associates degree. This value-added exit option will allow students who have customarily not attended a post-secondary institution the ability to establish credit and provide an incentive for their continuing a post-secondary education.

Students attending schools in Bentonville, Decatur and Gentry will be given the opportunity to attend the Gravette High School Career Academy and participate in career oriented courses. Collaboration will include the Northwest Arkansas Community College in articulating concurrent credits and the development of shared opportunities.

4. On the following table, list the specific measurable goals in reading, reading comprehension, and mathematics, based on the state mandated assessments, and any other assessment tools if used, for improving student academic achievement for each year of the public charter school's initial five-year period. For each goal, include the following:

- The tool to be used to measure the academic performance;
- The level of performance that will demonstrate success; and
- The timeframe for the achievement of the goal.

GOAL	Assessment Instrument for Measuring Performance	Performance Level that Demonstrates Achievement	When Attainment of the Goal Will Be Assessed
Exceed the state average in ELA on the ACT Aspire assessment	ACT Aspire	Exceed state average	Annually
Exceed the state average in Mathematics on the ACT Aspire assessment	ACT Aspire	Exceed state average	Annually
Exceed the state ACT average	ACT	Exceed state average	Annually
85% of Students completing the program will obtain industry certification	Industry certification test	Obtainment of Industry certificate	Annually
65% of all graduating seniors will hold an industry certificate, or attend college or technical school	Graduate survey	90%	Annually
Graduation rate of 82%	ADE report	90%	Annually

Explain how the attainment of the goals will demonstrate that the charter is meeting the identified educational need for the school and fulfilling its mission.

Applicant Response:

The goal of the Gravette School District is to provide the best education possible for all students.The district continually works to ensure that all students excel and increase student achievement in all areas. The Gravette School District has high academic standards for all. The district is working to help students become college and career ready upon completion of high school. The district understands that a portion of our students will not attend college upon high school graduation. The Gravette School District is committed to ensure that students have other avenues to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for a professional career. The Gravette School District will show this commitment in the following:

The Gravette High School Career Academy students scoring proficient or advanced on the ACT Aspire English Language Arts (ELA) assessment will show that they are held to the same high standards as all students in the district. The reading and comprehension skills needed to score proficient or advanced are proof that the students have obtained what is needed to excel in a professional workforce and career.

The Gravette High School Career Academy students scoring proficient or advanced on the ACT Aspire mathematics assessment will show that they are held to the same high standards as all students of the district. The Mathematic and reasoning skills needed to score proficient or advanced are proof that the students have obtained what is needed to excel in a professional workforce and career.

Scoring above the state average on the ACT exam will show that Gravette School District students are graduating with the necessary academic skills to enable them to be college ready. The Gravette School District will prepare students to be academically successful after high school.

Graduates of the Gravette High School Career Academy will have industry certification that will allow them to pursue professional opportunities in their chosen field. The various industry certifications will show that the students have obtained the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the workforce. Industry certification will provide the students with an advantage in job placement, employment opportunities, technical school admission, or college admission.

The Gravette School District's graduation rate will greatly increase by providing Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) sub-group students hope and opportunities to excel in professional fields without having to attend college immediately after high school. The sub-group students will now have an incentive to stay in school. All graduates of Gravette High School Career Academy will have a value-added diploma that will enable them to transition to the professional world and workforce. The value-added diploma will enable them to provide the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen career and workforce.

5. For elementary charter schools provide a daily schedule for all grade levels indicating the classes that will be provided for a one week time period.
For secondary schools, provide required and elective courses for every grade level. If the school plans to phase in grade levels, include expansion grade levels by year with courses to be offered.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will initially offer two programs of study for students in their junior or senior year. Both courses offer concurrent credit upon completions and state certification or licensure upon passage of the state technical assessment.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Patient Care Assistant are the first program of study. The specific elective classes for the program are:

1.Certified Nursing Assistant (AHSC 1212)
2. Patient Care Assistant Plus (AHSC 1223).

The second program of study will be the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program. The specific elective courses for the program are:

1. Fundamentals of Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2004),
2. Applied Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2024),
3. Controls as Applied to Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2014), and
4. Communication & Math - Workforce Readiness.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will initially offer two programs of study with the intent of adding programs in the future. The addition of programs will be contingent on numerous factors. Factors could include; student interest, regional industry needs, facilities, employment opportunities, length of programs, and teacher availability. Programs and fields that have been discussed with industry and community leaders include plastic fabrication, building trades, computer networking, logistics and supply chain, medical coding, and dental assisting to name a few. Due to a high employment possibility and a need for skilled labor in plastic fabrication program opportunities for students in this field could be the next offering. Currently, there are three plastic fabrication companies within a 25 mile radius of the Gravette High School Career Academy. Another emphasis might be in adding building trade programs, the Gravette School District has been collaborating with other school districts as well as Crossland Construction, Nabholz Construction, and Flintco Construction and the Northwest Arkansas Homebuilders Association to determine the need for skilled construction employees.

6. Provide a description of curriculum, programs, and instructional methods used to support core classes. Explain how the district will pay for all associated costs.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide all students including those not initially college bound a quality education that will help them to excel in the workforce and professional world. The Academy will develop students who hold the skills and knowledge required to meet the demands of the regional workforce and the economy. The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide programs and pathways that will be aligned to the industry and business needs of the region. The Academy will continually strive to involve business, industry, post-secondary, and the community in the creation and implementation of program offerings.

The Gravette High School Career Academy student's day of attendance will be divided into half-days. An example would be that the students will attend core curriculum classes during the morning periods and attend technical or industry classes in the afternoon. The academy will provide students an array of courses that will supplement the core curriculum. All of the state required coursework will be provided to all students. All of the industry-based classes are taught using a project-based learning method. The students will work in collaborative teams on engaging projects that are aligned to the industry-based standards. The students will use the required skills and knowledge that are found in the work environment on each project. With each project, the students will show the needed communication, problem-solving, and collaboration skills needed to excel in today's workforce.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide all students with the necessary technology to utilize industry required software and programs. Providing this technology to students will enable all students the required technological skills needed to enter the workforce. The technological knowledge blended with workforce skills will give the students the ability to become a more self-directed learner and increase student achievement. The students will also spend the one-half day working in authentic industry based situations. The situations will provide valuable knowledge and skills needed in the workforce. The capstone to each program will be an internship period. The internships will enhance the student's skills and knowledge that was acquired during his/her course of study. The internships will occur on weekends, during the school day, afternoons, or during the summer depending on each student's availability and the professional business that is sponsoring the student.

The Gravette High School Career Academy, in conjunction with various post-secondary institutions, will offer students concurrent credit opportunities aligned with each course. The concurrent credit will allow students the opportunity to consider a post-secondary route if they so choose upon graduation. The value-added diploma will not only contain concurrent credit opportunities, but students will gain industry based certification upon graduation as well.

The cost of concurrent credit will be paid for by the student and through scholarships provided by local industry. The instructor will be paid by the Gravette High School Career Academy and will work with both the academy and the two-year college. All supplies and equipment will be funded through a combination of Carl Perkins funds, college partnership funds, business and industry donations, and school district funds.

7. Describe the educational program to be offered by the charter school

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will prepare students for academic success by meshing core curriculum with the project-based learning environment that will be found in the vocational program courses. The core curriculum courses will help to prepare the students for academic success while meeting all of the state standards and frameworks. The vocational program courses will enable students to be prepared for their chosen professional field and workforce. A portion of the curriculum will be blended learning with other courses being digital on-line learning. The digital on-line learning courses will assist the students to become prepared in the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in workforce educational courses and in post-secondary courses that are offered on-line. The digital courses allow the students some flexibility in course selection and scheduling, which in turn helps with the student internship scheduling. The vocational program scheduling is as follows:

CNA: Semester 1 - Certified Nursing Assistant (AHSC 1213)
Semester 2 - Patient care Assistant Plus (AHSC 1223)

HVAC: Year 1 - Semester 1 - Fundamentals of Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2004)
Semester 2 - Applied Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2024)
Year 2 - Semester 1 - Controls as Applied to Indoor Air Systems (HVAC 2014)
Semester 2 - Communication & Math - Workforce Readiness

Included in the long term vision of the Gravette High School Career Academy is the need to expand program offerings for students. The addition of certain programs will be contingent on numerous possible factors.

8. Explain why a charter school is necessary to better meet student academic needs instead of a traditional district school.

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School has proven that students are prepared to attend a post-secondary institution upon graduation. However, a significant portion of the Gravette High School population does not have the means to pursue a post-secondary education. These reasons can be transportation difficulties, tuition funding, time restraints, or the lack of family support. The Gravette High School Career Academy's mission is to provide all students the education to overcome the barriers faced when deciding on post-secondary opportunities. The Gravette High School Career Academy also provides all students options in choosing a career path that will enable them to become successful in gaining meaningful employment and success in their chosen career.

A value-added diploma received by graduates of the Gravette High School Career Academy will indicate a technical certification proficiency in the different career options. The value-added diploma will also include up to 12 hours of concurrent college credit in addition to the standard high school diploma. The value-added diploma and technical certifications will also enable students to immediately enter the workforce if they choose, or entry into a post-secondary degree program, college or technical school.

9. Explain how the charter school will have more autonomy than traditional schools in the district. Discuss each of the following:
   A) Employing personnel;
   B) Developing and controlling the charter school budget;
   C) Managing day-to-day charter school operations;
   D) Developing and controlling the school calendar; and
   E) Other areas of autonomy to be afforded to the charter.

Applicant Response:

A. Gravette High School Career Academy will increase flexibility in employing personnel in the following.

- Vocational/technical courses will be taught by instructors that are industry professionals and specialists who have vast work experience in the professional field that relates to the corresponding course.
- Gravette High School Career Academy teachers will teach mathematics, literacy, and science courses along with ESL, Special Education, Pre-Advanced and Advanced Placement courses required by the state.
-The Gravette High School Career Academy lab classes will be taught by industry specialists or certified teachers who have worked in the industry/business that the program of study emphasizes.
- Gravette High School Career Academy will utilize digital on-line courses provided by ADE approved providers

B. The Gravette High School Career Academy will develop and maintain the budget with the Gravette School District Business Department. The working relationship will reflect sound financial responsibility and stewardship of all available funds. As with any educational budget, fluctuation occurs from fiscal year to year. Gravette School District will help to off-set any fluctuation by the possibility of grant funds or partnership contributions.

C. The day-to-day operations of the Gravette High School Career Academy will be very similar to that of a traditional High School. Some differences may occur to the daily operations due to the addition of technical

programs, curriculum, and scheduling.

D. The Gravette High School Career Academy school calendar may change in the future to help accommodate students internships, apprenticeships, and work schedule. There is also a possible need to change the schedule for the industry specialists chosen to teach the courses who are employed in their profession at the same time as they are teaching.

E. It is very difficult to predict all that will be needed, as far as autonomy is concerned, at this time in the planning process. Gravette High School Career Academy does ask that further autonomy be given in order to best serve all of our students.

10. Describe the school improvement plan by addressing the following:

A) Explain how the licensed employees and parents of the students to be enrolled in the charter school will be involved in developing and implementing the school improvement plan, identifying performance criteria, and evaluating the effectiveness of the improvement plan.

Applicant Response:

A representation of our stakeholders (parents, students, licensed faculty, community members) will be vital in development, implementation, and the evaluation of the school improvement plan for the Gravette High School Career Academy. The stakeholders will provide valuable input through a committee process for the school ACSIP plan. The ACSIP plan will be submitted annually to the Arkansas Department of Education for approval. The ACSIP committee will review data from the state-mandated assessments (ACT Aspire) to determine areas of strength and weakness in student achievement. The committees will then develop a course of action to take to fill the specific needs of our students. Testing data will also be evaluated for student performance in reaching the school's Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) and the school's Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) progress.

B) Describe a plan for school improvement that addresses how the charter school will improve student learning and meet the state education goals.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy ACSIP team will meet twice a year to review the existing data. The data review will be used to make the needed changes for increasing student achievement. The school will also incorporate Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to review each subject area's smart goals and student progress. Common assessments are developed to ensure that proper instruction is taking place within the classroom. A system to survey the students within the Gravette High School Career Academy, as well as

graduates, will be used to gain ideas and suggestions for increased student achievement.

11. Describe the process that will be used to ensure curriculum alignment with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks and the curriculum requirements of the state standards as adopted by the State Board of Education.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will use the Common Core State Standards in the required areas while the traditional school will use the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks as mandated. The Gravette High School has been working hard with the Northwest Arkansas Education Cooperative to develop Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and Mathematical Design Collaborative (MDC) among our staff. Both programs focus on developing literacy and math skills across the curriculum in all classes. The Academy will ensure that the process is successful by providing staff with the necessary and effective professional development. Another facet to ensure that curriculum is aligned is by continuing to use our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) groups. Professional Learning Communities provide the necessary time for staff to collaborate and ensure that proper alignment takes place. The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide the needed TESS evaluation system to staff to ensure that the appropriate curriculum is in place and teacher effectiveness and continual improvement is taking place.

12. Describe the manner in which the school will make provisions for the following student services, even in each area for which a waiver is requested:

A) Guidance program;

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School currently employs two highly qualified high school counselors. The counselors also serve and assist students in securing scholarships for post-secondary education. The counselors will continue to provide counseling services to all students including those in the Gravette High School Career Academy. The Gravette School District contracts with several mental health agencies to provide services to students which will include students of the Academy.

B) Health services;

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School employs one Full-time Equivalent (FTE) licensed School Nurse to provide health

services to students. The Gravette High School Career Academy will also be serviced by this staff position.

C) Media center;

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School employs one FTE certified Media Specialist to provide library/media services to all students. The Gravette High School Career Academy will also be serviced by this staff position.

D) Special education;

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will provide students with disabilities the needed special services and opportunities to increase student achievement. The services provided by highly qualified teachers and industry professionals will be appropriate for the student and in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The academy and the district will continue to comply with all aspects of IDEA, 504, and IEP implementation.

E) Transportation;

Applicant Response:

Transportation for the students enrolled in the Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to be provided in the same manner as it currently exists. Since some vocational programs are located less than a mile from the Gravette High School Career Academy, students will be allowed, with parent permission, to drive their personal vehicles.

F) Alternative education, including Alternative Learning Environments;

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School provides an Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) within our district for grades 9 - 12. Students enrolled in the Lion Pride Academy (ALE) will have the opportunity to enroll in the Gravette High School Career Academy if they meet the same entrance requirements. The Gravette School District views the technical course and program offerings as a vital link to help increase student achievement with our ALE students.

G) English Language Learner (ELL) instruction

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District currently employs a program director for English Language Learners (ELL) and highly qualified staff members to offer specialized services to our ELL students. English Language Learner services appropriate to student needs will be provided to each ELL student in the Gravette High School Career Academy.

H) Gifted and Talented Program.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to implement a Gifted and Talented (GT) program to gifted and talented students as has been provided by Gravette High School. The Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to provide many academic opportunities for students identified as gifted and enrolled in the district GT program. The AP students at Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to be served by the district's GT coordinator.

13. Describe the plan for the school officials to provide an annual report to parents, the community, and the authorizer, **separate from the district's annual report to the public**, that demonstrates the progress made by the charter school during the previous academic year in meeting its academic performance objectives. (*See Arkansas Code Annotated 6-23-202.)*

Applicant Response:

Gravette High School Career Academy will provide an annual report to the public. The report will include a presentation of data that will serve to demonstrate the progress and achievement made by the academy during the previous year. The presentation will be in conjunction with the district's report to the public but in a separate presentation to take place upon conclusion of the district's report. The Gravette School District will advertise and promote a Town Hall meeting. A written report provided by the school district will be posted on the school district website. The report will cover the Gravette High School Career Academy's progress in meeting the academic annual measurable objects. Performance on all state mandated assessments (ACT Aspire), national standardized test scores (ACT, PSAT, AP), and the school's graduation rate will be covered in the presentation and in the written report. The data provided will also be used to increase achievement, improve policies and instruction, and make any needed changes. All of the mentioned measurements will be used to determine the progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the academy. The presentation/town hall meeting will also provide time for questions, feedback and suggestions from those in attendance.

14. Describe the enrollment criteria and student admission, recruitment, and selection processes for the proposed public charter school.

Applicant Response:

Enrollment in the Gravette High School Career Academy will be determined by students meeting the state mandated residency requirements within the school district, school choice requirements, and/or board to board transfer requirements. Students legally enrolled in the district may apply for admission to the academy. Junior and senior level students must be on track to graduate and have parent/custodial approval. In the event that the number of students applying exceeds the number of available openings within the academy, a random anonymous lottery will be held. Once a student is selected via the lottery, he or she is guaranteed placement in the academy for the duration of the program unless he or she leaves voluntarily or is removed for discipline or attendance issues in accordance with the student handbook policies.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will make student recruitment a priority. A number of different tasks will take place to recruit students. Personal contacts made by district personnel with students and families

will be used. Administrators and school personnel will produce and distribute brochures showing the benefits and characteristics of the academy. Recruitment through class meeting presentations will also take place. The Gravette High School staff will connect with current students via career and academic plan (ACP) meetings to relay information concerning the academy.

It is affirmed that a random, anonymous student selection method will be utilized in the event that more students apply for admission to the open-enrollment public charter school than can be accommodated under the terms of the charter, except as allowed for in Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-306(14)(C).

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

15. Name any district personnel, and/or leaders of the proposed charter who have any prior involvement in the operation of one or more other charter schools and complete a Prior Charter Involvement **template** for each individual listed.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District is not aware of any personnel that have had prior involvement in the operation of charter schools.

16. Summarize the job descriptions of the school administrator(s) and other key personnel. Specify the qualifications to be met by professional employees (administrators, teachers, counselors, etc.) of the program. List the types of administrative positions, teaching positions, and support positions for the school.

Applicant Response:

Administrative Responsibilities:
- Act as chief executive operating officer of the school and carry out the school and district missions
- Facilitate the partnership between the academy and industry leaders
- Recruit students for academy enrollment
- Select and hire/terminate faculty and staff

- Carry out the annual performance-based appraisal by which each staff member will be held accountable
- Monitor the status of resources in order to fulfill the school and district missions
- Work with the district finance department to prepare an annual budget to be presented to the Gravette School Board

District Board of Education Responsibilities
- Ensure building maintenance and safety
- Monitor implementation of the curriculum
- Monitor student academic achievement regularly

Qualifications: Master's degree or equivalent certification in Educational Leadership; valid building administrator's license for high school grade levels

Teacher Responsibilities:
- Conduct classroom instruction
- Monitor student learning
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to plan and instruct courses
- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning
- Analyze student data to ensure mastery of skills
- Assist with facilitating internships with business partners

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or higher in related educational field; valid Arkansas teaching certification for high school grade levels; highly qualified according to NCLB and ESEA; or an exception may be made for licensed career professionals teaching a specialty course that is allowed through a waiver exemption

Counselor Responsibilities:
- Assist students in course and pathway selection for accurate and successful completion of graduation requirements
- Aid students in understanding, selecting, and progressing with a career and college readiness plan
- Disseminating and clarifying graduation requirements
- Conduct structured, goal-oriented counseling sessions in response to needs of individuals or groups of students
- Refer students with problems to specialists or community agencies
- Assist in conducting the school's recruitment plan

Qualifications: master's degree in Educational Counseling or equivalent; valid Arkansas teaching license for high school grade levels

17. It is affirmed that the public charter school will participate in the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, as required by state statute and by State Board of Education rule, for reporting **both education data and financial data, including grant funds or private donations received directly by the charter school.**

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

18. Describe the facilities to be used. Give the present use of the facility and its use for the past three years.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will be located at 325 Lion Drive which is the current address of Gravette High School. The academy will also serve students at it's annex facility located at 406 6th Ave., S.E. The building currently houses offices for the Gravette School District food service department and technology department. The building also is the current home of the Gravette High School Alternative Learning Environment program (Lion Pride Academy). One room was renovated during the spring of 2015 to contain the existing HVAC program. It is a 13,287 sq foot building with 6 large classrooms. The building currently meets all ADA and IDEA requirements, as well as all state and federal laws and zoning ordinances.

The facility will be in compliance with all requirements for accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and all other state and federal laws and local zoning ordinances.

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

If the facility does not currently meet these requirements, provide a list of items that will need to be addressed to bring the facility into compliance. Also include a statement of permissible uses for the facility from the local zoning authority, and whether there are any alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of the facility.

Applicant Response:

The existing facility currently houses our CNA program and is in compliance with the ADA, IDEA, and all other state and federal regulations. However, we are planning to relocate the CNA program to the annex facility so that students from other schools may participate without integrating into the general student population. The annex facility renovation will be managed by district and contractor oversight to maintain compliance with all state and federal regulations. There are no establishments or businesses that allow alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of the facility.

19. Describe the manner in which the school will make provisions for food services. State whether the proposed charter school will apply to participate in the federal National School Lunch program or other federal nutrition programs.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to participate in the National School Lunch Program under the title of Gravette High School Career Academy. All nutritional guidelines established by the Arkansas Department of Education Child Nutrition Unit will be followed.

20. Describe how the parents or guardians of the enrolled students and other members of the community will be involved with the school to positively impact the charter school's educational programs.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District values the importance of parental involvement in the education of students. The school district strives to promote increasing student achievement through parental involvement and good communication between the school and parents. The Gravette High School Career Academy will sustain and increase productive and positive parental and community involvement with all stakeholders. The Academy will strive to build solid partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the students, parents, school, and community.

The Gravette School District is aware that a large portion of student achievement is derived from parental guidance and support. Important decisions concerning student programs and career pathways must involve families assisting students. The Gravette High School Career Academy will host an annual Family Night event for students and families. The event will offer information on career planning, academic achievement, industry/ technical standards, the evaluation of student activities, and the requirements of parental involvement with the Academy.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will also present the Annual Report to the Public. The presentation will be publicized through local media outlets and the school district website. General meetings will also be offered throughout the school year concerning post-secondary financial aid, career planning, employment opportunities, and post-secondary educational opportunities.

Parent-Teacher conferences are also offered two times per school year. There are many other opportunities for parental involvement in the Gravette High School Career Academy. Parents and community members are

active in developing the school's ACSIP plan. An advisory council will be developed to assist the Academy in such matters as reviewing student achievement and examining Academy policies and practices. The Gravette High School Career Academy will work with the advisory council in formulating ideas, input, and advice to better serve the students.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will work closely with area businesses to develop an internship program which will provide students vital workforce knowledge and skills. The internship program will also provide businesses with the needed access to students for employment opportunities. The different businesses will also have the opportunity to become involved in a mentoring program. The program will allow businesses to meet with students to assist in factors such as career placement, job soft skills, professionalism, resume building, and interview skills.

The Gravette High School Career Academy will conclude the school year with a celebration type event to publicize the accomplishments of all stakeholders, acknowledge business partnerships, and share all of the success of the Academy.

21. Describe the potential impact of the proposed public charter school on the efforts of affected public school district(s) to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District's receipt of a conversion charter for its high school will have no effect on any Arkansas public school districts' efforts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools. The Gravette School District is not under any federal desegregation order or court-ordered desegregation plan, and neither are any of our surrounding districts. Nothing in the operation of the Gravette high School Career Academy will hamper, delay or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of any public school district or public school districts in this state.

22. Explain what the charter founders and other leaders are doing or will do to ensure the success of the charter school in perpetuity.

Applicant Response:

The Gravette School District is committed to ensure that the Gravette High School Career Academy is a success for our students. The school district will work continuously to sustain a partnership with local business and industry representatives to increase student achievement by providing an aligned curriculum that meets local and regional employment needs. The Gravette High School Career Academy will initially focus on the health care and heating /air career fields, but a broader vision is in place to expand into other areas of industry.

Future programs that are under consideration include logistics, computer programming, construction trades and management, plastic fabrication, and metal fabrication. The Gravette High School Career Academy will continue to develop partnerships with business leaders in the fore-mentioned areas to develop, maintain, and grow these programs in the future.

23. Complete the following table showing all sections of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code) and State Board of Education rules, including the *Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts*, from which the public charter school seeks to be exempted in order to meet the goals of the school. Identify the specific statute, rule, or standard requested to be waived by title and number if applicable. **Provide a rationale for each waiver requested that explains how the waiver will increase student achievement and how the increase in achievement will be measured.**

Topic	Statute/ADE Rule/Standard to be Waived	Rationale	Tool to be Used to Measure Impact on Achievement	Level of Achievement that will Show Positive Impact
Planned Instructional Day	Section 10.01.4 of ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation	The programmatic offerings of the Academy, while meeting all curriculum requirements, may be capable of being provided in less than thirty (30) hours per week. The students will participate in core class instruction for half of a day and career/vocational instruction for half a day. A portion of the career and vocational day will be used to reach the academies goal of providing internship programs to students. The internship will also fill another academy goal of collaborating with industry to provide the needed work place knowledge and skills.		
Required Clock Hours for Units of Credit	Section 14.03 of ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation	The Academy wishes to allow for the teaching of simultaneous, embedded, on-line courses where needed within the Academy structure, and to allow for the integration of graduation credit courses with other courses as necessary. The Academy is not asking for a waiver of graduation requirements, but only a waiver of the 120 clock hour requirement. The granting of this waiver will allow a portion of students to participate in the academies vocational courses while also recovering lost credit. The waiver will meet the academies goal of addressing the need of all students.		

Topic	Statute/ADE Rule/Standard to be Waived	Rationale	Tool to be Used to Measure Impact on Achievement	Level of Achievement that will Show Positive Impact
Educator Licensure	Ark. Code Ann __ 6-15-1004, 6-17-302, 6-17-309, 6-17-401, 6-17-902, and 6-17-919; Sections 15.02 and 15.03 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation; and the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure (all concerning Teacher Licensure)	It may be necessary to hire industry professionals without an Ark. teaching certificate from the community. These individuals will need to possess the needed professional credentials and work history related to offerings at the Academy. The granting of this waiver would only apply to vocational or career type courses and does not apply to core curricular courses. Gravette School District will offer pedagogical skills training as needed to the first time non-certified teachers. Students will receive technical skills and the essential workplace knowledge from industry professionals. All individuals hired as a result of this waiver will be required to complete a successful Criminal Background and Child Maltreatment Registry check. The Arkansas Educators Code of Ethics wil be required to be followed by all employees.		

Gravette Public Schools
609 Birmingham Street S.E.
Gravette, Arkansas 72736
Office: 479.787.4100
Fax: 479.787.4108
gravetteschools.net

Dr. Richard Page
Superintendent of Schools
609 Birmingham Street SE
479-787-4100

Jay Chalk, Principal
Gravette High School
325 Lion Drive S
479-787-4180

Duane Thomas, Principal
Gravette Middle School
607 Dallas St SE
479-787-4160

Mandy Barrett, Principal
Gravette Upper Elementary
500 8th Ave SE
479-787-4140

Zane Vanderpool, Principal
Glenn Duffy Elementary
601 El Paso Street SE
479-787-4120

Randall Hunt, Assistant Principal
Gravette High School
325 Lion Drive S
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Stephanie Summerford, Director
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609 Birmingham Street SE
479-787-4100

Sharla Heltzel, Director
Special Education
601 El Paso Street SE
479-787-4120

Richard Carver, Director
Transportation and Maintenance
1133 Main St SE
479-787-4100

Sheila Roughton, Director
Food Services
406 6th Avenue SE
479-787-4100

Robin Leonard, Director
Technology
406 6th Avenue SE
479-787-4100

Norman Mitchell, Director
Athletics
325 Lion Drive S
479-787-4180

Gravette High School Career Academy
Public Hearing
Gravette High School Performing Arts Center

Agenda

Welcome – Mr. Jay Oliphant

Background Information and Description of Conversion Charter School – Dr. Richard Page

Academy Overview and Programs of Study – Mr. Jay Chalk

Question and Answer Session

Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Gravette Schools Conversion Charter
August 27,2015

Signatures

Jeff Gravette

Cheryl Peckering

Tom, Virginia and Jake Sullivan

Randy C. Barrett

Jackie Reiff

Stormy Simpkins

[illegible]

Dan Galloway

Charter high school plans on agenda

Staff Reports

GRAVETTE — The Gravette School District continues to make efforts in preparing students for college and careers. The district, in an effort to give students more career opportunities, is advancing a high school conversion charter school initiative that would provide vocationally inclined students the ability to do job preparation prior to graduation.

The Gravette School District has been working with industries and vocational organizations the last three years to identify needs and determine the areas that will benefit both the employer and the employee.

The conversion charter school called the Gravette School Career Academy has been identified as the best opportunity for aligning community needs, career-oriented students and industry demands. The district's application has to be submitted by Sept. 9 and a public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 27, at the Gravette High School Performing Arts Center.

Students who participate in the Gravette School Career Academy will be provided the opportunity to take career and vocational courses, apprentice with on-the-job training professionals, receive college concurrent credits and attain state certification that designates them as a person certified in the field of study.

The Gravette School Career Academy is requesting the state to allow qualified industry-trained staff to teach classes without having a teaching certificate issued by the department of education. Students in the academy would also be allowed time to work in an industry without penalty of class or seat-time requirements.

The academy will be located at the current annex building, located at 406 Sixth Street, S.W., on the campus of the Gravette Middle School and Gravette

See **CHARTER** Page A3

CHARTER

Continued from Page A1

Administration Building. If approved by the state, the Gravette High School Career Academy would begin operation in the 2016-2017 school year.

For more information, contact Jay Chalk, Gravette high school principal, at 479-787-4180.

Gentry School District is also pursuing a conversion charter school in its district.

GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER ACADEMY PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Meeting to discuss the Gravette High School 's plan to apply for the Conversion Charter School Status and the Career Academy

WHERE: GRAVETTE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WHEN: THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 6 P.M.

Parents and Students are encouraged to attend the presentation. A question and answer period will follow.

The monthly scheduled school board meeting will be held:

Gravette School Board Meeting
Gravette High School Library
Monday, August 17, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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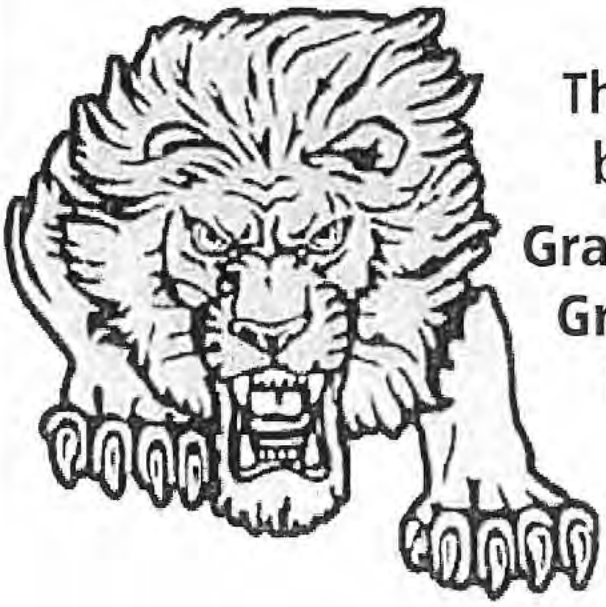

The monthly scheduled school board meeting will be held:

Gravette School Board Meeting
Gravette High School Library
Monday, August 17, 2015
6:00 p.m.

2015 APPLICATION
DISTRICT CONVERSION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

The signature of the superintendent of the school district proposing the public charter school certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies adopted by the public charter school; and, if the application is approved, the local board, administration, and staff of the district conversion public charter school shall abide by them:

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

2. The district conversion public charter school shall be open to all students, on a space-available basis, and shall not discriminate in its admission policy on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility.

3. In accordance with federal and state laws, the district conversion public charter school hiring and retention policies of administrators, teachers, and other employees shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, or special need.

4. Any educator employed by a school district before the effective date of a charter for a district conversion public charter school operated at a school district facility shall not be transferred to or employed by the public charter school over the educator's objection.

5. The district conversion public charter school shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools; applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution; and state statutes or regulations governing public schools not waived by the approved charter.

6. The district conversion public charter school shall ensure that any of its employees who qualify for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the State and Public School Employee Insurance Program shall be covered under those systems to the same extent any other qualified employee of the school district is covered.

7. The district conversion public charter school shall comply with all health and safety laws, rules and regulations of the federal, state, county, region, or community that may apply to the facilities and school property.

8. The employees and volunteers of the district conversion public charter school are held immune from liability to the same extent as other school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.

9. The district conversion public charter school shall be reviewed for its potential impact on the efforts of a public school district to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

10. The applicant confirms the understanding that certain provisions of state law shall not be waived. The district conversion public charter school is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education under this title relating to:

    (a) Monitoring compliance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-23-101 et seq. as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Education;

    (b) Conducting criminal background checks for employees;

    (c) High school graduation requirements as established by the State Board of Education;

    (d) Special education programs as provided by this title;

    (e) Public school accountability under this title;

    (f) Ethical guidelines and prohibitions as established by Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-24-101 *et seq.*, and any other controlling state or federal law regarding ethics or conflicts of interest; and

    (g) Health and safety codes as established by the State Board of Education and local governmental entities.

11. The facilities of the public charter school shall comply with all requirements for accessibility for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the ADA and IDEA and all other state and federal laws.

Richard Page — September 8, 2015

Signature of Superintendent of School District — *Date*

RICHARD PAGE

Printed Name

Gravette High School
Monday through Thursday
2016-2017

1st Period	8:00 – 8:50
2nd Period	8:55 – 10:20
3rd Period	10:25 – 11:15
4th Period	11:20 – 12:10
Lunch A	*11:15-11:45*
5th Period	11:50 – 12:40
Lunch B	*12:10-12:40*
6th Period	12:45 – 1:35
7th Period	1:40 – 2:30
8th Period	2:35 – 3:25

Gravette School Calendar for 2016-2017

August 2016

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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30	31					

NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY 2017

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29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

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26	27	28				

MARCH

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APRIL

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30						

MAY

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28	29	30	31			

JUNE

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1st Quarter	43 days
2nd Quarter	39 days
3rd Quarter	47 days
4th Quarter	49 days
178 Days	

Aug. 15-19	Professional Development
Aug. 19	First Day of School
Sept. 5	No School: Labor Day
Sept. 23	Parent/Teacher Conference
Oct. 28	No School, Professional Development Day
Oct. 21	End of 1st Quarter
Nov. 23-25	No School: Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 21	End of 2nd Quarter
Dec. 22-Jan. 3	No School: Christmas Holiday
Jan. 2-3	Professional Development Flex Days
Jan. 4	School Resumes
Jan. 23	No School: Martin Luther King Day
Mar. 10	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 17-21	No School, Professional Development Day
Mar. 20-24	No School: Spring Break (not guaranteed)
Apr. 4, 4-7pm	Parent/Teacher Conference
May. 29	No School: Memorial Day Holiday
June 5	Last Day of School (with 5 snow days built in)
Jun. 6	Professional Development (Snow Day) (or day following last snow day)

PD Days	8 Days
Parent/Teacher Conferences	2 Days
Instructional Days	178 Days
PD Flex Days	2 Days
Total Days	190 Days

All teachers are to obtain 12 hours of professional development between June 1 and August 10

	Holiday/No School		Professional Development Day--No Students
	Student/Teacher Day		Snow Days
	Parent/teacher Conf.		End of Quarters

June 5 is the official end of school day with 5 snow days built in.

Gravette High School
Friday
2016-2017

1st Period	8:00-8:45
2nd Period	8:50-10:05
3rd Period	10:10 – 10:55
4th Period	11:00 – 11:45
Lunch A	*10:55 – 11:25*
5th Period	11:30 – 12:15
Lunch B	*11:45 – 12:15*
6th Period	12:20 – 1:05
7th Period	1:10 – 1:55
8th Period	2:00 – 2:45

OCH Ozarks Community Hospital

OCH of Gravette
1101 Jackson St. SW
Gravette, AR 72736
479-787-5291

May 22, 2015

Dr. Richard Page
Superintendent
Gravette Public Schools

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support for the Gravette Public School District's proposal to establish a regional vocational and career center for Western Benton County. Ozarks Community Hospital (OCH) strongly believes that this project will provide area students the opportunity for a successful career and future. OCH also believes that a regional center will provide area students the knowledge and skills that are necessary to successfully compete in today's job market.

OCH is committed to helping the Gravette Public Schools prepare students for life after graduation and providing Northwest Arkansas with a more prepared, higher trained, educated workforce to meet the demands of area businesses. Gravette Schools are taking into consideration the needs of all area students, as not all students have the same career path in mind upon high school graduation. We must all recognize the diversity of our students and provide students a path that will assist them in achieving their goals in a profession and life.

As a Critical Access Hospital, OCH truly believes the needs of Gravette Public Schools will be very successful in establishing a regional vocational and career center that will prepare students for a successful life after high school graduation, and looks forward to providing relevant healthcare experience for these students as well as local employment upon graduating. Feel free to contact us anytime at info@ochonline.com.

Sincerely,

Paul Taylor, JD
Chief Executive Officer
Ozarks Community Hospital
www.OCHonline.com

Crafton Tull
architecture | engineering | surveying

901 N 47th Street, Suite 200
Rogers, AR 72756

479.636.4838 (ph)
479.631.6224 (fax)

Dr. Page, Superintendent
Gravette Public Schools
609 Birmingham St. SE
Gravette, AR 72736

Dr. Page,

I am very encouraged to read of your District's cooperative efforts along with Gentry, Decatur and Bentonville to develop programs to provide expanded training, certification and licensing in vocational fields.

As an architect, I work closely with Contractors and Subcontractors in our area and beyond and I have noted that the building trades have minimal trade specific educational support at the Secondary Level in our area. From my observations, it appears that the development of building trade skills are largely left to the trades themselves which is a very costly and inefficient way to train workers. As a result, lack of specific necessary standard of skills is reflected in the quality of construction.

In my opinion, focused programs such as your Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning course will accelerate the learning curve in the field and result in higher quality of construction, reducing requirements for remedial measures and maintenance during and after construction.

I hope the demonstrated effects are such that your collaborative will expand to add additional trade programs like, Plumbing and Electrical.

I also applaud your Certified Nursing Assistant program. We have recently designed two Health Professions Buildings in NWA and the River Valley and are seeing a tremendous demand for those programs at the Collegiate Level. As our Baby Boomer generation ages, the need for skilled/trained care at all levels is only going to increase.

While it is important to provide the educational base for continued education at the undergraduate level, there will always be a need to develop skilled tradespeople for the construction and for the service industries. It is my hope and belief that Gravette Public Schools, and the others in your collaborative will be serving a broader spectrum of students, benefiting a much larger cross section of our society here in Northwest Arkansas.

If we can be of assistance to you in these efforts, either professionally or otherwise, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jim Swearingen

BANK OF GRAVETT

ESTABLISHED 1898

May 28, 2015

Dr. Richard Page
Superintendent
Gravette Public Schools

Dear Dr. Page,

Please accept this letter of support for the Gravette Public School District's proposal to establish a regional vocational and career center for Western Benton County. I strongly believe that this project would fill a need for many area students who are not college bound, yet who also deserve an opportunity for a successful career and future. I believe that a regional center would provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in today's job market.

Bank of Gravett is committed to helping Gravette Schools prepare students for a bright and successful future that will meet the demands of area businesses with a more prepared and skilled workforce. We believe it's important to provide all students a path for preparation to help them achieve their goals within their chosen profession in life.

I commend Gravette Schools for taking the initiative to align with other school districts to meet not only the needs of Gravette students, but Western Benton County as well.

Bank of Gravett believes that Gravette Schools can be very successful in formulating a regional vocational and career center that will prepare area students for a successful career in life.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Pollreis
CEO/President

dls

my team planet .com

My Team Planet.com
SportsWired Retail, LLC.
1060 1st Ave. NE
Gravette, AR 72736
Phone: (479) 344-6038
Fax: (813) 354-3322

May 27, 2015

Dr. Richard Page
Superintendent
Gravette Public Schools

Dr. Page,
Please accept this letter of support for the Gravette Public School District's proposal to establish a regional vocational and career center for Western Benton County. I strongly believe that this project will provide area students the opportunity for a successful career and future. Recent opportunities have been insufficient in meeting the needs of career focused students. I also believe that a regional center will provide area students the knowledge and skills that are necessary to successfully compete in today's job market.

SportsWired Retail is committed to helping Gravette Schools prepare students for life after graduation and providing NW Arkansas with a more prepared, higher trained, educated workforce to meet the demands of area businesses. Gravette Schools are taking into consideration the needs of all area students. It is important to recognize that not all students have the same career path in mind upon high school graduation. We must all recognize the diversity of our area students and provide students a path that will assist them in achieving their goals in a profession and life.

I commend the Gravette Schools for taking the initiative to meet not only the needs of Gravette students, but Western Benton County as well. I am very impressed that you have taken the collaborative efforts to align with other school districts to achieve this goal.

SportsWired Retail truly believes that Gravette Schools will be very successful in formulating a regional vocational and career center that will prepare area students for a successful life after high school graduation. If I can be of further assistance, please don not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Addie and Bryan Johnson

Addie Johnson Bryan L Johnson

CITY OF GRAVETTE
604 FIRST AVE SE
GRAVETTE, AR 72736
479-787-5757
479-787-5018 (fax)

Friday, June 5, 2015

Dr. Richard Page
Superintendent
Gravette Public Schools

Dr. Page,

Please accept this letter of support for the Gravette Public School District's proposal to establish a regional vocational and career center for Western Benton County. I strongly believe that this project will provide area students the opportunity for a successful career and future. Recent opportunities have been insufficient in meeting the needs of career focused students. I also believe that a regional center will provide area students the knowledge and skills that are necessary to successfully compete in today's job market.

The City of Gravette is committed to helping Gravette Schools prepare students for life after graduation and providing Northwest Arkansas with a more prepared, higher trained, educated workforce to meet the demands of area businesses. Gravette Schools are taking into consideration the needs of all area students. It is important to recognize that not all students have the same career path in mind upon high school graduation. We must all recognize the diversity of our area students and provide students a path that will assist them in achieving their goals in a profession and life.

I commend the Gravette Schools for taking the initiative to meet not only the needs of Gravette students, but Western Benton County as well. I am very impressed that you have taken collaborative efforts to align with other school districts to achieve this goal.

The City of Gravette truly believes that Gravette Schools will be very successful in formulating a regional vocational and career center that will prepare area students for a successful life after high school graduation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kurt Maddox