

**Minutes**  
**Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting**  
**November 15, 2022**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

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 October, 18 2022. Ms. Saracini seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Action Agenda**

Ms. Tiffani Grayer, Director of School Performance delivered a brief presentation about accountability reports produced and released by DESE. The presentation focused on the ESSA School Index, trend data, weighted achievement, value-added growth, and school ratings. Ms. Grayer highlighted successes for charter schools pertaining to each of the above measures.

Ms. Newton asked how lessons learned are shared with other traditional schools and charter schools. Ms. Coffman spoke about the public meeting/release of these reports and how schools shared in a collaborative way.

Dr. Wright-McMurray asked for more detail about how weighted achievement plays into the overall ratings. Ms. Coffman provided information regarding the current status of state averages and the accompanying reasons for the data.

Mr. Baldwin asked about how the Panel should consider the impact of Covid on the data. Ms. Coffman discussed expected learning loss during and after the pandemic.

Mr. Davis spoke to the challenges to comparing state averages to actual charter performance. He also indicated the challenge of considering a school on the move with a low letter grade.

Ms. Summons presented the Panel with summary charts of enrollment/performance data.

III.1. Action Item #1 Review of Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

**Presenter:** Dorie Summons, Public School Charter Director

**Description:** The Charter Authorizing Panel has an opportunity to review data related to open-enrollment charter schools and ask questions about the success of the schools.

Ms. Coffman reminded panel members of the schools that would be appearing before the panel in December for renewal.

Mr. Baldwin noticed a decline in grades for specific charters. He questioned what could be done to better support the schools.

Dr. Wright-McMurray requested data on what is causing a decrease in letter grades for our virtual charter schools.

Mr. Baldwin requested a comparison of charters to traditional schools in the same geographic region.

Ms. Newton questioned how the schools are addressing learning loss and what charters are doing to accelerate learning.

Ms. Saracini requested to see procedures and protocols have put in place for ESSER funds and how funds have been allocated. She also requested attendance data/rates.

Dr. Wright-McMurray requested additional information about Scott Charter School under the Academics Plus Charter.

Ms. Coffman reminded the panel that they should be intentional about considering the mission of the school.

The Charter Office will make a sheet with quick links to the ESSA School Index for schools in question.

### III.2. Action Item #2 Review of District Conversion Charter Schools

**Presenter:** Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

**Description:** The Charter Authorizing Panel has an opportunity to review data related to district conversion charter schools and ask questions about the success of the schools.

Ms. Coffman reminded Panel members of the schools that would be appearing for a renewal hearing in December. She also reminded Panel members to schedule possible visits with charters through the Charter Office and Ms. Summons.

Ms. Wagner with Legal reminded Panel members of FOIA guidelines should more than one panel member make a visit to a school.

Dr. Wright-McMurray requested additional information about the virtual/online programs that are open under the district conversion umbrella.

The Panel voted to table acceptance of the reports until spring when more information is available.

Ms. Summons reminded the Panel of the December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> renewal hearings.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Ms Saracini moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Wright-McMurray. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

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Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair