

Minutes
Charter Authoring Panel Meeting
October 19, 2021

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, October 19, 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-McMurray, Dr. Eric Flowers, Karli Saracini

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. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the CAP minutes from September 14, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

III.1 Consideration of Charter Amendments for Digital Learning Programs

III.1.a Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program - Arkansas Lighthouse Academies

Arkansas Lighthouse Academies submitted a Digital Learning Program application for all six locations. All locations will offer digital content through asynchronous and synchronous methods of instruction in both virtual and blended models. Approved LMS and CMS platforms will be utilized to deliver content.

Dr. Williams moved to approve the amendment for three (3) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.b Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program - Future School of Fort Smith

Future School of Fort Smith submitted a digital Learning Program for grades 9-12. Instruction will follow asynchronous and synchronous formats through blended delivery. Approved LMS and CMS platforms will be utilized.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the amendment for three (3) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.c. Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program - Haas Hall Academy

Haas Hall Academy submitted a Digital Learning Program application for Haas Hall Academy, Haas Hall Academy at The Jones Center, Haas Hall Academy at The Lane, and Haas Hall Academy Bentonville. All four locations serve students in grades 7-12. Instruction will be delivered virtually in a synchronous format utilizing an approved Learning Management System (LMS).

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to approve the amendment for three (3) years. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.d Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program - Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas submitted a Digital Learning Program application for grades K-5. Instructions will be virtual, utilizing asynchronous and synchronous formats through an approved LMS.

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the amendment for three (3) years. Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.1.e Consideration of Charter Amendment for Digital Learning Program - Westwind School for Performing Arts

Westwind School for Performing Arts submitted a Digital Learning Program application for grades 6-8. Instructions will be asynchronous and synchronous formats delivered through virtual and blended models. The school will utilize state-approved LMS and CMS platforms. The application is being requested for a three (3) year period.

Dr. Flowers moved to approve the amendment for three (3) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2 Consideration of District Conversion Charter Application

III.2.a Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School - Guy Berry College and Career Academy

Mountain Home school district submitted a public conversion charter application for Guy Berry College and Career Academy. Grades served will be 6-12 with an enrollment cap of 200 students. The school will follow an ALE model with an industry focus.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the application for five (5) years. Ms. Saracini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2.b Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School - Batesville Junior High Charter

Batesville Public Schools submitted an application to convert Batesville Junior High School to a public conversion charter school. Grades 6-8 will be served with an enrollment cap of 1,000.

Mr. Baldwin moved to approve the application for five (5) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2.c Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School - Fort Smith Virtual Academy

Fort Smith Public Schools submitted a public conversion charter application for Fort Smith Virtual Academy. The school will serve students grades K-8 with an enrollment cap of 500. The school will be 100% virtual.

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the application for five (5) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2.d Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School - Caddo Academy

Caddo Hills School District submitted an application to convert Caddo Hills High School to Caddo Academy. The school will continue to serve students grades 7-12 utilizing a career academy model.

Dr. Williams moved to approve the application for five (5) years. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III.3 Consideration of Charter Amendment Request

III.3.a. Consideration of Charter Amendment - LISA Academy

Lisa Academy submitted an amendment request to add an additional K-12 campus in Fayetteville in the fall of 2023. Lisa Academy has submitted an amendment request to add an additional K-12 campus in Fayetteville in the fall of 2023, with flexible grade configurations.

The charter requests all current LISA Academy North Middle School and LISA Academy North High School waivers be granted to the Fayetteville campus.

The charter also requests an increase in the current enrollment cap by 1,168. This would raise the current enrollment cap from 5,632 to 6,800.

Ms. Saracini moved to approve the application for five (5) years with a three-phased implementation. Grades K-5 with an enrollment cap of 435 students beginning in 2023-2024; Grades K-8 with an enrollment cap of 755 students in 2024-2025; Grades K-12 in 2026-2027 for a total enrollment cap of 1168 students. Ms. Wright-McMurray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion passed unanimously.

