

**Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
August 15, 2023**

I. Call to Order

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on August 15, 2023. Panel Chair Dr. Matthew Sutherlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Present: Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Ms. Karli Saracini, Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray, Mr. Kim Davis (virtual), Mr. Phil Baldwin, Ms. Toyce Newton, Dr. Tina Moore

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

II.1. Minutes

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public School Charter Director

Dr. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023, Charter Authorizing Panel meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wright-McMurray. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

III.1. Consideration of AMS Arkansas Open Enrollment Charter School Application Request

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public School Charter Director

Description: AMS Schools-Arkansas has submitted an application to establish an open-enrollment charter school beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year. The charter will follow a traditional model and college prep education model.

Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Legal Staff, presented the procedures for a hearing and indicated that there were no public comments and no opposition to the applicant.

Erik Greenburg, CEO of AMS presented about the history of the applicant and spoke about how the school would serve students in Arkansas.

Cathy Lund presented about the 30,000 students served in the United States and spoke about the mission of providing a well-rounded education through transformation.

The intent of the school is to serve underserved populations in Arkansas. The school hopes to provide the best educational and learning opportunities for all.

Nate Lowery, Chief Academic Officer, talked about the 9 campuses that were currently in place and reiterated that all curriculum is aligned to state standards.

Kate Bracher, Executive Director of AMS Arkansas, talked about the need for an exemplary school in low-performing neighborhoods. She said that there would be transformational outcomes for students.

There are five pillars of the school. They are student centered culture, inquiry and visible learning, high-quality curriculum assigned assessments, data-driven coaching and development, and family and community integration.

Mr. Hykes spoke about facility funding and the location (David O. Dodd building) and how it could accommodate the enrollment cap. He also indicated that the charter management organization was in good financial standing in Arizona.

Ms. Wagner conducted the legal review. There were no legal concerns.

Questions from the panel were related to the ratio of students to counselors, class size, how math and science will be taught more aggressively than other subjects, tools used to assess the proposed population, comprehensive support plans, support of career needs, coding and robotics, enrollment goals, bonds, licensure, science of reading, salary compliance with LEARNS and experience levels.

Applicants addressed each question and there were follow-up questions which were addressed by the applicant.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the AMS Open-Enrollment Application as presented.

There was a second by Ms. Saracini.

Mr. Davis abstained from the vote. The vote, otherwise, passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Wright-McMurray, and it was seconded by Ms. Saracini. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Coy

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair