

In The Matter Of:

*DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

September 10, 2020

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. CHARISSE DEAN, Chairman
MR. BRETT WILLIAMSON, Vice 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:

MS. LORI FRENO	General Counsel
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT	Attorney
MS. JENNIFER DEDMAN	Attorney

DESE PLSB LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. AMY DOUGLAS	Managing Attorney
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LOCATION:

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

I N D E X

	Page
A-1: Embedded Course Approvals	3
A-2: ABC FY21 Round 2 Professional Service Grant . .	4
A-3: ABC FY21 Round 3 Agency Grant Award	6
A-4: Review OF PLSB Hearing - Charles Parliment . . .	7
A-5: PLSB Nominated Members	47
B-1: Minimum School District Size Waivers	49
a) Dermott School District	86
b) Guy-Perkins School District	64
c) Strong-Huttig School District	65
d) Western Yell School District	52
B-2: 1-Year Standards of Accreditation Waivers	
a) Elkins School District	81
b) Fayetteville School District	69
B-3: Consideration of CAP Decision	
a) River Valley Virtual	90
b) Premier High School of Springdale	95
c) Westwind School for Performing Arts	99
d) Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy	104
B-4: Arkansas Leadership Academy	110
B-5: Little Rock School District CAB Member	106
Adjournment	119
Court Reporter's Certificate	120

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

A-1: EMBEDDED COURSE APPROVALS

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Embedded Course Approvals, our presenter will be Dr. Kiffany Pride. And this has to do with the Act 421 embedded course approvals.

DR. PRIDE: Good morning. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services.

(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Podium microphone, which had been turned off, was now turned on.)

DR. PRIDE: Oh, sorry. All right, I'll start over.

Good morning. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education respectfully requests that the State Board of Education approve the embedded courses attached, understanding that when the curriculum frameworks for any of those courses are revised a new course approval request must be submitted to the State Board of Education, and approval must be granted before a school would be allowed to offer those embedded courses.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any questions or discussion?

None. Okay, then I'll entertain a motion.

1 MR. SUTTON: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry; who was that?

3 Okay. Sorry. We have a motion to approve by
4 Steve Sutton.

5 Seconded by Ms. Susan --

6 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Seconded by Ms. Susan
8 Chambers.

9 All in favor say "aye."

10 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

12 Seeing none, motion passes.

13 DR. PRIDE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh. Thank you.

15 A-2: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (ABC) FY21 -
16 ROUND 2 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE GRANT

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next up, we have the
18 Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance Round 2
19 Professional Service Grant. The presenter will be
20 Ms. Tyler -- Lisa Tyler or Susan Underwood. Okay,
21 and they'll be joining us shortly.

22 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Chairman Dean's
23 microphone, which had been turned off, was now turned
24 on.)

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, shoot. Second is the

1 Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance Round 2
2 Professional Service Grant. And we have a presenter.

3 MS. TYLER: Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.

5 MS. TYLER: I'm Lisa Tyler, Division of Learning
6 Services. And we are respectfully requesting the
7 Board to approve the ABC Professional Service Grant
8 to Southeast Educational Service Cooperative in the
9 amount of \$248,187.50, and these funds are to support
10 the continuation of the AmeriCorps program. Members
11 were -- we have school districts across the southeast
12 Arkansas education region in eight counties. There
13 are 30 members and they each have 10 children that
14 they provide tutoring services to, in both small
15 group and individually, for those children who are
16 most at risk. And I've looked at the outcomes from
17 their grant services last year and 85%-plus of the
18 kids made progress on their kindergarten readiness
19 skills in literacy and math.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Tyler.

21 Do we have any questions or discussion?

22 Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion.

23 MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
25 Ms. Susan Chambers.

1 DR. MOORE: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore.

3 All in favor say "aye."

4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

6 Seeing none, motion passes.

7 Thank you, Ms. Tyler.

8 MS. TYLER: I think I have one more.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, you do.

10 A-3: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (ABC) FY21 -
11 ROUND 3 AGENCY GRANT AWARD

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We are respectfully requesting
13 the Board to approve the Arkansas Better Chance
14 Renewal Grant Round 3 for 2021 in the total amount of
15 \$253,500. These funds are requested to support the
16 South Arkansas Developmental Center for Children and
17 Families in El Dorado and 50 ABC SS slots.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

19 Do we have any questions or discussion?

20 DR. MOORE: I have a question. Is this a new
21 place or why are they putting in these slots at this
22 time?

23 MS. TYLER: This is not a new place. Their
24 application was under review and we have worked with
25 them and will continue to do so, as well as some

1 close monitoring this year. So we delayed approval
2 of their application based upon submission of some
3 items that we've requested.

4 DR. MOORE: Okay. And now it has been approved?

5 MS. TYLER: Uh-huh.

6 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any more questions or
8 discussion?

9 Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion.

10 MS. McFETRIDGE: A motion to approve.

11 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
13 Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Williamson.

14 All in favor say "aye."

15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

17 Seeing none, motion passes.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. TYLER: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

21 A-4: STATE BOARD REVIEW OF PLSB 20-026 ETHICS HEARING

22 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - CHARLES PERRY PARLIMENT

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next on the agenda we
24 have State Board Review of PLSB Ethics Hearing
25 Committee Recommendation for Charles Perry Parliment.

1 And --

2 MS. FRENO: Thank you, Ms. Dean. Lori Freno --

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

4 MS. FRENO: -- with the Department of Education.
5 I will be introducing this item which will be handled
6 by Amy Douglas.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

8 MS. FRENO: This is an appeal of an Ethics
9 Hearing Subcommittee's recommendation that Charles
10 Parliment receive a written warning and training.
11 Mr. Parliment is here today and he is being
12 represented by his lawyer, Greg Alagood. And as I'd
13 mentioned, Amy Douglas will be presenting the case on
14 behalf of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

15 And if I may go over the procedures -- first,
16 Mr. Parliment or his lawyer may take up to 10 minutes
17 to present, and then Ms. Douglas likewise will have
18 10 minutes to make a statement. Additional time can
19 be granted to either side by the Chair of the Board,
20 at the Chair's discretion. Board members may ask
21 questions at any time during the proceedings to Ms.
22 Douglas, to the Educator, to his attorney, or to the
23 PLSB investigator. Testimony of non-lawyers must be
24 taken under oath.

25 Following the hearing the Board must make three

1 decisions. And the first, you'll need to make
2 Findings of Fact; in other words, you'll need to
3 determine whether you agree with the Ethics Hearing
4 Subcommittee's decision with regard to the facts in
5 the case. Second, if you do agree with the facts
6 you'll need to determine whether, based upon those
7 facts, Mr. Parliment violated Standard 2 of the Code
8 of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. And, third, if you
9 determine Mr. Parliment violated Standard 2 you must
10 determine whether you agree with the sanction imposed
11 in the case, which again was a written reprimand and
12 training, or whether you want to modify. If you do
13 not agree with the sanction, you may modify it. And
14 it would be best, Ms. Dean, to take these three items
15 in three separate motions.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Freno.

17 MS. FRENO: And if there are no questions from
18 anyone, I will relinquish the floor to Ms. Douglas
19 and Mr. Alagood.

20 MS. DOUGLAS: Good morning. Amy Douglas for
21 PLSB. Actually, the Educator has the burden on this
22 and goes first.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

24 MR. ALAGOOD: Hello. I am Greg Alagood, an
25 attorney here in Little Rock. And I pretty much had

1 said everything that I wanted to say in the brief
2 that I had submitted on behalf of Mr. Parliment. He,
3 however, wanted to avail himself of his right to
4 personally address you. So with that being said,
5 with your permission I would like to relinquish the
6 podium to him. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Alagood.

8 Good morning, Mr. Parliment.

9 MR. PARLIMENT: Good morning.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Before you speak, I'd like to
11 swear you in.

12 MR. PARLIMENT: I'm sorry; I couldn't hear you.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I said before you speak, I'd
14 like to swear you in.

15 MR. PARLIMENT: Oh. My name is Charles Perry
16 Parliment.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment, if you'll allow
18 me to swear you in first --

19 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do you swear or affirm
21 that the testimony you're about to give -- if you'll
22 raise your hand -- if you'll raise your right hand --
23 do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're
24 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth,
25 and nothing but the truth?

1 MR. PARLIMENT: I do.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Parliment. Go
3 ahead.

4 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay. Well, I'm here today
5 because of the allegation that I have violated the
6 Code of Ethics, and that's not true. An incident
7 happened at the school in which a girl was twerking
8 in the classroom, and I didn't even know what
9 twerking was before this incident happened. But
10 nevertheless, anyone who has worked with children
11 with emotional disturbances, oppositional defiant
12 behaviors, compulsive behaviors, hyperactive --
13 anyone who has worked with special ed. kids in the
14 high school level know that just about anything that
15 can happen will happen.

16 Now, this incident was an embarrassment to the
17 school because one of the students put the incident
18 on Instagram and it went out for other people to see.
19 And I got the incident under control; I got them
20 settled down. It took me a few minutes, but I did.

21 They also allege that I didn't do anything to
22 stop the incident or that I allowed the incident.
23 "Allow" means you give permission. Now who in the
24 world would believe that I gave a 17-year old girl
25 permission to pull her pants down in the classroom

1 and twerk? That just didn't happen. And I didn't
2 even know the incident -- that she had her pants down
3 until I had seen it on a video later.

4 Now this incident -- I went into that classroom
5 to try to help. It wasn't a normal classroom to
6 start with. This was in-school suspension. This was
7 a place for kids who had failed or they had been
8 misbehaving in class, and they had been placed in
9 that room until the parents could come and get them
10 or security could take them home. I had been working
11 with some of the students in the room; that's why I
12 volunteered to go in there and relieve the Coach.

13 When I work with kids I try to establish a
14 meeting-of-the-minds or relationship with them, and I
15 had done that with two or three of the kids that were
16 in that classroom. I do that by getting their
17 attention, their interest, their belief, their
18 desire, and their actions, and then gearing the
19 curriculum so that they can be successful. Some of
20 my students in that room were not successful. They
21 had failed and they were mad and they were going to
22 -- they were going to do something -- you know,
23 reacting. But, luckily, time has a way -- I mean the
24 truth will surface after a period of time. You agree
25 with that? Sometimes when an incident happens then

1 the truth eventually comes on up. Well, it did in my
2 case. One of the students, Kaylen Torres -- when I
3 was accused of not doing anything to call security or
4 anything of that nature, she had testified that I
5 sent her to the office to get security, which I did
6 -- and I sent her with another girl to get security.
7 Security wasn't there -- and the security officer, I
8 understand, is no longer employed there. But this
9 was a day of school when -- it wasn't a normal day
10 and it wasn't a normal classroom. If it had been, we
11 wouldn't have this problem. But how can you say a
12 teacher committed a violation of ethics for something
13 that a student did? It's like an accident. If you
14 have an accident out here on the street -- if you
15 know it's going to happen, you can prevent it. I
16 didn't know this was going to happen. Ka-bam, it
17 just happened.

18 Now I've been a special education teacher and
19 I've been -- I also hold an administrator's school --
20 an administrator's certificate and an Ed. Specialist
21 degree.

22 Today is my birthday, and I hope that you guys
23 will rule that I didn't violate any of the Code of
24 Ethics. Some of the previous boards -- or previous
25 hearings, they've said that I didn't -- because I

1 don't think they felt like I did enough to stop the
2 incident. Well, I walked over to them, I told them
3 to stop; I sent Kaylen Torres to the office to get
4 Security. I went back to my desk and I sat down.
5 And when I told them to stop, that was to get in
6 their seats; it wasn't because they were twerking.
7 Because there was a wall of students between me and
8 where the student was that was twerking, if that
9 makes sense.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Can you -- can you go back to
11 the mic, sir, so that we can hear you?

12 MR. PARLIMENT: I'm sorry?

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Can you go back to the mic so
14 that we can hear you?

15 MR. PARLIMENT: Oh.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah.

17 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Stay close to the mic, please.

19 MR. PARLIMENT: Anyway, there was a wall of
20 students between me and -- and I couldn't see what
21 was going on, but I knew they were out of their seat.
22 And I had told -- my rule is only one person on the
23 floor at a time, one person at the pencil sharpener,
24 one person at the bathroom, and, you know, just one
25 person moving at a time.

1 Well, the main point is that I got the incident
2 under control. It was an embarrassment to the
3 school, and I think that was a --

4 Well, in working with these kids, there are
5 other kids who -- for instance, Kaylen said after I
6 -- see, I wasn't allowed to talk to them after I was
7 dismissed from school. I wasn't even allowed to go
8 back on the property. I was just fortunate that I
9 knew Kaylen's telephone number so I could call her
10 mom. And I asked Kaylen, I said, "What happened?" I
11 said, "Can you tell me exactly why did you go to the
12 office or what was going on?" And she said that "you
13 want me to go up there at school and straighten them
14 teachers out, straighten those administrators out?"
15 And I said, "No, I don't think that would be
16 necessary." But I mean what I'm saying is there were
17 other students that would have done the same thing,
18 but I didn't want this to be a big deal. Who would
19 want it out on the public and the screen, on the TV
20 or whatever? It had already been on Instagram.

21 And I'm just asking you to say that I didn't
22 violate the Code of Ethics. And if you'll do that,
23 I'll be forever grateful because I don't feel that I
24 violated any Code of Ethics. I got the incident
25 stopped and I had a good working relationship with

1 some of the students in that classroom, and others
2 were just -- I was trying to appease them a little
3 bit. But when you look at the video, here I am
4 sitting at my desk like I'm not doing a darn thing.
5 That's not true because I had already tried to do
6 things and I had sent for security and I was waiting
7 for security to come. Because I can't touch the
8 students, I can't go over there and say -- you know,
9 say "sit your butt down" or whatever. I can give
10 them mean looks and talk to them, and I did that and
11 that got them under control. By the time the
12 administration and security got there everything was
13 normal; they were in their seats, doing their work.
14 We weren't having any problems. This was just a
15 flare-up incident that occurred, and it could happen
16 to any teacher. Because 17 -- 16, 17, 18 year old
17 girls can just do -- you know, they can really get
18 under your skin sometimes. And they were just -- you
19 know, I don't know why they did it, but they did it.

20 Also, this twerking is -- most people don't
21 realize this, but it was going on -- it was a fad --
22 you know what a fad is. You know, you remember
23 streaking back in the 60s or 70s, when they'd streak.
24 Well, that was kind of the way this twerking was
25 going on, and it wasn't going on just at Hall High

1 School; it was going on in schools in Florida and
2 other places.

3 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

4 MR. PARLIMENT: The incident in Florida, where a
5 Coach --

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment --

7 MR. PARLIMENT: Is my time up?

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment, your 10 minutes
9 is up, if you would bring your statement to a close.

10 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay. I'm asking you to please
11 find that I did not violate the Code of Ethics in
12 this incident. And if you'll do that I'll be forever
13 grateful, because I don't feel that I did. And most
14 of the students in the room -- well, all of them
15 don't feel that I did. Thank you for your time. I
16 appreciate your help.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Parliment.

18 Ms. Douglas, you have 10 minutes as well.

19 MS. DOUGLAS: Good morning. Amy Douglas, PLSB.

20 So prior to today you've all received written
21 briefs and objections from myself, as well as the
22 Educator's attorney, a transcript, and a video. Mr.
23 Parliment had an evidentiary hearing. Two of the
24 three witnesses that were called were on his behalf.
25 So based on the evidence, the Hearing Subcommittee

1 lowered his recommended sanction from a three-year
2 probation to a written reprimand. They found that he
3 violated Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics. Standard
4 2 reads, "An educator maintains competence regarding
5 his or her professional practice, inclusive of
6 skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities
7 relating to his or her organizational position."
8 Specifically, they found that Mr. Parliment allowed
9 inappropriate behaviors by students. To support that
10 finding, they stated that there was a failure to
11 supervise students and, of course, discipline
12 properly, resulting in inappropriate student
13 behavior.

14 Mr. Parliment contends that he didn't violate
15 the Code of Ethics. I submit to you that a violation
16 is proven by a preponderance of the evidence, which
17 is more likely than not that it's true. The evidence
18 is clear. You've seen the video; you have the
19 transcript. I'm asking you to uphold the sanction
20 from the Subcommittee.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Douglas.

22 Do we have any questions or discussion? No?

23 DR. MOORE: I have a question --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, Ms. Moore -- Dr. Moore.

25 DR. MOORE: -- if you don't mind. I want to get

1 an understanding of written reprimands. When that
2 occurs, is that something that goes on a teacher's
3 license? What does that look like?

4 MS. DOUGLAS: Yes, it does in the ALS system go
5 on their license. It is not publicly viewable.

6 DR. MOORE: Okay. So how long does that stay on
7 the license?

8 MS. DOUGLAS: It stays on the license internally
9 --

10 DR. MOORE: Okay.

11 MS. DOUGLAS: -- but it's not publicly viewable
12 for a school district.

13 DR. MOORE: Okay. So if he were to seek
14 employment elsewhere, they would not have any
15 knowledge of the written reprimand?

16 MS. DOUGLAS: They would have knowledge of it
17 based on the order on the State Board website.

18 DR. MOORE: Right.

19 MS. DOUGLAS: And that would be therefore at
20 least two years, I believe.

21 DR. MOORE: Okay. Okay. But after that point
22 in time --

23 MS. DOUGLAS: Yeah, it would be removed.

24 DR. MOORE: And nothing from -- once you receive
25 a written reprimand, or even probation, nothing

1 prohibits you from being hired in a new district or
2 in your old district; is that correct?

3 MS. DOUGLAS: That is correct. It does not
4 prevent you from teaching at all.

5 DR. MOORE: Okay. And this did not -- this
6 written reprimand did not result in termination of a
7 district's -- that was a district decision; is that
8 correct?

9 MS. DOUGLAS: Right. They were not mutually
10 exclusive.

11 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other questions?

13 DR. HILL: Yeah, I had a question.

14 In that violation, was there any training that's
15 going to be required for -- maybe I didn't see it --
16 to deal with going to be in that classroom with that
17 population of students?

18 MS. DOUGLAS: The training that was suggested --

19 DR. HILL: Yeah.

20 MS. DOUGLAS: -- was the Code of Ethics
21 training; then also the Power of Paradox, How We Gain
22 and Lose Influence; then also The 85% Solution, How
23 Personal Accountability Guarantees Success, No
24 Nonsense, No Excuses.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If there's no more questions --

1 DR. HILL: Can we question him at all?

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

3 DR. HILL: Can he come back up?

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment --

5 DR. HILL: Can you come up?

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- if you would answer a few
7 questions, please?

8 DR. HILL: I just had a -- when you mentioned
9 relationships within the class, did you know any of
10 these students? I think you mentioned outside the
11 classroom. I mean, because as -- you've been a
12 special education teacher; right?

13 MR. PARLIMENT: Right.

14 DR. HILL: And so do we normally -- you say you
15 substituted or you went in for the Coach, you just --
16 you went in to relieve him. And that kind of -- you
17 went in as a substitute for that Coach; is that
18 correct?

19 MR. PARLIMENT: Yes, sir. This wasn't a normal
20 --

21 DR. HILL: So that's not your normal --

22 MR. PARLIMENT: I was there to help. I had free
23 time and I was trying to help.

24 DR. HILL: So that's not your normal
25 responsibility?

1 MR. PARLIMENT: No, it's not my normal
2 responsibility.

3 DR. HILL: So you're not normally in that
4 setting?

5 MR. PARLIMENT: Right.

6 DR. HILL: So you went in that setting to help
7 somebody else?

8 MR. PARLIMENT: Right. I was --

9 DR. HILL: So you're not trained to help --
10 you're not trained to monitor special ed. students;
11 is that what you're saying?

12 MR. PARLIMENT: Oh, yes, I am. I have just
13 about every education hour that you can have. I mean
14 I've -- you know, I did my Master's, Ed. Specialist,
15 all kinds of behavior control.

16 DR. HILL: But I heard you say that that
17 environment -- that the things that were going on in
18 that classroom that day, they were so different for
19 you?

20 MR. PARLIMENT: It was different for me because
21 it was an incident that happened that I had no
22 control over.

23 DR. HILL: Okay.

24 MR. PARLIMENT: Because they just up and did it,
25 bam, and I think it was more or less pulling a prank

1 on the school with the Instagram on their part. The
2 student that was twerking there -- let me inject
3 this: only two weeks before this incident I had
4 written her up and we had had a conference in the
5 principal's -- in Dr. Overton's office about her
6 behavior, her hyperactivity, dancing and so-forth.
7 And a fight broke out between the momma and the
8 daughter in which they were striking each other, and
9 security and the police came in, and I left it to Dr.
10 Overton. The conference should've been held in the
11 special ed. office because I'd kind of gotten some
12 control over it in the special ed. office. But in
13 Dr. Overton's office, a very small, confined area,
14 and it just didn't --

15 DR. HILL: I got that. I guess my question --
16 you volunteered to go in there to help; that's what I
17 guess --

18 MR. PARLIMENT: Yes, sir. I volunteered to go
19 in there and help.

20 DR. HILL: So, but you probably wouldn't do that
21 again, would you --

22 MR. PARLIMENT: Well --

23 DR. HILL: -- based on what has happened?

24 MR. PARLIAMENT: Knowing what happened now I
25 wouldn't.

1 DR. HILL: Okay. All right. That's all.

2 MR. PARLIMENT: I mean, I'm there to help kids

3 --

4 DR. HILL: Yeah.

5 MR. PARLIMENT: -- and I love kids and I like --
6 nothing is more enjoyable than taking a kid who is
7 having all kinds of problems in school and home and
8 whatever and talking to them and taking them through
9 those five steps and gearing the curriculum and
10 watching them be successful and watching them grow up
11 and become somebody. And I've got students now in
12 Jacksonville that come by and see me, and, you know,
13 some of them are very successful in life. And I've
14 got a few that aren't, but --

15 DR. HILL: Okay. No further comments. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Parliment.

19 DR. HILL: Thank you. That's all I have.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions?

21 MS. NEWTON: I have a question.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Newton, and then Ms.
23 McFetridge.

24 MS. NEWTON: Are you employed right now?

25 MR. PARLIMENT: No, I'm not. I've applied for a

1 job, but I can't get a job because this is hanging
2 over my head.

3 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

4 MR. PARLIMENT: That's why I want it -- I want
5 it either lifted or, you know, I'm going to have to
6 do something.

7 MS. NEWTON: Okay. At this particular time, you
8 are a special ed. teacher though?

9 MR. PARLIMENT: Yes, I am.

10 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then, have you ever
11 mentored another teacher at any time?

12 MR. PARLIMENT: Ever mentored? Yes.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Whenever you're mentoring
14 teachers and talking to teachers, have you ever
15 discussed with them discipline and making sure that
16 you're up, moving around in a classroom?

17 MR. PARLIMENT: Oh, yes. That's normal
18 procedure. Absolutely.

19 MS. NEWTON: Right. And so, you know, that's
20 the thing that I think bothers me most about this is
21 that -- you know, one of the things that I in the
22 past have really talked to new teachers about is that
23 a lot of your problems can be avoided before they
24 ever happen if you're up moving around and seeing
25 what's going on.

1 MR. PARLIMENT: Just about any time I've ever
2 written a referral I've reflected on it and I've seen
3 where I probably could've done something to have
4 prevented it. But if I take the students through
5 those steps that I just explained to you, then
6 normally my job is gearing the curriculum and they're
7 learning and they're happy and smiling and doing
8 their work and I don't have any discipline problems
9 whatsoever with them.

10 MS. NEWTON: Right. Right. But, you know, as a
11 teacher we have to realize that any time that we set
12 foot in any classroom or even on the school grounds
13 -- you know, it may not be your particular classroom,
14 but any time that we step on school grounds we have a
15 responsibility to all students. And so, you know,
16 that -- I think that's what is -- that's what stands
17 out to me most of all in this case, I think.

18 MR. PARLIMENT: When misbehavior occurs, the
19 time to correct it is right then.

20 MS. NEWTON: Yes. Yes, sir.

21 MR. PARLIMENT: The previous people that I've
22 talked to, as far as I know, none of them were
23 special ed. teachers, you know, coming through this
24 process to get here. But I can assure you I didn't
25 do anything wrong. I was trying to do everything

1 right. I did get the situation under control. I've
2 had practically every education class you can give.
3 And I'm just praying that you guys will allow me to
4 go back to work --

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment, we have another
6 question.

7 MR. PARLIMENT: -- because I don't have many
8 more years to work.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Parliment, we have -- do you
10 have any more questions, Ms. Newton?

11 MS. NEWTON: No.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. McFetridge.

13 MS. MCFETRIDGE: She asked the question that I
14 was going to ask.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: She did? Okay.

16 All right. If -- do we have any more questions
17 or --

18 MR. SUTTON: Yes. May I ask a question?

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Mr. Sutton.

20 MR. SUTTON: Mr. Parliment, how many years have
21 you taught?

22 MR. PARLIMENT: I don't know. Eighteen years at
23 Jacksonville, and I just -- three or four years in
24 Alaska, and three years at Mount Ida; I wrote the
25 driver's ed. curriculum for the Hot Springs

1 Rehabilitation Center; I worked in Marianna for a
2 year -- or maybe two years in -- a year-and-a-half in
3 Marianna. I started at mid-term.

4 MR. SUTTON: Over 20 years?

5 MR. PARLIMENT: Oh, yes.

6 MR. SUTTON: Have you had any other prior
7 reprimands?

8 MR. PARLIMENT: Well, there was a fight that
9 broke out at Jacksonville High School in which I
10 blocked the door. The fight was in the hall and I
11 blocked the door to the kids getting out so they
12 couldn't get out of the classroom and get into the
13 fight. And I got a reprimand for blocking my door; I
14 wasn't supposed to -- according to the administrator,
15 I wasn't supposed to do that. But if I hadn't done
16 that, there would've been an even bigger fight in the
17 hall.

18 MR. SUTTON: But prior --

19 MR. PARLIMENT: But no other.

20 MR. SUTTON: Okay.

21 MR. PARLIMENT: Nothing else.

22 MR. SUTTON: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Sutton.

24 Thank you, Mr. Parliment.

25 If there's no other questions -- oh, wait -- Dr.

1 Moore.

2 DR. MOORE: Yes, I do have a question.

3 I understand that the original sanction was a
4 three-year probation and this was moved down to a
5 written reprimand. Do you -- and a reprimand -- are
6 you having trouble finding employment because of this
7 written reprimand?

8 MR. PARLIMENT: Yes.

9 DR. MOORE: Because typically a case that comes
10 before us they want it moved down to a written
11 reprimand. You know, that's the lowest that we can
12 go. Have you had --

13 MR. PARLIMENT: I'm sorry; I can't understand
14 you.

15 DR. MOORE: You have received the lowest penalty
16 that can go in this instance, and so I'm having
17 trouble understanding why you are appealing it when
18 it's already been lowered from the original.

19 MR. PARLIMENT: Why should there -- why should
20 there be any penalty at all?

21 DR. MOORE: Okay.

22 MR. PARLIMENT: I didn't violate the Code of
23 Ethics and to say that I did is just ridiculous. I
24 mean how can you punish -- that's like a guy gets a
25 traffic ticket and you punish the policeman for him

1 getting the traffic ticket. I mean --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Parliment, we
3 appreciate your testimony.

4 Do we have any other questions? Any more
5 discussion?

6 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Parliment. We appreciate
7 you.

8 MR. PARLIMENT: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So at this time, as Ms.
10 Freno stated earlier, we need to do this in three
11 different sections. We'll take three different
12 votes.

13 The first one is Findings of Fact, so do we
14 agree with the PLSB on their decision. So at this
15 time I will take a motion.

16 MS. NEWTON: Madam Chair, based on what the Code
17 of Ethics says that a violation can be -- because of
18 the reasonable action of a supervisor it can also be
19 an act of omission.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

21 MS. NEWTON: I move that we agree with the PLSB
22 and Finding of Fact that there was a violation.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
24 Newton.

25 Do I have a second?

1 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Williamson.

3 Ms. Freno, go ahead.

4 MS. FRENO: Thank you, Ms. Dean.

5 The first question that you have to determine is
6 whether you agree with the Ethics Subcommittee's
7 determination on the fact --

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: On the fact.

9 MS. FRENO: -- not on whether there's a
10 violation.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

12 MS. FRENO: So the fact would be, Amy, that
13 there was inappropriate conduct --

14 MS. DOUGLAS: That inappropriate behavior was
15 allowed by a student.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

17 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right.

18 MS. FRENO: So that would be the first motion.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. What she said then.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
22 Newton, seconded by Mr. Williamson.

23 Do we have any more discussion?

24 Okay. All in favor?

25 MR. SUTTON: Uh --

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oops.

2 MR. SUTTON: I'm sorry.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry; go ahead.

4 MR. SUTTON: I was trying to hit my button.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No problem.

6 MR. SUTTON: I just want to make a comment based
7 on my feelings on all this. You know, when students
8 have a substitute they really take advantage, and I
9 guess I'm somewhat sympathetic over Mr. Parliment
10 coming into the classroom. They're going to take
11 advantage of the substitute, whether they know him or
12 not. Perhaps they pulled a prank on him. I just --
13 and even though, as Dr. Moore said, it is the lowest
14 penalty that can be imposed, in my personal feeling
15 tarnishing a man's career, perhaps keeping him from
16 getting another job, because of the actions of a
17 student -- he didn't grant permission; it's sort of a
18 judgment call. But I oppose -- and I'm -- I oppose
19 tarnishing this man's record for the actions of a
20 student, particularly when it wasn't his classroom
21 and just knowing how -- again, how students take
22 advantage of substitutes.

23 So whether or not this is the time to make that
24 statement I don't know, but I am making it.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It's the perfect time. It's

1 perfect discussion.

2 MS. DOUGLAS: If I might interject, I believe
3 that the full gamut of possibility -- I believe the
4 full gamut of possibilities is available, as far as a
5 dismissal, a letter of caution, then a written
6 reprimand would be the next step, and then on up from
7 there, just for clarification.

8 MS. WOOD: Could you say that again -- I'm sorry
9 -- what the levels are?

10 MS. DOUGLAS: There can be a dismissal, a
11 private letter of caution, then a written reprimand
12 is the third in line, and then probation, suspension,
13 revocation.

14 MR. LOOKADOO: Can you -- the letter of caution,
15 can you explain what exactly that does?

16 MS. DOUGLAS: Typically --

17 MR. LOOKADOO: Is that just a private --

18 MS. DOUGLAS: Yes. Typically, if a letter of
19 caution is issued it is something that's kept in the
20 PLSB file. It is not put on ALS. It is not recorded
21 on -- as a licensure action.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Douglas.

23 DR. MOORE: Yeah, thank you for clarifying what
24 I was saying.

25 MS. NEWTON: Can I say something --

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

2 MS. NEWTON: -- in response? Just this -- I
3 don't believe that Mr. Parliment was a substitute in
4 what we think of as being a substitute teacher. He
5 was a teacher employed by the district there at that
6 particular school. And just, in my mind, you know,
7 teachers have a responsibility not only for the
8 classes that they're assigned to. But, you know,
9 every, you know, time the bell rings we step out in
10 the hall and we monitor students coming up and down
11 the hall; we monitor, you know, changing of classes;
12 before and after school -- you know, all different
13 times of the day that we monitor students that you
14 may not have a class with. And that responsibility
15 does not change, no matter where we are on campus or
16 even, you know, off-campus activities, you know. If
17 you look at the Code of Ethics, it applies even then.

18 So, you know, I'm not viewing this as he was a
19 substitute teacher; I'm viewing that he was a teacher
20 employed by the district on that particular campus.
21 And so that's the reason I stated the motion.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Newton.

23 Any further discussion?

24 DR. HILL: This is not -- because I want to ask
25 you, just based on management style -- and you're way

1 more experienced -- do you feel, you know, as a lead
2 administrator that maybe he shouldn't have been in
3 that classroom?

4 MS. NEWTON: I have been called to go into
5 classrooms all over campus at different times when,
6 you know, some sort of -- someone had to step out for
7 an emergency or whatever. And, you know, that's just
8 part of what a teacher does. And so -- you know,
9 especially, he was a special education teacher --

10 DR. HILL: Yeah.

11 MS. NEWTON: -- and the courses that he
12 described that he had been through, as far as, you
13 know, administrators and all sorts of things. So he
14 should've had the training that would be expected for
15 that particular classroom. Yes.

16 DR. HILL: Okay.

17 MR. SUTTON: I will say this, that -- and thank
18 you, Ms. Newton, for clearing that up. But it just
19 seems like to me that every incident of an infraction
20 by a student -- in every case -- fighting, throwing
21 something across the room, whatever the deal is -- I
22 think that you could say that something could've been
23 done perhaps to prevent that. And I think that's --
24 and the way I was thinking, that's the case here.
25 Yeah, you can say something could've been done, he

1 could've perhaps gotten up or whatever. I just -- I
2 hate for us to take a position to move to hurt a
3 man's career for the act of a student. He didn't
4 have a routine of doing that from what I'm
5 understanding. It's just -- it's a difficult
6 situation and sad. But I just don't -- I just don't
7 see it. I just don't see holding the teacher
8 responsible for one action that can happen in a
9 classroom.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Sutton.

11 Do we have any other discussion?

12 Ms. McFetridge.

13 MS. MCFETRIDGE: This is difficult. And I'm
14 just wondering, because I -- I think Mr. Sutton has
15 kind of summarized how I -- my feelings. But I'm
16 wondering if the district didn't over-react because
17 they were embarrassed. It was a very embarrassing
18 situation. But for this gentleman, you know, to
19 basically lose his job over this is very difficult
20 and I don't quite understand that. Thank you.

21 DR. MOORE: Well --

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore.

23 DR. MOORE: Yeah. And I think what I'm hearing,
24 what we're deciding does not determine a job or not.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

1 DR. MOORE: The district could've kept this --
2 could keep a teacher -- with a reprimand or even
3 probation a district can keep a teacher. So --

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

5 DR. MOORE: -- to me, it is -- and I hate to say
6 it, but the larger picture of how are we encouraging
7 teachers to be preventative. And I know as a teacher
8 things have happened in my classroom too, but how can
9 you take steps to be preventative so that this can't
10 happen again. And I think here you go through some
11 training and -- we all need training at different
12 points; it makes you better and you come out -- and
13 you can use this as a point to show a district that
14 you're learning and how to mitigate in the future, if
15 that makes sense. And so I do want to separate that
16 we're not imposing sort of hiring in this case.
17 That's how I'm looking at it at least.

18 DR. HILL: But I think what we're saying by our
19 vote today will influence his employability, if I
20 hear what he said up there as far as him get the job.
21 Our decision today is going to influence his
22 opportunities.

23 MS. NEWTON: But we're looking -- I mean right
24 now if we uphold it would be the written reprimand
25 and that would not prevent him in any way from being

1 employed in any district in Arkansas.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We've seen many of these cases
3 before --

4 MS. NEWTON: Sure. Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- with probably -- well, with
6 much more stringent findings or violations, and they
7 go on to be employed. So --

8 MS. NEWTON: Sure. And have great careers.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, and have great careers. So
10 I think we probably should just focus on, you know,
11 as Dr. Moore said, what our responsibility is here as
12 a board. And that number one thing is the Findings
13 of Facts that we're starting with. As she stated,
14 the Board has nothing to do with their employability.
15 And even if the fact -- the fact that he may have
16 been let-go from that district, that has no -- that's
17 not something that we're responsible for. We don't
18 have that effect. However, we just -- I think we
19 need to focus on, as Ms. Newton said, what are the
20 responsibilities of a teacher. No matter what
21 situation you're in, no matter what classroom you're
22 in, what part of campus you're in, whether you're
23 off-campus, there are just things that a teacher
24 should always be doing, training that should kick in
25 at different times. And it's not to say that we're

1 not human and that things don't happen and maybe
2 decisions were made either way, but initially we have
3 to figure out the Finding of Facts.

4 So number one is do we agree with the PLSB's
5 Finding of Facts, so that's what we're voting on
6 right now. So we have a motion that we agree with
7 their Finding of Fact.

8 And, Ms. Douglas, would you remind us of what
9 that Finding of Fact was just verbatim?

10 MS. DOUGLAS: The Educator allowed inappropriate
11 behaviors by students.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

13 So we have a motion that we agree with the
14 Finding of Fact, that the teacher allowed
15 inappropriate behavior by students, and seconded by
16 Mr. Williamson.

17 Do we have any further discussion before we go
18 to a roll-call vote?

19 Okay. So we'll do roll-call.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

21 DR. MOORE: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

23 MR. SUTTON: No.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

25 MS. MCFETRIDGE: No.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

2 MS. WOODS: No.

3 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

4 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

5 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

6 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

7 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

8 DR. HILL: No.

9 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

11 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, would you like to
12 vote?

13 MS. DEAN: Yes.

14 SECRETARY KEY: Five yes, four no's.

15 MS. DEAN: Okay. Now we can move on to the
16 second section, and that is whether or not he
17 violated Standard 2, if that Finding of Fact that we
18 have agreed to is a violation of Standard 2.

19 And, Ms. Douglas, would you remind us of what
20 Standard 2 is?

21 MS. DOUGLAS: An Educator maintains competence
22 regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive
23 of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and
24 responsibilities relating to his or her
25 organizational position.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 Okay. With that in mind, do we have a motion?

3 MS. NEWTON: I move that there was a violation
4 of Standard 2.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have a second?

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Williamson.

8 Do we have any questions or discussion?

9 Seeing none, we'll do a roll-call.

10 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

11 DR. MOORE: Yes.

12 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

13 MR. SUTTON: No.

14 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

15 MS. McFETRIDGE: No.

16 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

17 MS. WOODS: No.

18 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

19 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

21 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

23 DR. HILL: Yes.

24 SECRETARY HILL: Mr. Williamson.

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Five yea's, three nay's.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes.

3 And, finally, the third item is if -- since we
4 determined that the violation was -- it was a
5 violation of Standard 2, do we agree with the
6 sanction or would we like to modify?

7 MS. NEWTON: Could we move it down to a letter
8 of caution that would go in his record and --

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I believe we can.

10 MS. NEWTON: If we do the letter of caution, can
11 there be trainings that go along with that or is it
12 just the letter of caution?

13 MS. DOUGLAS: It is simply just a private letter
14 of caution.

15 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

16 DR. HILL: And can we add training?

17 MS. DOUGLAS: I believe as a board you can add
18 training.

19 DR. HILL: Yeah. That's -- yeah.

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

21 MS. DOUGLAS: I guess they would go through the
22 PLSB once they were -- you would just need to make
23 sure you give them a timeline to complete them and
24 submit them. And if they weren't completed, then
25 they would have to come back here for a potential

1 licensure violation.

2 MS. NEWTON: So there can be trainings then?

3 MS. DOUGLAS: Yes, I believe so.

4 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore.

6 DR. MOORE: I misspoke earlier when I said that
7 a reprimand was the lowest, and I am thinking along
8 the same lines. And I hope that you're able to move
9 on and learn from this and know that we have seen
10 teachers in much worse and much harder situations
11 revamp --

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

13 DR. MOORE: -- and continue their career,
14 serving students well.

15 MS. NEWTON: So would it be the pleasure of the
16 Board that we add trainings or just do the letter of
17 caution?

18 MS. CHAMBERS: I definitely would support the
19 training and the direction that we're going in. I
20 don't know if there's a recommendation in terms of
21 what that training might be or what it would look
22 like associated with this private letter?

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It would probably be the
24 training that was recommended with the written
25 reprimand. There was already a list of training.

1 MS. DOUGLAS: There were three trainings
2 recommended: the Code of Ethics training was
3 recommended; the Power of Paradox, How We Gain and
4 Lose Influence; and then The 85% Solution, How
5 Personal Accountability Guarantees Success, No
6 Nonsense, No Excuses. Those were recommended, as
7 well as written reflections indicating how the
8 trainings would affect the educator's interactions
9 with students in the classroom.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Douglas.

11 MS. NEWTON: So I move that we have a letter of
12 caution with the previous trainings recommended by
13 the PLSB board.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Did you -- did anyone want to
15 add the written reflections?

16 MS. NEWTON: With the reflections submitted,
17 yes.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have a second?

19 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

21 So we have a motion from Ms. Newton, seconded by
22 Ms. Chambers.

23 Any discussion?

24 Okay. If not, then we'll vote by roll-call.

25 Ms. Douglas.

1 MS. DOUGLAS: Can you add a timeline --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, yes.

3 MS. DOUGLAS: -- for those trainings?

4 MS. NEWTON: So what would be a reasonable time?

5 A semester?

6 MS. DOUGLAS: Typically it's either -- within 90
7 days of the State Board order.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

9 MS. DOUGLAS: That's our standard --

10 MS. NEWTON: That's fine.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

12 DR. MOORE: Just to clarify, all those trainings
13 can be done online?

14 MS. DOUGLAS: Two of them are books and one is
15 online.

16 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

18 When Mr. Key is ready, we're -- okay, we're
19 ready for a roll-call.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

21 DR. MOORE: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

23 MR. SUTTON: No.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

25 MS. MCFETRIDGE: Yes.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

2 MS. WOODS: Yes.

3 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

4 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

5 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

6 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

7 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

8 DR. HILL: Yes.

9 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

11 SECRETARY KEY: Seven yea's, one nay.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes.

13 Mr. Parliment, we appreciate your years of
14 service to the students of Arkansas. And I think --
15 well, it's unanimous that this board values your
16 years of service and values your role as a teacher.
17 And I think as we grow older and we grow in our
18 professions there's always an opportunity to learn.
19 Sometimes we make mistakes, sometimes we don't make
20 the best decisions, but that's -- part of growing
21 wiser and older is just recognizing those times and
22 growing from them and making better decisions and
23 just being a better person as we just recognize those
24 things. And it happens; it happens to all of us.
25 And I assure you, this is minor compared to so many

1 things that we have seen. And the experience that
2 you have under your belt and your heart for children
3 I'm sure will help you throughout the years, and I'm
4 positive that you'll bounce back and move forward and
5 be better because of it.

6 So I hope that you have a Happy Birthday. I
7 hope you have a great day and that life is good from
8 now on.

9 Thank you so much, Mr. Alagood.

10 MR. ALAGOOD: Thank you. May we be excused?

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, you can.

12 Okay. Let's take a break. Let's take a five --
13 a seven-minute break. Let's take a seven-minute
14 break. It's 11:04. Let's meet -- let's meet back at
15 11:15. Ten-minute break, yeah.

16 (BREAK: 11:04 - 11:16 A.M.)

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We're going to resume
18 from our break, get back started on our agenda.

19 A-5: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NOMINATED
20 MEMBERS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD TO
21 REPLACE MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE VACANT OR EXPIRING JUNE 30,
22 2020

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. So we have
24 Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated
25 Members for the Professional Licensure Standards

1 Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or
2 Expiring June 30th. And we have Ms. Karli Saracini.

3 MS. SARACINI: Karli Saracini, Assistant
4 Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure.

5 Chair, Members, Secretary Key, I'm before you
6 today for a nomination of Dr. Joe Fisher by Dale
7 Query, and it is the representative from the Arkansas
8 Rural Education Association. And this will complete
9 all our new members for the PLSB board. Dr. Fisher
10 is superintendent at Guy-Perkins and he has been an
11 educator for 27 years. He would take the term that
12 would begin immediately upon this appointment and end
13 June 30, 2023. So I'm asking that you approve this
14 nomination.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Saracini.

16 Do we have any questions or discussion?

17 Seeing none, do we have a motion?

18 MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
20 Ms. Chambers.

21 MS. WOODS: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Woods.

23 All in favor say "aye."

24 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

1 Seeing none, motion passes.

2 Thank you, Ms. Saracini.

3 MS. SARACINI: Thank you.

4 B-1: PETITION FOR MINIMUM SCHOOL DISTRICT SIZE WAIVERS - ARK.
5 CODE ANNOTATED 6-13-1613

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We're going to move over
7 to the Action Agenda B. We have a Petition for
8 Minimum School District Size Waivers, presenter Ms.
9 Jennifer Dedman.

10 Good morning, Ms. Dedman.

11 MS. DEDMAN: Good morning. Jennifer Dedman,
12 attorney for the Division.

13 I just want to check real quick that our
14 superintendents are on. I see Superintendent
15 Cleveland. Is Superintendent Ridgell available?

16 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

17 MS. DEDMAN: Okay. Dr. Fisher?

18 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

19 MR. DAN DAVIS: (inaudible, not at microphone)

20 MS. DEDMAN: Superintendent Thompson [sic]?

21 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

22 MS. DEDMAN: Well, the notice letters did
23 indicate the 1:00 action agenda, so it may be that
24 our superintendents are not here. If you'd like to
25 continue with Superintendent Cleveland for Western

1 Yell School District, we can go ahead and take care
2 of that.

3 Superintendent Cleveland, I see that you're on
4 the Zoom, you have a connection. And can you say
5 hello?

6 SUPT. CLEVELAND: I'm Herschel Cleveland, the
7 superintendent of the Western Yell County School
8 District.

9 MS. DEDMAN: Thank you so much, Superintendent.

10 I'll go ahead and introduce this item -- and as
11 superintendents are available we'll move on to those,
12 if that's all right with the Board.

13 Okay. Great.

14 So this month we have four districts that are
15 seeking Minimum School District Size waivers. The
16 first on the agenda is Dermott School District; you
17 also have Guy-Perkins, Strong-Huttig, and Western
18 Yell School District.

19 If a school district is at or below 350
20 students, according to the district's ADM for the two
21 school years immediately preceding the present one,
22 they must be placed on a consolidation list and they
23 must consolidate with or be annexed to another school
24 district, unless the State Board grants a Minimum
25 School District Size waiver. To seek a waiver, the

1 district files a petition with the State Board of
2 Education, and, according to the law governing these
3 waivers, which is found in the Code at 6-13-1613, the
4 State Board shall grant a petition if a district
5 demonstrates those items that are set forth in
6 Subsection (B)(2)(a) through (d). So that's not
7 permissive; it requires the State Board to grant
8 these waivers if the school district meets those
9 listed items.

10 The Department has gone ahead and checked into
11 the factors that are required for the granting of
12 each waiver. If the district is not classified in
13 Level 5 Intensive Support, Fiscal Distress, or
14 Facilities Distress, they're not on probationary
15 status for violation of the Standards of
16 Accreditation if the school district facilities are
17 adequate as evidenced by the school district's
18 facilities masters plan and if the school board of
19 directors passes a resolution in support of the
20 waiver.

21 The Division of Academic Facilities and
22 Transportation did do a walk-through of the
23 facilities recently. They may have noted some things
24 that the district might want to fix or clean-up, but
25 all of the districts listed today were found

1 adequate, according to their facilities master plan.
2 You'll also see a little further down in that statute
3 that one of the determining factors is that it's in
4 the best interest of the students in the school
5 district to keep the school district open due to the
6 length of potential time spent on a bus by a student
7 to and from school, and that's as assured by the
8 school board of directors in the district in a
9 resolution. You'll find that for all of the
10 districts listed today as well.

11 Are there any questions?

12 d) WESTERN YELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

13 MS. DEDMAN: Okay. Seeing no questions,
14 Superintendent Cleveland is here to visit about
15 Western Yell School District and answer any questions
16 you may have.

17 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Ms. Dedman.

18 I want to express my appreciation to the State
19 Board and to the Department for allowing me to appear
20 by Zoom. We have made really an effort to keep our
21 people safe and I think it would not be possible
22 without Secretary Key, former Secretary Smith, and
23 Secretary Romero, as well as the Governor in their
24 guidance and your guidance that you've given us, as
25 well as the waivers that the State Board has allowed.

1 I want to tell you a little bit about our Covid-
2 19 here in Western Yell County. We have a population
3 of 22,000. We have positive -- folks who have tested
4 positive are 1191, which is 5.4% of our entire
5 population and may be the highest in the state. And
6 currently we have 1140 who have recovered, which
7 means we have 51 active cases. Now we've had 25
8 deaths, which is -- may be the highest per capita in
9 this state. So we have been taking this Covid-19
10 very seriously and we're very appreciative of the
11 guidance that we've received from the Governor and
12 from the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of
13 the Department of Health. We have sustained deaths
14 with our employees: we had a custodian's mother-in-
15 law who passed away, our school nurse's mother passed
16 away with Covid-19, and our county judge here in
17 Western Yell County. As of today, and we've -- we
18 appreciate the opportunity to open school up and have
19 onsite instruction. As of today, we only have one
20 child that's quarantined. We have no positives, and
21 we are very grateful for that because I'm sure you
22 know how fast this virus can travel. We have 154
23 square miles of school district and that amounts to
24 about two-and-a-half miles -- two-and-a-half square
25 miles -- or one square mile for every two-and-a-half

1 children; so we're fairly sparsely populated.

2 We have currently three bus routes. One of them
3 is 61 miles, one of them is 60 miles, and one of them
4 is 57 miles. It takes us approximately an hour and
5 45 minutes to run each route in the morning and then
6 in the afternoon. And we had some expense on March
7 17th when we shut down. I'm sure each and every one
8 of you, especially Secretary Key, can relate to that
9 occurrence. And what we did here in Western Yell
10 County is we provided AMI packets and we provided as
11 much online learning as we could -- but we were
12 unprepared, as were most districts. And what I asked
13 each teacher to do was give me a one-page report of
14 how you reacted when you found out we had to do
15 multiple AMI packets, what the good things were about
16 it, what the bad things were about it. And, most
17 importantly, I wanted a list of the students that
18 they taught remotely and through the AMI packets and
19 asked for a report of each student, how well they
20 did, whether they were exceeding the standards,
21 whether they were average, where they were below
22 average, and when they didn't try. And this
23 information has been extremely valuable to us in
24 trying to recover what was lost during that period.
25 As you know, the State has produced a back-to-school

1 playbook, which many, many people were involved in.
2 It's been extremely helpful. And then we have the
3 Ready for Learning and we have our plan to return to
4 school. And our plan to return to school consists of
5 a -- if the parents and students choose, they can
6 have all virtual. And our virtual is being really
7 through the platform of Celsius. We have onsite
8 school, and the onsite school in the 7-12 is our
9 platform that's Virtual Arkansas. We have access to
10 the Virtual Arkansas catalog and, of course, we're
11 teaching all of our required courses, plus any course
12 in that catalog that the students and parents want.
13 In our elementary we have been awarded a \$40,000
14 grant for literacy and that's Wit and Wisdom. And we
15 are using See Saw in K-2, and we have access -- we've
16 got Engage New York for our math in K-6.

17 And we are doing assessments; we're doing the
18 MAP assessments and the interim assessments for the
19 ACT interim test. So we're assessing and we're
20 trying to make sure that our efforts are good.

21 Now as a matter of where we were, when I was
22 hired back there we had -- on July 1 -- actually,
23 July 13th of last year, we had 39 Freedom of Choice
24 applications to leave the district. And then we had
25 some general -- the community wasn't real satisfied

1 with what the administrators were doing, and so we
2 have tried to change the expectations. And all folks
3 -- all staff, certified and classified, are expected
4 to do their job, they're expected to do well, and
5 those expectations, even last year, have produced
6 some dividends. We had 14 students qualify for
7 National Beta Club, and that was the most we've ever
8 had; we had one state winner, one second place
9 winner, and about four fourth place winners. And so
10 our children are beginning to attempt to achieve. We
11 had a girls' basketball team that went to the state
12 tournament for the first time in 28 years because
13 they were expected to do some things; they were
14 expected to do good.

15 And this year we approached our professional
16 development -- we had three teachers test positive
17 for Covid-19 during the summer when we weren't even
18 in school. So the curriculum director and the
19 principal and myself decided to do all of our
20 professional development by Zoom that were allowed.
21 Our principal had to go to some R.I.S.E. training in
22 person. But we have made really a gigantic effort.
23 And the thing that impressed me is I have not had one
24 teacher fuss about having to do that.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

1 SUPT. CLEVELAND: They just went ahead and
2 understood what they were doing.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you so much, Mr.
4 Cleveland. We appreciate you giving us that update.

5 Ms. Dedman --

6 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Okay. Do you want me to yield
7 for questions at this point?

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

9 SUPT. CLEVELAND: I'll be glad to.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

11 MS. DEDMAN: Thank you, Superintendent.

12 If the Board has any questions for
13 Superintendent Cleveland, you're free to ask them at
14 this time.

15 Dr. Moore.

16 DR. MOORE: Yes, I do have a question.

17 I remember at some point in time that you all
18 were moving to a four-day week. Is that correct?
19 And if so, have you cut that out this year?

20 SUPT. CLEVELAND: In January, we had a community
21 meeting. And the board voted in January to go to a
22 four-day school week, and we started at like 7:50 and
23 we let out about 4:30, and that has started this
24 year. We realize that there are parents that are
25 working and so we have instituted a brand-new program

1 called Friday School. In Friday School we take those
2 students that -- we've invited all those students
3 that I mentioned that didn't do well on the AMI last
4 spring, and we've invited all them -- and what we do,
5 we've got a certified teacher, maybe two of them,
6 depending on how many students we have -- we've got
7 some paraprofessionals doing Barton. And in the morning we
8 have English, language, math, and homework, and at
9 11:30 we have lunch. And after the 11:30 -- in this
10 school district last year we had 87% of our students
11 free and reduced lunch, and so we wanted to do
12 something in the afternoon that would help our
13 children have some opportunities that people get in
14 Little Rock and Fort Smith and Jonesboro and
15 Russellville, that we don't necessarily get here in
16 the country. And so we have -- some of our staff has
17 agreed to teach guitar lessons, music, give piano
18 lessons; we've got some -- one of our staff teaching
19 drones; we've got our -- one of our bus drivers who's
20 a professional photographer teacher a photography
21 class; we've got Hunter Education coming; got a
22 professor from LSU that's retired here coming to
23 teach about animal habitat, about fire ant control
24 and things like that; we've got the Cooperative
25 Extension lady coming to teach home ed. courses; and

1 we've got a dance teacher from Russellville coming
2 over to teach dance that the children have to go to
3 Russellville -- we only have two or three going. But
4 that's Friday school. And I think I'm having a
5 science magician come next time.

6 And what we did is we started to school late,
7 and we're real thankful for that, that we had that
8 extra week, because that really helped us -- but
9 we're having to make those up. As soon as the make-
10 ups are over we'll go back into Friday school. But
11 it's a unique opportunity for our students and I
12 think it's going to work really well.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Cleveland.

14 Do we have any other questions?

15 MS. NEWTON: Just one quick question.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Newton.

17 MS. NEWTON: Mr. Cleveland, your enrollment this
18 year, is it up or down?

19 SUPT. CLEVELAND: The enrollment at one point we
20 had -- is we had a constant declining enrollment.
21 And back in '14-15, it was 422; in '18-19, it was
22 342; in '19-20, it was 342.13; and as of today, we've
23 got 344.

24 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

25 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Now that does not include some

1 of our students who went to ARVA, which is the
2 Virtual Arkansas program. They went to ARVA last
3 year; so we've got at least six of our students that
4 we expect back on our -- if they come back, that
5 would give us the 350. But the good thing is we've
6 had students from Two Rivers come over here and want
7 to enroll; we've had students from Danville come that
8 want to enroll. And, of course, we can't take them
9 because they have to get a board-to-board transfer
10 and the school won't let them go.

11 So everything is looking up. The attitude is
12 good. There was three churches that supplied our
13 school supplies, along with the Walton group. The
14 Church of Christ provided some meals during
15 professional development. I mean we just feel some
16 terrific support from the community.

17 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you very much.

18 MS. CHAMBERS: I just -- if I can ask a question
19 about the process. So this is not specific to this
20 district, but this is a -- I went back to look at the
21 wording again just to confirm. This is a "shall"
22 grant the petition if -- for waiver, if all the
23 conditions are met. Is that right?

24 MS. DEDMAN: That's correct, Ms. Chambers.

25 MS. CHAMBERS: Okay. So there's no other duty

1 of care or understanding that we should pursue. I so
2 feel for these schools and so appreciate the
3 geography that they're up against. I just wanted to
4 make sure I was doing what I needed to do, to ask the
5 right questions to understand the circumstances for
6 the district.

7 And there's no -- there's nothing currently in
8 policy or anything that would make any comment about
9 the number of years. So if a school has had an
10 enrollment under 350 for multiple years, again, as
11 long as all the conditions are met that really
12 doesn't matter. Is that accurate?

13 MS. DEDMAN: Under the statute, that's correct.
14 It doesn't really give a lot of discretion. It says
15 if they meet these items that the State Board shall
16 grant the waiver.

17 MS. CHAMBERS: Excellent. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

19 If there's no other questions or discussion, Ms.
20 Dedman, we can move on? Are we ready for a motion?

21 MS. DEDMAN: The Board is free to make a motion
22 at this time.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Then we are ready for a
24 motion. Ms. Chambers?

25 MS. CHAMBERS: I move to approve the petition

1 for waiver.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve the
3 waiver from Ms. Chambers. Do I have a second?

4 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.

6 All in favor say --

7 MR. DAN DAVIS: Microphone.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, shoot, sorry. So we have a
9 motion by Ms. Chambers to approve the waiver,
10 seconded by Ms. McFetridge.

11 Do we have -- all in favor say "aye."

12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

14 Seeing none, the motion passes.

15 Thank you, Ms. Dedman.

16 And I believe lunch is here -- okay.

17 MS. DEDMAN: We do have Dr. Fisher --

18 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Madam Chairman, may I make a
19 comment?

20 MS. DEDMAN: I believe that's Superintendent
21 Cleveland.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, go ahead, sir.

23 SUPT. CLEVELAND: I am here by the grace of the
24 State Board of granting me a waiver, and you've
25 granted me a waiver twice. And I think you've

1 provided me more enjoyable stress than anybody has in
2 a long time. And I just want to thank you for all
3 that you do. And I think this will probably be the
4 last time I'll be appearing before you; I'm going to
5 retire either at the end of this year or at semester.
6 And one of the things that you asked me to do is see
7 if we had qualified paperwork candidates. And I
8 posted my job, or the job here at Western Yell, and
9 I'm pleased to report that we have 18 certified
10 candidates to fill my position.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Great.

12 SUPT. CLEVELAND: So I just wanted to let you
13 know that I did what you asked me to do.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you so much, Mr.
15 Cleveland.

16 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We appreciate your years of
18 service to the students of Arkansas and you stepping
19 up to this position and filling in and just helping
20 this district through this difficult time. So enjoy
21 your retirement and I'm sure that you'll be doing --
22 enjoying your life and doing even better things. So,
23 thank you so much for your service.

24 SUPT. CLEVELAND: Thank you so much for the
25 approval of the waiver.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Have a great
2 one.

3 SUPT. CLEVELAND: And thank you, Secretary Key.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: [laughing] I'm sorry.

5 b) GUY-PERKINS SCHOOL DISTRICT

6 MS. DEDMAN: Far be it from me to delay lunch --

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No problem.

8 MS. DEDMAN: -- we do have one more
9 superintendent on the line.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

11 MS. DEDMAN: If the Board is able to hear Dr.
12 Fisher that would be great.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure. Yeah.

14 MS. DEDMAN: Okay. Dr. Fisher is here from Guy-
15 Perkins School District. Again, this district meets
16 all of the factors required for the granting of the
17 waiver. They're not in Level 5, they're not in
18 probationary status, the facilities are adequate, and
19 they've got a resolution as part of the waiver and
20 concerning the bus ride. So if the Board has any
21 questions for Dr. Fisher, he's available to answer
22 them.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any questions?

24 Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion.

25 MR. SUTTON: So moved.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a move -- a motion to
2 approve the waiver --

3 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- by Mr. Sutton.

5 MS. WOODS: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And seconded by Ms. Woods.

7 All in favor say "aye."

8 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

10 Oh, I'm sorry.

11 MS. DEDMAN: No, please continue.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seeing none -- seeing none, the
13 motion passes.

14 MS. DEDMAN: Superintendent Thomas --

15 SUPT. FISHER: Thank you, Board.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, he did. Okay, great.

17 c) STRONG-HUTTIG SCHOOL DISTRICT

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Let's go ahead and do Mr. --

19 MS. DEDMAN: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- Superintendent Thomas.

21 MS. DEDMAN: Superintendent Thomas, she's from
22 Strong-Huttig. Again, the District meets all of the
23 factors required for the granting of the waiver.

24 They do have their resolution in support of the

25 waiver and concerning the length of the bus ride.

1 I see that Superintendent Thomas has joined us.
2 So if you have any questions for Superintendent
3 Thomas, she's available to answer.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

5 Ms. -- Dr. Moore.

6 DR. MOORE: Yes. Thank you for being here
7 today, Superintendent. I do have a question. I
8 noticed online that this school is classified as a K-
9 12 school. Do you have -- is it one school with one
10 principal or do you have many principals per
11 building? I've not visited your district, so I want
12 to see about that.

13 SUPT. THOMAS: We are -- I'm sorry. This is
14 Kimberly Thomas, Strong-Huttig School District.

15 We are a K-12 district. We have one building
16 that is our elementary campus and we have a building
17 for our 7th through 12th grade. But we are
18 considered one LEA, one school district.

19 DR. MOORE: And so you have principals at both
20 campuses; is that correct?

21 SUPT. THOMAS: I'm actually the principal and
22 the superintendent. I have a Dean of Students at
23 both campuses.

24 DR. MOORE: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Any more questions,

1 Dr. Moore?

2 DR. MOORE: No. That's interesting. Thank you
3 for sharing that.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions?

5 Oh, Mr. Key -- Secretary Key.

6 SECRETARY KEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 And just I want to weigh-in on this one,
8 particularly because Ms. Thomas has been an excellent
9 member of the Superintendent Advisory Group that we
10 put together within the last few months to help us
11 with a lot of the Covid-19 issues. But I also want
12 to say that this is a district that a couple of years
13 ago I had a number of concerns about, but Ms. Thomas
14 has done a great job since she's come onboard. You
15 know, I bragged on Speaker Cleveland before at
16 Western Yell, and I didn't want to belabor that one.
17 But I do want to just make a comment about Ms. Thomas
18 and what she's been doing there. Also, just to make
19 sure that it's on the record that we've had
20 legislative support for that. I know Speaker of the
21 House Shepherd was going to be here I think later in
22 the afternoon, but because of the scheduling we're
23 getting this one done. And also Sonia Barker,
24 Representative Barker has sent us -- so I just want
25 to make sure that is noted here on the record as

1 well, with her support for this approval.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

3 Any further questions or discussion?

4 All right. Then I'll entertain a motion.

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: I move that we grant the
6 waiver.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to grant the
8 waiver by Mr. Williamson.

9 Do I have a second?

10 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

12 All in favor say "aye."

13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

15 Seeing none, motion passes.

16 MS. DEDMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Dedman.

18 And with that, we will break for lunch until --
19 or, no, it's 11:45; let's do 12:45. Is that going to
20 be an issue with anyone coming on?

21 MS. DEDMAN: Not to my knowledge.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

23 MS. DEDMAN: It appears that Superintendent
24 Ridgell might be on the road.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

1 MS. DEDMAN: So she was expecting to be here by
2 1:00. I think she'll be here by 12:45.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. 12:45 then.

4 MS. DEDMAN: Okay. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.

6 (LUNCH BREAK: 11:45 A.M. - 12:49 P.M.)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. I'm going to bring
8 our State Board meeting back into order.

9 B-2: CONSIDERATION OF ONE-YEAR STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION
10 WAIVER REQUESTS

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And while we are waiting for
12 another school district to get here for the waivers,
13 we have Ms. Tracy Webb for the Consideration of One-
14 Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Requests.

15 MS. WEBB: And I think --

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Is that right?

17 MS. WEBB: -- Elkins, they were on there
18 earlier. Jeremy Mangum or Paula Weaver -- I don't
19 see their names. Let's see. I know the second one,
20 Fayetteville, is ready to go.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We can go ahead with
22 Fayetteville, if you want to do that.

23 b) FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

24 MS. WEBB: The Library Media Specialist in
25 Washington Elementary in the Fayetteville School

1 District took a position as a virtual teacher this
2 year. The school has enrollment of 310 students,
3 which is 10 over the maximum to have a half-time
4 Library Media Specialist. So they do have another
5 part-time one in the district that they can move to
6 that school, but they would still be over. They're
7 going to require a full-time Library Media
8 Specialist; so, therefore, they are asking for a
9 waiver for the Library Media Specialist ratio for
10 this school year, and that would be Standard 4(f)(2).

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. WEBB: And we do have -- I'm sorry; we do
13 have Dr. Tammy Tucker, the Associate Superintendent
14 for Administrative Services, and Greg Mones, the
15 Director of Human Resources for the Fayetteville
16 School District.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome, Fayetteville School
18 District. Thank you for joining us today.

19 Do we have any questions for Fayetteville?

20 DR. MOORE: I do.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore.

22 DR. MOORE: Yes. Thank y'all for being here
23 today. I know we received some concerns from -- in
24 emails with concerns about lessening the Library
25 Media Specialist position, especially when you have

1 some students online. And so I wanted to hear how
2 the district is planning to meet the needs of those
3 students who are in-person and online with this
4 change.

5 MR. MONES: Yes. Thank you for the opportunity
6 to present and for your consideration of this one-
7 year waiver. The district does currently have one
8 full-time Library Media Specialist on a campus that's
9 located less than 5 minutes from Washington
10 Elementary School. And that campus's enrollment this
11 year is below the 300 student threshold; it's at 235.
12 So the idea of the Fayetteville Public Schools is to
13 have that librarian split time between that campus
14 and then Washington Elementary School's campus. And
15 for serving the virtual students, the lessons that
16 she's creating for her current campus, the videos and
17 online lessons that she's creating can easily be
18 shared with virtual students on both campuses.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Mones.

20 Dr. Moore, do you have any more questions?

21 DR. TUCKER: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, I'm sorry; go ahead, Ms.
23 Tucker.

24 DR. TUCKER: I was also going to interject that
25 both of those campuses have a Media Specialist aid

1 that will be at the building full-time.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Tucker.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay. So students, both virtual and
4 in-person, will continue to receive their time with
5 the Library Media Specialist each week?

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

7 DR. TUCKER: Yes.

8 DR. MOORE: Okay.

9 MR. MONES: Yes, that is correct.

10 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge.

12 MS. McFETRIDGE: What is the student population
13 then at the other school where you would share that
14 staff person?

15 MR. MONES: As of yesterday, that total
16 enrollment was 235 students. And of that, due to the
17 numbers of students requesting (sound cutting out)
18 learning or hybrid learning (sound cutting out) days
19 a week, only 103 of the 235 students would be on
20 campus.

21 MS. McFETRIDGE: I think what concerns me is the
22 fluctuation that can happen as we're going through
23 this. You may get some of those students that are
24 off-site right now but may come back into school at
25 any time. How would you handle that at that time?

1 MR. MONES: Certainly. With our numbers, we
2 monitor those daily, as everyone does. But we would
3 have room to accommodate additional students back
4 into the other school. Leverett Elementary is the
5 other school with us. And with only 235, there is
6 plenty of space there and still fall below that 300
7 student threshold. And, once again, those lessons
8 that the librarian is creating she can share with any
9 number of students whether they're on a hybrid
10 schedule or totally virtual. From whichever campus
11 she's at, she's able to serve both campuses with the
12 curriculum for students. And then with the support
13 of those library aids, one at each campus, there's
14 always an opportunity for (sound cutting out) library
15 services at any time during the day.

16 MS. McFETRIDGE: Are you leaving the library
17 open for students that are virtual students? Are
18 those students welcome to come into the school and
19 use the library, even though they're virtual
20 students, I guess is how I should word that better?

21 MR. MONES: Students wanting to access the
22 library can definitely work through their teacher or
23 with the librarian themselves to arrange access to
24 any of the materials that are in the library.

25 MS. McFETRIDGE: So then there is a possibility

1 that you would have more students coming in to use
2 the library than are scheduled at the school at this
3 time?

4 MR. MONES: The library is available to 312
5 students at Washington or 235 at Leverett. So, yes,
6 it is available to all of the students.

7 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other --

9 DR. TUCKER: I would interject that many of the
10 parents that opted for the five-day home virtual
11 learning option did so because they expressed a
12 concern about entering the building during this
13 pandemic. And so to be honest, we are not
14 anticipating large numbers of them wanting to access
15 the building during this time.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Tucker.

17 Ms. Newton.

18 MS. NEWTON: So if you have parents that are
19 virtual with their child, and that child -- they have
20 concerns about them entering the building, how are
21 you getting library materials and reading materials
22 to those children?

23 DR. TUCKER: The Library Media -- or the Media
24 Specialists are pulling those materials, and they can
25 be left in the office so the parent can step in and

1 pick those up. Many of our -- even our classrooms on
2 campus, the Media Specialists are pulling those
3 materials and delivering them to the classroom. Many
4 of our parents expressed a concern about moving
5 students around the building, and especially into
6 areas where other students -- other groups of
7 students had been. So at this time we're kind of
8 doing library to the classroom. So the same process
9 would happen for those virtual students; it would
10 just be delivered to the office.

11 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So this half-time person, is
12 that person the one responsible for pulling all those
13 materials, getting them to the classroom, and getting
14 them to the office, and having parents contact her?
15 Is she the one that's going to take that
16 responsibility for all those students?

17 DR. TUCKER: Much of that is actually going to
18 be done by the aid that's working in the library
19 full-time.

20 MS. NEWTON: Because if I'm adding right, you
21 were looking at over 500 students that she's going to
22 be responsible for -- the 300 on one campus and the
23 200-and-something on the other campus. You know, if
24 she's having to pull books for 500-and-something
25 kids, you know, get them to a classroom or get them

1 to the office, you know, I can see where she would be
2 overwhelmed in a very short period of time.

3 DR. TUCKER: I understand. There is a full-time
4 library aid at Washington and a full-time library aid
5 at Leverett.

6 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

7 DR. TUCKER: And the Media Specialist would
8 split between the two.

9 MS. NEWTON: So, essentially, we would be
10 looking at three people taking care of two schools, I
11 guess?

12 DR. TUCKER: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And you're committed to
14 keeping that -- those aids at those two buildings for
15 the entire rest of the year?

16 DR. TUCKER: Oh, yes, ma'am. They are
17 contracted employees.

18 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Anyone else have any questions
20 or comments or discussion?

21 Ms. Woods.

22 MS. WOODS: This may be ignorance on my part.
23 Is there an additional certification that a
24 Specialist has over a Library Aid?

25 MR. MONES: Yes. Our Library Media Specialists

1 have completed a master's program in Library Media
2 for Public Schools and a teaching credential for the
3 Library Media Specialist for what grade level that
4 they're working with. Library paraprofessionals or
5 library aids are not required to have credentials or
6 degrees.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

8 Any further questions or discussion?

9 Ms. Newton.

10 MS. NEWTON: This person that you've got that's
11 going to be going between the two buildings, have you
12 discussed this with her and listened to any concerns
13 that she might have?

14 MR. MONES: Yes. And, actually, we had before
15 school started, when we realized that this was going
16 to be an issue, we were able to look at the
17 enrollments at each school and discussed it with the
18 librarian. And it was actually the librarian's
19 recommendations to be split between the two schools.
20 She did not want to lose contact with her current
21 home students (sound cutting out).

22 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So last year, before you hit
23 300, is that what happened is that she was going
24 between the two campuses?

25 MR. MONES: Last year, both schools had

1 enrollments of over 300 students.

2 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

3 MR. MONES: So we did have a full-time librarian
4 at each campus. The librarian -- the full-time
5 librarian at Washington Elementary had requested to
6 teach a virtual class this year, and is being
7 accommodated to do that.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

9 MR. MONES: This year, she's teaching virtually.
10 And with the specialists she can work her full-time
11 library media position at Washington Elementary next
12 year.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And have you talked to the
14 public, your parents and community members about what
15 you're thinking about doing?

16 MR. MONES: We've had discussions at the school
17 level with the principals, with administration, and
18 then they've had discussions with their faculty
19 regarding how Library Media (sound cutting out) this
20 year and concerns there. There's the understanding
21 among library staff in the entire Fayetteville School
22 District (sound cutting out) happening for this year
23 and they are in support of it as well. The waiver
24 will be for this one year only.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I would encourage you to

1 reach out to your parents also, to let them know what
2 they're doing and what the process is for obtaining
3 materials and that whether they're onsite or they're
4 virtual that they still have the same access to
5 materials for their children.

6 MR. MONES: Certainly.

7 DR. TUCKER: And I would also -- I'm sorry.

8 MS. NEWTON: Go ahead.

9 DR. TUCKER: I was just going to add that with
10 our numbers we really wanted to be respectful of our
11 student enrollments at both campuses. We could have
12 moved a handful of students from Washington to
13 Leverett, and both schools would've been under 300.
14 But we wanted to be able to keep those students in
15 their home campuses, and that's why we're requesting
16 this waiver.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Tucker.

18 To Ms. Newton's point, as far as your community
19 engagement piece, as far as this waiver goes, I would
20 encourage you to go a step further and not just to
21 let the community know what you're doing, but to
22 involve them in the process of how you're making
23 decisions for the students of that community; as
24 well, along as much of the process as you possibly
25 can, to engage them and involve them in that process

1 and not just let them know what's going on, let them
2 know what you're doing.

3 Okay.

4 MS. WEBB: One piece of information is that the
5 actual standards require a full-time Library Media
6 Specialist when the enrollment gets to 300. But
7 another one is not required until enrollment gets to
8 1500, then it would require two. So there's not even
9 a one-and-a-half requirement; it's just a one between
10 300 students and 1500, if that helps at all.

11 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

13 Okay. Do we have any further -- Ms. Chambers.

14 MS. CHAMBERS: I was just ready to make a
15 motion.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Well, if we don't have
17 any further questions or discussion, you can go ahead
18 with your motion.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: I make a motion that we approve
20 this waiver request for Fayetteville.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion to
22 approve the waiver request from Ms. Chambers.

23 Do I have a second?

24 MR. SUTTON: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.

1 All in favor say "aye."

2 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

4 Seeing none, motion passes.

5 Congratulations, Ms. Tucker and Mr. Mones.

6 Thank you for joining us today.

7 DR. TUCKER: Thank you very much.

8 MR. MONES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

10 a) ELKINS SCHOOL DISTRICT

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Go ahead.

12 MS. WEBB: So the other one-year waiver request
13 was Elkins School District. And I don't know that I
14 see their names --

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

16 MS. WEBB: -- but are they -- are they on?
17 Okay.

18 So the Elkins -- the next item is the Elkins
19 request for a one-year Standards for Accreditation
20 waiver, also for Library Media Specialist. So the
21 Elkins Elementary and Middle School have each
22 experienced some unexpected growth this year. In the
23 past, they shared a Library Media Specialist between
24 the two schools because they were both under 300.
25 This year, enrollment in both schools have exceeded

1 300, which requires a full-time Library Media
2 Specialist in each building. Both schools have
3 approximately 20% of their students that will have
4 requested virtual learning. And so they're
5 requesting this waiver so that they may have an
6 opportunity to search for a certified Library Media
7 Specialist for next year if the enrollment continues
8 to be above 300. And I think enrollment, they've
9 gone -- they've grown quite a bit this year to -- I
10 don't have those numbers with me. Dr. --

11 SUPT. MANGRUM: I'm here.

12 MS. WEBB: I'm sorry -- Paula Wheeler or Jeremy
13 Mangrum, the superintendent, should be --

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Mangrum I believe is on.

15 SUPT. MANGRUM: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Mangrum, welcome.

17 SUPT. MANGRUM: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any questions for Mr.
19 Mangrum of Elkins?

20 Ms. Newton.

21 MS. NEWTON: Mr. Mangrum, thank you for being
22 here. And having a growth in enrollment, I'm sure
23 you're the envy of a lot of superintendents around
24 the state right now.

25 SUPT. MANGRUM: We are excited.

1 MS. NEWTON: I'm sure. I'm sure.

2 Our previous one had said that they were going
3 to give the librarian that was going to split between
4 the two buildings some extra help. Do you have
5 anything in mind as far as giving that person some
6 extra help as far as a para or an aid?

7 SUPT. MANGRUM: Yes, ma'am. And if you don't
8 mind, Board Members, I can provide a little bit of --
9 a little bit more detail, if that would be okay, on
10 numbers.

11 MS. NEWTON: That would be great.

12 SUPT. MANGRUM: These buildings sit right next
13 to each other here in Elkins, the elementary and
14 middle school do. Previously -- we typically average
15 around 260 to 270 students per building; so in past
16 years we've had one Library Media Specialist that's
17 split between the two. We do have paraprofessionals
18 that are always in the library and keeping the
19 library open whenever the certified Media Specialist
20 is at the neighboring building. This year, while
21 many districts in the state have seen reduced
22 numbers, and in some cases large reductions in
23 enrollment, we actually are up in students, about 50
24 for our district. And it seems like all 50 is in
25 that elementary and middle school range. So that put

1 us at 300 -- currently, we're at 304 and 305
2 students, respectively, in each one of those
3 buildings. So that just nudged us over that 300
4 mark. That enrollment jump didn't happen until
5 August. We saw a large number of transfer requests
6 that we accommodated and that put us over. And then
7 we also had some people move into the district and
8 didn't register until late, so that put us over. And
9 basically where we're at is I want to staff that
10 other position in the long-run to have obviously the
11 full-time Library Media Specialist in both buildings.
12 But when you find out at the end of August that you
13 need that, quite frankly, in what is still currently
14 a critical shortage area, it's not probably going to
15 be doable to find a qualified applicant, licensed
16 applicant at this point. So that's the reason we
17 asked for the waiver. The plan is to advertise that
18 position through the winter and then hire that
19 position to go to two full-time Library Media
20 Specialists beginning next school year.

21 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Mangrum.

23 Do we have any further questions?

24 Dr. Moore.

25 DR. MOORE: I see that you cited about 20% of

1 your students are virtual. Are those students being
2 served by the Library Media Specialist too?

3 SUPT. MANGRUM: They are. So the 304, 305
4 number, that was -- that's everyone onsite and
5 virtual. So onsite we're actually at around 240
6 students per building, well below that 300 mark, but
7 our Media Specialist is serving our virtual students.

8 We actually invested over the summer a pretty
9 hefty amount of money into an eBook collection that
10 the Library Media Specialist could help give those
11 virtual students opportunities to check those books
12 out. We tried to mirror as much as we could what we
13 have in our libraries. So we -- again, we did invest
14 quite a bit of money in that.

15 And we are open to students that want to check
16 books out and they can request those and come up and
17 pick those up out of the library. So we are still
18 serving those students if they have any desire to
19 interact with the Library Media Specialist or with
20 our school libraries during this time.

21 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions?

23 Okay. Well, if not, then I'm ready for a
24 motion.

25 MS. WOODS: I move to approve.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve the
2 waiver by Ms. Woods.

3 Do I have a second?

4 MS. NEWTON: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry; who said that?

6 Okay, Ms. Newton. Seconded by Ms. Newton.

7 All in favor say "aye."

8 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

10 Seeing none, motion passes.

11 Thank you, Mr. Mangrum, and congratulations.

12 SUPT. MANGRUM: Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

14 SUPT. MANGRUM: Thank you.

15 B-1: PETITION FOR MINIMUM SCHOOL DISTRICT SIZE WAIVERS

16 a) DERMOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next on the agenda -- I'm
18 having a hard time navigating this. It keeps kicking
19 me out somehow.

20 Yes, go ahead, Ms. Dedman. I'm sorry.

21 MS. DEDMAN: All right. Superintendent Ridgell
22 is in the lobby. I'm going to go get her real quick.

23 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

24 MS. DEDMAN: Okay. Superintendent Ridgell is
25 here for the Dermott School District. Just to recap

1 from this morning, the Department did check into the
2 factors required by 6-13-1613 and the District does
3 meet all of them. They're not classified in Level 5,
4 they're not probationary status; the facilities are
5 adequate. They have a board resolution in support
6 and a board resolution addressing the length of bus
7 ride.

8 Superintendent Ridgell is here with -- I believe
9 that's one of your board members?

10 SUPT. RIDGELL: Board president.

11 MS. DEDMAN: Your board president of the Dermott
12 School District. They're here to answer any
13 questions you may have. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you. Welcome.

15 Do we have any questions?

16 I'll start with Mr. Sutton. Do you have a
17 question? Actually, I'm sorry, I'll start with Mr.
18 Lookadoo. Questions?

19 MR. LOOKADOO: No.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Sutton?

21 MR. SUTTON: No.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge?

23 MS. McFETRIDGE: No.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore?

25 DR. MOORE: Yes. Well, thank y'all for coming

1 here today. I know -- I kind of look back at
2 enrollment over time and this is -- is this the first
3 time for you-all to be on this list? Is that
4 correct?

5 SUPT. RIDGELL: Yes.

6 DR. MOORE: Okay. I believe that there's just
7 been a lower population rate in south Arkansas going
8 on. Has this been a slow stream of students moving
9 out, or what has occurred that put you on the list at
10 this point in time?

11 SUPT. RIDGELL: Well, I'm not for sure what has
12 occurred, but at this -- currently, we have 367 as of
13 yesterday. So it's just kids that move in and out.
14 So we're above the amount now, so we're hoping to
15 keep that.

16 DR. MOORE: Okay. I did notice that I guess two
17 years ago, looking back, both the elementary school
18 and the high school received D ratings. And I know
19 you all face a lot of challenges, but wanted to hear
20 you speak a little bit on the academic side of things
21 at your school.

22 SUPT. RIDGELL: Well, on the -- as far as
23 academics, we are working on our curriculum. We have
24 conducted curriculum audits to make sure there are no
25 gaps or repetition between K-12. As far as

1 personnel, we are meeting the standards as far as
2 personnel. We are advertising as of now for a
3 reading interventionist to help us with our reading
4 scores at the high school level. We have two at the
5 elementary, but we need somebody at secondary. So we
6 are making those adjustments to meet those academic
7 challenges.

8 DR. MOORE: That's great. That's important.

9 I guess unrelated, but this year do y'all have
10 any students doing virtual or are most in-person?

11 SUPT. RIDGELL: Over half of our kids -- about
12 50% of our kids are virtual at home.

13 DR. MOORE: Okay. Will that interventionist be
14 able to reach those kids as well?

15 SUPT. RIDGELL: Yes. She's doing -- she's doing
16 pushing in at school; she's doing some push-in and
17 pull-out. But she's already setting up groups
18 through Google Classroom to meet those kids -- you
19 know, their needs.

20 DR. MOORE: That's great. Thank you.

21 SUPT. RIDGELL: Uh-huh.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Woods? Ms. Chambers?

23 Okay. Okay.

24 So if there is no more -- if there are no more
25 questions or discussion, I'm ready for a motion.

1 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll move to approve.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

3 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
5 Ms. McFetridge, and then seconded by Ms. Chambers.

6 All in favor say "aye."

7 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

9 Seeing none, the motion passes.

10 Congratulations.

11 SUPT. RIDGELL: Thank you so much.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you for coming today. We
13 appreciate y'all.

14 Okay. Let's see. I think that was it on those
15 requests for the School District Size Waivers.

16 B-3: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL DECISIONS

17 a) RIVER VALLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY IN THE VAN BUREN SCHOOL
18 DISTRICT

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So now we are down to the
20 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions.

21 MS. WEBB: Yes, ma'am. Tracy Webb, Charter
22 Unit.

23 In August, the Charter Authorizing Panel
24 unanimously approved an amendment request from the
25 River Valley Virtual Academy in Van Buren School

1 District to increase their enrollment cap from 275
2 students to 1,000. The charter serves students in
3 grade K-12. We should have Ms. Jennifer Feeny, the
4 Principal, and Nancy Robbins, the Director of
5 Curriculum from Van Buren to answer any questions you
6 may have.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

8 Welcome, Ms. Feeny and Ms. Roberts [sic]. We
9 appreciate you being with us today.

10 Let's see. Do we have any questions? We'll
11 start with Dr. Hill.

12 DR. HILL: No.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No. Mr. Williamson? Ms.
14 Newton?

15 Ms. Newton.

16 MS. NEWTON: Just thank you for being here.
17 Just one quick question. Why did you choose to go
18 from 275 to 1,000? That seems like a big jump. And
19 how many do you have enrolled or potentially to
20 enroll in your virtual academy?

21 MS. FEENY: It is a very big jump for us. We --
22 in an effort to implement the Ready for Learning
23 model that our district adopted, virtual learning was
24 a huge option for our students. With that, we saw a
25 substantial -- a substantial increase in students.

1 We had approximately 1400 students who expressed
2 interest in enrolling with us. That is now -- about
3 670 are enrolled with us right now. So we wanted to
4 make sure we did not have to limit any students in
5 the virtual model and that we could accommodate
6 everybody that wanted that option during the
7 pandemic.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay. What about training for your
9 teachers? Because you've had -- if you've gone that
10 big of a jump, I'm sure you've added teachers in your
11 virtual model. What kind of training did you give
12 them?

13 MS. FEENY: We have. We have had quite a bit of
14 training. It's been ongoing. Before school started,
15 we did some training through our online provider,
16 Pearson, and they helped walk the new teachers
17 through how to operate the system and how to enroll
18 kids and best ways to navigate through the system.
19 And then in the last probably three weeks we've been
20 doing training specifically for the areas that pop
21 up, like monitoring students, communicating with
22 parents. So we've been really targeting our PD over
23 the last three weeks to make sure that, you know,
24 what they need is what we're offering them.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And what about communication

1 with parents and students, how is that going?

2 MS. FEENY: It's going pretty good. You know,
3 it is a difficult task to go from a lower number of
4 students to increase to 670. But our parents -- the
5 way we have our kids grouped by teacher, the teacher
6 is the main facilitator of all information. And I
7 would say that communication at this point is almost
8 daily with families, making sure that parents can
9 log-in, that the kids can log-in, that the internet
10 access is sufficient, and then just helping them with
11 different technology issues that come up. So right
12 now I would say that we're communicating a lot with
13 our families.

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Good. Thank you.

15 MS. FEENY: You're welcome.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Chambers? Ms. Woods? Dr.
17 Moore?

18 DR. MOORE: Yes. And I know this is not a
19 hearing on this today, but I did want to ask on this:
20 I noticed in your application or whatever it was you
21 saying that the price per student has gone down --

22 MS. FEENY: Uh-huh.

23 DR. MOORE: -- because you switched curriculums.
24 Can you talk a little bit about that?

25 MS. FEENY: Yes. So in the past we used Pearson

1 online blended learning teachers who were contracted
2 through Pearson as our digital provider. With the
3 increase in students that we were expecting over the
4 summer, we decided to have a little bit more control
5 over the teachers and the pace of the program, that
6 we needed to start using our own teachers for our --
7 for a vast majority of the kids. And so we were able
8 to transition and actually save a little bit of money
9 by using some of our staff that we have right now,
10 since they have lower counts in their classroom.

11 DR. MOORE: That makes sense. And now are y'all
12 able to attract students from out-of-district into
13 your school?

14 MS. FEENY: We are. We have several students
15 that enroll with us that apply for school choice by
16 May 1st. We have -- you know, not very many board-
17 to-board transfers, but that is an option for some
18 students that come to us from other districts. But a
19 vast majority do school-choice to us.

20 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge? Mr. Sutton?
22 Mr. Lookadoo?

23 Okay. Well, if we don't have any more questions
24 or discussion, I'm ready for a motion.

25 MS. MCFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion not to

1 review.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to not review
3 by Ms. McFetridge.

4 Do we have a second?

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 Thank you, River Valley, for joining us today.

12 MS. CHAMBERS: I'm not sure she can hear you.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh. Motion passes. Thank you
14 for joining us today.

15 MS. FEENY: Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank y'all for being with us.
17 Thank you.

18 b) PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL OF SPRINGDALE

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I'm sorry; go ahead, Ms.
20 Webb.

21 MS. WEBB: The next item on the agenda is the
22 review of the Charter Authorizing Panel decision for
23 Premier High School of Springdale.

24 In August, the Panel unanimously approved the
25 open-enrollment charter application for Premier High

1 School of Springdale. The proposed school will serve
2 300 students in grades 9-12. The charter management
3 organization for the school is ResponsiveEd Education
4 Solutions and they currently operate three other
5 charters in the state.

6 The voting and comment sheet for the CAP meeting
7 was included in the agenda. And I think we have Mr.
8 Steven Gast, the superintendent, should you have any
9 questions. And the Board is to decide whether to
10 review or not review the application.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

12 Welcome, Mr. Gast.

13 Let's see. Let's start -- do we have any
14 questions? I'll start with Mr. Lookadoo? Mr.
15 Sutton? Ms. McFetridge? Dr. Moore?

16 DR. MOORE: Yes, I do have a question.

17 I noticed on the application it mentioned that
18 the local school district supported this. Was that
19 correct?

20 SUPT. GAST: Can you hear me?

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

22 DR. MOORE: Yes.

23 SUPT. GAST: Okay. I have Mr. Felton with me,
24 who's the Director of Premier in the state of
25 Arkansas, and he is going to also address that

1 question. So I'll turn it over to him and I will add
2 anything that I need.

3 MR. FELTON: So earlier this summer, as we were
4 doing community outreach and providing information to
5 individuals about the school in the community, we did
6 meet with the district leadership superintendent and
7 he had no opposition. And we also started having
8 conversations about how we can partner through
9 professional development and other things in the
10 community where we can work together.

11 DR. MOORE: That's great. And I know y'all
12 serve -- have a unique model, and I think the more
13 partnerships y'all have like that benefits everyone.
14 Thank you.

15 SUPT. GAST: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Woods? Ms. Newton?

17 MS. NEWTON: I just have a comment. Just I
18 wanted to thank you for -- on behalf of the students
19 that I know that this will help, that sometimes
20 people give up on, and so I'm really glad to hear
21 that you're going to be reaching out to them. And I
22 also thank you for the partnerships because we know
23 that it's going to take all of us working together to
24 reach kids and that especially need more help during
25 the time that we're living in. So thank you for what

1 you're doing.

2 SUPT. GAST: And we very much appreciate those
3 kind comments. And we are very, very excited about
4 not only this new Premier in Springdale, but also as
5 we move forward throughout the years to try and
6 impact as many kids in Arkansas that we can who
7 haven't had the opportunity to -- or for some --
8 whatever reason have fallen out of the public school
9 systems, to get them back and re-engaged and get them
10 a diploma so they can be active participants here in
11 Arkansas. So we're very, very excited about the
12 model and very excited about what we can do in the
13 future in Arkansas with this particular model of
14 school.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

16 Dr. Hill?

17 Okay. All right. If there's no more questions
18 or discussion, we are ready for a motion.

19 DR. MOORE: I move to approve.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
21 Dr. Moore.

22 DR. HILL: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill.

24 All in favor say "aye."

25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

2 Seeing none, motion passes.

3 Congratulations, and thank y'all for joining us
4 today. We look forward to all the great things y'all
5 will be doing in your communities.

6 SUPT. GAST: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

8 c) WESTWIND SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Ms. Webb.

10 MS. WEBB: This item is for the Charter
11 Authorizing Panel decision for Westwind School for
12 Performing Arts.

13 In August, the Panel unanimously approved the
14 open-enrollment charter application for Westwind
15 School of Performing Arts. The proposed school would
16 be located in North Little Rock and serve 225
17 students in grades 6-8. Ms. Theresa Timmons is on
18 Zoom, should you have any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

20 Ms. Timmons.

21 MS. TIMMONS: Good afternoon.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good afternoon. So good to see
23 you. Thank you for joining us.

24 MS. TIMMONS: It's good to see you as well.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome.

1 Okay. Do we have any questions? We'll start
2 with Dr. Hill.

3 DR. HILL: I just want to say I'm very familiar
4 with this model that Ms. Timmons is bringing to the
5 table. In fact, I know the research that she's done
6 behind it and I've visited and worked with the Winans
7 School of Performing Arts in Detroit. And I think it
8 definitely fills a gap here in central Arkansas for
9 the music focus on the community that's currently a
10 gap and has a specific learning outreach. I worked
11 with her through her summer programs for musically
12 talented students, and I think this definitely brings
13 some -- a need to our community through an outreach
14 in performing arts.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Hill.

16 MS. TIMMONS: Thank you, Dr. Hill.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Newton?

18 MS. NEWTON: Thank you for filling the gap and
19 stepping in to do that. My only concern is on a
20 middle school standalone model sometimes those kids
21 when they come out of the small -- you know, they're
22 at a loss, where do I go from here, how can I get my
23 needs fulfilled. What are your plans to transition
24 those 8th graders that are leaving your model? What
25 have y'all thought about there?

1 MS. TIMMONS: Well, we're working to make sure
2 that they are still with the Arkansas state
3 frameworks and they're able to transition into the
4 school district, any other school. Now our long-term
5 goal for Westwind School for Performing Arts is to
6 expand through that and make it -- and build on that,
7 bring in 9th through 12th grade as well. But we
8 wanted to make sure that we have a successful model
9 starting with 6 through 8 and then eventually moving
10 through to the 12th grade.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Timmons.

12 Ms. Woods? Dr. Moore?

13 DR. MOORE: Yes. I know this is not a hearing,
14 but I did notice on your application that you will
15 provide transportation. Is that correct?

16 MS. TIMMONS: That is correct. We'll start with
17 one bus for the first year, and as the school grows
18 we'll implement and provide more opportunities for
19 buses.

20 DR. MOORE: Great. Thank you for doing that.

21 MS. TIMMONS: You're welcome.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. McFetridge?

23 MS. McFETRIDGE: When the Department gives these
24 charter applicants kind of a legal -- what do they
25 call it -- the legal review, does the applicant then

1 come back and kind of answer these questions at some
2 point? Because I'm not seeing answers in these
3 applications.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Webb.

5 MS. WEBB: Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt, the ADE
6 attorney, does review that during the hearing, and so
7 they do come to a decision during the hearing as to
8 what waivers will be granted.

9 MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

11 Mr. Sutton? Mr. Lookadoo?

12 MR. LOOKADOO: I have a question -- or really,
13 it's just out of curiosity. Looking at your master
14 schedule you have two advisory periods. I thought
15 that was kind of interesting, just -- plus the
16 intervention period. Could you describe kind of just
17 what's the plan for having the two different advisory
18 periods and what will students be doing in those?

19 MS. TIMMONS: Absolutely. I will let Jenn
20 Conner -- and she has been our Curriculum Specialist
21 on that -- address that.

22 MS. CONNER: Thank you. Hello, everyone.

23 So to answer your question, the intent behind
24 the two advisory periods is to build and secure time
25 to help support students develop and expand their

1 social-emotional learning skills.

2 So at the first part of the day the advisory is
3 relatively short, but that's designed to be a moment
4 for students to reflect on how they're entering the
5 building, their own feelings, emotional-physical
6 states, and then sort of to set themselves up to say
7 what is it that I need to accomplish today, what do I
8 need to hand in, what do I need to prioritize in
9 getting assignments done, who do I need to ask for
10 help. So that advisory period, even though it's
11 short, will have its own mini curriculum that the
12 teachers will follow.

13 And then the second advisory period will be a
14 time to help students transition from lunch into the
15 rest of the school day. And during that advisory
16 that is where students will get very explicit
17 instruction and opportunities to practice along with
18 an adult modeling on the collaboration and
19 collaboration techniques that they're going to use
20 heavily when they're working on their art projects
21 together.

22 MR. LOOKADOO: Thank you. That sounds really
23 interesting and I just thought that was kind of
24 creative, building the two different advisory
25 periods. So, thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 If we don't have any more questions or
3 discussion, we are ready for a motion.

4 DR. HILL: I move that we not review.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to not review
6 by Dr. Hill.

7 MS. NEWTON: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Newton.

9 All in favor say "aye."

10 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

12 Seeing none, motion passes.

13 Congratulations, Ms. Timmons.

14 MS. TIMMONS: Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

16 MS. TIMMONS: We're really excited to be able to
17 bring this new innovative model to the school
18 district.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Very excited to see what comes
20 of it. Have a great day.

21 MS. TIMMONS: Thank you. You too.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thanks.

23 d) DIAMOND CUT PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. Webb.

25 MS. WEBB: The next item is a Charter

1 Authorizing Panel decision.

2 In August, they decided to unanimously deny the
3 open-enrollment charter application for Diamond Cut
4 Performing Arts Academy. The voting sheet -- voting/
5 comment sheet from the CAP meeting is included in
6 your agenda today.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Let's start with Dr.
8 Hill. Any questions?

9 DR. HILL: No, I don't have any.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore?

11 No questions?

12 All right. Then if there's no more discussion
13 or questions, I'm ready for a motion.

14 MS. NEWTON: Move not to review.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to not review
16 by Ms. Newton.

17 Do I have a second?

18 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

20 All in favor say "aye."

21 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

23 Seeing none, the motion passes.

24 Congratulations, Diamond Cut.

25 Thank you, Ms. Webb.

1 All right. We will move on to the next part of
2 the agenda. That's the Arkansas Leadership Academy.
3 Dr. Ivy Pfeffer.

4 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, Dr. Pfeffer is with
5 the Governor at the press briefing.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

7 SECRETARY KEY: So if we could pass over --

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

9 SECRETARY KEY: -- that item and move to
10 reports.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Absolutely.

12 (OFF THE RECORD - 1:30 p.m.)

13 (WHEREUPON, Reports were heard at this time;
14 that portion of the meeting may be viewed on the DESE
15 website.)

16 (BACK ON THE RECORD - 2:37 P.M.)

17 B-5: CONSIDERATION OF NEW LRSD CAB MEMBER - SANDREKKIA MORNING

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. With that, let me see if
19 I can get back to my agenda. Okay. That leads us to
20 New Business. It's the Consideration of the New
21 Little Rock School District CAB Member, Sandrekkia
22 Morning. And I think we need a vote to be able to
23 put on -- to add -- one moment, make sure I'm getting
24 this correct. Okay. So we will need a vote of the
25 Board to add and again to approve her appointment.

1 So if I can have a motion to add or not to add this
2 to the agenda?

3 MS. NEWTON: Move to add it to the agenda.

4 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So I have a motion by Ms.
6 Newton, second by Mr. Williamson to add this item to
7 the agenda.

8 And then, do we have any questions or discussion
9 before we take a vote to approve or not to approve
10 her appointment?

11 Seeing that we have no questions or discussion,
12 I'm ready for a motion.

13 SECRETARY: You got the motion.

14 MR. WILLIAMSON: You got the motion to add.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: To add. I need a motion to
16 approve her appointment.

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: We need to act on the motion.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: To vote. I'm sorry; so we need
19 to vote. So I don't need a motion to --

20 SECRETARY KEY: You have a motion and a second
21 --

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And a second --

23 SECRETARY KEY: -- to add the item.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- to add the item.

25 SECRETARY KEY: You need to vote on that action.

1 MR. WILLIAMSON: We need to vote on that.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right. So let's vote. Do we
3 want to do a roll-call? Let's do --

4 MS. CHAMBERS: No.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No. Okay. So all in favor?
6 Sorry. All in favor say "aye."

7 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

9 Seeing none, the motion passes. Thank you.

10 SECRETARY KEY: And if I may, Madam Chair, to
11 help set -- give some context, Ms. Morning is a
12 candidate -- unopposed candidate for a position --
13 one of the new positions on the board. She also
14 lives in the current zone, I believe it's 6.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. I think it used to be 2.

16 SECRETARY KEY: I think that's right. But where
17 there is a vacancy. If I've misstated the number,
18 please forgive me. But the seat that she is -- the
19 area she lives in now under the old district there is
20 an opening on the Community Advisory Board. So it
21 has been suggested that we appoint her to this
22 position so that she can go ahead and start getting
23 accustomed to the work, what's going on in the
24 district, and then she'll take a seat in the new
25 board when it's seated later on this year.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 Yes, it is Zone 6 and it used to be Zone 2,
3 under the new district.

4 Okay. With that, do we have -- we don't have
5 any public comments, Ms. Freno?

6 No.

7 MS. NEWTON: We need to vote to accept her, to
8 appoint her.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We just did.

10 MS. NEWTON: No.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No, we didn't. Sorry.

12 SECRETARY KEY: You had a motion to add it to
13 the agenda, and now a motion and a vote to --

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. I'm sorry.

15 SECRETARY KEY: -- approve it.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Bear with me.

17 Okay. So now I need a motion to vote --

18 MS. NEWTON: To accept her.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- to accept it.

20 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have a motion?

22 MS. NEWTON: Move to --

23 MR. SUTTON: Motion to accept [mic not on].

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

25 MR. SUTTON: Motion to accept.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Mr. Sutton.

2 Seconded --

3 MS. NEWTON: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- by Ms. Newton.

5 All in favor say "aye."

6 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

8 Seeing none, motion passes.

9 B-4: ARKANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

10 SECRETARY KEY: And now, Madam Chair, we need to
11 go back and take up Item Number 4 on the Leadership
12 Academy. Dr. Pfeffer is here.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you. I forgot
14 about that.

15 DR. PFEFFER: Okay. Thank you. Ivy Pfeffer,
16 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

17 So this agenda item is related to something we
18 actually were talking to you about, or starting to
19 talk about I think February, March, right before
20 Covid. And so our attention was diverted for awhile,
21 and we're wanting to bring this back to you for your
22 consideration. But as you see on the agenda item, it
23 is a request for proposal for the Arkansas Leadership
24 Academy.

25 And so to kind of put some context around the

1 proposal, so since 2013 we have been on a journey to
2 achieve our vision for excellence in education, which
3 is that Arkansas will transform and lead the nation
4 in student-focused education. And we all know that
5 the development of school leaders at all levels of
6 our school organization is a critical component to
7 transforming education in Arkansas and realizing our
8 goal. Outside of educational leadership degree
9 programs that are housed in our institutions of
10 higher education, the Arkansas Leadership Academy has
11 been the primary provider of leadership development
12 opportunities in our state.

13 So as you look at the different areas where the
14 Arkansas Leadership Academy provides institutes for
15 teachers, for the Master Principal Institute, Team
16 Institutes for development of superintendents and
17 school boards, so there are a lot of different things
18 that are provided. Probably the one that you all are
19 the most familiar with is the current Master
20 Principal program; we just had those Master
21 Principals come for designation a couple of months
22 ago.

23 But what we really want to do is take this
24 opportunity -- as we've really thought about the work
25 of our Arkansas ESSA plan, where we truly have moved

1 school improvement from a mindset of school
2 improvements, what you do if you're not doing well --
3 to actually school improvement being the job of
4 everybody. And leaders, teacher leaders, principal
5 leaders, superintendents being able to lead the
6 development of professional learning communities and
7 districts through the process of really becoming
8 high-reliability organizations, becoming very
9 effective, and becoming equipped with the skills
10 needed to really transform our schools so that we at
11 some point get away from focusing on adequacy to
12 really focusing on excellence.

13 So within this RFP it would allow you to select
14 the location and operator of a refreshed Arkansas
15 Leadership Academy that for the first time in a long
16 time really has some clear guidelines as far as these
17 are the expectations to insure that the way we
18 develop and support our leaders really aligns with
19 our state goals and really aligns with the other
20 things that are going on in our state, so that we
21 have leaders that maybe go into our most challenged
22 schools and are able then to really take on that work
23 and move forward.

24 So the proposal is there for you and we've
25 outlined a suggested process, and I'll be happy to

1 answer any questions. And if everyone is
2 comfortable, we would hope that you would approve for
3 this RFP to be submitted so that we could have people
4 start working on it.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Pfeffer.

6 Dr. Hill, any questions?

7 DR. HILL: No.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. Newton?

9 MS. NEWTON: I really like the idea of aligning
10 the Leadership Academy with our career continuum and
11 what we're doing as far as ESSA, as far as the
12 continuous cycle of improvement. The involvement of
13 the outstanding teachers in the Leadership Academy
14 and the outstanding principals in that institute is
15 just -- it's a great idea.

16 I did find one thing on the RFP that I think is
17 just a -- I think it's how it was formatted. But
18 there -- I did find something I think that you need
19 to look at that was a mistake, I think that needs to
20 be fixed on the draft, if you can.

21 DR. PFEFFER: Let me grab my computer.

22 MS. NEWTON: It was actually on the score sheet,
23 on the first page of the score sheet under Teacher
24 Leadership. I think that second part of Teacher
25 Leadership has bled down into the Use of Experienced

1 Practitioners because it talks about describing the
2 process of how current administrators are working,
3 but it never talks about the teachers. So I think
4 that one above bled down into it and covered up the
5 one for teachers. Do you see what I'm talking about?

6 DR. PFEFFER: On -- so I think I left my copy
7 upstairs and I'm trying to find it on here. I had
8 the summary pulled up.

9 Secretary Key, do you see it?

10 MS. NEWTON: Do you see what I'm talking about?

11 SECRETARY KEY: Yes, ma'am, I see it.

12 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And I think it's just a
13 matter of the formatting; it just bled over and
14 covered that one section up is what's happened, so --

15 SECRETARY KEY: We can go back and fix that.

16 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

17 DR. PFEFFER: And that's on the scoring sheet;
18 is that correct?

19 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

20 DR. PFEFFER: Okay.

21 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

22 DR. PFEFFER: Yeah.

23 MS. NEWTON: But it was a super idea and I'm
24 very impressed with the RFP. And if we can -- the
25 teacher -- the Leadership Academy does great work

1 now. But if we can get these improvements, I think
2 we will see improvements that will be able to be
3 sustained in districts, I think. So this is great.

4 DR. PFEFFER: And I'm glad that you mentioned
5 the practitioners, because if any of you got to watch
6 the Education Committee meeting yesterday there were
7 several principals from the PLC cohort schools that
8 were there talking about the PLC process with
9 legislators. But what was so powerful was the way
10 they kept talking about the fact that the reason why
11 they're so successful is because they have people who
12 are doing the work, showing them how to do the work.
13 And we've got some great people who have participated
14 in this and other things that are going well, and
15 we've really got that talent there to help support
16 that if it's just focused in the right way.

17 MS. NEWTON: Right. And, you know, teachers and
18 principals that are actually in districts doing the
19 work, coming back and showing other teachers and
20 leaders how to do the work and then putting it on
21 that career continuum, I think this is just a great
22 idea. So, thank you. This is just a few pages but I
23 know it's many, many hours of long, hard work. So I
24 appreciate your team doing this.

25 DR. PFEFFER: The team has really worked hard.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Questions, Dr. Moore? Anyone
3 else?

4 Okay. So we are ready for a vote -- motion to
5 approve.

6 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

7 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So we have a motion by Ms.
9 Newton, seconded by Ms. Chambers.

10 All in favor say "aye."

11 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

13 Seeing none, motion passes.

14 Thank you.

15 And then to work with this, I think it would be
16 a good idea to have a small committee -- what's the
17 word I'm looking for -- a small committee from the
18 Board to work with this RFP and with Dr. Pfeffer. So
19 this is something we don't have to vote on today, but
20 I think it would be a good idea to have three members
21 from our Board. So if you would consider -- Ms.
22 Newton, if you would consider it, and Dr. Moore, and
23 Ms. Chambers -- if y'all would -- if you three would
24 consider being a part of that small committee from
25 our Board to work with that, I would appreciate it.

1 Is that something that we need to vote --

2 SECRETARY KEY: (Shaking head from side to
3 side.)

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right. So if you all
5 are okay with that, then --

6 SECRETARY KEY: I think you as Chair have the
7 authority to appoint --

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

9 SECRETARY KEY: -- committees.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right. I was just trying to
11 make sure I cover all the bases.

12 So I would appreciate if y'all would serve on
13 that committee. I just appreciate your -- all of
14 your expertise in the different areas and your years
15 of experience, and, Dr. Moore and Ms. Chambers, your
16 years of experience in leadership in business. So we
17 look forward to what you all will add to that from
18 your expertise.

19 And if I'm not mistaken, I think we are at the
20 end of our agenda; so we are ready to adjourn.

21 MS. FRENO: There are no public comments.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, great.

23 MS. FRENO: You're free to move to adjourn.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So do I have a motion to
25 adjourn?

1 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, if I may say it's
2 been nice having everyone here.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It has been. Yes.

4 SECRETARY KEY: It's the first time that we've
5 been able to get all of the members back in this
6 building.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

8 SECRETARY KEY: The in-person meetings I think
9 have gone very well.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

11 SECRETARY KEY: And then the addition of
12 bringing others in by Zoom to help stem unnecessary
13 travel has been helpful as well. So I just have to
14 give thanks to Dan --

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

16 SECRETARY KEY: -- and the team for making this
17 work. It's been very smooth.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

19 SECRETARY KEY: And a good job, Dan.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. Thank you, Dan. We
21 appreciate you.

22 Thank you for mentioning that and bringing that
23 up, because we like to see Mr. Williamson -- we
24 missed you. So with that, glad to see everyone. I
25 look forward to seeing you all next month.

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And with that, do I have a motion to adjourn?

MR. WILLIAMSON: So moved.

MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: So moved by Mr. Williamson,
seconded by Ms. Chambers.

All in favor?

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Aye. Let's go.

(The Action Agenda was concluded at 2:51 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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 September 10, 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: September 20, 2020.

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

	13:13,14	87:6	ago (3)	88:14
\$	accommodate (2) 73:3;92:5	ADE (1) 102:5	67:13;88:17; 111:22	amounts (1) 53:23
\$248,187.50 (1) 5:9	accommodated (2) 78:7;84:6	adequacy (1) 112:11	agree (12) 9:3,5,10,13;12:24; 30:14,21;31:6;39:4,6, 13:42:5	Amy (5) 8:6,13;9:20;17:19; 31:12
\$253,500 (1) 6:15	accomplish (1) 103:7	adequate (4) 51:17;52:1;64:18; 87:5	agreed (2) 40:18;58:17	animal (1) 58:23
\$40,000 (1) 55:13	according (4) 28:14;50:20;51:2; 52:1	adjourn (4) 117:20,23,25; 119:1	ahead (17) 11:3;31:3;32:3; 50:1,10;51:10;57:1; 62:22;65:18;69:21; 71:22;79:8;80:17; 81:11;86:20;95:19; 108:22	annexed (1) 50:23
[Accountability (2) 20:23;44:5	adjustments (1) 89:6	aid (6) 71:25;75:18;76:4, 4,24;83:6	ANNOTATED (1) 49:5
[laughing] (1) 64:4	Accreditation (4) 51:16;69:9,14; 81:19	ADM (1) 50:20	aids (3) 73:13;76:14;77:5	ant (1) 58:23
[mic (1) 109:23	accurate (1) 61:12	administration (2) 16:12;78:17	Alagood (7) 8:12;9:19,24,24; 10:7;47:9,10	anticipating (1) 74:14
[sic] (2) 49:20;91:8	accused (1) 13:3	Administrative (1) 70:14	Alaska (1) 27:24	appeal (1) 8:8
[TIMER (1) 17:3	accustomed (1) 108:23	administrator (2) 28:14;35:2	aligning (1) 113:9	appealing (1) 29:17
A	achieve (2) 56:10;111:2	administrators (4) 15:14;35:13;56:1; 114:2	aligns (2) 112:18,19	appear (1) 52:19
A-1 (1) 3:2	across (2) 5:11;35:21	administrator's (2) 13:19,20	allegation (1) 11:5	appearing (1) 63:4
A-2 (1) 4:15	Act (5) 3:5,30;19;36:3; 55:19;107:17	adopted (1) 91:23	allege (1) 11:21	appears (1) 68:23
A-3 (1) 6:10	action (7) 30:18;33:21;36:8; 49:7,23;107:25; 119:12	adult (1) 103:18	allow (4) 10:17;11:23;27:3; 112:13	appease (1) 16:2
A-4 (1) 7:21	actions (3) 12:18;32:16,19	advantage (3) 32:8,11,22	allowed (10) 3:21;11:22;15:6,7; 18:8;31:15;39:10,14; 52:25;56:20	applicant (3) 84:15,16;101:25
A-5 (1) 47:19	active (2) 53:7;98:10	advertise (1) 84:17	allowing (1) 52:19	applicants (1) 101:24
ABC (4) 4:15;5:7;6:10,17	activities (1) 34:16	advertising (1) 89:2	almost (1) 93:7	application (9) 6:24;7:2;93:20; 95:25;96:10,17; 99:14;101:14;105:3
able (15) 43:8;64:11;73:11; 77:16;79:14;89:14; 94:7,12;101:3; 104:16;106:22; 112:5,22;115:2; 118:5	actual (1) 80:5	Advisory (10) 67:9;102:14,17,24; 103:2,10,13,15,24; 108:20	along (5) 42:11;43:7;60:13; 79:24;103:17	applications (2) 55:24;102:3
above (3) 82:8;88:14;114:4	Actually (15) 9:21;55:22;66:21; 75:17;77:14,18; 83:23;85:5,8;87:17; 94:8;110:18;112:3; 113:22;115:18	affect (1) 44:8	ALS (2) 19:4;33:20	applied (1) 24:25
Absolutely (3) 25:18;102:19; 106:11	add (19) 42:16,17;43:16; 44:15;45:1;79:9; 97:1;106:23,25; 107:1,1,3,6,14,15,23, 24;109:12;117:17	affirm (2) 10:20,23	always (4) 38:24;46:18;73:14; 83:18	applies (1) 34:17
Academic (3) 51:21;88:20;89:6	added (1) 92:10	afternoon (5) 54:6;58:12;67:22; 99:21,22	apply (1) 94:15	appoint (3) 108:21;109:8; 117:7
academics (1) 88:23	adding (1) 75:20	again (12) 9:11;23:21;32:21; 33:8;37:10;60:21; 61:10;64:15;65:22; 73:7;85:13;106:25	appointment (4) 48:12;106:25; 107:10,16	appreciate (16) 17:16;30:3,6; 46:13;53:18;57:4; 61:2;63:17;90:13; 91:9;98:2;115:24; 116:25;117:12,13; 118:21
ACADEMY (15) 90:17,25;91:20; 104:23;105:4;106:2; 110:9,12,24;111:10, 14;112:15;113:10, 13;114:25	addition (1) 118:11	against (1) 61:3	amount (4) 5:9;6:14;85:9;	approached (1) 56:15
accept (5) 109:7,18,19,23,25	Additional (3) 8:18;73:3;76:23	AGENCY (1) 6:11	AMI (4) 54:10,15,18;58:3	appreciation (1) 52:18
access (7) 55:9,15;73:21,23; 74:14;79:4;93:10	address (3) 10:4;96:25;102:21	agenda (19) 7:23;47:18;49:7, 23;50:16;86:17; 95:21;96:7;105:6; 106:2,19;107:2,3,7; 109:13;110:17,22; 117:20;119:12	among (1) 78:21	appreciative (1) 53:10
accident (2)	addressing (1)			

approval (7) 3:19,20;7:1;47:19, 24;63:25;68:1	43:22		behaviors (4) 11:12,12;18:9; 39:11	13:24;111:17
APPROVALS (3) 3:2,3,5	Association (1) 48:8	B	behind (2) 100:6;102:23	board-to-board (1) 60:9
approve (31) 3:16;4:3;5:7,23,24; 6:13;7:10,12;48:13, 18,19;61:25;62:2,9; 65:2;80:19,22;85:25; 86:1;90:1,4;98:19, 20;106:25;107:9,9, 16;109:15;113:2; 116:5,6	assure (2) 26:24;46:25	B-1 (2) 49:4;86:15	belabor (1) 67:16	books (4) 45:14;75:24;85:11, 16
approved (4) 7:4;90:24;95:24; 99:13	assured (1) 52:7	B-2 (1) 69:9	belief (1) 12:17	both (15) 5:14;66:19,23; 71:18,25;72:3;73:11; 77:25;79:11,13; 81:24,25;82:2;84:11; 88:17
approximately (3) 54:4;82:3;92:1	attached (1) 3:16	B2a (1) 51:6	BELL (2) 17:3;34:9	bothers (1) 25:20
area (3) 23:13;84:14; 108:19	attempt (1) 56:10	B-3 (1) 90:16	below (5) 50:19;54:21;71:11; 73:6;85:6	bounce (1) 47:4
areas (4) 75:6;92:20;111:13; 117:14	attention (2) 12:17;110:20	B-4 (1) 110:9	belt (1) 47:2	bragged (1) 67:15
ARK (1) 49:4	attitude (1) 60:11	B-5 (1) 106:17	benefits (1) 97:13	brand-new (1) 57:25
ARKANSAS (31) 4:15,18;5:1,12; 6:10,13,16;9:8;38:1; 46:14;48:7;55:9,10; 60:2;63:18;88:7; 96:25;98:6,11,13; 100:8;101:2;106:2; 110:9,23;111:3,7,10, 14,25;112:14	attorney (5) 8:22;9:25;17:22; 49:12;102:6	back (31) 14:4,10,13;15:8; 16:23;21:3;27:4; 42:25;47:4,14,18; 55:22;59:10,21;60:4, 4,20;69:8;72:24; 73:3;88:1,17;98:9; 102:1;106:16,19; 110:11,21;114:15; 115:19;118:5	best (4) 9:14;46:20;52:4; 92:18	break (8) 47:12,13,14,15,16, 18;68:18;69:6
around (7) 25:16,24;75:5; 82:23;83:15;85:5; 110:25	attract (1) 94:12	back-to-school (1) 54:25	Beta (1) 56:7	brief (1) 10:1
arrange (1) 73:23	audits (1) 88:24	bad (1) 54:16	BETTER (11) 4:15,18;5:1;6:10, 13;37:12;46:22,23; 47:5;63:22;73:20	briefing (1) 106:5
art (1) 103:20	August (6) 84:5,12;90:23; 95:24;99:13;105:2	bam (1) 22:25	big (4) 15:18;91:18,21; 92:10	briefs (1) 17:21
ARTS (8) 99:8,12,15;100:7, 14;101:5;104:23; 105:4	authority (1) 117:7	Barker (2) 67:23,24	bigger (1) 28:16	bring (5) 17:9;69:7;101:7; 104:17;110:21
ARVA (2) 60:1,2	AUTHORIZING (6) 90:16,20,23;95:22; 99:11;105:1	Barton (1) 58:7	birthday (2) 13:22;47:6	bringing (3) 100:4;118:12,22
assessing (1) 55:19	avail (1) 10:3	based (8) 7:2;9:6;17:25; 19:17;23:23;30:16; 32:6;34:25	bit (11) 16:3;53:1;82:9; 83:8,9;85:14;88:20; 92:13;93:24;94:4,8	brings (1) 100:12
assessments (3) 55:17,18,18	available (7) 33:4;49:15;50:11; 64:21;66:3;74:4,6	bases (1) 117:11	bled (3) 113:25;114:4,13	broke (2) 23:7;28:9
assigned (1) 34:8	average (3) 54:21,22;83:14	basically (2) 36:19;84:9	blend (1) 94:1	build (2) 101:6;102:24
assignments (1) 103:9	avoided (1) 25:23	basketball (1) 56:11	blocked (2) 28:10,11	building (15) 66:11,15,16;72:1; 74:12,15,20;75:5; 82:2;83:15,20;85:6; 103:5,24;118:6
Assistant (3) 3:7,12;48:3	AWARD (1) 6:11	bathroom (1) 14:24	blocking (1) 28:13	buildings (6) 76:14;77:11;83:4, 12;84:3,11
Associate (1) 70:13	awarded (1) 55:13	Bear (1) 109:16	Board (53) 3:15,19;5:7;6:13; 7:21,24;8:14,19,20, 25;19:17;38:12,14; 42:17;43:16;44:13; 45:7;46:15;47:20; 48:1,9;50:12,24;51:1, 4,7,18;52:8,19,25; 57:12,21;61:15,21; 62:24;64:11,20; 65:15;69:8;83:8; 87:5,6,9,10,11;96:9; 106:25;108:13,20,25; 116:18,21,25	burden (1) 9:21
associated (1)	away (3) 53:15,16;112:11	become (1) 24:11	board- (1) 94:16	BUREN (3) 90:17,25;91:5
	awhile (1) 110:20	becoming (3) 112:7,8,9	boards (2)	bus (7) 52:6;54:2;58:19; 64:20;65:25;87:6; 101:17
	aye (18) 4:9;6:3;7:14; 48:23;62:11;65:7; 68:12;81:1;86:7; 90:6;95:7;98:24; 104:9;105:20;108:6; 110:5;116:10;119:8	begin (1) 48:12		buses (1) 101:19
	AYES (18) 4:10;6:4;7:15; 48:24;62:12;65:8; 68:13;81:2;86:8; 90:7;95:8;98:25; 104:10;105:21; 108:7;110:6;116:11; 119:7	beginning (2) 56:10;84:20		Business (2) 106:20;117:16
		behalf (4) 8:14;10:2;17:24; 97:18		butt (1) 16:9
		behavior (5) 18:13;22:15;23:6; 31:14;39:15		button (1)

42:24;77:1 component (1) 111:6 compulsive (1) 11:12 computer (1) 113:21 concern (3) 74:12;75:4;100:19 concerning (2) 64:20;65:25 concerns (7) 67:13;70:23,24; 72:21;74:20;77:12; 78:20 concluded (1) 119:12 conditions (2) 60:23;61:11 conduct (1) 31:13 conducted (1) 88:24 conference (2) 23:4,10 confined (1) 23:13 confirm (1) 60:21 Congratulations (6) 81:5;86:11;90:10; 99:3;104:13;105:24 connection (1) 50:4 Conner (2) 102:20,22 consider (3) 116:21,22,24 CONSIDERATION (14) 4:15,18;5:1;6:10; 47:19,24;69:9,13; 71:6;90:16,20; 106:17,20;110:22 considered (1) 66:18 consists (1) 55:4 consolidate (1) 50:23 consolidation (1) 50:22 constant (1) 59:20 contact (2) 75:14;77:20 contends (1) 18:14 context (2) 108:11;110:25 continuation (1) 5:10 continue (5) 6:25;43:13;49:25;	65:11;72:4 continues (1) 82:7 continuous (1) 113:12 continuum (2) 113:10;115:21 contracted (2) 76:17;94:1 control (9) 11:19;15:2;16:11; 22:15,22;23:12;27:1; 58:23;94:4 conversations (1) 97:8 Cooperative (2) 5:8;58:24 copy (1) 114:6 counties (1) 5:12 country (1) 58:16 counts (1) 94:10 County (5) 50:7;53:2,16,17; 54:10 couple (2) 67:12;111:21 COURSE (8) 3:2,3,5,18;18:11; 55:10,11;60:8 courses (6) 3:16,18,22;35:11; 55:11;58:25 COURT (2) 3:8;4:22 cover (1) 117:11 covered (2) 114:4,14 Covid (1) 110:20 Covid- (1) 53:1 Covid-19 (4) 53:9,16;56:17; 67:11 creating (3) 71:16,17;73:8 creative (1) 103:24 credential (1) 77:2 credentials (1) 77:5 critical (2) 84:14;111:6 curiosity (1) 102:13 current (5) 71:16;77:20;	108:14;111:19;114:2 currently (9) 53:6;54:2;61:7; 71:7;84:1,13;88:12; 96:4;100:9 curriculum (12) 3:17;12:19;24:9; 26:6;27:25;56:18; 73:12;88:23,24;91:5; 102:20;103:11 curriculums (1) 93:23 custodian's (1) 53:14 cut (4) 57:19;104:23; 105:3,24 cutting (6) 72:17,18;73:14; 77:21;78:19,22 cycle (1) 113:12	9,20,23;31:2,4,8,11, 16,19,21;32:1,3,5,25; 33:22;34:1,22;36:10, 22,25;37:4;38:2,5,9; 39:12;40:13,15;41:1, 5,7;42:2,9;43:5,12, 23;44:10,14,18,20; 45:2,11,17;46:12; 47:11,17,23;48:15, 19,22,25;49:6;56:25; 57:3,8,10;59:13,16; 61:18,23;62:2,5,8,13, 22;63:11,14,17;64:1, 4,7,10,13,23;65:1,4,6, 9,12,16,18,20;66:4, 22,25;67:4;68:2,7,11, 14,17,22,25;69:3,5,7, 11,16,21;70:11,17, 21;71:19,22;72:2,6, 11;74:8,16;76:19; 77:7;79:17;80:12,16, 21,25;81:3,9,11,15; 82:14,16,18;84:22; 85:22;86:1,5,9,13,17; 87:14,20,22,24; 89:22;90:2,4,8,12,19; 91:7,13;93:16;94:21; 95:2,6,9,13,16,19; 96:11,21;97:16; 98:15,20,23;99:1,7,9, 19,22,25;100:15,17; 101:11,22;102:4,10; 104:1,5,8,11,15,19, 22,24;105:7,10,15, 19,22;106:6,8,11,18; 107:5,15,18,22,24; 108:2,5,8,15;109:1,9, 11,14,16,19,21,24; 110:1,4,7,13;113:5,8; 116:2,8,12;117:4,8, 10,22,24;118:3,7,10, 15,18,20;119:4,8 Dean's (1) 4:22 deaths (2) 53:8,13 decide (1) 96:9 decided (3) 56:19;94:4;105:2 deciding (1) 36:24 decision (8) 9:4;20:7;30:14; 37:21;95:22;99:11; 102:7;105:1 decisions (7) 9:1;39:2;46:20,22; 79:23;90:16,20 declining (1) 59:20 Dedman (37) 49:9,10,11,11,17,	20,22;50:9;52:13,17; 57:5,11;60:24;61:13, 20,21;62:15,17,20; 64:6,8,11,14;65:11, 14,19,21;68:16,17, 21,23;69:1,4;86:20, 21,24;87:11 defiant (1) 11:11 definitely (4) 43:18;73:22;100:8, 12 degree (2) 13:21;111:8 degrees (1) 77:6 delay (1) 64:6 delayed (1) 7:1 delivered (1) 75:10 delivering (1) 75:3 demonstrates (1) 51:5 deny (1) 105:2 Department (6) 8:4;51:10;52:19; 53:13;87:1;101:23 depending (1) 58:6 Dermott (4) 50:16;86:16,25; 87:11 describe (1) 102:16 described (1) 35:12 describing (1) 114:1 DESE (1) 106:14 designation (1) 111:21 designed (1) 103:3 desire (2) 12:18;85:18 desk (2) 14:4;16:4 detail (1) 83:9 determination (1) 31:7 determine (6) 9:3,6,9,10;31:5; 36:24 determined (1) 42:4 determining (1) 52:3
		D		
		daily (2) 73:2;93:8 Dale (1) 48:6 DAN (5) 49:19;62:7;118:14, 19,20 dance (2) 59:1,2 dancing (1) 23:6 Danville (1) 60:7 darn (1) 16:4 daughter (1) 23:8 DAVIS (2) 49:19;62:7 day (9) 13:9,9;22:18; 34:13;47:7;73:15; 103:2,15;104:20 days (2) 45:7;72:18 deal (3) 15:18;20:16;35:21 DEAN (280) 3:3,23;4:2,7,11,14, 17,25;5:4,20,24;6:2, 5,9,12,18;7:7,12,16, 20,23;8:2,3,7,9;14, 16,23;10:7,10,13,17, 20;11:2;14:10,13,16, 18;17:6,8,17;18:21, 24;20:12,25;21:2,4,6; 24:18,20,22;27:5,9, 12,15,19;28:23;30:2,		

Detroit (1) 100:7	24,25;51:1,4,8,12,16, 24;52:5,5,8,12,15; 53:23;55:24;58:10; 60:20;61:6;63:20; 64:5,15,15;65:17,22; 66:11,14,15,18; 67:12;69:12,23;70:1, 5,16,18;71:2,7;78:22; 81:10,13;83:24;84:7; 86:15,16,25;87:2,12; 90:15,18;91:1,23; 96:18;97:6;101:4; 104:18;106:21; 108:19,24;109:3	22:3,6,9,16,23;23:5, 9,13,15,20,23;24:1,4, 15,19;28:25;29:2,9, 15,21;32:13;33:23; 34:24;35:10,16; 36:21,22,23;37:1,5, 18;38:11;39:20,21; 40:7,8;41:10,11,22, 23;42:16,19;43:5,6, 13;45:12,16,20,21; 46:7,8;48:6,9;49:17; 57:15,16;62:17; 64:11,14,21;66:5,6, 19,24;67:1,2;70:13, 20,21,22;71:20,21, 24;72:3,7,8,10;74:9, 23;75:17;76:3,7,12, 16;79:7,9;81:7; 82:10;84:24,25; 85:21;87:24,25;88:6, 16;89:8,13,20;91:11, 12;93:16,18,23; 94:11,20;96:15,16, 22;97:11;98:16,19, 21,22,23;100:2,3,15, 16;101:12,13,20; 104:4,6;105:7,9,10; 106:3,4;110:12,15; 113:5,6,7,21;114:6, 17,20,22;115:4,25; 116:2,18,22;117:15	3:15,16,20;5:12; 8:4;13:18;21:12; 22:13;27:2;35:9; 48:8;51:2;53:12; 58:21;96:3;110:16; 111:2,4,7,10;115:6	103:5
develop (2) 102:25;112:18	districts (10) 5:11;50:14;51:25; 52:10;54:12;83:21; 94:18;112:7;115:3, 18	Educational (2) 5:8;111:8	employability (2) 37:19;38:14	
development (8) 56:16,20;60:15; 97:9;111:5,11,16, 112:6	district's (3) 20:7;50:20;51:17	Educator (7) 8:22;9:21;18:4; 39:10;40:21;48:4,11	employed (6) 13:8;24:24;34:5, 20;38:1,7	
Developmental (1) 6:16	disturbances (1) 11:11	Educators (1) 9:8	employees (2) 53:14;76:17	
DIAMOND (3) 104:23;105:3,24	diverted (1) 110:20	Educator's (2) 17:22;44:8	employment (2) 19:14;29:6	
different (14) 22:18,20;30:11,11; 34:12;35:5;37:11; 38:25;93:11;102:17; 103:24;111:13,17; 117:14	dividends (1) 56:6	effect (1) 38:18	encourage (2) 78:25;79:20	
difficult (5) 36:5,13,19;63:20; 93:3	Division (5) 3:14;5:5;49:12; 51:21;110:16	effective (1) 112:9	encouraging (1) 37:6	
digital (1) 94:2	doable (1) 84:15	Effectiveness (1) 48:4	end (4) 48:12;63:5;84:12; 117:20	
diploma (1) 98:10	done (12) 12:15;15:17;26:3; 28:15;35:23,25; 45:13;67:14,23; 75:18;100:5;103:9	effort (3) 52:20;56:22;91:22	Engage (2) 55:16;79:25	
direction (1) 43:19	Dorado (1) 6:17	efforts (1) 55:20	engagement (1) 79:19	
director (4) 56:18;70:15;91:4; 96:24	Douglas (43) 8:6,13,17,22;9:18, 20,20;17:18,19,19; 18:21;19:4,8,11,16, 19,23;20:3,9,18,20; 31:14;33:2,10,16,18, 22;39:8,10;40:19,21; 42:13,17,21;43:3; 44:1,10,25;45:1,3,6, 9,14	eight (1) 5:12	English (1) 58:8	
directors (2) 51:19;52:8	Dr (173) 3:4,6,10;4:13;6:1, 2,20;7:4,6;18:23,24, 25;19:6,10,13,18,21, 24;20:5,11,13,19; 21:1,3,5,8,14,21,24;	Eighteen (1) 27:22	enjoy (1) 63:20	
discipline (3) 18:11;25:15;26:8		either (5) 8:19;25:5;39:2; 45:6;63:5	enjoyable (2) 24:6;63:1	
discretion (2) 8:20;61:14		El (1) 6:17	enjoying (1) 63:22	
discussed (3) 25:15;77:12,17		Elementary (15) 3:14;55:13;66:16; 69:25;71:10,14;73:4; 78:5,11;81:21;83:13, 25;88:17;89:5; 110:16	enough (1) 14:1	
discussion (26) 3:24;5:21;6:19; 7:8;18:22;30:5; 31:23;33:1;34:23; 36:11;39:17;41:8; 44:23;48:16;61:19; 68:3;76:20;77:8; 80:17;89:25;94:24; 98:18;104:3;105:12; 107:8,11		Elkins (8) 69:17;81:10,13,18, 18,21;82:19;83:13	enrolled (2) 91:19;92:3	
discussions (2) 78:16,18		else (4) 22:7;28:21;76:19; 116:3	enrolling (1) 92:2	
dismissal (2) 33:5,10		elsewhere (1) 19:14	enrollment (17) 59:17,19,20;61:10; 70:2;71:10;72:16; 80:6,7;81:25;82:7,8, 22;83:23;84:4;88:2; 91:1	
dismissed (1) 15:7		emails (1) 70:24	enrollments (3) 77:17;78:1;79:11	
dispositions (2) 18:6;40:23		embarrassed (1) 36:17	entering (3) 74:12,20;103:4	
Distress (2) 51:13,14		embarrassing (1) 36:17	entertain (5) 3:25;5:22;7:9; 64:24;68:4	
district (79) 19:12;20:1,2,7; 34:5,20;36:16;37:1,3, 13;38:1,16;49:4,8; 50:1,8,15,16,18,19,		embarrassment (2) 11:16;15:2	entire (3) 53:4;76:15;78:21	
		EMBEDDED (5) 3:2,3,5,16,21	environment (1) 22:17	
		emergency (1) 35:7	envy (1) 82:23	
		emotional (1) 11:11	equipped (1) 112:9	
		emotional-physical (1)	especially (5) 35:9;54:8;70:25; 75:5;97:24	
			ESSA (2)	

111:25;113:11 essentially (1) 76:9 establish (1) 12:13 ETHICS (19) 7:21,24;8:8;9:3,8; 11:6;13:12,24;15:22, 24;17:11;18:3,15; 20:20;29:23;30:17; 31:6;34:17;44:2 even (18) 11:8;12:2;15:7; 19:25;26:12;28:16; 32:13;34:16,17;37:2; 38:15;56:5,17;63:22; 73:19;75:1;80:8; 103:10 eventually (2) 13:1;101:9 everybody (2) 92:6;112:4 everyone (7) 73:2;85:4;97:13; 102:22;113:1;118:2, 24 evidence (3) 17:25;18:16,17 evidenced (1) 51:17 evidentiary (1) 17:23 exactly (2) 15:11;33:15 exceeded (1) 81:25 exceeding (1) 54:20 excellence (2) 111:2;112:12 Excellent (2) 61:17;67:8 excited (6) 82:25;98:3,11,12; 104:16,19 exclusive (1) 20:10 excused (1) 47:10 Excuses (2) 20:24;44:6 expand (2) 101:6;102:25 expect (1) 60:4 expectations (3) 56:2,5;112:17 expected (5) 35:14;56:3,4,13,14 expecting (2) 69:1;94:3 expense (1) 54:6	experience (3) 47:1;117:15,16 experienced (3) 35:1;81:22;113:25 expertise (2) 117:14,18 EXPIRING (2) 47:21;48:2 explain (1) 33:15 explained (1) 26:5 explicit (1) 103:16 express (1) 52:18 expressed (3) 74:11;75:4;92:1 Extension (1) 58:25 extra (3) 59:8;83:4,6 extremely (2) 54:23;55:2	far (15) 26:22;33:4;35:12; 37:20;64:6;79:18,19; 83:5,6;88:22,25; 89:1;112:16;113:11, 11 fast (1) 53:22 favor (21) 4:9;6:3;7:14; 31:24;48:23;62:6,11; 65:7;68:12;81:1; 86:7;90:6;95:7; 98:24;104:9;105:20; 108:5,6;110:5; 116:10;119:6 Fayetteville (10) 69:20,22,23,25; 70:15,17,19;71:12; 78:21;80:20 February (1) 110:19 feel (6) 15:23;17:13,15; 35:1;60:15;61:2 feeling (1) 32:14 feelings (3) 32:7;36:15;103:5 Feeny (10) 91:3,8,21;92:13; 93:2,15,22,25;94:14; 95:15 felt (1) 14:1 Felton (2) 96:23;97:3 few (6) 11:20;21:6;24:14; 67:10;86:23;115:22 fight (5) 23:7;28:8,10,13,16 fighting (1) 35:20 figure (1) 39:3 file (1) 33:20 files (1) 51:1 fill (1) 63:10 filling (2) 63:19;100:18 fills (1) 100:8 finally (1) 42:3 find (7) 17:11;52:9;84:12, 15;113:16,18;114:7 finding (9) 18:10;29:6;30:22;	39:3,5,7,9,14;40:17 Findings (4) 9:2;30:13;38:6,12 fine (1) 45:10 fire (1) 58:23 first (15) 8:15;9:1,22;10:18; 30:13;31:5,18;50:16; 56:12;88:2;101:17; 103:2;112:15; 113:23;118:4 Fiscal (1) 51:13 Fisher (8) 48:6,9;49:17; 62:17;64:12,14,21; 65:15 Fitz (1) 98:23 five (4) 24:9;40:14;42:1; 47:12 five-day (1) 74:10 fix (2) 51:24;114:15 fixed (1) 113:20 flare-up (1) 16:15 floor (2) 9:18;14:23 Florida (2) 17:1,4 fluctuation (1) 72:22 focus (3) 38:10,19;100:9 focused (1) 115:16 focusing (2) 112:11,12 folks (2) 53:3;56:2 follow (1) 103:12 Following (1) 8:25 foot (1) 26:12 forever (2) 15:23;17:12 forgive (1) 108:18 forgot (1) 110:13 formatted (1) 113:17 formatting (1) 114:13 former (1)	52:22 Fort (1) 58:14 forth (1) 51:5 fortunate (1) 15:8 forward (6) 47:4;98:5;99:4; 112:23;117:17; 118:25 found (5) 18:2,8;51:3,25; 54:14 four (4) 27:23;40:14;50:14; 56:9 four-day (2) 57:18,22 fourth (1) 56:9 frameworks (2) 3:17;101:3 frankly (1) 84:13 free (5) 21:22;57:13;58:11; 61:21;117:23 Freedom (1) 55:23 Freno (15) 8:2,2,4,8;9:16,17; 30:10;31:3,4,9,12,18; 109:5;117:21,23 Friday (4) 58:1,1;59:4,10 fulfilled (1) 100:23 full (2) 33:3,4 full-time (13) 70:7;71:8;72:1; 75:19;76:3,4;78:3,4, 10;80:5;82:1;84:11, 19 funds (2) 5:9;6:15 further (13) 24:15,20;34:23; 39:17;52:2;67:4; 68:3;77:8;79:20; 80:13,17;84:23; 85:22 fuss (1) 56:24 future (2) 37:14;98:13 FY21 (2) 4:15;6:10
	F			
	face (1) 88:19 facilitator (1) 93:6 Facilities (8) 51:14,16,18,21,23; 52:1;64:18;87:4 Fact (14) 9:2;30:13,22;31:7, 8,12;38:15,15;39:7,9, 14;40:17;100:5; 115:10 factors (5) 51:11;52:3;64:16; 65:23;87:2 facts (6) 9:4,5,7;38:13;39:3, 5 faculty (1) 78:18 fad (2) 16:21,22 failed (2) 12:7,21 failure (1) 18:10 fairly (1) 54:1 fall (1) 73:6 fallen (1) 98:8 familiar (2) 100:3;111:19 Families (3) 6:17;93:8,13			
				G
				Gain (2)

20:21;44:3 gamut (2) 33:3,4 gap (3) 100:8,10,18 gaps (1) 88:25 Gast (7) 96:8,12,20,23; 97:15;98:2;99:6 gave (1) 11:24 gearing (3) 12:18;24:9;26:6 general (1) 55:25 gentleman (1) 36:18 geography (1) 61:3 gets (3) 29:24;80:6,7 gigantic (1) 56:22 girl (3) 11:7,24;13:6 girls (1) 16:17 girls' (1) 56:11 given (1) 52:24 gives (1) 101:23 giving (2) 57:4;83:5 glad (4) 57:9;97:20;115:4; 118:24 goal (2) 101:5;111:8 goals (1) 112:19 goes (3) 9:22;19:2;79:19 Good (26) 3:6,12;5:3,4;9:20; 10:8,9;15:25;17:19; 47:7;49:10,11;54:15; 55:20;56:14;60:5,12; 93:2,14;99:21,22,22, 24;116:16,20;118:19 Google (1) 89:18 governing (1) 51:2 Governor (3) 52:23;53:11;106:5 grab (1) 113:21 grace (1) 62:23 grade (5)	66:17;77:3;91:3; 101:7,10 graders (1) 100:24 grades (2) 96:2;99:17 GRANT (15) 4:16,19;5:2,7,17; 6:11,14;32:17;51:4, 7;55:14;60:22;61:16; 68:5,7 granted (4) 3:20;8:19;62:25; 102:8 granting (4) 51:11;62:24;64:16; 65:23 grants (1) 50:24 grateful (3) 15:23;17:13;53:21 great (22) 38:8,9;47:7;50:13; 63:11;64:1,12;65:16; 67:14;83:11;89:8,20; 97:11;99:4;101:20; 104:20;113:15; 114:25;115:3,13,21; 117:22 Greg (3) 8:12;9:24;70:14 grounds (2) 26:12,14 group (3) 5:15;60:13;67:9 grouped (1) 93:5 groups (2) 75:6;89:17 grow (3) 24:10;46:17,17 growing (2) 46:20,22 grown (1) 82:9 grows (1) 101:17 growth (2) 81:22;82:22 Guarantees (2) 20:23;44:5 guess (8) 23:15,17;32:9; 42:21;73:20;76:11; 88:16;89:9 guidance (3) 52:24,24;53:11 guidelines (1) 112:16 guitar (1) 58:17 guy (1) 29:24	Guy- (1) 64:14 Guy-Perkins (3) 48:10;50:17;64:5 guys (2) 13:22;27:3 H habitat (1) 58:23 half (1) 89:11 half-time (2) 70:3;75:11 Hall (5) 16:25;28:10,17; 34:10,11 hand (3) 10:22,22;103:8 handful (1) 79:12 handle (1) 72:25 handled (1) 8:5 hanging (1) 25:1 happen (13) 11:15,15;12:1; 13:15,16;16:15; 25:24;36:8;37:10; 39:1;72:22;75:9;84:4 happened (10) 11:7,9;13:17; 15:10;22:21;23:23, 24;37:8;77:23; 114:14 happening (1) 78:22 happens (3) 12:25;46:24,24 happy (3) 26:7;47:6;112:25 hard (3) 86:18;115:23,25 harder (1) 43:10 hate (2) 36:2;37:5 head (2) 25:2;117:2 Health (1) 53:13 hear (10) 10:12;14:11,14; 37:20;64:11;71:1; 88:19;95:12;96:20; 97:20 heard (2) 22:16;106:13 HEARING (12) 7:21,24;8:9,25;9:3;	17:23,25;36:23; 93:19;101:13;102:6, 7 hearings (1) 13:25 heart (1) 47:2 heavily (1) 103:20 hefty (1) 85:9 held (1) 23:10 Hello (3) 9:24;50:5;102:22 help (24) 12:5;17:16;21:22, 23;22:6,9;23:16,19; 24:2;47:3;58:12; 67:10;83:4,6;85:10; 89:3;97:19,24; 102:25;103:10,14; 108:11;115:15; 118:12 helped (2) 59:8;92:16 helpful (2) 55:2;118:13 helping (2) 63:19;93:10 helps (1) 80:10 Herschel (1) 50:6 high (8) 11:14;16:25;28:9; 88:18;89:4;95:18,23, 25 higher (1) 111:10 highest (2) 53:5,8 high-reliability (1) 112:8 HILL (49) 20:13,19;21:1,3,5, 8,14,21,24;22:3,6,9, 16,23;23:15,20,23; 24:1,4,15,19;34:24; 35:10,16;37:18;40:7, 8;41:22,23,24;42:16, 19;46:7,8;91:11,12; 98:16,22,23;100:2,3, 15,16;104:4,6;105:8, 9;113:6,7 himself (1) 10:3 hire (1) 84:18 hired (2) 20:1;55:22 hiring (1) 37:16	hit (2) 32:4;77:22 hold (1) 13:19 holding (1) 36:7 home (7) 12:10;24:7;58:25; 74:10;77:21;79:15; 89:12 homework (1) 58:8 honest (1) 74:13 hope (5) 13:22;43:8;47:6,7; 113:2 hoping (1) 88:14 Hot (1) 27:25 hour (2) 22:13;54:4 hours (1) 115:23 House (1) 67:21 housed (1) 111:9 huge (1) 91:24 human (2) 39:1;70:15 Hunter (1) 58:21 hurt (1) 36:2 Hyatt (1) 102:5 hybrid (2) 72:18;73:9 hyperactive (1) 11:12 hyperactivity (1) 23:6 I Ida (1) 27:24 idea (7) 71:12;113:9,15; 114:23;115:22; 116:16,20 ignorance (1) 76:22 immediately (2) 48:12;50:21 impact (1) 98:6 implement (2) 91:22;101:18 important (1)
--	--	---	--	--

89:8 importantly (1) 54:17 imposed (2) 9:10;32:14 imposing (1) 37:16 impressed (2) 56:23;114:24 improvement (3) 112:1,3;113:12 improvements (3) 112:2;115:1,2 inappropriate (6) 18:9,12;31:13,14; 39:10,15 inaudible (1) 49:19 incident (19) 11:6,9,16,17,19,22, 22;12:2,4,25;14:2; 15:1,24;16:15;17:4, 12;22:21;23:3;35:19 include (1) 59:25 included (2) 96:7;105:5 inclusive (2) 18:5;40:22 increase (4) 91:1,25;93:4;94:3 indicate (1) 49:23 indicating (1) 44:7 individually (1) 5:15 individuals (1) 97:5 Influence (4) 20:22;37:19,21; 44:4 information (4) 54:23;80:4;93:6; 97:4 infraction (1) 35:19 initially (1) 39:2 inject (1) 23:2 innovative (1) 104:17 in-person (4) 71:3;72:4;89:10; 118:8 in-school (1) 12:6 Instagram (3) 11:18;15:20;23:1 instance (2) 15:5;29:16 Institute (2)	111:15;113:14 instituted (1) 57:25 institutes (2) 111:14,16 institutions (1) 111:9 instruction (2) 53:19;103:17 insure (1) 112:17 Intensive (1) 51:13 intent (1) 102:23 interact (1) 85:19 interactions (1) 44:8 interest (3) 12:17;52:4;92:2 interesting (3) 67:2;102:15; 103:23 interim (2) 55:18,19 interject (3) 33:2;71:24;74:9 internally (1) 19:8 internet (1) 93:9 intervention (1) 102:16 interventionist (2) 89:3,13 into (20) 12:4;28:12;32:10; 35:4;51:10;59:10; 69:8;72:24;73:4,18; 75:5;84:7;85:9;87:1; 94:12;101:3;103:14; 112:21;113:25;114:4 introduce (1) 50:10 introducing (1) 8:5 invest (1) 85:13 invested (1) 85:8 investigator (1) 8:23 invited (2) 58:2,4 involve (2) 79:22,25 involved (1) 55:1 involvement (1) 113:12 issue (2) 68:20;77:16	issued (1) 33:19 issues (2) 67:11;93:11 item (14) 8:5;42:3;50:10; 81:18;95:21;99:10; 104:25;106:9;107:6, 23,24;110:11,17,22 items (5) 7:3;9:14;51:5,9; 61:15 Ivy (2) 106:3;110:15	J	Jacksonville (3) 24:12;27:23;28:9 January (2) 57:20,21 Jenn (1) 102:19 Jennifer (3) 49:9,11;91:3 Jeremy (2) 69:18;82:12 job (13) 25:1,1;26:6;32:16; 36:19,24;37:20;56:4; 63:8,8;67:14;112:3; 118:19 Joe (1) 48:6 joined (1) 66:1 joining (7) 4:21;70:18;81:6; 95:11,14;99:3,23 Jonesboro (1) 58:14 journey (1) 111:1 judge (1) 53:16 judgment (1) 32:18 July (2) 55:22,23 jump (4) 84:4;91:18,21; 92:10 JUNE (3) 47:21;48:2,13	K-6 (1) 55:16 Ka-bam (1) 13:16 Karli (2) 48:2,3 Kathy (1) 7:13 Kaylen (4) 13:2;14:3;15:5,10 Kaylen's (1) 15:9 keep (6) 37:2,3;52:5,20; 79:14;88:15 keeping (3) 32:15;76:14;83:18 keeps (1) 86:18 kept (3) 33:19;37:1;115:10 KEY (58) 39:20,22,24;40:1,3, 5,7,9,11,14;41:10,12, 14,16,18,20,22;42:1; 45:18,20,22,24;46:1, 3,5,7,9,11;48:5; 52:22;54:8;64:3; 67:5,5,6;106:4,7,9; 107:20,23,25;108:10, 16;109:12,15; 110:10;114:9,11,15; 117:2,6,9;118:1,4,8, 11,16,19 kick (1) 38:24 kicking (1) 86:18 kid (1) 24:6 kids (23) 5:18;11:13;12:7, 13,15;15:4,5;24:2,5; 28:11;75:25;88:13; 89:11,12,14,18; 92:18;93:5,9;94:7; 97:24;98:6;100:20 Kiffany (3) 3:4,6,12 Kimberly (1) 66:14 kind (14) 16:24;21:16;23:11; 36:15;75:7;88:1; 92:11;98:3;101:24; 102:1,15,16;103:23; 110:25 kindergarten (1) 5:18 kinds (2) 22:15;24:7 knew (2) 14:21;15:9	Knowing (2) 23:24;32:21 knowledge (5) 18:6;19:15,16; 40:23;68:21
				L		
					lady (1) 58:25 language (1) 58:8 large (3) 74:14;83:22;84:5 larger (1) 37:6 last (12) 5:17;55:23;56:5; 58:3,10;60:2;63:4; 67:10;77:22,25; 92:19,23 late (2) 59:6;84:8 later (3) 12:3;67:21;108:25 law (2) 51:2;53:15 lawyer (2) 8:12,16 LEA (1) 66:18 lead (3) 35:1;111:3;112:5 leaders (7) 111:5;112:4,4,5,18, 21;115:20 leadership (16) 97:6;106:2;110:9, 11,23;111:8,10,11, 14;112:15;113:10,13, 24,25;114:25;117:16 leads (1) 106:19 learn (2) 43:9;46:18 Learning (17) 3:7,13;5:5;26:7; 37:14;54:11;55:3; 72:18,18;74:11;82:4; 91:22,23;94:1; 100:10;103:1;112:6 least (3) 19:20;37:17;60:3 leave (1) 55:24 leaving (2) 73:16;100:24 left (3) 23:9;74:25;114:6 legal (2) 101:24,25 legislative (1) 67:20	
				K		
				K- (1) 66:8 K-12 (3) 66:15;88:25;91:3 K-2 (1) 55:15		

legislators (1) 115:9	lines (1) 43:8	77:20	14	12:23;15:16;16:10; 21:11;22:13;24:2; 29:24;30:1;37:23; 60:15
length (3) 52:6;65:25;87:6	Lisa (2) 4:20;5:5	loss (1) 100:22	Mangum (1) 69:18	means (2) 11:23;53:7
less (2) 22:25;71:9	list (5) 43:25;50:22;54:17; 88:3,9	lost (1) 54:24	man's (3) 32:15,19;36:3	Media (30) 69:24;70:4,7,9,25; 71:8,25;72:5;74:23, 23;75:2;76:7,25; 77:1,3;78:11,19; 80:5;81:20,23;82:1, 6;83:16,19;84:11,19; 85:2,7,10,19
lessening (1) 70:24	listed (3) 51:9,25;52:10	lot (7) 25:23;61:14;67:11; 82:23;88:19;93:12; 111:17	many (17) 27:7,20;38:2; 46:25;55:1,1;58:6; 66:10;74:9;75:1,3; 83:21;91:19;94:16; 98:6;115:23,23	meet (8) 47:14,14;61:15; 71:2;87:3;89:6,18; 97:6
lessons (5) 58:17,18;71:15,17; 73:7	listened (1) 77:12	love (1) 24:5	MAP (1) 55:18	meeting (7) 57:21;69:8;89:1; 96:6;105:5;106:14; 115:6
let-go (1) 38:16	literacy (2) 5:19;55:14	lower (3) 88:7;93:3;94:10	March (2) 54:6;110:19	meeting-of-the-minds (1) 12:14
letter (11) 33:5,11,14,18;42:7, 10,12,13;43:16,22; 44:11	Little (13) 9:25;16:2;52:2; 53:1;58:14;83:8,9; 88:20;93:24;94:4,8; 99:16;106:21	lowered (2) 18:1;29:18	Marianna (2) 28:1,3	meetings (1) 118:8
letters (1) 49:22	lives (2) 108:14,19	lowest (4) 29:11,15;32:13; 43:7	mark (2) 84:4;85:6	meets (3) 51:8;64:15;65:22
level (7) 11:14;51:13;64:17; 77:3;78:17;87:3;89:4	living (1) 97:25	LRSD (1) 106:17	Mary (1) 102:5	member (3) 67:9;106:17,21
levels (2) 33:9;111:5	lobby (1) 86:22	LSU (1) 58:22	master (5) 52:1;102:13; 111:15,19,20	Members (14) 5:10,13;8:20; 47:20,21,25;48:1,5,9; 78:14;83:8;87:9; 116:20;118:5
Leverett (4) 73:4;74:5;76:5; 79:13	local (1) 96:18	luckily (1) 12:23	masters (1) 51:18	mentioned (6) 8:13;21:8,10;58:3; 96:17;115:4
librarian (8) 71:13;73:8,23; 77:18;78:3,4,5;83:3	located (2) 71:9;99:16	lunch (7) 58:9,11;62:16; 64:6;68:18;69:6; 103:14	Master's (2) 22:14;77:1	mentioning (1) 118:22
librarian's (1) 77:18	location (1) 112:14	M		mentored (2) 25:11,12
libraries (2) 85:13,20	log-in (2) 93:9,9	ma'am (5) 76:12,16;83:7; 90:21;114:11	materials (8) 73:24;74:21,21,24; 75:3,13;79:3,5	mentoring (1) 25:13
Library (44) 69:24;70:4,7,9,24; 71:8;72:5;73:13,14, 16,19,22,24;74:2,4, 21,23;75:8,18;76:4,4, 24,25;77:1,3,4,5; 78:11,19,21;80:5; 81:20,23;82:1,6; 83:16,18,19;84:11, 19;85:2,10,17,19	long (5) 19:6;61:11;63:2; 112:15;115:23	mad (1) 12:21	math (3) 5:19;55:16;58:8	met (2) 60:23;61:11
license (4) 19:3,5,7,8	longer (1) 13:8	Madam (9) 30:16;40:11;62:18; 67:6;68:16;106:4; 108:10;110:10;118:1	matter (6) 34:15;38:20,21; 55:21;61:12;114:13	mic (3) 14:11,13,18
licensed (1) 84:15	long-run (1) 84:10	magician (1) 59:5	maximum (1) 70:3	microphone (4) 3:8;4:23;49:19; 62:7
Licensure (6) 8:14;33:21;43:1; 47:20,25;48:4	long-term (1) 101:4	main (2) 15:1;93:6	may (25) 8:15,16,20;9:13; 26:13;27:18;34:14; 38:15;47:10;49:23; 51:23;52:16;53:5,8; 62:18;72:23,24; 76:22;82:5;87:13; 91:6;94:16;106:14; 108:10;118:1	Middle (4) 81:21;83:14,25; 100:20
life (3) 24:13;47:7;63:22	look (12) 16:3;19:3;34:17; 43:21;60:20;77:16; 88:1;99:4;111:13; 113:19;117:17; 118:25	maintains (2) 18:4;40:21	McFETRIDGE (33) 7:10,13;24:23; 27:12,13;36:12,13; 39:24,25;41:14,15; 45:24,25;62:4,5,10; 72:11,12,21;73:16, 25;74:7;87:22,23; 90:1,5;94:21,25; 95:3;96:15;101:22, 23;102:9	mid-term (1) 28:3
lifted (1) 25:5	LOOKADOO (9) 33:14,17;87:18,19; 94:22;96:14;102:11, 12;103:22	majority (2) 94:7,19	meals (1) 60:14	might (5) 33:2;43:21;51:24; 68:24;77:13
likely (1) 18:17	looked (1) 5:16	make- (1) 59:9	mean (10)	miles (6) 53:23,24,25;54:3,3,
likewise (1) 8:17	looking (8) 37:17,23;60:11; 75:21;76:10;88:17; 102:13;116:17	makes (4) 14:9;37:12,15; 94:11		
limit (1) 92:4	looks (1) 16:10	making (7) 25:15;32:24;46:22; 79:22;89:6;93:8; 118:16		
line (2) 33:12;64:9	Lori (1) 8:2	management (2) 34:25;96:2		
	Lose (4) 20:22;36:19;44:4;	MANGRUM (16) 82:11,13,14,15,16, 17,19,21,25;83:7,12; 84:22;85:3;86:11,12,		

4 mind (5) 18:25;34:6;41:2; 83:5,8 mindset (1) 112:1 mini (1) 103:11 MINIMUM (5) 49:4,8;50:15,24; 86:15 minor (1) 46:25 minutes (7) 8:16,18;11:20; 17:8,18;54:5;71:9 mirror (1) 85:12 misbehaving (1) 12:8 misbehavior (1) 26:18 missed (1) 118:24 misspoke (1) 43:6 misstated (1) 108:17 mistake (1) 113:19 mistaken (1) 117:19 mistakes (1) 46:19 mitigate (1) 37:14 model (11) 91:23;92:5,11; 97:12;98:12,13; 100:4,20,24;101:8; 104:17 modeling (1) 103:18 modify (3) 9:12,13;42:6 mom (1) 15:10 MOMENT (5) 49:16,18,21;103:3; 106:23 MOMENTS (1) 86:23 momma (1) 23:7 Mones (17) 70:14;71:5,19; 72:9,15;73:1,21; 74:4;76:25;77:14,25; 78:3,9,16;79:6;81:5,8 money (3) 85:9,14;94:8 monitor (5) 22:10;34:10,11,13;	73:2 monitoring (2) 7:1;92:21 month (2) 50:14;118:25 months (2) 67:10;111:21 MOORE (84) 6:1,2,20;7:4,6; 18:23,24,24,25;19:6, 10,13,18,21,24;20:5, 11;29:1,2,9,15,21; 32:13;33:23;36:21, 22,23;37:1,5;38:11; 39:20,21;41:10,11; 43:5,6,13;45:12,16, 20,21;57:15,16;66:5, 6,19,24;67:1,2;70:20, 21,22;71:20;72:3,8, 10;84:24,25;85:21; 87:24,25;88:6,16; 89:8,13,20;93:17,18, 23;94:11,20;96:15, 16,22;97:11;98:19, 21;101:12,13,20; 105:10;116:2,22; 117:15 more (29) 6:8;7:7;18:17; 20:25;22:25;24:6; 27:8,10,16;30:4; 31:23;35:1;38:6; 63:1;64:8;66:25; 71:20;74:1;83:9; 89:24,24;94:4,23; 97:12,24;98:17; 101:18;104:2;105:12 morning (16) 3:6,12;5:3,4;9:20; 10:8,9;17:19;49:10, 11;54:5;58:7;87:1; 106:17,22;108:11 most (11) 5:16;16:20;17:13; 25:20;26:17;54:12, 16;56:7;89:10; 111:19;112:21 mother (1) 53:15 mother-in- (1) 53:14 motion (84) 3:25;4:3,12;5:22, 24;6:6;7:9,10,12,17; 30:15,23;31:18,21; 34:21;39:6,13;41:2; 42:2;44:21;46:12; 48:17,19;49:1;61:20, 21,24;62:2,9,14; 64:24;65:1,13;68:4,7, 15;80:15,18,19,21; 81:4;85:24;86:1,10; 89:25;90:4,9;94:24,	25;95:2,10,13;98:18, 20;99:2;104:3,5,12; 105:13,15,23;107:1, 5,12,13,14,15,17,19, 20;108:9;109:12,13, 17,21,23,25;110:1,8; 116:4,8,13;117:24; 119:1 motions (1) 9:15 Mount (1) 27:24 Move (32) 5:23;30:21;36:2; 40:15;41:3;42:7; 43:8;44:11;47:4; 48:18;49:6;50:11; 61:20,25;65:1;68:5; 70:5;84:7;85:25; 88:13;90:1;98:5,19; 104:4;105:14;106:1, 9;107:3;109:22; 112:23;116:6;117:23 moved (8) 4:1;29:4,10;64:25; 79:12;111:25;119:2, 4 moving (7) 14:25;25:16,24; 57:18;75:4;88:8; 101:9 much (22) 9:25;38:6;43:10, 10;47:9;50:9;54:11; 57:3;60:17;63:14,23, 24;75:17;79:24;81:7; 85:12;86:12;90:11; 95:15;98:2;99:6; 104:14 multiple (2) 54:15;61:10 music (1) 58:17;100:9 musically (1) 100:11 must (7) 3:19,20;8:23,25; 9:9;50:22,23 mutually (1) 20:9 myself (2) 17:21;56:19	National (1) 56:7 nature (1) 13:4 navigate (1) 92:18 navigating (1) 86:18 nay (1) 46:11 nay's (1) 42:1 necessarily (1) 58:15 necessary (1) 15:16 need (30) 9:1,2,6;30:10; 37:11;38:19;42:22; 84:13;89:5;92:24; 97:2,24;100:13; 103:7,8,8,9;106:22, 24;107:15,17,18,19, 25;108:1;109:7,17; 110:10;113:18;117:1 needed (3) 61:4;94:6;112:10 needs (4) 71:2;89:19;100:23; 113:19 neighboring (1) 83:20 nevertheless (1) 11:10 new (16) 3:18;6:20,23;20:1; 25:22;48:9;55:16; 92:16;98:4;104:17; 106:17,20,20;108:13, 24;109:3 NEWTON (114) 24:21,22,24;25:3,7, 10,13,19;26:10,20; 27:10,11;30:16,21, 24;31:17,20,22; 33:25;34:2,22;35:4, 11,18;37:23;38:4,8, 19;40:3,4;41:3,18,19; 42:7,10,15,20;43:2,4, 15;44:11,16,21;45:4, 8,10;46:3,4;59:15,16, 17,24;60:17;74:17, 18;75:11,20;76:6,9, 13,18;77:9,10,22; 78:2,8,13,25;79:8; 80:11;82:20,21;83:1, 11;84:21;86:4,6,6; 91:14,15,16;92:8,25; 93:14;97:16,17; 100:17,18;104:7,8; 105:14,16;107:3,6; 109:7,10,18,20,22; 110:3,4;113:8,9,22;	114:10,12,16,19,21, 23;115:17;116:6,9,22 Newton's (1) 79:18 Next (14) 4:17;7:23;33:6; 59:5;78:11;81:18; 82:7;83:12;84:20; 86:17;95:21;104:25; 106:1;118:25 nice (1) 118:2 NOMINATED (2) 47:19,24 nomination (2) 48:6,14 None (25) 3:25;4:12;5:22; 6:6;7:9,17;26:22; 41:9;48:17;49:1; 62:14;64:24;65:12, 12;68:15;81:4;86:10; 90:9;95:10;99:2; 104:12;105:23; 108:9;110:8;116:13 non-lawyers (1) 8:23 Nonsense (2) 20:24;44:6 normal (9) 12:5;13:9,10; 16:13;21:19,21,24; 22:1;25:17 normally (3) 21:14;22:3;26:6 North (1) 99:16 no's (1) 40:14 NOTE (2) 3:8;4:22 noted (2) 51:23;67:25 notice (3) 49:22;88:16; 101:14 noticed (3) 66:8;93:20;96:17 nudged (1) 84:3 number (11) 15:9;38:12;39:4; 61:9;67:13;73:9; 84:5;85:4;93:3; 108:17;110:11 numbers (7) 72:17;73:1;74:14; 79:10;82:10;83:10, 22 nurse's (1) 53:15
--	--	--	--	---

	113:16;114:4,5,14	19:17;45:7;69:8	pages (1) 115:22	pass (1) 106:7
O	One- (2) 69:13;71:6	organization (2) 96:3;111:6	pandemic (2) 74:13;92:7	passed (2) 53:15,15
oath (1) 8:24	one-and-a-half (1) 80:9	organizational (2) 18:7;40:25	PANEL (8) 90:16,20,23;95:22, 24;99:11,13;105:1	passes (21) 4:12;6:6;7:17; 42:2;46:12;49:1; 51:19;62:14;65:13; 68:15;81:4;86:10; 90:9;95:10,13;99:2; 104:12;105:23; 108:9;110:8;116:13
objections (1) 17:21	one-page (1) 54:13	organizations (1) 112:8	pants (2) 11:25;12:2	past (4) 25:22;81:23;83:15; 93:25
obtaining (1) 79:2	ONE-YEAR (3) 69:9;81:12,19	original (2) 29:3,18	paperwork (1) 63:7	Paula (2) 69:18;82:12
obviously (1) 84:10	ongoing (1) 92:14	others (2) 16:1;118:12	para (1) 83:6	PD (1) 92:22
occurred (3) 16:15;88:9,12	online (9) 45:13,15;54:11; 66:8;71:1,3,17; 92:15;94:1	out (36) 11:18;13:14;14:21; 15:14,14,19;23:7; 26:17;28:9,11,12; 34:9;35:6;37:12; 39:3;54:14;57:19,23; 72:17,18;73:14; 77:21;78:19,22;79:1; 84:12;85:12,16,17; 86:19;88:9,13;97:21; 98:8;100:21;102:13	Paradox (2) 20:21;44:3	Pearson (3) 92:16;93:25;94:2
occurrence (1) 54:9	only (10) 14:22;23:3;34:7; 53:19;59:3;72:19; 73:5;78:24;98:4; 100:19	outcomes (1) 5:16	paraprofessionals (2) 77:4;83:17	penalty (3) 29:15,20;32:14
occurs (2) 19:2;26:18	onsite (6) 53:19;55:7,8;79:3; 85:4,5	outlined (1) 112:25	parapros (1) 58:7	pencil (1) 14:23
off (3) 3:9;4:23;106:12	Oops (1) 32:1	out-of-district (1) 94:12	parent (1) 74:25	people (12) 11:18;16:20;26:21; 52:21;55:1;58:13; 76:10;84:7;97:20; 113:3;115:11,13
off-campus (2) 34:16;38:23	open (5) 52:5;53:18;73:17; 83:19;85:15	outreach (3) 97:4;100:10,13	parents (14) 12:9;55:5,12; 57:24;74:10,18;75:4, 14;78:14;79:1;92:22; 93:1,4,8	per (5) 53:8;66:10;83:15; 85:6;93:21
offer (1) 3:21	open-enrollment (3) 95:25;99:14;105:3	outside (2) 21:10;111:8	PARLIAMENT (1) 23:24	perfect (2) 32:25;33:1
offering (1) 92:24	opening (1) 108:20	outstanding (2) 113:13,14	PARLIMENT (75) 7:22,25;8:10,11, 16;9:7,9;10:2,8,9,12, 15,16,17,19;11:1,2,4, 14:12,15,17,19;17:4, 6,7,8,10,17,23;18:8, 14;21:4,13,19,22; 22:1,5,8,12,20,24; 23:18,22;24:2,5,17, 18,25;25:4,9,12,17, 26:1,18,21;27:5,7,9, 20,22;28:5,8,19,21, 24;29:8,13,19,22; 30:2,6,8,32:9;34:3; 46:13	PERFORMING (8) 99:8,12,15;100:7, 14;101:5;104:23; 105:4
office (11) 13:5;14:3;15:12; 23:5,11,12,13;74:25; 75:10,14;76:1	operate (2) 92:17;96:4	over (32) 3:11;8:15;14:2; 16:8;22:22;23:12; 25:2;28:4;32:9;35:5; 36:19;49:6;59:2,10; 60:6;70:3,6;75:21; 76:24;78:1;84:3,6,8; 85:8;88:2;89:11; 92:22;94:3,5;97:1; 106:7;114:13	part (10) 23:1;35:8;38:22; 46:20;64:19;76:22; 103:2;106:1;113:24; 116:24	Perhaps (4) 32:12,15;35:23; 36:1
officer (1) 13:7	operator (1) 112:14	over-react (1) 36:16	participants (1) 98:10	period (6) 12:24;54:24;76:2; 102:16;103:10,13
off-site (1) 72:24	opportunities (6) 37:22;58:13;85:11; 101:18;103:17; 111:12	Overton (1) 23:10	participated (1) 115:13	periods (4) 102:14,18,24; 103:25
old (4) 11:24;16:16;20:2; 108:19	opportunity (8) 46:18;53:18;59:11; 71:5;73:14;82:6; 98:7;111:24	Overton's (2) 23:5,13	particular (6) 25:7;26:13;34:6, 20;35:15;98:13	Perkins (1) 64:15
older (2) 46:17,21	oppose (2) 32:18,18	overwhelmed (1) 76:2	particularly (2) 32:20;67:8	permission (4) 10:5;11:23,25; 32:17
omission (1) 30:19	opposed (17) 4:11;6:5;7:16; 48:25;62:13;65:9; 68:14;81:3;86:9; 90:8;95:9;99:1; 104:11;105:22; 108:8;110:7;116:12	own (3) 94:6;103:5,11	partner (1) 97:8	permissive (1) 51:7
on] (1) 109:23	opposition (1) 97:7	P	partnerships (2) 97:13,22	PERRY (3) 7:22,25;10:15
onboard (1) 67:14	oppositional (1) 11:11	pace (1) 94:5	part-time (1) 70:5	person (11) 14:22,23,24,25; 46:23;56:22;72:14; 75:11,12;77:10;83:5
once (3) 19:24;42:22;73:7	opted (1) 74:10	packets (3) 54:10,15,18		Personal (3) 20:23;32:14;44:5
one (64) 6:8;11:17;13:2; 14:22,23,24,24; 25:21;30:13;36:8; 38:12;39:4;45:14; 46:11;50:21;52:3; 53:19,25;54:2,3,3,7; 56:8,8,23;58:18,19; 59:15,19;63:6;64:2, 8;66:9,9,15,18,18; 67:7,16,23;69:19; 70:5;71:7;73:13; 75:12,15,22;78:24; 80:4,7,9;83:2,16; 84:2;87:9;91:17; 101:17;106:23; 108:13;111:18;	option (4) 74:11;91:24;92:6; 94:17	page (1) 113:23		

personally (1) 10:4	69:6;106:12,16; 119:12	praying (1) 27:3	probationary (3) 51:14;64:18;87:4	15:19;71:12;77:2; 78:14;98:8;109:5; 117:21
personnel (2) 89:1,2	Podium (2) 3:8;10:6	preceding (1) 50:21	problem (3) 13:11;32:5;64:7	publicly (2) 19:5,11
PETITION (7) 49:4,7;51:1,4; 60:22;61:25;86:15	point (12) 15:1;19:21;37:13; 57:7,17;59:19;79:18; 84:16;88:10;93:7; 102:2;112:11	PREMIER (5) 95:18,23,25;96:24; 98:4	problems (4) 16:14;24:7;25:23; 26:8	pull (2) 11:25;75:24
Pfeffer (14) 106:3,4;110:12,15, 15;113:5,21;114:6, 17,20,22;115:4,25; 116:18	points (1) 37:12	preponderance (1) 18:16	procedure (1) 25:18	pulled (2) 32:12;114:8
photographer (1) 58:20	police (1) 23:9	present (3) 8:17;50:21;71:6	procedures (1) 8:15	pulling (4) 22:25;74:24;75:2, 12
photography (1) 58:20	policeman (1) 29:25	presenter (4) 3:4;4:19;5:2;49:8	proceedings (1) 8:21	pull-out (1) 89:17
piano (1) 58:17	policy (1) 61:8	presenting (1) 8:13	process (11) 26:24;60:19;75:8; 79:2,22,24,25;112:7, 25;114:2;115:8	punish (2) 29:24,25
pick (2) 75:1;85:17	pop (1) 92:20	president (2) 87:10,11	produced (2) 54:25;56:5	pursue (1) 61:1
picture (1) 37:6	populated (1) 54:1	press (1) 106:5	PROFESSIONAL (15) 4:16,19;5:2,7;8:14; 18:5;40:22;47:20,25; 56:15,20;58:20; 60:15;97:9;112:6	push-in (1) 89:16
piece (2) 79:19;80:4	population (5) 20:17;53:2,5; 72:12;88:7	pretty (3) 9:25;85:8;93:2	professions (1) 46:18	pushing (1) 89:16
place (5) 6:21,23;12:7;56:8, 9	portion (1) 106:14	prevent (4) 13:15;20:4;35:23; 37:25	professor (1) 58:22	put (9) 11:17;33:20;67:10; 83:25;84:6,8;88:9; 106:23;110:25
placed (2) 12:8;50:22	position (13) 18:7;36:2;40:25; 63:10,19;70:1,25; 78:11;84:10,18,19; 108:12,22	preventative (2) 37:7,9	program (6) 5:10;57:25;60:2; 77:1;94:5;111:20	putting (2) 6:21;115:20
places (1) 17:2	positions (1) 108:13	prevented (1) 26:4	programs (2) 100:11;111:9	Q
plan (7) 51:18;52:1;55:3,4; 84:17;102:17;111:25	positive (4) 47:4;53:3,4;56:16	previous (5) 13:24,24;26:21; 44:12;83:2	progress (1) 5:18	qualified (2) 63:7;84:15
planning (1) 71:2	positives (1) 53:20	Previously (1) 83:14	prohibits (1) 20:1	qualify (1) 56:6
plans (1) 100:23	possibilities (1) 33:4	Pride (6) 3:4,6,6,10,12;4:13	projects (1) 103:20	quarantined (1) 53:20
platform (2) 55:7,9	possibility (2) 33:3;73:25	primary (1) 111:11	properly (1) 18:12	Query (1) 48:7
playbook (1) 55:1	possible (1) 52:21	principal (8) 56:19,21;66:10,21; 91:4;111:15,20; 112:4	property (1) 15:8	quick (4) 49:13;59:15;86:22; 91:17
PLC (2) 115:7,8	possibly (1) 79:24	principals (7) 66:10,19;78:17; 111:21;113:14; 115:7,18	proposal (3) 110:23;111:1; 112:24	quite (5) 36:20;82:9;84:13; 85:14;92:13
please (5) 14:18;17:10;21:7; 65:11;108:18	posted (1) 63:8	principal's (1) 23:5	proposed (2) 96:1;99:15	R
pleased (1) 63:9	potential (2) 42:25;52:6	prior (3) 17:20;28:6,18	proven (1) 18:16	raise (2) 10:22,22
pleasure (1) 43:15	potentially (1) 91:19	prioritize (1) 103:8	provide (4) 5:14;83:8;101:15, 18	range (1) 83:25
plenty (1) 73:6	Power (2) 20:21;44:3	private (4) 33:11,17;42:13; 43:22	provided (5) 54:10,10;60:14; 63:1;111:18	rate (1) 88:7
PLSB (11) 7:21,24;8:23;9:21; 17:19;30:14,21; 33:20;42:22;44:13; 48:9	powerful (1) 115:9	probably (9) 23:20;26:3;38:5, 10;43:23;63:3;84:14; 92:19;111:18	provider (3) 92:15;94:2;111:11	ratings (1) 88:18
PLSB's (1) 39:4	practically (1) 27:2	probation (5) 18:2;19:25;29:4; 33:12;37:3	provides (1) 111:14	ratio (1) 70:9
plus (2) 55:11;102:15	Practitioners (2) 114:1;115:5		providing (1) 97:4	reach (3) 79:1;89:14;97:24
PM (4)	prank (2) 22:25;32:12		public (7)	reaching (1) 97:21
				reacted (1)

54:14 reacting (1) 12:23 readiness (1) 5:18 reading (3) 74:21;89:3,3 reads (1) 18:4 ready (17) 45:18,19;55:3; 61:20,23;69:20; 80:14;85:23;89:25; 91:22;94:24;98:18; 104:3;105:13; 107:12;116:4;117:20 real (4) 49:13;55:25;59:7; 86:22 realize (3) 16:21;26:11;57:24 realized (1) 77:15 realizing (1) 111:7 really (28) 16:17;25:22;32:8; 52:20;55:6;56:22; 59:8,12;61:11,14; 79:10;92:22;97:20; 102:12;103:22; 104:16;111:23,24; 112:7,10,12,16,18,19, 22;113:9;115:15,25 reason (4) 34:21;84:16;98:8; 115:10 reasonable (2) 30:18;45:4 recap (1) 86:25 receive (3) 8:10;19:24;72:4 received (5) 17:20;29:15;53:11; 70:23;88:18 recently (1) 51:23 recognize (1) 46:23 recognizing (1) 46:21 RECOMMENDATION (4) 7:22,25;8:9;43:20 recommendations (1) 77:19 recommended (6) 18:1;43:24;44:2,3, 6,12 record (6) 32:19;42:8;67:19, 25;106:12,16 recorded (1)	33:20 recover (1) 54:24 recovered (1) 53:6 reduced (2) 58:11;83:21 reductions (1) 83:22 re-engaged (1) 98:9 referral (1) 26:2 reflect (1) 103:4 reflected (1) 26:2 reflections (3) 44:7,15,16 refreshed (1) 112:14 regard (1) 9:4 regarding (3) 18:4;40:22;78:19 region (1) 5:12 register (1) 84:8 Rehabilitation (1) 28:1 relate (1) 54:8 related (1) 110:17 relating (2) 18:7;40:24 relationship (2) 12:14;15:25 relationships (1) 21:9 relatively (1) 103:3 relieve (2) 12:12;21:16 relinquish (2) 9:18;10:5 remember (2) 16:22;57:17 remind (2) 39:8;40:19 remotely (1) 54:18 removed (1) 19:23 Renewal (1) 6:14 repetition (1) 88:25 REPLACE (2) 47:21;48:1 report (3) 54:13,19;63:9	REPORTER'S (2) 3:8;4:22 reports (2) 106:10,13 representative (2) 48:7;67:24 represented (1) 8:12 reprimand (16) 9:11;18:2;19:15, 25;20:6;28:13;29:5, 5,7,11;33:6,11;37:2, 24;43:7,25 reprimands (2) 19:1;28:7 request (10) 3:19;47:19,24; 80:20,22;81:12,19; 85:16;90:24;110:23 requested (4) 6:15;7:3;78:5;82:4 requesting (5) 5:6;6:12;72:17; 79:15;82:5 requests (5) 3:15;69:10,14; 84:5;90:15 require (3) 70:7;80:5,8 required (1) 20:15;51:11;55:11; 64:16;65:23;77:5; 80:7;87:2 requirement (1) 80:9 requires (2) 51:7;82:1 research (1) 100:5 resolution (6) 51:19;52:9;64:19; 65:24;87:5,6 Resources (1) 70:15 respectful (1) 79:10 respectfully (3) 3:15;5:6;6:12 respectively (1) 84:2 response (1) 34:2 responsibilities (3) 18:6;38:20;40:24 responsibility (7) 21:25;22:2;26:15; 34:7,14;38:11;75:16 responsible (4) 36:8;38:17;75:12, 22 ResponsiveEd (1) 96:3 rest (2)	76:15;103:15 result (1) 20:6 resulting (1) 18:12 resume (1) 47:17 retire (1) 63:5 retired (1) 58:22 retirement (1) 63:21 return (2) 55:3,4 revamp (1) 43:11 review (14) 6:24;7:21,24;95:1, 2,22;96:10,10; 101:25;102:6;104:4, 5;105:14,15 revised (1) 3:18 revocation (1) 33:13 RFP (5) 112:13;113:3,16; 114:24;116:18 ride (3) 64:20;65:25;87:7 Ridgell (13) 49:15;68:24;86:21, 24;87:8,10;88:5,11, 22;89:11,15,21;90:11 ridiculous (1) 29:23 right (51) 3:10;10:3,22; 19:18;20:9;21:12,13; 22:5,8;24:1,24; 25:19;26:10,10,19; 27:1,16;31:17;36:25; 37:4,23;39:6;47:23; 50:12;60:23;61:5; 66:25;68:4;69:5,7, 16;72:24;75:20; 81:11;82:24;83:12; 86:21;92:3;93:11; 94:9;98:17;99:9; 105:12;106:1;108:2, 16;110:19;115:16, 17;117:4,10 rings (1) 34:9 RINGS] (1) 17:3 RISE (1) 56:21 risk (1) 5:16 RIVER (3) 90:17,25;95:11	Rivers (1) 60:6 road (1) 68:24 Robbins (1) 91:4 Roberts (1) 91:8 Rock (4) 9:25;58:14;99:16; 106:21 role (1) 46:16 roll-call (6) 39:18,19;41:9; 44:24;45:19;108:3 Romero (1) 52:23 room (6) 12:9,11,20;17:14; 35:21;73:3 ROUND (5) 4:16,18;5:1;6:11, 14 route (1) 54:5 routes (1) 54:2 routine (1) 36:4 rule (2) 13:23;14:22 run (1) 54:5 Rural (1) 48:8 Russellville (3) 58:15;59:1,3
S				
			sad (1) 36:6 safe (1) 52:21 same (4) 15:17;43:8;75:8; 79:4 sanction (6) 9:10,13;18:1,19; 29:3;42:6 SANDREKKIA (2) 106:17,21 Saracini (6) 48:2,3,3,15;49:2,3 Sarah (1) 6:2 sat (1) 14:4 satisfied (1) 55:25 save (1) 94:8	

Saw (3) 55:15;84:5;91:24	14:21;108:18,24	50:15	shoot (2) 4:25;62:8	someone (1) 35:6
saying (5) 15:16;22:11;33:24; 37:18;93:21	seated (1) 108:25	seems (3) 35:19;83:24;91:18	short (3) 76:2;103:3,11	Sometimes (6) 12:25;16:18;46:19, 19:97:19;100:20
schedule (2) 73:10;102:14	seats (2) 14:6;16:13	select (1) 112:13	shortage (1) 84:14	somewhat (1) 32:9
scheduled (1) 74:2	Second (40) 4:6,25;6:1;7:11; 9:5;30:25;31:1; 40:16;41:5,6;44:18, 19;48:21;56:8;62:3, 4;65:5;68:9,10; 69:19;80:23,24;86:3, 4;90:3;95:4,5;98:22; 103:13;104:7; 105:17,18;107:4,6, 20,22;110:3;113:24; 116:7;119:3	semester (2) 45:5;63:5	shortly (1) 4:21	Sonia (1) 67:23
scheduling (1) 67:22	Secondary (3) 3:14;89:5;110:16	sense (3) 14:9;37:15;94:11	show (1) 37:13	soon (1) 59:9
school (135) 3:21;5:11;11:7,14, 17;13:9,19;15:3,7,13; 17:1;19:12;23:1; 24:7;26:12,14;28:9; 34:6,12;49:4,8;50:1, 7,15,16,18,19,21,23, 25;51:8,16,17,18; 52:4,5,7,8,12,15; 53:15,18,23;55:4,4,8, 8;56:18;57:22;58:1, 1,10;59:4,6,10;60:10, 13;61:9;64:5,15; 65:17;66:8,9,9,14,18; 69:12,23,25;70:2,6, 10,16,17;71:10; 72:13,24;73:4,5,18; 74:2;77:15,17;78:16, 21;81:10;13,21; 83:14,25;84:20; 85:20;86:15,16,25; 87:12;88:17,18,21; 89:4,16;90:15,17,25; 92:14;94:13,15; 95:18,23;96:1,1,3,18; 97:5;98:8,14;99:8,11, 15,15;100:7,20; 101:4,4,5,17;103:15; 104:17;106:21; 111:5,6,17;112:1,1,3	Seconded (25) 4:5,7;6:2;7:13; 31:2,22;39:15;41:7; 44:20,21;48:22;62:5, 10;65:6;68:11;80:25; 86:6;90:5;95:6; 98:23;104:8;105:19; 110:2;116:9;119:5	sent (5) 13:5,6;14:3;16:6; 67:24	showing (2) 115:12,19	sorry (26) 3:10;4:2,3;10:12; 14:12;29:13;32:2,3; 33:8;62:8;64:4; 65:10;66:13;70:12; 71:21,22;79:7;82:12; 86:5,20;87:17;95:19; 107:18;108:6; 109:11,14
school-choice (1) 94:19	SECRETARY (62) 39:20,22,24;40:1,3, 5,7,9,11,14;41:10,12, 14,16,18,20,22,24; 42:1;45:20,22,24; 46:1,3,5,7,9,11;48:5; 52:22,22,23;53:12, 12;54:8;64:3;67:5,6; 106:4,7,9;107:13,20, 23,25;108:10,16; 109:12,15;110:10; 114:9,11,15;117:2,6, 9;118:1,4,8,11,16,19	serve (5) 73:11;96:1;97:12; 99:16;117:12	silence (4) 49:16,18,21;86:23	sort (4) 32:17;35:6;37:16; 103:6
schools (14) 17:1;61:2;71:12; 76:10;77:2,19,25; 79:13;81:24,25;82:2; 112:10,22;115:7	sections (1) 40:16;114:14	served (1) 85:2	simply (1) 42:13	sorts (1) 35:13
School's (1) 71:14	sections (1) 30:11	serves (1) 91:2	sit (2) 16:9;83:12	sound (6) 72:17,18;73:14; 77:21;78:19,22
science (1) 59:5	secure (1) 102:24	SERVICE (9) 4:16,19;5:2,7,8; 46:14,16;63:18,23	sitting (1) 16:4	sounds (1) 103:22
score (2) 113:22,23	security (11) 12:10;13:3,5,6,7,7; 14:4;16:6,7,12;23:9	Services (7) 3:7,13;5:6,14,17; 70:14;73:15	situation (4) 27:1;36:6,18;38:21	South (2) 6:16;88:7
scores (1) 89:4	Seeing (28) 4:12;5:22;6:6;7:9, 17;25:24;41:9;48:17; 49:1;52:13;62:14; 64:24;65:12,12; 68:15;81:4;86:10; 90:9;95:10;99:2; 102:2;104:12; 105:23;107:11; 108:9;110:8;116:13; 118:25	servicing (4) 43:14;71:15;85:7, 18	situations (1) 43:10	Southeast (2) 5:8,11
scoring (1) 114:17	section (2) 40:16;114:14	set (4) 26:11;51:5;103:6; 108:11	six (1) 60:3	space (1) 73:6
screen (1) 15:19	sections (1) 30:11	setting (3) 22:4,6;89:17	SIZE (6) 49:4,8;50:15,25; 86:15;90:15	sparsely (1) 54:1
search (1) 82:6	secure (1) 102:24	settled (1) 11:20	skills (5) 5:19;18:6;40:23; 103:1;112:9	speak (3) 10:10,13;88:20
seat (3)	security (11) 12:10;13:3,5,6,7,7; 14:4;16:6,7,12;23:9	Seven (1) 46:11	skin (1) 16:18	Speaker (2) 67:15,20
	seek (2) 19:13;50:25	seven-minute (2) 47:13,13	slots (2) 6:17,21	special (9) 11:13;13:18;21:12; 22:10;23:11,12;25:8; 26:23;35:9
	seeking (1)	several (2) 94:14;115:7	slow (1) 88:8	Specialist (26) 13:20;22:14;69:24; 70:4,8,9,25;71:8,25; 72:5;76:7,24;77:3; 80:6;81:20,23;82:2, 7;83:16,19;84:11; 85:2,7,10,19;102:20
		Shaking (1) 117:2	small (6) 5:14;23:13;100:21; 116:16,17,24	Specialists (5) 74:24;75:2;76:25; 78:10;84:20
		shall (4) 10:24;51:4;60:21; 61:15	smiling (1) 26:7	specific (2) 60:19;100:10
		share (2) 72:13;73:8	Smith (2) 52:22;58:14	Specifically (2) 18:8;92:20
		shared (2) 71:18;81:23	smooth (1) 118:17	spent (1) 52:6
		sharing (1) 67:3	social-emotional (1) 103:1	split (5)
		sharpener (1) 14:23	so-forth (1) 23:6	
		sheet (6) 96:6;105:4,5; 113:22,23;114:17	Solution (2) 20:22;44:4	
		Shepherd (1) 67:21	Solutions (1) 96:4	
			somebody (3) 22:7;24:11;89:5	
			somehow (1) 86:19	

71:13;76:8;77:19; 83:3,17 spring (1) 58:4 SPRINGDALE (4) 95:18,23;96:1;98:4 Springs (1) 27:25 square (3) 53:23,24,25 SS (1) 6:17 staff (7) 56:3;58:16,18; 72:14;78:21;84:9; 94:9 standalone (1) 100:20 Standard (11) 9:7,9;18:3,3;40:17, 18,20;41:4;42:5; 45:9;70:10 Standards (10) 8:14;47:20,25; 51:15;54:20;69:9,14; 80:5;81:19;89:1 stands (1) 26:16 start (13) 3:10;12:6;87:16, 17;91:11;94:6;96:13, 14;100:1;101:16; 105:7;108:22;113:4 started (8) 28:3;47:18;57:22, 23;59:6;77:15;92:14; 97:7 starting (3) 38:13;101:9; 110:18 State (28) 3:15,19;7:21,24; 19:17;45:7;50:24; 51:1,4,7;52:18,25; 53:5,9;54:25;56:8, 11;61:15;62:24;69:8; 82:24;83:21;96:5,24; 101:2;111:12; 112:19,20 stated (4) 18:10;30:10;34:21; 38:13 statement (3) 8:18;17:9;32:24 states (1) 103:6 status (3) 51:15;64:18;87:4 statute (2) 52:2;61:13 Stay (2) 14:18;19:6 stays (1)	19:8 stem (1) 118:12 step (6) 26:14;33:6;34:9; 35:6;74:25;79:20 stepping (2) 63:18;100:19 steps (3) 24:9;26:5;37:9 Steve (1) 4:4 Steven (1) 96:8 still (6) 70:6;73:6;79:4; 84:13;85:17;101:2 stop (4) 11:22;14:1,3,5 stopped (1) 15:25 straighten (2) 15:13,14 streak (1) 16:23 streaking (1) 16:23 stream (1) 88:8 street (1) 13:14 stress (1) 63:1 striking (1) 23:8 stringent (1) 38:6 Strong-Huttig (4) 50:17;65:17,22; 66:14 student (16) 13:13;14:8;18:12; 23:2;31:15;32:17,20; 35:20;36:3;52:6; 54:19;71:11;72:12; 73:7;79:11;93:21 student-focused (1) 111:4 students (112) 11:17;12:11,20; 13:2;14:7,20;15:17; 16:1,8;17:14;18:9, 11;20:17;21:10; 22:10;24:11;26:4,15; 32:7,21;34:10,13; 39:11,15;43:14;44:9; 46:14;50:20;52:4; 54:17;55:5,12;56:6; 58:2,2,6,10;59:11; 60:1,3,6,7;63:18; 66:22;70:2;71:1,3,15, 18;72:3,16,17,19,23; 73:3,9,12,17,17,18,	20,21;74:1,5,6;75:5, 6,7,9,16,21;77:21; 78:1;79:12,14,23; 80:10;82:3;83:15,23; 84:2;85:1,1,6,7,11, 15,18;88:8;89:10; 91:2,2,24,25;92:1,4, 21;93:1,4;94:3,12,14, 18;96:2;97:18;99:17; 100:12;102:18,25; 103:4,14,16 style (1) 34:25 Subcommittee (2) 17:25;18:20 Subcommittee's (3) 8:9;9:4;31:6 submission (1) 7:2 submit (2) 18:15;42:24 submitted (4) 3:19;10:2;44:16; 113:3 Subsection (1) 51:6 substantial (2) 91:25,25 substitute (6) 21:17;32:8,11; 34:3,4,19 substituted (1) 21:15 substitutes (1) 32:22 Success (2) 20:23;44:5 successful (6) 12:19,20;24:10,13; 101:8;115:11 sufficient (1) 93:10 suggested (3) 20:18;108:21; 112:25 summarized (1) 36:15 summary (1) 114:8 summer (5) 56:17;85:8;94:4; 97:3;100:11 super (1) 114:23 superintendent (29) 48:10;49:14,15,20, 25;50:3,7,9;52:14; 57:11,13;62:20;64:9; 65:14,20,21;66:1,2,7, 22;67:9;68:23;70:13; 82:13;86:21,24;87:8; 96:8;97:6 superintendents (6)	49:14,24;50:11; 82:23;111:16;112:5 supervise (1) 18:11 supervisor (1) 30:18 supplied (1) 60:12 supplies (1) 60:13 support (16) 5:9;6:15;18:9; 43:18;51:13,19; 60:16;65:24;67:20; 68:1;73:12;78:23; 87:5;102:25;112:18; 115:15 supported (1) 96:18 supposed (2) 28:14,15 SUPT (39) 50:6;52:17;57:1,6, 9,20;59:19,25;62:18, 23;63:12,16,24;64:3; 65:15;66:13,21; 82:11,15,17,25;83:7, 12;85:3;86:12,14; 87:10;88:5,11,22; 89:11,15,21;90:11; 96:20,23;97:15;98:2; 99:6 Sure (30) 21:2;25:15;38:4,8; 42:23;47:3;53:21; 54:7;55:20;57:8; 61:4;63:21;64:13; 67:19,25;82:22;83:1, 1;88:11,24;92:4,10, 23;93:8;95:12;101:1, 8;106:8,23;117:11 surface (1) 12:24 Susan (4) 4:5,7,20;5:25 suspension (2) 12:6;33:12 sustained (2) 53:13;115:3 SUTTON (38) 4:1,4;27:18,19,20; 28:4,6,18,20,22,23; 31:25;32:2,4,6; 35:17;36:10,14; 39:22,23;41:12,13; 45:22,23;64:25;65:3, 4;80:24,25;87:16,20, 21;94:21;96:15; 102:11;109:23,25; 110:1 swear (5) 10:11,14,18,20,23 switched (1)	93:23 sympathetic (1) 32:9 system (3) 19:4;92:17,18 systems (1) 98:9
T				
			table (1) 100:5 talent (1) 115:15 talented (1) 100:12 talk (4) 15:6;16:10;93:24; 110:19 talked (3) 25:22;26:22;78:13 talking (7) 24:8;25:14;110:18; 114:5,10;115:8,10 talks (2) 114:1,3 Tammy (1) 70:13 targeting (1) 92:22 turnishing (2) 32:15,19 task (1) 93:3 taught (2) 27:21;54:18 teach (5) 58:17,23,25;59:2; 78:6 teacher (34) 13:12,18;16:16; 21:12;25:8,11;26:11; 34:4,5,19,19;35:8,9; 36:7;37:2,3,7;38:20, 23;39:14;46:16; 54:13;56:24;58:5,20; 59:1;70:1;73:22; 93:5,5;112:4;113:23, 24;114:25 teachers (22) 15:14;25:14,14,22; 26:23;34:7;37:7; 43:10;56:16;92:9,10, 16;94:1,5,6;103:12; 111:15;113:13; 114:3,5;115:17,19 teacher's (1) 19:2 teaching (5) 20:4;55:11;58:18; 77:2;78:9 team (5) 56:11;111:15;	

115:24,25;118:16 techniques (1) 103:19 technology (1) 93:11 telephone (1) 15:9 Ten-minute (1) 47:15 term (1) 48:11 termination (1) 20:6 terms (3) 43:20;47:21;48:1 terrific (1) 60:16 test (2) 55:19;56:16 tested (1) 53:3 testified (1) 13:4 Testimony (4) 8:23;10:21,23;30:3 thankful (1) 59:7 thanks (3) 103:25;104:22; 118:14 therefore (2) 19:19;70:8 Theresa (1) 99:17 thinking (3) 35:24;43:7;78:15 third (3) 9:8;33:12;42:3 Thomas (11) 65:14,20,21;66:1,3, 13,14,21;67:8,13,17 Thompson (1) 49:20 though (4) 25:8;32:13;73:19; 103:10 thought (4) 100:25;102:14; 103:23;111:24 three (21) 8:25;9:14,15; 12:15;17:24;27:23, 24;30:10,11;42:1; 44:1;54:2;56:16; 59:3;60:12;76:10; 92:19,23;96:4; 116:20,23 three-year (2) 18:1;29:4 threshold (2) 71:11;73:7 throughout (2) 47:3;98:5	throwing (1) 35:20 ticket (2) 29:25;30:1 timeline (2) 42:23;45:1 times (4) 34:13;35:5;38:25; 46:21 Timmons (15) 99:17,20,21,24; 100:4,16;101:1,11, 16,21;102:19;104:13, 14,16,21 to-board (1) 94:17 today (26) 8:11;11:4;13:22; 17:20;37:19,21;48:6; 51:25;52:10;53:17, 19;59:22;66:7;70:18, 23;81:6;88:1;90:12; 91:9;93:19;95:11,14; 99:4;103:7;105:6; 116:19 together (4) 67:10;97:10,23; 103:21 told (3) 14:2,5,22 took (2) 11:20;70:1 Torres (2) 13:2;14:3 total (2) 6:14;72:15 totally (1) 73:10 touch (1) 16:7 tournament (1) 56:12 Tracy (2) 69:13;90:21 traffic (2) 29:25;30:1 trained (2) 22:9,10 training (22) 8:10;9:12;20:14, 18,21;35:14;37:11, 11;38:24;42:16,18; 43:19,21,24,25;44:2; 56:21;92:8,11,14,15, 20 trainings (8) 42:11;43:2,16; 44:1,8,12;45:3,12 transcript (2) 17:22;18:19 transfer (2) 60:9;84:5 transfers (1)	94:17 transform (2) 111:3;112:10 transforming (1) 111:7 transition (4) 94:8;100:23;101:3; 103:14 Transportation (2) 51:22;101:15 travel (2) 53:22;118:13 tried (3) 16:5;56:2;85:12 trouble (2) 29:6,17 true (3) 11:6;16:5;18:17 truly (1) 111:25 truth (5) 10:24,24,25;12:24; 13:1 try (4) 12:5,13;54:22;98:5 trying (8) 16:2;21:23;26:25; 32:4;54:24;55:20; 114:7;117:10 Tucker (19) 70:13;71:21,23,24; 72:2,7;74:9,16,23; 75:17;76:3,7,12,16; 79:7,9,17;81:5,7 turn (1) 97:1 turned (4) 3:9,9;4:23,23 tutoring (1) 5:14 TV (1) 15:19 twerk (1) 12:1 twerking (7) 11:7,9;14:6,8; 16:20,24;23:2 twice (1) 62:25 two (27) 12:15;17:23;19:20; 23:3;28:2;45:14; 50:20;58:5;59:3; 60:6;76:8,10,14; 77:11,19,24;80:8; 81:24;83:4,17;84:19; 88:16;89:4;102:14, 17,24;103:24 two-and-a-half (3) 53:24,24,25 Tyler (11) 4:20,20;5:3,5,5,20; 6:7,8,23;7:5,19	typically (5) 29:9;33:16,18; 45:6;83:14 <hr/> U <hr/> Uh (1) 31:25 UNANIMOUS (19) 4:10;6:4;7:15; 46:15;48:24;62:12; 65:8;68:13;81:2; 86:8;90:7;95:8; 98:25;104:10; 105:21;108:7;110:6; 116:11;119:7 unanimously (4) 90:24;95:24;99:13; 105:2 under (15) 6:24;8:24;11:19; 15:2;16:11,18;27:1; 47:2;61:10,13;79:13; 81:24;108:19;109:3; 113:23 understood (1) 57:2 Underwood (1) 4:20 unexpected (1) 81:22 unique (2) 59:11;97:12 Unit (1) 90:22 unless (1) 50:24 unnecessary (1) 118:12 unopposed (1) 108:12 unprepared (1) 54:12 unrelated (1) 89:9 up (38) 4:17;8:16;13:1; 15:13;17:7,9;21:3,5; 22:24;23:4;24:10; 25:16,24;33:6;34:10; 35:18;36:1;37:20; 53:18;59:9,18;60:11; 61:3;63:19;75:1; 83:23;85:16,17; 89:17;92:21;93:11; 97:20;103:6;110:11; 114:4,8,14;118:23 update (1) 57:4 uphold (2) 18:19;37:24 upon (3) 7:2;9:6;48:12	ups (1) 59:10 upstairs (1) 114:7 use (5) 37:13;73:19;74:1; 103:19;113:25 used (3) 93:25;108:15; 109:2 using (3) 55:15;94:6,9 <hr/> V <hr/> vacancy (1) 108:17 VACANT (2) 47:21;48:1 VALLEY (3) 90:17,25;95:11 valuable (1) 54:23 values (2) 46:15,16 VAN (3) 90:17,25;91:5 vast (2) 94:7,19 verbatim (1) 39:9 video (4) 12:3;16:3;17:22; 18:18 videos (1) 71:16 viewable (2) 19:5,11 viewed (1) 106:14 viewing (2) 34:18,19 violate (5) 13:23;15:22;17:11; 18:14;29:22 violated (6) 9:7,9;11:5;15:24; 18:3;40:17 violation (12) 13:12;18:15;20:14; 30:17,22;31:10; 40:18;41:3;42:4,5; 43:1;51:15 violations (1) 38:6 virtual (30) 55:6,6,9,10;60:2; 70:1;71:15,18;72:3; 73:10,17,19;74:10, 19;75:9;78:6;79:4; 82:4;85:1,5,7,11; 89:10,12;90:17,25; 91:20,23;92:5,11
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<p>virtually (1) 78:9</p> <p>virus (1) 53:22</p> <p>vision (1) 111:2</p> <p>visit (1) 52:14</p> <p>visited (2) 66:11;100:6</p> <p>volunteered (3) 12:12;23:16,18</p> <p>vote (18) 37:19;39:18;40:12; 44:24;106:22,24; 107:9,18,19,25; 108:1,2;109:7,13,17; 116:4,19;117:1</p> <p>voted (1) 57:21</p> <p>votes (1) 30:12</p> <p>voting (3) 39:5;96:6;105:4</p> <p>voting/ (1) 105:4</p>	<p>115:5</p> <p>watching (2) 24:10,10</p> <p>way (10) 12:23;16:24;34:25; 35:24;37:25;39:2; 93:5;112:17;115:9, 16</p> <p>ways (1) 92:18</p> <p>Weaver (1) 69:18</p> <p>Webb (20) 69:13,15,17,24; 70:12;80:4;81:12,16; 82:12;90:21,21; 95:20,21;99:9,10; 102:4,5;104:24,25; 105:25</p> <p>website (2) 19:17;106:15</p> <p>week (5) 57:18,22;59:8; 72:5,19</p> <p>weeks (3) 23:3;92:19,23</p> <p>weigh-in (1) 67:7</p> <p>welcome (14) 64:1;70:17;73:18; 81:9;82:16;86:13; 87:14;91:8;93:15; 96:12;99:25;101:21; 102:10;104:15</p> <p>weren't (3) 16:14;42:24;56:17</p> <p>Western (10) 49:25;50:7,17; 52:12,15;53:2,17; 54:9;63:8;67:16</p> <p>WESTWIND (4) 99:8,11,14;101:5</p> <p>what's (6) 25:25;80:1;102:17; 108:23;114:14; 116:16</p> <p>whatsoever (1) 26:9</p> <p>Wheeler (1) 82:12</p> <p>Whenever (2) 25:13;83:19</p> <p>WHEREUPON (1) 106:13</p> <p>whichever (1) 73:10</p> <p>whole (1) 10:24</p> <p>who's (2) 58:19;96:24</p> <p>WHOSE (2) 47:21;48:1</p> <p>WILLIAMSON (25)</p>	<p>7:11,13;31:1,2,22; 39:16;40:9,10;41:6,7, 24,25;46:9,10;68:5,8; 91:13;107:4,6,14,17; 108:1;118:23;119:2, 4</p> <p>Winans (1) 100:6</p> <p>winner (2) 56:8,9</p> <p>winners (1) 56:9</p> <p>winter (1) 84:18</p> <p>Wisdom (1) 55:14</p> <p>wiser (1) 46:21</p> <p>Wit (1) 55:14</p> <p>within (4) 21:9;45:6;67:10; 112:13</p> <p>without (1) 52:22</p> <p>witnesses (1) 17:24</p> <p>wondering (2) 36:14,16</p> <p>WOOD (1) 33:8</p> <p>Woods (18) 40:1,2;41:16,17; 46:1,2;48:21,22;65:5, 6;76:21,22;85:25; 86:2;89:22;93:16; 97:16;101:12</p> <p>word (2) 73:20;116:17</p> <p>wording (1) 60:21</p> <p>words (1) 9:2</p> <p>work (22) 12:13;16:13;26:8; 27:4,8;59:12;73:22; 78:10;97:10;108:23; 111:24;112:22; 114:25;115:12,12,19, 20,23;116:15,18,25; 118:17</p> <p>worked (7) 6:24;11:10,13; 28:1;100:6,10; 115:25</p> <p>working (12) 12:10;15:4,25; 57:25;75:18;77:4; 88:23;97:23;101:1; 103:20;113:4;114:2</p> <p>world (1) 11:24</p> <p>worse (1)</p>	<p>43:10</p> <p>written (19) 8:10;9:11;17:20; 18:2;19:1,15,25; 20:6;23:4;26:2;29:5, 7,10;33:5,11;37:24; 43:24;44:7,15</p> <p>wrong (1) 26:25</p> <p>wrote (1) 27:24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1 (1) 55:22</p> <p>1,000 (2) 91:2,18</p> <p>1:00 (2) 49:23;69:2</p> <p>1:30 (1) 106:12</p> <p>10 (6) 5:13;8:16,18;17:8, 18;70:3</p> <p>103 (1) 72:19</p> <p>11:04 (2) 47:14,16</p> <p>11:15 (1) 47:15</p> <p>11:16 (1) 47:16</p> <p>11:30 (2) 58:9,9</p> <p>11:45 (2) 68:19;69:6</p> <p>1140 (1) 53:6</p> <p>1191 (1) 53:4</p> <p>12 (1) 66:9</p> <p>12:45 (3) 68:19;69:2,3</p> <p>12:49 (1) 69:6</p> <p>12th (3) 66:17;101:7,10</p> <p>13th (1) 55:23</p> <p>14 (1) 56:6</p> <p>1400 (1) 92:1</p> <p>14-15 (1) 59:21</p> <p>1500 (2) 80:8,10</p> <p>154 (1) 53:22</p> <p>16 (1) 16:16</p> <p>17 (2) 16:16,16</p> <p>17th (1) 54:7</p> <p>17-year (1) 11:24</p> <p>18 (2) 16:16;63:9</p> <p>18-19 (1) 59:21</p> <p>19 (1)</p>	
W			Y		
<p>wait (1) 28:25</p> <p>waiting (2) 16:6;69:11</p> <p>waiver (33) 50:25,25;51:12,20; 60:22;61:16;62:1,3,9, 24,25;63:25;64:17, 19;65:2,23,25;68:6,8; 69:10,14;70:9;71:7; 78:23;79:16,19; 80:20,22;81:12,20; 82:5;84:17;86:2</p> <p>WAIVERS (10) 49:4,8;50:15;51:3, 8;52:25;69:12;86:15; 90:15;102:8</p> <p>walk (1) 92:16</p> <p>walked (1) 14:2</p> <p>walk-through (1) 51:22</p> <p>wall (2) 14:7,19</p> <p>Walton (1) 60:13</p> <p>warning (1) 8:10</p> <p>Washington (8) 69:25;71:9,14; 74:5;76:4;78:5,11; 79:12</p> <p>watch (1)</p>			<p>y'all (13) 70:22;87:25;89:9; 90:13;94:11;95:16; 97:11,13;99:3,4; 100:25;116:23; 117:12</p> <p>year (36) 5:17;7:1;16:16; 28:2;55:23;56:5,15; 57:19,24;58:10; 59:18;60:3;63:5; 69:14;70:2,10;71:7, 11;76:15;77:22,25; 78:6,9,12,20,22,24; 81:22,25;82:7,9; 83:20;84:20;89:9; 101:17;108:25</p> <p>year-and-a-half (1) 28:2</p> <p>years (23) 19:20;27:8,20,22, 23,24;28:2,4;46:13, 16;47:3;48:11;50:21; 56:12;61:9,10;63:17; 67:12;83:16;88:17; 98:5;117:14,16</p> <p>yea's (2) 42:1;46:11</p> <p>Yell (10) 50:1,7,18;52:12, 15;53:2,17;54:9; 63:8;67:16</p> <p>yesterday (3) 72:15;88:13;115:6</p> <p>yield (1) 57:6</p> <p>York (1) 55:16</p> <p>you-all (1) 88:3</p>	Z	
			<p>zone (3) 108:14;109:2,2</p> <p>Zoom (5) 50:4;52:20;56:20; 99:18;118:12</p>		

53:2 19-20 (1) 59:22 1st (1) 94:16	77:23;78:1;79:13; 80:6,10;81:24;82:1, 8;84:1,3;85:6;96:2 304 (2) 84:1;85:3 305 (2) 84:1;85:3 30th (1) 48:2 310 (1) 70:2 312 (1) 74:4 342 (1) 59:22 342.13 (1) 59:22 344 (1) 59:23 350 (3) 50:19;60:5;61:10 367 (1) 88:12 39 (1) 55:23	6 (3) 101:9;108:14; 109:2 60 (1) 54:3 60s (1) 16:23 61 (1) 54:3 6-13-1613 (3) 49:5;51:3;87:2 670 (2) 92:3;93:4 6-8 (1) 99:17		
2				
2 (14) 4:16,18;5:1;9:7,9; 18:3,4;40:17,18,20; 41:4;42:5;108:15; 109:2 2:37 (1) 106:16 2:51 (1) 119:12 20 (1) 28:4 20% (2) 82:3;84:25 20-026 (1) 7:21 200-and-something (1) 75:23 2013 (1) 111:1 2020 (1) 47:22 2021 (1) 6:14 2023 (1) 48:13 22,000 (1) 53:3 225 (1) 99:16 235 (5) 71:11;72:16,19; 73:5;74:5 240 (1) 85:5 25 (1) 53:7 260 (1) 83:15 27 (1) 48:11 270 (1) 83:15 275 (2) 91:1,18 28 (1) 56:12	4	7		
	4 (1) 110:11 4:30 (1) 57:23 421 (1) 3:5 422 (1) 59:21 45 (1) 54:5 4f2 (1) 70:10	7:50 (1) 57:22 70s (1) 16:23 7-12 (1) 55:8 7th (1) 66:17	8	
	5	8 (1) 101:9 85% (2) 20:22;44:4 85%-plus (1) 5:17 87% (1) 58:10 8th (1) 100:24	9	
	5 (4) 51:13;64:17;71:9; 87:3 5.4% (1) 53:4 50 (3) 6:17;83:23,24 50% (1) 89:12 500 (1) 75:21 500-and-something (1) 75:24 51 (1) 53:7 57 (1) 54:4	90 (1) 45:6 9-12 (1) 96:2 9th (1) 101:7		
3	6			
3 (2) 6:11,14 30 (3) 5:13;47:21;48:13 300 (15) 71:11;73:6;75:22;				