



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

MINUTES
CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL
Special Meeting
April 14th, 2025
Arkansas Department of Education
DESE Auditorium
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
2:00 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Chairperson Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray at 2:02 PM. All members attended via Zoom, to include Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray (chair), Dr. John Bacon, Dr. Edie Stewart, Dr. Crystal Beshears Duncan, Dr. Toyce Newton and Dr. Tina Moore.

II. Legal Review

Mr. Daniel Shultz found no legal issue present in the request of action from AMFRA.

III. Action Agenda

Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy (AMFRA) requested to release their charter to Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock. This will result in Exalt Academy immediately assuming control and responsibility over the building(s), staff, and students until the end of this current academic school year. Dr. Darryl Smith spoke briefly about the situation surrounding request and why this was necessary. In order to mitigate the issues of the situation, AMFRA decided to request their charter contract be assumed by Exalt Academy. This will be a temporary fix until the end of the year. At which point, Exalt Academy will make a decision on how they will best navigate this situation. Dr. Bacon requested to clarify the process and how this would be navigated. Mr. Shultz clarified that this action is within the scope of Arkansas law. Additionally, Mr. Shultz expanded that there are certain protection for Exalt as means ensure they transition is smooth, to include the waivers attached to the AMFRA contract. Dr. Moore inquired if they CAP needed to grant changes to Exalt charter to include expanding their charter to include the high school component. General discussion continued surrounding the previous mentioned topics and additional clarifying points were mentioned. Dr. McMurry hearing no additional questions asked for a motion to approve the request presented from

AMFRA. Dr. Moore made a motion to approve and seconded by Dr. Stewart and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

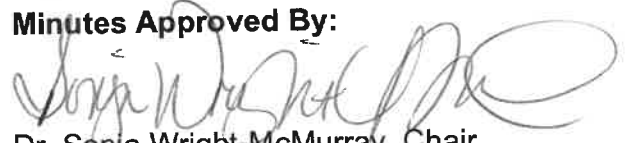
Dr. McMurry requested a motion to adjourn with a second by Dr. Moore. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Minutes Prepared By:

Seth Seaton

Mr. Seth R. Seaton
Charter School Unit (CSU) analyst
Arkansas Department of Education

Minutes Approved By:



Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Chair
Charter Authorizing Panel