In The Matter Of:

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 8, 2020

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ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OCTOBER 8, 2020 10:00 A.M.

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. CHARISSE DEAN, Chairman

MS. OUIDA NEWTON

DR. FITZGERALD HILL

MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE

DR. SARAH MOORE

MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS

MS. ADRIENNE WOODS

MR. STEVE SUTTON

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

MR. JOHNNY KEY, Secretary of Education

MR. JOEL LOOKADOO, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

DESE LEGAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel MS. LORI FRENO

MS. COURTNEY SALAS-FORD Attorney MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT Attorney
MS. AMY DOUGLAS PLSB Attorney

PLSB Attorney

LOCATION:

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION - Auditorium #4 Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72201

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II. RESOLUTIONS

ARKANSAS SAFE SCHOOLS RESOLUTION AND GOVERNOR'S

4 PROCLAMATION RE: BULLYING

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Our first item on the agenda are our resolutions. The very first one is the Arkansas Safe Schools Week.

Okay, one moment.

DR. CHERYL MAY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Key, Distinguished Members of the Board, thank you so much for the privilege to before -- to be before you today. We're going to talk -- I'm going to ask you to support not only a resolution focusing on Arkansas Safe Schools Week, but to also present you with a proclamation from the Governor concerning bullying.

Speaking of the Governor, I think everybody in here knows that he is a true champion of school safety, and I want to personally thank him for his commitment and dedication to school safety. I also want to thank the members of the Safe Schools Committee, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's committee. I also want to thank the staff at the Arkansas Center for School Safety and all of our superintendents and administrators and staff for everything that they do to make our schools

safe.

SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK RESOLUTION

DR. MAY: So let me read the resolution to you:

WHEREAS, More than 49 -- more than Four Thousand

Seven Hundred Ninety Thousand [sic] students attend

public schools in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, A safe and secure environment enhances student learning; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 69,603 administrators, faculty, and staff at Arkansas' public schools are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, More than 405 school resource officers assist in ensuring students remain safe at public schools; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Elementary and
Secondary Education, Arkansas Center for School
Safety, and Arkansas Safe Schools Association have
partnered together to provide school safety resources
and promote a safe education environment; and

WHEREAS, The Safe Schools Committee is charged with developing model policies and procedures that may ensure a safe and productive learning environment of students and school employees, for recommending to the State Board of Education any necessary rules and

regulations for ensuring a safe school environment, 1 and for recommending to the House Committee an 2 education -- on Education and the Senate Committee on 3 Education any necessary legislation for ensuring a 4 safe school environment; and 5 WHEREAS, Local and state law enforcement 6 7 agencies and organizations provide support to school districts; 8 9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 10 We, the members of the Arkansas State Board of Education, recognize the week of October 17 through 11 12 23, 2020, as Arkansas State [sic] School Week. GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RE: BULLYING 13 DR. MAY: I'd also like to take this moment to 14 15 read the proclamation from the Governor concerning 16 bullying. Bullying is obviously very much on everybody's mind and is a critical element to any 17 school safety strategy. So, according to the 18 Governor's proclamation: 19 TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS: 20 21 WHEREAS, Bullying is physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional harm or intimidation intentioned --22 23 intentionally directed at a person or group of 24 people; and 25 WHEREAS, Bullying occurs in neighborhoods,

playgrounds, schools, and through technology; and 1 WHEREAS, Cyberbullying can occur through text 2 3 messages, rumors sent via email or posted on social networking sites and embarrassing pictures, videos, 4 websites or fake -- and -- or fake profiles; and 5 WHEREAS, Various researchers have concluded that 6 7 bullying is the most common form of violence, affecting millions of Arkansas -- American children 8 and adolescents with or without disabilities; and 9 10 WHEREAS, Targets of bullying are more likely to acquire physical, emotional, and learning problems, 11 12 and students who are repeatedly bullied often fear 13 activities such as riding the bus, going to school, and attending community events; and 14 15 WHEREAS, Children who witness bullying often 16 feel less secure, more fearful and intimidated; NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of 17 18 the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority invested in me in the laws of the State of Arkansas, 19 20 do hereby proclaim October 2020, as 21 NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH IN ARKANSAS 22 across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens 23 to be engaged in a variety of awareness and prevention activities designed to make our 24 25 communities safer and kinder for all children,

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1	adolescents, and adults.
2	IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
3	hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of
4	Arkansas to be affixed this 2nd day of October, in
5	the year of our Lord 2020.
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. May. We
7	appreciate that.
8	DR. MAY: Thank you.
9	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I don't know if we're going to
10	do a photo-op or not?
11	Okay.
12	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: A group photo with Dr.
13	May was taken.)
14	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Appreciate the Governor and
15	those who have worked on this resolution and just
16	understanding the importance of making sure that our
17	children are safe in learning environments. Thank
18	you. Thank you, Dr. May.
19	Okay. Next item
20	SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, if I may, I did ask
21	Courtney to since she's overseeing our overall
22	effort in the Department on school safety, if she
23	could give you a brief update.
24	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.
25	MS. SALAS-FORD: Thank you, Madam Chair,

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Secretary Key, Members of the Board. Courtney SalasFord for the Department. And, yes, I just want to
echo all of the thoughts and comments made by Dr.
Cheryl May and how much we appreciate our continued
partnership with the Safe Schools Center and the work
of the Safe Schools Committee following along after
the Governor's Safe Schools Commission and
implementing those recommendations and working to
ensure that our students and schools are a safe
environment for them.

I'd also like to, with your permission, introduce Ms. Suzanne Jones. She recently has joined me in taking on the role of supporting this work and leading the school safety efforts. And so I believe in the next few months and year to come you will be seeing a lot of us as we bring to you, you know, more information about what the committee is doing, the legislation recommendations, and rule recommendations that are being suggested and implemented and the resources that Suzanne, in particular, will be working with the Safe Schools Center to bring to school districts and making sure that we are carrying out the vision and the mission and the goals of the resolution and the proclamation in keeping students safe.

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1	So I just want to say thank you and let you all
2	know about Suzanne.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.
4	MS. SALAS-FORD: Thank you.
5	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any other changes to
6	the agenda?
7	SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, this isn't a change
8	to the agenda. Just to let y'all know that the
9	Governor has a cabinet meeting this afternoon at
10	2:30. I know we have a short agenda, but if the
11	meeting goes beyond a little after 2:00 I'll be
12	stepping out and Dr. Pfeffer will be stepping in to
13	finish out the meeting.
14	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.
15	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: A motion and vote was
16	taken on the Consent Agenda, which may be viewed on
17	the DESE website.)
18	SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, we do need the
19	Board to vote to adopt that resolution that Dr. May
20	presented.
21	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.
22	Do I have a motion to vote for approving the
23	resolution?
24	MS. NEWTON: So moved.
25	MS. WOODS: Second.

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1	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve by
2	Ms. Newton, seconded by Ms. Woods.
3	All in favor say "aye."
4	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
5	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
6	Seeing none, motion passes.
7	Thank you, Mr. Key.
8	Okay. Let's get down to our Action Agenda.
9	V. ACTION AGENDA A
10	V-1: STATE BOARD HEARING OF REVOCATION OF LICENSE - LA 20-08
11	STEVEN BARNETT
12	CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Ms. Lori Freno, if
13	you would State Board Hearing of Revocation of
14	License, Steven Barnett.
15	MS. FRENO: Thank you, Ms. Dean. Lori Freno
16	with the Department of Education.
17	I would like to read for the Board the
18	procedures for the hearing that will be before you
19	today. This is the matter of Mr. Steve Barnett.
20	He's seeking a waiver of a disqualifying offense.
21	Mr. Barnett is here, as well as is Amy Douglas who
22	will be representing the Agency in this matter.
23	Each party will have the opportunity to present
24	an opening statement of no longer than 5 minutes,
25	beginning with the representative from the Division.

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The Chairperson of the State Board may for good cause shown allow either party additional time. Each party will provide -- be provided 15 minutes to present their cases, beginning with the representative for the Division. And, again, the Chair may afford additional time at her discretion.

Every witness giving oral testimony will need to be sworn in by the Chair, and there can be direct examination, cross examination, and questioning by the Board at any time during the hearing. Division shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the -- that cause for the proposed licensure action exists. After both parties have presented their cases the State Board may allow each party to present rebuttal testimony, and each party will then be given 5 minutes for a closing argument, ending with the Division's representative. And, of course, the parties do not have to take up all this time; that is just the guideline. And, again, you know, there is an opportunity for additional time if deemed appropriate by the Chair of the Board.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Freno.

Let me swear in everyone that plans on giving testimony. If you would raise your right hand -- do

	12
1	you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about
2	to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and
3	nothing but the truth?
4	MR. BARNETT: Yes.
5	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. Go ahead, Ms.
6	Douglas.
7	OPENING STATEMENT BY PLSB
8	MS. DOUGLAS: Amy Douglas for the Division. I
9	am going to waive my opening statement.
10	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.
11	Mr. Barnett, good morning. Thank you for
12	joining us.
13	OPENING STATEMENT BY THE EDUCATOR
14	MR. BARNETT: Good morning. Yes, back in 2009,
15	I did I got charged with a Conspiracy to Defraud
16	the Government through the first-time homebuyer. So
17	a childhood friend of mine contacted me and asked me
18	did I know anything about it, and I told him no, I
19	didn't know. We was entering
20	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Barnett, would you move
21	closer to the mic and lift it up so we can
22	MR. BARNETT: Okay.
23	CHAIRMAN DEAN: pick you up on Zoom, as well
24	
25	MR. BARNETT: Okay.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- so we can hear you better.

Thank you.

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MR. BARNETT: Yes. Back in 2009, I got charged with the first-time home buyer loan Conspiracy to Defraud the Government with respect to claims. childhood friend of mine contacted me and asked me did I know anything about it, and I told him, "No, I don't know." He said, "Well, Google it and see what you think about it." So I Googled it and I seen that it was saying that you have to purchase a home, that some people would be audited and some wouldn't. he said, "Well, I think I'm going to try it, man. This is my last [inaudible]; I ain't really got no money. You know, I'm going to turn my name in." So after going back and forth I eventually, you know, considered doing it too. So once I did that, I took me and his name and put it in a mailbox, you know, to the people that were doing it. So once that happened, the IRS started an investigation; so they contacted just the people who did it. So when the lady contacted me from the IRS, I went and talked to her and I told her what I did. So she said, "Well, Mr. Barnett," she said, "I see you're not a big fish in this pond, but based on your testimony that you took some names over and put them in a mailbox I have

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to send your name in to Washington, D.C." She said,
"So just go on with your life." And a couple of
years later, I got indicted. So she just said it was
based upon, you know, the testimony that I gave that
I took the names over there, so it was like I
participated in the scheme.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Barnett.
Ms. Douglas.

PLSB'S CASE

MS. DOUGLAS: So as Mr. Barnett said, so, in 2014, he pled guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the Government. In 2014, Mr. Barnett was found guilty of Conspiracy to Defraud the Government. He completed a three-year federal probation. In 2018, he was denied a provisional professional teaching license. A letter was sent to the school -- I believe it was KIPP Delta at the time -- as well as the Educator because of this disqualifying offense. Somehow, through the Division that information did not get uploaded into the Arkansas Education Licensure System. Mr. Barnett continued to work. In 2020, he comes up for a background check. It is determined he was originally cleared, and then it is later determined, a few days later, that, wait a minute, this is equivalent to a disqualifying offense that we

1	have under 6-17-410, number 26, which is Theft of
2	Services. He was then sent a denial letter.
3	I believe you received in your packet his
4	sentencing order. You have his admission that he was
5	indicted and his involvement in that particular
6	ordeal. We have sent him a denial letter. He's here
7	asking for a waiver. The Board has the options to,
8	when considering a waiver, to consider the
9	circumstances, the age at which the crime or incident
10	was committed, the circumstances surrounding the
11	crime or incident, the length of time since the
12	crime, subsequent work history, employment
13	references, character references, or any other
14	evidence the applicant demonstrates.
15	So it is our position that it is completely up
16	to you whether you want to grant Mr. Barnett's
17	waiver.
18	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Douglas.
19	Mr. Barnett, did you have anything you wanted to
20	add?
21	MR. BARNETT: Yes, ma'am.
22	EDUCATOR'S CASE
23	MR. BARNETT: I'd just like to thank the Board
24	for allowing me the opportunity
25	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mic. If you can get as close as

1	possible.
2	MR. BARNETT: Okay. Yes, I would just like to
3	thank the Board for allowing me this opportunity to
4	be here. I made a mistake in the past that I'm not
5	proud of. I'm looking to put it behind me and move
6	forward with my life, doing what I love to do
7	that's teach and coach. It is my hope that the Board
8	will grant me this waiver to allow me to continue to
9	support my kids and support aspiring youth in my
10	local community.
11	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Barnett.
12	Ms. Douglas.
13	MS. DOUGLAS: I have nothing further.
14	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.
15	All right, Board. We have heard Ms. Douglas
16	from the Department of Education and we've heard Mr.
17	Barnett's story and the details. Do we have any
18	questions or comments? I'll start with Mr. Sutton.
19	MR. SUTTON: Do I have any questions? No.
20	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. Woods.
21	MS. WOODS: I do. Mr. Barnett, have you been
22	teaching
23	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Woods turned on her
24	microphone.)
25	MS. WOODS: I'm sorry. Have you been teaching

	1,
1	as a non-licensed teacher
2	MR. BARNETT: Yes.
3	MS. WOODS: in the last few years? Okay.
4	And then, as it relates to the crime, did you
5	actually benefit and take the money or were you just
6	a conspirator in the process?
7	MR. BARNETT: I got the \$7,500 and paid it back.
8	MS. WOODS: Okay. That's it for me.
9	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Is that okay. Ms. Moore?
10	Ms. Chambers? Ms. Newton?
11	MS. NEWTON: A question for Ms. Douglas. Does
12	the Department have a recommendation?
13	MS. DOUGLAS: The Department has already deemed
14	him disqualified. But, so other than that, we do not
15	have a further recommendation.
16	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
17	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge? Dr. Hill?
18	Okay. Do we have any further discussion?
19	All right. With that oh, I'm sorry.
20	DR. HILL: I didn't hear how much you said that
21	was. I didn't hear it.
22	MR. BARNETT: The first-time home loan buy was
23	\$7,000 it was between \$7,000 to \$7,500.
24	DR. HILL: Okay. All right.
25	CHAIRMAN DEAN: And you said you paid it back?

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1	MR. BARNETT: Yes, ma'am, I paid it back in
2	full. Yes.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Lookadoo, I'm sorry,
4	I didn't mean to overlook you.
5	MR. LOOKADOO: No questions.
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: No, okay. With that, then I'm
7	ready for a motion.
8	MS. CHAMBERS: May I ask a question on process
9	
10	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.
11	MS. CHAMBERS: just to be clear on "shall"
12	and "will" and what our options are? Could you
13	remind us of that, please?
14	MS. DOUGLAS: So the statute says you "shall"
15	revoke or non-renew a license. But it also says that
16	if an educator comes requesting a waiver that you
17	consider those circumstances, and then it's up to you
18	whether you want to grant the waiver or if you want
19	to grant the waiver with stipulations or deny the
20	waiver.
21	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions,
22	discussion?
23	We're ready for a motion.
24	DR. HILL: I move we grant the waiver.
25	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I have a motion to grant

	19
1	the waiver by Dr. Hill.
2	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.
4	All in favor?
5	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
7	Seeing none, the motion passes.
8	Congratulations, Mr. Barnett.
9	MS. DOUGLAS: I will prepare an order and have
10	this entered into ALS.
11	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms.
12	Douglas.
13	DR. HILL: I do have a comment.
14	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, go ahead.
15	DR. HILL: Mr. Barnett, I appreciate you being
16	in the teaching profession and how valuable you are
17	to the schools, for African American males to be in
18	the classroom. It's very, very important. And if I
19	can assist you in any way and we all make
20	mistakes; I'm only sitting here because of the grace
21	of God you know, and that's grace not made to come
22	to you, it's made to go through you. So I hope you
23	understand this and recruit other men to come and do.
24	Because of the crisis that we see out in our schools
25	I want you to be involved in being a remedy you've

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1	heard all the violence and things going on that
2	you take this as an opportunity to step up and really
3	get people in the game to help you. Okay?
4	MR. BARNETT: All right. Thank you.
5	DR. HILL: Yes, sir.
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Barnett.
7	MR. SUTTON: Amen to that, Dr. Hill.
8	V-2: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL DECISION TO
9	APPROVE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR ARKANSAS VIRTUAL ACADEMY
10	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Moving on to Item Number
11	2, Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel
12	Decision to Approve Amendment Request for Arkansas
13	Virtual Academy. That's Ms. Tracy Webb.
14	MS. WEBB: Good morning. Tracy Webb, Charter
15	Office.
16	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.
17	MS. WEBB: The next item is regarding the
18	amendment request for Arkansas Virtual Academy.
19	[cough] Excuse me. In September, the Charter
20	Authorizing Panel approved an amendment request for
21	Arkansas Virtual Academy to increase their enrollment
22	cap from 4,000 to 5,500. By a unanimous vote, the
23	Panel voted to approve the request. The State Board
24	has the option to review the amendment request and
25	conduct a hearing at the next State Board meeting

	21
1	regarding the amendment request. And Ms. Amy
2	Johnson, the superintendent, is on the Zoom if you
3	have any questions.
4	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome, Ms. Johnson.
5	Okay. Do we have any questions or comments?
6	We'll start with Dr. Hill.
7	DR. HILL: No, I don't.
8	CHAIRMAN DEAN: No. Ms. McFetridge? Ms.
9	Newton? Ms. Chambers? Ms. Moore?
10	DR. MOORE: Didn't we already approve an
11	enrollment cap this year?
12	SUPT. JOHNSON: Yes. I'm hoping to not become a
13	permanent fixture in your meetings. But we have been
14	capped at 4,000 and we have just over 100 students on
15	our wait-list and have had those students wait-listed
16	since August 30th. So we met the original increase
17	of 1,000, which you all heard earlier in the fall,
18	very quickly much more quickly than we expected.
19	And so we do have a wait-list, with several
20	applications in the cue as well.
21	DR. MOORE: Thank you. As far as teacher
22	capacity goes, are you all prepared to take on
23	additional students?
24	SUPT. JOHNSON: Yes. So we're fully staffed
25	right now and we have a plan to continue to staff in

batches basically of 500 students. So we have a plan to -- we already have job postings up and are already vetting candidates for any potential influx of students and we have a plan to step out those -- that hiring process as we see enrollments come in.

DR. MOORE: Will these students -- if your cap was granted, would these students be able to start in the middle of the semester, right now, or do you onboard at semester?

SUPT. JOHNSON: Yes, so our plan is to onboard students well through the month of November. Once we get to that point, as you all are well aware, if we're going to be granting a grade we want to make sure that we have that student's mastery in mind.

And so we start to narrow enrollments then, and then open up again in January at the semester, but we do have plans in place to do a rolling on-boarding. We have some advisors and staff that keep an eye on that new student influx and do orientations and [audio distortion].

DR. MOORE: Okay. Well, I guess looking at your -- hearing you have that 100% increase, do y'all expect a big -- I mean why are you asking for 1500 when you just have 100 right now, if that's --

SUPT. JOHNSON: So the real reason we're asking

for that is for some runway, you know, when we can't really predict what the virus is going to do, what virtual options are going to do with longevity; just simply for the fact of continually reappearing to the Charter Panel and in front of you all, to be able to have some of that cushion so that we can be available, especially in the need of, you know, smaller school districts or large populations of students if the virus numbers do increase or we have shutdowns or longer-term quarantines where we might have a larger bulk of students that would need to come to us.

DR. MOORE: Okay. I know it's very challenging for all of us in this time and I know that -- I'm certain y'all are facing challenges as you onboard more students. So I am a little hesitant for us to keep going, but I understand this is an option that parents want.

For the Department, how long is this being requested for? I guess when is their next -- when are they up for renewal again?

MS. WEBB: I believe it's being requested through their renewal, and I do not have that information with me.

Ms. Johnson, do you know when you're up for

1	renewal?

just renewed last December. And I know that -- I wanted to offer this as well -- I know, you know, consideration of our academic progress for our students is always a top concern for us and for the Charter Panel, and for you all as a board as well. When we appeared in front of the State Board last January for our renewal, it was requested of us to appear annually to report on that student growth -- and we will definitely be doing that, you know, each year to also provide not only updates in enrollment but also those updates for academic performance annually.

DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. That makes me feel better.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. Woods? Mr. Sutton?

MR. SUTTON: Where's the home base? It's in

Little Rock? Okay.

MS. WEBB: Their office is in Little Rock.

SUPT. JOHNSON: Little Rock. Yeah, our office is in Little Rock.

MR. SUTTON: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Lookadoo?

MR. LOOKADOO: Just similar to that teacher

1	capacity question, what is the average number of
2	students that teachers have on their roster,
3	elementary and secondary?
4	SUPT. JOHNSON: So we have a 60-to-1 ratio in
5	the elementary. We have a 47-to-1 ratio in the
6	middle school. We lowered that ratio just in the
7	last few years just because of that transition
8	period. If you've had much exposure with middle
9	school, you know that's a tough time; they're not
10	really elementary, they're not really high school.
11	So we found some success in lowering that. And then
12	our high school ratios are 150-to-1.
13	MR. LOOKADOO: So you said 60 for elementary; is
14	that right?
15	SUPT. JOHNSON: Yes.
16	MR. LOOKADOO: Okay.
17	SUPT. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.
18	MR. LOOKADOO: All right. Thanks.
19	MR. SUTTON: Well, that bodes another question.
20	Does the State have limits on student/teacher ratios
21	for on virtual?
22	MS. WEBB: They do not for a virtual totally
23	virtual program. For in-class that would be 150
24	for grades 5-8 would be the teacher load limit. Then
25	for elementary classrooms, of course, there is a

limit of -- kindergarten is 20-to-1, 1st through 3rd 1 is 25-to-1, and then 4th through 6th is 28-to-1. But 2 3 in all-virtual programs those do not apply. MR. SUTTON: Are you considering such limits? 4 MS. WEBB: I think there's some discussion about 5 just limits in general, but at this point I'm not 6 7 sure. 8 MR. SUTTON: Well, okay. Thank you. 9 SECRETARY KEY: If I may, Mr. Sutton, that is a 10 question that, as you can imagine, is getting bandied about quite a bit right now and a topic regarding --11 12 because of the nature of this school year, the end of 13 last school year, and so many districts having virtual options. So it is part of the broader 14 15 conversation of, you know, what's -- what limits may or may not need to exist. So it's -- I'm sure that 16 17 either through rules changes in the future -- you 18 know, you will all see that if those changes are made. So I expect we'll be talking about it quite a 19 20 bit more in months to come. 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do you have any further 22 questions or comments or discussion? 23 With that, I'm looking for a motion to either

I move to not review.

review or not to review.

MS. CHAMBERS:

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1	CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to not review
2	by Ms. Chambers.
3	MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.
4	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.
5	All in favor say "aye."
6	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
7	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
8	Seeing none, the motion passes.
9	V-3: CONSIDERATION OF ONE-YEAR STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION
10	WAIVER REQUEST - BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT
11	CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Then we have Bryant
12	School District.
13	MS. WEBB: The Bryant School District is
14	requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation
15	waiver for Library/Media Specialist for the 2020-21
16	school year. On August 3rd, they had a Library/Media
17	Specialist to resign. They would like to share a
18	Library/Media Specialist with another building in the
19	district and, therefore, they would need a waiver for
20	the ratio to be able to share that Library/Media
21	Specialist. We do have Ms. Karen Dr. Karen
22	Walters, Superintendent of Bryant, and Jeremy
23	Lasiter, the district attorney.
24	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome, Ms. Walters and Mr.
25	Lasiter.

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1	Do we have
2	MS. WEBB: They're on the Zoom.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, thank you.
4	Welcome. Thank you.
5	Dr. Hill, we'll start with you questions?
6	DR. HILL: I don't have any.
7	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge?
8	MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
9	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.
10	MS. McFETRIDGE: I did not see in our packet
11	that the board your school board approved this.
12	Can you speak to that?
13	MS. WEBB: Board approval is not needed for the
14	one-year Standards for Accreditation waivers, only
15	for 1240 waivers.
16	MS. McFETRIDGE: I'm sorry; can you say that
17	again?
18	MS. WEBB: Board approval is not needed for the
19	one-year Standards for Accreditation waivers, only
20	for 1240 waivers.
21	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.
22	SUPT. WALTERS: Madam Chair, if I could add, our
23	board did not take action on this, but this was
24	discussed at our board meeting and they are aware of
25	our request.

29 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Walters. 1 Ms. Newton? 2 3 MS. NEWTON: Dr. Walters, the person that you have chosen to share both libraries, is she going to 4 have a para? I saw that you're going to provide a 5 para in the one where they left. Is she going to 6 7 have a para in both buildings? SUPT. WALTERS: So, Ms. Newton, the full-time 8 9 building that she currently is assigned to, they had 10 two Library/Media Specialists there. We have a fulltime para in the building where we have the opening 11 12 right now. So the Library/Media Specialist from the 13 high school is going over once a week to meet with the para that is there to go over I guess you might 14 15 say lessons for the week. Since it is a middle 16 school we are not -- we are not scheduling classes to 17 go to the library as we do in elementary. And 18 actually during this time we're not even doing that in elementary, with the pandemic. So she is being a 19 20 support to teachers but, like I said, she does have 21 another full-time Library/Media Specialist at her 22 home station. 23 Okay. All right. That was my MS. NEWTON: 24 question. Okay, thank you. 25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Chambers, no? Ms. Moore --

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1	Dr. Moore?
2	DR. MOORE: And so just to be clear, this
3	Library/Media Specialist is aware they're all
4	aware of this being requested and this concern at
5	this point in time and are okay with moving forward
6	as-is?
7	SUPT. WALTERS: I had a little trouble hearing
8	you. Did you say are all the Library/Media
9	Specialists aware?
10	DR. MOORE: Sorry. Just the people involved are
11	aware of the waiver
12	SUPT. WALTERS: Oh, yes, ma'am.
13	DR. MOORE: being requested and at that
14	point?
15	SUPT. WALTERS: So the Library/Media Specialist
16	that's going to Bethel, that's already happened. So,
17	yes, ma'am.
18	DR. MOORE: Right.
19	SUPT. WALTERS: She's aware and she was very
20	gracious to agree to help us out.
21	DR. MOORE: Okay. And plans are for next year
22	to hire a Library/Media Specialist for that building.
23	Is that correct?
24	SUPT. WALTERS: Yes, ma'am. In fact, we will
25	even advertise at the end of this month. If we can

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find a December grad that could maybe take a teaching position -- I believe we will have several in-house candidates, several teachers. It's just at this time we are having such a hard time finding teachers that unless we can find a December grad we won't be able to fill it until next year. DR. MOORE: Okay, that makes sense. Thank you. CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Woods? MS. WOODS: Dr. Moore asked my question. CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Sutton? Lookadoo? MR. LOOKADOO: Just more of a comment. appreciate you saying that even in December, you know, you could be looking for someone. Because I think this has been kind of a growing trend of Library/Media Specialists and looking for these

appreciate you saying that even in December, you know, you could be looking for someone. Because I think this has been kind of a growing trend of Library/Media Specialists and looking for these waivers. And it concerns me a little bit that either, you know, those qualified applicants are just not out there and what are we doing to push for that, because it is such an important role and it can be such a useful piece. So I just appreciate you saying you're even looking at the December mark.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

SUPT. WALTERS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: If we have no more comments or

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1	discussion, I would look for a motion.
2	MS. WOODS: I move to approve the waiver.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve the
4	waiver by Ms. Woods.
5	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.
7	All in favor say "aye."
8	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
9	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
10	Seeing none, motion passes.
11	Okay, Ms. Webb.
12	SUPT. WALTERS: Thank you, Madam Chair, Board.
13	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Walters.
14	V-4: CONSIDERATION OF ONE-YEAR STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION
15	WAIVER REQUEST - SHIRLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
16	MS. WEBB: The next item is a one-year Standards
17	for Accreditation waiver for the Shirley School
18	District for Kindergarten Class Size. They currently
19	have 23 students on-site, which is one over the
20	limit. Kindergarten class sizes are 20 students or
21	22 with a part-time paraprofessional. And I believe
22	they have two paraprofessionals in the classroom; one
23	is assisting a special needs student, but the other
24	is a full-time paraprofessional in the building. We
25	do have Ms. Tyrene Gardner, the Superintendent on the

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1	Zoom, if you have any questions.
2	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Did you say Miss welcome, Ms.
3	Gardner.
4	Do we have any questions? We'll start with Mr.
5	Lookadoo; questions or comments?
6	MR. LOOKADOO: No.
7	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Sutton? Ms. Woods?
8	MS. WOODS: I have one question. Is that
9	current second paraprofessional, is it a one-to-one
10	ratio?
11	SUPT. GARDNER: Yes.
12	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore?
13	DR. MOORE: Yes, I do have a question. Is this
14	is the teacher providing online instruction as
15	well, or just in-person?
16	SUPT. GARDNER: We have three virtual
17	kindergarten students, but they're taught by another
18	teacher.
19	DR. MOORE: Okay.
20	SUPT. GARDNER: So she's only providing on-site
21	instruction.
22	DR. MOORE: Okay, thank you.
23	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Chambers? Ms. Newton? Ms.
24	McFetridge?
25	MS. McFETRIDGE: I'm just curious, has your

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1	numbers stabilized or are you still adding students?
2	What is the current status of your number?
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Gardner?
4	SUPT. GARDNER: Are you asking about my we
5	have at this time currently 325. We ended the year
6	last year with 330 K-12. Is that was that what
7	the question was?
8	MS. McFETRIDGE: No, I was just curious how many
9	do you have in the classroom now. Has that number
10	stabilized or are you
11	SUPT. GARDNER: Yes. Yes, we have 23 at this
12	time
13	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay.
14	SUPT. GARDNER: in the classroom. And we've
15	moved them to a larger room where they have plenty of
16	social distance.
17	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Hill?
18	Okay. Well, with that, if we have no further
19	Oh, Ms. Newton.
20	MS. NEWTON: I didn't think of this until you
21	asked that question. If their numbers go over 23,
22	this waiver would only apply at 23 or would it if
23	they were to get another student what would happen
24	then?
25	MS. WEBB: The waiver would still apply.

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1	MS. NEWTON: So this would be an unlimited
2	number?
3	MS. WEBB: It could. But I do think that Ms.
4	Gardner has a plan if she does more than just a
5	few more kindergartners enroll, Ms. Garner?
6	SUPT. GARDNER: If we were to go more than two
7	over, we would either hire another teacher or we
8	would move our staff around, assign. We have two
9	virtual teachers at elementary, and at this time we
10	need those two. But if more students come back we
11	may not need two virtual teachers and we could move
12	one of those to kindergarten.
13	MS. NEWTON: Okay. So this would be for a max
14	of 24 then?
15	SUPT. GARDNER: Yes, ma'am.
16	MS. NEWTON: Okay, thank you.
17	CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.
18	Any further questions?
19	Okay. Seeing none, I'm ready for a motion.
20	MS. McFETRIDGE: I move to approve the waiver.
21	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve the
22	waiver by Ms. McFetridge.
23	MR. SUTTON: Second.
24	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.
25	All in favor say "aye."

class size and teaching load, what your request is.

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Could you explain that a little bit more?

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SUPT. WIGGINS: Yes, ma'am. Class Size and Teaching Load, we're just asking to be on the same accountability level as the virtual charters. heard Ms. Johnson say earlier that her middle school had 47-to-1 ratios. We have -- it's become logistically challenging in a very short period of time to try to offer on-site instruction and offer a brand-new virtual academy as well. And so we have some teachers, 5-12 especially, that are doing onsite instruction and virtual classes. And we have those classes -- those virtual classes as small as possible for our core teachers and -- but we are over slightly in a couple of areas. And the 150, I think the most we have for one of our teachers -- and when you combine on-site and virtual it's 158. But the logistics of trying to work all that out with master schedules, running two separate schools with the same faculty becomes very challenging. At the beginning of the year, as you might expect, we had a flood of students interested in virtual academy and so we had to try to establish those two different master Since then, of the 620 or so that we had schedules. sign up for virtual we've had a considerable number decide that they wanted to come back on campus. So

1	our numbers have actually dropped considerably since
2	we put in this waiver request. We are currently
3	around 475 in K-12 that have decided to go virtual
4	and stay.
5	We have a desire to keep that virtual academy
6	going into the future. We see that as a need for our
7	district and we just want to have the same playing
8	field as our virtual charters that we're competing
9	against.
10	MS. NEWTON: So, but you have teachers that are
11	over the 150 that are doing both virtual and on-site,
12	but you have no on-site that are over?
13	SUPT. WIGGINS: No, we do not have any on-site
14	that are solely on-site that are over 150. Or if
15	we do, we do pay them extra.
16	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
17	SUPT. WIGGINS: We do not currently, to my
18	knowledge, have any [audio distortion]. So we may
19	have one or two on-site that we know.
20	MS. SVEBEK: That is correct. We do not have
21	any on-site at this time.
22	MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Are you
23	considering a max number on your
24	SUPT. WIGGINS: We have not established a max
25	number. But our max numbers currently our class

sizes are below what Ms. Johnson had described in her building, her max numbers. We do not have anybody at 60-to-1, which she had mentioned at the elementary level, and so we are below those numbers. And we --going forward, we will establish a maximum number. I know with the on-site providers that we're working with they had given us some general guidelines back in the summer as to what they thought the teachers could handle with their curriculum. And the 60-to-1 seemed to be standard at the elementary levels, and then there was varying thoughts on what middle school and high school teachers would be able to do if the curriculum is on-line.

MS. NEWTON: You know, I can understand if a teacher is all virtual, you know, setting those limits, but when you've got a mix of trying to do onsite and virtual it's different. And so, I'm very uncomfortable with the class size and teaching load, especially not setting the max, and just realizing that we're hearing from teachers all over the state that are trying to do both and they are overwhelmed. And when we talk about upping a number limit on that, that just makes me uncomfortable.

SUPT. WIGGINS: Yes, ma'am, I understand. And to be honest, all of our teachers are overwhelmed.

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Because our on-site teachers are trying to do remote teaching as well, so they have a mixture -- even our on-site only teachers have a mixture of on-site and remote students that they're trying to reach and So, all of our teachers are overwhelmed this year, to be honest. We do not have -- we're not going over on individual classes on-site. And so, there are things like an 8th grade math class that might have over that 30 on virtual that ends up putting that teacher over when it combines virtual and on-site. So it may be one or two virtual classes that are slightly over what we would have in a normal classroom, but to try to move a whole another teacher into virtual that period causes us some scheduling And so that's why we're putting in our issues. request. And, again, there is a provision for us doing that and paying those teachers per child for those extra students, and we can do that. We were just asking for the same playing field as our virtual charter friends.

MS. NEWTON: But, you know, you're -- thinking about the virtual charter friends, they are doing all virtual. They don't -- their teachers are not trying to do both, you know. And that's -- I think that's where my feelings of being uncomfortable with this on

the teachers' side comes.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Newton.

Ms. Chambers?

MS. CHAMBERS: Just building on what Ms. Newton was talking about, I have similar concerns. Is there anything that you would suggest, as you think about your request, that would set limits on some of the exposure that we're talking about for the teachers that makes it, first and foremost, more doable for the teachers but something that we'd feel comfortable approving and not setting a precedent that's going to be even more tedious for the teacher?

SUPT. WIGGINS: I'm sorry; was that directed to me? I couldn't hear the first part of your question.

MS. CHAMBERS: I'm sorry. It was directed at you. The question is: sometimes when a waiver request comes to us that we have concerns about the requester is able to kind of think through and tailor, maybe set limits, offer some suggestions that make it -- allow us as a board to feel more comfortable that there are limits to what this will impose on the teacher. Do you have -- have you talked about -- do you have any suggestions on how you might shape your request a little differently to impose some limits on what these teachers are bearing

as a load?

SUPT. WIGGINS: I would say that the limit that Ms. Johnson mentioned earlier on elementary 60-to-1 is kind of the way we were -- that's the direction we were headed in establishing that for next year. And we don't have anybody at that level right now.

As far as the class load, I don't know what an appropriate number is. I had some on-site -- or online curriculum providers tell me that they had the high school and middle school teachers teaching as many as 200, 240 students virtually. I don't know that that's reasonable. Our highest one right now is 158 and that's combining virtual and on-site. Some of our virtual teachers only have one class virtually; they are not over. We have some that have four to five classes virtually and then one to two on campus, and those are the ones who are very close. We may have slightly more in an individual class virtually.

I would suggest that that limit maybe be on the actual class size and possibly the number of classes they can teach. Currently, if we had someone on-site we could -- we are on a block schedule; that complicates things as well. So we have eight periods per day, instead of seven. And so, if you figure an

average teacher in our schedule that had six or seven classes they could go over that 150 very quickly. And so when we start combining those and trying to work out the, you know, small numbers in virtual -- and if we have 35 or 30 or 33 sign up for 9th grade English, it's more efficient to use one teacher to teach that virtual class with an online curriculum, and so that can put us over. Those small numbers in individual classes are what's putting us over. So

MS. SVEBEK: I'm sorry, Mr. Wiggins; I would like to add too that our teachers who are doing both virtual and on-site [audio distortion] dedicated strictly to virtual. We have not put the same number of on-site classes on them and then added virtual to them. So they have class periods that are dedicated strictly to virtual instruction for that time period in order to, you know, help them reach out to students and do all of the things they need to do during that time.

MS. WEBB: Our attorney has indicated that with the new 1240 rules that the Board does have the ability to change the request, but the school doesn't have to do that.

MS. CHAMBERS: I just -- I don't know if Ms.

Newton or anybody else has a perspective. I don't have a frame of reference on what makes this more manageable -- and obviously we're all learning as we go. But I thought if -- but we all are getting some very impassioned communications from teachers. But the hybrid in particular is so, so difficult -- and realizing that teaching loads before we got into this moment were difficult enough, just looking for what keeps it reasonable as we approve these waivers. And I don't know if anyone has any suggestions that help us feel more comfortable with that?

MS. NEWTON: I'm just still hesitant because this is not all virtual; this is the combination and that's what gives me pause. And the district does have an option; if they go over, they can pay those particular teachers. So if we weren't -- if we'd said no on this waiver, the district still has an option of what they can do if they wanted to keep going this route; they could pay those teachers that chose to have 158 students and they could have --

MS. CHAMBERS: Do the teachers get to opt in into who takes this on?

SUPT. WIGGINS: Our teachers did opt in. They volunteered to do the virtual courses and with the knowledge that we were not going to -- at the time we

thought that the automatic waivers covered the class size and the class load. We were told later, after we had established -- after we had gone through our parent meetings and asked for volunteers from our staff, we were told that the 150 did not apply through the automatic waivers. So that's why we are bringing this to you all. The class size in and of itself is waived currently, but we are afraid that that will go away when State of Emergency goes away. And I think that's going to be an issue for schools across the state that are offering virtual classes now.

And just for clarification, I heard the word blended or the word hybrid. We offer three -- well, two things. Our on-site is blended or hybrid because our on-site teachers have remote classes or remote kids who are quarantined or isolated because of positive tests or because they're just staying at home now. The virtual is a separate school -- it is a separate curriculum, it is a prepared curriculum and an online curriculum -- and those kids and those teachers who are teaching those classes are just virtual for those classes. So if our teachers are split, they're only split in their schedule; they're not split in individual classes. So they have -- may

1 have four virtual classes that are completely virtual and they may have two on-site. 2 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. SUPT. WIGGINS: So those are the teachers that 4 we are talking about. 5 6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. 7 Wiggins. Dr. Pfeffer, do you have something to add to 8 9 that? Thank you, Madam Chair. 10 DR. PFEFFER: questions you all are asking today are some of the 11 12 same questions that we've been discussing internally, but also with our school districts. I think since we 13 -- districts started planning for the return to 14 15 school -- you know, we know that different districts implemented various options after visiting with 16 families. And there are still some inconsistencies 17 18 when we use words, and Mr. Wiggins just talked about blended versus hybrid virtual; that can be both on-19 site and off-site or virtual that's totally remote 20 21 learning. And so these are some things that we're

Mr. Wiggins talked a little bit about his concern that if that -- that there are some things that have been waived under the Emergency

working to try to help really bring together.

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declaration; there are some things that have been waived under the streamlined Act 1240 waivers. And so we're working to clear up those things so that districts are assured of the waivers that are in place through this school year. We're also looking to see are there some things that may need to stay in place longer to allow districts to continue these virtual options.

I think in terms of the questions that you're asking today, Mr. Wiggins just pointed out there really is a difference between a teacher who is teaching only remote virtual learners, especially if it's in an asynchronous manner where there's not that direct interaction during a specific time period all day every day, like we have when we're on-site or when we have the synchronist learning.

And so I think today, for us, I don't know that we have a strong enough understanding of exactly what Siloam Springs is planning to do. We could work with the District and -- between now and next month's meeting to get some more information and have a clearer picture of what their virtual proposal looks like. I know that we have a couple of district conversion virtual charters, like Springdale School of Innovation and Fayetteville Virtual Academy, and I

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do believe they do have a limit that's higher than But I do believe that there is a limit that 150. maybe we could visit with them about, talk a little bit more about with Mr. Wiggins. So that could be an option if everyone wanted to discuss that. But we do plan to continue having this conversation because districts really are grappling with what's best -and what's best in Siloam Springs may look different than Fayetteville, may look different than Magnolia. So we know that and we know that you understand that as well. So I want to help the District, but I also want all of us to feel confident and, you know, be able for teachers to understand as well that this is not something that we just want to keep piling on top So I just feel like there needs to be a better understanding on everyone's part before we start making too many decisions about long-term waivers.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Pfeffer.

So with that in mind, I'll go ahead and finish, if there's not any more questions.

Dr. Moore?

DR. MOORE: Yes. So just to understand, this is a one-year waiver. Does this end at the end of this school year?

1	MS. WEBB: That is correct.
2	DR. MOORE: Okay. So we're just talking the
3	next okay. And okay. Thank you.
4	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Woods?
5	MS. WOODS: In light of that no.
6	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Sutton?
7	MR. SUTTON: Well, based on what Ivy was saying
8	and some of the other concerns, is there a such thing
9	as a conditional waiver that after further study, if
10	that's what Ivy is saying
11	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I think what we have an option
12	to do is maybe to table it until next month. That
13	may be an option. But, Dr. Pfeffer.
14	DR. PFEFFER: So I may have misguided you.
15	Legal has just said that we need to check when their
16	90 days because by statute once a request is made

Legal has just said that we need to check when their 90 days -- because by statute once a request is made there can -- there's a 90-day time period by which you have to take action. So, you know, depending on what you decide today, we could allow the District to come back if they wanted to; look and see if there are other virtual charters that do have some maximum numbers that they've set and have a rationale for what that might look like. You know, I understand that if teachers agree to do something and they realize that there may be different conditions for

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1	them, then, you know, that might make all of you feel
2	more comfortable. But I don't think it could
3	probably be tabled; so I do apologize for that.
4	CHAIRMAN DEAN: No problem.
5	MS. NEWTON: If we were to deny the waiver,
6	could they come back next month with another request?
7	MS. HYATT: Yeah. Mary Claire Hyatt with the
8	Department. Sorry that Legal always has to throw a
9	wrench in the plans.
10	So the 90 days will expire before the November
11	meeting. So the way I see it, there are kind of two
12	courses we can take. You guys can vote today, deny
13	or approve, or deny in part, approve in part. Or the
14	District could withdraw its request and then resubmit
15	it. They can resubmit later this afternoon, which
16	would restart the 90-day clock. And then we can
17	since we've already done a lot of vetting, we could
18	put it on the November agenda. So up to the District
19	how it wants to proceed and the Board.
20	MS. WOODS: Mary Claire, I'm looking at this
21	SUPT. WIGGINS: May I ask a question?
22	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, one moment, Mr. Wiggins.
23	Go ahead, Ms. Woods.
24	SUPT. WIGGINS: Okay.
25	MS. WOODS: So are we using the August 11th date

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1	for the waiver? I'm just looking at the file.
2	MS. HYATT: Yes. So right
3	MS. WOODS: Okay. So it literally expires the
4	day before our next meeting?
5	MS. HYATT: Yes.
6	Ms. WOODs: Okay.
7	MS. HYATT: And so right now and this is
8	something I think we're having a lot of internal
9	conversations about right now the way that the law
10	reads, the day they submit it is when the clock
11	starts ticking. And we do a lot of work with the
12	districts on the front-end, and so hopefully
13	eventually we'll be able to kind of play around with
14	that. But right now, yeah, it expires the day
15	before.
16	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So with that in mind
17	Mr. Wiggins go ahead, Mr. Wiggins. What were
18	you going to say?
19	SUPT. WIGGINS: So there's two parts to the
20	waiver request; one is licensure and one is class
21	load and teaching load. I would like to request that
22	there at least be a partial approval, for the
23	licensure, because we [audio distortion] October 1
24	and we are trying to get our licensure issues fixed
25	at this point. And so that would help us now and I

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1	don't think that that is out of line.
2	I'd also I may be misguided; my impression
3	was that the virtual charters and the online high
4	schools do not have limits imposed upon them. I
5	think some of them did voluntarily establish limits.
6	But my impression was that they did not have limits
7	and I may be wrong in that. And if somebody wants
8	to correct me, that would be fine.
9	But we would happily reapply for that portion,
10	if we if we could at least get the licensure
11	portion approved today.
12	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Wiggins.
13	Okay. So with that in mind, we have the option
14	of partial approval of the just approval of the
15	licensure portion. And he stated that they're
16	willing to withdraw the other request and then it'll
17	be put on the November it can be put on the
18	November agenda. So with that, do I have a motion?
19	MS. NEWTON: Move to approve the licensure
20	portion.
21	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion to
22	approve the licensure portion by Ms. Newton.
23	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
24	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.
25	All in favor say "aye."

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1	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
2	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
3	Seeing none, the motion passes for the
4	licensure.
5	And, Mr. Wiggins, I'm sure someone from the
6	Department will be in contact with you. And we'll
7	see you in November.
8	SUPT. WIGGINS: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.
9	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Ms.
10	Svebek. Did I say it correctly? Oh, she's gone.
11	MS. SVEBEK: Yes, that's correct.
12	CHAIRMAN DEAN: I did, okay, good. All right.
13	Thank you for joining us today.
14	V-6: CONSIDERATION OF ACT 1240 DISTRICT WAIVER REQUEST -
15	BATESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
16	CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right, Ms. Webb. We have
17	another one, Batesville.
18	MS. WEBB: The next item is an Act 1240 waiver
19	request for the Batesville School District for Daily
20	and Weekly Planning Periods for grades 6-12. Dr.
21	Michael Hester is here in person to present his
22	request.
23	CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.
24	Welcome, Dr. Hester.
25	SUPT. HESTER: Thank you, Madam Chair,

Commissioner Key, Board of Directors. Thank you for
hearing us. We want to say hi from Batesville today.
So thank you for your work and for everything that
you've been doing. And we are excited about the
things that we're learning and the ways that I think
that we've learned to use for the future, and we
appreciate things that we've been doing that we don't
get to do anymore. So it's been a very learning
experience. So thank you again for hearing us today.

All right. We do have a presentation. I don't know if we can put that up. But what I wanted to say is this is the 1240 waiver request that involves teacher planning time.

If you'll go to the next slide --Statute 6-17 --

(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Dan Davis helped Supt. Hester with the PowerPoint clicker.)

SUPT. HESTER: There we go. Okay. There's only like two other slides, so we should be good.

Statute 6-17-114 that deals with teacher planning time, this request is just for this year to try to get us through this Covid thing. We are on a -- we have gone to an A/B block. We were on an A/B modified block, but modified means on Fridays we had all eight or nine periods, if you count the activity

1 period. And so we went to just an all A/B block, and that's a two-week cycle; that means 80 minutes of 2 3 planning every-other-day for our teachers. So one week you would have two days of 160 minutes and the 4 second week of the cycle you'd have 240. 5 spirit of the law -- that averaged to 200 minutes per 6 7 week. But what the law says is shall be 40 minutes a day, slash, 200 minutes a week. And so in the spirit 8 9 of the law, we were able to do 200 minutes a week for 10 the A/B two-week cycle. In the letter of the law, it's in violation, so that's why we're here in front 11 12 of you today. The reason we changed that is 13 obviously instead of having eight passing periods on Friday we were told that in the automatic waivers 14 15 that you could modify your schedule to reduce 16 transitions for safety and health of staff. And so 17 that was the whole intent to taking away Fast Friday 18 was just to make it where we were not in the halls for 20 more minutes than we had to be. And we are in 19 20 a crowded situation. Our junior high and high 21 school -- we were in the middle of a bond issue that 22 we had to postpone when the pandemic hit, and we 23 share a cafeteria, gym, and many classrooms between the junior high and the high school, as well as 24 25 staff. So getting everybody on the same schedule,

eliminating more people in the halls than we could, was a safety issue for us. Obviously, to the letter of the law though we do not accomplish on the one week a teacher may only have 160 minutes, and that's the grievance.

I don't know if this will work, but we'll try it. If you could help me go one more slide --

But, no, as I said, we were acting on the automatic waivers on the Ready for Learning model. It says in the guidelines that we can modify schedules to minimize transitions due to Covid-19. That's why we removed Fast Friday. Block scheduling also aligns -- we worked it out for our postsecondary partners; we have apprenticeships, we have internships, and we have concurrent credits. As well as all of our higher pedagogical and lab models will be in the block schedule for the 80 minutes -- and, of course, the efficient use of resources and increased instructional time. An eight-period day puts the students in the halls for 20 to 25 more minutes of passing time and we get to have that as instructional time when it goes to the A/B block.

So, again, because of the statute saying "shall"

-- because our legal counsel looked at it, as well as

ADE -- and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer helped us with all this as

well -- they felt like this did not address the issue when it came to the inadequacy of a week on that statute language of "shall."

so we're asking for a waiver of one year that -in the spirit of the law and the fact that in an A/B
block it is a two-week cycle that we do average 200
minutes a week. We are not trying to -- we love that
standard; we wish we could afford to make it even
higher -- but we're not trying to remove that
standard. But in the spirit of the law we have 200
minutes going; in the letter of the law there are
weeks that a teacher only has 160 but the next week
they have 240.

The other reason we need the waiver is the law also says 40 minutes per day. So even if you save one, with 200 minutes a week it could be grieved that because we're not in a lock-step eight, nine period cycle of 40 minutes that that is still a violation, if you don't have 40 minutes per day -- which almost dictates secondary schedules across the state to be in the eight, nine period modes. So we need to have the waiver just because we feel like it could even be pressed that because it's not 40 minutes a day it would actually pull us off the entire block for all of our secondary schools.

1	Questions?
2	CHAIRMAN DEAN: We'll start with Mr. Lookadoo.
3	MR. LOOKADOO: Yeah, two quick questions. One,
4	do we know other schools who have block
5	scheduling, are they that 40 minutes a day, do
6	they abide by that or is it more the 200 minutes a
7	week, or is it both? Do we know which schools have
8	block?
9	SUPT. HESTER: Can I give you my research?
10	MR. LOOKADOO: Sure.
11	SUPT. HESTER: I don't know if it's legit. I
12	mean it's legit as far as we know. But we're aware
13	of 25 school districts that are in block and only
14	three have waivers.
15	MR. LOOKADOO: Okay.
16	SUPT. HESTER: Plan-time is the kind of thing
17	that it's not monitored, but if it's grieved it's
18	addressed. And so to our research there are 53
19	waivers for plan-time in the state. There are 25
20	schools in the state that have A/B block schedule,
21	only three have waivers. So it could become an issue
22	if people press the letter of the law too.
23	SECRETARY KEY: I don't know if Standards is
24	aware; we're I'm not aware of specific examples.
25	Dr. Pfeffer said she wasn't either. It would take

some research on our part to find out.

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MR. LOOKADOO: And then, second question, just

-- I know this came up at a DPC meeting -- have you
asked teachers -- have you kind of polled teachers
and what do they -- me as a teacher, I would be okay
with this, like personally. But I'm just wondering
if you've asked teachers?

SUPT. HESTER: Yeah, we've had this discussion with our PPC; it was brought to us from our PPC. explained that we were doing this out of the safety waiver but we would check. And then when we checked -- you know, no one wants to take away anybody's planning time. And our lawyer even said the problem is the "shall" gives the districts no wiggle room if there's any variance; and so he said, "You need to apply to get a waiver or else you're going to make other choices." And obviously, we don't think we can afford the payment part and we think it's too disruptive and unsafe to put everybody back on an eight or nine period day. And we talked to our PPC -- it came from them -- and we said we'd investigate, and so that's why we're here. And most of them are -- most of the teachers are okay with it too, but, again, when you have a grievance on a statute and the language is that tight you've got to have some kind

of legal assistance on it.

MR. LOOKADOO: Okay.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Sutton?

MR. SUTTON: No questions.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Woods?

MS. WOODS: From the PPC perspective, when you talk about they're okay with it, are they okay with it because they have no other option or they're just willing to make it work for this year? I guess I'm just really hesitant to take away teacher planning time, as I think everybody is. And so while some teachers would be okay with it, others are not. So I'm just trying to gauge what they're really feeling about this.

SUPT. HESTER: Well, you know, it varies, when they come in, who they represent. And what I would tell you is if the building principals have a vote by the majorities of theirs to either keep what we're doing or do something else to just satisfy 200 minutes a week, it would be a majority. I mean this is only one complaint that all this takes though. And -- but the other issue is that one complaint still stands if it's 40 minutes a day; it's the "shall" in the statute. And so we have no wiggle room there and that means that we have no choices but

to go eight, nine periods, and that -- we don't feel like that's safe. And in our past processes, a PLC with the PPC, we've determined the block schedule is our preference for higher order thinking and teaching skills and hands-on, real-world experiences, partnerships in the community. That's why we've evolved where we're at. It's just that when we tinker with the Fast Friday for the safety issues it threw us into this quandary.

MS. WOODS: So, but most of the teachers have voiced their concerns --

SUPT. HESTER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. WOODS: -- if you will? Okay.

SUPT. HESTER: Yes, ma'am. And they are trying to work out some things like on their second period that's an activity period, because we've got people that are out virtually we could double up and do that with teachers where they've got two people that are watching maybe 12 kids and one is on while one is off to get their 40 minutes. But that still doesn't solve the 40 minutes a day. I can get them 200 minutes a week, but I'll be back here because the grievance -- the statute says 30 minutes a day.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: One moment.

Thank you. Thank you for that information.

Mr. Key, did you want to add something?

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SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods, you know, I can't speak directly. I can speak to the contact or the communication that's come to me. I did have a teacher who was concerned and voiced opposition. In my response I said, you know, "This is a Board decision. Do you want me to send this, your concern, your opposition to the Board?" And she said, "Yes, please." I think it may have been a day or two days later I got another email from her and she said, "The PPC has talked about this and we're -- I no longer want you to send that opposition to the Board," that they felt like it had been resolved. That's the only communication that I had. I don't know if we got anything else. I'm looking for Gina. But I don't think we received anything else. And that was just the one interaction that I had with the teacher from Batesville, so --

MS. WOODS: Sure, okay. And I've not received anything. I was just kind of curious. I mean obviously this is just specific to Batesville, so other districts might be different. But I was just curious for your specific district how people were feeling about it. Because I know teachers a lot of times don't feel like they get 40 minutes a day but

1	they might get their collective 200 a week, and
2	that's how we've been working this whole time. So,
3	thank you.
4	SUPT. HESTER: We're willing and well, you
5	know, we feel horrible for everyone's plight and
6	taking plan-time. We would not do that, but this was
7	a safety issue and safety recommendations made. And
8	we could work it out with people but that 40 minutes
9	a day could stand if people still want to hold us to
10	the letter of the law. And that's why we feel like
11	the waiver is important at least to get us through
12	this year.
13	MS. WOODS: I don't have any other questions.
14	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Woods.
15	Dr. Moore? Ms. Newton?
16	MS. NEWTON: I have a question for Legal, I
17	guess.
18	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt.
19	MS. NEWTON: Ms. Hyatt, the waiver is he's
20	saying that he can get the 200 minutes. Would the
21	law say he has to have the 40 minutes a day also, or
22	would the 200 minutes meet the requirements of the
23	law?
24	MS. HYATT: Let me get it pulled back up on my
25	tiny computer. So what the law says is that the

planning time must be in increments of no less than 40 minutes and that has to be during the student instructional day, unless a teacher submits a written request or a written statement that says they can have it outside of the instructional day. It doesn't read the planning time shall be in increments of no less than 40 minutes every day.

MS. NEWTON: Right.

MS. HYATT: It doesn't say that. It says increments of no less than 40 minutes during the instructional day. So I know that in conversations that we've had with districts their interpretation of that has been 40 minutes per day. The statute itself does not have that "per day" language in it; it just says the planning time shall be in increments of no less than 40 minutes during the student instructional day, unless a teacher agrees to have it outside of the instructional day.

MS. NEWTON: So if he was -- if the district was to meet the 200 minutes, then they would be meeting the law?

MS. HYATT: Provided that they were providing the planning time in increments of no less than 40 minutes. So if they were doing like 20 minutes one day or 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in

the afternoon, I don't think that would meet the law because it's not an increment of 40 minutes.

MS. NEWTON: Right.

MS. HYATT: But if they were doing 80 minutes one day and then no planning time the next day, and then 80 minutes another day, and meeting the 200 minutes, I believe that would meet it. But it's my understanding that there were going to be some weeks, depending on which the block schedule fell on, that they wouldn't necessarily get the 200 minutes in the week and they would make it up the next week; so on average throughout the year they would have 200 minutes but it wouldn't be per week, which is what's in the law.

MS. NEWTON: Okay. Dr. Hester, you said that you thought you could meet the 200 minutes. Explain to me how your thinking is on the 200 minutes?

SUPT. HESTER: When we have -- it's called seminar or activity time for secondary -- it's where we have academic tutoring, college and career strategies, test-taking strategies -- our numbers are lower because of our remote and virtual on-site, and so maybe we have eight kids in a class instead of 16. Well, we can combine the two classes with two teachers and have one teacher be on one day, one

Now the principals are willing to work that out. But our legal counsel has said that districts have lost on the daily 40 minutes before in appeals.

MS_NEWTON: Okay__So the extra time would be

MS. NEWTON: Okay. So the extra time would be at 40 minute -- at least the 40 minute time?

SUPT. HESTER: Yeah. On the --

MS. NEWTON: Okay.

SUPT. HESTER: On the week that it's only 160 -they're getting 240 -- they'll still get 240 and we
can adjust on the 160 to 200 --

MS. NEWTON: Okay.

SUPT. HESTER: -- and that'll get us there. But it still doesn't conquer the daily thing. And we think we still have an issue with some daily language.

MS. NEWTON: The part that bothers me on the planning time, I can't imagine, you know, teaching and having two planning periods a week, I mean even if it's 80 minutes. You know, a teacher puts a whole lot more than 80 minutes a day in planning if she's doing a good job. And so, I can't imagine just having two of those a week. And then another thing that concerns me is that this was a grievance apparently of one staff member, there are probably

1	more staff members that are hesitant to speak up that
2	are feeling the same pressure. And we know that this
3	year is a year full of pressure for teachers of all
4	sorts. And so to take away planning time is a huge
5	concern for me. Especially if you're saying that
6	there is a way that you can meet the 200 minutes a
7	week, then I think that that's probably what I would
8	say that a teacher needs this year is planning time,
9	time to make sure I don't know if your teachers
10	are trying to do both virtual and on-site
11	SUPT. HESTER: Yeah. Again, we can find ways to
12	do it. It's the grievance of the daily that we're
13	going to face.
14	MS. NEWTON: Right. But
15	SUPT. HESTER: We can do it for 200 in the week.
16	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
17	SUPT. HESTER: It's the daily if they press
18	the daily
19	MS. NEWTON: Right.
20	SUPT. HESTER: that's what we're going to be
21	
22	MS. NEWTON: So, you know, I would be hesitant
23	approving the reducing of the planning time as the
24	waiver has been asked for. So that's just my
25	opinion.

1	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Newton.
2	Ms. McFetridge, do you have any questions?
3	MS. McFETRIDGE: No.
4	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. If there are no more
5	questions or comments or discussion, then I'll wait
6	for a motion.
7	MS. NEWTON: Ms. Hyatt, you said that
8	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Newton turns on her
9	microphone.)
10	MS. NEWTON: I'm sorry you said that we could
11	we now have the power to modify a waiver, that the
12	district no longer has to?
13	MS. HYATT: You have the authority to deny and
14	grant in part. So while you can't really add
15	something to it, you could say we will grant part of
16	your request but not the other part of your request.
17	MS. NEWTON: Yeah. Okay. But the waiver that's
18	being asked for is to waive both the 200 and the 40
19	minutes a day, both?
20	MS. HYATT: So it's in the same law, so I think
21	and I don't have the waiver request right in front
22	of me. Maybe Tracy will let me borrow hers. I think
23	they have just asked for the law. And to the
24	Superintendent's point, I think probably on the per-
25	day legal I could go back and look at the previous

versions of the statute and see if that language used to be in there or what the guidance around that has been and kind of clear that up. Because I know that there are districts that we did ask 40 minutes per day, even though that per-day language is not explicitly in statute. So I think we can go back and kind of sure that up between everyone. So they have asked for the whole statute, which would include the 40-minute section and the 200-minute section.

MS. NEWTON: So you're saying we wouldn't even need to grant a waiver for the 40 minutes a day?

MS. HYATT: So the way that the statute reads is it says you have to provide the planning time, the 200 minutes each week, in increments of no less than 40 minutes during the student instructional day. It doesn't say in no less than 40 minutes per day and nowhere in the statute does it say planning time must be every day. It says that planning time has to be 200 minutes per week and it has to be in increments of no less than 40 minutes and it has to be during the student instructional day, meaning you can't have planning time after students are already gone or lengthen the school day.

(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Dan Davis turns on the podium microphone.)

MS. HYATT: Oh, sorry -- I'm so sorry, Dan.

So that per-day language is not explicitly in the statute. But I do think that there are lots of districts and, as the Superintendent said, district counsel that are reading that to be 40 minutes per day. I don't know that the Division has ever put out guidance on that. I haven't researched it enough to know that. So I would say if there's any type of misunderstanding about whether it's 40 minutes per day or not we should err on the side of safety there. That would be my opinion.

Of course, Lori, if you disagree with me, please jump in.

MS. FRENO: (shaking head from side to side.)

MS. HYATT: And I do think also the piece about the 200 minutes per week, even if they're going to be making it up and having more or whatever -- if there are going to be weeks where maybe they get 190 minutes as opposed to 200 minutes, or 199 minutes as opposed to 200 minutes, they would need that piece of the waiver.

SUPT. HESTER: Could the waiver be modified or what the Board considers is that if we satisfy 200 minutes per week that that waiver would be -- could that be what the waiver says? That if we satisfy 200

1 minutes a week that we have a waiver for a year for that? 2 3 MS. HYATT: So as a board, you can place some qualifiers on the waiver. That's always been a power 4 because it's whatever is agreed to in the hearing. 5 So if the school district says "we agree to have 200 6 7 minutes per week for every teacher, and in return we get a waiver of this 40 minute increment piece, 8 9 that's absolutely fine." 10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any discussion? Is 11 there --12 So we're ready for a motion. 13 MS. WOODS: I'll just make a comment. I was looking up the original law and they have -- it's 14 15 never said per-day in the original, so --MS. NEWTON: So, you know, I'm still unclear if 16 we would need to do the 40 minutes a day. But if we 17 18 said that the waiver would -- if the District ensures that every teacher has 200 minutes a week, then we're 19 20 okay with what they do. And so however Ms. Claire --21 Mary Claire, you said the motion, then that's what I 22 want to say. 23 MS. HYATT: So you can word it, you know, move to approve with the understanding that the District 24

will provide 200 minutes of planning time per week.

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	,,,
1	Ms. NEWTON: Okay.
2	MS. CHAMBERS: And the District has agreed you
3	would be willing to do that; is that correct?
4	SUPT. HESTER: Yes, ma'am. We can work that
5	out. We can work that one out, and the principals
6	are working with staff and glad to do that. No one
7	I mean we are we're all so empathetic. We hate
8	that this even happens, but we were put between the
9	choice for the safety and the health versus this
10	time. And we in the spirit of the law, it was 200
11	minutes on a two-week block cycle. So in the spirit
12	of the law we were fine, but in the letter and
13	this would help solve that.
14	So, thank you for considering that.
15	CHAIRMAN DEAN: So we have a motion by Ms.
16	Newton.
17	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
18	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.
19	All in favor say "aye."
20	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
21	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
22	Seeing none, motion passes.
23	So 200 minutes per week for each teacher. Thank
24	you so much.
25	SUPT. HESTER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Get back to my agenda. V-7: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER TO IMPLEMENT THE 2 ARKANSAS READY FOR LEARNING MODEL 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Next we have 4 Consideration of the Request for Waiver to Implement 5 the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model. Ms. Courtney 6 7 Salas-Ford. MS. SALAS-FORD: Good morning again. Courtney 8 9 Salas-Ford for the Department. There's been lots of talk about waivers this 10 morning, and this actually ties back to the bulk 11 12 group of waivers that you all granted in June to 13 every school district and charter school in the state to implement the Ready for Learning model. 14 15 As you'll see there in the description, we actually did waive the law that requires 40 minutes 16 of recess daily for students attending virtually, 17 18 that that would not have to be waived. At the time there were not corresponding rules, but since then 19 rules have been updated. And so just to fully 20 21 effectuate the waiver we need to now waive that section of the rules so that districts are not being 22 23 held to the rules, even though the law was previously 24 waived. And so that's what we are asking for today 25 is waiver of Sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the rules as

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1	they relate to the requirement for 40 minutes daily
2	of recess.
3	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any questions?
4	Dr. Moore.
5	DR. MOORE: I do. So this is just for virtual
6	students?
7	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. It is made clear in the
8	application that all the school districts submitted
9	back in June that this only these waivers only
10	apply to students who are attending remotely or
11	virtually, not to any student that's on-site.
12	DR. MOORE: Okay. And this is oh, this is
13	I know I mean I know a lot of teachers are
14	suggesting activities and different things for
15	students while at home.
16	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes.
17	DR. MOORE: This is making this is saying
18	that they don't have to have a P.E. teacher for 40
19	minutes of their day; is that correct?
20	MS. SALAS-FORD: Well, it's not even tied to
21	P.E. Because if it's a P.E. course, then they still
22	have to
23	DR. MOORE: Oh, right.
24	MS. SALAS-FORD: meet those requirements.
25	But for

1	DR. MOORE: Oh, yeah.
2	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yeah, this is strictly just for
3	recess. And, yes, I know many school districts are
4	recommending different activities for students at
5	home and virtually. But because it would be very
6	difficult for the school districts to insure that
7	students
8	DR. MOORE: Right.
9	MS. SALAS-FORD: at home are at recess for 40
10	minutes a day, this is what relieves them of that
11	obligation.
12	DR. MOORE: But we expect the districts are
13	still giving students breaks during the day? You
14	know, they're not just sitting in front of a computer
15	for six hours?
16	MS. SALAS-FORD: Oh, yes. No. Absolutely, yes.
17	DR. MOORE: Okay. Is there any way to prevent
18	students from having to be at the screen for seven
19	hours at a time, do you know, other than commonsense?
20	MS. SALAS-FORD: Deb and Tracy might've left.
21	DR. MOORE: Yeah.
22	MS. SALAS-FORD: So school districts, you know,
23	had to submit their Ready for Learning plans laying
24	out how they were addressing scheduling and different
25	things. Students who are on-site have to be provided

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1	a lunch period, and so I'm not aware of any
2	instruction that would be going on. But, honestly, I
3	don't know. That's something we can check into and
4	get more information for you.
5	DR. MOORE: They're still I mean commonsense
6	would prevail that they're still getting lunch
7	periods and that sort of thing.
8	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yeah.
9	DR. MOORE: So there are still breaks. Okay.
10	Okay, thank you.
11	MS. SALAS-FORD: Uh-huh.
12	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions or
13	comments?
14	Okay. With that in mind, I'm ready for a
15	motion.
16	MS. McFETRIDGE: I make a motion to approve.
17	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion to approve by Ms.
18	McFetridge.
19	MR. SUTTON: Second.
20	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.
21	All in favor say "aye."
22	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
23	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?
24	Seeing none, motion passes.
25	MS. SALAS-FORD: Thank you.

- October 8, 2020

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1	CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Salas-Ford.	
2	Okay. Well, that concludes our first action	
3	agenda for the morning.	
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6	(The Action Agenda was concluded at 11:33 a.m.)	
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)	
)	ss
COUNTY OF SALINE)	

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 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 8, 2020, 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: October 18, 2020.

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

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