

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
July 20, 2021

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Dr. Naccaman Williams (Zoom), Mr. Phil Baldwin (Zoom), Karlie Saracini, Toyce Newton (Zoom)

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

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the CAP minutes from July 13, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

IV. Consideration of Charter Amendments for Digital learning Plans

IV.1. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy

Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy has submitted an amendment for Digital Learning Program for the Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High and West Little Rock Classical campuses. Both campuses are grades 7-12. The schools will offer asynchronous instruction in a virtual format through an approved digital provider and licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter expires in June, 2028.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the amendment for 3 years. Dr. Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.2. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Bauxite Miner Academy

Bauxite Miner Academy has submitted an amendment request for Digital Learning Program, an increase in the enrollment cap from 250 to 300, and the addition of grades K-5.

The school will offer instruction in both asynchronous and synchronous formats with grades K-6 being offered virtually, and grades 7-12 through a blended model. The charter expires in June 2023.

Ms. Newton moved to approve the amendment. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.3. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program –Cave City School District.

Cave City School District has submitted an amendment for Digital Learning Program for Cave City Middle School Career and Collegiate Preparatory; grades 6-8, and Cave City High School Career and Collegiate Preparatory; grades 9-12. Both campuses will offer synchronous instruction virtually through a Learning Management System utilizing licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. Both charters expire June 2026.

Ms. Newton moved to approve the amendment for three years. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.4. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – North Little Rock Center of Excellence

North Little Rock Center of Excellence has submitted an amendment for Digital Learning Program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction delivered virtually through the use of an approved digital provider and licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE staff. The charter expires June 2022.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the amendment. Ms. Newton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.5. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Hot Springs School District.

Hot Springs School District has submitted an amendment request for Hot Springs World Class High School; grades 10-12, and Hot Springs Junior Academy; grades 7-8. Both campuses will offer asynchronous instruction virtually through an approved digital provider and licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. Hot Springs World Class High School charter expires June 2026. Hot Springs Junior Academy charter expires June 2022.

Dr. Williams moved to approve the amendment for a 3 year period for Hot Springs World Class High School, and 1 year for Hot Springs Junior Academy. Ms. Newton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.6. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Prairie Grove Charter High School

Prairie Grove Charter High School has submitted an amendment for Digital Learning Program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous instruction virtually through an approved digital provider and licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter expires June 2022.

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the amendment. Ms. Newton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV.7. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program – Arkansas Arts Academy

Arkansas Arts Academy has submitted an amendment request for a Digital Learning Program at Arkansas Arts Academy Elementary; grades K-6, and Arkansas Arts Academy High School; grades 7-12.

Arkansas Arts Academy Elementary will offer both asynchronous and synchronous instruction in a virtual environment through a Learning Management System (LMS). Arkansas Arts Academy High School will offer asynchronous instruction virtually through an LMS. The charter expires in June 2028.

Dr. Williams moved to approve the amendment for three years. Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Ms. Saracini moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Williams. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair