

LEALS
Mountainb Public
Schools wi hold a pub-
lic hearing or the pro-
posed dist it conver-
sion charte on Thurs-
day, July at 7:00 in
the Board m located
at Mountai ng Admin-
istration ing, 129
Hwy 71 SW r more in-
formation c act admin
office 479-3 121.
Published in e July 10,
2019 issue he Press
Argus-Couri

PRESS ARGUS-COURIER

PO Box 1359

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902

(479) 474-5215

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

State of Arkansas
County of Crawford

I, Kim Hattaway, Publisher of the Press Argus-Courier, a newspaper in said County and State, and having general circulation therein, hereby certify that the annexed advertisement was published in said newspaper

one time, on the 10th day of July, 2019

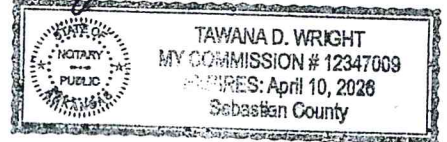
Publisher's Fee \$ 16.32

Kim Hattaway
Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of July, 2019.

My Commission expires
April 10, 2026

Tawana D. Wright
Notary Public





Debbie Atwell <debbie.atwell@mountainburg.org>

Public Hearing for District Conversion Charter Application

1 message

Debbie Atwell <debbie.atwell@mountainburg.org>

Sun, Jul 21, 2019 at 4:49 PM

To: All Faculty and Staff <all@mountainburg.org>

Bcc: Lesli France <leslifrance@yahoo.com>, Boyd Mize <boydmize2500@aol.com>, mike moxley

<mikemoxley@hotmail.com>, Karen Patrick <karen.patrick.walker@gmail.com>, Jason Watkins <jason@marshalltown.com>

A public hearing will be held on **Thursday, July 25 at 7:00 in the Board Room located at the Mountainburg Administration Building** as part of the district's application process for Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy. Our application will seek innovative practices designed to deliver learning systems based on brain research and incorporation of physical activity into the instructional day to #BuildDragonStrong. MMS Brain Academy will design learning using a three-prong focus on literacy and STEM, physical fitness, and strength of character.

- Applying for a conversion charter application allows the district to seek waivers for flexibility in order to implement innovations such as seat time, minutes required to meet certain standards, teacher licensure codes and course codes, etc. We do not intend to waive the Fair Teacher Dismissal Act in order to fire teachers. Any issues of sub-par performance or negligence of duty will be dealt with according to the Fair Teacher Dismissal Act.
- Application for a conversion charter allows the district to apply for \$400,000 in charter school grants to use for research, training, material, supplies, and playground equipment for the Middle School.
- Application for a conversion charter does not change school attendance or enrollment regulation; students who attend here now will be able to continue to do so, or transfer here under transfer policies, school choice, or other enrollment regulations. In fact, innovations could draw students into our district.

If you have any specific questions about the conversion charter process or application let me know. Hope to see you Thursday!

-

Dr. Debbie Atwell

Superintendent

Mountainburg Public Schools

479-369-2121

"Ensuring high levels of learning for All."

Public Hearing
July 25, 2019
7:00 Admin



WELCOME! PLEASE SIGN IN.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FIRST & LAST NAME

Robinson, Madelyn	Susan Wilson
Natalie Davis	Jessi France
Dawson Davis	Debbi Atwell
Dama Smith	
Karel Moore	
Melissa Senath	
Stephan Shepherd	Stephanie Shepherd
Gindy West	
Amanda Howard	
C. Custer	
Narissa Griffin	
JASON WATKINS	

DATE 7/25/19




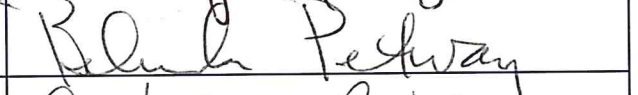

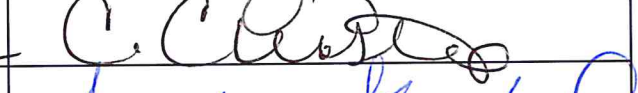


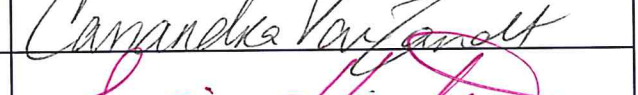

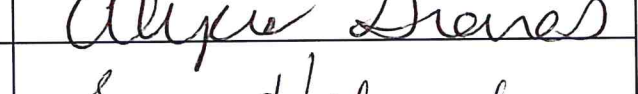
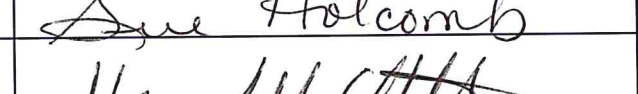
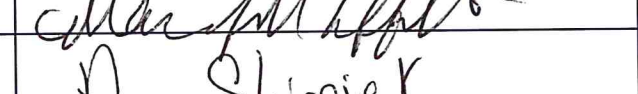
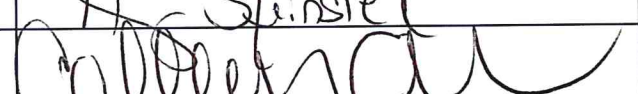


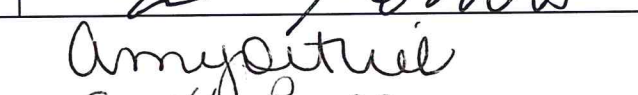
Statement of Community Support - April 8, 2019

I support the efforts of the Mountainburg School to investigate innovations and apply for charter approval and funding for our schools.

Name (Print)	Signature
Michele Henson	Michele Henson
SUE SHARP	Sue Sharp
Lori Rogers	Lori Rogers
SCOTT DYER	Scott Dyer
Susan Wilson	Susan Wilson
Jimmy Moody	Jimmy Moody
Kelda Marshall	Kelda Marshall
Robbie Dyer	Robbie Dyer
Vincent Clamser	Vincent Clamser
BRITAN BECKMAN	Britan Beckman
John B.	John Bentley
Melany McKenzie	Melany McKenzie
Russell Beard	Russell Beard
GERALDINE CHASE	Geraldine Chase
Margaux Bouson	Margaux Bouson
Dany Coloma	Dany Coloma
Robert Blake	Robert Blake

Statement of Community Support - April 8, 2019

I support the efforts of the Mountainburg School to investigate innovations and apply for charter approval and funding for our schools.

Name (Print)	Signature
Travis Blakney	
Sheila Churchill	
Maya Longino	
Belinda Petway	
Ashley Robb	
Courtney Cristie	
Stephanie Shepherd	
Almot Shaffer	
Cassandra Vanzandt	
Laki Hamilton	
Alycia Graves	
Sue Holcomb	
Mandy Griffith	
Amy Steinsiek	
Colleen Allen	
Kim Davidson	
Evan Merritt	
Amy Orlich Scotty Pense	Amy Orlich Scotty Pense

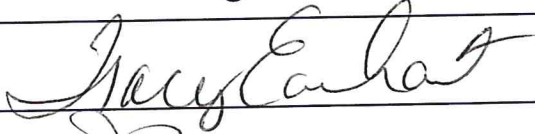

Statement of Community Support - April 8, 2019

I support the efforts of the Mountainburg School to investigate innovations and apply for charter approval and funding for our schools.

Name (Print)	Signature
KEN VICKERS	Kenneth G. Vickers
Barry LARUE	Barry Larue
Maenette Larue	Maenette Larue
Betty Ford Betty L. Ford	Betty L Ford
Royal W. Kimes	Royal W. Kimes
Nancy Kimes	Nancy Kimes

Statement of Community Support - April 8, 2019

I support the efforts of the Mountainburg School to investigate innovations and apply for charter approval and funding for our schools.

Name (Print)	Signature
Tracy Eakhart	
Diane Pense	

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 School Calendar Proposed

July 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- Aug 5 Staff Contract Day
- Aug 6 PD Day #1
- Aug 7 PD Day #2
- Aug 10 PD Day #3
- Aug 11 PD Day #4 (Open House)
- Aug 13 1st Quarter Begins
- Sept 7 Labor Day
- Oct 9 1st Quarter Ends
- Oct 12 2nd Quarter Begins
- Oct 15 PT Conferences
- Oct 16 Fall Break
- Oct 19 PD #5—No Classes
- Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 18 2nd Quarter Ends
- Dec 21-Jan 1 Christmas Break
- Jan 4 3rd Quarter Begins
- Jan 18 PD #6—No Classes
- Feb 15 PD #7—No Classes
- Mar 12 3rd Quarter Ends
- Mar 15 4th Quarter Begins
- Mar 22-26 Spring Break
- Mar 18 PT Conferences
- Mar 29 PD #8—No Classes
- May 25 4th Quarter Ends
- May 31 Memorial Day

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Days in 1st Qtr	41	Days in 3rd Qtr	48
Days in 2nd Qtr	43	Days in 4th Qtr	46
Days in 1st Sem	84	Days in 2nd Sem	94
<p style="text-align: right;">Total Class Days 178</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Staff Contract Days 1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Professional Development 8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Flex Professional Development 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Conference Days 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Contract Days 191</p>			

Two days of flex PD approved.

Inclement weather days will be made up in this order:
May 26-June 3

Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI) day(s) may be utilized instead of adding days to the end of the school year (based on ADE approval.)

The Superintendent and School Board shall have the authority to amend the calendar in the event of excessive days missed.

Grading Period Begins	Grading Period Ends
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Professional Development	Staff Contract Day	Parent Teacher Conferences	Vacation
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**2019 APPLICATION
DISTRICT CONVERSION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**

The signature of the Superintendent of the school district proposing the public charter school certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies adopted by the public charter school; and, if the application is approved, the local board, administration, and staff of the district conversion public charter school shall abide by them:

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. The district conversion public charter school shall be open to all students, on a space-available basis, and shall not discriminate in its admission policy on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility.
3. In accordance with federal and state laws, the district conversion public charter school hiring and retention policies of administrators, teachers, and other employees shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, or special need.
4. Any educator employed by a school district before the effective date of a charter for a district conversion public charter school operated at a school district facility shall not be transferred to or employed by the public charter school over the educator's objection.
5. The district conversion public charter school shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools; applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution; and state laws and regulations governing public schools not waived by the approved charter.
6. The district conversion public charter school shall ensure that any of its employees who qualify for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the Arkansas State and Public School Employee Insurance Program shall be covered under those systems to the same extent any other qualified employee of the school district is covered.
7. The district conversion public charter school shall comply with all health and safety laws, rules and regulations of the federal, state, county, region, or community that may apply to the facilities and school property.
8. The employees and volunteers of the district conversion public charter school are held immune from liability to the same extent as other school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.

9. The district conversion public charter school shall be reviewed for its potential impact on the efforts of a public school district to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.
10. The applicant confirms the understanding that certain provisions of state law shall not be waived. The district conversion public charter school is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education under this title relating to:
- (a) Monitoring compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-101 *et seq.* as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Education;
 - (b) Conducting criminal background checks for employees;
 - (c) High school graduation requirements as established by the State Board of Education;
 - (d) Special education programs as provided by this title;
 - (e) Public school accountability under this title;
 - (f) Ethical guidelines and prohibitions as established by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-24-101 *et seq.*, and any other controlling state or federal law regarding ethics or conflicts of interest; and
 - (g) Health and safety codes as established by the State Board of Education and state and local governmental entities.
11. The facilities of the public charter school shall comply with all requirements for accessibility for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the ADA and IDEA and all other state and federal laws.

Dr. Debbie Atwell
Signature of Superintendent of School District

7/29/19
Date

Dr Debbie Atwell
Printed Name

Name of Individual with Prior Charter Experience Dr. Debbie Atwell

Position with Proposed Charter Superintendent

Name of Other Charter	Position at Other Charter	Status of Other Charter	Address of Other Charter	Web Address for State Assessment Results of Other Charter
Rogers New Tech High	District Professional Development Director	Operating	2922 S First Street, Rogers	



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Bruce Coleman

11908 North Highway 348

Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946-3053

479-806-6825 Business

479-369-2671 Residence

bruce.coleman@arkansashouse.org

DISTRICT 81

Counties:

Part Washington

Part Crawford

COMMITTEES:

Public Health, Welfare and Labor

Human Services Subcommittee

Insurance and Commerce

Chairperson,

Utilities Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Public Retirement

and Social Security Programs

Joint Budget

August 30, 2019

Mr. Reginald Ballard, Director of Public Charter Schools
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Public School Accountability
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Ballard:

Please accept this letter as my support for a district conversion charter for Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy. I want our children to learn and achieve the very best education in our schools and with this charter, literacy, STEM and physical activity can be enhanced.

I believe this opportunity will heighten and enrich the minds of the students, as they continue to advance in our culture and have the world literally, in their eyes and hands. These students are our future and it is imperative they have every chance to succeed at all levels during their adolescent years and beyond.

Again, I fully support Mountainburg Public School's request for their application of a district conversion charter from the Arkansas Department of Education. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Coleman".

Bruce Coleman
State Representative
District 81

BC/jnm

Resolution 19-002

WHEREAS, middle school aged students undergo rapid and significant physiological and brain development during early adolescence; and

WHEREAS, middle school aged students need increased opportunities for literacy, STEM, and physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainburg School District seeks the opportunity to create, innovate and bring a spark into learning in the school day; and

WHEREAS, in order to increase student performance in literacy, math STEM and physical fitness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THAT:

The Mountainburg Board of Education authorizes Mountainburg Middle School to petition the State Board of Education for status as a district conversion charter school; and

The Mountainburg Board of Education agreed on this resolution by a vote during an open, regularly scheduled meeting September 19, 2019.

By: _____
Karen Patrick-Walker, Vice President of the Board

By: _____
Mike Moxley, School Board Secretary

BOB BALLINGER

SENATOR
5TH DISTRICT
OFFICE: 870-350-5175
bob@bobballinger.com

508 DR. SPURLIN CIRCLE
BERRYVILLE, ARKANSAS 72616



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

VICE-CHAIR
EFFICIENCY

MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
JOINT BUDGET
STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY

August 23, 2019

ATTN: Charter School Authorizing Panel
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Panel Members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of Mountainburg Public Schools as it applies for a district conversion charter for the Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy. With approval, the Brain Academy will reinvent its focus to offer a learning environment that centers on academic growth, physical growth, and social and emotional growth. These measures will support the school's mission of ensuring high levels of learning for all. Mountainburg Public Schools has my support as it seeks to offer this innovative opportunity for area students.

Respectfully, I would ask those with the power to do so will give this application every possible consideration. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Bob Ballinger".

Bob Ballinger
State Senator
District 5

BB:lag

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Arkansas' Most Scenic School District

Superintendent
479-369-2121
Fax: 479-369-2138

Middle School Principal
479-369-4506
Fax: 479-369-4355

129 Hwy 71 S W
Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946

High School Principal
479-369-2146
Fa: 479-369-2845

www.mountainburg.org

Elementary School Principal
479-369-2762
Fax: 479-369-4302

July 20, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I support Mountainburg Middle School becoming a Charter School to improve and boost literacy, STEM and physical activity.

We want the very best education and future possible for our districts students. Receiving this grant will help us provide them with the tools necessary to achieve their best future goals.

- Reach for the bar.
- We are proud.
- We are Dragon Strong.

Karen Patrick-Walker
Mountainburg School Board of Directors

August 4, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Mountainburg School Board Member, I am writing this letter of support for Mountainburg Middle School's application as a conversion charter school. If selected, Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy would enable our students to focus on improving literacy and STEM academics while incorporating physical fitness and "brain breaks" into their learning day. It would also enable our teachers to deliver learning systems based brain research with dedicated performance systems to teach "Above the Line" behaviors and skills.

As a Physical Therapist of twenty five years, I know the importance of exercise related to physical and mental well-being. I believe approval of our conversion charter application would bring a new level of physical fitness emphasis to our students, which will also help boost their literacy and STEM performance and understanding. This charter application has the support of our community, and is aligned with our culture to ensure high levels of learning for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this application.

Sincerely,

Lesli France

August 1, 2019

To whom it may concern:

As a member of the Mountainburg Public Schools Board of Directors, I wish to express my support for the efforts of Superintendent Debbie Atwell in initiating a Charter School for the Mountainburg Middle School.

Thank You,

Boyd M. Mize



City of Mountainburg, Arkansas

101 Highway 71 N.W. – Mountainburg, Ark 72946
Phone 479-369-2791 - Fax 479-369-4674 – Cell 479-414-7667

E-mail cityofmtburg@yahoo.com

Mayor Susan Wilson

August 2, 2019

Dr. Debbie Atwell
Mountainburg School
129 Highway 71 Southwest
Mountainburg, AR 72946

Dear Dr Atwell,

We the City whole heartily support the idea of a Brain Academy Charter School. When you presented the idea to our City Counsel and they signed the petition we agreed that whatever it took for the school to get ahead. I attended the public hearing at your office and so appreciated all the time and effort you have put into making Mountainburg Middle School a great experience for our kids.

We look forward to seeing all the great things you have planned.

Sincerely,

Susan Wilson
Mayor