

**CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Arch Ford Auditorium**  
**Meeting Summary**

- I. Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Director of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, called the meeting to order.
- Panel Members Present:
- Chair Matthew Sutherland,
  - Freddie Scott,
  - Phil Baldwin,
  - Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray, and
  - Dr. Tina Moore.
- II. The Panel unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes from meeting held on December 19, 2023.
- III. The Panel considered the Action Agenda.
1. The Panel voted to approve the following amendments for the Bentonville School for Advanced Studies:
    - change the school district where the charter will be located from Bentonville to Rogers,
    - because of the change in location to change the name of the school from Bentonville School for Advanced Studies to School for Advanced Studies-Northwest Arkansas, and
    - waivers of the following pertaining to board members:
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-13-619(a)(1)(A),
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-13-619(a)(1)(C)(i), and
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-13-619(c)(d).
  2. The Panel voted to approve the rescission of the Pulaski County Special School District's DRIVEN Virtual Academy (DVA) and the charter's waivers at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  3. The Panel voted to approve the following waiver requests for Batesville High School Charter:
    - pertaining to class size and teaching load –
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-812 and
      - Standards for Accreditation 1.A.6;
    - Ark. Code 6-16-102, pertaining to flexible schedules;
    - pertaining to teacher licensure –
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-1004, 6-17-309, 6-17-401 et seq., 6-17-902, and 6-17-919 and
      - Standards for Accreditation 4-D.1, 4-E.1, and 4-F.1;
    - pertaining to gifted and talented –
      - Ark. Code Ann. 6-20-2208(c) and 6-42-109 and

- Standards for Accreditation 2-G.1; and
  - pertaining to library media specialists –
    - Ark. Code Ann. 6-25-103 and 6-25-104 and
    - Standards for Accreditation 4-F.1, 4-F.2. 2.D.1.
4. Tiffani Grayer and Jeffrey Fetters, Arkansas Department of Education School Performance and Public School Accountability, presented data on the charter schools presenting to the Charter Authorizing Panel and answered Panel questions.
  5. The Panel heard the presentation from and asked questions of charter leaders from Founders Classical Academy Online.
  6. The Panel heard the presentation from and asked questions of charter leaders from Scholarmade Achievement Place.
  7. The Panel heard the presentation from and asked questions of charter leaders from Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary Charter.
  7. The Panel heard the presentation from and asked questions of charter leaders from Friendship Aspire Elementary and Friendship Aspire Southeast Pine Bluff.

The Panel voted to adjourn the meeting.