

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
September 13, 2022

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Karli Saracini, Mark Zellner, Phil Baldwin, Kim Davis (Virtual), Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray, Dr. Eric Flowers (virtual), Toyce Newton (Virtual)

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website at the following: <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/about/archived-minutesvideo>

II. Consent Agenda

Dr. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the CAP minutes from August 16, 2022. Mrs. Saracini seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

III.1 Consideration of the Arkansas Lighthouse Academies Amendment Request

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

Description: The Arkansas Lighthouse Academies is requesting a name change.

Ms. Summons indicated that an email was sent on 9/12/2022 requesting that the item be pulled from the agenda.

III.2 Review the Charter Authorizing Panel General Operating Procedures

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

Description: The Charter Authorizing Panel will review and adopt the Charter Authorizing Panel General Operating Procedures.

Ms. James, Staff Attorney, spoke on behalf of DESE. She asked for questions about the operating procedures for the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Mr. Baldwin asked if these procedures are how the Panel had been operating. Ms. James confirmed that this was the case.

Mr. Zellner had questions about the voting sections/process for the Panel. He indicated that his understanding was that the expectation is that a member would vote for/against/abstain. Ms. James indicated that an abstention does not require an explanation in the same way that it would if the member voted to approve or deny.

Ms. James indicated that the language in question was taken from the rules, but she would be willing to clarify the exact requirements of the members who are voting against any motion.

Mr. Zellner would like to clarify the language around what is required when a person votes.

Ms. James clarified that if voting for/against, a member would have to provide rationale in the voting sheet, but abstentions would not require a rationale in the voting sheet.

Ms. Saracini made a motion to table this item until revisions can be made and brought back before the panel. Mr. Zellner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III.3 Waiver Clean Up

Presenter: Dorie Summons, DESE Public School Charter Director

Description: Waiver clean up due to new Standards for Accreditation being adopted on May 2, 2022, resulting in class size and teaching load becoming two separate standards.

Ms. Summons presented on behalf of DESE.

Ms. James spoke about the changes to the Standards for Accreditation which changed the class size and teaching load standard to be split into two different standards. DESE is requesting that the Panel approve any school that has a waiver of 1.A.5 an approval of 1.A.6 as well.

Ms. Coffman talked about how the granting of this waiver would give schools the opportunity to continue to use both waivers. She talked about how clean-up actions such as these are typical and grants waivers that

Mr. Baldwin, asked if this decision would be considered by the State Board.

Mr. Zellner asked if we knew how many schools were impacted by this action.

Ms. James indicated that there were 12 open-enrollments and 20 district conversions that would be impacted.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the waiver clean-up. Seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: Louann Baroni appeared before the Panel asking Panel members to attend a training that would be held on September 22 from 9am-11am.

Reminder that renewals are coming forward as well as a new district conversion.

IV. Adjournment

Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zellner. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair