

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
August 17, 2021

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Dr. Naccaman Williams (Zoom), Mr. Phil Baldwin, Sonja Wright-McMurry, Karlie Saracini, Dr. Eric Flowers

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

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the CAP minutes from July 20, 2021. Seconded by Dr. Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

III.1. Consideration of Charter Amendments for Digital learning Plans

III.1.a. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Academies of West Memphis

The Academies of West Memphis Charter High School has submitted a Digital Learning Program Amendment for grades 10-12. The school will offer synchronous instruction virtually utilizing LMS and CMS platforms with licensed district staff. The charter expires June 2024.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the amendment. Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.b. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Southside Charter High School and Southside Jr. High

Southside School District has submitted a Charter Amendment for a Digital Learning Program for Southside High School Charter and Southside Junior High School. Both schools will offer virtual instruction in an asynchronous & synchronous format through an approved LMS provider. Both charters expire in June 2025.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the amendment for both charter schools for three years. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.c. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Founders Classical Academy of Bentonville (K-6).

Founders Classical Academy of Bentonville submitted a Charter Amendment request for a Digital Learning Program. Virtual instruction will be offered in an asynchronous & synchronous format through an approved LMS and district licensed staff. The charter expires in June 2028.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve Founders Classical Academy of Bentonville for K-6 and West Little Rock for K-6 for three years. Seconded by Dr. Flowers. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2. Consideration of Charter Contingency Digital Learning Plans

Mary Claire-Hyatt explained to the CAP the need for schools to amend their Digital Learning Program due to the Delta variant of Covid-19's impact on in-person instruction to the 2021-2022 academic year. Ms. Hyatt requested the CAP accept the contingency plans as a group.

If they do not submit a plan by the September 1st deadline, the waivers will immediately expire. If they do submit a plan, the waivers will continue until such time that the Panel and the State Board review their digital learning plan.

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the contingency digital learning plans as a group. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.3. Consideration of Charter Amendment

III.3.a. Consideration of Charter Amendment - Graduate Arkansas

Graduate Arkansas submitted a Charter Amendment Request to increase the enrollment cap from 275 to 1,500 students and add an additional campus. The charter expires in June 2026.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the amendment as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion passed unanimously.

III.3.b. Consideration of Charter Amendment - DRIVEN Virtual Academy

DRIVEN Virtual Academy submitted a charter amendment request to raise the current enrollment cap from 500 students to 800. The charter expires June 2026.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the amendment. Seconded by Dr. Flowers. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Action Agenda B

IV.1. Consideration of Open-Enrollment Charter Application

IV.1.a Consideration of Open-Enrollment Charter Application - Premier High School of Fort Smith

Premier High School Fort Smith has submitted an application to establish an Open-Enrollment school beginning the 2022-2023 academic year. The school would be located within the Fort Smith School District. The charter would follow a Credit Recovery/ALE and Personalized Learning educational model.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the Premier High School of Fort Smith charter for five years. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Williams. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair