

Charter Authorization Panel Minutes

May 15, 2024

- I. The Charter Authorization Panel was called to order at 9:00am by Chair, Dr. Matthew Sutherlin. In attendance were Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Dr. Dina Moor, Mr. Phil Baldwin, Mr. Kim Davis, and Mr. Freddie Scott.
- II. Stephen Reynolds, Attorney with ADE Legal, gave procedural review.
- III. Dorie Simmons, Charter Director, introduced the presenters.
- IV. Hope Academy – waiver request.
 - a. Hope Academy asks for a waiver as to mandatory start and stop times for the academic year due to some students having siblings at other school districts. Katherine Drake presented.
 - b. Dr. Tina Moore moved to approve the waiver request. Mr. Phil Baldwin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Friendship Aspire Academy – Charter Amendment Request
 - a. Superintendent, Denise Simmons, presented.
 - b. Friendship Aspire Academy is requesting that their North Little Rock campus be changed from K-5 to K-3 so that it can be an early learning center. Other grades will be transferred to another Friendship Aspire Academy campus.
 - c. Mr. Davis moved that the charter amendment be approved. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. E-Stem Charter School
 - a. Charter School wants to change grade designations of Junior High School and High School. Jackie Forrester presented.
 - b. Charter wants to reconfigure junior high campuses (7-9) and high school (10-12).
 - c. Reconfiguration would make a junior high for 7-8 grades and high school, in grades 9-12.
 - d. Moved and seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:
Dustin Scott Wood, J.D.
State Director of School Choice
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Ph.D.
Charter Authorization Panel Chairman