## In The Matter Of: BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

## December 14, 2016

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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

DECEMBER 14, 2016
8:30 A.M.

APPEARANCES
PANEL MEMBERS:
MS. DEBORAH COFFMAN
DR. MARK GOTCHER
DR. ERIC SAUNDERS
MS. ANNETTE BARNES
MR. GREG ROGERS
MS. STACY SMITH
MR. BOBBY LESTER

## ALSO APPEARING:

MS. ALEXANDRA BOYD
MS. KELLY McLAUGHLIN
MR. FREDDIE SCOTT

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Vice Chairman/Deputy Commissioner Asst. Commissioner - Fiscal \& Administrative Services
Asst. Commissioner -
Public School Accountability
Asst. Commissioner -
Fiscal \& Admin. Services
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PROCEEDINGS
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Good morning. The December 14 th meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel is called to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to the Department of Ed. and ask you to please silence all electronic devices. The Charter Authorizing Panel will oversee the authorization, renewal, revision, and revocation of charters. The Panel that sits before you today will facilitate a fair and responsible hearing. We request that each person speaking into the microphone please state your name and title for the record. I'll ask that you continue to speak clearly into the microphone for the benefit of the Panel, the audience, and the viewing audience because the entire meeting is being livestreamed and they can only hear you if you're in the microphone. So if you step away from the microphone or turn your head they can't hear you. The meeting is live-streamed, it is recorded, and there will be a transcript of the meeting posted on the website.

So with that, Ms. Davis, if you will go over the procedures.

MS. DAVIS: Good morning. Jennifer Davis, Staff Attorney for the Department. The procedures that you're going to follow today will be that the
applicant or anybody who wants to provide testimony too today, outside of attorneys, will need to be sworn in. The applicant will have 20 minutes to make its presentation to you, followed by a collective 20 minutes for any opposition that there may be. The applicant will then have an additional 5 minutes to make any final statements that they'd like to make. You can ask any questions of the applicant, of the ADE staff, or anyone that you wish. At that point in time you can either choose to go ahead and make your decision today and take a vote or you may delay it to a future meeting. There is a Google doc that you should have a link to that you can record all of your answers in.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you, Ms. Davis.
A-1: REQUEST FOR DISTRICT CONVERSION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. McLaughlin, you're recognized for Action Item 1.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Good morning. Kelly McLaughlin, ADE Charter Office. The first action item is Lincoln High School. They are here for their charter application, renewal application. First, we will hear from Mary Ann Spears, superintendent; also, Courtney Jones, high school
principal, and Jana Claybrook, Federal Programs. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: If all representatives from the Lincoln High School would please stand, raise your right hand, and anyone speaking in opposition. Do you swear of affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY) CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Spears, you're recognized.

SUPT. SPEARS: I'm Mary Ann Spears, superintendent of Lincoln Schools and I thank you for having us here today to talk about our charter renewal for our high school. So just a little background about Lincoln Schools: we're a small rural school in northwest Arkansas. Our poverty rate is about $71 \%$. We have just under 1200 students $\mathrm{K}-12$. Our high school is grades $8-12$ with roughly about 480 students currently. We're looking to renew our charter mainly to focus on personalized learning for our students. Our goal/mission for those students is that everyone, every student graduates with a plan, no matter what that plan is, and we want to start that planning definitely by 8th grade. We're even kind of in the works with some innovative things with
our middle school to even start some of those career planning and ideas there. So I noticed last year when we had our graduation ceremony and our scholarship night we had about 104 graduates, and the night we did scholarships and recognitions we had 30 -- about 31 kids on the floor. So I wanted to know what were the other -- what the other 73 -- what their plan was. So that's kind of been our focus and where we are. We have a great advisory program, a new flexible schedule that our principal will talk to you about, some great things going on in our high school that we're trying to meet the individual needs of our students and work on interventions and a personalized plan for that child. And no matter -and we know that those plans change; they change when you get to college. But if we can get those kids in 8th grade thinking about their plan and moving forward with that, even though they may change that plan a number of times, that we've got things in place to help them succeed.

Now I want to turn it over to our high school principal, Ms. Courtney Jones, to kind of go through all those pieces. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Courtney Jones, Lincoln High School principal. There is a presentation, and so really
the main reason that we have -- or that we, you know, have the charter, we want to keep the charter, is to really focus on our kids. Even though the diversity of the kids, you know, when you look at demographics, it's not there. But what is there is the fact that we have a lot of kids going on to, you know, to get industry certifications and skills, and we also have kids that are going to college. And so we want to focus on both sets of kids and make sure that we have those goals.

So our mission is to prepare students with the personal academic skills needed to be college and career ready on graduation and to succeed in the 21st century world. And that really has been our focus, is making sure that our students, no matter what they're doing when they graduate from high school, that they're prepared. And we do have kids that aren't going to college and we are well aware of that and we want to make sure that they're okay with that, because sometimes, you know, they feel like, "Oh, I'm not going to college." But we want them to know, "It's okay; there are a lot of skilled positions out there. You'll probably make, you know, more money than I'm going to make when you do that." So we're wanting to give them those opportunities.

So one of the things that we implemented -- and I know this -- you know, this is one of those that we've seen across the state is the flex-mod schedule, and we are really using the schedule for a couple of reasons. Our kids need support from their teachers. They don't go home and get that support that they need. Our math scores were weak because Algebra I scores were weak; our kids were having a difficult time with Algebra I. And what we noticed is that as the kids went through if the skills weren't strong in Algebra $I$ then geometry was difficult and Algebra II was difficult. So the kids didn't have the support that they needed at home. And so when we implemented this flex-mod schedule our teachers are available for our kids to get support in the school day and in the school-week, and that has been huge for us. So the implementation piece itself really focusing on what our kids need and providing that in the school-week rather than outside of the school-week or the school day. So when you go through the building you see every single teacher has blocks of time that are off in order to work with kids. So they have -- you know -- they don't have that designated planning time, but rather than teaching seven of eight blocks they're teaching six of eight blocks. So they have more time
and if kids need them they're available for that time and for those students. And the kids have every one of these schedules so they know when their teachers are available.

These are just pictures of the PLT time. One of the most used spaces in the high school at this point is definitely the math office, and that's what you see in the middle there. That math office, it stays busy all the time. All day long you can go in there and there are kids in there working. The teachers are in there working with them, and it gives the teachers an opportunity to really support the students in the school day and to help them, especially with interventions if they're struggling with something. Also, the MakerSpaces, that's a big piece using the S.T.E.A.M. based activities. We have offices for English, we have offices for science, so having the opportunity for kids to have access to certified staff.

Once a kid drops below -- once a student drops below a $70 \%$ there are two things that we've implemented, the first step being the mandatory personal learning time where a student goes in and actually is required to meet with a teacher until they raise their score up above a 70\%. And they do
that for two weeks and if their score is still below a $70 \%$, they have to go to structured learning time which provides them with much more structure throughout the week, and that again is with a teacher.

This also has allowed us to really develop our professional learning communities that we have, our PLCs with our teachers. So our teachers meet weekly for one hour a week and the schedule allows us to be able to implement that and not take away from all of the time that they have, like their prep periods and things like that, or the time for kids.

We are currently in the process of really pushing our industry certifications and those are just a list of the industry certifications that we're currently doing at Lincoln High School. We actually are doing those during their personal learning time, rather than in the classroom. And so our students have the opportunity to do the Forklift, the OSHA 10, the Microsoft Office; they don't have to be in a class to do those and we pay for those certifications for those students so that they have them. Another positive that we've seen are the kids that are in our credit recovery courses; they have the time to do their credit recovery, and so that's good as well.

We also have students that go off-campus -- NTI, NWACC; we have kids that use Tech -- they obviously don't drive to Tech, they do that on campus; the University of Arkansas; the Global Campus. So giving them the opportunity to go off-campus and also our internship programs that we're trying to expand at this point.

We are one-to-one computers, so -- and we use Schoology as our management system, so our students have all of their assignments available to them digitally. So if they're not there one day they're able to still get their assignments because they're all online and then they'll go to class. And our teachers have been really working with the flip classrooms and the project-based learning and allowing students time to do their research outside of the class time itself. The students really enjoy this wall; it's just, you know, perseverance, and it's not necessarily colleges; it's also our technical schools that our students get enrolled in after they get finished with high school. And so putting their acceptance letters up on the walls and when you first walk into the school that's what you see is where all of the kids -- what their plans are. And then we have advisory five days a week for 30
minutes a day. So we're really working on their goals.

Career paths, we have two major career days where the kids go to multiple guest speakers and hear about specific careers and what are those educational requirements that are there. They're 45-minute sessions, and we pull them from all over northwest Arkansas to come in and talk to our kids.

Some of the ways we want to assess this program is college remediation rates, students earning college credit in high school, students who graduate with industry certifications, their career plans, surveys, and then the open communication for continual improvement. So we had some students that were having to go to college and pay for college classes that they weren't getting any credit for, and so we really want to -- we want that to be gone; we want to eliminate that, so really working on those remediation rates and ACT prep.

And those are just some of the partners that we currently are with. And I know some of the questions that we've had have to do with, "Okay, if you're focusing on industry certifications what about your college-bound kids?" What you'll notice up there is the Arkansas AIMS. We're also a partner with them,

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so we are focusing on our college-bound kids and we are focusing on our skilled professions as well at the same time.

The waivers that we have are really there for flexibility, flexibility in courses and seat time requirements that are there, allowing students to go to internships and to have other opportunities. The teacher certification piece for us is for the industry certifications and the skilled professions, not so much for the core -- I mean, if we have to, but really it's for our skilled professions. And so just having people like a police officer be able to come in and teach criminal justice courses; computer programming has been a big one for us, bringing a computer programmer in to teach the computer programming classes -- and they're really not, you know, certified teachers per se; construction technology; electricians; plumbers; HVAC; all of those pieces that are there.

Our goals are still meeting AYP and making sure that we have student growth each year for the next five years and then keeping a high graduation rate. We have maintained above a $90 \%$ graduation rate, really trying to make sure that we graduate our kids. The new -- one of the new goals is making sure
that all of our kids have a goal that is a true goal beyond high school and then us being able to track that after they leave high school. So, are you going into the workforce? Did you get an industry certification? Has that helped you get a job? So making sure that $100 \%$ of our students have a plan beyond high school, and we use our advisory in order to do that. $75 \%$ of all students enrolled in certification or concurrent credit courses on October 1 , so making sure that we have all of the opportunities that we need for certification and for our concurrent credit courses. And then increasing AP tests as well as increasing the number in the AP courses. So we want to do that and we have increased our pre-AP courses this year and will continue to do that as a part of the AIMS initiative.

And then I talked -- you know -- I'm constantly talking to students and $I$ just went to a student and said, "Give me your perspective; you know, what are you thinking." And so some of the students said, you know, "I really enjoy having the flexibility to work on what I want to work on in the school day when I have some time." "If I've got a big test in a concurrent class, $I$ like to have the time to be able to work on that and not stress out about something
and have to spend" -- especially our athletes, after they get finished with ball games at 10:00 at night they're studying for an exam; they've got some time built-in in their school day. The off-campus options, we have several kids that go off-campus and so that's a big piece. The availability of teachers during the school day, they've never had that; you know, they've never had teachers be available for them to go get help so much, you know, on a daily basis. We do have some kids in iSchool, and especially I've got two mothers that I can think of that are on iSchool and that helps tremendously for them because it's hard to get childcare for them. And then the credit recovery piece, having time in the school day to do that and they're not doing it outside of the school day.

I don't know what's next. Jana, do you have anything?

MS. CLAYBROOK: No.
MS. JONES: Okay. I think that's our
presentation. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. McLaughlin, is there anyone here to speak in opposition?

MS. McLAUGHLIN: No, there is not.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Dr. Spears, do
you have any final words?
SUPT. SPEARS: We've kind of covered it. Do you have any questions for us? We just kind of want to continue and continue with our charter and keep serving kids.

CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.
SUPT. SPEARS: Uh-huh. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Panel Members, who would like to begin?

DR. SAUNDERS: I can. I have questions on the waivers. I don't know if we want to wait on those. I have a lot of questions --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- that's not clear.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes, do you want to start?

MS. BARNES: Yes. Good morning and thank you all for coming. Thank you for the presentation. I think my question may be just a personal question. We're approaching the fifth year --

MS. JONES: Uh-huh.
MS. BARNES: -- and many of the things that I've been listening to and of course looking at data, I'm trying to determine what we did in the first four years that we are approaching the -- well, we're in
the fifth year, so we're jumping into the sixth year, looking toward the sixth year, but I'm feeling like we are at the second year --

MS. JONES: Uh-huh.
MS. BARNES: -- based -- can you help me with that just a little bit?

MS. JONES: So I can speak to at least the last -- this is my fourth year with the district, and I know Ms. Spears can speak to prior to that. When I came on we were a New Tech school, so very projectbased learning, and we still maintain the projectbased learning that we had. There definitely were some struggles, I think is a fair word, with going New Tech whole-school conversion. And so when I came in it was really kind of a restart and Ms. Spears went on to superintendent and so we were able to sit down and decide how do we want to move forward and what do we want our charter to look like. Does that answer your question?

MS. BARNES: Yeah. And it'll probably help with the rest of it. I'm fully aware of the New Tech in the past.

MS. JONES: Right.
MS. BARNES: So -- and, you know, some of my colleagues may not be. But I guess what I'm saying
is I'm trying to grab hold of where we are today and how we move forward in viewing the work that you're going to be doing. I certainly see a difference in the presentation. So I was just trying to fix my mind on that, and I may have a question later. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Okay. And just to speak to that, really, really taking our focus down to individual kids and trying to take care of our students.

MS. BARNES: Thank you.
MS. JONES: You're welcome. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. SMITH: So, Ms. Jones, did you write the renewal application?

MS. JONES: Well, yeah.
MS. SMITH: I want to say that I could tell because your presentation matched what was in the application, and I can't tell you how many times that that does not occur. So it was evident that you had a lot of input into the renewal application and that -- I can see that you kind of have a different mission going on than maybe what was originally brought forth.

MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. SMITH: And so that's noted. A point of
encouragement would be: I know Ms. Spears commented on personalized learning possibly going all the way down to middle school, and I think that's where you can get into being innovative and different. We've had lots of people talking about personalized learning plans in high school and starting that conversation, and so I would encourage you guys to continue to look at the middle school aspect. I heard one person one time talk about how, you know, it's kind of like we wait, we do all the liberal arts stuff first, and then in your senior year then you get to go out and intern --

MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. SMITH: -- where maybe we need to flip that and give kids experiences earlier on, kind of. So, I mean, that's an area that you could continue to look at and be innovative in. So that's just my only comments.

MS. JONES: I agree. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Would you talk a little bit more about life beyond New Tech? I know you still maintain many of the New Tech strategies, but kind of talk about what you're maintaining and how you've moved beyond.

MS. JONES: So not focusing so much on their
network per se, but really using all of the resources that are out there. We still -- you know -- I still occasionally will get an email about "here's a great, you know, project-based learning opportunity for your students," so that was there. But I think making it our own instead of it, you know, being this is New Tech; making it about our students and fitting our students and fitting our staff and having that support in place to do that. So having the projectbased learning that's there -- you know -- there are a lot of resources out there that are free now, and so it's difficult to see when you have a whole school conversion like that and there are resources that are out there that are free to spend that amount of money.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Would you say that your projects are becoming more personalized --

MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: -- to your community?
MS. JONES: Yes, I would say that. Absolutely.
MS. CLAYBROOK: I'm Jana Claybrook, Federal
Programs at Lincoln. We have a couple of projects out in the community with our EAST program. They're going out to Cane Hill College and they're re-doing some -- they've done a brochure for the college and
they're also working on making little GPS centers around on a tour so that they can scan and you'll have an automated system which will talk you through the different tours. So we've had some of those projects going on. Lincoln Lake project, they've also gone out and the middle school is putting up markers for -- to mark their trails and stuff like that. So we do have some projects now that we're getting out into the community that's going to help both partner with the school as well.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Do you see that expanding beyond the EAST classroom to other classrooms? MS. CLAYBROOK: Yes. The middle school has actually gone deeper into their Adventure Club, going out to the lake and actually having classes there. So their science classes are taking water samples there and doing things like that, so it's more of an outdoor classroom, moving in that way. And so we're trying to move that on up with the high school as well.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Dr. Gotcher. DR. GOTCHER: Thank you. Great presentation, Ms. Jones, and just to compliment Ms. Spears. I know that -- what's the matter?

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: It's not Friday.

DR. GOTCHER: No, it's Wednesday. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Bow-tie.

DR. GOTCHER: I'm not here on Friday, so I wore it on Wednesday. Is that a problem with anyone?

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Caught us off-guard when we looked at you.

DR. GOTCHER: I know. Somebody said -- yeah -Ms. Jones, forgive my panel members for distracting me. First of all, I want to compliment many of the things I've heard in your presentation. I know Ms. Spears and I have visited before, even before I took this position, and some of the fiscal challenges. And so I'm encouraged to see the legal balance improving and I know she's worked closely with the board. So I'm impressed that we're seeing the needle move in that area, which always benefits kids at the end of the day.

I'm also impressed with the partnerships as I begin to look at the wonderful different brands up there and just seeing the partnerships and the different technical certifications. So many things that I'm seeing I'm very encouraged by. But to trail off just a bit on Ms. Smith's question or comment, tell me a little bit about the goal-setting process moving forward. One that just caused me to ask the
question: why can't we have $100 \%$ goal-planning starting in May, you know, so instead of a progressive growth for five years? So give me an idea of the goal-setting process and your engagement with patrons, et cetera.

MS. JONES: Okay.
DR. GOTCHER: Go ahead.
MS. JONES: Okay. So one of the things that we often do is we say we're going to do something and we truly don't follow through with it, and so we want to make sure, because we want a part of this goal process to also include after high school. And so in order for us to do that really properly we have to be able to have a tracking system in place prior to that. You know, do we think we'll have most of our students with goals already set by the end of next year? Absolutely. But will I have that real tracking process afterwards? I'm not sure and I want to be certain that I'm not just saying something but that we're actually doing it, and so meeting with those kids and starting as early as the 8 th grade. Because we have an advisor that's there, we have all the CAPS conferences, and so really setting that goal, being able to go back to that goal, make changes to the goal, and then know that once they
graduate they'll come back and tell us what are you actually doing. Because we would like to track for at least five years what our kids did and whether or not we're doing what we need to do to meet the true needs of our students.

DR. GOTCHER: So, for example, if you had $90 \%$ of your seniors have a solid plan you would adjust those goals to maybe --

MS. JONES: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: -- 90, 92, 95, et cetera?
MS. JONES: Absolutely.
DR. GOTCHER: Okay. Gotcha.
MS. JONES: Absolutely.
DR. GOTCHER: Yeah, that makes sense. And it's better to have -- it's better to set a range of goals that are achievable --

MS. JONES: Right.
DR. GOTCHER: -- than set everything at $100 \%$ in year-one. I get that. So, and I appreciate that. I was just curious. Who all was involved in the goalsetting process overall? Talk about a little bit of what did that look like as you began to prepare for these goals and then for the next five?

MS. JONES: So we talked to students; that was a piece of this. Also, our leadership teams; I have a
leadership team at the high school that includes myself, assistant principal, master teachers, and the high school counselor. So that was a piece that we talked about the career piece. And then we brought teachers in on what do we want these to look like, and then there are steps that -- because every teacher is an advisor in my building. No one -- no one doesn't have a group of kids. So having them also involved in what are the things that you need to be able to know what the goals are of our kids and whether or not we're meeting those goals. And so it's really a step-by-step process and, you know, it seemed something, you know, small at the time but going out and buying folders that have five-year plans on them so when they get them at 8th grade we're actually adding to them and they're seeing them more than just at CAPS conferences; they're seeing them multiple times throughout the school year.

DR. GOTCHER: Good. And I have a follow-up but I'll defer for now. So thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Ms. Jones.

MS. JONES: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Jones, you talked about tracking your graduates or following up with them after graduation. What's your plan for that?

MS. JONES: We're hoping to use social media. That's where the majority -- what we've seen so far, that's where the majority of schools that are having success with trying to track students after high school is through social media. We're putting a survey actually on the high school website that says "will you go and do this once a year?" Most of our kids, because we are in a small community, the ones that go off we know where they're at and so we're pretty good at being able to see them; you know, they still come to community events. So there will probably be, especially at first, a little bit of going out and saying, "Will you please do this? Can you fill this out for us?" But we're able to do it that way. But social media I think will be a big piece of the tracking afterwards.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. It's also one of the goals of the Department to follow-up with students after graduation because then we truly know if we've graduated a student that's ready for college, career, community. And so we're interested in how schools are doing that.

MS. JONES: Yeah.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Ms. Smith, did you have a follow-up?

MS. SMITH: Huh-uh.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Dr. Saunders, let 'er roll.

DR. SAUNDERS: All right. I'm looking at the waivers; so I'm focused on the new waivers, in particular. So if I could just go through the list. I tried to look -- but first is under Educator Licensure, multiple laws within that, and Standard 5.03. Can you explain?

MS. JONES: So these were waivers that were granted to the district; these were district waivers. We actually already have them in place. These are waivers that we just would like to go ahead and put under the umbrella of the charter instead of having two sets of waivers at both the high school and then at the district level. So the qualified teachers -the 6-15-1004, the 6-17-201, the 6-17-401, 6-17-902, and the 6-17-919, along with the 10.01 .4 and the -no, sorry -- the 15.03 are all waivers that are currently granted at the district level and we are using those for our career courses -- if we have to have a computer programmer, for instance, come and teach. So that was the purpose. But really just to put the waivers that we currently have at the district level also in the charter.

DR. SAUNDERS: Counselor, did you have something?

MS. DAVIS: Yeah. I'm sorry. I just want to say on the chart that I gave you guys it should be 15.03, not 5.03. That was my error. Sorry.

DR. SAUNDERS: And can you explain on the waiver on the Written Personnel Policies why would a waiver from that law be needed?

MS. JONES: Could you give me the number?
DR. SAUNDERS: 6-17-201.
MS. JONES: Hang on just a second.
DR. GOTCHER: Written Personnel -- there it is.
MS. JONES: Yeah, the employment of certified personnel. So when we were at the district level applying for waivers those were specific waivers that were asked for. We have a personnel policy in place; it's written in place. But because we were asking for the waivers that had to do with licensing that was one of the requests that went in at the district level.

DR. SAUNDERS: So is it needed?
MS. JONES: From what $I$ understand, it is, because it was one that was recommended to go along with the licensing waivers that we requested.

MS. DAVIS: And I'll just point out that these
additional waivers came in after their initial application and review. So we had already gone back to the applicant so they didn't get a chance to respond. If their intent is to have non-licensed people come in, like she just spoke, to teach a class, then 201 is not needed. It's just the other set, plus there's some additional ones that they were missing. But 201 does not affect whether or not they can have somebody from industry come in and teach. DR. GOTCHER: So, Ms. Davis, may I ask a question? The Section 3 of 4 policies are regarding licensed personnel. So does 6-17-201 address licensed personnel? So it wouldn't be -- a waiver request would not be necessary if you brought in a technical --

MS. DAVIS: That is correct.
DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: Because they would still need the written personnel policies for all their other licensed personnel. Yes.

DR. GOTCHER: That's what I understood. Okay. MS. DAVIS: And just to go ahead and put this out there -- and like I say, because the applicant had came in afterwards, the initial review, if they intend to waive licensure they also need a waiver of

6-17-309 and the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure in order to effectuate the waivers. Without those two, then they still have to have all fully licensed personnel.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Jones, would you like to respond for the record?

DR. GOTCHER: No pressure.
MS. JONES: So we didn't originally ask to add the waivers that were at the district level. When we went back -- because we asked to remove that 10.02 .05 in the removal piece, that was after a conversation -- and I think Alex can speak to this -- after a conversation with her that said because there are subsections that are there. And then they were trying to clean up all of the waivers that we have and make sure that they're more streamlined. Since we already had these waivers at the district level to just add them to the charter; that was really the intent.

MS. DAVIS: I think if you want to waive licensure you need to say yes, you would like to add those two.

MS. JONES: Yes, I would like to add those two, 6-17-309 --

MS. DAVIS: And the ADE Rules --

MS. JONES: -- and the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: They just need that to affirmatively

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: And what is the decision on 6-17-201?

MS. DAVIS: Like I say, it's not needed but -for this intended purpose. But I don't know if they have another intended purpose in which it's needed. She'll have to make that --

MS. JONES: I really -- I mean, really, at the high school level I don't need the licensed personnel one, as far as I'm aware. That was just one that I think was a district level request and so putting all of our waivers in one place or having all one set of waivers.

DR. GOTCHER: So remove it?
MS. JONES: Yeah, the district already has all of these.

MS. SMITH: They have 6-17-201 from Act 1240
when they came --
MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. SMITH: -- before the State Board. They already have that.

MS. JONES: Yes. Yeah, there's no waivers -- no additional waivers on this form that we do not already have.

MS. SMITH: And they've already been approved by the State Board.

MS. JONES: Yeah.
DR. GOTCHER: Oh, so there's no need to --
MS. JONES: Yeah, there's no --
MS. BOYD: For clarification, it's my understanding in working with Act 1240 and the State Board that the State Board encourages school districts to come forward and ask for Act 1240 waivers to incorporate them either through a district conversion or a school of innovation. That's why I advised the applicant -- I'm sorry, I can't remember your name --

MS. DAVIS: It's the baby brain.
MS. BOYD: Yeah.
MS. SMITH: And I completely understand why we're trying to fold it in. But even if we voted no on that today it doesn't change the fact that they have the waiver.

MS. BOYD: That's correct.
DR. GOTCHER: It's approved by the State Board.
MS. SMITH: It's approved by the State Board. I
mean, am I correct, Jennifer?
MS. DAVIS: It is. But keep in mind though that those waivers were probably time-limited. And so if -- you know -- and because the charter is a contract, even though they technically have the waivers and they're eligible to use them, if they lose the waivers or they don't renew the waivers or something of that nature, they stated in a different manner in which they were going to use the waivers, which is different than the conversion school, then that could put the conversion school in some trouble. So that's why we are encouraging them to bring it into the conversion school so that way, regardless of what happens to 1240 or how they're using them at the district level, then the charter agreement that they have with you guys and with the State Board is still in alignment. Does that make sense?

MS. SMITH: That makes perfect sense. Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: That clarification is helpful. Dr. Saunders.

DR. SAUNDERS: So I guess in summary of what you were just saying, if they lost the 1240 waivers they could still be in effect if they were approved under
this?
MS. DAVIS: Yes, that would be correct. Whereas, you know, like I say, the district may choose not to renew for whatever reason or their needs change, but the conversion charter may still want to continue to utilize those for their needs for whatever innovations that they are doing.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Yeah. And I can see the alignment with these new waivers and those under the 1240 that's listed on your document. But you made me think of another question that we may not be able to address here but $I$ just wanted for clarification. If they were seeking the licensure waivers under 1240 and those were granted under the ones that were given to them, but they did not include the 6-17-309 and the ADE Rules Governing -- was that the licensure? -then essentially they could not actuate some of the licensure waivers that they had requested under 1240 outside of this school?

MS. DAVIS: That would be correct.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: Right. And that would be -- I mean, if you're going to get the entire set of licensure, even if the district has them -- like I say, if they didn't get their request, the additional ones, then
they would not be able to utilize them.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: So, and that is the same thing on -we'll just go ahead and talk about that -- the licensed library/media specialist. They requested 6-25-103 and Section 16 of the Standards, or 16.02 . I am uncertain of how the district is utilizing that, if there was only a particular part that they actually needed or if they're doing something -- how they're doing it, because if they need to waive the entire requirements then they also need 6-25-104, which the district does not have under Act 1240. And this is the -- this is where we get into requesting them simply because the district has them, without any use or knowledge of how the district is using them versus a charter. So we just -- I don't know how they're going to use this to know if they need 104 or not, so the applicant will have to tell us that one.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Jones, could you speak to that?

MS. JONES: So we are using them in order to -free up is not the best word, but allow our media specialists to be able to actually work with kids through intervention and acceleration and also take
on some duties like testing coordinator. So they actually have kids and they can also co-teach; that's how we're using them.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. So, and there are some vague recollections in my brain right now, but $I$ wouldn't count on those. But is this because in 6-25-103 it has it "no less than one-third of the time shall be spent," and that's really your intent of just waiving that so they can do other things?

MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. DAVIS: Okay. So in that case they do not need 6-25-104. And I'm fine with 16.02 as well instead of the particular subsection.

DR. SAUNDERS: On 6-25-104, on the -- under the Section B, would they still need that?

MS. DAVIS: I don't think so, only because as long as that would be -- I don't think that they would. I mean, granted, it says "that duties that interfere may not be assigned outside the library time," but those would not necessarily be an interference because it would not be with the onethird. So if they have the waiver of really having more than one-third time, then they will be okay. DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.

MS. DAVIS: The other one I think encompasses
it. Is everybody clear now?
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes, I know you need clarification.

MS. BARNES: Thank you, Ms. Coffman; I need a lot of things this morning. I'd like to hear from the superintendent with respect to all the conversation and the fact that the district has the waivers. I'm interested in how the district is utilizing this media specialist waiver in absence of what has been discussed for the high school.

SUPT. SPEARS: Right. Well, we are using our other two media specialists in our other two buildings to do some interventions, but certainly not more than one-third of their time. But both elementary and middle school media specialists have some additional duties that they're able to do. And those are very small buildings, less -- you know -less than 400 kids in each of those buildings. So it has definitely helped us serve kids better to kind of have those people freed up a little bit to help us there. But we're not looking to waive and eliminate the media specialists in any one building. That's certainly not our intent, but just to have some flexibility to use their time.

MS. BARNES: Okay. And so you have three?

SUPT. SPEARS: We have three media specialists for 1,185 kids. Yes.

MS. BARNES: Okay. Thank you.
SUPT. SPEARS: Uh-huh. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher, are you ready for your follow-up question?

DR. GOTCHER: Yeah. Ms. Spears, that was my follow-up, was on -- I just needed more info on how you're repurposing the media specialists and I think you answered that. So if I heard correctly, for the high school that's going to look differently than the other two that are still getting a third of their time?

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: Yeah, I'm satisfied. Thank you.
SUPT. SPEARS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: All right. Other questions or comments or concerns? Ms. Barnes. MS. BARNES: And I know this one may sound like a curveball but I just need --

SUPT. SPEARS: Okay.
MS. BARNES: And either can answer.
SUPT. SPEARS: Okay.

MS. BARNES: My question is simply this: in absence of success today, do you already have sustainability of -- for the momentum to carry forward with your plan, since the district already has a number of waivers and since you've redirected your focus in this particular conversion charter? Have you had any conversations about how to move forward? What would you do should you not have success, a successful approval today? I'm not saying that it's not --

SUPT. SPEARS: Right.
MS. BARNES: I'm simply asking --
SUPT. SPEARS: So without a charter we do still have those waivers that we were granted back in the spring. So, I mean, definitely, we could operate under -- I mean, we're going to serve our kids; we're going to work on personalized learning. We were -we are working on a school of innovation for our middle school and doing some things differently there in serving kids. So, I mean -- I mean, definitely, the waivers that we have in place we would like to keep in the charter to kind of have some structure there and all moving forward. But we're going to serve our kids no matter what happens here today. MS. BARNES: Okay. Thank you. And my final
question has to do with -- I'm a student at the conversion charter currently; my family moves. How are you able to continue with maintaining equitable access so that that student is possibly -- or has the best chances of being successful in whatever district the parents --

SUPT. SPEARS: So you're saying they move from our district?

MS. BARNES: Yes.
SUPT. SPEARS: I mean, they're still getting semester credit and all of -- you know -- we're not on a block or anything like that. So, I mean, they're able -- I mean, they're able to withdraw from us and take a viable withdrawal grade with them to go to another school. And the same with students coming into our district with, of course, our flexible schedule. I mean, we're able to acclimate them and serve them.

MS. BARNES: Okay. Thank you.
SUPT. SPEARS: Yes, absolutely.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Additional comments or questions, Dr. Saunders?

DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. In looking at your original waivers, there are four of those that deal with grades 5 through 8 fine arts, 5 through 8 health
and safety, tools for learning, career and technical ed., waivers of that. And so as those are integrated into other --

SUPT. SPEARS: Right.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- curriculum --
SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- what's being done with that time, I guess would be a question, where they otherwise would have been in that individual course? You know, how are you utilizing that, I guess? SUPT. SPEARS: Well, definitely 5 through 7 they're utilizing that to -- for interventions and for extra time on reading and writing and math; you know, having extended time in those classes and some additional electives that they're doing.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. So does that apply to grades 5 through 7?

SUPT. SPEARS: We -- I mean, we do have a waiver to embed some of those. Yes. They're not utilizing all of those right now. I mean, they're working on an innovation plan as we speak to kind of take advantage of more of that.

DR. SAUNDERS: And that's not a district-wide;
that's just for the charter. Correct? SUPT. SPEARS: Those are district-wide. We have
-- yeah.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
SUPT. SPEARS: Yeah, those are district-wide waivers.

MS. JONES: So we already had those in the charter and then they went and asked for those at the district level. So they were already a part of our charter.

DR. SAUNDERS: Counselor, can you help me on that one? I'm just not seeing it.

MS. DAVIS: Can you repeat the question?
DR. SAUNDERS: I think the question is concerning the waiver --

MS. DAVIS: Right.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- on standards --
MS. DAVIS: Right.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- 9.03 as applying to the district.

MS. DAVIS: I have that they are applying to the charter, that they do apply directly to the charter. The district may have them. Yeah, they have 9.03.3.9. But the charter itself has 9.03.3.6, 7, 8 and 9.

DR. SAUNDERS: And that would apply to those grades served within the charter --

MS. DAVIS: Yes.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- 8 through 12.
MS. DAVIS: Exactly.
DR. SAUNDERS: And so there are additional waivers beyond the Standards of Accreditation. I have $10.01,15.03$, and 16.02 listed in this document as the only district-wide waivers.

MS. DAVIS: Now hang on. You have what listed?
DR. SAUNDERS: I have 10.01, 15.03, and 16.02.
MS. DAVIS: Yeah, would be the new ones that they are requesting.

MS. BOYD: Dr. Saunders, does that make -- I think I can help.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. BOYD: The ones that you're looking at in that document are the ones that were not overlapping. So the district requested waivers -- some waivers that the school already had. And then the list that's there that you're looking at are the waivers that --

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. BOYD: -- the district had but the school didn't have.

DR. SAUNDERS: Gotcha. So that's not all the ones that were asked for at the district level?

MS. BOYD: Right.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. I understand.
MS. DAVIS: Okay.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. I apologize for that.
MS. DAVIS: It takes a village.
DR. SAUNDERS: And I do -- I had the opportunity to go there and I appreciate you having me. It was very exciting and lots of -- there were some very innovative things going on there. Good approach. And I think it's safe to be mentioned that, you know, since the beginning of the charter you've adapted and changed a lot of things and possibly -- I know you came before us last year --

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- trying to adapt and trying to make those adjustments to get that success. And I think one thing that $I$ would really like to see in the future would be the ACT scores in comparison to state averages. I would like to see that improved. SUPT. SPEARS: Yes, absolutely. DR. SAUNDERS: But I did enjoy the visit.

SUPT. SPEARS: Thank you.
DR. SAUNDERS: It was very enlightening.
SUPT. SPEARS: We enjoyed having you.
DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

SUPT. SPEARS: Thank you. We like to show off any time.

MS. JONES: I will say the ACT scores, that was one of the sole purposes for becoming a part of the AIMS initiative because that's one of their pieces besides AP. And to speak to the media specialists, our media specialist does run our ACT prep courses for our juniors and for our sophomores and freshmen that take the test right before the Saturday exams. So she has the opportunity to do that for our kids as well.

DR. SAUNDERS: Great.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: It sounds like your media specialist is a super-person.

SUPT. SPEARS: They all three are.
MS. JONES: They are.
SUPT. SPEARS: Yeah. Yeah, they're rock stars and we like them.

DR. SAUNDERS: Wears a cape.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Just know other schools are looking for superstars like that, so --

SUPT. SPEARS: We are quite aware of that. We replaced 18 teachers this year, you know, out of 90. So, yes, the big schools -- we train them up and they love to take them from us. So it's all good; it's
all good.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Lester.
MR. LESTER: No, I was just saying I'm sure she thanks you for making it public, so --

SUPT. SPEARS: Yeah, it's okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Well, I think we've already made it public.

SUPT. SPEARS: It's all right. I live it every year. It's okay.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any questions or additional concerns? Ms. Davis?

MS. DAVIS: Okay. I'm unclear on whether or not you need 6-17-201. I understand the district has it but are $y^{\prime}$ all wanting to keep that request -- just so I can make sure my notes are correct?

MS. JONES: So it was from -- it was my understanding that in order to streamline it that's why it was over there. But are we going to use 201 at the high school specifically? Probably not. But to make sure that we had all of the district waivers over in the charter was why it was requested.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: So I think she wants a year or a no.

SUPT. SPEARS: Let's say yes.
MS. JONES: Yes.

MS. DAVIS: And then --
SUPT. SPEARS: There may be a circumstance.
MS. DAVIS: And then the only other question $I$ had is, I was unclear on your response in regards to the removal of the waiver for 10.02 , which is class size. Because you have 10.02 .5 , which deals with grades 7 to 12 , so 10.02 is not needed because it doesn't deal with your students. So I just needed a yes or no that you are going to rescind that. MS. JONES: The 10.02.05? MS. DAVIS: No. Just the 10.02. You have the specific subsection that deals with your students, but this section deals with all grades which you don't have in your --

MS. JONES: Okay. Yes.
MS. DAVIS: Okay.
MS. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Yes, you're rescinding? MS. JONES: The 10.02 -- and, see, I'm sorry, I was told actually I needed to remove the subsection, not the other one.

MS. DAVIS: No. MS. JONES: So, okay. So we'll be rescinding the 10.02 instead of the 10.02 .05 . MS. DAVIS: Right. And you'll maintain that one
so you'll be fine --
MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. DAVIS: -- in your class size --
MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. DAVIS: -- for grades 7 through 12.
MS. JONES: Yes.
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you. That was all.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Now does anyone have any concerns or questions?

DR. SAUNDERS: I do. I'm going to come back on 6-17-201. If you can -- I look at 201 and I just need to know what would be a case where you would not have personnel policies that include those components and post to the website?

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: That's the one that's already been approved under Act 1240.

SUPT. SPEARS: Is that in reference to if we have, say, a master plumber come in and teach a course? So they're not going to be a certified licensed teacher, so they're not going to fall under that particular set of personnel policies. So I think that's what that's speaking to, if we contract with them and they're a contracted employee. Is that what that is speaking to?

DR. GOTCHER: But, Dr. Saunders, to me --

SUPT. SPEARS: And I thought we had to -- I mean, I thought we were instructed we wouldn't need that piece in there.

DR. GOTCHER: But a personnel policy, section 3 of BoardBook, only applies to licensed.

SUPT. SPEARS: Licensed. Yeah.
DR. SAUNDERS: Right.
DR. GOTCHER: So technically a certified individual coming in wouldn't -- that wouldn't apply to them anyway, as long as they have the background check and they're skilled in their field. But to your question, what do we see five years down the road or four years down the road that that would apply? I'm not sure.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: I think the conversation previous was that that was already approved under an Act 1240 waiver --

DR. GOTCHER: That's true.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: -- and so they were just trying to clean it all up.

SUPT. SPEARS: We're just trying to pull it into the charter.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Right. Is that correct, Miss --

SUPT. SPEARS: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: -- Ms. Davis?
MS. DAVIS: Well, I mean, yeah, that's correct. But keep in mind, I think one of the things that we usually caution both applicants under 1240 as well as charter waivers -- and one of the reasons that, you know, we are trying to specifically look at waivers and do they need them and move them to the subsections is that they don't just get waivers, well, because somebody else has it.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Right.
MS. DAVIS: I mean, that they're actually going to be using them. And if they're not using them then they don't need them. Or if they don't need them then they don't get them. I mean, that kind of thing. If they need it, then they should have it. But if they don't need it, then there's no reason they should have it, if that makes sense. I mean, because --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Actually, it does.
MS. DAVIS: Yeah. "Because" is not a reason.
MS. BARNES: Okay. So -- I mean, that's all
right. I just need to make sure that I'm clear. We're revisiting the renewal of a district conversion charter, so it's a part of the district. And there are waivers that are granted to the district already
and they're asking here to simply streamline and move some of those waivers over -- under the specific charter that is a part of the district. So I'm a little -- I think I might be getting a little tangled up in the particulars. I mean, it's a district conversion, so they already have the waivers. Okay. SUPT. SPEARS: Yes.

MS. BARNES: Whether they use the waivers or not, or whether they need the waivers or not -- I'm looking at Legal and the superintendent.

SUPT. SPEARS: Right. Right.
MS. BARNES: And I had heard -- I heard Ms. Boyd as to the intent, but I think I've gotten bogged down just because I'm still stuck on the fact that we're talking about a district conversion charter that's a part of the district.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Boyd, what's the timeline on the Act 1240 waiver for 6-17-201? MS. BOYD: Essentially, it's a five-year sunset as well. So it'll expire -- if y'all renew their charter, then the Act 1240 waiver will expire a few months before the charter does --

MS. BARNES: Okay.
MS. BOYD: -- if they don't come back and ask for an extension of the Act 1240.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: And at that time all of it can be considered together?

SUPT. SPEARS: Right. Yeah. This would allow -- I mean, if we're in the middle of a school year, which would be happening, that those waivers are part of that charter and that's not interrupted what we're doing in that particular one school year. So that was just that intent to just pull those in. We already have those, just have those in the charter renewal application.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Exactly.
MS. SMITH: Okay. So I really think this goes to what our working board meeting is going to be then in January. You know, we started with charter conversions and then we had our Act 1240 and then we've had the process of school of innovations. And so now we're looking at -- we're having this conversation about a public school who is a charter school and now there's other avenues for them to get waivers. So it's really about Arkansas Department of Education and State Board of Education coming together and kind of making some definitions with some input. So I think at this board meeting in January, the working board meeting, that's been a requested topic. I think that would be a great place
to continue this conversation on -- because right now, I mean, I'm feeling the same way Ms. Barnes is feeling. They have it; why are we beating ourselves over -- you know -- I mean --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: For a couple of months. MS. DAVIS: Keep in mind, I don't remember their application in April for the district but they might have told the Board that they were only going to be using it at the elementary school. And in that case, they wouldn't have it. So, I mean, they might've limited themselves. I mean, and keep in mind that they would have it for use regardless of whether a district had it in a charter. So, I mean, I think that's what it is. But if they don't need it or just because a district has it, if they're not using it that way and they didn't tell the Board on approval that that's how they were going to use it, then it wouldn't apply to the high school anyway. So even though the district has it, the high school doesn't, if that makes sense.

MS. SMITH: Right. And I think as we continue down this path of districts and schools continuing to get waivers -- Dr. Saunders, you're going to roll your eyes at me right now -- but this is, I think, the whole argument of needing a database, needing
something within our system to where we can look to see this school has this waiver, this high school has it, and it applies to these concepts. Because I'm sitting here listening to numbers and points, and I'm glad that other people know exactly what they're talking about, but there I'm lost on some of it. So I think this just kind of goes to that system of we need something to help organize this. But we're way off topic and I'm ready for a motion when the group -- rest of the group is.

MR. ROGERS: I'm confused too, because I'm still trying to figure out if they need it. I understand the district has it, but does the district even need it. And so are we just putting --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: But we can't change that one.

MS. SMITH: We can't change it.
MR. ROGERS: I know we can't change it, but if they don't need it in the district, they don't need it in the charter, but we're going to just go ahead and let them have it just because the district already has it, is that right too if they don't need it? That's where I'm confused. I don't know why we're arguing back and forth whether the district has it. Do they need it, is what I'm still trying to
figure out. That's what I'm confused on. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Help us, Ms. Boyd. MS. BOYD: I agree with Mr. Rogers; that's the bigger question. I'm not sure where that advice came from, but I'm sure they were given the advice to get 6-17-201. I don't know if -- that's -- I think that's the bigger question: do they need it at the district level. If they do, then it makes sense to put it in the charter to me. If they don't, then it makes sense to rescind it all together. But you guys can't accept that rescinsion from the district, Act 1240 waiver, but --

MR. ROGERS: And that's why I'm trying to figure out if they need it or not because -- I understand we can't do anything with the district because that's State Board. But I also don't want to put it into a charter, if they don't need it, just because it's already at the district level. That's where I'm confused at. So if they don't need it, I'd rather us ask to take it out of the charter right now, if they don't need it, to show -- because if we're just picking up stuff and throwing it in there just because it's already passed somewhere else doesn't make it right either.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: All right, Ms. Spears, you
get the final word.
SUPT. SPEARS: Okay. I guess I need clarification on exactly what the language is, because I'm like Stacy with all the points; they all run together. So what exactly is that waiver -CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Here's what -SUPT. SPEARS: -- and why do we --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Davis, help me. But I think here's what they've asked is under Act 1240 you have a district waiver for 6-17-201.

SUPT. SPEARS: Right.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: The question is why we would -- we're looking to see if it needs to roll into the charter.

SUPT. SPEARS: To the charter. So that's the
waiver for the certified personnel?
MS. DAVIS: No.
DR. GOTCHER: Personnel policies.
SUPT. SPEARS: What?
MS. DAVIS: This is personnel policies.
SUPT. SPEARS: Oh, the personnel policies.
MS. DAVIS: See, that's the thing, this -- okay.
I just --
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Will it be applied to this charter?

SUPT. SPEARS: I mean, the only noncertified folks that we would probably bring in would not go under certified personnel policies anyway. MS. DAVIS: Right.

SUPT. SPEARS: So I guess we don't necessarily need that. I mean, I don't know.

MS. DAVIS: Yeah. This is not part of the licensure.

SUPT. SPEARS: I mean, unless you want to treat them the same, not part of the licensure.

MS. DAVIS: This is not part of licensure to have that industries have to come in.

SUPT. SPEARS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: So, Ms. Spears, are you rescinding your request for 6-17-201?

SUPT. SPEARS: I could do that. Yes.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you.
DR. GOTCHER: And they can always come back at a later time should a situation arise, right, Ms. Boyd? MS. DAVIS: Sure.

MS. BOYD: Correct.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Remember, she has district access.

DR. GOTCHER: Oh, yeah.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Anyone have a
concern or a question before we make a motion? Is everyone clear? Ms. Barnes.

MS. BARNES: Actually, believe it or not, I'm very clear. I'm just mulling over a couple of things that I will have to mull over over the course of these three days. So, okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Are we ready for a motion? Okay.

DR. GOTCHER: Motion to renew Lincoln High School for five years.

DR. SAUNDERS: Second.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Motion has been made by Dr. Gotcher, seconded by Dr. Saunders to approve the renewal for five years. Any questions or comments, discussion?

MS. SMITH: Just a comment that, you know, in looking at the data and looking at comparable schools I do think there's still work to be done, especially in our core academic areas. So I encourage you to continue to do that. But I did appreciate the honesty and the knowledge of your application and what was said I thought matched. I also appreciated the fact of when asked about a goal and why you didn't do something you stood your ground and said, "Because we didn't want to just tell you what we
thought you wanted to hear." I'd much rather somebody say "we're not there yet and we're not ready" versus "oh, it's all great and good." So I appreciate the fact that I did feel like there was some honesty within that. So, thank you -- not that you wouldn't have been honest; that sounded terrible. Just a comment.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: All those in favor of the motion to approve?
(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any opposed?
MS. BARNES: Abstain.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Motion carries.
If you'll give us just a moment, we'll have written comments to read to you.
(A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: So when will that name change be made in MySchool info? Next year?

DR. SAUNDERS: Which name change?
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: The name change for
Lincoln. It's still coming up as Lincoln New Tech.
DR. SAUNDERS: Hold on.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: But it was last year's data, so --

DR. SAUNDERS: Right. Let me check here. It
may already be in there, but it may be in there under 16-17. That's what I mean. Let me check.

MS. BARNES: Ms. Coffman, do I need to write anything here if I abstain?

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: We'll have to ask Ms. Davis. Ms. Davis --

MS. DAVIS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: -- does Ms. Barnes need to give a written reason for abstaining?

MS. DAVIS: No. I mean, she can if she chooses, but I don't think it's required because at that point she is abstaining from having an opinion.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Dr. Gotcher.
DR. GOTCHER: Madam Chair, I voted for the renewal request, recognizing that this can be a complicated process. I think I'm still looking for my baseball in the lost weeds earlier. I truly appreciate the heart and the vision of this district of keeping students first. I was encouraged by Ms. Jones as well as Ms. Spears, that they're going to keep students first no matter what and I truly appreciate that heart. And I just encourage them to continue to seek the assistance of the Charter Office as a resource in the future.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Lester.

MR. LESTER: I voted to approve the renewal. The charter has adapted their goals to continue to serve their kids. No concerns.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Rogers.
MR. ROGERS: I voted for. The charter continues to work towards improving to serve their students.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders.
DR. SAUNDERS: I voted in favor of that. I thought the school appears to be constantly adapting and adjusting to the needs of their students.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. SMITH: Voted for. Lincoln High School has adjusted their mission and goals, but continues to look for career pathways and opportunities for their students. The district still needs to continue to look for ways to improve in core academic areas.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Spears, Ms. Jones, thank you very much for working through these issues with us. And I think they're just signs of our growing and learning pains and we appreciate your working with us to figure out how to best serve our schools, because schools are changing. And I think you're certainly a definition and the vision of what we want in our state for student-focused education, and so we're going to be asking these kinds of
questions. So I do encourage you to continue to follow the state accountability process through ESSA because as we're deciding what accountability of schools looks like. We're not just looking at what it's going to look like right now, but we're going to be -- we need to be thinking now what it's going to look like 5, 10, 15, 20 years down the road. And you're on that journey, so your voice is critical to this process. So thank you very much. MS. JONES: Thank you very much. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: If the Panel is willing, we can take a 10 -minute break.
(BREAK: 9:40-9:54 A.M.)
A-2: REQUEST FOR DISTRICT CONVERSION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: OSCEOLA STEM ACADEMY

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. McLaughlin, you're recognized for Action Item 2. MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Action Item 2 is Osceola STEM Academy. They are here today for their renewal application. To begin the presentation we have Christel Smith, the principal, and also Shantele Raper, the district CTE Coordinator/Federal Funds and Special Projects, and they also have two students present.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: If all representatives
from Osceola STEM Academy would please stand, raise your right hand, and anyone speaking in opposition. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY) CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Ms. Smith, you're recognized. And if everyone coming to the microphone will please state your name and your title, and get as close to the microphone as you can; so even if you have to take it off of the stand, please do so.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Good morning. Okay, I'll try it again. Good morning. And I normally speak loud, so I'd better just speak in my tone. It is a pleasure to be here today to represent Osceola STEM Academy. I am Ms. Smith; I'm the principal. This is my third year as the principal at Osceola STEM Academy, but I've been in the school district in leadership -- served as an assistant principal for three years prior to that. So I'm excited to be here.

I want to start off by just kind of sharing our mission. The mission at our school is to prepare our students, all of our students for lifelong education
without borders through real world experiences. We try to do that through our authentic learning, also our project-based learning style. One of the things we really focus on is communicating, collaborating, and utilizing those critical thinking skills that they experience every day. And also we want to make sure that they're held accountable for their own achievement, as well. So that is our overall focus. What we do at our school is we have adopted a curriculum K-12, and I think I shared that a little bit when I came back last February. So that has vertically aligned our district. But what we do on our campus is we make sure that our curriculum is STEM focused, so we collaborate across our content areas with math and science, literacy and social studies, and also technology is tied throughout the whole school.

When I came in February -- and we came actually for priority status, but I shared a lot about some of the things, instructional practices, some of the instructional strategies that we've changed to try to address some of the issues we were having in our school. Looking at the old goals -- and I came in and inherited those goals; but $I$ came in, and when I came in I came in two years ago with some very good
goals set. But during that time we had some things change, like state assessment. We had high teacher turnover. We also reconfigurated [sic] the whole school district the first year of that charter, which was a perfect time to do that, but we took and we consolidated three buildings into one. So I'm not going to go into a lot of information on that. I just kind of want to share that before I begin all my other information.

But since the last time $I$ was here we have -- we came back and we amended our goals. So for the next five years, if this is approved, we are under different goals. Some of them are very similar. But we looked at the data and we looked at our culture, we looked at our community needs, and we looked at our students. We tried to align our new goals with not only goals that we thought were achievable, but was essential for each of our students to be successful.

I want to say -- make a statement before I even start talking about the academic realm and our goals: you'll see in my goals -- you'll keep hearing me say our goals are set in comparison to schools with similar demographics. Okay. I want to explain that a little bit because $I$ don't want to send out a
perception that I'm saying ethnicity, that we don't have high expectations of our students. I don't want to send out a message that I'm saying because we're in a high poverty area that our students cannot be successful and perform at state level. But I did that for a reason, because it is realistic in high poverty areas, especially us in the Delta, some of our kids do have some barriers they have to deal with that are outside of our control, like lack of stability at home, not having -- a lack of those role models, not having someone to daily encourage them of academic success. It doesn't mean that they're not being taught or nor does it mean that they're not being encouraged to go to school and make good grades, but they just don't have those role models in place. Another thing is we have a few ELL students that have been identified, have some language barriers. So I wanted to -- I just felt it would be really fair if we could look at data and look at some of the schools that have some of the same similarities that we have. So I want to clear that up before I go into it.

I want to talk to you today why STEM is important to Osceola. Our STEM school is important to us because most of our students that leave my
school and feed into high school, they -- a lot of them don't look at post-secondary. A lot of them go straight into workforce. It is very important to us that we encourage our students and give them those pre-requisition skills to the programs at our high school, like, for instance, Project Lead the Way. Those kids leave there, they go into the high school engineering program. My school -- my students that have career requisition classes, like career development, data input, they go into high school and feed into the career classes there. We're trying to build -- and you'll hear my students talk a little bit about what STEM -- how the STEM experience was for them. But we're trying to encourage students to leave STEM with some type of goal or some type of vision of what they might want to do later on in life. We also -- when we became a charter school, we had $21 \%$ dropout. When you look at my goals you'll see one of my goals is on not only attendance, but we're trying to decrease dropout and that is for the high school. But a lot of them, when we asked the students, when we polled them and asked them, you know, a lot of kids that have dropped out -- and we have an alternative program for that -- but a lot of them just said lack of interest. They really didn't
feel -- when they went to high school there was no area really they fit in. And a lot of times those are your students that are not necessarily your A and $B$ students. So what we did was we tried to make sure that we build programs at STEM Academy that will prepare them not only for trade school, but would go into the industries, like we are very industrial in Osceola. We have American Greetings, we have Denso, we have -- also we have Sysco. We have a lot of industries. We also partner with these industries, so when they do receive our students they feel confident they've had some kind of foundation set. So I wanted to share that with you.

One of my goals that I set, when we look at students' data we look at not only performance but we look at growth. It was kind of complicated for me when I looked at the NWEA MAP assessment, me and my leadership team, because we all analyze it to try to set goals. Because what we see on my campus is -- we don't see a consistent -- they go up and down, up and down. And we're trying to figure out is it because they're not taking the test serious, is it because -so what do we -- when we ran reports with math and what we found out was -- we looked at our standard deviation across 6th through 8th grade, and that's
three of my grade levels. They were having a standard deviation of about 16. That's extremely high. So then what we did was we went in and started looking at standards and sub-skills or essential skills to master those standards. We found trends. So when I set my goal -- and I really hope y'all understand where I'm coming with this one -- when I set my goal -- our goal at our school is to make sure $100 \%$ of our kids grow. But when you're looking at an assessment piece like NWEA MAP assessment they set a projectory [sic] for growth goals. And at this time -- and we've talked about it -- we're utilizing their projected growth. Well, what happens is students are growing but they're not growing at the rate that the typical child at their grade level should be. Also, typical child, some of them, level of RIT score that they should be. So we're seeing incline but we're still not seeing enough growth. So right now what we're focusing on is looking at individual students and we're looking at our students and saying, "What skills can we work on to help them start to master standards?" We're seeing that they're missing skills that they should've learned early on. And they might've learned it but for some reason they might've not retained it. You know, I don't know if it wasn't

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practiced enough, $I$ don't know if it's the instructional approach, but we're looking at those type of things.

Another one of our new goals that we've put in here was on our attendance. We have pretty good attendance. We've seen a slight $2 \%$ decrease from first quarter to last quarter last year. But also with us being a diversion [sic] charter school we house all 5-8 and we have quite a bit of competition around our community. I don't know if y'all are familiar with Osceola, but we have a lot of -- not only -- now we have a private school, we also have KIPP that's right down the road. So we have a lot of students that go back and forth. So I wanted to share that with you.

But I wanted to share with you why I feel like also as the leader that STEM is improving our students, not only develop them socially, as well as academically. I would like to share a story. When I first became principal we had a student that had missed 127 days as a 5th grader. He was retained. He'd come back -- my first year as a principal we struggled to get him to come to school. Literally I had to go out in the parking lot and get this kid and -- out of the car with his parents and bring him in
and give him a long talk to get him there. So we decided to make -- we said, "Well, you know, let's put him in the alternative setting and work on selfesteem." We transitioned him out last year. This kid this year has missed maybe 4 days. He has totally bought into our STEM focus. He's one of our top students in our computer science class. He loves -- he loves Project Lead the Way. So I feel like the STEM focus, even though we're integrating it through our curriculum and through academics, is really working.

I know we have not met state average or standards, but I would like for y'all -- she passed out a form. It had STEM Academy 2016 ACT Data Breakdown.
(WHEREUPON, A-2 Exhibit One (1) was marked for identification and entered into evidence.)

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: I want to share a little bit of that. Even though we were disappointed as a staff, we really wanted to at least exceed or meet the state average. But when you look at that data you will see even though we didn't meet state average, when you look at our subgroups -- and our subgroups -- our TAGG groups are very important to us because when we look at data we also look at
subgroups -- we outperformed the state average in quite a few -- 3 I think in math, and ELA I think it was 2. So we do feel like we are closing some gaps and I think also when we collaborate with math and science now the interest level is also picking up among our students. But if you look at that you'll see that we start looking at numbers, percentages. And if you look at that we've had quite a few students that were very close. And we're looking at that when we're looking at this year because we're going to have the same state assessment, so it's going to -- so we've really been digging through this data and trying to see how we can move kids. But also we want to make sure we stay focused on our STEM focus as well throughout our curriculum.

And -- okay. Okay. And I'm going to -- I'm going to step down. I'm sure I can answer some questions y'all have at the end. But I would like for y'all to watch this video before Ms. Raper comes up. So thank y'all for allowing me to speak.
(WHEREUPON, a video was played. It may be viewed on the $A D E$ website.)

MS. WHITIELD: Hello and good morning to all. My name is Anna Whitfield and right now I am enrolled in Osceola High School as a freshman. I would like
to talk about, first, my transition from STEM to the Osceola High School. As of right now, it has really prepared me. With STEM I would like to express the acronym as $S$ stands for science. With science we -at STEM we did so much. First -- my first great experience with science as an 8th grader at STEM was when we went to A-State for our regional science fair and I won I believe second place, which was a great opportunity for me because it reached out to me and showed me that there's a lot of broad experiences in life with science. With technology at my old school, STEM, it was a lot. We had iPads, Chromebooks, iPods, Kindles -- I want to say Kindles but I'm not for sure. We had so much, so there was no need to say that we weren't -- what's the word -- prepared. We were always learning, experimenting with everything. E, engineering -- as you can tell, Ms. Smith, she already kind of gave you a show of Project Lead the Way. And I was in the video myself. I won -- I don't know what it was -- first or second place for my clawbot, which in engineering we were taught once before by our first teacher, Mr. Landry -- he taught us how to build -- well, first design, then build, then program. With that, it's a lot because first you have to make sure that your design fits the
criteria; then you have to make sure that all of your measurements are correct. If they're not correct, you will not meet the criteria and you will not get rewarded what you want to be rewarded. So with that being said, we -- I met criteria and I got rewarded. M, mathematics, my favorite -- there's not much I can say about that because it's just great. What is life without math? Math is the root of everything. You cannot do anything without math. With science you need math. And with that being said, my time is up. Thank you.

MS. WALKER: Hi. My name is Sierra Rucker. I just turned 12 yesterday. I go to Osceola STEM Academy. I am on the student leadership team, so I have got to meet Monty Hodges and David Burnett. It was a great experience and I wish I could do it all over again. But then again, STEM, it has taught me a lot. Ms. Smith and Mr. Crowell, they have taught me a lot and they are the most amazing principal and assistant principal that you could ever have. But to me STEM is science, technology, engineering and math. Well, we learn in science about the study of heredity; genetics is the scientific study of heredity. So basically we learn the same thing in math, except math and science, they both have a lot
in common because in science you have to use numbers. Because yesterday I was reading about probabilities and so we have to use numbers, because there were 23 pairs in 46 chromosomes. So we basically learn the same thing in math; you have to use numbers, you have to use number percentages to get your answer and a lot of other things. But science and technology, now that -- that's a lot because in technology you have to know the science of it. You have to use science in technology, but in technology you have to know the science of it. And they're both compared -- because science, you use technology; you use it to learn about certain parts of your body or just studying about it. So in PE we learn how to be energetic, we exercise, and my coach, which is -- track is Donaldson, he is teaching me to play basketball so I can get better because that's my future goal to play in the WMBA. But the best thing about STEM is that they motivate me to do the best I can. I was an all$A$ and $B$ student throughout my whole year of school. I was very talented and I have many goals to achieve and to be a big role model for my sisters because they look up to me, because my older sister has already graduated. But I want them to know that you can achieve anything if you believe. And STEM, they
have taught me a lot about that. I believe in myself and I've just got somewhere where I have to thank God only and my family, and STEM too because they're like family to me when I'm there. And I don't know what to say about them because STEM, they've helped me a lot. And STEM, they've helped me improve. And the best thing about it is that STEM -- when you go to school there they encourage you to do the best you can on every test, on every exam that you have to take. They motivate you no matter what. If you just lost a family member, they're there for you. They're like a second family to me when I'm at school. But the thing I learned in reading is how to use my strategy to predict or summarize the book I'm reading about or the chapter or the parts and everything. I'm learning a lot about China in my social studies class. And I want to thank Ms. Smith because she is the most encouraging woman I've ever met in all of my life.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Is there anyone here to speak in opposition, Ms. Boyd or Ms. McLaughlin? Is that a no? MS. BOYD: No, ma'am. I'm sorry. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Smith, you have 5 additional minutes for closure, if
you need it.
MS. RAPER: So out of the mouth of babes, that's hard to follow up. So, you know --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: If you'll --
MS. RAPER: My name is Shantele Raper. I'm sorry. My name is Shantele Raper; I'm director of Federal Programs and Special Projects, and so Special Projects lends itself to the Osceola STEM Academy. So upon our initial implementation of the Osceola STEM Academy it was important to us to make sure that this middle school component was an integral transition to high school -- and not only to high school, but also transitioning to our community. And so the components of that transition included -- one thing was instilling a love for learning, which you can tell is in place with our students; introduction to the STEM concept -- you know, even five years ago STEM was still new to people and so to just instill that STEM concept; applied learning; and accountability for education.

With that, what we saw was that these components grew in a way that -- in a positive way that we really did not anticipate and that our students, like our 9th grade students -- our students in 8 th grade began demanding those same opportunities at the high
school. So I had to go to Mr. Cox and say, "We have Gateway technology for 5th through 8th graders; oh my goodness, we have a problem. I have 50 students wanting this now at 9 th grade, so we have to expand this." And so with that, STEM Academy -- now we have about $50 \%$ of our students that want to follow through. And at the high school we are one of the only schools in the area to offer manufacturing programs, which is important to our community because we are a manufacturing community. So with our Project Lead the Way we have computerized integrated manufacturing, so now we have students that, you know, have a solid five years into that program. And so we have juniors and seniors now that may have only been in 7 th and 8 th grade but that's grown. We also have Megatronics, which is impressive, and they're also using those skills.

So, you know, this is -- again, it's promising for our community. You can see the community involvement in the STEM Academy. Business and industry absolutely loves being a part of the process because they see the benefit of what's happening at STEM Academy. For example, I'm going to go all the way to a 12 th grader, but she was an 8 th grader at the STEM Academy. I just got a call yesterday that
as a 12 th grader with our JAG program she is utilizing her technology skills and was given a JAG internship at American Greetings this week, working with spreadsheets, databases, those type of things. So those were all things that were a component of 8 th grade, so that would be a success story.

So a lot of times like you're hearing Ms. Lewis, our Project Lead the Way teacher, talk about we need the math teacher and science teacher to come in and help us with this. As a former business teacher, I always learn -- love to learn with and from my students. It's nice when you have a problem that you need your students to help you with and you can sit around a table and troubleshoot. And I just love it when we can have a 7 th and 8 th grader that knows more than we know and be able to help us with that. Because in technology, you know, we can't always be abreast of that information.

So I want to talk about a few of the things in technology that we would consider a success. Our FBLA instructor just sent us a text message; we've had two national winners in desktop publishing and career exploration, and that's not including the state and regional. So as a former FBLA instructor I was very proud to know that we had two national
winners. Stock market game, $I$ can't even begin to tell you. I think year after year after year STEM Academy is -- hits that first, second and third place. They do a great job. And so the young ladies, on the way over we kind of woke them up and said, "Hey, you know, what are you going to talk about?" And they just started kind of rattling on back there and they have it, they know what they're going to say.

So I'll be glad to answer any questions. But I think the video, the students, they speak for themselves.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you so much.
All right. Panel Members, who'd like to lead off with questions? Dr. Gotcher.

DR. GOTCHER: Good morning. I think I want to begin my discussion, first of all, with just mission statement alignment. I had that written down in my notes from the last couple of days. And the piece that I just want to hear a little more about, realizing our wonderful testimony of our wonderful student earlier regarding mathematics -- I'm still concerned of the low performance in the math scores. And I'm looking at the narrative in the applicant's response that students struggle because of lack of
critical thinking. And I so appreciate the projectbased learning on a weekly basis and the collaborative planning with the science and math teachers, but seeing a significant disconnect in the state average and the performance of the STEM Academy. What does your future look like in preparing and changing the performance of the math scores? And keep in mind we recognize the flux of assessments that we're in. But within NWEA MAPS, with ACT Aspire, and with your project-based learning on a weekly basis I'm hopeful that we can see some quick, quick wins in this process. Who might address that?

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Thank you, sir. I want to start off by what we're doing now and we're going to continue to do in the future is that alignment piece, now that we've added a curriculum to it, we do see now the vertical alignment from K-12. We also collaborate from building to building; 4th grade works with my 5 th grade, 8 th grade works with high school, which is 9 th grade math. So we know that not only we are talking about these skills that our students are deficient in or need more help in. When I'm talking about the critical thinking skills, even though we're working on that, we're doing it through
problem solving, we're doing it through Project Lead the Way. One of the things that we're trying to encourage our students to do more of, they really struggle with processing. They don't want to go that extra mile; they want you to tell them. So we're having them now do item tasks, item analysis; not only -- it ain't about getting the right answer or the wrong answer, it's about telling us how you got it, working through the process. Do I predict in the future -- I mean, in the near future you're going to see higher scores? Absolutely. I think also with our instructional approach that we're taking now also is we do a lot of cooperative learning in the classroom. We do a lot where students are doing a lot of hands-on and tying it to real-world. I think in the past they didn't think math was relevant. You know, I mean, they didn't really understand that it's such an essential skill; it's almost like the student said, we need math, math is everywhere. And I think now they're starting to make that connection, but also they're in the process too, sir -- we kind of changed assessments -- I'm not trying to make excuses, but we had to change our strategy, our instructional strategy approach when we went from benchmark to PARCC. And then we had to turnaround
and go back and do some of the strategies we were doing for benchmark for ACT Aspire. So, but do I predict in the future -- yes, I do predict that we'll start seeing some math scores go up.

DR. GOTCHER: Just a follow-up, Madam Chair. I'm encouraged by the increase each year for graduation rate.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Oh, yes.
DR. GOTCHER: That's strong and that means something is working. And I do recognize some of the comments. I would believe that you could ask for 100\% student growth --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: -- instead of a 50\%. I believe all students can grow --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: -- as you alluded to earlier. So that's something that $I$ would consider as it relates to Goal 3. But I'm still processing --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay.
DR. GOTCHER: -- because I'm real concerned with the math scores.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay.
DR. GOTCHER: And I know that you guys have incredible systems in place.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Here's another thing too -DR. GOTCHER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: -- I want to share with you in math. I'm going to share a little bit of data, the five years in our building, and it has impacted scores. We haven't had a consistency in math teachers. For instance, this year alone our 7th graders went about a month-and-a-half without a math teacher. Last year we went with not a very strong content teacher for almost a semester. The year before that we had very high teacher turnover. But last year we had an awesome math teacher that we lost because she found a job closer to home. That's one of the things too, most of our teachers commute. So we really try to keep them there by giving incentives district-wide, but sometimes we still lose them. But I think that impacted as well. We don't have enough consistency. But now that we have this Engage New York and now we have math department meetings across the district -- I mean, and we bring in my building, elementary, and high school -- and they all collaborate. We do that monthly, we do it on campus. So I do predict now we are headed in the right directions.

DR. GOTCHER: And one final thought, Madam

Chair. I think the collaboration piece is huge, so I'm encouraged by that.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Uh-huh. Thank you.
DR. GOTCHER: So I sympathize but I know it's a challenge, and you know more than anyone that it's a challenge.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: And so --
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes. Well, we're going to keep working hard. Yeah, keep working hard. DR. GOTCHER: I know you are. Thank you. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders. DR. SAUNDERS: Yes. In looking at your application $I$ noticed that it appears you're not asking for any new waivers. Is that correct? MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: (Nodding heading up and down.)

DR. SAUNDERS: No additional waivers than what you currently have. And looking at your existing waivers you have -- excuse me -- really quite limited, two laws, it appears, and about six or seven waivers from ADE rules. So is that -- does that sound about accurate? MS. RAPER: That sounds accurate.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. And I think my question
just overall is in exercising these waivers and what you've seen in the past, how have you been able to exercise these to get where you are now?

MS. RAPER: First and foremost, I would say that the waiver for licensure is beneficial because we do have the barrier for attracting quality teachers in the Delta. And the district has implemented a recruitment bonus in the district that has been helpful. So, for example, Ms. Smith will look at her building and where we have an area of need she can put a 7-12 certified teacher in a 6 th grade area, if that's needed. So, for example, we had a 7 th grade -- 7-12 literacy teacher that was a solid teacher, but we knew we had a weakness because we look at those trends and know where those students had weak teachers and we were able to move that teacher to a 6th grade level and teach in literacy. And so those type of things are very helpful.

Another thing is Ms. Smith, she kind of did a split block, which is really nice because we knew with the block that that block amount of time sometimes is hard to keep the students' attention. She did a split block so that -- and you can help me on this, Ms. Smith -- but for the most part it was instruction for one block and then later that day
they would come back for an application piece. But like, for example, pre-AP, the teacher that you -the social studies teacher that you saw that has a strong literacy background but not certified in literacy. You know, we're able to put her in that second block of literacy to do some application with those novels and texts that they're seeing in literacy. And so one thing that we did this summer K-12 when we worked with our curriculum, it was a process but then every teacher had input and then they came in to the lead teacher and we mapped $\mathrm{K}-12$ math, literacy, and science, and those are on our website. They are a work in progress. We tweak those. We understand that we're going to come back and work on those again. But with that we -- it was really interesting; we actually had students help us with this, but we took all of the texts that -across $\mathrm{K}-12$, every novel that's in our curriculum, and instead of just printing the name we printed the book cover. And so in our district you would see K 12 and you saw a list of every text that was taught in the curriculum. And so then you see that crosswalk -- where I'm getting with this is when we see these literacy texts you see that crosswalk with social studies. So when we can have a social studies
teacher supplement and teach literacy in that second block, that's a perfect example of being able to use that waiver, and same with science and math. So that would be the most important.

Our fine arts, we implement everywhere. You know, when we first wrote these waivers and those of us that were working on the charter at the time we really didn't know the leadership that we would have in that building. And so I looked at it as paving a way to allow administrators to provide opportunities for the students that they need without being -having those barriers of time. You know, we have to have so many minutes of the art and so many minutes of the music and those things. And so without those waivers we would not be able to provide those engineering -- the Discovery Zone, those type of pieces. And so that's another one.

The class size and teaching load, primarily that's when we do have classes that are combined and collaborate, and usually that's two teachers working together. So any other waivers that you have a question?

DR. SAUNDERS: That's all I had on that.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Who's next? Ms. Smith.
MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. So my concern kind of
goes back to goals. When looking at your previous goals for the previous five years you did not meet a single goal. Correct?

MS. RAPER: (Nodding head up and down.)
MS. STACY SMITH: In fact, in some of those areas we flat-lined or even declined. So that's a little bit of a concern. So looking at new goals going into renewal, I really -- I'm on the line of -because when I looked at your old goals, there were some of those that I thought that would've been a hard one to meet as it was set up. So that point of setting realistic goals, that that can actually accomplish something. And so hitting back on the first goal of -- the first and second goal about just meeting the "of similar populations," of meeting the similar populations in comparison, I don't have a problem with that, that goal. But when you get down to the growth part using NWEA, if you're really going to go for "we're going to meet or exceed the state level and above," and similar populations, you can't have a growth of $50 \%$ in science or a $60 \%$ growth goal in math and expect to be where everybody else is. I mean, if we're already saying we're starting off behind and your growth goal is not even at $100 \%$ you're going further behind. You have to at least
say "we're going to make" -- I mean, you can't be behind and then not have a growth goal of at least $100 \%$ to get there. Am I making sense?

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.
MS. STACY SMITH: So let me hear a little bit more kind of about your thought process there and what you're thinking on that.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: It's making lots of sense. Actually, in our district leadership team meeting yesterday we talked thoroughly about MAP data. And one of the things I learned there -- and I'll tell you I didn't realize this prior to yesterday meeting -- that -- because even though we were looking at trends and looking at inclines and declines of our students just on my campus, and then we looked at it district-wide and looked at trends district-wide, I didn't know that we could set goals for our students, meaning we could go in and modify realistic goals. And I'm going to tell you what I mean by that -- you know the kid that has a RIT score of 190 and MAP projectory said they need to be at 207 or 203; I'll say 203 -- 203 by the winter of that. But we're seeing kids growing. They might go from 190 to 202. But if I'm going to use -- if $I$ was using MAP projectory, it's going to say he did not meet growth
goal.
MS. STACY SMITH: Right.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: So if I would've known that prior to when I made that, I would've absolutely made higher goals because we would've actually looked at data and how we progress monitor standards throughout our campus, and I probably would have made it higher. So those are some goals that I would like to go back and look at, so -- but I do agree and understand what you --

MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. And then the graduation goal, originally $I$ think -- it looks like y'all have kept that goal the same, increase by $4 \%$ each year. And when you're just looking at your past data on how much you've grown each year it's been a very small percentage. And so you guys -- so you didn't meet it before.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Right.
MS. STACY SMITH: What are we doing differently now that's going to change where you're going to get that $4 \%$ each year? I mean, what's --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: See, and here, this one was tough for me. And I'm smiling because if I would've went with my gut -- because, you know, when I hear the word "charter schools," whether you're a district
conversion charter or open-enrollment charter, people, you know, they tend to put it -- you know -they -- everything should be 100\%. Because I really -- when I looked at last year and looked at my new, I said about a $2 \%$ would be realistic for us. But I did stick with $4 \%$ because I didn't want to have low -- I mean, I didn't want y'all to think that we had low expectations.

MS. STACY SMITH: Well, and your students now that have been through the STEM Academy --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.
MS. STACY SMITH: -- are your students that are in high school --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Right.
MS. STACY SMITH: -- whereas maybe previously --
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Seniors were 8 th graders.
MS. STACY SMITH: Yeah. I did talk to Dr. Wilde about the work and he did mention that Osceola was being an extremely collaborative district at this point and working for improvement. I just wanted to note that he mentioned the collaboration part and the pieces that were going on there. So I just wanted to

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Can I have a -- ask a question for clarity or is this not the time to ask?

MS. STACY SMITH: No, you may ask.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay. Now that we've set these goals -- and like $I$ said, we look at data all the time, monthly. Even the new goals that I've submitted -- and I know I went for amending my new goals. Like say if we wanted to go to $2 \%$, so are we kind of just bound to the ones that were approved in our amendment? What is the process there?

MS. STACY SMITH: You have the right to change them. You would submit it to us.

MS. BOYD: Right. Today is a negotiation of a charter contract, just like if it was a new application, so you guys can agree upon that today. So if you want to ask for it to be $2 \%$ and that makes more sense and the Panel understands that, then we can do that today.

MS. STACY SMITH: Well, and I'm not asking you to change it. I mean, I'm with you; if we're going to actually make significant improvement in kids we've got to aim high. Okay. But I think that you're going to have to be very aggressive in -- if 4\% is your goal, which I think is attainable -- I think with really that collaboration piece with the high school -- from what you have control over in your middle school setting as a charter all the way
up through high school that that piece -- that linkage is very, very strong, because it's about those 9th graders not getting their credits. If you go back and you look at those 8th graders leaving your school and moving into 9 th grade and not getting their credits their 9th grade year, I'd start there and really start digging into my data because that's your kids who won't graduate. And how do you provide -- if you're going to get your $4 \%$ how do you provide your intense intervention in 9 th grade to get those kids their credits? And how does your academy, your STEM academy lead to that? So I think it's doable. I think that it's a -- you've got to think it all the way through though on that piece. Am I kind of hitting on the same --

MS. RAPER: Same thing --
MS. STACY SMITH: Y'all looked to each other like y'all have talked about that before, so I'm thinking --

MS. RAPER: We've talked about that.
MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. Another thing I want to talk about -- and Ms. Pfeffer brought this up yesterday -- on goals that maybe aren't directly linked to the assessment pieces. What are your challenges? And some of the things that I heard you
talk about were teacher retention and quality teachers. And so how can we write some goals -- and I'm not asking for them today, but $I$ would definitely think this is something that you could go back as a group and say what are some goals that we can write, because we know if we improve in these areas it will have an impact here. So --

SUPT. COX: I'm Michael Cox, superintendent at Osceola. I've been superintendent over there seven years. A couple of years ago I think it was -- of course, our biggest problem at Osceola is hiring and retaining good qualified teachers, and I encouraged the board and they adopted a policy. We pay a $\$ 10,000$ bonus for the shortage areas. Now what we did, we took the state's shortage areas -- we added a few areas because we had some that wasn't on the state list -- math and science, Spanish, there's several of them.

MS. RAPER: CTE.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Special ed.
SUPT. COX: CTE. So we give those teachers, if they're qualified teachers, $\$ 3,000$ at the end of the first year. And we want to retain them, so we give them $\$ 2,000$ at the end of the second year, $\$ 2,000$ at the end of the third year, and another $\$ 3,000$ at the
end of the fourth year for our $\$ 10,000$ bonus. We've also encouraged our attendance, to be present every day. We give -- in the past we had a perfect attendance for teachers. At the end of the semester if you hadn't missed a day off in the semester you get $\$ 100$ or $\$ 150$ or something. Of course, the problem with that, if you miss a day in September you may as well miss 10 more because you're out of the picture. So I encouraged the board, and they did adopt a policy where every month we have a perfect attendance policy. If you don't miss a day in September, in October you're going to get $\$ 100$. If you don't miss a day in October, in November you're going to get $\$ 100$. So it's like $\$ 1,000$ a year and it's based on a month-to-month-to month because if you miss a day in September because you're sick, you still get it back in October. Now I was down here before the state Board and one of the board members of the State Board said, "I don't know about having to pay teachers to come to work," and I said, "I didn't do it for the teachers; I'm doing it for the kids," because they need -- our teachers need to be there. And we're -- you know, another thing I thought about, it's probably not a good thing but I was thinking about this: some of the best teachers
we've hired, especially at the secondary level, over the last five years didn't come from teacher education programs; they're alternatively certified; some were like Teach For America and some of those things. So I don't know what that says about our educational program, but some of the best ones -- and we're also finding that content knowledge is not necessarily the most important part of a teacher. First of all, you've got to want to be there. You've got to care about kids. You've got to develop relationships with students, and our students have to know that you care something about them before they're going to be cooperative in learning. That's just -- I don't know how I got off on that. Did you ask a question?

MS. STACY SMITH: I was just enjoying where you were going. So let me ask: so with your incentive pay on attendance and with your retention bonuses, what does your data say? Did it work? SUPT. COX: It's helping some. It's helping some.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: It's definitely helping with attendance.

SUPT. COX: Yeah. The attendance part it's definitely helping. I know we've had teachers at the
high school that normally missed 10, 15 days a year that's trying to get that $\$ 100$ a month and maybe miss two days so far this school year. The attendance part is working. And the hiring and retention is helping some. Now I don't know how much, but it's helping some. Of course, you know, if you read the news there's a shortage all over the country -- you know, all over the state. But we do have that out there. We advertise that. We advertise strongly in newspapers and talk about our bonuses and hiring and retention bonuses. But we have a lot of -- you know -- we'll have teachers live in Jonesboro or Marion or somewhere and, you know, they don't want to drive 50 miles one-way. But I'm hoping that extra money would help pay their gas so they could come. And we do a lot about hiring our own too; we're really strong. We've hired some people, college graduates that maybe had a degree in business or sociology or whatever, hire them as an aid and try to help them get certified. And then if they're a good, strong person we'll hire them as a teacher, kind of grow our own. MS. STACY SMITH: Well, I think -SUPT. COX: Some of those local people really do MS. STACY SMITH: Right.

SUPT. COX: -- really do a better job than some you can find out other places.

MS. STACY SMITH: So I guess kind of what I'm asking for you guys to maybe go back and look at doing is establishing some goals around those things that those waivers are giving you the flexibility to do, the flexibility in the licensure piece to be able to pull people in, and you've used your bonuses. Set your goal, "our rate is to retain this many teachers," and, you know, "and because we've done this, this is going to impact our scores here." I mean, there should be a definite correlation between the two.

MS. RAPER: We have district goals set. It's nothing that we --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: You'll need to come to the microphone please.

MS. RAPER: We have set district goals for teacher retention and teacher attendance, but nothing that we've broken down by campus. So we can do that for sure.

MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Lester.
MR. LESTER: Yes. As I was reading through your goals on science growth it states that you hired a K-

12 science instruction facilitator. Has that been something in the last year or has that person been there? And on top of that, how is that person working through that $\mathrm{K}-12$ ?

MS. RAPER: Are you wanting to know how that person is getting paid?

MR. LESTER: No, ma'am. That's the reason I don't ask a lot of questions because it always goes back to money.

MR. ROGERS: I want to know how she gets paid.
MR. LESTER: No. I want to know -- I would like to know how that fits into --

MS. RAPER: Okay. We have outstanding K-12 science. And, of course, you know, we're looking at that 3rd through 10th grade science and, you know, and asking the question: is accountability going to be there. And for us, you know, it is about accountability; it really is. But with STEM we knew that -- our initial thoughts, our initial -- you know -- when our STEM committee came together what kept coming up was we need to teach our children to think like scientists through everything; to ponder, to wonder, to have that instilled learning. And so that's why the science was such an important piece. And so we actually had a science coach at the STEM

Academy, so we had -- I'm correct -- we had a math, literacy, and science coach at the STEM Academy. But when Aspire came and we see $3-8$, we expanded her $\mathrm{K}-12$ because she was limited to 5 -- working with 5-8 and she did an outstanding job. She's the kind of person that she went to our old -- those of you that visited our old middle school campus, we had a science lab that was setting out there, like an old shed. And I promise you, she found her salary just in supplies and polished speakers and completely stocked a science lab and created a schedule for science teachers to start moving to that lab, and now that has transitioned to the high school and all the way to K . So we just -- all we did is just utilized what she was doing 5-8 and spread it $\mathrm{K}-12$.

MR. LESTER: And that's something you're looking at as a long-term goal is to keep that person in that position?

MS. RAPER: Yes.
MR. LESTER: I was just looking at it as -- I know what you've done in the past. Is this person, you know, in the last year and you're seeing the worth of it and going forward as a part of your goal that you've set here?

MS. RAPER: Yes. Because 5-8, she was saying,

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you know, "If I don't grab them $\mathrm{K}-4$ " -- and then, of course, you know, we're waiting on -- you know -unless y'all want to let us know if science is going to be accountable any time soon, but it doesn't matter; we know that if we can teach them to think like scientists it's going to show up in math and other areas as well. So all we did is we just took where she was with science 5-8 and just expanded that salary $\mathrm{K}-12$. Does that work?

MR. LESTER: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. MS. RAPER: You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional questions? Dr. Gotcher.

DR. GOTCHER: I made a note regarding computer science offerings. I was just -- I can't find where I referenced that. Can someone speak about maybe the new offerings or how you've -- regarding the computer science. I know that's very important for our state and our Governor's initiative. And give me some encouragement --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay.
DR. GOTCHER: -- maybe along those lines of computer science and how that's fitting into the STEM work.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay. What we did was like
we have our Discovery Zone, which is part of our innovative classes. We took computer science and put it on our wheel, which is our pullout schedule.

DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: And we kind of looked at it -- even though it's actually we're doing computer science we're looking at it as a pilot year. So instead of serving all of 7 th and 8 th grade, okay, we took 17 7th graders and we took 18 8th graders and what we're doing is we're -- we took a computer science curriculum. And my assistant principal has background in Ag. and all that, so he went and got certified in it. So he teaches just to those students four days a week and then they go to PE the next -- I mean, one day a week. But he teachers that and we're doing it as a pilot year. Our plan is to keep it on our campus, but we wanted to pilot it with one group of students per grade and tie it in. What we were finding was even though we have a lot of technology, we have a lot of career. But we have several students -- and I'm going to just give you a little background of why we felt this was important too. We have several students that we feel are just on our campus just to go to school there. You know, they're not your athlete; they're your kid that's
borderline, still trying to find identity. He identified those kids and we enrolled them in it and it is rolling; less discipline infractions. They are also facilitating what you've seen on the screen there. Every time they're taught a code or if they're taught something, they go grab our underclassmen and they facilitate what $y^{\prime}$ all seen on there. So they teach what they're taught. Yes.

DR. GOTCHER: And I'm encouraged if it's in a wheel --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Uh-huh, it's in a wheel. Yes.

DR. GOTCHER: -- that every student participates at some point within their academic year. Is that what I'm hearing, it's a wheel?

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Well, yes. But this year it's only piloted.

DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: In the near future we're hoping that everybody goes through it like we do for Project Lead the Way.

DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. RAPER: But you have -- I'm sorry -- we do have a component 5 th and 6 th grade, so we have technology -- I'm sorry -- we have technology 5th,

6th, 7th, and 8th. We did transition down to 5th grade a few years ago, and so there's a coding component in 5 th, 6 th, 7 th and 8 th grade in technology; there's coding in Gateway to Technology; and then there's a small piece of coding in career orientation as well. But I'm telling you guys, we are producing programmers, no doubt about it. I had to sit in the office with a student, as AP coordinator, and help him make the choice to drop an AP class over a programming class, and that was a tough choice. But knowing his strengths and where he was going -- and he ended up on Lyons and doing a great job. So we are producing programmers. And like $I$ said, the young lady that came out of 8 th grade programming continued and AG called -- American Greetings called and she's working. So, that's great.

DR. GOTCHER: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional questions? Dr. Saunders.

DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. I just wanted to go back on the goals. I just have a concern. Goals 1 and 2 on the --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: New goals?
DR. GOTCHER: The new performance goals?

DR. SAUNDERS: Yes. That have the columns on the Year 1 following renewal; correct? CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Page 17. DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Yeah, I'm making sure we're on the same one. To me, 1 and 2 should be an expectation of any school, you know, is the thing; you should be at the level or greater than similar schools. And number 3 on the MAP assessments, the need for the different percentages -- in other words, you know, we expect this, and $80 \%$ in literacy but only $60 \%$ in math and only $50 \%$ in science. And why would -- I wasn't real clear on why the need for the different percentages.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Okay. On science -- and MAP is an adaptability test. We have never tested science on MAP. This is our first time we've ever tested it. And the format was just a little bit different. I feel like our students -- you know -I'm not sure they really understand how relevant it is to ACT Aspire because prior to ACT Aspire, you know, they only tested in science in 5 th grade and then 7 th and then high school. So with us doing that now and bringing that in, even though we have integrated science for the last five years in our curriculum, I was kind of hesitant because even
though we assess science on a different day than math and literacy watching them take that first assessment piece of science, it was a struggle to even get them to slow down and read it and process it. So I really felt like we -- on our first assessment we really didn't get valid scores. And I'm really -- like I said, I haven't really seen the MAP assessment for science because I was looking over the shoulder, so that was my reason for doing $50 \%$. I was looking at the assessment piece more.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. STACY SMITH: So do we have some parallels -- excuse me, I can't talk -- with our priority status and our goals that are established for school improvement and the charter? I mean, are we -MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.

MS. STACY SMITH: So our goals are aligned between the two?

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Very close. Very close. Yeah. Now when I say "aligned," I think of -because when I look at my school improvement goals -and I should have brought them before me, so I'm shooting from the hip at this point. Our student achievement goals are more specific to ACT Aspire, okay, in terms of performance and growth. But we do
have some goals on there on MAP as well. So student growth, yes. But I'm shooting it from the hip; I wish I would've brought it, yeah, so --

DR. GOTCHER: Ms. Smith, you're referring to -MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Some of our goals that we have in our school improvement.

MS. STACY SMITH: Yeah, they're a priority school.

DR. GOTCHER: Priority.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Priority school, yes.
MS. STACY SMITH: They're a priority school, so they work with School Improvement Unit and they have established goals there.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes. Yeah, but they parallel though. But I'm kind of shooting from the hip.

MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. So, Ms. Davis, just as everybody has been talking up here, it seems like several of us are struggling with the goals that are written the way they're written.

MS. DAVIS: Uh-huh.
MS. STACY SMITH: So what are our options again?
Could we ask them to resubmit new goals or approve them and resubmit new goals or they need to resubmit new goals before we -- I mean, how -- but what are
our options there?
MS. DAVIS: Well, they could amend the goals right now to be included in any renewal application. You could renew for a shorter time period and ask them to come back either as an amendment or dependent upon the timeframe of the renewal to have new goals in their next one. So there's a couple of different options that you can do. You know, if you ask them to amend their goals now keep in mind just with the efficiency you don't necessarily -- I mean, it would be different if you're just changing $4 \%$ to say $2 \%$ or graduation. Yes, something like that would be --

MS. STACY SMITH: Right. But not --
MS. DAVIS: -- minor. I mean, not minor impact, but a minor change they could do. But I don't want to see them forced to have to do something on the fly that they're making goals. So you could, like I say, do a shorter timeframe and ask them to do an amendment on goals and then they'll have to come back through the amendment process. Or, like I say, dependent upon how short you do a renewal, they'd have to go back through the entire renewal process with new goals.

MS. STACY SMITH: Right. Well, and so --
MS. DAVIS: Which would be my last --

MS. STACY SMITH: Right.
MS. DAVIS: -- suggestion.
MS. STACY SMITH: Okay. So, I mean, they're not asking for that many waivers and the waivers that they are asking for they're obviously using, and so I don't want to impede that. Okay. And I don't want to necessarily drag them back in here in a year. I mean, I'd really want to watch the school improvement process and as a Charter Panel if we see that with the school improvement they're being called back in and there's concerns then, you know, maybe that's where we bring them back in to say, you know, goals and -- I don't know. I'm struggling over some of the ones that are written as-is; but at the same time -I mean, I'd like to kind of hear from -- what some -I don't necessarily want to pull this out, drag this out for -- so, Ms. Smith? Yes, the most wonderful woman in the world; we heard that earlier. Ms. Smith.

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Me and Ms. Raper, we'll be willing to amend our goals today in the process.

DR. GOTCHER: Today? No.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: No, we can't?
DR. GOTCHER: They wouldn't have to.
MS. STACY SMITH: Could we have them come back
after we do Jacksonville Lighthouse with amended goals and just present those? No?

DR. SAUNDERS: I would suggest that you take more time --

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Look at data.
DR. SAUNDERS: -- to carefully consider these goals with your staff would be my thought process. I don't speak for the Panel. But also, at the same time, I would not want you to come back through an entire process just on the adjustment of the goals. To me, just to focus on a future adjustment of the goals, if there were a motion for renewal, to include a revisit of the goals within a certain time period, just that part of it.

MR. ROGERS: I think for consistency we need to slow down because we had one similar to this yesterday and we passed them out here to work with the Charter Panel; if they saw their goals were under that we advise them to work with our Charter Unit, to come back and suggest what their goals should be. So just for consistency on what we did yesterday -DR. SAUNDERS: And listen to Mr. Rogers.

MR. ROGERS: Yeah, and if we start doing this with them we're kind of getting off what we did yesterday. So I just want to make that comment. I'm
not -- but, you know, I know where we were yesterday; we were struggling with somebody's goals yesterday that we thought were a little low that should be more rigorous and be more challenging. And all we ended up coming out of there with them was just work with our Charter Unit to see what your test scores come in and then if you are hitting those goals then amend it at that time once you work with Alexandra's unit to come back and try to give us something more rigorous. MS. STACY SMITH: And I agree. I agree. I just think that one difference could be that this is a school that is a priority school and that they are already working closely with School Improvement and probably have established goals. And so I think -- I just think those are things we -- but I understand what you said. I understand. Good point.

MS. DAVIS: You know, and one of the things that you could do is to kind of accomplish both, them working with the Charter Unit and working with School Improvement, is, you know, we hear amendments in February and October. Of course, that could be waived from the Commissioner, and we can always amend them and we could encourage them to work with both of those units to actually get maybe more realistic or more -- goals that are more achievable for where
they're at right now, and then they can come back and request an amendment to where they're at. But that way, they can seek the assistance and try to align it with School Improvement and with the Charter Unit. MR. ROGERS: And I think that's more in line with what we allowed the other conversion charter to do yesterday, was to get with Alexandra, get with Annette's group, and see if they do need to do something different.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes, did you have anything to add to that?

MS. BARNES: No, ma'am. And the reason I said no, ma'am is simply because we have reports that we have access to with respect to the work with the School Improvement Unit already on the State Board agenda. We have all of those things, data sources, available to us, so -- and we have the opportunity, as Ms. Stacy -- as Ms. Smith has already said, that she had a conversation with Dr . Wilde regarding the collaboration and the work. So I don't think that it would be -- I wouldn't have anything that would add to the conversation.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional questions or concerns before we offer a motion?

DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. So if the goals were to
change, would it be foreseeable at -- did you mention February, March we have meetings?

MS. DAVIS: Yes. According to the rules, amendments are heard in February and in October. But those can also -- they can request a waiver from the Commissioner of the February and October dates to be heard at another time. At this time there is not currently set a March meeting.

DR. SAUNDERS: All right.
DR. GOTCHER: Madam Chair, we explored this a bit yesterday, realizing that we are discussing things prior to a legislative session, discussing things prior to a consolidated accountability plan being in place with the Every Student Succeeds Act. Two things stand out in my mind: the performance data that I'm seeing, but also the opportunities, the things that are positioning themselves to move forward in quality. So I'm just going to explore this with the Charter Office for just a moment because I'm typically not the one to even say this. But would a three-year or two-year renewal, realizing the process that that takes on your office and the STEM Academy, would that give time to review these goals? Obviously, that would be too much time to review the goals because they'd want to have that in
place. Ms. Boyd, give me your opinion on a threeyear renewal instead of a five-year, which is typically not what Mark Gotcher usually even considers.

MS. BOYD: Dr. Gotcher, I'm not going to give you my opinion; $I$ will give you what has happened in the past. So it has seemed to be typical that with schools that are in priority status or academic distress that they usually do receive a three-year renewal. Because realizing they're in that distress or that priority status that they need more oversight and three years gives us enough time to look at data from one renewal to the next. That's generally what the Panel has done in the past with schools that are in distress or in priority status.

DR. GOTCHER: So that is a past practice of this Panel?

MS. BOYD: Yes, sir.
DR. GOTCHER: Okay. That's very helpful. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional questions or concerns or discussion before we -- before I accept a motion?

DR. SAUNDERS: Yes. One thing: the two young ladies that presented, I just want to tell you you
did a great job; excellent job. I know it's tough to come down here in front of a group of people but y'all did an excellent job. And the first one, I have a degree in math and I want to say Amen on some of the things you said about math, so --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Then I'll accept a motion. DR. SAUNDERS: I make a motion to approve the renewal with the Charter Panel reviewing any amended goals at the February meeting.

DR. GOTCHER: Five?
DR. SAUNDERS: Yes, sir.
MR. ROGERS: What does that mean?
DR. SAUNDERS: I think that -- I think what that's saying is --

MR. ROGERS: They need to come back down here or they just turn in a report to us or -- I mean, that's, I guess, what I'm trying to figure out.

DR. SAUNDERS: If we just review what those new goals are, much like the process from yesterday, that we would just put it on our agenda on February that we would look at it.

MS. DAVIS: I mean, and you can do that. But keep in mind that those new goals that they've set will not become part of their charter. So on a renewal the original goals would still be what they
would for the most part be held accountable to without an amendment.

DR. SAUNDERS: And that would be consistent with what we did yesterday; is that correct?

MR. ROGERS: No. We didn't put anything in there yesterday.

MS. DAVIS: Yeah. They --
MR. ROGERS: They -- we just advised them to work with Ms. Boyd's office --

DR. SAUNDERS: Right.
MR. ROGERS: -- that it wasn't --
DR. SAUNDERS: That's what I mean. Those goals yesterday --

MR. ROGERS: We didn't even say they had to change them. We just said --

MS. DAVIS: Well, and what you could do is that you could have the applicant come back in February as somewhat of a technical assistance type to review the goals that they have set. So that way they could see if the Charter Panel has a feel about whether or not those goals are more in line with what the intent of that school is, so then they at a later time can request an amendment for that. I mean, I would hate to see them request an amendment, you still don't think the goals are doable or you still have concerns
with them. I mean, that would be something is that you could bring them back in February to discuss the new goals that they have formulated for themselves and then go from there.

DR. SAUNDERS: Then before a second I'll withdraw the motion.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: The motion has been withdrawn. Is there a new motion? Ms. Barnes.

MS. BARNES: I'm trying to figure out how to word this motion because $I$ would like to make a motion to approve the charter for two years, if that's agreeable. I know I heard the explanation with respect to the three-year part, but with respect -- and I need to talk this through before I can do this. But with respect to the fact that possibly based on the '17 assessment results and the $18-19$ school year we may be naming schools under ESSA, which would possibly be a different group, there would be enough time possibly for the school to have looked at their goals to work toward -- to continue to work. So I'm not comfortable with just a fiveyear renewal, but I'm not also comfortable with just giving a blanket nothing. So I don't know. I need some assistance on that. But I'm definitely not comfortable at this time with the five-year.

MS. BOYD: One thing that has come to mind is an unintended consequence of us moving the renewal schedule up by a few months; that if they come back in December of 2018, Ms. Barnes, do you know whether or not those labels will be issued at that point? Because at this point ACT Aspire is still in the kind of back-and-forth process and those numbers -- we can rely on them pretty well, but they're not finalized to the point that they would be if we were having this hearing in February.

DR. GOTCHER: And, Ms. Boyd, your question was will we have -- I'm trying to get this out -- with the change of the federal designations will we have schools identified with the new accountability? MS. BOYD: In December --

DR. GOTCHER: Of '18.
MS. BOYD: -- of 2018.
MS. BARNES: That's a valid question. And the answer is I cannot guarantee that.

MS. BOYD: Right.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: So then is that making you think more then for a three-year?

MS. BARNES: It makes me lean more toward staying with the precedent. I'm just concerned. I don't want to put -- I don't want to be in a
situation where it appears that we have had this much dialogue with the district regarding the school. And there have been some very clear concerns communicated with respect to the goal-setting process. There's an opportunity to go back to get with the appropriate persons as well as the stakeholders in the community and do a very comprehensive review of the goalsetting and establish something. I don't want to interrupt the charter right now either. So I'm kind of in a -- at a -- I'm grappling with that. So, and I have a very sincere desire to be consistent with practice. So I might be able to look at it for three in my motion. I don't want to haggle with or appear to not appreciate the work, nor do I want to turn this into some major yo-yo type thing because this is serious and I understand. And my focus, as well as everyone else's, is children and what's in the best interest of the children at this time. I don't feel nonrenewal is in the best interest, but I don't feel that we have enough stability and stable trend for me to feel comfortable with five years. So --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Cox, do you think you can help Ms. Barnes?

SUPT. COX: Could I say something about this goals conversation?

MS. BARNES: Yes.
SUPT. COX: Of course our goal is $100 \%$. Why are we -- I mean, I guess we put it $50 \%$ on math or something; is that right, Ms. Smith?

MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Science.
SUPT. COX: Science. Of course our goal is 100\%. But, you know, in setting goals, I mean, I don't want to come in here three years from now and say, "Well, y'all didn't make 100\%; you had three kids didn't make it." You know, our goal -- our No Child Left Behind goal was 100\%; it failed because the goal was 100\%. You know, we just -- I think when she set the goal it's something reasonable we could shoot for. That doesn't mean we're going to stop at $50 \%$. We're not just trying to win half our games, you know. We want to educate all the kids and we want all of them to be successful. So this goal thing, I mean, I'm having trouble figuring out why we're hung up on the goal.

MS. STACY SMITH: Because it wasn't about proficiency; it was about growth. It wasn't about $100 \%$ of our students were going to --

SUPT. COX: Well --
MS. STACY SMITH: -- be proficient; it was about

SUPT. COX: Yeah.
MS. STACY SMITH: -- whether $100 \%$ of our -about $100 \%$ of our students were going to grow. SUPT. COX: Well, they should. I agree. I agree.

MS. STACY SMITH: So that's where the conversation, I think, was -- that's where we were struggling.

SUPT. COX: Yeah. That's always been our goal, $100 \%$ of our kids to show growth. And that shouldn't be an unattainable goal.

MS. STACY SMITH: Right. Yeah, I think we're on the same --

SUPT. COX: So, I mean --
MS. STACY SMITH: I think we're on the same -SUPT. COX: -- I don't have a problem.

MS. STACY SMITH: -- same thought process there.
SUPT. COX: Yeah.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. BOyd.
MS. BOYD: Also speaking of precedent, in the past when schools were given the designation, most recently, as priority or academic distress you all did call those schools in to review what they were doing. So just keep in mind that that's something that you can do in the future as well. So they can
be called in at any time.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith. Ms. Smith. MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. CHRISTEL SMITH: I just want to add, I agree with Mr. Cox. My mindset of setting these goals I was tying it to an assessment and $I$ was using MAP projectory. But I don't want to leave here and y'all think that our children -- they are growing. But when you're looking at a projectory, this is a projectory that is set up through NWEA MAP programs. So it wasn't we were setting our own goal, like I said. So I just want y'all to know that.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional discussion before a motion? Motion?

MS. BARNES: Madam Chair, I move that we grant a three-year renewal of the Osceola STEM charter with consistent and continuous work among -- between the charter and our office here, understanding -- I know this is long -- understanding that as with any school they can be called in for review at any time. DR. SAUNDERS: Second.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Motion has been made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Saunders to approve the renewal of Osceola STEM Academy for three years with
expected collaboration. Any discussion?
MR. ROGERS: "Expected collaboration?"
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: They're a priority school, what's going to happen.

MR. ROGERS: Okay. Well, no, I'm just making sure because, I mean, so we're putting in the motion for them to go forward with the expected collaboration. And what if it's our fault they're not collaborating? Does that mean it's their fault because of our motion? I mean, that's why I'm just trying to understand; what if they don't like what we're saying or we don't like what they're saying, does that get them in trouble? That's all I'm trying to make sure of. That's --

MS. BOYD: Given that the expectation is already there under our guidelines for schools that are in priority status, perhaps one of you would consider making a friendly amendment to the motion to just add three-year renewal.

MR. ROGERS: And that's what -- because like -because if they're already in priority status anyway then they've got to be talking to us.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes?
MR. ROGERS: You see what I'm saying? So that's why I was just wondering before we muddy up the water
anymore. If it's just a three-year renewal, then they've got to talk to us because they're in priority status -- and I did just say "muddy up the water" on the internet, so --

MS. BARNES: That's not all that's -- given the considerations that have been discussed, and given the indulgence and the patience of this district, as well as the listening audience, I would like to amend my motion to renew or grant a three-year renewal to the Osceola STEM charter. DR. SAUNDERS: I second that. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Motion has been made and seconded -- made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Gotcher to approve the renewal. MR. LESTER: Dr. Saunders. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Sorry; what did I say? Whatever I said. Let's start again. Motion has been made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Saunders to approve renewal of the Osceola STEM Academy for three years.

DR. SAUNDERS: I think the motion is to amend. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Motion has been amended to approve. Is that right?

DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any discussion? All those
in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any opposed? Motion passes.

DR. SAUNDERS: You just passed the amendment. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Right.

DR. SAUNDERS: Right. Not the motion.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. It would be amended motion. The amendment passes. Get me out of this, Ms. Davis.

MS. DAVIS: Actually, it would just be the motion because the amendment has been incorporated into the motion. So the motion passes. It does.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: I'm going with my attorney.

If you'll indulge us another few minutes, we'll write a written response and read those to you.
(A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Lester.
MR. LESTER: I voted for the renewal. I believe the charter understands the Panel's concerns about the goals established and I feel comfortable with the three-year renewal.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Rogers.

MR. ROGERS: I voted for it. Although there were concerns about the goals as they're set and the ongoing academic challenges, I do believe the charter leadership is working towards helping their students improve both academically and socially.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders.
DR. SAUNDERS: I voted in favor, although I would like to see more rigorous goals.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. STACY SMITH: I voted for continuing with the existing charter and waivers to allow for some flexibility. I encourage the school to continue to work with School Improvement and the Charter Unit to align their goals.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher.
DR. GOTCHER: I voted to approve the three-year renewal. I support the three-year renewal. I support this conversion charter and their plans for the future. I further believe a three-year renewal positions them to work with School Improvement Unit, Charter Office, and district leadership towards a more -- towards a positive direction for all students.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: And Ms. Barnes. MS. BARNES: I voted in favor of a three-year
renewal because while I believe there is much work to be done $I$ also believe it would be detrimental to the educational process to terminate the charter at this time. I encourage the district to continue to respond to the needs of its student population. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. And good luck to you, Osceola, and hopefully the conversation will help you think about what those future goals might look like. And certainly know there's a lot of people here pulling for you and willing to collaborate to work on those.

Panel, what is your will regarding break or lunch? We have one left. And they are here?

DR. SAUNDERS: I'd recommend lunch.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Sorry, you're overruled. You want to take a quick break? Yes. Seven-minute break.

DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. Thanks.
(BREAK: 11:30-11:42 A.M.)
A-3: REQUEST FOR OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: JACKSONVILLE LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Scott, you're recognized for Action Item 3.

MR. SCOTT: Madam Chair, The Panel, I know I'm not my colleague Virginia Perry; she's challenged
with some physical ailments. However, my name is Freddy Scott; I'm with the ADE Charter Schools Office. And Jacksonville Lighthouse Public Charter School is here to present their request for renewal of their application. Ms. Lenisha Broadway -- excuse me -- the regional vice president of the organization is here to present on their behalf for a five-year term.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: If all representatives from the Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School would please stand and raise your right hand, and anyone speaking for or in opposition would additionally stand and raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY) CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. Ms. Broadway, let me just quickly restate to the audience that if you do come to the microphone that you please state your name and title into the microphone and that you continue to talk into the microphone for the livestreaming audience. If you get away from the microphone, they can't hear you. So if you'll get right to the microphone closely. Ms. Broadway,
you're recognized.
MS. BROADWAY: Good morning. I'm here representing Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School today. And just to give you a little information about who we are, we're a national nonprofit charter network that is dedicated to insuring a college education for a population of students who would otherwise face a future with limited opportunity. Lighthouse Academy sets out to distinguish itself by performing a family of schools that use an arts infused K-12 college prep program to generate excellent results without local funds.

Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School opened in 2009 to $344 \mathrm{~K}-6$ students that came from several different schools and home-schools and is one of the most diverse charter schools in Arkansas. Since the opening the schools have expanded and opened a middle school campus on the Little Rock Air Force Base and a high school. The current enrollment for all three campuses is 974 scholars.

I'm happy and pleased to have some members of our board here today: Mr. Roger Sundermeier and as well as Colonel William Brooks, who is present with us today.

The community we serve -- Jacksonville's
population is approximately 28,643. The median household income is approximately $\$ 40,720$. And we have -- 81\% of our JLCS scholars are first generation college students.

We have three campuses now: our lower academy, which is K-6; our College Preparatory Academy, which houses 7-12; and Flightline Upper Academy, which is located on the Little Rock Air Force Base, and we have grades 5-8.

So just a little bit about our campuses. Grades K-6, we have about 382 scholars. We are a Title 1 school-wide school with $78 \%$ free and reduced lunch. Our demographics, as you can see, 60\% -- around 60\% African American, around 26\% Caucasian, and about 10\% Hispanic, and our SPED population is almost 9\%, and our ELL population is 8 -- around $8 \%$.

At our Flightline Upper Academy we have grades 5-8 again and we have approximately 175 scholars, with $50 \%$ being military scholars. We are a Title 1 school-wide with $42 \%$ free and reduced lunch. Our demographics are about 38\% African American, 45\% Caucasian, about $10 \%$ Hispanic, and as you can see our SPED population is around $10 \%$, almost 11 , and we have 2\% ELL population.

Our College Preparatory Academy, where we have
grades 7-12, we have about 417 scholars. We are a Title 1 school-wide school with 61\% free and reduced lunch. Our demographics: around 58\% African American, 28\% Caucasian, and about 9\% Hispanic. Our population for special ed. is around 7\% and our ELL population 6\%, almost 7.

These are just some of the offerings at our campus. We try our best to be competitive with the local schools in what we offer. We do offer Spanish, and it goes down to our kinder scholars, as well as Chinese; Project Lead the Way; we have RTI in place; advisory; dual and concurrent enrollment; AP courses, we offer 13; we do have a jazz band and a marching band; we have theatrical productions, choir, and all of those other extracurricular. And I just want to highlight, you know, we do have a winning track team. We won the 2016 Boys 1A State Champs, without a track, so we're proud of that.

Just to talk about our educational model -- of course, it's made up of arts infusion. That's truly all over. You know, some of the things that we do, we do have a quarterly checklist that we require all of our schools to use, and within that checklist it has required arts infusion strategies that our schools must infuse. We have art specialists on
every campus and we do allow for our art specialists to push into classes to offer arts infusion within the content area. So our scholars do get daily exposure to master artists as well and works of art.

Standards-driven planning and instructional resources -- and this is the heart, of course, of our instructional program. We currently use Eureka math in K-8 and algebra I and algebra II and geometry. Our expeditionary learning is in grades 3-8 and core knowledge in grades $\mathrm{K}-2$. And we're really proud of our curriculum because we feel like we've chosen a curriculum that will really push the rigor of our scholars, and so one thing that's really focusing on in our ELA is closed reading of complex informational text. Core knowledge emphasizes foundational skills, shared reading instruction, guided reading, and readalouds. So we're really proud about that. And our math, with Eureka, Engage New York, as most people know it, it really, really focuses on heavy -- a heavy influence on real world problem-solving, conceptual understanding, mathematical justification, and mathematical fluency. And we just moved to fully implementing Engage New York at our high school level this year.

Another aspect of our school is the social
development, and so having a positive culture in our building is a major focus for all of our Lighthouse schools to help build the positive culture. LHA incorporates Habits of a Scholar, which we look at as our SHINE qualities. We also have town hall meetings and we also are really, really engaged in restorative practices at our schools now. We believe that the social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum. We believe there's a set of qualities that all children need in order to be successful through college and life. These qualities are included in our SHINE Character Education program. SHINE stands for self-discipline, humility, intelligence, nobility, and excellence.

Our town hall meetings are held twice a month and they focus on the Habits of a Scholar, the SHINE, colleges, and social and emotional development.

So I'll talk briefly about restorative practices, and I noticed several briefings or articles that -- where the state is really looking at moving towards being innovative in our disciplines. So we're proud to say that this year we fully moved to restorative practices in all of our schools. And so what it does, it allows individuals who may have committed harm to take full responsibility for their
behavior by addressing the individuals affected by the behavior; taking actions to repair the harm; and making necessary changes to avoid the behavior in the future. So restorative is about restitution, reconciliation, and responsibility. It's about mutually desired outcomes, focus on problem-solving, repairing the harm, and it's driven by relationships. So we're proud to say this year we currently have zero suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and last year we have 28. So in December, halfway through, we're looking at zero out-of-school suspensions.

So training, this was a costly training but we knew in order for us to really implement this we had to train our staff. Because a lot of it is a mindset about behaviors and dealing with student behaviors, so we knew that we had to put the time and effort and money into training our staff, as well as being able to train our parents. So our staff received training this summer from Restorative Practice. Parent nights were held before school started to discuss restorative practices. And we've had to have embedded and ongoing staff trainings.

So I wanted to share with you, because two of my principals want to share like examples of what this looks like in our schools. So I'm going to have them

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come up now briefly.
MS. ADRIANNE SMITH: Hello. My name is Adrianne Smith; I am the principal at our lower academy campus, which is $\mathrm{K}-6$. So with restorative practices we do restorative circles, similar to the high school, but with some of our younger scholars we also do Peace Path. And basically a Peace Path is a walk that scholars take when some type of conflict has arisen. So basically you have two scholars that have a problem and they have to settle it; they face each other and they take a walk. The first thing they do is they identify what the problem is and they discuss it. We encourage them to repeat what they hear from the other person so they understand the harm that has been done. The next step is to talk about how they feel, so each scholar talks about the way that the problem made them feel. And then the third step, they actually come up with problem-solving solutions and so the scholars come up with a solution of things they could've possibly done differently or things that they'll do in the future when something like this arises. The last step is they kind of make it right; they apologize to each other and plan their next steps. I've seen a lot of scholars, they're learning not to react to situations; they're learning
to respond, because we're making them build relationships and face the things that they're doing. So it's been really successful. A lot of scholars will come up to me and say, "You know, I have a problem, Mrs. Smith. Can I go on the Peace Path?" And so it's really working.

MR. FELTON: Good afternoon. I'm Will Felton; I'm the principal at CPA High School. In the high school we've put in restorative circles -- circles involve the victim and the offender -- with a teacher or leader or an outside community member, where they come together and they discuss what occurred, what damages were done, and how -- and come up with solutions on how to restore those relationships, and then to fix the issue. In high school it was really like hard for the older kids to understand that we're going to talk this through, but now they understand. They come to me and say, "We're going to need to have a circle; so-and-so is, you know, getting on my nerves." You know how high-schoolers are. But the other thing is we've had some really powerful ones with situations where a scholar would've been kicked out of school or suspended; we've brought in the families of both scholars; we've involved the local police. And we've had some really powerful circles

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where we came out with really solid solutions. And we are starting to see a huge decrease in issues that usually are, you know, associated with high school. MS. BROADWAY: So those are just a few things. And high school students are actually learning how to apologize to adults, which sometimes they don't like to show that humility, but we see more and more of that each day. So of course there are Tier 1, 2 and 3 interventions that are in place. What we asked the leaders to do before school started was to identify who are their Tier 3 coming back that they know are Tier 3 so we can go ahead and try to be as preventative as possible with putting some interventions in place. So they did do that and it's made a huge difference. Has it been easy, the onset? No, it was not. I mean, of course, you know, parents that are used to saying Consequence 1, 2 and 3 this happens, we've had some pushback from that. And just really trying to educate our parents as well as the teachers who we have to continue to say they get a fresh start every day; you know, they get a fresh start and that's what we really believe in. So it has not been an easy transition all the way, but now we're seeing it leveling off and seeing the results of really instituting restorative.

So now to get into our data and to look at -this is part of our goals for our previous -- our current charter. So our NWEA reading -- and this is looking at overall grades $\mathrm{K}-7$. So in 2014-15 school year, the $\mathrm{K}-4$ campus had a significant drop in NWEA growth in which we attribute to the change in the literacy curriculum that we chose. The school adopted a new curriculum that was aligned to Common Core; however, it did not meet the rigor of the Common Core standards. In 2015-16 is when we shifted and adopted Core Knowledge in grades $\mathrm{K}-2$ and Expeditionary in grades 3-8. And in grades $\mathrm{K}-3$ we saw an increase in growth for 2015-16 from that 14-15 school year.

NWEA math K-7 -- so the longitudinal data does not illustrate a positive trajectory across all of our schools at all grade levels. The lack of positive growth is related to teacher investment in NWEA, curriculum, and the transition to middle school. In 14-15 school year the $\mathrm{K}-4$ campus had a significant drop in NWEA growth in which we attribute to the change in mathematics curriculum. The school adopted a new curriculum that was aligned again with Common Core; however, it did not meet the rigor of the Common Core standards. And in 15-16 all

Lighthouse schools adopted Eureka math. The change in the curriculum can attribute to the most -- to most of the $20 \%$ increase growth in NWEA. In 16-17 school year all schools K-8 have implemented a Response to Intervention time within all their master schedules for mathematics and literacy.

Our ELA ACT Aspire for grades 3-5 -- this slide illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data for English Language Arts composite score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools with similar demographics for grades 3-5. As you can see, Jacksonville outperformed most of the schools in the area.

This slide illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data for English Language Arts composite score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools with similar demographics for grades 6-8. As you can see, JLCS outperformed all the schools in the area with similar demographics.

This slide here illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data for English Language Arts composite score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools in grades 9 and 10 with similar demographics. As you can see, JLCS outperformed all the schools in the area with similar demographics.

This slide illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data
mathematics score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools with similar demographics for grades 3-5. As you can see, Jacksonville outperformed most of the schools in the area with similar demographics.

This slide illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data mathematics score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools with similar demographics in grades 6-8. As you can see, JLCS outperformed most of the schools in the area with similar demographics.

This slide illustrates the 2016 ACT Aspire data mathematics score comparing JLCS to the surrounding schools with similar demographics for grades 6-9 -- I mean, 9 and 10. As you can see, JLCS outperformed most of the schools in the area with similar demographics.

We do understand that our scores are not where we would like them to be for the ACT Aspire, and in order to address the deficiencies for our students in reading and mathematics we have embedded a Response to Intervention time. Scholars are placed into groups based on their skill level, not grade level, and every teacher and administrator has an assigned Response to Intervention group. The focus of the group is to provide interventions in the area in which the scholars need focus.

So as we look at our college and career readiness, in June -- in May 2016, we held our first graduating class and we're proud to say that we had $100 \%$ in 2016 that graduated. Our college acceptance rate was $100 \%$ in 2016 , and the class of 2016 was offered $\$ 1,536,960$ and that was based on 59 scholars.

As I mentioned earlier, we do offer AP classes, concurrent credit courses, and our ACT averages are listed as well. And those two scholars that are in the bottom in that picture just recently scored a 30 on their ACT, so we're really proud of them. One is a junior, so we're really, really proud of their hard work.

Lastly, the class of 2016 was accepted to over 27 different colleges around the United States. And we also had several scholars to enlist into the military. So those are just a list of the colleges that our scholars were actually accepted to.

So I noticed that it was a remaining concern of waiver 7.03 of the annual report to the public, so I wanted to address that and just say that this waiver was intended to be in effect only our first year of existence because we didn't have the data to give a report for a previous year. So we are fully in compliance of that waiver, so I'm sorry for any
misunderstanding as it pertains to that waiver. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Scott, is there anyone to speak in opposition?

MR. SCOTT: No, ma'am.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Okay. Ms. Broadway, you have three board members -- a founding parent and two board members, excuse me, that have signed up to speak. If you want to, they can take your next five minutes or -- okay. And if you'll state your name and title please.

COL. BROOKS: Good morning. I'm Colonel William Brooks. I am the 19th Mission Support Group Commander in Little Rock Air Force Base. Ms. Broadway already introduced me as a board member. I would also like to indicate in my capacity as the Mission Support Group Commander I'm the principal liaison to all the local education authorities around Little Rock Air Force Base. But in further full disclosure I'll also indicate that I have three children attending the College Prep Academy, downtown Jacksonville, and I have one child attending Flightline Academy on base as well.

I'd like to just start off this morning by saying that Little Rock Air Force Base is very proud

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of its longstanding excellent relationship with the Jacksonville community and with the central Arkansas community in general. We see the establishment of the charter school as one of many in a long line of successes that the local community leaders have undertaken in support of the military families stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base. Our airmen and their families, like many other parents of children, are interested in trying to obtain the best educational opportunity of their children. For military families, we're often transitory in communities; that represents a unique challenge. The establishment and the presence of the charter school in Jacksonville provides an outstanding alternative choice for education for military families that move into the community. The charter school represents, among many other things, safe and modern learning facilities staffed by accredited faculty and teachers. They have a responsive curriculum that's tailored to meet the mobile demands of today's military children fundamentally. And the presence and availability of advanced placement courses and foreign language education is also critical -- of critical interest to military families as they move around.

The bottom line is that meeting the growing demand for choice in education is essential interest of parents across the country, and no less military families, as I mentioned before. We believe, obviously, that education strengthens our families and strengthens the opportunities that are afforded to military families. And, again, as we travel around the country going to different assignments, being able to make some critical choices for our families is very important. So thank you very much this morning.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. And thank you for your service.

COL. BROOKS: Thank you.
MS. SUNDERMEIER: Hi. I'm Roger Sundermeier, president of the school board currently but probably more important I'm a parent to two kids at Lighthouse. I have -- Emily is a junior this year and making college plans, and Ali is in 6 th grade. So one of the things that I want to talk about is I've had the opportunity -- this is my first time to sit through one of these, and today I had the opportunity to hear a couple of schools go through things. And what we're all focusing on and talking about is test scores, proficiency numbers. It's all
analytics. What I've heard from us today was something totally different that $I$ want us to focus on, is we're also achieving proficiency in people for life. I mean, we're preparing them for outside the classroom. It's not all about the book learning; it's about commonsense, it's how to deal with people and diffuse situations. And I think us focusing on the student as a whole, making them more well-rounded prepares them better in the long-run for life. I think our school fills in some gaps where sometimes maybe the home life may not. I mean, I think that's a critical part. The other part that is -- I'm an emotional guy. I talk on emotion. I'm not statistics. I'm a designer by nature, so my stuff is more on a gut feel. But another part of me was -- in a previous life I was a Chamber of Commerce board president and from an economic standpoint having this school in our community, what it did for us, where, you know, kids -- if they didn't feel like they were being -- getting the education -- the family didn't feel like they were getting the education their kids deserved in a traditional school in Jacksonville, they were looking for options. And from our perspective providing Lighthouse Academies to them gave us the opportunity to keep those families in our

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community and spending money and living in and investing in our community, going to church and everything. And so I felt it was very important for us to focus on that as well. And, you know, around town I hear, you know, people talk about our kids and they'll say, you know, "You can tell a Lighthouse kid in town because they just carry themselves differently." And I think that speaks volumes to the work that our staff and our administration does every day with them. And I know that we've got teachers who have left the schools for whatever reason that are wanting to come back in, get back in the fold because they -- once they got out they saw the value of how we did things and they want to be a part of that again. So like you, I am very hungry so I'm going to just wrap my comments up and thank you for your time. I appreciate being here today, and thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you.
All right. Panel, questions?
DR. SAUNDERS: I've got waivers, but --
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher.
DR. GOTCHER: Yes, I think I'll start. Ms.
Broadway, I was -- one of the things I looked at is the school's mission, and then further I looked at
the data supporting that. So I was impressed that there's a -- I think you have a goal of -- I think I wrote down 80\%. I think your first class all your students went to college and then now you have a goal of $80 \%$. And then further -- am I incorrect in that? MS. BROADWAY: No.

DR. GOTCHER: What is it?
MS. BROADWAY: No, it's 95.
DR. GOTCHER: 95. Well, let me see where I got that 80 .

MS. BROADWAY: No, not 80 .
DR. GOTCHER: Maybe I was capturing one year.
MS. BROADWAY: Oh, you're talking about the matriculation.

DR. GOTCHER: Matriculation, yes.
MS. BROADWAY: Matriculation. Because we've only had one class. And right now I think we're at $69 \%$ matriculation, so we want to kind of give us a path to grow that.

DR. GOTCHER: Great. And you're ahead of me and I appreciate that because I was --

MS. BROADWAY: I was like $80 \%$.
DR. GOTCHER: Yeah. And then further I look at the impact one year. You know, we have a goal of one year, looking at students one year after graduation
from high school. So did I read that $60 \%$ will be entering in their college the second year from data thus far, or is that a goal? Is that a goal or an actual -- this 60\% number.

MS. BROADWAY: I'm not -- I know it's not one of the goals about -- 60\%, I don't know.

DR. GOTCHER: And I should've captured it.
MS. BROADWAY: 60\%. So we have $95 \%$ over a fiveyear that will graduate from high school in four years and $95 \%$ of the seniors over a five-year will be accepted into college. So it's not 60 right there. None of the goals have 60.

DR. GOTCHER: Yes, go ahead. And I'll keep looking as well, Ms. Broadway. Sorry about the confusion. My point was to say that your data is following your mission and that was the encouragement. I was just trying to get some solid numbers there. But maybe if you want to address your alignment to your -- what's happening in college along with the mission statement.

DR. PETTY: Okay. My name is Dr. Barrette Petty; I'm the director of College Transitions at Jacksonville Lighthouse CPA and this is my third year in this position. I'm looking at our data. I'm a very numerical quantitative person, so I have my
buddy right here beside me.
DR. GOTCHER: It helps. Yes.
DR. PETTY: So my last graduating class of 2016 $100 \%$ of them were accepted into college, so all of them got accepted into a four-year institution. So out of that bunch $69 \%$ of them either went to college or went into the military. Our goal, as Ms. Broadway stated, for next school year, which is our matriculation rate for Class 2017 is $80 \%$. And then overall our Lighthouse network, as over the three other high schools, Indianapolis, the Bronx, and Gary, Indiana, the retention rate will be $60 \%$, which is over that four year period.

DR. GOTCHER: Wonderful. Okay. I was just trying to get the data aligned to your mission, which is -- as I said earlier, I was encouraged by that. So thanks for clearing that up.

DR. PETTY: No problem.
DR. GOTCHER: Sorry for the confusion, Ms. Broadway.

MS. BROADWAY: I see where you were at.
DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. BROADWAY: Yes.
DR. GOTCHER: All right. And let met -- why don't we come back; I've got some questions on math,
but I want to give that to Ms. Smith if she wants to explore that.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. STACY SMITH: Good afternoon. Okay. So really I was actually pleased to see the adjustments in curriculum -- I mean, I think that says a lot -and especially in the math curriculum. And so tell me more about the support and coaching that you're providing to your teachers in that area.

MS. BROADWAY: So just several things that we do just within our schools, and I'll be specific about what we're doing with the teachers. Of course, math has been an area that we struggle with with just getting teachers and retaining teachers. We lost two -- we've had two bad years of math. We lost two teachers last year within the school year, so that in itself will tell you that, you know, our scholars do suffer from that. But Lighthouse Academies, not only do we do -- we have weekly coaching grade level meetings, one-on-one coaches. We have directors of teacher leadership in place at our campuses, and they are in charge of solely coaching teachers where some days they go in and they spend an entire day in the classroom; some days they spend a period just scripting. So Engage New York has really helped us
because it's so scripted. We can see if teachers are going off the script, removing the rigor, and that's one thing that we really focused on this year is like seeing what pieces they're taking out -- and most times they're taking out that scaffolding and those things that are needed to get our scholars to think. So one thing we've required our administrators to do when they go into classes they must have that lesson in their hand so they can see if what they say they're teaching, teaching. Engage New York, of course -- initially, it offers sprints. Most of you that are familiar with that, it offers springs in most of the lessons where that's a fluency practice where kids -- even building on skills that kids can't do, like those foundational skills. We're having them even pull some of those sprints in 3 rd and 4 th grade that's division or whatever and having them practice in high school to try to build those foundational skills. But as for the coaching, our directors of teacher leaderships have coaching schedules where they coach teachers. Biweekly they do grade level meetings and then on the other week they do one-on-one coaching. And then on the other times they're expected to be in the classrooms with the curriculum in hand, making notes, and then going
back to know what they need to coach them on to get them to proficiency.

MS. STACY SMITH: Well, how many coaches do you have?

MS. BROADWAY: We have two at the high school, along with the leader, the school leader or principal. We expect them to have teachers under them as well to coach. At the $\mathrm{K}-6$ we did something different. We have a co-principal model. Previously, we had one principal and a director of teacher leadership. But we have two co-principals; Ms. Smith, who spoke earlier, she's the 3-6 principal, and we have a $\mathrm{K}-2$ principal. And so they coach their teachers. On base we have a principal and a director of teacher leadership, and so the principal and the director of teacher leadership split the teachers and they coach; they have that coaching schedule that I spoke of.

MS. STACY SMITH: So what type of support or training are you giving to your coaches as far as going back in and coaching your teachers?

MS. BROADWAY: So absolutely. So, you know, we do have network coaching trainings and that's really been the focus. All of our leaders do coaching videos that they have to submit, two monthly, where
they're coaching a teacher and we're providing feedback. We do use Leverage Leadership, that coaching model, the coaching of like what questions to ask to dig into the data. We have monthly principal meetings where we're working with principals on looking at the data and next steps, developing next steps. And our network does tier support visits where they come in, along with the school leaders and local leaders, and we do classroom observations. We look at coaching practices of the principals, we provide feedback, and next steps from that visit.

MS. STACY SMITH: Talk to me a little bit about -- I like the concept of all your students going into AP classes and I think that does definitely impact probably your overall exam score. But I do like the concept of all students taking that rigorous coursework. So talk to me about any goals or anything that you're setting around that area of increasing the exam scores. Because they're pretty -- they were pretty much ones across the board out of a 5-point scale. So talk to me a little bit about that.

MS. CROWDER: Hello. My name is Amanda Crowder;
I am the State Instructional and Compliance

Specialist at Lighthouse. It's a long title and I seem to forget it sometimes. So one of the things we looked at in looking at the AP scores is, as you stated, they're ones across the board. We have students taking classes that are virtual and so those exam scores seem to be lower. So one of the things that our high school principal and -- what we're doing is we have students that are -- if they're taking from Virtual Arkansas or from Arkansas Math and Science School and Arts, say AP calculus, we do have a teacher on campus that can help them and them going into the classrooms and asking for tutoring after school. Even while they're scheduled to be in that virtual course, their online course, they're in the classroom with that math teacher so they can ask those questions one-on-one. Our teachers have gone through AP training extensively. We hold AP boot camps in which the teachers bring in the students on Saturdays, after school, they go in during lunch to help and get extra help with AP. One of the things that we noticed is once a student fails an AP test in the class they're giving up; it's hard, I'm done, I can't do this anymore. They come to us and they want out of the AP courses. Dr. Petty, myself, Mr. Felton, we sit down with them all, "Look, no, let's
go back and let's talk to the teacher and let's have conferences." And we have a young man that failed an AP psych exam. He worked with the AP psych teacher and he's so excited. When $I$ went to the school and visited he runs up to me, "I got a B, I got a B in AP psych." So he's excited. So those are the things we're doing at this time.

MS. STACY SMITH: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher, did you get your math questions answered?

DR. GOTCHER: I think so for now.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders.
DR. SAUNDERS: And my questions are on waivers. The first one is, I know you have an existing waiver on 6-17-702 which deals with professional development. And I was curious why that one is needed or how it's used.

MS. BROADWAY: So one thing we do, we offer 160 hours of professional development that we require our staff to receive. One thing is that, you know, we may not -- we focus our PD on teacher needs. So, for instance, if they don't need technology we don't provide them with the technology; we'll provide them with more instructional-based PD. So we try to cater to the teacher needs. Of course, we're exceeding
what the state requires, but it just gives us that flexibility to be able to cater more to what teachers really need in order to grow.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. And I just want to make sure that your waivers are reflective of that. I'm not sure if that is the law that -- because that's a real short, brief law stating about the number of days on the professional development and that the school will provide it. It doesn't get into the particulars on the individual subjects. So is that the correct law to be asking for a waiver from? MS. BROADWAY: Oh, no. But I think the time of when we do it -- you know -- like we do a lot of ours before because they come back early, as well as we don't -- we do embed it within the school day; that's one thing. Some of ours is embedded within the school day where we offer those grade level meetings, content meetings after school. So ours is embedded throughout and not just like specifically sporadic on certain days as well. I don't know if that's answering more of your question about our PD.

DR. SAUNDERS: Well, I mean, I guess my question just essentially is what part of that law is the issue. And I may just not be understanding one of your current practices, so it's just that simple.

MS. BROADWAY: Okay. So our current practices is that our teachers have 205 or 10 day contracts, so they come back early. We provide professional development institutes within those periods. Some of our PD requirements are network initiatives and some are not. Some we make sure that we're hitting the state-based professional development requirements, as noted. We do try to really grow our teachers throughout. So where some schools may not get credit for professional development because it's within the school day, we do provide our teachers with that because there's coaching going -- ongoing coaching going on at all times. We also have twice a month where they either get content PD after school. We have built-in professional development days that are half days, some that are whole days. So that is what our professional development looks like. And I know that the PD, the professional development waiver that you're speaking of, this was a waiver that was put into place; it was during its existence in 2009. So, actually, just looking at like what it is, we know we provide over and beyond what is required. So that will be my response to your question.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MR. WALTER: Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Walter.
MR. WALTER: Tripp Walter, Staff Attorney, Arkansas Public School Resource Center. I think Ms. Broadway did a good job of giving kind of the historical background of that. I know that doesn't directly address Dr. Saunders' question, but that was I guess the waiver to be asked for at the time when you're talking about PD. I'm visiting with Ms. Davis and trying to figure out what it is, if anything, that they need. I would assume it's just for flexibility. Obviously, they wouldn't need a waiver to go above the amount required, but just perhaps some flexibility in the schedule in which things need to be taken for professional development. So I think we'll work on that to try and get to the heart of that. But we understand the issue.

DR. SAUNDERS: Gotcha. Yeah, thank you. Another one, just quickly, was on the board member presence at the board meetings, and with the changes from the 2015 session on Section D of that law. I guess my question is: why are you asking for a waiver from that?

MS. BROADWAY: So one is just for inclement weather purposes and another is that some of our board members do travel with their jobs but still
want to be able to connect during the board meeting via conference call. So we want to allow that if that happens. We don't have an issue with our board coming together, but we want to put it in place, like in those months where we had that inclement weather, we can still meet and handle business if we needed to.

DR. SAUNDERS: And I would pose that to Legal, and maybe you, Mr. Walter. But the section being waived is actually -- one of the sections being waived is actually the section that allows you to do that, on 6-13-619, part D. Right?

MR. WALTER: Yes. May I respond?
DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.
MR. WALTER: Yes. But that, as I read it, requires the -- of course, it's written "district" to adopt a policy but that can only be utilized three times a year. While certainly we don't want it to be excessive, for the flexibility reasons that Ms. Broadway asked that's why we framed that one that way.

DR. SAUNDERS: So it would basically be because it may occur more than three times a year?

MR. WALTER: Yes, sir.
DR. SAUNDERS: Is that --

MR. WALTER: Yes, sir, that's correct.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. That's all I have for now. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Other questions? Dr. Gotcher, any other --

DR. GOTCHER: No, ma'am, I don't think so. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith? MS. SMITH: I just want to make one comment. Your presentation was very good.

MS. BROADWAY: Thank you.
MS. STACY SMITH: And you were able to answer our questions. And I just want to tell you an area I struggled in, for future notes, and even just with Lighthouse as a broader spectrum, a lot of the application when $I$ was reading it it made references -- you know -- there was one time where it talked about Pine Bluff Lighthouse, you know, and then there was another time where it talks about four schools when there's really only three schools. And so it felt very cut-and-paste, you know, that we've got an application that lots of schools are using because we have lots of the same programs. And so I struggled sometimes with is this really what's happening right here at this school versus -- you know -- I know we have practices that are the same across the board. So that was just kind of a place I struggled. So for
in the future just kind of keep that in mind, please. MS. BROADWAY: So I just want to respond to your comment, especially about the four schools. So we did have four schools because we had four LEAs up until 2015. So where you saw that there were probably four schools because we had a K-4, a 5-8, then Flightline was 5-8, and then the high school which was 9-12. So then last year was our first year consolidating to three LEAs, so now we only have three schools because it was so hard to track. We had kids that were 7 th and 8 th in the high school building but they were under a different LEA, so we wanted to make our schools representative of what our actual buildings look like.

MS. STACY SMITH: And that makes sense. When you were reading it, it says we have four schools and then it names the three and then it says the fourth school is -- and so I was like, wait, is there four? And I had to go back and flip and look. And so it just kind of -- just -MS. BROADWAY: I understand. MS. STACY SMITH: But your presentation was nice.

MS. BROADWAY: I understand. Thank you. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders, did we get a
final answer on 6-17-702?
MS. DAVIS: Still reviewing it.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Oh, okay. Any other questions while we're waiting?

DR. SAUNDERS: Give me just a few minutes. I may.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes.
MS. BARNES: Thank you all for coming and thank you for the presentation. I don't know that I have a question; maybe a comment. I recognize the challenges, and like Ms. Smith I did have a concern about the average AP scores. I appreciate the work that you're doing toward that. And I looked at the average ACT scores. So I know you're working toward it, and to acknowledge you, sir, in the back -- I've forgotten your name, forgive me for that -- I'm a gut person too. But by nature of my position $I$ have to be a data person as well. So my comment is simply that what you're doing, and based on even just the fact that you're showing progress in comparison with the various schools around you -- I guess my concern is: what collaboration -- what dialogue is taking place? Because I think you're on to something there, because you're talking about the whole child; you're talking about everyday life; you're talking about not
only having the aptitude and the ability to be successful academically but to be able to make it every day. So I guess my questions have to do with are you in collaboration with those schools around you? Are they in collaboration with you? And then the other part is: how do you see or what do you see with respect to replicating the work that you're doing and insuring that as you encounter the additions and deletions of personnel, how are you building capacity? I think that's one of my major concerns, because you start off, you do a good job, you're very responsive, I think, as a whole. I believe the charter has been responsive to the needs of the additions, the deletions, where it's working, where it's not working. And so I think I'm just trying to ask -- I'm commenting that I appreciate the presentation. I appreciate the work that's going on with the kids. But I'm concerned, you know, how sometimes we have a high moment and then we have a dip. What do you see -- or where are you working with respect to being able to sustain the momentum and protect the integrity of the processes that you're putting in place?

DR. PETTY: I know I can speak on the collaboration, and after $I$ answer please tell me if I
answer your question thoroughly. We have a -- I collaborate with the Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District school counselor. I'm by trade a certified K-12 school counselor, so I attend all the sessions that the other school counselor attends. So when we have that mobility between students, we communicate about credit recovery, student credits, even behavior issues. Even SROs within Jacksonville Police Department have been useful in really helping to deal with the student holistically, especially those students that are mobile. So that's how we collaborate.

And then as far as the push-in -- and I think I'm hearing you correctly as far as the momentum -me being director -- I'm the director of College Transitions. We're forming partnerships as far as addressing the ACT scores. We have a partnership with the University of Arkansas, the Office of Diversity and Access, and where students go to the U of A campus for five days to attend the ACT camp. We also have them come down -- in fact, they're coming down today, or there already, to address scholarship essay writing, things of that sort. We have a real good partnership with them. So we also for students to do concurrent enrollment, sometimes when we get
the scores on the ACT -- we have a partnership with Pulaski Tech college because actually one of our English teachers is teaching Comp 1 and Comp 2 there, so we have a partnership with them where students can go and take the comp test for free on Pulaski Tech's campus to qualify for dual or concurrent credit. Did I answer your question thoroughly?

MS. BARNES: Yes, sir. It was a very thorough answer. I'm just trying to be sure -- actually, I was starting out with just a comment and an encouragement. And I think, yes, you've responded. I'd just encourage you all to make sure that you are continuing with collaborative efforts, reaching out to the districts because you are potentially going to be exchanging students back and forth. And my major focus is just the students' --

DR. PETTY: Right.
MS. BARNES: -- ability to stay abreast, to stay afloat, and to continue the momentum moving forward. Because you're obviously doing some great things with respect to children and self-esteem issues and meeting needs in a challenging time, particularly students -- the military child and then just everyday life anyway. So I was making a comment, but I did want to know what you're doing.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you. DR. SAUNDERS: I've got a few more. CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders. DR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. Okay. I noticed in looking at your report -- and this is a topic, you know, we could go on for many days about -- but you were very careful to specify that you were comparing to schools with similar -- that were similar to your own. And so just -- you know -- I tried to pull up and look at your performance, and what I did was I looked at -- trying to find a comparison, but I looked at comparison with North Little Rock, Pulaski County, and Little Rock School District, and, arguably, comparable to each one of those three. I mean, there's give-and-takes right there looking as a whole. And looking at it across the path, all grade levels, there to me was a great concern in grades 36. It was essentially in grades 3-6, you were almost the lowest, and that's comparing with the state average also of all those groups. Now from 7th grade on that was not the trend, but those early grades in comparison with those other districts -- I'll just give you a chance to respond, if you would. MS. BROADWAY: Okay. I can tell you that, you know, we have made some shifts in leadership. We did

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see some areas at the lower campus, at the $\mathrm{K}-6$ campus that we felt needed to be addressed and were starting to see a pattern; to Ms. Barnes' point, how do you keep that momentum. So we had to make some shifts. Ms. Smith actually came from the Flightline campus as the director of Teacher Leadership, had strong coaching, and we've seen a lot of results. So we wanted to make sure that we put a leader in place that could push teachers; some teachers had got complacent. Of course, we lost some teachers along the way this year once we made those shifts. But as my mom would say, some of them were a good loss; right? So we needed to make some changes to make sure that we're moving in the right direction because, you know, we really hold our academics high. At Jacksonville Lighthouse we've had some great performance. When we started seeing that dip in the trend -- and it's a trend of things happening or not happening within school leadership to make -- to continue to make the school move forward, so -DR. SAUNDERS: And when did the majority of those changes occur? When --in other words, when would we expect to see a result? MS. BROADWAY: Well, we made some leadership shifts right in August. So we have two new
principals in place.
DR. SAUNDERS: This year?
MS. BROADWAY: Uh-huh.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. BROADWAY: This year. So they're working really hard. Ms. Smith always tells me, "Ms. Broadway, we're working so hard," and I was like, "I know you are." But, you know, we've still got to push them. So we have also instituted local support visits. I know I talked about the tier support that our corporate comes down to do with us, but we do local supports. And I know Ms. Barnes asked about the collaboration. Because our campuses are feeder campuses, what we do is we allow leaders from different campuses -- we build teams and we go out each quarter to the different schools to do classroom observations, to look at data, to provide next steps, and build an action plan for each school in the interim so we can kind of really push and see changes. Like what is your RTI program looking like -- if we see that was an area of concerns, we put something in place, actions in place. So we've done a lot of things to try to shift what we've been doing to kind of catch things earlier and I think we've caught a lot of things. Some of the campuses is like
"uhhhh" when they lead -- when we lead a support visit. But, you know, what we want to do is get ahead of the game.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. And another one, following up on what Ms. Smith said earlier about, you know, in the application, making sure that it was unique to you. You know, looking at the new waivers, and I'm going to look at the bottom three and just kind of lump them together here -- and my question is -- and what they are, it's a duty-free lunch, planning time, and teaching load. And my question would be a combination of those three -- duty-free lunch, planning time, and teaching load -- in asking for those waivers, how would your students benefit?

MS. BROADWAY: How will my students benefit? One, especially with the planning, the planning time is really keeping them focused during the day, having them in the classes with the scholars more, and like really using that time before or after to really train teachers more versus pulling them out mid-day. Sometimes, you know, they get involved, they don't use their planning time as wisely and admin can't really man it the way they want to during their planning time every day because we don't require them to come to a grade-level meeting every day. But what
we've seen in our local support visits is a lot of times during their planning time they may leave to go get a drink and they're coming back, and when your lesson plans are not done -- you know -- so really having the time for leaders to take ownership of them within their planning time, giving us that flexibility. Because some teachers we have to have -- they have to have lesson plan clinics as a professional development or as a coach, where they sit down and they actually plan with them. If it's within the school day we all know things happen within the school day that can block us from getting into a classroom or sitting down with a teacher during their planning time. So we wanted to have the flexibility when we needed it to actually use that planning time.

DR. SAUNDERS: And the duty-free lunch?
MS. BROADWAY: The duty-free lunch -- so substitutes is a huge issue. We share subs in Jacksonville and we have three campuses. So if we have teachers out, sometimes we have to get our teachers to help cover during their normal time. And we just want to have the flexibility on some days. We still plan on them getting their 150 minutes a week; we just need the flexibility, if need be, to
help man that. Because that's where we see the most issue is when teachers are out. And we share teachers at different campuses, so our Spanish teacher may be the teacher that serves Flightline and the high school, so they're traveling from base and back. And so, you know, what we see is we have to get teachers to cover for that to give them that travel time and have to build that in and for them to be flexible -- and they have been; they've been great. But we're not always going to have those teachers that's going to always be great and not, you know, pushback on stepping up and helping.

And then you asked about the --
DR. SAUNDERS: Teaching load.
MS. BROADWAY: -- the teaching load.
DR. SAUNDERS: Maximum class size.
MS. BROADWAY: Uh-huh, class size. So we also have teachers that share, you know, like our specialist teachers, as we call them, like dance and things like that. So when we share those teachers amongst campuses, then their teaching load may be over by a few and then some kids can't -- we can't give them dance, even though, you know, as a -- on that wheel. And we want to be able not to slight our kids of the offerings, if possible. So that would
help us versus hiring a fulltime teacher for like 10 extra kids, $\$ 30,000$ versus paying a teacher if we need them to do that during their planning period or something of that nature. So those are the three that we asked for and the why, just the flexibility. DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. So what would be a maximum class size or would there be a limit?

MS. BROADWAY: Of course, yes. I mean, the maximum class size is -- we don't exceed 30 in the high school at all; I mean, 25, 27. But it depends on those specialist classes; when they get into those rotations they -- I mean, we haven't exceeded yet. We got to the point one time where we had to have an art teacher to teach art; we needed him to teach art but he already had maximized his 150 kids. So then that posed a problem for us to have to either -DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.

MS. BROADWAY: -- hire someone --
MR. WALTER: Madam Chair, if I may clarify, I think, as Dr. Saunders was saying then, it's not really a class size teaching waiver that's being sought; it's a teaching load waiver. And the maximum is going to be at the secondary level only, and only as needed -- and if needed, no more than 10 students above the 150.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Would that still be needed with the new legislation that allows for that?

MR. WALTER: Yes. And you'll also see as part of this request that -- well, I would think Ms. Davis would say the same thing -- then there's that 6-17812 piece, which is the new legislation about payment in there -- and that, we are not seeking a waiver from. If there's a situation where the teacher would have to teach more than the 150 a day that teacher would be compensated.

DR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Can one of you just clarify for me why is it needed, I guess, with the new legislation? What's the difference?

MS. DAVIS: Well, it is needed, the teaching load, because in our Standards of Accreditation is still says you can't have more than 150 students.

DR. SAUNDERS: So they're just going under the standards?

MS. DAVIS: Yes.
DR. SAUNDERS: They're not going under the law?
MS. DAVIS: Yes.
DR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: The law that applies is whether or not you compensate them for more than 150 a day, because the law says that they don't have to, but if
they do you have to compensate them. And they have agreed that they will compensate them.

MR. WALTER: Excuse me. Madam Chair, may I also clear up the outstanding issue on the PD for Dr. Saunders?

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: 6-17-702.
MR. WALTER: I visited with Ms. Davis and with Ms. Broadway, and it looks to me that what's happened is over time, as the statutes and rules changed, there's not the need for that now, but there was before. So we will offer to rescind that waiver. DR. GOTCHER: However, Ms. Broadway, if that waiver was rescinded does that affect your ability -I know you're exceeded the law; does that affect your ability to still provide that customized professional development?

MS. BROADWAY: I mean, I don't think it will hurt us if we didn't have that. DR. GOTCHER: I'm just looking at your end. MS. BROADWAY: Yeah. DR. GOTCHER: I'm not worried about it as much MS. BROADWAY: I think we're fine. DR. GOTCHER: -- as I'm looking at your end. MS. BROADWAY: I think we're fine.

DR. GOTCHER: Okay.
MS. BROADWAY: I think we'll be fine.
MR. WALTER: That was -- Dr. Gotcher, that was the subject of the discussion, one of the subjects of the discussion that Ms. Davis and I just had. And my understanding is that -- I'll look to both of them -that the 36 hours that's required, there's not a problem from Lighthouse's end in doing that per standards and per rules and per statute. And the above -- the amount that's above that, as they wouldn't have to be -- as they wouldn't, as Ms. Davis has indicated, not be required to comply with the statute, that would give them the needed flexibility in how they handle that, providing things through -PD within the network, et cetera.

DR. GOTCHER: Excellent.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any additional questions or comments?

Ms. Davis, any additional issues?
MS. DAVIS: Hold your horses -- no.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Good answer.
I do have a Mr. Mike Wilson that has signed up for public comment.

MR. WILSON: Madam Chairman, in view of my stomach --

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: We've starved you out? MR. WILSON: -- and the desire not to interfere with your business, I'd simply tell you that I and many of our local citizens, the community, the public strongly supports Lighthouse, has from its inception, and does still now. We would urge you to extend their charter as far as you can do it, but five years will do for right now. Thank you for letting me speak.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Thank you, sir.
Without further ado, I'll accept a motion.
MS. STACY SMITH: I make a motion to accept the renewal request as submitted.

MS. BARNES: Second.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: A motion has been made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Barnes to accept the renewal for five years for Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School. Any discussion?

All those in favor? (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Any opposed? Motion carries.

If you will give us a moment, we'll give you a written response -- an oral written response.
(A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)
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CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Lester.
MR. LESTER: I voted for the renewal. I have no concerns.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Mr. Rogers.
MR. ROGERS: I voted for. I don't have any concerns at this time.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Saunders.
DR. SAUNDERS: I voted for it. I look forward to improvements in the elementary.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Smith.
MS. STACY SMITH: No concerns at this time. The charter seems to be in tune to areas of concerns and has taken steps to address weak areas.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher.
DR. GOTCHER: I voted for the renewal. I have no concerns that would cause me to support anything less than this request offers; however, I would encourage the institution to continue recruitment and retention efforts for quality teachers in the classroom.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Ms. Barnes.
MS. BARNES: I voted in favor of the renewal. I have no concerns at this time and believe the charter is demonstrating successful implementation and meeting individual needs in a responsive manner.

CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Congratulations. And the next step is to take this before the State Board for consideration in January, and we wish you a very Happy Holiday.

As I've said to the other charter schools that came before us the last two days, your voice is very important in our state in the development of our state accountability system, so I hope that you will continue to follow all of our opportunities through ESSA to provide feedback. Any school that especially is utilizing waivers especially has a unique perspective that is important for us to consider, not only as we develop a state accountability system for right now, but as we think about one for future years out. We want to make sure that we've been very thoughtful in insuring that we have student-focused education across our state.

So thank you so much for today.
Are there any other issues before the Panel today? Then I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

DR. GOTCHER: So moved.
DR. SAUNDERS: Second.
CHAIRPERSON COFFMAN: Dr. Gotcher and Dr. Saunders, the second. All those in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

## Sharon Hill Court Reporting




C E R T I FICATE

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STATE OF ARKANSAS )
    ) ss.
COUNTY OF SALINE )
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I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas State Department of Education, Charter Authorizing Panel, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on December 14, 2016, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that $I$ have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: December 30, 2016.

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
Certified Court Reporter Certificate No. 670

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