



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Charter Authorizing Panel

November 20, 2025

Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium

4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201

9:00 AM

I. Call to Order

The November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) was called to order by Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray (Chair) at 9:04 AM.

Present in person were:

- Chair Dr. Wright-McMurray,
- Dr. John Bacon,
- Mr. Phil Baldwin,
- Dr. Tina Moore,
- Dr. Crystal Beshears-Duncan, and
- Ms. Edie Stewart.

Toyce Newton was absent.

II. Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Action Agenda

Dr. Darrell Smith introduced the Action Agenda and representatives from the Arkansas Outdoor Academy.

III.1. Arkansas Outdoor Academy – Open-Enrollment Charter Application

Representatives of the Arkansas Outdoor Academy provided a presentation to the panel about the proposed charter. Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Phil Baldwin to approve the charter, provided representatives of the charter return in February 2026 to provide additional financial details and update the panel on preparations for opening in fall 2026. Edie Stewart seconded Mr. Baldwin's motion, and it passed unanimously.

III.2. LISA Academy Amendment Requests

Representatives from LISA Academy provided a presentation to the panel about the proposed amendment requests to do the following:

1. restructure the LISA Springdale campus from a K-8 configuration to serve K-5 only and merging 6-8 students with LISA Fayetteville Middle School with LISA Fayetteville continuing to serve K-12 students;
2. reconfigure LISA West Little Rock campuses so that LISA West High expands to serve grades 8-12 at the Markham Street facility; serving 6-7 students at LISA West Middle and sharing the building at 21 Corporate Hill with the LISA Hybrid School; and relocating LISA West Elementary K-5 from 12200 West Haven to 23 Corporate Hill, the current LISA West Middle School (6-8); and
3. increase the maximum enrollment by 200 students, from 6,800 to 7,000.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Tina Moore and seconded by Crystal Beshears-Duncan to approve the LISA Academy amendment requests. The motion passed unanimously.

III.3. KIPP Amendment Requests

Representatives from KIPP provided a presentation to the panel about the proposed amendment requests to do the following:

1. change the name of the charter holder and all affiliated schools to reflect the organization's new legal name Delta Preparatory Schools and operate independently; and
2. disaffiliate from KIPP Foundation as its Charter Management Organization.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Crystal Beshears-Duncan to approve the amendment requests, with the stipulation that the group return with an update in February 2026. Phil Baldwin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

III.4. Titan Leaning Academy – District Conversion Charter Application

Representatives of the Jacksonville North Pulaski County School District provided a presentation to the panel about Titan Leaning Academy, the proposed charter.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by John Bacon and seconded by Tina Moore, to approve the charter application. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

IV. 1. Minutes

IV.1.a. August 7, 2025 Minutes with Edit

The minutes of the August 7, 2025 Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting were returned to the panel after a

necessary edit was identified at the panel meeting on September 19, 2025.

Crystal Beshears-Duncan moved to accept the edit and approve the August 7 minutes. John Bacon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IV.1.b. September 19, 2025 Minutes - Draft

Tina Moore moved to approve the minutes from the September 19 Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting. Crystal Beshears-Duncan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

It was moved by John Bacon and seconded by Crystal-Beshears Duncan, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports

Updates on the preparations for opening in the 2026-2027 school year were provided by representatives of the following:

V.1. IOTA Community Schools

V.2 Somerset Academy Schools and Pinecrest Fayetteville

The panel requested that the group return in February 2026 to provide an update on pre-opening preparations.

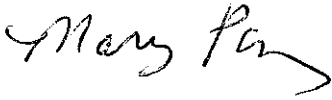
V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Adjournment

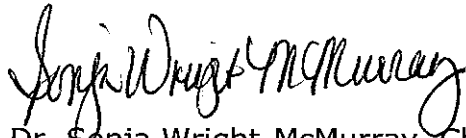
It was moved by Phil Baldwin and seconded by John Bacon to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM.

Minutes Prepared By:



Mary Perry, Board Liaison
Office of the Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Minutes Approved By:



Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Chair
Charter Authorizing Panel
Arkansas Department of Education