

Charter Authorization Panel Meeting  
September 17, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order by CAP Chair, Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, at 9:15 am. Dr. Sutherlin, Dr. Tina Moore, Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Mr. Kim Davis, Mr. Freddie Scott, Mr. Phillip Baldwin, and Ms. Toyce Newton were in attendance in person.
- II. Motion to approve consent agenda, so moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.
- III. Mr. Stephen Reynolds, ADE Legal, gave legal review.
- IV. Mr. Todd German, gave introduction of Somerset Academy Charter Application.
  - a. Matt Cox gave presentation as to, "Why Arkansas?"
  - b. Shaneen Sadusky, operations team of Somerset, gave PowerPoint presentation and history of Somerset.
  - c. Sarah Fi, Director of Strategic Planning, gave overview of curriculum.
  - d. Adriana Lima gave presentation of results of public meetings and school safety.
- V. Stephen Reynolds, gave legal review of requested waivers.
  - a. No legal concerns.
- VI. CAP Questions
  1. Salary schedule – Todd German said that budget had been adjusted to address pay.
  2. Waiver request for school counselor – Lillian Salazar said that the person they would be hiring would be certified and followed national standards. Though if they cannot locate a person initially, they would need to hire someone who was not licensed/certified.
  3. Dr. Sutherlin informed applicant that they did have alternate licensure methods.
  4. Teacher licensure – asked what plan was to recruit licensed teachers. Applicant gave overview of why they would be looking for certain highly qualified persons for certain CTE pathways.
  5. Transportation
  6. Kim Davis asked about the building of leadership from within the school.
  7. Mr. Baldwin asked where applicant would be looking to move toward either in-state or out of state at a later time.
  8. Dr. Sutherlin asked about literacy block
  9. Dr. Moore asked if 30 minutes were insufficient for Science and Social Studies, could additional time be allotted.
  10. Dr. Sutherlin asked about MTSS and special education services. Dr. McMurray followed up with additional questions.
- VII. Mr. Baldwin motioned and seconded. Vote 6-1. Mr. Davis abstained.
- VIII. Dorie Summons of OSCPE introduced Real World Preparatory charter school applicant.
  - a. Stephen Reynolds, ADE Attorney, gave legal review.
  - b. CAP Questions:
    1. Applicant rescinded the waiver for superintendent mentoring program.
    2. Dr. McMurray asked about availability of CTE programs.
    3. Go to Grow – Dr. McMurray asked about how that and internships will be implemented.

4. Mr. Freddie Scott asked if any of the budget went to those who were providing internship.
5. Chair asked who would be responsible for paying for background checks. Applicant said that they would have to absorb the cost.
6. Mr. Davis pointed out that we should not be conflating terms like mentorship, internship, etc. He went on to ask about recruitment plan.
7. Mr. Baldwin asked about where they would ideally like to locate their school.
8. Dr. McMurray asked that the advisors would be teaching, advising, and having a part in restorative practices.
9. Dr. Moore pointed out that the two people on the application were taking on a lot of roles within the planned school.
10. Ms. Newton asked what options were for school. Mr. Reynolds identified that as approval, denial, or tabling for one to two CAP meetings.
11. Jerri Clark, ADE health services said certain types of medication administration can be delegated to other school personnel. Some medications cannot be, though, because of the Nurse Practices Act in Arkansas Law.

IX. Motion to adjourn by Dr. McMurray, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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