

CAP Minutes – February 13, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. Members in attendance are Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Freddie Scott, Chair Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Phil Baldin, Dr. Tina Moore, and CAP Chair swore in all who planned to speak. The transcript and video of this meeting is available on the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website located at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/about/archived-minutesvideo/2024>
 - a. Motion to accept consent agenda. Motion by Dr. McMurray, seconded by Dr. Moore. Passed unanimously.
- II. Action Agenda.
 - a. Stephen Reynolds, ADE Legal gave a presentation on procedures for the Charter Authorization (CAP) meeting.
 - b. Dorie Summons, Director of Charter Schools for ADE presented Bentonville School for Advanced Studies (BSAS) Amendment Request.
 - i. BSAS requested that their name be changed to School for Advanced Studies Northwest Arkansas.
 - ii. BSAS also requested a waiver to be allowed to have virtual board meetings and be allowed to meet quarterly.
 - iii. Dr. Moore moved to approve both requests. Dr. McMurray seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - c. Pulaski County Special School District Charter Recission for their Drive Virtual Academy.
 - i. Dorie Summons introduced the letter from the district asking that the charter be rescinded.
 - ii. Mr. Baldwin moved to accept. Mr. Scott seconded.
 - iii. Motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Batesville High School Charter Amendment Request.
 - i. Dorie Summons introduced. School requested a waiver for class size, teaching load, flexible schedule, teacher licensure, gifted and talented, and library media specialist.
 - ii. Jennifer Douglas, superintendent, presented on behalf of the school.
 - iii. Stephen Reynolds had no issue with any of the requested waivers during legal review.
 - iv. Mr. Baldwin moved to approve request. Dr. Moore seconded.
 - v. Motion passed unanimously.
 - e. Charter Performance data.
 - i. Tiffani Grayer and Jeffery Fetters from ADE Public School Accountability presented to the CAP.
 - ii. Dr. McMurray questioned by certain charter schools were exempt from receiving accountability letter grades. Ms. Grayer responded that this was due to the law surrounding the type of schools they were.

- iii. CAP requested that Ms. Grayer and Mr. Fetters return at a later date to present additional information.
 - f. Founders Classical Elementary School Online Charter review.
 - i. Susan Provenza presented on behalf of the school.
 - g. Scholarmade Achievement Place – Ivy Hill Charter review
 - i. Dr. Phillis Nichols Anderson presented on behalf of the school.
 - h. Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School Charter review.
 - i. LaShawnDa Noel, superintendent of Lighthouse Charter Schools, presented.
 - i. Friendship Aspire Academy Charter review.
 - i. Dr. Denise Simmons, superintendent Friendship Aspire Academy, presented.
- III. Adjournment
 - a. Dr. McMurray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Scott seconded.
 - b. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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