

CAP Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. on April 16th, 2024. Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Director of Teacher Effectiveness, Educator Licensure

1. OLD Business

President called a vote to approve old minutes from March 19th, 2024. It was unanimous.

2. New Business:

Dorie Summons introduced the School for Advanced Studies- Northwest Arkansas. DeAnna Rhode, Director for School of Advance studies presented. She explained that they have had higher than expected enrollment and requested to have the grade level change from 5-9 to 5-10. She also discussed three waivers to be removed: 1. Waive Curriculum: Fine Arts Standard 1-A.1.3.6; 2. Waive Curriculum: Advanced Placement Course Ark. Code Ann. 6-16-1204(c)(d); Standard 1-A.1.3-10: DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit; 3. Waive Curriculum: Foreign Language-Standard 1-A.1.3.5.

The reason for this move was to honor the excitement and interest from their population to increase grade level so they can stay within the school system and culture.

The Panel approved.

Dorie Summons introduced Lighthouse Charter School.

Arkansas Lighthouse Charter School is requesting to waive Ark. Code Ann. 6-10-106(a)-Uniform dates for beginning and end of school year. 6-10-106(g3).

Mrs. Noel discussed extending the school year to sixty-three (63) hours longer than required by law.

Mr. Scott inquired if the family expressed concern about the change. The representative said that the families would be pleased. Mr. Scott inquired how it would affect the school goals. Dr. Turker expanded on the rationale of the alternative calendar.

The Panel inquired about teacher feedback and Dr. Turker replied that it was favorable.

Department Attorney discussed that it was compliant with the law.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dorie Summons introduced Cabot Panther Academy.

Cabot Panther Academy is requesting to add a new campus to be located within the Cabot School District at 407 S. Polk Street, Cabot, Arkansas.

Mr. Randolph began with a brief introduction to the school history and how it has progressed and the need to expand and include all the schools into one LEA. His general rationale was based on a general logistics concern.

The Panel presented general questions surrounding the operational budget and its impact on the financial standing with the district. Mr. Randolph replied that the district had budgeted and planned for this expansion previously. Mr. Scott inquired if they are going to be moving to a new building completely and if the staff would be maneuvered from other campuses or if they would hire more staff. Mr. Randolph replied that no new staff will be moved or hired. Mr. Randolph clarified that they want to add an LEA to the charter and not necessarily add a third campus. The Panel wanted to clarify that no new grades under fifth grade would be added. The Panel was concerned that K-4 grades added would not have licensed teachers instructing ALE aspects.

Mr. Scott asked questioned how this would differ from public school.

The Panel had concerns that the new LEA would affect the new school because it would be under the same charter.

The Panel voted to have the proposal heard next month.

Mr. Randolph withdrew the proposed amendment to bring back next month with further details on how the new LEA would be impacted with the current waivers.

Dorie Summons introduced Founders Classical Academy of Arkansas

Mr. Felton was sworn in. Mr. Felton presented his general analysis of the proposal.

Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas is requesting to waive Ark. Ann Code 6-10-106(g)(3) what the proposal.

The Panel had no questions and approved unanimously.

Dorie Summons presented Premier High School of Arkansas and Premier High School of North Little Rock

Mr. Felton briefly described the history of the school and the populations they serve. He expanded on the long-term goals of mergers across the state. The sites were discussed during a brief overview of the demographics and logistical concerns of the locations.

The Panel asked questions regarding the Springdale, Arkansas location and why it was not included. Mr. Felton mentioned that the location is still operating within the grant cycle. The Panel expressed concerns about why they are currently at 50% of their cap enrollment. Mr. Felton explained the recruitment methods and the challenges they are facing. The Panel inquired if the charter had signed lease agreements with the new locations and if they are going to require construction efforts. Mr. Felton explained that both sites will only require 10-12 weeks for renovations. He discussed the CSP zone grant requirements was a driving force in coordination with parent/ student safety was considered. The Panel inquired about the improvement plan.

Mr. Felton presented information to merge Premier High School of North Little Rock with Premier High Schools of Arkansas Charter. The North Little Rock campus will keep all the waivers currently held by the Premier High School of Arkansas Charter. Premier is asking to obtain a waiver for Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2403(f)(2)(A)(i). The waiver currently exists in Premier High School of North Little Rock. Premier High School of Arkansas has identified locations for Premier High School of Russellville and Premier High School of Fayetteville.

The Panel voted to approve the proposals.

Dorie Summons presented Lisa Academy.

Lisa Academy is amending its charter to include a waiver of Arkansas Code 6-18-213(b) for all LISA Academy schools.

Superintendent Dr. Bogrek introduced the amendment for the school reporting requirements and change to an alternate reporting effort.

The Panel called to question the amendment and passed unanimously.

Lisa School principals introduced the data in support of the charter initiatives and the Panel inquired on their data driven points/ conclusions. The discussion centered on the ESSA scores and how they are working toward completing those goals. The Panel inquired on how they utilized NWEA scores to inform them of the change they are trying to achieve. The Panel inquired about the Saturday mentor/ learning achievement events and explained who is available for this event and how the teachers get compensated.

In conclusion, Mr. Scott wanted to send questions to Cabot and then to follow up with Premier charter school on their lease agreement.

The meeting adjourned.