

In The Matter Of:

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

July 9, 2020

*Sharon K. Hill, CCR
(501) 680-0888*

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ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 9, 2020
10:00 A.M.

(VIA LIVESTREAM/ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19)

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. COURTNEY SALAS-FORD	Attorney
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT	Attorney
MS. JENNIFER DEDMAN	Attorney
MS. JENNIFER LINK	Attorney

DESE PLSB LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. AMY DOUGLAS	Managing Attorney
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P R O C E E D I N G S

A-1: STATE BOARD HEARING OF REVOCATION OF LICENSE LA 20-03 -
BLAKE BARROW

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Let's move on to our action
agenda. This is our first, Hearing of Revocation of
License, and the presenter will be Ms. Jennifer Link.
No --

MS. DOUGLAS: Actually Ms. Douglas. She's on
Zoom --

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

MS. DOUGLAS: -- but I'm going to be presenting.
Amy Douglas.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Amy Douglas. Thank you. Sorry,
Ms. Douglas.

MS. DOUGLAS: Mr. Barrow is -- he's in here.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

MS. DOUGLAS: I'm Amy Douglas with Licensure.
This -- if you guys remember, this action was
tabled from last month. We had requested that Mr.
Barrow's license be revoked in the state of Arkansas,
because he had a license in Missouri that was
revoked. There were some issues on whether --
brought up by the Board whether his license in Texas
was in fact valid. It is currently in good standing.
He did get a two-year suspension based on falsifying

1 his Texas license, presenting it to Missouri. Texas
2 did an investigation; they suspended his license from
3 2017 through 2019. And then, in 2018, Missouri
4 revoked his Missouri license.

5 And so Arkansas law allows -- I should've
6 brought my glasses -- that the State Board shall
7 revoke an existing license not upon -- not up for
8 renewal for cause, "cause" meaning holding a license
9 obtained by fraudulent means or revocation of a
10 license in another state.

11 So we're asking, because his license was revoked
12 in Missouri, that you revoke his Arkansas license.

13 And Mr. Barrow is here.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

15 Let's see. Do I need to swear anyone in that's
16 giving testimony?

17 SECRETARY KEY: That would be a question for
18 Legal.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do I need to swear anyone in
20 that may be --

21 If you're going to speak -- do you plan --

22 MR. BARROW: (inaudible)

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Give me just a second.

24 If you'll raise your right hand -- do you swear
25 or affirm that the testimony you're about to give

1 shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
2 the truth?

3 MR. BARROW: Yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

5 Okay. Let me just start with the Board. Are
6 there any questions for anyone -- for Mr. Barrow?

7 MS. WOODS: I have a question.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Is that Ms. Woods?

9 MS. WOODS: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Woods.

11 MS. WOODS: Yes. Whoever put together the
12 timeline that was sent out to us, major accolades for
13 that --

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

15 MS. WOODS: -- because it was very well put
16 together.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

18 MS. WOODS: My one question that I did have is
19 it looks like his license was revoked in Missouri, in
20 2018. And I was just curious what has been going on
21 in the last two years that this is just now before
22 us? And that may not be a question for Mr. Barrow,
23 but I was just -- I just wanted to clarify that.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Douglas.

25 MS. DOUGLAS: It wasn't actually brought -- so

1 his license in Arkansas was renewed in 2016 -- or
2 actually beginning of 2017. And his license in Texas
3 was suspended after his Arkansas license was renewed,
4 and his Missouri license was revoked after his
5 Arkansas license was renewed. We were not brought --
6 made aware that the license was suspended or revoked.
7 It was not in the system because it came after his --

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

9 MS. DOUGLAS: -- Arkansas license was renewed.
10 And so it wasn't brought to our attention until
11 earlier this year, and that's why we're here now.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

13 MS. WOODS: Okay. Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Sutton, did you have a
15 question?

16 MR. SUTTON: Are we aware of why the license was
17 revoked in Missouri?

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. The license was revoked in
19 Missouri because they found that he had added a
20 certification for special ed. that was not correct;
21 it was forged. He did not have any certification in
22 special education in Texas. It was added after the
23 fact.

24 MR. SUTTON: Okay. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

1 Do we have any more questions from the Board?

2 Okay. I have a question for Mr. Barrow.

3 I don't -- my question, I guess, is what did you
4 -- what did you think -- what did you think that you
5 were going to gain by -- why did you add the
6 certification of --

7 MR. BARROW: In Texas?

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

9 MR. BARROW: I actually took the Praxis test in
10 Texas, for special education. I think it was Praxis
11 254, I believe is what it was. I later found out
12 that that was the wrong test that I took. So I ended
13 up putting it on my Missouri license because I did --
14 I was under the impression that I was going to get
15 it. I called the state of Texas, and asked them, I
16 said, "Hey, am I going to get this license?" They
17 were like, "Yeah, you passed your test. The
18 information is here." And I jumped the gun and did
19 something I shouldn't have done, you know, and -- and
20 I paid the price in Missouri for it; you know, I lost
21 my job, lost my license there. And so, yeah, it was
22 a bad decision -- a wrong, terrible decision that I
23 made that day that I did it, and ended up paying the
24 price for it, so --

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Newton.

3 MS. NEWTON: I do have a question for Mr.
4 Barrow.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Barrow, Ms. Newton has a
6 question for you.

7 MS. NEWTON: Mr. Barrow, am I under the
8 understanding that you have a potential job for this
9 fall if this works out for you today?

10 MR. BARROW: No, I don't have a potential job
11 lined up right now. I've applied for some. I hadn't
12 applied for any back in June, when we were here
13 before, because I was just waiting on a decision from
14 the Board before I started looking. But I've applied
15 for a few since then, since it's getting closer to
16 the school year; so I went ahead and did apply. But
17 I don't have any job prospects lined up right now, so
18 no interviews or anything like that.

19 MS. NEWTON: Are any of the jobs that you've
20 applied for in the special ed. area or are they all
21 in the P.E. area?

22 MR. BARROW: It is not in the special ed. area
23 right now. No, ma'am.

24 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So if you did take a job, it
25 would not be in special ed. at all?

1 MR. BARROW: Probably not right now. I was
2 working towards my special education certificate
3 through Arkansas State University. I have, I think,
4 three classes left on that in order to obtain it here
5 in the state of Arkansas. But that's kind of got put
6 on hold with everything that's been going on. So I
7 haven't applied for any special education jobs. No,
8 ma'am.

9 MS. NEWTON: And can I ask how many years do you
10 have left on the current Arkansas certificate that
11 you hold?

12 MR. BARROW: It is good until December of 2021,
13 I believe, without having it right here in front of
14 me.

15 MS. NEWTON: So, about a year-and-a-half. Okay.

16 MR. BARROW: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, I have a motion if --
18 based on what we've talked about last time also, if
19 you're ready for that.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any
21 discussion?

22 Okay. Go ahead with your motion.

23 MS. NEWTON: I move that Mr. Barrow be placed on
24 a two-year probation and that he not be allowed to
25 hold any job on an ALP for special education.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Ms. Newton.

2 Do we have a second?

3 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by -- I'm sorry, who
5 was that? Who seconded that?

6 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Chambers. Thank you. I'm
8 sorry, I couldn't see it.

9 Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

10 Do we want to do a roll-call or -- okay, let's
11 do a roll-call.

12 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

13 DR. MOORE: Yes.

14 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

15 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

16 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

17 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

18 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

19 MS. WOODS: Yes.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

21 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

23 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

25 DR. HILL: Yes.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

2 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

3 SECRETARY KEY: Eight yeas, zero nays.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes.

5 So if I'm not mistaken, that was a two-year
6 suspension.

7 SECRETARY KEY: Probation.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Probation, excuse me -- two-year
9 probation.

10 Let me just say you have a lot -- you have a lot
11 of people that supported you and a lot of people that
12 saw what a good teacher that you are and how you've
13 affected each student. I hope that you -- it seems
14 like you've learned from this situation. And I hope
15 that you take these two years of suspension and can
16 grow and improve so that you can help even more
17 students in the future. So I hope you have a great
18 future --

19 MR. BARROW: Yeah.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- and not to see you back for
21 this type of thing anymore.

22 MR. BARROW: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much.

23 Thank you to the Board for having me. I
24 appreciate it.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

1 A-2: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEALS

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next we have our School
3 Choice Appeals. That's -- Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt is
4 going to come help us out with this.

5 MS. HYATT: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.

7 MS. HYATT: And so we have 10 school choice
8 hearings back-to-back. In between each one, if it
9 would be okay with you -- we've got everyone spread
10 out in different rooms; so if you would allow me just
11 a couple of minutes --

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

13 MS. HAYTT: -- in between to go and get them and
14 bring them in?

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

16 MS. HYATT: Before we get started, I was going
17 to go over the hearing procedure and just a little
18 bit of background before you start hearing them. All
19 but one of these hearings are hearings under the
20 Public School Choice Act of 2015, which allows
21 students -- their families to apply to have their
22 student attend a district other than the one that
23 they live in. They have to submit an application to
24 the resident and nonresident districts by May 1st,
25 and by July 1st those superintendents have to notify

1 the families whether they were approved. There are
2 some limitations, the first being if the nonresident
3 district is at capacity, meaning they would have to
4 hire new staff or otherwise -- basically they don't
5 have enough resources to provide for that student --
6 they may deny the application. And then also the law
7 places a 3% cap on how many students each district
8 can lose each year from school choice. We put out
9 notification in October that's got the -- how many
10 students that each district can lose. Most of these,
11 all but the first three, have to do with the 3% cap.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

13 MS. HYATT: The first two, which I'll go get in
14 just a second, have to do with capacity. And one
15 will be operating under the School Choice Act as it
16 existed in 1989, because it's in Garland County --
17 and when we get there I'll go over the special rules
18 for that one.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

20 MS. HYATT: If there are no -- well, let me tell
21 you what the hearing procedure is.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

23 MS. HYATT: So the Chair will swear everyone in
24 who's going to participate, with the exception of
25 attorneys. The nonresident school district will have

1 5 minutes for an opening statement; the resident
2 school district, if they want, may have 5 minutes for
3 an opening statement; and then the family. And then
4 following that same order everyone will have 20
5 minutes to present.

6 In the four on the agenda I attached everything,
7 except there were -- for two families there was some
8 medical documentation that I didn't post on the
9 agenda. But I will make sure that everyone gets it
10 before we hear those. And then, of course, you may
11 ask questions as needed.

12 So if you don't have any questions on that, I'll
13 go get the first family.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

15 A-3: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: CASON MAYFIELD

16 A-4: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: NATALEE MAYFIELD

17 MS. HYATT: The first hearing -- it's actually
18 the first two -- involves the Mayfield family.

19 The first is an appeal for Cason Mayfield. The
20 nonresident district is Palestine-Wheatley. I was
21 notified by their superintendent this morning that
22 they did not plan to attend the hearing.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

24 MS. HYATT: Their resident district is Lee
25 County. And I have verification from June 24th that

1 Superintendent Murdoch got a copy of the notice
2 letter and received it, but she is not present.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

4 MS. HYATT: And I did ask someone in Legal to
5 call and check with her, and she is still in Lee
6 County, so I doubt she will be here --

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

8 MS. HYATT: -- in the next couple of minutes.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No problem.

10 MS. HYATT: So we have Jennifer Mayfield, who is
11 Cason Mayfield's mother --

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

13 MS. HYATT: -- here. And if you'll swear her in
14 -- and then you can just skip the nonresident and
15 resident district parts, since they're not present.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right.

17 Ms. Mayfield, if you'll raise your right hand --
18 do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're
19 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth,
20 and nothing but the truth?

21 MS. MAYFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome.

23 MS. MAYFIELD: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Let us know what's going on.

25 MS. MAYFIELD: I'm sorry?

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead and let us know what's
2 going on.

3 MS. MAYFIELD: Okay. In February, I filled out
4 school choice applications --

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If you'll pull the mic to you so
6 that we can hear. Thank you.

7 MS. MAYFIELD: Yes, ma'am.
8 I filled out three --

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: A little bit closer.
10 There you go.

11 MS. MAYFIELD: Okay. I filled out three school
12 choice application forms for my three children. One
13 of them got accepted, two of them didn't.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

15 MS. MAYFIELD: We had -- I wasn't planning on
16 moving as soon as we did, but under circumstances we
17 had to go ahead and move.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

19 MS. MAYFIELD: I feel that Palestine is the best
20 school district for my children to attend. Natalee,
21 she has an IEP; she has anxiety and she has seizures,
22 and so I feel like that's the best -- sorry -- I feel
23 like Palestine provides a stress-free environment for
24 her, a safe environment. They will do everything to
25 their ability to continue to work with her and her

1 IEP until she --

2 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Mayfield, we're going to
3 need you to get close, speak directly into the mic
4 for us please.

5 MS. MAYFIELD: I'm sorry.

6 SECRETARY KEY: Some of our members are having
7 trouble hearing you.

8 MS. MAYFIELD: I've never had to do this before,
9 so I'm extremely nervous.

10 SECRETARY KEY: It's okay. It's all right.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It's all right.

12 MS. MAYFIELD: You know, it has to be scary for
13 a child to leave their home and their school district
14 --

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

16 MS. MAYFIELD: -- that they've known all their
17 life, to change school districts. Sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That's okay.

19 MS. MAYFIELD: They're both great students. You
20 know, they've never been in trouble; they all have
21 great grades. You know, I can't have one child going
22 to one school and, you know, two going to another.
23 Cason was even ambassador of his class. And so I
24 know that they will continue to learn and grow at,
25 you know, Palestine, their academics, their -- you

1 know, all the research that I did on Palestine, you
2 know, highly recommended; you know, talking to
3 people, you know, that they highly, you know,
4 recommended Palestine for the kids to go to.

5 Well, as of right now, you know, I know we're
6 living in Brickeys, but for some reason if we have to
7 -- you know, as a parent you'll do -- you know,
8 you'll sacrifice anything.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

10 MS. MAYFIELD: So, I mean if we had to pack up
11 and move again just so the kids can get a good
12 quality education, you know, at Palestine, to finish
13 out their school, you know, that's what we would have
14 to do.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

16 MS. MAYFIELD: But I just hope it don't come to
17 that --

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

19 MS. MAYFIELD: -- and, you know, y'all will see
20 that they're eligible to go to Palestine School
21 District.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

23 All right. Ms. Hyatt.

24 MS. HYATT: Since neither of the districts are
25 here, if Ms. Mayfield doesn't have anything else

1 she'd like to say, you are welcome to ask questions
2 and make a decision. And if you need me to go over
3 what the standard is I'm welcome to do that also.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Do you have anything
5 else to say, Ms. Mayfield?

6 MS. MAYFIELD: I have a copy of Natalee's IEP,
7 if y'all need that.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I don't need to see it.
9 Well, go ahead, let me see it.

10 Okay. Do we have any questions from the Board?

11 Mr. Sutton.

12 MR. SUTTON: I just want to make sure I heard
13 you correctly that Palestine did accept one of your
14 children?

15 MS. MAYFIELD: Yes, sir, they accepted Hannah --
16 and I have her acceptance letter, if you would like
17 to see that also. They accepted Hannah, and she's
18 going in 7th grade; Natalee is going into 10th; and
19 Cason is going into 3rd.

20 MR. SUTTON: And the other two were denied --

21 MS. MAYFIELD: Yes, sir.

22 MR. SUTTON: -- due to capacity; is that
23 correct?

24 MS. MAYFIELD: Yes, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

1 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Newton.

3 MS. NEWTON: -- I have a question. I don't know
4 if there's anyone there that can answer this, and I
5 didn't hear a lot that the young lady said. But am I
6 correct in understanding that the children, all
7 three, went to Palestine last year?

8 MS. MAYFIELD: No, ma'am. They went to Sheridan
9 School District last year.

10 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So they weren't in the
11 district you're applying to last year?

12 MS. MAYFIELD: No, ma'am.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right.

14 MS. MAYFIELD: They went to Sheridan.

15 DR. MOORE: I have a few questions too,
16 potentially for Mary Claire, if that's okay?

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

18 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

19 So when a district says they have -- don't have
20 capacity for a student -- I know that enrollment
21 usually fluctuates and you don't know until the first
22 day of school. Is there ever a chance where a
23 district, you know, when they get to the first day of
24 school, they realize that there would be room for
25 that student in that grade and they call the parent

1 and go back in time and pull them off the list and
2 put them in? Or, is it always a done-deal?

3 MS. HYATT: So the deadline for districts to
4 make the decision is July 1st; so after July 1st
5 there's not really a mechanism for the districts to
6 go back. When you're using public school choice the
7 capacity is about 90%; when you're at 90% full,
8 that's when they can make that denial. So I'm not
9 sure -- I didn't get a lot of information from
10 Palestine-Wheatley, other than that they were at
11 least at that 90% capacity and that was the reason
12 for denial.

13 DR. MOORE: Okay. Do we know if Palestine is
14 offering online instruction for the next school year?

15 MS. HYATT: I do not know.

16 DR. MOORE: And then my last question, so if it
17 -- is it too late to do Opportunity School Choice,
18 another avenue for school choice?

19 MS. HYATT: The Opportunity School Choice
20 application was also due May 1st. So Ms. Mayfield
21 applied for Public School Choice but not Opportunity
22 School Choice. That's definitely something you can
23 take into consideration today. The capacity limit
24 for Opportunity School Choice is 95%, so the
25 threshold is a little bit higher to deny on the basis

1 of capacity. Like I said, I didn't receive a lot of
2 information from Palestine-Wheatley. Everything I
3 got it was attached to the agenda. So I'm not
4 exactly sure what their percentage was or what the
5 specific issue was.

6 DR. MOORE: Okay. And then my last question is
7 about the sibling. Sibling preference is given, but
8 not when the capacity issue is there? I didn't --

9 MS. HYATT: So sibling preference is when you
10 apply your siblings get to go or if you have a --
11 okay -- there are kind of two types. The first type
12 is if you have a sibling who already attends that
13 school you get preference when you apply; so your
14 siblings that do not attend -- in this instance, say
15 they have a sibling who attended Palestine-Wheatley,
16 they would've gotten preference when applying to go
17 to Palestine-Wheatley. The other has more to do with
18 the 3% cap, which is if you are applying -- a sibling
19 group is applying and you're the last person on the
20 3% cap line, your siblings get to go with you even if
21 it means that the district goes over the 3% cap.

22 Was that clear?

23 DR. MOORE: It is. But this is not a cap issue;
24 so they have enough room overall, they just don't
25 have enough room in these grade levels. Is that

1 correct?

2 MS. HYATT: That's my understanding. Yes,
3 ma'am.

4 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY KEY: And just for clarification, the
6 cap applies to the resident district.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

8 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Hyatt --

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Newton.

10 MS. NEWTON: -- did -- I have several questions
11 for the Palestine district, and I'm a little upset
12 that they're not here to answer those questions. Did
13 they give any reason why they're not here?

14 MS. HYATT: No, ma'am. I sent the notice
15 letters on June 24th and received emails from both
16 that they received it. I reached out to
17 Superintendent Estes this morning, since he had not
18 checked in, and asked if he was planning to attend,
19 and he said no, and that was the only information I
20 got. And one of my colleagues has called Willie
21 Murdoch from Lee County and is waiting on a call back
22 from her. So I'm not sure why no one came. In the
23 notice letter, as it's attached on the agenda, you'll
24 see that I requested physical presence.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. 'Cause I have several

1 questions that they are the ones that would be able
2 to answer. And so with unknown information, you
3 know, it's difficult to make a good decision for the
4 family, and so I'm kind of at a loss.

5 And so is there -- are there repercussions when
6 they don't show up?

7 MS. HYATT: No, ma'am, I mean other than not
8 being here to present their side of the appeal.

9 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.

10 MS. McFETRIDGE: (inaudible) something we could
11 do, could we hold this until we get them on the Zoom
12 meeting so we can make this decision? Is that
13 possible?

14 MS. HYATT: That is a possibility; that is
15 something that you could do. I'm not sure if -- I
16 can call them and see if they would be willing to do
17 that. I'm not -- I'm not sure. They were given
18 proper notice of the time and place today, and chose
19 not to participate.

20 MS. MAYFIELD: May I add something?

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Mayfield.

22 MS. MAYFIELD: (inaudible, speaking from
23 audience)

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Wait till you get to the
25 mic to speak. But you can go ahead and give me that.

1 MS. MAYFIELD: With Natalee having an IEP, you
2 know, she's not going to take up, you know,
3 somebody's space in an actual classroom setting.
4 She'll be in resource classes; so it's, I think,
5 what, 12 or 13 --

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

7 MS. MAYFIELD: -- in those classroom settings.
8 I think that's it. So I mean it's not like she's
9 going to be taking up somebody else's space that is
10 going to need the -- you know, the -- all the
11 requirements and the basics; you know, because she
12 requires just a little bit, you know, different and a
13 little bit of special attention.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

15 MS. MAYFIELD: If that makes sense?

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

17 MS. MAYFIELD: Okay. Yeah.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

19 MS. MAYFIELD: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any more discussion
21 or questions?

22 Go ahead, Mr. Sutton.

23 MR. SUTTON: I too am a little disappointed that
24 Palestine-Wheatley decided not to show up. Perhaps a
25 repercussion is that the Board overrides their denial

1 -- but, you know, I'm new to the game. But, you
2 know, if they felt so strongly or if their numbers
3 proved that, then they should've been here. That's
4 just my opinion.

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: I second that.

6 SECRETARY KEY: I would just say that in past
7 situations -- similar situations I think that has
8 been the stance of the Board. And I certainly
9 wouldn't want to speak for Mr. Estes or his team, but
10 I would say typically if a district has some strong
11 reservations about why they can't accept a kid or a
12 student into their district they are here to let us
13 know what those reservations are. So I know some
14 districts, because they look at that 90% as a rigid
15 limit, it's automatic that if they're above that 90%
16 they invoke the rejection due to capacity. That is
17 why the Board has been given the authority by the
18 General Assembly to look at that, look at all the
19 factors, look at parents' appeals, look at written
20 information from the district. And in the absence of
21 information from the district, then, you know, they
22 could still -- the Board can still make a decision
23 based on what they have in front of them.

24 MR. SUTTON: And I wouldn't say that just
25 because they weren't here, but under these

1 circumstances with one of the children already being
2 accepted that puts it, to me, in a little different
3 way.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I agree. As a parent of four
5 children, I know how difficult it can be if you've
6 got children in different school districts and just
7 even different schools. And it puts quite a bit of a
8 burden on you, and it's better for siblings when
9 they're in the same school. And to your point and to
10 Mr. Key's point, if the district had some pressing
11 issue for why, you know, this -- they didn't want to
12 do this, they would be here.

13 And to the Board, we've had situations and
14 instances like this before, and this is why we're on
15 the Board. We look at each individual case and their
16 family and their situation and what is best for the
17 student, what is best for the child -- in this case,
18 what is best for the children.

19 So I just ask that you keep that in mind as you
20 make -- I'm ready for a motion, if there's no further
21 discussion -- but you'll keep that in mind this time
22 as well.

23 So, do I have a motion?

24 MS. WOODS: I'll motion to accept Cason and
25 Natalee Mayfield into the Palestine School District.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
2 Adrienne Woods.

3 Oh, I'm sorry.

4 SECRETARY KEY: I think we may need to take both
5 of those separately because they're two separate
6 items --

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

8 SECRETARY KEY: -- on the agenda.

9 MS. HYATT: Yes, please. Thank you very much,
10 Secretary Key.

11 MOTION/VOTE ON A-3 - CASON MAYFIELD

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. We'll take that -- the
13 first one is Ms. -- or the first one is Cason
14 Mayfield, I believe, so --

15 MS. WOODS: I'll modify.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

17 MS. WOODS: I'll move to accept Cason Mayfield
18 into the Palestine School District.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Motion by Ms. Adrienne
20 Woods.

21 Do we have a second?

22 MR. SUTTON: Second.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Second by Mr. Sutton.

25 All in favor say "aye."

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(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: All opposed?

We see none.

Ms. Mayfield, congratulations.

MS. MAYFIELD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're so welcome.

SECRETARY KEY: And now Natalee --

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. I'm sorry.

SECRETARY KEY: Her appeal is item number 4.

MOTION/VOTE ON A-4 - NATALEE MAYFIELD

CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. The next case -- is this -- this is the sibling. So do we have a motion?

MR. SUTTON: So moved.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moved by Mr. Sutton.

Do I have a second?

MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

MS. WOODS: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Who was that?

Second by Mr. Williamson.

All in favor say "aye."

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any nays?

No. Okay. Motion passes.

Congratulations.

MS. MAYFIELD: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

2 A-5: GARLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: JACOB THOMASON

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right. Ms. Hyatt.

4 MS. HYATT: If you want to give me just a second

5 --

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

7 MS. HYATT: -- I will go grab the next family.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

9 [A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]

10 MS. HYATT: The third hearing is for Jacob
11 Thomason. And I'm going to go over some special
12 rules for this one, since this does involve Garland
13 County.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

15 MS. HYATT: Lakeside School District, which is
16 the nonresident district in this case, denied the
17 transfer from Malvern. Lakeside is located in
18 Garland County, and the Garland County school
19 districts are all under a current active
20 desegregation order in Davis et al versus the Hot
21 Springs School District et al. If anyone would like
22 the case number, I can give it to you. And that
23 requires that school choice transfers in Garland
24 County be conducted in accordance with the Arkansas
25 Public School Choice Act of 1989, rather than the

1 2015 one. That school choice act prohibits a student
2 from transferring to a nonresident district where the
3 percentage of enrollment for that student's race
4 exceeds that percentage in the student's resident
5 district.

6 So in this matter the student has been denied
7 because the percentage of enrollment of white
8 students in Lakeside School District exceeds the
9 percentage in Malvern School District -- the
10 percentage for Lakeside is 73.78, and Malvern is
11 52.58 -- and no exceptions apply. You may follow
12 your regular hearing procedure.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

14 MS. HYATT: And I believe we have -- Alissa
15 Thomason is the parent, Rick McLaughlin from
16 Lakeside, and Jace Roberts from Malvern, and also
17 Senator Clark is here as well. And if you would like
18 to grant him time to speak whenever --

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

20 MS. HYATT: -- is perfect.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Let me swear everyone in that
22 will plan to give testimony. If you'll stand, raise
23 your right hand -- do you swear or affirm that the
24 testimony you're about to give shall be the truth,
25 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

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(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. The nonresident school district has 5 minutes for opening.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Can I move this?

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you for your time.

I would like to start out by saying that the Lakeside School District does not want to deny anyone school choice, but because of the federal court order we're under we have to. And ours is based on race, which we think is very outdated. We've actually -- six of the seven districts have gone to federal court in St. Louis to try to get that -- out from under the deseg court order, and that appeal was denied; so we're still under that. This results from a case back in the 80s out of Hot Springs, and we are now under the -- like she mentioned, under the School Choice Act of '89, which is based on race.

So my job is to -- when I get an application -- like I received an application from Ms. Thomason; we've talked. In fact, I wrote on there Received 5/11/20. And so what I do when I get one is I go and look first to see -- they have to mark whether they're on expulsion, current expulsion; I check that first. I honestly don't even look at the name; it

1 doesn't matter. Then the next thing I look at is
2 what they mark -- they have seven things they can
3 mark on the application -- in this instance, she
4 marked white -- and so that's what I go by. I pull
5 out my numbers that I know, and then I have to go and
6 look at Hot Springs County, look at Malvern's. And
7 as she stated, ours is almost 74% and theirs is at
8 52.58. So right away, I have to -- I hate the term
9 on here it says Reject; it should say Deny. But I
10 have to mark that because we can't take that student
11 and (inaudible) a federal court order -- because we
12 would love to take every kid, but we just don't have
13 that opportunity. I just have to go by the law. And
14 we've -- we've had regular deseg visits from the
15 State. We've met -- we've met all those things. I
16 just don't understand why we can't be like the rest
17 of the state, but that's my problem, not y'all's.
18 But that's where we're at. That's why we denied
19 that. We would never deny anyone based on the number
20 of teachers or space, et cetera. But this is the
21 only instance that we can do that. I receive
22 probably 140 applicants a year and probably 60 are
23 denied because of race and the rest we accept. And
24 we probably have over -- we have about 650 kids at
25 Lakeside on school choice; so we're for that. We'd

1 just like to be like the rest, but that's another
2 story.

3 Do you have any questions? Is now the time that
4 I can answer those, or do we do that later?

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Later. Yes.

6 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

8 The resident school district has 5 minutes for
9 opening.

10 MR. ROBERTS: I don't have much to add.

11 Obviously, the federal desegregation order makes
12 this a little more complicated. We do deal with
13 school choice with Lakeside. That's really the only
14 Garland County school that we deal with on school
15 choice. Obviously, we work with -- you know, we have
16 six districts in our county, so we work with the
17 majority of districts on different things. Lakeside
18 does get very complicated, even here in this issue.
19 Our deadline for school choice is May 1st, whereas
20 their deadline is July 1st. You know, there's a
21 question there do we have to -- you know, someone
22 transferring to Lakeside do they have to comply with
23 that date. That has not been explicitly answered
24 anywhere. In this situation the application came in
25 May 12th. Also, if we would've received an accepted

1 letter from Lakeside it's very likely that we
2 would've had a cap issue and would've had to deny on
3 cap. We didn't get to that point because, obviously,
4 until we have the, you know, accepted application
5 that's where we're at.

6 But I'm here to answer any questions. But I
7 don't know that I would be much use today, but be
8 glad to help any way I can.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

10 And, family, you have 5 minutes. Would you
11 state your name for the record?

12 MS. THOMASON: My name is Alissa Thomason. I'm
13 the mother of Jacob Thomason.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If you'll speak up. Yeah --

15 MS. THOMASON: Sorry.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead.

17 MS. THOMASON: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Pull the mic up for you.

19 MS. THOMASON: Pull the mic up?

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.

21 MS. THOMASON: Alissa Thomason. Is that better?

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

23 MS. THOMASON: Okay. First of all, I'd like to
24 say that I made a mistake on the school choice
25 application on marking his race as white, when his

1 race is mixed. My child looks white, like me, but
2 his race is actually mixed. So I can answer any
3 questions about that. But I was not aware that there
4 was going to be an issue with race. I didn't --
5 that's not the reason I'm trying to get him into
6 Lakeside. I'm trying to get him in because of their
7 special education program, that they can offer more
8 for him and for his future than what Malvern can
9 offer. So I'm just -- for the best interest of my
10 child.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

12 Okay. Senator Clark. Welcome.

13 SENATOR CLARK: How are you doing --

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Doing well. Thank you.

15 SENATOR CLARK: -- Madam Chair?

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Doing well. Thank you.

17 SENATOR CLARK: Thank y'all for allowing me to
18 speak.

19 Some of you know how strongly I feel about
20 school choice. I know the Commissioner does. But in
21 eight years, this is the first appeal that I've ever
22 been to. Ms. Thomason told you that she filled out
23 the application wrong, that she should've put mixed
24 race instead of white -- and if she had, we probably
25 wouldn't be here. So if your attorney tells you you

1 can't vote that way, you can, because that changes
2 everything. But, you know, I represent 18 good
3 schools, and these are both very fine schools.

4 Ms. Thomason just asked me to be here; she
5 didn't ask me to speak. And I thought long and hard
6 about it because, you know, people can have hard
7 feelings. But a young man's future is at stake and I
8 want to talk about him, and talk about me and school
9 choice in general.

10 The reason I feel so strongly about school
11 choice is when I was in the 11th grade I had to
12 change schools. I love the school I graduated from;
13 I love the people from that school. But I found out
14 my senior year, the first day of school, that I
15 wouldn't have physics because only two people signed
16 up. My junior year, although my transcript shows I
17 had chemistry, I didn't. I had something less than
18 8th grade science, I didn't have advanced math, and
19 that's really important because I was a National
20 Merit semi-finalist. And I believe had I had those
21 courses I'd have been a National Merit finalist --
22 Harvard, Yale, Stanford. I'm one of those infamous
23 state legislators that doesn't have a college degree,
24 not one day of college, because not only did I not
25 have those courses, I didn't even have a counselor to

1 tell me that with my ACT scores and being a National
2 Merit semi-finalist that I had a full ride to any
3 school -- public school in the state. And the money
4 was why I didn't go. But I landed on my feet in the
5 family business, but lots of people don't. My
6 friends at that other school, we -- you know, it
7 wasn't whether we'd make A's or not; we competed on
8 who would have the highest A. They're at NASA and
9 Rockwell, one of the top neurosurgeons in the state.

10 My daughter has a different story. She came to
11 me and said, "I don't feel like I'm being challenged
12 at the school I'm at. I'd like to go to another
13 school." And she had no idea what -- that that was
14 impossible. I called one of my legislator friends
15 and said, "Shay would like to go to this other
16 school." And he said, "Well, we -- she can; we have
17 school choice laws." And I said, "No, she can't.
18 I've been to school board meetings. That's not going
19 to happen. The school -- the receiving school will
20 take her, but the other school won't let her go." He
21 called me -- you know, I wasn't familiar with the
22 legislative process at that time. But he called me
23 what must've been the last week of the legislature
24 and said, "Tell Shay she can go." So I know that she
25 was the first child that year to transfer under the

1 new school choice law. It look her six months to
2 catch up at that school -- and even at that, she was
3 on the bubble for getting into UCA Honors; barely got
4 in. And she turned what wasn't a full-ride into a
5 full-ride by getting other scholarships. While I
6 would like for my 31-year old to live down the road,
7 I'm very proud that she lives in Baum, Germany, is
8 fluent in German and French, she works for the U.N.
9 there -- and she wouldn't, if it weren't for school
10 choice.

11 One of the great pleasures of my job is to visit
12 schools and them show me what they do, and all of
13 them do some great things. Lakeside has a special
14 ed. program in high school that is just unbelievable.
15 It would bring tears to your eyes. I can't describe
16 it -- and this buddy program they have and the intern
17 where these kids can go out and work; you know, when
18 I go to the First Step banquet every year -- and God
19 created us to want to be productive. What we take
20 for granted, there's a lot of people on the fringe
21 that can't take that for granted.

22 And this is not just school choice for this
23 young man; this is the difference with whether he can
24 be productive. This is the difference in his life.
25 And so I'm going to tell you, as a former quorum

1 court member and as an eight-year state senator,
2 don't let anybody tell you what you can and can't do.
3 It's your vote. And this young man's future hangs in
4 the balance. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

6 Okay. The nonresident school district can come
7 back for 20 minutes to present the case.

8 MR. McLAUGHLIN: (inaudible, speaking from the
9 audience)

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Resident?

11 MR. ROBERTS: (inaudible, speaking from the
12 audience)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Do you have anything
14 else to say? If you'd come back up to the mic, if
15 you do.

16 MS. THOMASON: I can answer any questions that
17 y'all have.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We'll go ahead -- all
19 right. Do we have any questions from the Board?

20 MS. WOODS: I just have one, and then I have two
21 questions for Ms. Hyatt.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

23 MS. WOODS: Can you tell me what the other half
24 of his race is?

25 MS. THOMASON: It's black.

1 MS. WOODS: It is. Okay.

2 And then my other two questions are for Ms.
3 Hyatt.

4 I've been reading through the desegregation
5 order. But does she have the ability to amend the
6 application? Can you do that after July 1st?

7 MS. HYATT: So the application -- I don't think
8 you can amend the application. Obviously, when she
9 appealed she could -- or she could have addressed it
10 before the deadline for notification with the
11 schools. There's not a provision that specifically
12 allows you to amend your application. And in the
13 documents that were provided to you on the agenda
14 that was not one of the responses that was included
15 in the parent's original appeal. So that's why --
16 this is kind of the first time I'm hearing about it,
17 so that's why it wasn't included in the
18 documentations that you received.

19 MS. WOODS: Understood. Would that have changed
20 the analysis if she marked that his race was mixed?

21 MS. HYATT: She --

22 MS. WOODS: (inaudible)

23 MS. HYATT: She -- the consent decree in the
24 federal court order that's at issue here, it
25 specifically addresses black students and white

1 students; it does not address mixed race students.
2 So I think that if -- it's my understanding -- and I
3 know that Lori or Jennifer will stop me if I'm
4 speaking incorrectly -- that if it is a bi-racial
5 student they would be -- they would not fall under
6 the black students and white students prohibitions,
7 if that's clear.

8 MS. WOODS: Yes, it is. Thank you.

9 That's all I had of questions.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions?

11 All right. Well, before anyone makes a motion I
12 just wanted to iterate what we said before, which is
13 we look at each case and each family case-by-case.
14 We also have to consider what the law is. But in the
15 end, we do look at each case.

16 So with that in mind, do we have a motion from
17 anyone?

18 MS. CHAMBERS: I move that we approve this
19 appeal.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moved by Ms. Susan Chambers.
21 Do I have a second?

22 MS. WOODS: I will second.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Second by Ms. Adrienne Woods.

25 All in favor say "aye."

1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

3 Motion passes.

4 Ms. Thomason, congratulations.

5 Thank you all for coming today. We appreciate
6 you. Thank you.

7 A-6: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: COOPER ESTEP

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Let's move on to the next
9 case, Cooper Estep.

10 MS. HYATT: And if you'll give me just a second
11 I'll go grab them.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Okay.

13 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

14 MS. HYATT: The fourth hearing is for Cooper
15 Estep. We've got Samantha Estep, his -- the parent;
16 we've got Superintendent Spainhour from Greenbrier
17 and Superintendent Fisher from Guy-Perkins. You're
18 going to be with these two superintendents for the
19 next couple of hearings. And we can get started.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Everyone who plans to
21 testify, if you'll stand, so I can get you sworn in
22 -- and raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm
23 that the testimony you're about to give shall be the
24 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

25 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.

2 All right. The nonresident school district, you
3 have 5 minutes for opening. If you would, state your
4 name for the record please.

5 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: We get to take this off?

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, sir, you can.

7 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: Thank you. My name is Scott
8 Spainhour, superintendent at Greenbrier School
9 District. Let me just say Guy-Perkins is a neighbor
10 school district of ours. We work well together.
11 Like the gentleman from Lakeside said this morning,
12 we're not looking to deny anybody from coming to
13 Greenbrier, nor would we deny anybody that wants to
14 go somewhere else. We believe in school choice.

15 We did deny based on the 3% cap, and that 3% is
16 always a running number with us. Because, you know,
17 we -- when we receive applications that are students
18 from Guy, we immediately send those to Guy so they
19 can -- I can only imagine they keep a list, right, of
20 who's in order, and they're dealing -- we're all
21 dealing with different districts when it comes to
22 that 3% cap. So it's -- it can be tough. But I have
23 space, I have room, I will take them gladly. And we
24 don't -- we try not to deny anybody, even if we have
25 to add staff, add programs (inaudible).

1 So anyway, whatever I can do to help, I'd be
2 glad to help. I've got some great families coming up
3 today and I'd just be glad to answer any questions
4 that I can. But the 3% is the issue. And the thing
5 about it is, we'll be back probably year after year
6 just because of that 3% number. So, thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. Great.

8 Please state your name for the record, please.
9 You have 5 minutes.

10 SUPT. FISHER: Good morning. My name is Dr. Joe
11 Fisher; I'm Superintendent of Schools in the Guy-
12 Perkins School District. And we're here because we
13 followed the law and we've met the 3% cap.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

15 SUPT. FISHER: And so we're here today to answer
16 questions. We too -- I don't know most of these
17 families because they've never come and visited with
18 us and toured with us.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

20 SUPT. FISHER: We would love to have that
21 happen. We've offered that. So today we'd like to
22 answer any questions that you and the Board may have.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

24 SUPT. FISHER: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

1 All right. And, Ma'am -- I'm sorry, I lost my
2 --

3 MS. ESTEP: So my name is Samantha Estep, and
4 I'm the mother of Cooper. I just want to start off
5 by saying we moved to central Arkansas -- we moved to
6 Greenbrier in 2016. My husband got a job offer and
7 we chose Greenbrier because it was a safe place, we
8 loved it up there, we've heard amazing things about
9 the school, and I knew as a mother that that's where
10 I wanted my child to be. He attended kindergarten
11 and 1st grade in his school. We decided to upsize
12 our home, and so we built a house, and unknowingly we
13 fell into the Guy School District. But when we went
14 through this my husband looked it up and we missed
15 the Greenbrier School District by literally 10 yards.
16 We have a Greenbrier address, and so it didn't occur
17 that we were in the Guy School District until I went
18 to get our water turned on and it was Guy. But I
19 don't go to Guy for anything; everything we do is in
20 Greenbrier.

21 My son misses his school. He loves his school,
22 he loves his teachers and his friends. He's very
23 involved in the school. In 1st grade he was
24 nominated the Class King for Fall Festival, and he
25 just misses all of that stuff. We chose to do home-

1 school for this year. Because I called on the second
2 day of school and I had let them know of the address
3 change and they told me to call Guy School District
4 because we fell in their district; and so I did and I
5 explained to them the situation. They were -- they
6 let me know that they don't do transfer-to --
7 district transfers. And they told me that I would
8 have to un-enroll my child that day and bring him to
9 their school district, which was very upsetting to me
10 because I had no idea that they could basically tell
11 you no, your child cannot stay in their school. So I
12 let him finish his day, because I was very upset, and
13 I had to spend the rest of the day deciding what I
14 was going to do. So I picked him up and I basically
15 let him know what was going on. And I had told him
16 he could try this new school district, if he wanted,
17 and we would try to get him back into Greenbrier the
18 next year. He said he didn't and he would like to do
19 home-school; so I home-schooled him for this year.
20 We survived. But, you know, he's missed out on his
21 2nd grade yearbook, he's missed out on 2nd grade
22 school pictures, teachers, everything; he misses
23 recess, P.E. He even brought it to my attention that
24 he was afraid he may get behind in computer classes
25 because we home-schooled and we didn't have those

1 computer classes. His sister is 3 and I am enrolling
2 her next week into the Little Life Academy preschool
3 and it's right next door to the school where he
4 attends, or did attend. So I work in Greenbrier, I
5 shop in Greenbrier. I've been to Guy one time in my
6 whole life and it was to connect the water. But
7 anyway, so, he's missed out on a whole year of being
8 with his friends, having a school schedule. It's
9 hard to separate home and mom and teacher. It's
10 really hard to do that when you've never done that
11 before. But, you know, he has told me that if he
12 didn't get in again this year that he would choose
13 home-school again.

14 But I will say that on the second day of school
15 I called the schools, and I knew that school choice
16 would be my only option to get him back in, and they
17 told me that they accept them the day -- they accept
18 them after Christmas break. And so I've been going
19 through this since the second day of this last school
20 year. And so, on January 7th, I went and I filled
21 out the school choice and I did get the denial letter
22 because of the 3% cap. But had I known I could've
23 probably went on the second day and filled that out
24 and possibly got in, I would have done that. I just
25 -- this is all new to me. He's going to be going

1 into the 3rd grade and it's my first child in school,
2 so it's a learning process. But I do know that he
3 loves his school. You know, he's been there two
4 years. He's been out this year for home-school and
5 we really want to get him back in so that he doesn't
6 have to miss another year of public school. Yes, but
7 I did let it be his choice if he would rather try a
8 new school or do home-school, because I want him to
9 be comfortable, and he is the one that chose home-
10 school. But, yes, we love our Greenbrier School
11 District.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you so much.

13 MS. ESTEP: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Nonresident has an opportunity
15 for a 20-minute -- 20 minutes to present your case.
16 You'll have 20 minutes as well.

17 SUPT. FISHER: We do appreciate the opportunity
18 to present to you. We're following our law right
19 now. Unfortunately, especially in this neighborhood,
20 we have a movement of some folks who are
21 unfortunately, whether they're a real estate agent or
22 someone living there, giving some misinformation out
23 to the folks that are moving there. When we lose
24 someone from the percentage that's one more student
25 -- one more house that we don't have a person living

1 in that can be attending our district; so it's very
2 important. We have a very friendly, great elementary
3 school; we're a school of innovation, very
4 personalized, small groups. So, once again, we have
5 a great offering for any student that moves into our
6 district. So I want that -- I want the record to
7 stand that our district -- we're not going to argue
8 that we have excellent instruction, we have excellent
9 people. That's -- and I don't want you to think
10 that's our scope today.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

12 SUPT. FISHER: Really our scope was to present
13 our case for them; they've appealed. And I think for
14 the Board really the scope and role and
15 responsibility is not to determine which district is
16 the best district, because that's apparent when they
17 make a decision to move in. It's to determine if we
18 have followed the rules and regulations of the 3%,
19 and we have.

20 And so we would -- we will do whatever the Board
21 tells us to do. If it's to go against the law, then
22 we will do that. And then we'll determine what we
23 want to do in the future, based upon that decision.
24 But thank you for the time and opportunity.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

1 Ms. Estep, did you have anything else to add?

2 MS. ESTEP: I would just like to add that it's
3 just -- you know, it's the school that my son has
4 already been in and he already knows it and he knows
5 his friends, and that is where I go every day to do
6 everything that I do. And like I said, his sister
7 will be attending preschool in a building right next
8 to his school. And it's just -- I don't really want
9 to say that it's more convenient for me, because I
10 will do whatever is best for my child. But I know
11 that if it was his choice he would choose to go back
12 to his school, that which he has already previously
13 attended. We have nothing against Guy. You know,
14 we've never -- we've never -- we have not ever been
15 there, to their school district or anything. So I
16 don't have anything -- I don't have anything about
17 that to say. But I just know that, you know,
18 everything that we do is in Greenbrier and he's
19 already been to the school before, and we would love
20 for him to be able to go back to it.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.

22 MS. ESTEP: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any questions?

24 MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean, I have a question
25 please.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Chambers.

2 MS. CHAMBERS: It's for the Guy-Perkins
3 superintendent, please, and it's related to the 3%.
4 If you could help me understand, what's the number of
5 students that 3% represents? And could you help me
6 understand, timing-wise, if this appeal was made
7 January 7th when would the determination -- or how
8 would the determination have been made of who made up
9 the 3%, and where did you hit threshold?

10 SUPT. FISHER: Ms. Chambers, I'm not sure about
11 the appeal on January 7th. Could you help me
12 understand that a little bit better?

13 MS. CHAMBERS: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought that's
14 when the parent said she had filled out the paperwork
15 for choice --

16 SUPT. FISHER: She did, in fact.

17 MS. CHAMBERS: -- and was told that you'd hit
18 the 3%. So I was just curious timeline-wise --

19 SUPT. FISHER: Sure.

20 MS. CHAMBERS: -- how many students make up 3%.
21 And then, when did you hit -- or when you hit it, how
22 does that work?

23 SUPT. FISHER: Our 3% comes at 10 students.
24 And, of course, as you know, as people apply, up
25 until the deadline the priorities change based on if

1 they have a sibling, based on any other circumstances
2 that the law bears out. So it's very difficult in
3 January for us to make a decision of whether they
4 would be in that 3% or not. But this year we did
5 have 12, because our last person that applied that
6 met the qualifications for our 10% -- or 3% actually
7 had three children in that family. So we actually
8 are allowing 12 to school-choice out.

9 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Hyatt.

11 MS. HYATT: I just wanted to point out for Ms.
12 Chambers that if you look on page 11 of the
13 attachment that there is some documentation provided
14 by Guy-Perkins that shows when the students that went
15 out, what time they applied, when they were received,
16 and then -- and this is -- this is attached for all
17 of the ones that involve Guy-Perkins. But you can
18 see here that Cooper Estep was the first one on the
19 list that was denied. You can see that they applied
20 on the 7th with Greenbrier, that Guy-Perkins got it
21 on the 10th. So all that information is included;
22 it's on page 11 of the attachment.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any other questions
24 or discussion?

25 MS. NEWTON: I have a question for Mr. Fisher.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Newton.

2 MS. NEWTON: Mr. Fisher, just from doing some
3 figuring, your current enrollment is projected to be
4 about 330. Is that what you're looking at for this
5 next year?

6 SUPT. FISHER: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. NEWTON: About how many school choice
8 appeals did you deny all together?

9 SUPT. FISHER: On the sheet that we provided to
10 you, we have denied 14.

11 MS. NEWTON: Denied 14. So you would still be
12 -- I was just curious about the 300 threshold there
13 also. Are you still projecting this next year to be
14 around the same number or do you -- I know because of
15 Covid some parents are choosing home-schooling and
16 different things. Do you have any idea or
17 projections for this next year what your enrollment
18 district-wide might be?

19 SUPT. FISHER: Our average daily membership last
20 year was 326. That's what we're moving forward with.
21 And we have 10 that are in our Virtual Academy
22 already registered for this next year. We know at
23 least one family that has already moved. And so, I
24 would probably project that we'll be somewhere
25 between 315 and 320.

1 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

3 Any further questions?

4 If there's no discussion, I'm ready for a
5 motion.

6 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

8 SECRETARY KEY: Can I ask a question, Madam
9 Chair?

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

11 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Fisher, you referred to a
12 neighborhood that I guess Ms. Estep lives in; her
13 address is Greenbrier, the neighborhood is in Guy-
14 Perkins School District. That's not an unusual
15 situation around the state of Arkansas, as boundary
16 lines and rural routes and everything change through
17 the years; so we run into that from time to time.
18 But you referred to maybe real estate agents or --
19 that's something else we've seen, typically with
20 respect to -- usually we've seen it in like the
21 Jacksonville and Cabot area, and in past years we've
22 seen school choice appeals come from that area, but
23 it's relatively new to see it in your area. And I
24 know that the total ADM is a sensitive issue because
25 of the statutory 350. And I haven't -- several of

1 these appeals are related though; is that correct?
2 So in just prepping the Board for the conversations
3 that we're getting ready to have --

4 SUPT. FISHER: Sure.

5 SECRETARY KEY: -- is that correct? Are there
6 any of these that are not affiliated with that
7 particular part of your district?

8 SUPT. FISHER: No. There are several that are
9 not in there.

10 SECRETARY KEY: Okay.

11 SUPT. FISHER: I think that may be the only one
12 in that particular area.

13 SECRETARY KEY: This is the only one in that
14 area.

15 SUPT. FISHER: But it is the same situation.
16 And I've had an opportunity to speak in a previous
17 district to the Realtors Association to help them
18 better understand what actually is truthful and, you
19 know, and how they can do school choice and how that
20 works, but not having had an opportunity to do that
21 in Faulkner County. But we do have several that will
22 move in and they tell us, "Oh, well, we're being told
23 either by the district they're going into, a real
24 estate agent, a neighbor, it's not a problem; "the
25 Board has done -- the State Board has done that

1 before. If you don't get it approved, they'll
2 overturn it. It's not a problem." So now we're
3 losing housing where we could have potential students
4 who are zoned for us to attend. But it's an issue.
5 We want them to choose our district. But also, too,
6 if we don't have the property for them to live in to
7 attend our district it becomes a major issue. It's a
8 systemic issue.

9 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. Thank you for clarifying
10 that. I just -- I knew you addressed it briefly, but
11 I thought it was worthwhile for the Board to hear a
12 little bit deeper explanation of that.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And I'm glad you mentioned that
14 because that's something -- as far as the real estate
15 agents and the misinformation that may be going
16 around, that's an issue that we've seen before with
17 these types of cases. So I think there needs to be
18 something that -- to address that moving forward
19 because that seems to be a recruiting issue. So,
20 thank you. And as I --

21 DR. MOORE: May I --

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

23 DR. MOORE: Dr. Moore. May I ask a question in
24 regard to that?

25 In looking at the map, Guy-Perkins does have a

1 corridor where Greenbrier goes up. It doesn't make
2 logical sense. Is there any history as to -- were
3 any districts merged around here to give these
4 boundary lines the way it is, or any back-story as to
5 why it's this way?

6 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: No, not that I'm aware of.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If you'll come to the mic.

8 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: The mic?

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mic -- if you'll come to the mic
10 so we can hear you.

11 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: I don't know of any disputed
12 boundary lines. We watch those closely and keep
13 addresses. So we're very aware of what's in our
14 district and what's not, and we're -- we limit people
15 who tell them if it is or isn't because we don't want
16 them -- we don't want to make a mistake. So, no,
17 ma'am, we do not have boundary line disputes.

18 DR. MOORE: But I do see where Guy kind of --
19 Guy-Perkins cuts into Greenbrier district and it
20 could be confusing.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: As I've said before, we take
22 each case differently. We have to look at the
23 circumstances of each case, each family, each
24 district, nonresident and resident, and their
25 particular issues that they're dealing with as well.

1 So is there any further discussion?

2 MS. NEWTON: I mean I just -- I have a comment
3 -- and I did not hear a lot of the conversation
4 between Mr. Key and Mr. Fisher; it was cutting in and
5 out, so I'm not sure exactly what all was said. But
6 I did hear a little bit of what Mr. Fisher said on --
7 that real estate agents were using that they could
8 appeal and that we would automatically override. And
9 I'm very concerned that that attitude is out there,
10 especially when it's putting Guy-Perkins as a
11 district in danger of hitting that 300 threshold,
12 between the Covid issues and the enrollment issues --
13 because we're looking at a lot of appeals right here,
14 just today, that involve Guy-Perkins. So I'm
15 concerned that the attitude of the public might be
16 "well, it doesn't matter where I live, you know, and
17 what happens to Guy-Perkins it will just
18 automatically be overturned." So that's a little
19 concerning to me.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

21 If you'd come to the mic please.

22 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: I would just like to go on the
23 record to say that I disagree with that
24 characterization of our community and what they
25 believe. I don't think that's true. I think they

1 all try to do it right and do it by the rules. And
2 then they all have opportunities to appeal, and
3 that's what we're here for. But I do not think it is
4 our community saying "don't worry about it," at all.
5 It may happen from time to time, but, you know, when
6 you're changing schools it's a big deal and parents
7 have to be sure, and I understand that. And I
8 understand what the law says. So I'm not disagreeing
9 with you, only that if -- with the school -- with the
10 numbers of 300 or 320, those -- the siblings and all,
11 they may -- I mean that's just going to be tough from
12 here on out on choice because -- you know, because
13 they're dealing with several districts around us.
14 But I just wanted to clarify I do not think the
15 characterization of the district as being flippant
16 about the school choice law is accurate. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

18 Yes, as we -- I'm sorry. Yes, Ms. Estep. Is it
19 Estep?

20 MS. ESTEP: Estep.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

22 MS. ESTEP: I'd just like to come up and say
23 that was not the case for us. We didn't even have a
24 realtor. Me and my husband just were driving around
25 Greenbrier and we found our lot and we built our-

1 self. We had no realtor at all; so we were not
2 misled in that type of way.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

4 Yes, sir.

5 SUPT. FISHER: I actually want to agree with Mr.
6 Spainhour. I certainly don't want to set that
7 district in a negative light. He has been nothing
8 but helpful in working with our district, so I want
9 that on the record.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

11 Yeah. Just for the record, we appreciate when
12 districts follow the law and do your part and your
13 responsibility. And that's why we have the appeal
14 process, so that -- as State Board members, we have
15 that discretion and that judgment to look at each
16 case individually, look at each family and their
17 situation, the child, the situation they may have,
18 and each district and what they're dealing with as
19 well.

20 So with that in mind, do we have any further
21 discussion?

22 I know in past cases we've dealt with -- like
23 the last case there was an issue with a child who has
24 an IEP in special education. We have issues where
25 parents cannot physically actually drive their

1 students halfway across town as it takes so long. We
2 have different situations. This is not one of those
3 situations. This is where, like she said, they were
4 just 10 yards off from the school district that they
5 had thought that they would be in. You home-
6 schooled. The year before he enjoyed home-schooling.
7 He did miss school, but --

8 MS. ESTEP: (inaudible, speaking from audience)

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, that happens.

10 So like I said, we just have to -- as a board,
11 we have to use discretion and judgment for what is
12 right for both districts, the family, and the
13 children in this community.

14 So with that in mind, do we have a motion?

15 MS. WOODS: I'll move to accept them into the
16 Greenbrier School District.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
18 Adrienne Woods.

19 Do I have a second?

20 MR. SUTTON: Could you restate that motion?

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: She moved to have him accepted
22 into the Greenbrier School District.

23 MS. WOODS: Correct.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: To grant --

25 SECERTARY KEY: Grant the appeal.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: To grant the appeal.

2 MS. WOODS: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have a second?

4 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Motion dies as a lack of
6 a second. So that means that appeal has not --

7 MS. HAYTT: Mary Claire Hyatt.

8 You're correct, the motion dies for failure to
9 have a second. If there's another motion -- if
10 there's no motion and a second and a vote, then the
11 appeal will fail.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have another
13 motion?

14 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Then I'm so sorry, Ms.
16 Estep, your appeal has failed.

17 MS. ESTEP: (inaudible, speaking from audience)

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah.

19 MS. ESTEP: (inaudible, speaking from audience)

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

21 Okay. We'll take a few minutes and let Ms.
22 Hyatt get the next group.

23 I know these are our tough cases that we have to
24 consider.

25 MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean, if you could -- this is

1 Susan --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

3 MS. CHAMBERS: I'm still -- I'm getting maybe 30
4 to 40 percent of what's being said, even by you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

6 MS. CHAMBERS: It's just so muddled. So if
7 folks could continue to be very mindful and speak
8 maybe a little louder than they normally would, I
9 think we'd appreciate it out here.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I will do that. Thank
11 you.

12 A-7: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: CAROLINE TROTTER

13 A-8: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: GRAHAM TROTTER

14 A-9: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: CHARLOTTE TROTTER

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Hyatt.

16 MS. HYATT: The next three on the agenda are
17 siblings. So we will need separate votes on them --

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

19 MS. HYATT: -- but you're welcome to discuss
20 them all in the hearing -- the first, Caroline
21 Trotter; the second, Graham Trotter; and third,
22 Charlotte Trotter. All three of these also involve
23 the Greenbrier School District and the Guy-Perkins
24 School District, and parent Melanie Moffett is here.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Would those who plan

1 to speak, if you'll raise your right hand -- do you
2 swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to
3 give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
4 but the truth?

5 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Nonresident district
7 has 5 minutes.

8 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: Once again, the reason for the
9 denial was for being above the 3% cap at their
10 position on the request list. We have space and we
11 have room and we can accommodate, but I also
12 understand the position that Guy-Perkins School
13 District is in. So I appreciate the Board listening
14 to each case and making your decisions based on
15 what's best for that student and family. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

17 Mr. Fisher.

18 SUPT. FISHER: I do not have much more to add,
19 other than this is our last case that does involve
20 Persimmon Ridge --

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

22 SUPT. FISHER: -- and that particular area for
23 this -- for these students.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

25 Ms. Trotter, you have 5 minutes. Welcome.

1 MS. MOFFETT: Hi.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Hi.

3 MS. MOFFETT: As he said, we actually live in
4 the same neighborhood that the previous child lives
5 in. We bought a house there about a year ago, and
6 when we bought it we did have the instance where the
7 realtor did say it was Greenbrier School District.
8 It was listed as Greenbrier School District with a
9 Greenbrier address. All three of my children have
10 attended Greenbrier their entire lives. I have a
11 daughter going into the 9th grade; she's on the
12 cheerleading squad in Greenbrier, she is very
13 involved with her school. I've subbed at Greenbrier
14 for several years in the past. My son is finishing
15 -- this will be his last year at Eastside Elementary,
16 where all of his friends and teachers have been. And
17 then my youngest daughter is going into the 2nd grade
18 in Greenbrier. The younger ones, it probably
19 wouldn't be as big of a deal to switch schools.
20 However, with my daughter going in the 9th grade I
21 feel like this would be a big disservice to her.
22 She's in a very crucial time in her life and I don't
23 think it would be easy for her to move schools and
24 friends and activities in the middle of her high
25 school career.

1 My husband and I -- well, my husband works in
2 Greenbrier, and has lived there for a long time. I
3 don't currently work. I just finished nursing school
4 and am applying for jobs at Conway Regional, so I
5 will also be driving that direction every day. It
6 would be difficult for us to get our kids to Guy
7 School District since it is the opposite direction
8 that we do drive. And as the same as the woman
9 before, we do all of our activities and everything in
10 Greenbrier.

11 I do know that Guy is a great school. It's just
12 with our kids' history in our Greenbrier School
13 District we just don't think it would be in their
14 best interest to move schools at this point.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. MOFFETT: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. You have 20 minutes.
18 Anything else you want to add?

19 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: (inaudible, speaking from
20 audience)

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Did you have anything else you
22 wanted to add?

23 SUPT. FISHER: (inaudible, speaking from
24 audience)

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Trotter?

1 MS. MOFFETT: (inaudible, speaking from
2 audience)

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right. Do we have
4 questions or discussion?

5 MR. SUTTON: How long have your children been
6 going to the Greenbrier --

7 MS. MOFFETT: Since preschool. (inaudible,
8 speaking from audience)

9 MR. SUTTON: So for the oldest, nine years?

10 MS. MOFFETT: (inaudible, speaking from
11 audience)

12 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Trotter, please come back to
13 the microphone so all the other members can hear you.

14 MS. MOFFETT: The oldest has been attending
15 Greenbrier since preschool, so I guess that would be
16 10 years. And then the other two have also attended
17 since preschool.

18 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair --

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

20 SECRETARY KEY: -- I want to make sure the
21 members heard that.

22 Ms. Newton, were you able to hear that?

23 Okay. Ms. Trotter, would you come back and take
24 your mask off this time, if you don't mind, because
25 sometimes that muffles the pick-up on the microphone.

1 MS. MOFFETT: Sure. My oldest has attended
2 Greenbrier schools for 10 years. They've all three
3 attended since they started preschool there.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

5 Any more questions?

6 DR. MOORE: I do. This is Sarah. I have a
7 question --

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

9 DR. MOORE: -- for the Department.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore.

11 DR. MOORE: In this case and the last case,
12 these students have never attended Guy-Perkins; so
13 they're not already counted in enrollment. But I
14 know -- how long has Guy hovered around the 350 mark?
15 And how many years have we given them a waiver around
16 that?

17 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt with the Division.

18 I actually don't know. And I believe that the
19 superintendent from Guy said two years around the 350
20 mark and no waiver has been -- this will be the first
21 year that they would have to request a waiver.

22 DR. MOORE: Okay.

23 MS. HYATT: And I also wanted to point out just
24 also on page 11 of the packet you can see where the
25 child was on those that were denied.

1 MS. NEWTON: Mr. Fisher, this family is in the
2 same neighborhood as the last family. Is that
3 correct?

4 SUPT. FISHER: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. NEWTON: Do you run a bus into that
6 neighborhood?

7 SUPT. FISHER: Yes, we do. We have a bus
8 available if the parents choose to have them ride.

9 MS. NEWTON: But does it currently run into that
10 neighborhood is what I'm asking.

11 SUPT. FISHER: Yes. We have a bus route that is
12 available for that neighborhood.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Sutton.

15 MS. NEWTON: So --

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, sorry.

17 MS. NEWTON: -- I guess my question is if that
18 bus had been visible in that neighborhood, you know,
19 I would think that people would know that that's a
20 Guy-Perkins district. Does that make sense?

21 SUPT. FISHER: It does. I think at this time we
22 don't have any students from there that ride. The
23 majority of that neighborhood has already choiced
24 out.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. That was my -- okay. All

1 right. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

3 Mr. Sutton, did you have a question?

4 MR. SUTTON: Just to be clear, these -- the
5 Trotter children are not in your numbers because they
6 haven't attended your district?

7 SUPT. FISHER: That is correct. But they're in
8 a house that is currently in our attendance zone.

9 MR. SUTTON: But they wouldn't affect your
10 numbers?

11 SUPT. FISHER: They would increase our numbers
12 and give us more funding.

13 MR. SUTTON: Right.

14 SUPT. FISHER: Yes.

15 MR. SUTTON: Okay. I understand.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Trotter, if you'll come to
17 the mic and take your mask off.

18 MS. MOFFETT: I know this isn't everybody's
19 concern, except for mine. With me starting to work
20 soon, we have a sitter that works for the Eastside
21 School District where my two younger children attend
22 that in the past, and will again, be picking my kids
23 up, taking them to school, and taking them to her
24 home, whereas we don't have that in Greenbrier. And
25 they're not -- the youngest ones aren't old enough to

1 ride the bus and back to our home and stay by
2 themselves.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

4 Any further --

5 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

7 MS. NEWTON: I couldn't -- I'm not sure I heard
8 correctly, because it's been difficult to hear today.
9 Did she say her students were -- her children were
10 going to a different district, Eastside District? I
11 thought they were going to Greenbrier. I couldn't
12 understand.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It's Eastside Elementary School.

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

16 MS. NEWTON: All right.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions or
18 discussion?

19 All right. Well, we're ready for a motion.

20 DR. MOORE: Actually -- this is Sarah; I'm
21 sorry. I have a question for either district.

22 There are -- are there avenues for school
23 choice, such as a legal transfer? Have Guy and
24 Greenbrier ever done legal transfers before from
25 board-to-board?

1 SUPT. FISHER: It has been the local decision of
2 our board during this time of our enrollment being
3 under 350 to deny any student transfers at this time.

4 DR. MOORE: Okay. And then --

5 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: Greenbrier does allow kids to
6 choice out, wherever they would like to go.

7 DR. MOORE: And, Mary Claire, are there any
8 other avenues for school choice here?

9 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: Transfer out. I'm sorry; I
10 used the wrong word.

11 MS. HYATT: The only avenues are school choice,
12 opportunity school choice, which I don't believe
13 applies in this situation, and the legal transfer.
14 So typically when someone is denied and then their
15 appeal is denied, or they miss a deadline or
16 something, and they call and ask us questions, we
17 tell them to contact the districts to get information
18 about the board-to-board legal transfer. Besides
19 moving and residing in -- having the resident
20 district be the one you want to attend, I don't think
21 there is another mechanism -- legal mechanism for
22 them to enroll in a different school -- school
23 district.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

25 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions,
2 discussion?

3 Okay. I'm ready for a motion.

4 I realize this is a -- these are difficult
5 situations and cases that we deal with. But we have
6 to look at each family; we also have to look at the
7 families that are in these districts, and the
8 districts that would need the funding from the
9 students that they would have in their districts. We
10 have to look at -- he brought up a very good point as
11 far as the houses that would be available for that
12 district. There's a lot of different things to
13 consider as far as what the family will have to do as
14 far as transportation and work, going back and forth.
15 I think she said you do not have any way to pick up
16 the children if they were to be in the Guy-Perkins
17 School District. So that's something that the family
18 would have to deal with. They do have transportation
19 and someone to pick up their child, child care, in
20 the Greenbrier School District. And, unfortunately,
21 they were misled when they purchased their home and
22 told that Greenbrier was their school district.
23 They've also been going to school there in Greenbrier
24 School District for years. You have a -- your oldest
25 child is in the 9th grade -- going to the 9th grade?

1 MS. MOFFETT: Yes, ma'am.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And so she's had an established
3 relationship there at Greenbrier as well.

4 Ms. Hyatt is coming.

5 MS. HYATT: Just an opportunity to remind you
6 that even though we've talked kind of about all three
7 of the kids in this hearing that we'll need to vote
8 on them individually. So Caroline Trotter, which is
9 the child that will be going into 9th grade, is
10 first.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

12 MS. HYATT: Then Graham Trotter, who, I believe,
13 is going into 5th grade, is second. And then
14 Charlotte Trotter is third, who'll be going into 2nd
15 grade.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

17 Okay. I know this is a difficult decision.

18 Do we have a motion?

19 I think in times like this we've also looked at
20 what we've set a precedent in similar situations and
21 cases.

22 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry?

24 MR. WILLIAMSON: (shaking head from side to
25 side.)

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

2 So that's one thing that we can also consider,
3 is what we have done in the past in these types of
4 situations. And as we've said before, what our focus
5 should be is what is best for students, what is best
6 for the child -- individual child. So we have to
7 keep that in mind, what is best for this individual
8 child.

9 There is also, like I said, the 3% cap that we
10 have to keep in mind.

11 Go ahead, Mr. Sutton.

12 MOTION/VOTE ON A-7 - CAROLINE TROTTER

13 MR. SUTTON: As you have said -- well said --
14 these are difficult situations. I am a strong
15 proponent for small school districts. I hate to see
16 them get to their numbers that put them in jeopardy
17 for merging, annexation, whatever. On the surface,
18 my position would be that we need to abide by the
19 law, of the 3%. I am torn over the fact that they
20 have been in this district for many years,
21 particularly the oldest one. And that is not the
22 child's fault. It sounds like it's not even the
23 parents' fault. Perhaps you were misled; it doesn't
24 matter. I wouldn't want to take anything away from
25 Guy-Perkins at all. But in focusing on the children,

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I would make a motion that we approve the appeal.

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

Do I have a second?

DR. HILL: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Second by Mr. Hill.

DR. HILL: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, second by Mr. Hill.

Do we have any further discussion?

Okay. All --

MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean --

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Chambers.

MS. CHAMBERS: -- I would just like to make a point. I very much agree with Mr. Sutton's comments. I'm thinking if I was the parent that was here before, this doesn't make a lot of sense what we're proposing. The distinction is these children are older and have been in this program for a number of years.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

MS. CHAMBERS: And as -- because we're constantly walking the line of absolutely observing the law, but acknowledging the distinct circumstances for each family and each child.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

1 MS. CHAMBERS: And I don't know that this will
2 make sense to the previous parent in that
3 circumstance, but I agree and will be voting in
4 alignment with what Mr. Sutton's comments were about.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Chambers.

6 Any further discussion?

7 MS. WOODS: I would like to point out though --
8 and I agree, as I did a motion that the last person
9 should be -- we should accept the appeal. The other
10 two children though -- I'm sorry -- the other two
11 children were in the 3rd and 2nd grade, if I'm right,
12 which puts them in the same category as the last
13 person. So I can see -- this is most just a comment
14 -- how that's going to feel to the previous parent
15 that they didn't have the benefit of an older child.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Woods.

17 Any further discussion before we vote?

18 Okay. We need to take a roll-call.

19 SECRETARY KEY: On the motion to grant the
20 appeal: Dr. Moore.

21 DR. MOORE: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

23 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

25 MS. MCFETRIDGE: (inaudible)

1 SECRETARY KEY: You're still muted, Ms.
2 McFetridge.
3 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'm sorry.
4 SECRETARY KEY: There you go.
5 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes, I'll accept it.
6 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.
7 MS. WOODS: Yes.
8 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
9 MS. NEWTON: No.
10 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
11 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
12 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
13 DR. HILL: Yes.
14 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
15 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
16 SECRETARY KEY: Seven yeas, one nay.
17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes.
18 Congratulations, Ms. Trotter, on the first one.
19 We have two more. Yes.
20 MOTION/VOTE RE: A-8 - GRAHAM TROTTER
21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So the next case is -- I don't
22 have the name --
23 MS. HYATT: The next student is Graham Trotter.
24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.
25 MS. HYATT: So we'll just need a separate motion

1 for that one.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We need a second -- separate
3 motion for Graham Trotter.

4 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve the appeal.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Mr. Trotter
6 [sic] to grant the appeal.

7 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Sutton. Mr.
9 Sutton.

10 And do we have a second?

11 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Second by Ms. Chambers.
13 We need to do a voice vote as well.

14 SECRETARY KEY: Roll-call.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Roll-call. Excuse me.

16 SECRETARY KEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 On the motion to grant the appeal -- Dr. Moore.

18 DR. MOORE: Yes.

19 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

20 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

21 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

22 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

23 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

24 MS. WOODS: Yes.

25 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

1 MS. NEWTON: No.
2 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
3 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
4 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
5 DR. HILL: Yes.
6 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
7 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
8 SECRETARY KEY: Seven yeas, one nay.
9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes for Graham
10 Trotter.

11 MOTION/VOTE RE: A-9 - CHARLOTTE TROTTER

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We'll also need -- I'm sorry,
13 Ms. Hyatt, go ahead.

14 MS. HYATT: The last is Charlotte Trotter, a
15 separate motion for that.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We need a separate motion
17 for Charlotte Trotter.

18 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve the appeal.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve the
20 appeal from Mr. Sutton.

21 Do I have a second?

22 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Second by Ms. Chambers.

24 Roll-call.

25 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. On the motion to grant

1 the appeal -- Dr. Moore.
2 DR. MOORE: Yes.
3 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.
4 MR. SUTTON: Yes.
5 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
6 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
7 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.
8 MS. WOODS: Yes.
9 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
10 MS. NEWTON: No.
11 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
12 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
13 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
14 DR. HILL: Yes.
15 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
16 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
17 SECRETARY KEY: Seven yeas, one nay.
18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes for all three of
19 your children. Congratulations.
20 MS. MOFFETT: Thank you.
21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Thank you.
22 A-10: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: AMARA ROTENBURY
23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. The next case is Amara
24 Rotenbury. And Ms. Hyatt is going to get that
25 family.

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(A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. If you'll remain standing, then I'll swear in everyone that plans to give testimony. If you'll raise your right hand -- do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.
You have 5 minutes.

SUPT. SPAINHOUR: Thanks again so much to the State Board. These are very difficult decisions and I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

We denied the Rotenbury child just because of the 3% cap, which I certainly understand. And I understand Guy's point of view. We have room, we have space available, and we would more than be happy to accept. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Spainhour.
Mr. Fisher, you have 5 minutes.

SUPT. FISHER: I'm Dr. Joe Fisher, Guy-Perkins. Once again, thank you for allowing us to hear this, and we certainly welcome this family with open arms. I don't have a chance to know them yet, but we would be glad to welcome them into our district.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Fisher.

2 Ms. Rotenbury, if you'll state your name for the
3 case or for the record. And pull the mic down and
4 speak loudly, please.

5 MS. ROTENBURY: Lynetta Rotenbury.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. You have 5 minutes.

7 MS. ROTENBURY: My daughter, she goes by Amy,
8 legal name Amara, she's gone to Greenbrier School
9 District since kindergarten. She's entering 5th
10 grade. She did attend preschool as well, just like
11 the other family before us. Aside -- everything
12 aside from the educational benefits that she's
13 received from Greenbrier, we have a psychological
14 aspect here too; she suffers from anxiety. I didn't
15 submit it publicly, but I do have copies of the
16 letter, as well as Ms. Hyatt. She sees a licensed
17 therapist.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

19 MS. ROTENBURY: All of her anxiety disorders,
20 just a quick snapshot -- quick snapshot of that --
21 environmental control and stability are important to
22 her. If she does not have that, she has anxiety
23 issues with that; specifically, her therapist said
24 that could alter progress in her treatment and cause
25 her to regress. So just taking out all of the

1 educational aspects of it, which school district is
2 better is not as important as keeping her stable. So
3 just for opening statement that's all I have right
4 there.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

6 Do you have anything else --

7 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, would you be able to
8 summarize what she just said please?

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. She said that her daughter
10 Amara goes by Amy, and that she has a licensed
11 professional counselor that she sees because of her
12 anxiety. And it's important for her to stay in a
13 stable environment and not have a lot of change. So
14 she's saying that she thinks it's best for her to
15 stay in the Greenbrier School District where she's
16 been for --

17 How many years, Ma'am?

18 MS. ROTENBURY: Since kindergarten.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Since kindergarten. So we have
20 -- we've received a letter from her counselor that
21 speaks about her anxiety issues.

22 MS. HYATT: I did send a copy of the letter that
23 I just handed out via email, maybe half an hour ago,
24 along with the documents for the next hearing. So
25 you should all have a copy I sent through the secure

1 File Share. And if you don't, I can figure out a way
2 to get it to you.

3 MS. NEWTON: Could you give us a minute to look
4 for that?

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

6 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Just let me know when y'all have
8 had an opportunity to find it.

9 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

10 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

12 Mr. Spainhour, did you have anything?

13 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: No, ma'am.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Fisher?

15 SUPT. FISHER: No.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

17 MS. ROTENBURY: I probably should've just stayed
18 up here. So, of course, we made our application --
19 backing up just a little bit, we kind of have a
20 similar situation with recently purchasing our home.
21 In my appeal, I actually included a map. The
22 district ends on our street. It's about a mile down
23 the street from our house. When we were looking at
24 our home to purchase it, it actually -- a school bus
25 ran and turned around on our road. And we also have

1 a Greenbrier address. Assumption -- call it what you
2 want -- but we assumed we were in the district. When
3 we found out we weren't, we made the application for
4 school choice to keep her in the Greenbrier School
5 District. We, of course, were denied, sent in our
6 appeal.

7 When I reached out and let her teacher know and
8 her principal and her therapist, they were all very
9 eager and willing to do whatever they could. I
10 included in my appeal a letter from her principal,
11 Mandy Dunlap, who said that she's a leader, her input
12 is valued. She has her on a committee, and it was
13 set to begin the last semester of this school year,
14 but Covid kind of messed that up. They chose just a
15 handful of students from each grade to get with the
16 teachers and the staff and kind of be the voice of
17 that grade for what the students want, need, are
18 thinking, are saying, because her input was valued by
19 both the staff and her peers.

20 I also included a letter from her TAG instructor
21 -- that's Talented and Gifted, Gifted and Talented.
22 She's been in that since it was available to her in
23 3rd grade; so she was in it 3rd and last year in 4th
24 grade. And her teacher for Gifted and Talented
25 called her an asset to her classroom, a leader, an

1 encourager, responsible, diligent, a leader/helper,
2 and a friend to her peers. I believe that the
3 relationship she's formed since kindergarten with
4 these same kids, these same teachers, the same staff
5 has lent its hand a lot to her stability and the
6 anxiety issues that I mentioned earlier.

7 I also included a letter from her -- it was her
8 3rd and 4th grade teacher. She moved up and wound up
9 getting her again, so she had the benefit of having
10 Ms. Franklin two years in a row. And she also
11 described her as a leader in her classroom. And
12 those were all attached in my appeal.

13 And I really think that her overall wellbeing
14 would be benefitted by remaining in the district
15 she's been in since she entered kindergarten. And I
16 hope the Board uses its discretionary authority to
17 help us stay there. We -- you know, kind of in the
18 same vein as the person before us, we also might have
19 a pick-up and drop-off issue. I work in Conway, so I
20 can drop her off every morning at either school
21 district; it doesn't really matter there. But my
22 closest friend's daughter is entering 3rd grade and
23 goes to the same school that she would be going to,
24 should she stay in Greenbrier. And the last couple
25 of years and the plan this year was for her to

1 continue to pick-up our daughter. Again, with the
2 virus and everything, who knows what that will
3 actually look like. But that was, quote, the plan,
4 was to have her do that. I don't know how we would
5 make it work picking her up from school in Guy, and I
6 don't know -- at 10, I trust her but not quite -- I
7 don't trust everybody else, you know, to have her
8 ride their bus home alone and stay there for
9 potentially hours. So --

10 MR. ROTENBURY: Rusty Rotenbury --

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

12 MR. ROTENBURY: -- her father. I work here in
13 North Little Rock for Coulson Oil Company. I don't
14 have a set schedule. You know, I don't -- like my
15 wife, she -- her office is usually open from 8 to 5,
16 but there are times when she has to stay over, like
17 she just said. I don't have the same schedule; I may
18 have to go to work at 2:00 in the morning and I may
19 not get home until 6:00 or 7:00 in the afternoon.
20 What we don't want is (a) for my daughter to have to
21 be at home by herself; that will never happen
22 (inaudible).

23 We just -- I also suffer from the same anxiety
24 disorder that she has. It's not her fault; it's
25 hereditary. Personally, for me right now with these

1 people being behind me in this room is destroying me,
2 and it's the same concept for her. When you change a
3 little aspect of your life -- when you decide to wear
4 a different shirt, it's no big deal. For Amy, she
5 picks out her clothes based on what she's going to do
6 for the day, like a normal person would. But when
7 that plan changes, her world is altered dramatically.
8 In order to magnify that -- take that -- those
9 clothes and turn them into a school, something that
10 she's been in, would be the equivalency of you
11 pulling her out of our house and moving her. That
12 would be -- there's not any words as a father to
13 describe what that's going to do to my daughter, just
14 emotionally. And she's made so much progress with
15 her psychiatrist that she will not have to be
16 medicated like I am every day, you know, to fulfill
17 their life and to do the things that she wants to do.

18 We just -- we don't want a line on the map or a
19 number on a piece of paper or state funding for that
20 line to just -- to determine and destroy everything
21 she's already done and what she can do. You know, if
22 it's about the taxes for Guy, I don't mind paying
23 them for another school district. But I also grew up
24 in one of these -- I can relate to Guy's issue with
25 their funding based on the number of students that

1 they get. We understand both sides of it. We just
2 want what's best for our daughter.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs.
4 Rotenbury. Thank you for advocating for your
5 daughter. I know she's dealing with her anxiety
6 issues, but she seems to be dealing with it very
7 well. And I'm sure that's to a stable home
8 environment, the support that you've gotten for her
9 and acquired for her to help her to navigate through
10 this in life, and your consistent advocacy for what's
11 best for your child. So I want to thank you for
12 keeping your child first and doing whatever is
13 necessary to make sure that she thrives.

14 MR. ROTENBURY: I just want to reiterate, my
15 wife and I just had our third daughter in April, on
16 April 17th.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Congratulations.

18 MS. ROTENBURY: Thank you.

19 MR. ROTENBURY: And you should said by doing
20 whatever means necessary -- you know, we talked about
21 this before we got here. We fully believe in that,
22 to doing whatever is best for our kids --

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

24 MR. ROTENBURY: -- in any way we possibly can.
25 And whatever we can do to make her life easier, we

1 want to do.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah. Thank you. Appreciate
3 it.

4 MS. ROTENBURY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So let me just kind of
6 reiterate what we've got here. So their daughter Amy
7 has been in the Greenbrier district for quite
8 sometime, forever, and she's never been in the Guy-
9 Perkins district. She does have an anxiety issue
10 that she's dealing with, and there may be
11 transportation issues that have to be dealt with.
12 But as I said before, we're dealing with what is best
13 for the whole child, not just from an education
14 perspective but what's best emotionally and
15 psychologically for that child to thrive and do the
16 best that they can in the environment that they're
17 placed in. And we all know how difficult it can be
18 for a child who's not dealing with high levels of
19 anxiety to switch schools and switch environments.

20 We -- as I said before, we appreciate both
21 districts following the law to the T and that is
22 their responsibility to do their part. But we have
23 discretion and I would say we have wisdom when it
24 comes to each particular case and each particular
25 family and what's best for that individual child.

1 So with that, do we have any questions or
2 discussion?

3 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, I have a motion when
4 you're ready.

5 SUPT. FISHER: (inaudible, speaking from
6 audience)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You can go ahead, that's fine,
8 Dr. Fisher.

9 SUPT. FISHER: And I certainly don't want to
10 take away from the issues that Amy is dealing with by
11 any means. We do offer aftercare till 6:00, with a
12 meal. I just wanted that entered --

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

14 SUPT. FISHER: -- so that that is understood,
15 that we do provide that.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

17 SUPT. FISHER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That's good information to know.
19 Okay. Now was that Ms. Newton?

20 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Newton.

22 MS. WOODS: I just have one quick question, just
23 I want to confirm --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

25 MS. WOODS: Looking through the packet, is she

1 going into the 5th grade or is she going into 4th
2 grade?

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: She's entering the 5th.

4 MS. WOODS: She's entering 5th. Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

6 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any more questions or
8 discussion?

9 Okay. Ms. Newton, you can go ahead with your
10 motion.

11 MS. NEWTON: Based on the medical issues that
12 this child has, I move that Amy Rotenbury be allowed
13 to attend the Greenbrier School District this next
14 year.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
16 Newton to grant the appeal.

17 Do I have a second?

18 DR. HILL: Second. Second.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Hill.

20 Roll-call, please.

21 SECRETARY KEY: On the motion to grant the
22 appeal -- Dr. Moore.

23 DR. MOORE: Yes.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

25 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
2 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
3 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.
4 MS. WOODS: Yes.
5 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
6 MS. NEWTON: Yes.
7 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
8 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
9 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
10 DR. HILL: Yes.
11 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
12 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
13 SECRETARY KEY: Eight yeas, zero nays.
14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: The motion passes.
15 Congratulations. Thank you so much for
16 advocating for your children.
17 We've got two left and we can power through.
18 Does anybody need a break?
19 Okay.
20 MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean, could I ask a question
21 as we prepare for the next individual?
22 There is a pattern here in terms of real estate,
23 that Ms. Newton was asking about earlier. How many
24 other homes are in this area or are slated? I mean
25 I'm just curious, are we going to see more of these?

1 And is there anything that we can do to better inform
2 families and parents on the front-side so that we not
3 put them through this?

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That's an excellent question.
5 That's a concern of mine as well.

6 SECRETARY KEY: Let me tackle that, Ms.
7 Chambers.

8 If you look at the map, this last case was
9 different in that their house was not in this same
10 subdivision. But what we are seeing, and especially
11 if you look at the map of these districts, you've got
12 Guy-Perkins, you've got Quitman, you have Greenbrier;
13 I think there was another one there that I was
14 looking at. And one thing we have to keep in mind is
15 that many -- the configurations of these different --
16 of these districts are shaped by previous
17 consolidations. And what -- where in some respects
18 we were talking about farmland maybe 20 years ago has
19 now become developed subdivisions. And so I don't
20 know that from our perspective here at the State
21 Department of Education that, you know, we really
22 have a lot of ability to know how those developments
23 are being done. I mean I point to northwest
24 Arkansas, and you think about what Centerton looked
25 like just a few years ago and what it looks like now.

1 So it's very difficult for us. And then, each one
2 has its own set of unique situations, as we're
3 dealing with today.

4 So I wish I had a better answer for you. But I
5 really think that what you're hearing Mr. Spainhour,
6 Dr. Fisher -- there is collaboration between
7 districts on issues like this, and we can -- I think
8 we can only encourage that to continue, especially in
9 high-growth areas of development.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Key.

11 SECRETARY KEY: I hope that's helpful.

12 MR. SUTTON: Secretary Key, to your point, I
13 might suggest that perhaps this board might need to
14 write to the Arkansas Realtor Association and have --
15 suggest that they put on their purchase and sell
16 agreements a line that states what school district
17 this residence will be in, to clear that up. I mean
18 this burden is falling on this board, and I think it
19 could be clarified just by some tweaking in some
20 contracts.

21 SECRETARY KEY: And we'll take that -- we can
22 work with Legal to prepare something that y'all can
23 review. I think that is definitely within this
24 board's purview to do that. And we can put that
25 together and maybe put it as a review item or action

1 item; I'll get with Ms. Freno and we'll see what's
2 the most appropriate. I do know that in the
3 disclosures of real estate contracts, you know, many
4 times those are -- there's supposed to be accuracy in
5 those disclosures. So, that is something that we can
6 work with not just the real estate, well, the
7 commission, as well as the other realtors
8 organizations. Thank you for that suggestion.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, thank you for that
10 suggestion. That's an excellent suggestion.

11 Any further discussion?

12 I'm sorry; where are we?

13 A-11: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL - KAYLEA FIFE

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We are with a new case. We are
15 with KayLea Fife.

16 MS. HYATT: So this is the last one that
17 involves Greenbrier, so I'm sure that the
18 superintendent from Greenbrier will be happy to be on
19 his way. KayLea Fife. The resident district is Guy-
20 Perkins, nonresident is Greenbrier. And the reason
21 for denial is the 3% cap.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Mr. Spainhour.

23 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: I'm wearing out a trail up
24 here.

25 Once again, thank you so much for your work.

1 It's a tough position that you're in.

2 We did deny the school choice application based
3 on the 3%. However, we do have space available for
4 the child.

5 So thank you for hearing it and I thank you for
6 the opportunity.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Spainhour.

8 Dr. Fisher.

9 SUPT. FISHER: I don't have anything else to
10 add. But also just want to say I do think I
11 recognize Ms. Fife from my doctor's office, from
12 Greenbrier Family Clinic. So anyway, I do have --
13 I'm familiar with her.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

15 Ms. Fife.

16 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Dean --

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

18 MS. McFETRIDGE: -- I wonder if he could talk to
19 us maybe a little bit about what childcare is offered
20 after school. I know he mentioned that earlier.
21 Maybe he can go into a little more specifics on that.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead. Go ahead.

23 SUPT. FISHER: We use our federal funds to do
24 not only a homework help session, but also a
25 playtime, especially for our younger folks, to have

1 activity. And then this year we -- in utilizing the
2 resources from our cafeteria folks, we're going to be
3 serving a meal in the evening, until -- I believe
4 6:00 is the pick-up time, and then the last point is
5 6:30, is when our person will go off the clock.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Fife.

9 Let me swear everyone in. We did not do that
10 earlier when you came in. Do you swear or affirm
11 that the testimony you're about to give shall be the
12 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

13 MS. FIFE: I do.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

15 MS. FIFE: I'm Melissa Fife, and I'm here --

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Pull the mic -- pull the mic up
17 to you and speak loud, please.

18 MS. FIFE: Yes. Melissa Fife. I'm a little
19 nervous; sorry.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That's okay.

21 MS. FIFE: I'm here today and I'm grateful for
22 the opportunity to come before you to plead to
23 reconsider the school choice for my daughter KayLea
24 Fife. She's been a student at Greenbrier School
25 District since Head Start, and she'll be entering the

1 8th grade. We recently built in Guy. Greenbrier
2 land is highly sought out for -- due to the
3 Greenbrier School District; therefore, prices are
4 high. You get one acre for around \$30,000. Well,
5 that wasn't feasible for my family. We finally were
6 able to build our first home and we found three acres
7 for less in Guy. So we did understand we were going
8 to the Guy School District; however, it was our
9 intent to always to try and appeal and apply for
10 school choice.

11 KayLea thrives very well in Greenbrier. She is
12 a straight-A student. You know, she's been there for
13 10 years. That school is highly ranked, not to
14 compare schools on that advocate [sic]. But, you
15 know, I've seen studies and I've included studies in
16 my appeal that school choice -- or school change can
17 affect a child up to six months and it could bring
18 them back on their grades. I also work at Greenbrier
19 Family Clinic. Our property actually butts up to the
20 middle school and junior high in Greenbrier, so my
21 child comes to my work after school. I also have a
22 4-year old that goes to Central Christian Academy in
23 Greenbrier or the Spring Hill area that's right there
24 close to each other. So I have to pick my child up
25 in Greenbrier already. She is 13; however, I also

1 don't feel very comfortable leaving her home at long
2 periods of time. I appreciate the afterschool care,
3 that option at Guy, but we have Covid to consider.
4 So much has changed and can change at any time and
5 she would possibly have to be at home by herself,
6 where if she's at my work and goes to Greenbrier
7 School District she can stay there with me. I don't
8 want her to not know where she's going each day.

9 Let me see. I have included a letter from her
10 physician stating that it would be in her best
11 interest due to her anxiety. It's a delicate stage
12 in life to ask her to change schools, and I'd just
13 like for you to keep that in mind as well in your
14 decision. And she's also going into junior high, so
15 it's a new stage in school. With Covid, everything
16 is different and she's looking forward to seeing her
17 friends again and joining them in a new school and
18 her same district and the same teachers and support
19 system.

20 With me working so close to the school district
21 I'm able to be involved with her in school
22 activities, and that's a very important role as a
23 parent to try to provide. If she is in Guy, I can't
24 take off as much time to drive to Guy and back for
25 those school functions. I do fear that her grades

1 would be impacted by her mental -- well, the anxiety
2 that it would cause, and we definitely don't want
3 that to impact her school readiness.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

6 Mr. Spainhour?

7 SUPT. SPAINHOUR: No, ma'am.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Fisher?

9 SUPT. FISHER: No, ma'am.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Fife, did you have anything
11 else to add?

12 MS. FIFE: No.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Well, we've heard from
14 the districts, nonresident and resident district, and
15 from Ms. Fife, and the situation surrounding this
16 case.

17 I do have a question for you, Ms. Fife. Was
18 there any particular reason why you all decided to
19 move, other than just wanting to build a new home?

20 MS. FIFE: We have rented for our entire
21 adulthood, so it was our first opportunity to build a
22 home that we own and to stop paying rent. Again, we
23 wanted to stay in Greenbrier School District, but the
24 land is highly sought out for due to the school --
25 and therefore, the price of the land is high. And so

1 we looked as close as we could, and we're in Guy.
2 Again, the property value was -- I mean the property
3 value was higher, so we got more property. Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

5 Are there any other questions or discussion?

6 Ms. Newton.

7 MS. NEWTON: Yeah. Ms. Fife, you said that your
8 daughter would come to your work -- and it may be
9 different up there in Greenbrier than it is around
10 here. But is your clinic allowing outside people to
11 come into the clinics? I know that I took my
12 daughter to the doctor and I had to wait in the care;
13 I couldn't go in with her. And so are y'all allowing
14 others into the clinic?

15 MS. FIFE: Yes, ma'am. At this time we don't
16 have any limit on who is in our clinic. We do not
17 allow anyone sick in the clinic. If they are sick
18 and being seen by a physician, they are waiting in
19 their vehicles. But she would be in a breakroom,
20 away from any patients, so she would not be around
21 anyone.

22 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then, I read the letter
23 from the doctor, and the way I read it -- and you
24 make sure I understand it -- is that she doesn't have
25 anxiety, but it would cause anxiety. Is that

1 correct?

2 MS. FIFE: She believes it would cause her
3 enough anxiety that she doesn't think it's in her
4 best interest.

5 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then, again, it's hard
6 to hear everything that's said, but to make sure I
7 understand -- you knew when you -- this wasn't a
8 realtor issue; this was that you chose to move into
9 the Guy district. Is that correct?

10 MS. FIFE: That's correct. Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I just wanted to make sure I
12 heard correctly. Thank you.

13 MS. FIFE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any more questions or
15 discussion?

16 We're ready for a motion.

17 As I said, this is -- we take each case
18 individually. This is a case where, as Ms. Newton
19 just asked where they knowingly chose to move into
20 the Guy-Perkins district. Even though there is a
21 letter from her doctor, she has not been diagnosed
22 prior to this with anxiety. But we understand that,
23 you know, moving schools can be challenging for any
24 student. This child has been going to school in
25 Greenbrier.

1 And as I said before, we appreciate both
2 districts by following the law for the 3% cap. We
3 also have to take into consideration the Guy-Perkins
4 district and their situation as far as their numbers.

5 So with that in mind, do we have a motion?

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: I move to grant the transfer.

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

9 Do I have a second?

10 MR. SUTTON: I'll second.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.

12 Any further discussion?

13 MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean?

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

15 MS. CHAMBERS: This is Susan. I just wanted to
16 add -- the pregnant pause is telling -- this is an
17 interesting one. This is a student that's been in
18 the district a long time but does not have any
19 specific special needs.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

21 MS. CHAMBERS: And the thing that is appealing
22 to me is, and that I think we have to be mindful, I
23 appreciate your honesty --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

25 MS. CHAMBERS: -- Ms. Fife. It would be easy

1 enough to say you didn't know. And I want to make
2 sure we not, in our good intentions, encourage folks
3 in feeling like that's the only avenue they have to
4 come to us is to say they didn't know. Which back to
5 the earlier recommendation, getting word out and
6 being aligned with realtors everywhere so that folks
7 aren't going to be surprised. Because we shouldn't
8 encourage people moving into new areas assuming
9 they're going to be able to make these adjustments or
10 that we're going to provide a waiver and exception.

11 So I just -- I wanted to say -- I don't know
12 that I'm speaking for my peers, but this one is
13 especially hard. But I appreciate that you were
14 straightforward with us about the circumstances.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

16 MS. CHAMBERS: So, thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It is. And I think in her
18 particular --

19 And I don't want to speak for you, Ms. Fife, but
20 I think your intentions were to get in under that 3%
21 cap. And, unfortunately, in this situation you
22 didn't make it in under the 3% cap, which is -- you
23 know, your last chance was appeal. And as far as I'm
24 understanding, there's no other avenues.

25 So with that in mind, we have a motion on the

1 table and we're ready for a roll-call.

2 SECRETARY KEY: On the motion to grant the

3 appeal -- Dr. Moore.

4 DR. MOORE: Yes.

5 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

6 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

7 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

8 MS. McFETRIDGE: No.

9 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

10 MS. WOODS: No.

11 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

12 MS. NEWTON: (inaudible)

13 SECRETARY KEY: You're muted, Ms. Newton.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're muted, Ms. Newton.

15 MS. NEWTON: No.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

17 MS. NEWTON: Sorry.

18 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

21 DR. HILL: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Five yeas, three nays.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Five yeas, three nays. Your --

1 the motion passes. Congratulations.

2 I would like to reiterate what Mr. Sutton and
3 Ms. Chambers has very clearly stated and pointed out,
4 we do not want a person that when you move into a
5 district knowingly -- move into an area knowing that
6 your child is not stationed for that district that
7 there should be an automatic assumption that the
8 Board would grant these appeals. We take each case
9 individually and we endeavor to keep those as fair
10 and uphold the law in each case. It is the
11 responsibility of the districts to uphold their ends
12 of the law, which has happened in all of these cases.
13 We do not want that to be the assumption or set that
14 as a precedent.

15 So our next case, last one would be for --

16 A-6: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: COOPER ESTEP

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: Madam Chair?

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

19 MR. WILLIAMSON: I let Mr. Spainhour get out of
20 the room. But after we hear this case I want to go
21 back and revisit the very first case that involved
22 Guy-Perkins and Greenbrier.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry; you want to revisit
24 the very first case?

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

2 MS. HYATT: If you want to reconsider, you can
3 do a motion to reconsider, which can bring that
4 matter back before you.

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yeah. I'll just -- that's my
6 plan. I just want to do it -- I wanted to tell
7 everybody before we started this one. I was going to
8 try to catch Mr. Spainhour before he left the room,
9 but --

10 MS. HYATT: Let me go see if I can grab him
11 before he leaves.

12 So in the operating procedures, if you want to
13 reconsider something before the Board -- and you can
14 do this after we finish this appeal -- you need to
15 make a motion to reconsider and have it pass, and
16 then it will come back before the Board to
17 reconsider.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

19 A-12: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: NOAH DOLLAR

20 MS. HYATT: The -- maybe the last one, the next
21 one is the Dollar family, Noah Dollar. This still
22 involves Guy-Perkins as the resident district and the
23 3% cap, but the nonresident district in this case is
24 Quitman. We've got Superintendent Truxler -- did I
25 say that right?

1 SUPT. TRUXLER: Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. HYATT: Okay -- here, and both Mr. and Mrs.
3 Dollar. And if you'll just swear everyone in before
4 you start.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. If you will stand
6 and raise your right hand -- do you swear or affirm
7 that the testimony you're about to give shall be the
8 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

9 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Thank you.

11 Mr. -- say it again; I'm sorry.

12 SUPT. TRUXLER: Truxler.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Truxler?

14 SUPT. TRUXLER: Yes, ma'am.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You have 5 minutes.

16 SUPT. TRUXLER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

18 SUPT. TRUXLER: Dennis Truxler, Quitman School
19 District.

20 We actually approved Noah Dollar's freedom of
21 choice, the board approved that. And then I think
22 May 27th Dr. Fisher sent me a letter based on the 3%
23 cap that Noah had been denied or that we had to deny
24 him. And so I sent a letter to Ms. Dollar.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

1 SUPT. TRUXLER: We'd love to have him. We know
2 that's your decision. We appreciate everything y'all
3 do.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

5 Dr. Fisher.

6 SUPT. FISHER: Thank you again. First of all, I
7 want to reiterate to you thank you for your duty in
8 following the law. I want to make sure, if you're
9 going to reconsider, that we understand the scope of
10 our roles within the law. And so we're doing our
11 part; they're doing their part. And I would strongly
12 encourage you as a board please to do your part to
13 uphold the law.

14 In this particular matter, I wanted to just
15 address a couple of things in case it comes up in
16 conversation.

17 I believe in the letter that was provided safety
18 was a concern. I want to be on the record to say
19 that we've had no safety issues; we've had no fights
20 this year. We have our city chief who sits in front
21 of our -- if you've been through Guy, you know he
22 sits right in front of our school protecting the two
23 entrances that we have to the school during the day.
24 So safety is not an issue that we've experienced to
25 this point.

1 The second thing has to do with tornado shelter
2 I think that was mentioned somewhere in the letter.
3 And we actually serve -- our school, our elementary
4 school serves as the tornado shelter. So it is built
5 and designed to be the tornado shelter for that
6 district.

7 So we would welcome this kindergartner. Again,
8 I haven't had an opportunity to meet these parents.
9 I would love to show them the things that we have in
10 our district as a new student and welcome them in
11 this year. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Fisher.

13 All right. Ms. Dollar. Welcome.

14 MS. DOLLAR: Hello.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Hello.

16 MS. DOLLAR: I'm Kayla Dollar; I'm Noah's mom.
17 And today my husband and I are asking you to overturn
18 Guy-Perkins School District's ruling and allow Noah
19 to attend Quitman.

20 Unlike the previous cases, this is based upon
21 safety. Quitman is the only school district in the
22 state of Arkansas that has state-of-the-art safety
23 shelters which are located in every classroom, every
24 -- in the cafeteria, and the gymnasiums. That means
25 anywhere Noah will be he will be able to access these

1 safety shelters. These safety shelters, they're made
2 of Level 3 ballistic military-grade steel. What that
3 means is they can withstand winds from an EF-5
4 tornado and multiple rounds of gunfire. It is my
5 understanding that within 45 seconds Noah, his peers,
6 and his teachers can be in these shelters with the
7 doors locked, if needed.

8 The other issue that deals with safety is a
9 School Resource Officer. Quitman has had a School
10 Resource Officer for almost 20 years. The current
11 one has 15 years of experience, five being from
12 Quitman. She is there first thing in the morning, on
13 campus before the first kid is dropped off. She does
14 not leave until way after the bell. She's in the
15 classroom setting, in the hallways for those hours in
16 between. She is also at other school-based events.
17 Currently, it's my understanding that, as stated, Guy
18 does not have a School Resource Officer and said they
19 rely on the city Cops. I think in the past the -- as
20 he said, the Cop has been present during drop-off and
21 everything, but then leaves to go do his duties. My
22 concern on that is, in Guy, if that Police Officer is
23 involved with a traffic citation or domestic dispute,
24 an event -- a catastrophic event such as a school
25 shooting or other event, where time is of the

1 essence, he will be detained and he will not be able
2 to be there to shut down that event, if needed.

3 These two safety issues that Quitman has
4 employed have given my husband and I such peace of
5 mind when we dropped off Noah last year at pre-K. It
6 was such an important issue for us that when we
7 decided where's Noah going to go to pre-K at -- we
8 did have some land in Quitman that, unbeknownst to
9 us, is five minutes away from Quitman School, his
10 school. With a Quitman address we weren't aware of
11 that it was in Guy -- considered Guy School District.
12 And we had bought that several years ago, but we
13 decided to build. And we actually lived in
14 Greenbrier, which as y'all have all heard, Guy -- or
15 Greenbrier is a great school district; it's an award-
16 winning school district, in fact. But they do not
17 have these safe shelters. So we decided to build,
18 and like any house that you build, it gets delayed.
19 So come August, we -- our house wasn't done, but we
20 decided to make the sacrifice to drive from
21 Greenbrier to Quitman and drop him off -- or with our
22 work schedules, my mother who could drop him off.

23 The other issue deals with the hardship it would
24 be for us to pick up Noah and drop him off at the
25 allotted times. Because -- due to Covid, I currently

1 work in Fairfield Bay, which is 15 minutes from my
2 house, 62 minutes from Guy School District. My
3 husband, his schedule is unpredictable; he works all
4 throughout Arkansas. So just like in pre-K -- my mom
5 works at the bank right across from Quitman School --
6 she picked him up every day, and will do the same
7 from this point on, going to Quitman. That also
8 gives us peace of mind because she could pick him up
9 if he was sick, she could pick him up in the event
10 the school was let-out for inclement weather, or any
11 other event that school is let out early.

12 I know it's been mentioned the after-school
13 program, which Quitman also has as well. But to me,
14 in this day and time -- you watch the news -- you
15 cannot be too careful with your children. So for him
16 to have a family member who loves him to pick him up
17 and watch him until we are able to get to him gives
18 me great comfort and great peace of mind.

19 I don't know if all of you have children. I
20 know you all care for children; otherwise, you
21 wouldn't be on this board -- and you care for their
22 safety. So I'm just asking, on the grounds of Noah's
23 safety and our peace of mind and our ability to get
24 him picked up and well taken care of, that you would
25 reconsider Guy's decision. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 Did you have anything --

3 SUPT. TRUXLER: (inaudible, speaking from
4 audience)

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

6 Dr. Fisher.

7 SUPT. FISHER: Thank you. First of all, I want
8 to acknowledge Mandy. I actually had an opportunity
9 -- Johnny will remember -- Mr. Key will remember --
10 we hired her in Mountain Home; that was her first
11 job, 20 years ago -- so I'm starting to feel my age a
12 little bit -- and she is a great Resource Officer.
13 We appreciate all that she does.

14 I do want to make clarification: in our last
15 School Report Card -- you know, congratulations to
16 Quitman, you know, being award-winning. We also
17 actually in our area -- we actually had the best
18 elementary scores for our area, aside from our
19 largest district in our area that we share students
20 with.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Congratulations.

22 SUPT. FISHER: But I wanted to commend our
23 faculty and our staff for doing a great job. I
24 couldn't stand here and not represent them. But they
25 do a fantastic job and we were so proud that we were

1 able to carry the highest scores from the School
2 Report Card this year. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Congratulations.

4 Ms. Dollar, did you have anything else to add?

5 MS. DOLLAR: No, ma'am.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 All right. We have heard the circumstances
8 surrounding the Noah Dollar case. Some things that
9 we can take into consideration is the age of the
10 child. I think -- I believe you said the child is
11 going into -- he's going into kindergarten; where
12 they are located, as far as where they built the
13 house; also take into consideration driving back and
14 forth and --

15 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair --

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

17 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah. Mr. Williamson just
18 texted me and said that he has lost his connection --

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

20 SECRETARY KEY: -- and is having trouble getting
21 reconnected, so --

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm back.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Okay, there he is.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. All right.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right.

3 So how much did you -- did you -- how long were
4 you gone, Mr. Williamson?

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: Not long.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Not long. Okay. Okay.

7 So those are things we can take into
8 consideration as -- but as I said before, we have to
9 take each case separately and look at all of the
10 parameters. We have to look at both districts and
11 what they're dealing with and the students in that
12 particular district, look at the family and their
13 issues, and make a motion with those things in
14 consideration.

15 Do we have any questions or discussion?

16 DR. MOORE: This is Sarah. I do have a
17 question.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

19 DR. MOORE: Your child attended pre-K in
20 Quitman. Is that correct?

21 MS. DOLLAR: Yes, ma'am.

22 DR. MOORE: And was that through school choice
23 or how were you able --

24 MS. DOLLAR: Yes, ma'am. Where we -- we had --
25 we believe it was, because they had us fill out a

1 school choice, because that's when we lived in
2 Greenbrier.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay. So what -- and I guess this
4 is a Department question. Why did -- why was that
5 not locking the student in the district at that
6 point? Because parents do not have to come back year
7 after year on a regular basis; but is pre-K different
8 in that regard?

9 MS. HYATT: It's my understanding that school
10 choice is not used for pre-K; it's only used for K
11 through 12. So I don't know if they used some other
12 type of process. You're correct that once a student
13 is granted a transfer under school choice they don't
14 have to reapply every year and they're entitled to
15 stay in that school until they un-enroll them or
16 whatever. And I can double-check, but I'm almost
17 certain that it doesn't apply to pre-K.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Mr. Key.

19 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore, I believe she's
20 correct. Is it an ABC program? No, it wasn't an ABC
21 program, Mr. Truxler?

22 SUPT. TRUXLER: No, sir.

23 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. All right. Well --

24 SUPT. TRUXLER: You are correct. We did freedom
25 of choice for preschool, but we don't act on them.

1 Because, you know, I usually call the parents and say
2 "you don't have to have freedom of choice." It's not
3 for the pre-K; it is for K-12, so --

4 SECRETARY KEY: I think sometimes districts or
5 people in the office just know that a parent that's a
6 nonresident parent is seeking to come in. And it's
7 not uncommon for us to hear that they fill out school
8 choice forms for pre-K, but it is not necessary. And
9 the laws -- there is no law that is requiring
10 residency to be established for a student to go to a
11 pre-K, whether it's ABC or a district-run non-ABC
12 pre-K, is my understanding.

13 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. HYATT: And I've got the code section up.
15 Thank you, Secretary Key.

16 And the code section is 6-18-902, and it defines
17 a student for purposes of school choice as a student
18 in kindergarten through grade 12.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

20 Any further questions or discussion?

21 Okay. We're ready for a motion.

22 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

24 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'm going to go ahead and make
25 the motion to accept this transfer based on the

1 after-child school care [sic] with the grandmother.
2 I believe it would put a real hardship on them if
3 they had to drive and pick up that child after
4 school. I don't think it's possible. So on that,
5 I'd like to approve the transfer.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion from Ms.
7 McFetridge to grant the appeal.

8 Do I have a second?

9 DR. HILL: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Hill.

11 Do we have any further discussion?

12 Okay. Ready for a roll-call.

13 SECRETARY KEY: On the motion to grant the
14 appeal -- Dr. Moore.

15 DR. MOORE: Yes.

16 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

17 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

18 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

19 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Woods.

21 MS. WOODS: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

23 MS. NEWTON: No.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

25 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

1 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

2 DR. HILL: Yes.

3 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

4 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

5 SECRETARY KEY: Seven yeas and one nay.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes.

7 Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Dollar.

8 MS. DOLLAR: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Thank you.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, can we --

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Fisher.

13 Wait. We've got one more.

14 A-6: SCHOOL CHOICE APPEAL: COOPER ESTEP

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Were we able to catch him before
16 he left?

17 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, before we proceed --

18 MS. HYATT: I believe that the Greenbrier
19 superintendent is still here, but Ms. Estep is not.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

21 MS. HYATT: One suggestion I have is I believe
22 we're going to have a special board meeting --

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, we will.

24 MS. HYATT: -- to continue hearing the school
25 choice appeals. I might -- if you would be open to

1 it, just a suggestion, you might ask to reconsider it
2 at the special meeting so that the parent has an
3 opportunity to come and participate. I don't
4 necessarily think it would prohibit it -- I'm sorry,
5 I can't talk -- I don't necessarily think it would be
6 prohibitive to hear it today; I just want to make
7 sure that everyone who's a party to it has an
8 opportunity to participate.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

10 MS. WOODS: Is there any way to get her on the
11 phone I guess for the Zoom link? I assume she's
12 driving back to Greenbrier, so --

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

14 MS. WOODS: -- we could always table it until
15 she was able to get on the Zoom call.

16 MS. HYATT: So I can -- if we want to try and
17 add it at the end of the agenda, I can try and get
18 her on a Zoom, which would also mean though that
19 Superintendent Spainhour has to stay through the rest
20 of the agenda. So --

21 SECRETARY KEY: Let me suggest Mr. Williamson be
22 given a chance to explain -- because he told us what
23 he wanted to do, but he didn't really say why he
24 wanted to do it.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

1 SECRETARY KEY: It might be helpful --

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I think so.

3 SECRETARY KEY: -- for the consideration for Mr.
4 Williamson to talk about that.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead, Mr. Williamson.

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: I didn't really understand what
7 was said. It's really hard to hear you guys today.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah. He just said --

9 MR. WILLIAMSON: I would just make a motion to
10 reconsider the case with Estep, Cooper Estep, and
11 we'll go from there. I don't care if we hear it
12 today or later in the month, you know. I just think
13 we've created an inequity. So, in short, my motion
14 is to reconsider item 6.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So we have a motion to
16 reconsider.

17 Now let me ask you, Ms. Hyatt --

18 MS. HYATT: Sure.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- do we need a motion and then
20 we can decide when we would consider it?

21 MS. HYATT: Yeah. So, first, do a motion to
22 reconsider. It requires a majority vote. After
23 that, you can decide when you're going to reconsider
24 it. And then, when you do, if you decide that you
25 want to change, you'll have to do a motion to rescind

1 your previous vote. So a little bit complicated, but
2 I'll walk you through it.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

4 SECRETARY KEY: I believe in this case, item 6,
5 there was no vote. That was --

6 MS. HYATT: Oh, that's correct.

7 SECRETARY KEY: That was --

8 MS. HYATT: That failed for lack of a motion.

9 SECRETARY KEY: Yes.

10 MS. WOODS: I'll second the motion, Ms. Dean, of
11 Mr. Williamson.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to reconsider
13 by Mr. Williamson, seconded by Ms. Woods.

14 We'll have a roll-call.

15 SECRETARY KEY: Just for clarification, Ms.
16 Hyatt, does this vote require anything beyond a
17 simple majority?

18 MS. HYATT: No.

19 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. It does not.

20 On the motion to reconsider item 6 -- Dr. Moore.

21 DR. MOORE: Yes.

22 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Sutton.

23 MR. SUTTON: Yes.

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: (inaudible)
11 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson, I didn't hear
12 you.
13 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
14 SECRETARY KEY: Thank you.
15 Eight yeas, zero nays.
16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion passes for
17 reconsideration.
18 In the interest of having all parties present, I
19 think it probably would be best to revisit this on
20 July 27th, I believe is when we -- what is it -- on
21 the next special meeting, whatever day that is.
22 MS. HYATT: I believe it's the 23rd --
23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: 23rd.
24 MS. HYATT: -- at 10 a.m.
25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: At 10 a.m. Okay. And I'm sure

1 all parties --

2 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- will be contacted.

4 Yes. Who is that?

5 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Newton.

7 MS. NEWTON: On the code requirements here -- I
8 know that it's been difficult to hear today but,
9 believe it or not, I'm an advocate for school choice.
10 I believe that parents should have choice. But I'm
11 also an advocate for small schools, and so I've had a
12 very difficult time today making a decision. You
13 know, because, you know, I feel for Greenbrier [sic]
14 that they're doing everything that they can and
15 they're abiding by the law, but then we have the
16 parents that are trying to make choices for their
17 children. And then it just -- there's not been a
18 good answer. And I feel for Greenbrier [sic]
19 because, you know, they've already fell below the 350
20 and they're struggling to hang on, and, you know, I
21 feel like that we're not helping. And when I
22 consider the whole -- district as a whole, not just
23 -- I'm not thinking about the district; I'm thinking
24 about those students that have made a choice that are
25 in Green -- that are in Guy-Perkins right now

1 choosing to send their children to a small district.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

3 MS. NEWTON: And so I'm also thinking about
4 those parents that are making that choice. And so
5 this is -- you know, school choice day is -- school
6 choice appeal day is never fun.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No.

8 MS. NEWTON: But this one has been even more
9 difficult than usual for me, just feeling the pain of
10 Guy-Perkins and then feeling the pain of those
11 students and their parents. And I don't know what
12 the answer is, but I just wanted to say that this has
13 been painful on both sides. So that's kind of my
14 position.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Newton. I echo
16 that same sentiment. As I said before, we have to
17 look at what's best for each student, each family.
18 But Guy-Perkins district is made up of individual
19 families and students who are a part of a small
20 school district, and we know the benefits that come
21 along with a small school district. So it's a very
22 difficult situation to be in and a tight line that
23 has to be walked. And that's one thing that we do
24 need to keep in mind and consider, keep that on the
25 forefront, is what is going to be best for all

1 students involved in these situations; not just on an
2 individual basis as far as the parents that are
3 coming before us for school choice, but what is best
4 for those students in those districts. So it is, you
5 know, a very difficult situation and --

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: An easy solution is just let
7 families go to whatever school they want to go to.
8 Problem solved.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: There you go.

10 MS. NEWTON: But do you have the -- but, Mr.
11 Williamson, then you have the small district trying
12 to, you know, keep their head afloat, stay afloat --

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

14 MS. NEWTON: -- and do what's best for the
15 students they have left. So, you know, I don't know.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

17 MS. NEWTON: It's very difficult.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And we've seen the issues when
19 districts have to consolidate. That creates a whole
20 'nother set of issues as far as transportation, and
21 if you're living on one end of the two consolidated
22 districts and you may have to go to the other end of
23 the other district that was consolidated. So there
24 are a lot of floating factors in this situation. So
25 I think we need to make sure that we carefully,

1 prayerfully consider every single situation and
2 what's best for students and families. And --

3 MS. WOODS: Ms. Dean --

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry? Who is --

5 MS. WOODS: -- I was going to say -- if I could
6 just make a comment?

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead.

8 MS. WOODS: Would that be okay?

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

10 MS. WOODS: This is my first school choice
11 appeal day because it's only my second full board
12 meeting. But just something that I think the Board
13 should consider -- because as I've been sitting here,
14 as we've been approving, or denying in certain cases,
15 these appeals -- the first one we denied; I mean we
16 didn't actually vote on it. But then the second one
17 we approved because of the oldest child, but they
18 were -- they admitted they were not already included
19 in Guy-Perkins' numbers because they had been
20 attending Greenbrier. The third one we approved for
21 a medical reason. And so I'm having trouble -- where
22 my heartburn comes from is we approved five who
23 didn't have a medical issue; their kid wasn't the
24 oldest, as the one in Trotter; they did knowingly
25 move into a different district and knew that at the

1 outset, and were very honest with it, but always
2 intended to appeal -- whereas, in the first one Ms.
3 Estep didn't know because they have a Greenbrier
4 address. In five, they were included in the Guy-
5 Perkins numbers because of where they moved. So I
6 guess just as we kind of ruminate over this for the
7 next couple of weeks I would just like to keep that
8 in mind, that the inequity that Mr. Williamson
9 pointed out -- it doesn't make sense why we approved
10 five and not Estep.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Woods.

12 Any further comments or questions?

13 Okay. With that --

14 MR. WILLIAMSON: I have a question.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry; go ahead, Mr.
16 Williamson.

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm starving. I'm going to go
18 get a salad.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right. That's where I was --

20 MR. WILLIAMSON: If y'all want to continue
21 meeting, you can. But I'm going to get a salad.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That's what I was -- I was about
23 to say is that we're going --

24 MR. WILLIAMSON: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- to take a break for lunch,

1 since we've finished our set of these right here.

2 So we're going to adjourn for a break. It's
3 1:16. Let's do 30 minutes and come back at 1:45,
4 basically.

5 Thank you. We're adjourned.

6 (LUNCH BREAK: 1:16 - 1:52 p.m.)

7 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Mr. Williamson and
8 Secretary Key were not present for the after-lunch
9 agenda items. Assistant Commissioner Ivy Pfeffer sat
10 in for Secretary Key.)

11 A-13: CONSIDERATION OF ONE-YEAR STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

12 WAIVER REQUEST - EARLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ready to get started. Okay. So
14 we've done all the school choice appeals. Now we are
15 on action item number 13, Consideration of One-Year
16 Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request;
17 presenter, Ms. Tracy Webb.

18 MS. WEBB: Yes, ma'am. I'm Tracy Webb,
19 Standards for Accreditation --

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If you can move that --

21 MS. WEBB: Sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah. And since it's storming
23 it's a little hard to hear.

24 MS. WEBB: Is it on?

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I don't know --

1 MS. WEBB: Is this on?

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: It is.

3 MS. WEBB: Now it is?

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

5 MS. WEBB: Okay. The Earle School District is
6 requesting a waiver for Class Size. They have
7 advertised for a math -- a secondary math teacher and
8 did not have any applicants. However, they do have
9 two staff members onsite, currently on staff that are
10 certified in secondary math; that would be their math
11 instructional facilitator and their parent liaison.
12 They would like these two staff members to teach
13 Algebra II and possibly geometry. However, the
14 students enrolled in Algebra II right now are 33
15 students. Geometry is not over, but just in case it
16 does go over they're requesting a waiver of Class
17 Size for both of those classes only.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

19 MS. WEBB: And we do have Tish Knowles,
20 Superintendent, on the Zoom, if you have any
21 questions.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

23 Do we have any questions from the Board?

24 Mr. Sutton.

25 MR. SUTTON: I was just going to -- do you know

1 what their current enrollment number is for last
2 year? They're in Crittenden County; I'm in
3 Crittenden County.

4 MS. WEBB: I do not, but I can look it up real
5 fast and give it to you.

6 MR. SUTTON: Okay.

7 SUPT. KNOWLES: Our current enrollment is -- oh,
8 Tish Knowles, Earle School District Superintendent.

9 Our current enrollment is 447.

10 MR. SUTTON: Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Knowles, and
12 welcome.

13 MS. NEWTON: I have a question for Ms. Knowles.

14 Ms. Knowles, you're getting the waiver just for
15 Algebra II and Geometry. Are you using these
16 instructors in the other classes also?

17 SUPT. KNOWLES: Well, we have struggled to get a
18 math teacher. Everybody we've hired this year has
19 either been fully certified or on a pathway to
20 licensure. And we have -- we have these two people
21 on our staff; they're 240-day employees that have
22 other jobs. And they have agreed to take these
23 classes so that we would not have to hire a teacher
24 and because they are both certified in the areas that
25 we're seeking. And that way, if we could only have

1 one section for each of them and just a few more
2 students, then it would benefit us to not have to
3 hire a teacher and we would have fully certified
4 staff for teaching our students. And we thought it
5 would -- that would be in the best interest of our
6 students --

7 MS. NEWTON: So I guess --

8 SUPT. KNOWLES: -- (inaudible) and staff.

9 MS. NEWTON: -- my question is for your other
10 math classes; are you -- do you have a certified
11 [sound cuts out] for other math classes?

12 SUPT. KNOWLES: Yes, ma'am.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We just lost power.

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Hold on just a second.

16 MS. NEWTON: The other question that I had was
17 about the Algebra II with the number 33 at this
18 particular time. Do you have means to give her maybe
19 an aid or some sort of extra help for that particular
20 class?

21 SUPT. KNOWLES: No, ma'am. She actually
22 volunteered to do this. We thought that -- her
23 reasoning was that if one class had -- she could --
24 we can only have her for one period because she has
25 other duties as an instructional facilitator. And so

1 we did not want to split the students and have one
2 virtual class and one with a live teacher. We didn't
3 know how we should separate those kids, and we did
4 not think that would be fair. And so she said, "I
5 will teach that. I don't mind having three more
6 students." And she can handle the group, she feels
7 certain. But if in fact we needed somebody we would
8 move a para over there, if we had to, but I don't
9 think we're going -- it's going to be necessary. She
10 keeps them very actively engaged. She is -- she's
11 been our computer science teacher for several years.

12 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And my other question has to
13 do with Covid. If 33 is in one classroom, what plans
14 as far as the facility are you going to do so maybe
15 you could spread those 33 out a little bit more?

16 SUPT. KNOWLES: The classroom that we have in
17 mind is one of the largest classrooms we have and we
18 could actually seat 40 in there, although we know you
19 can't seat 40 in there. So that's our plan. But
20 it's the largest classroom.

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

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any more questions, discussion?
23 Okay. We are ready for a motion.

24 MS. McFETRIDGE: I will move to approve the
25 waiver.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve the
2 waiver from Ms. McFetridge.

3 Do I have a second?

4 MS. NEWTON: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Newton.

6 All in favor.

7 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

9 Motion passes. All right.

10 SUPT. KNOWLES: Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

12 A-14: CONSIDERATION OF DISTRICT WAIVER REQUEST FOR WAIVERS
13 GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTERS - PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right, Ms. Webb. Next one,
15 Pea Ridge School District.

16 MS. WEBB: Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school
17 district to petition the State Board of Education for
18 all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment
19 public charter schools. Representatives from the Pea
20 Ridge district are requesting waivers for Teacher
21 Licensure and Library Media.

22 As a reminder, the school district will have 20
23 minutes to make their presentation, any opposition
24 will have 20 minutes, and the district will then have
25 5 minutes to respond before questions and answers.

1 On Zoom we have Anne Martfeld, Assistant
2 Superintendent, Keith Martin, the Superintendent, and
3 Kevin Ramey, Assistant Superintendent.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome.

5 MS. MARTFELD: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Do we have any
7 questions for Pea Ridge?

8 Pea Ridge, do you have anything to add?

9 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am, I actually -- I
10 didn't hear Ms. Webb; I'm sorry. But I was prepared
11 to give a short presentation --

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.

13 MS. MARTFELD: -- at the correct time.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, go ahead.

15 MS. MARTFELD: Okay. I want to apologize; Mr.
16 Martin is a new superintendent for us and he is at
17 new superintendent training and is just joining over
18 the phone. So you'll just see me presenting today.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

20 MS. MARTFELD: So I'm going to share my screen.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

22 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am. Are you seeing my
23 screen --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARTFELD: -- at this time? Okay.

1 So a little background from Pea Ridge School
2 District is -- like she said, my name is Anne
3 Martfeld; I'm Assistant Superintendent for Pea Ridge
4 School District. And I thank you for the opportunity
5 to hear some exciting things we have [sound cuts out]
6 for our school district.

7 A little background just so -- to get why we
8 even looked into this request was my experience, I've
9 been fortunate enough to have been an administrator
10 at the Don Tyson School of Innovation for three-and-
11 a-half years and -- which is a district conversion
12 charter school, as well as principal at Siloam
13 Springs High School, which is also a district
14 conversion charter school. So in moving to Pea Ridge
15 part of the interest in me moving is -- what I think
16 is the interest and my experience has been working
17 with waivers, what kind of innovative and creative
18 thinking can we do, knowing that Pea Ridge is in the
19 middle of a reconfiguration process that I'll get
20 into further. But my experience in implementing
21 waivers, following the accountability with what they
22 need to look like is part of the excitement I think
23 of me getting this opportunity to be in and serve the
24 Pea Ridge community, as well as understanding the
25 benefit for students that these can allow a

1 traditional school, is what kind of -- is why we're
2 here today.

3 So going through just a little bit -- she's
4 mentioned Mr. Martin; this is our leadership team.
5 I'm not going to read to you because I value your
6 time. I know we've had a very long meeting. But
7 just a little bit about Pea Ridge. We are in
8 northwest Arkansas. This is a summary of -- we have
9 2,231 students that we ended our school year with.
10 Our teachers have about seven-and-a-half years'
11 experience. 13% of our students are served special
12 education and 38% are low-income students. Like I
13 mentioned, we are in the middle of a reconfiguration
14 process. We are moving from four local education
15 agencies to five. Every school is reconfiguring,
16 except our K-2 building. So we have a lot of
17 transitioning going on, which led us to this waiver
18 request as well. And I'll speak more to that in just
19 a moment.

20 MS. CHAMBERS: I'm sorry; Anne, could you stop
21 just for a second?

22 MS. MARTFELD: Sure.

23 MS. CHAMBERS: We're looking at a Google
24 screenshot. We initially had your presentation, but
25 we can't see what you're talking about right now.

1 MS. MARTFELD: There you go.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah.

3 MS. MARTFELD: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

5 MS. MARTFELD: Can you see it at this time?

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

7 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

8 MS. MARTFELD: Perfect. Okay, good.

9 As I was saying, this is a little summary of our
10 -- of who we are and what we're doing right now.

11 The next slide shows our growth. Pea Ridge has
12 been so fortunate. I know the Commissioner mentioned
13 Centerton. I don't think anybody could've expected
14 what Pea Ridge was going to look like four and five
15 years ago. This is our growth rate. We have been in
16 the top 10 fastest growing schools in the last
17 several years, and we think we'll continue that trend
18 as well.

19 We are moving -- and although we're in northwest
20 Arkansas, a reason to look at these waivers also is
21 when you're the smaller team with the big players,
22 which I enjoyed my experience in larger school
23 districts, you can see our salaries. While we're six
24 minutes from the Bentonville School District and 10
25 and 12 minutes from Springdale and Rogers and

1 Fayetteville, less than 30 minutes, it's hard to keep
2 our teachers. And so thinking innovatively and
3 creatively on how we can broaden their experience, as
4 well as get them engaged in multiple opportunities,
5 are a piece of what we're looking at in our waiver
6 request.

7 What we are looking to do is to -- what we have
8 been doing, and we're having some success -- as the
9 superintendent from Earle mentioned, right now we're
10 struggling a little bit in some of our areas. And
11 our current practices of using an ALP, filling those
12 nontraditional licensure pathways, trying to also
13 employ staff with multiple certification areas to try
14 to get an English and a social studies teacher, for
15 example, or a math and a science teacher, we're
16 finding some struggles with that. So it led us to
17 look at some of these waivers.

18 Employment strategies -- we have tried multiple
19 placement postings from state resources; we've even
20 gone into Missouri and Oklahoma, into their
21 newspapers and things like that. And like I showed
22 you in the slide previously, it's kind of hard when
23 you can go seven minutes down the road or 15 or 20
24 and make considerably more money, as well as, you
25 know, opportunities are different for different

1 people.

2 So those are some of the things that we have
3 been doing. We also did a veteran teacher contract
4 buyout, which is good in a fiscal standpoint as we're
5 opening a brand-new facility. But I think that also
6 in a reconfiguration took some flexibility of all the
7 things our teachers were able to teach.

8 So what we're asking from the committee today is
9 approval for two licensures -- two waivers, excuse me
10 -- Teacher Licensure from our middle -- newly
11 reconfigured middle school, our junior high, which
12 will be a new LEA that we have asked for, and our
13 high school, which is going to a 10-12 campus. As
14 well as with the building and construction of our new
15 high school that thinking about really getting our
16 students prepared for the next steps we would like to
17 utilize our Media Services position as well as look
18 at the opportunities to support students with a Media
19 Specialist role in a little bit different way and
20 give some flexibility there as well. So those are
21 the two waivers that we're asking for today.

22 I'd like to start with Teacher Licensure. Like
23 I mentioned earlier, the Pea Ridge School District is
24 following the current growth model, if not more, in
25 northwest Arkansas. With its increase in our

1 students is also increase of our need to offer, you
2 know, specialized and advanced courses, the ability
3 to hire then teachers to teach those needs, to meet
4 our ever-changing population. We'd like the
5 opportunity today to talk about using the waivers to
6 hire qualified candidates for positions, maybe
7 finding candidates that not necessarily are -- have
8 completed their Teacher Licensure, but maybe are
9 credentialed to teach at the Northwest Arkansas
10 Community College or John Brown or the U of A or the
11 Northwest Technical Institute. Also looking at
12 professionals that are coming out of careers based in
13 math and science, a career in technical education --
14 it could help support, you know, what we're trying to
15 achieve in our high school. For example, we'd also
16 like to consider looking at some of our advanced
17 social studies teachers, who have been preparing
18 students for advanced placement exams that have
19 extensive literacy experience, can we move them over
20 to help and support? Some of our literacy hires that
21 are trained in, you know, advanced placement
22 techniques and skills, which include a lot of
23 writing, can we get them into our language
24 classrooms? We also like the partnership or idea of
25 maybe an advanced math teacher who's been doing AP

1 Calculus can I also use her to do some of the
2 advanced science, maybe some physics, where the
3 partnership and skill-set maybe not on the teacher
4 license but actually have a lot of carry-over.

5 We also would like to think about, like I
6 mentioned, the career and technical areas. We're
7 near a poultry, farming, business -- we have all
8 kinds of community experts; maybe candidates that are
9 retiring with degrees like masters in Business
10 Administration that could be teaching transportation
11 and logistics to our students. All kinds of
12 opportunities are out there. And having experienced
13 that in other school districts to great success and
14 how to monitor it, be selective but yet not abuse the
15 privilege of your waivers I think can really provide
16 some unique opportunities for our students, our
17 family, and our community. We have also just an
18 increased interest in our community. They supported
19 a millage to open this beautiful new high school that
20 truly lends to some opportunities to do some creative
21 teaching and I think some industry [sound cuts out]
22 secondary experts could add some license -- you know,
23 with the licensure flexibility could bring some neat
24 opportunities and excitement for our students.

25 Our rationale right here is summarized for you.

1 I spoke to this in our -- you know, in the slide
2 previously. We want to also, at our junior high --
3 when we move from a true middle school to now being a
4 middle school and a junior high, we've added about 10
5 junior high career and technical elective offerings,
6 which is exciting because it's going to build to that
7 new high school. And when you move a 9th grade down
8 to a junior high with the reconfiguration we've also
9 had to look at teacher efficiency. And so this
10 licensure could give us some flexibility with that.

11 The junior high career and technical
12 explorations are directly aligned with experiences.
13 We have some existing teachers on staff. For
14 example, they may have been having a cattle -- a beef
15 farm for 20 years; they'd be a perfect candidate to
16 teach an exploratory world agriculture course. Some
17 things like that that maybe could give us some [sound
18 cuts out] flexibility.

19 We're also having an increased enrollment and
20 requests for advanced math, English, Language Arts,
21 and science. I also think about the opportunity --
22 we don't need this maybe in this year, but in the
23 next to maybe look at hiring just for one or two
24 periods a day maybe a college professor, maybe a
25 chemist -- you know, a qualified chemistry professor.

1 This year at Pea Ridge High School we've gone through
2 three physical science teachers. We have a very
3 difficult time. If you will think northwest
4 Arkansas, Pea Ridge is right there; it is very
5 challenging sometimes to play ball with those big
6 districts to get those qualified candidates. When we
7 did fill this position, I think at the last board
8 meeting we approved it, but we only had five total
9 applicants for a physical science teacher in
10 northwest Arkansas. So I think there can be an
11 opportunity to really differently with this, but also
12 holding us accountable for that.

13 The next request that we are asking to do is to
14 think different about our Media Services. This Fall,
15 Pea Ridge School District is opening the most
16 expensive thing ever built in our community -- a
17 brand-new high school. Luckily, Mr. Neil, our
18 retiring superintendent, had great partnership with
19 the Walton Family Foundation and many business and
20 industry partners from around the region to really
21 help our community be partnered with [sound cuts
22 out]. I know that the State Board did a visit to our
23 school district a year or so ago; exciting things
24 happening. And we'd like to look at using our media
25 center and our media center specialist to really take

1 the technology piece and integrate with our staff and
2 our students following the International Society for
3 Technology and Education, those standards that are --
4 I wouldn't call it grade-level, but they're industry-
5 level standards that are widely accepted practices in
6 a digital age. As we design the new high school,
7 we're asking our teachers to teach completely
8 different. They are not going to have assigned
9 classrooms. Think of a college model where they come
10 in, they teach, they leave. So really preparing our
11 teachers and our students for their next life, just
12 like the new corporate designs. I know we didn't
13 have Covid in mind, but all the open thinking and the
14 new corporate complexes that are being built. We
15 might be regretting that today, but we know that
16 that's the future. So we've been training our
17 students.

18 We would like to use the media specialist to
19 redefine this program and set forth a unique model to
20 really show the integration with traditional media
21 skills, like research, connectability. They've
22 always been the technology expert in most school
23 districts and most buildings. And we'd like to kind
24 of reinvent their time, as well as using the
25 licensure piece with them to find that right person,

1 and then help them work toward their library media
2 specialist.

3 We also would like to talk about really taking
4 our practices to be innovative and creative and
5 trying to think about how can we get very specific
6 with some of these skills that our students are -- we
7 know with Covid and sending them home -- are really
8 lacking. We think of these basic digital citizenship
9 skills; students have them in their pocket, as well
10 as our teachers. But just because you can use a cell
11 phone and get on social media does not mean you are a
12 digital citizen that can engage in a quality
13 practice. So we really want to use this type of
14 flexibility with our waivers to get our students up
15 to these international standards, and it starts with
16 having an educator to support that work. And it may
17 not be the traditional library media specialist role
18 or goal, but we think it's a great [sound cuts out].

19 So the rationale for that, like I spoke to, was
20 to take our opportunity with our new high school
21 facility and what our community is expecting of us
22 and to design something where our students are having
23 great post-secondary success and digital and
24 technical readiness. We want to get those standards
25 to get some of our students credentialed. We want to

1 work with our teachers to make sure they're
2 comfortable and ready to support that work, as well
3 as making sure our students are -- can be globally
4 collaborative and have an innovative skill
5 development. I met this spring with a group of 7th
6 grade GT students, and we were talking about the new
7 high school. And their comments to me was -- they
8 were like, "Ms. Martfeld, we don't just compete with
9 Pea Ridge; we compete with the whole region, and
10 really the world." And so their mindset is shifting
11 in the 7th grade. What can we do at Pea Ridge High
12 School to make sure our teachers are prepared to get
13 those 7th graders where they want to be?

14 And just to wrap -- conclude, I understand
15 having experience with waivers; they could easily be
16 not with the right intent in mind. And I believe
17 that we definitely are going to hold true and be
18 accountable to making sure that our waivers are used
19 correctly, that they're used with the original intent
20 in mind, and not to make it easier on the adults.
21 And having had the experience of reporting out
22 success in two different environments and two
23 different school districts, I feel like in Pea Ridge
24 we can do what's best for students and really use the
25 waivers to be competitive with our local district

1 charter schools. I think I counted today we have
2 nine schools in our area, not just public, but with
3 the district conversion that we're competing with
4 daily in Pea Ridge that have these waivers in place.
5 So I'd like to, you know, get Pea Ridge on the
6 playing field and we'd like to see success for our
7 community.

8 This next slide speaks to that accountability
9 and how we plan to hold ourselves accountable, as
10 well as these teachers that might use -- and the
11 library media specialist might use -- how we might
12 use the waivers and to insure that we're also holding
13 ourselves to that high standard of expectation.

14 So I'm going to stop sharing. And I think Ms.
15 Webb and Ms. McLaughlin have sent you my
16 presentation, if you need that, as well.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. MARTFELD: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any questions for Pea
20 Ridge?

21 Ms. Newton.

22 MS. NEWTON: [sound cutting out] in your
23 presentation --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry, Ms. Newton --

25 MS. NEWTON: -- on the Teacher --

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- I'm having a hard time
2 hearing you. You'll have to move closer. You're
3 breaking up a little bit.

4 MS. NEWTON: Oh. On your presentation on
5 Teacher Licensure I did not hear anything about AQT,
6 the assurances on that.

7 MS. MARTFELD: Correct. Do you have a specific
8 question about that or --

9 MS. NEWTON: Are you giving assurance that for
10 those core subjects you mentioned, like math and
11 science and literacy, that they would be AQT?

12 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am. And I think that's
13 in our -- the full application as well.

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

15 MS. MARTFELD: But I can go to that.

16 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Have you informed your staff
17 of the waivers -- and your community of the waivers
18 that you're asking for?

19 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am. We did community
20 presentations, as well as at our school board
21 approval. And we had talked to the staff in the
22 reconfiguration process. I think we spent about
23 three months just trying to get our staff realigned
24 correctly. And so we talked a lot about what are
25 some options -- similar to the students, we listened.

1 "I've been at the Pea Ridge Middle School my whole
2 career how can I adjust now that I'm a junior high?
3 My licensure may not be appropriate, but I have these
4 skill-sets." So that's what we've been doing in
5 these discussions in our district and community.

6 MS. NEWTON: Okay. My biggest concern was with
7 the library media, the reconfiguration there. It
8 feels almost like that you're pushing away the
9 library media skills and pulling in the technology
10 skills. And just -- it's not -- it doesn't feel
11 balanced. And I'm especially concerned, when I look
12 back at your test scores -- 9th and 10th grade
13 literacy scores, less than a third of your students
14 are reading at grade level. And so I would almost
15 feel like the push would need to be the other
16 direction than the direction that you're going. So
17 I'm very concerned about the library media.

18 MS. MARTFELD: Right. To explain that, I view
19 this -- and I feel like I'm speaking, when I say I,
20 for our district and what our principals are saying
21 -- the need is that -- we agree, no one in Pea Ridge
22 is happy with our test scores, especially myself, our
23 school board, and we know we can do better. And
24 while this media specialist, we first view this being
25 technology, we also know that doesn't mean you leave

1 behind all the traditional library media/literacy
2 support. So we see this as a blend, that you use
3 this technology support and these standards to bring
4 up our literacy and to attack it in a different
5 manner. Because we feel like our traditional
6 approach has not been working or reaching our
7 students. So we really want to merge -- we know we
8 have literacy to improve here; how can we take these
9 standards that we know and merge the two. And I hear
10 what you -- I completely agree with what you're
11 saying; you don't need to leave one over here,
12 especially when your test scores are not reflecting
13 what you're good at. So I think that what we are
14 looking to -- and I probably didn't speak to it
15 correctly in the presentation -- is to really get the
16 digital piece and the technology and the support for
17 teachers is to engage them deeper into literacy and
18 other areas that we need to improve ourselves in.

19 MS. NEWTON: Do you have a specific person in
20 mind for this position already?

21 MS. MARTFELD: We have a couple of -- we have a
22 couple of people in mind. I have two teachers on
23 staff in working with the high school principal, as
24 well as our executive director for Teaching and
25 Learning, who has been spending -- has spent the last

1 two years at the high school. We have a couple of
2 people in mind. We also have -- you know, luckily,
3 while I have been in other districts, I have a couple
4 of people in mind to poach as well that have
5 experience using waivers; I'm not above a little
6 competition. So I think [sound cuts out] the right
7 person, and that's the flexibility is to find the
8 right person and not just someone who wants to be
9 just a librarian. And I don't mean "just a
10 librarian;" that's incorrect. But someone that's
11 willing to take it to the next level.

12 MS. NEWTON: My question then would be are any
13 of the people that you're looking at -- I know you're
14 looking for a good technology person. But do any of
15 those have any type of literacy background at all?

16 MS. MARTFELD: Yes. Actually, one of them -- it
17 would be a double-edge sword -- is my advanced AP lit
18 teachers. And the other one that we're looking at,
19 the one that I would try to poach the most -- the
20 couple -- have background in teaching, not just --
21 not just -- but high school English as well as being
22 concurrently certified. So that would be nice for
23 that transition to prepare for college as well.

24 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then are they going to
25 pursue a degree in library media?

1 MS. MARTFELD: Yes.

2 MS. NEWTON: Is that one of the conditions of
3 hiring?

4 MS. MARTFELD: Yes. I mean that is the intent
5 with all of our waivers is we would work to get these
6 teachers to a point. But I'm afraid in the middle of
7 the reconfiguration that the time table is not just
8 going to be there. But I also don't want to discount
9 maybe someone who is at the University of Arkansas
10 that I don't know that's interested, that maybe is a
11 -- you know, has a masters in literacy and reading.
12 They could come in and give us great gains, but may
13 not ever be eligible to be a high school teacher.
14 But is that person not qualified? I don't know. It
15 would just depend. That's what I think the beauty of
16 the conversion charter school and those waivers
17 allows you to do, is to find the expert that you need
18 and not maybe have a few [inaudible]. But I did put
19 in my waiver -- and I wanted to address that -- is
20 that we have to partner with the U of A, NWAC, NWTI
21 to support these -- if we use a waiver, we have to
22 have them professionally developed to be a teacher.
23 I was a nontraditional teacher and I worked for Sarah
24 Lee Corporation as a vendor and a sales analyst, then
25 I became a [inaudible] science teacher. So I

1 understand that transition, and they need a lot of
2 support. But I don't want to discount the experts
3 out there because those are some of my very best
4 teachers.

5 MS. NEWTON: So I just want -- I guess I wanted
6 the assurance that you weren't going to leave the
7 other side of it out.

8 MS. MARTFELD: No, ma'am. That would be the
9 ultimate goal. I just -- I don't want to say if I
10 hire a professional with a masters or Ph.D. in
11 chemistry that that person a hundred-percent may get
12 a licensure. I would want to encourage them to do
13 so, and that would be a big conversation, and that's
14 what I think is best. But I also know I hired a
15 welding teacher who would never -- you know, on the
16 other end, a welding teacher who would never need to
17 do that. So to say "all" would be hard to say today.

18 MS. NEWTON: Your library media was the one I
19 was talking about.

20 MS. MARTFELD: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, ma'am. I
21 would think with that one especially that we would
22 want to make sure that we're working towards that
23 certification. I'm sorry; I misunderstood.

24 MS. NEWTON: That's fine. Thank you.

25 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Martfeld, have you reached

1 out to CTE? Because I understand you don't need a
2 waiver --

3 MS. MARTFELD: Well --

4 MS. McFETRIDGE: -- necessarily for these
5 positions. Is that --

6 MS. MARTFELD: Well, that is true in some cases.
7 But, for example, we have two teachers currently; one
8 has her master's in Business Administration and we're
9 with our fourth round of licensure because she was
10 self-employed and was a contract laborer for Wal-Mart
11 Logistics. So she is qualified to teach our
12 concurrent offering; but if we want to expand our
13 high school [inaudible], she's not eligible for a
14 technical permit. What you are speaking to, that is
15 correct. My dad, for example, he is a career and
16 technical teacher in Arkansas. He has done his
17 technical permit through his work experience; he's
18 building airplanes and they're always making things.
19 And, you know, he doesn't have the teaching
20 background per se, but he got the technical permit.
21 Some teachers, we can't get qualified because they
22 don't have what's considered the correct work
23 experience; their work resume' is long, but they
24 didn't have the right title per se.

25 MS. McFETRIDGE: So you have been working with

1 CTE on this?

2 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am, we have worked --

3 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Okay. And then, can you
4 talk to us a little bit about your new
5 superintendent? It's too bad he can't be here today.
6 We were so impressed with Mr. Neil when we went to
7 visit Pea Ridge, and what an amazing community, what
8 an amazing school district. So --

9 MS. MARTFELD: I love Mr. Neil and we are said
10 to see him leave. I've known him for a long time.
11 He even didn't hire me years ago, so I forgave him.
12 But Mr. Martin, there is not a gentleman that does
13 not love Pea Ridge more than this man. This is a
14 servant leader who above all else puts Pea Ridge
15 first. And we had our leadership retreat, social
16 distanced, with masks, and our year is about the
17 "all" -- it's about all of Pea Ridge. This year I
18 saw this gentleman, when we were short-staffed in the
19 cafeteria, serving green beans at the middle school.
20 That's who he is, and we're so lucky to have him.

21 MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any further questions
23 or discussion?

24 DR. MOORE: I do. I was actually surprised --
25 are these the first waivers that Pea Ridge has

1 requested?

2 MS. MARTFELD: No. Yes, ma'am, it's our first
3 waivers we've requested. We used to be a district
4 conversion charter school.

5 DR. MOORE: Okay.

6 MS. MARTFELD: (inaudible). And as much as I
7 love our new superintendent, I'm like I wish we
8 would've kept that going. But I think this is a good
9 answer for us today. We really did some great things
10 with that conversion, but I think that was in the
11 first round and there was a lot of confusion on how
12 to keep that sustainable in our smaller school
13 district. But now we think this is a better avenue
14 for us to tackle. So we have used these waivers
15 before, and successfully. A lot of what you saw was
16 a direct correlation to that, and now it's -- that
17 has rolled off, and now it's time to address some of
18 it in a different way.

19 DR. MOORE: Okay. When did the conversion
20 charter school end? Was it last year?

21 MS. MARTFELD: Year -- this year we are not --
22 this is our first year not to be.

23 DR. MOORE: Okay. Do you have any teachers that
24 had -- that received a waiver under that process?

25 MS. MARTFELD: Yes. Yes, ma'am, we do.

1 DR. MOORE: Okay.

2 MS. MARTFELD: And those are the ones we've
3 tried -- and that's another reason we're really
4 asking, as well, is to make sure that we keep those
5 programs in place, and this is one way to do that.

6 DR. MOORE: Okay. And it sounds like you have
7 some innovative ideas to get these teachers -- to get
8 teachers. But for some of these people teaching will
9 be their, you know, longer-term goal. If we do grant
10 the waiver, will y'all work with the teachers to
11 receive their license, if that is a pathway that's
12 best?

13 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am. I mean that is
14 always the goal, even when you have lots of
15 permission. That's the fine-line with waivers is
16 that you -- once you use them to get the right
17 candidate, then you sell them on the career and you
18 encourage them and get them to get their licensure.
19 That's what I always did with it. But sometimes,
20 like I was mentioning, to get that right candidate
21 for -- you know, until we get the process started,
22 then you have to -- that's where I didn't want to use
23 the waivers.

24 DR. MOORE: And mentorship programs, what does
25 that look like?

1 MS. MARTFELD: Absolutely. So the State went
2 away from the structured mentorship program and
3 turned that over back to the district. But we're
4 going to utilize the Talents program at our co-op, as
5 well as assign mentor teachers in our district. We
6 don't have to follow a specific scripted program, but
7 we at Pea Ridge always do a three-year mentorship.
8 And we want to make sure that with these not only are
9 they going to have a mentor, but we're going to do a
10 PLC within the PLC with these, if we hire non-
11 licensed teachers, as well as the media specialist,
12 to make sure that these people that are maybe out of
13 their area or coming in from industry have an
14 additional layer of support. So they'll have a
15 mentor in their school, as well as a district
16 combined group of like-minded people to get together
17 and say what are your struggles, where can we lend
18 you support -- and then the co-op Talents, such as
19 their new novice teachers program.

20 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. McFETRIDGE: And I just want to remind
23 everyone that CTE is there to help with these
24 situations as well.

25 MS. MARTFELD: Yes.

1 MS. MCFETRIDGE: So please keep that in mind as
2 we go farther.

3 DR. PFEFFER: Madam Chair, if I could also add
4 --

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

6 DR. PFEFFER: -- I think one of the interesting
7 things is, you know, prior to -- recently, districts
8 had to be a conversion charter or a school of
9 innovation in order to do some of the things that Pea
10 Ridge has been doing for a long time. And so, I
11 think just realizing today, when you look at the
12 waivers they're requesting it's such a limited number
13 of waivers --

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

15 DR. PFEFFER: -- in order for them to continue
16 to operate in a different way and to really prepare
17 students. I think that's something to celebrate here
18 in the state.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

20 DR. PFEFFER: We have learned a lot from the
21 work of open-enrollment and district conversion
22 charters; so I think that is definitely something to
23 celebrate. But I would also want the district to
24 really look at now the revised CTE programs under
25 Perkins Five and the programs that really are aligned

1 with workforce and industry needs and the opportunity
2 for those work-based learning experiences. I think
3 you'll be really surprised as you look at that and
4 how much that can enhance your program, and the
5 flexibility that you already have enables your
6 students to do that.

7 So I just wanted to mention that. So I think
8 this is something -- it's something for us to really
9 look at and celebrate.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Pfeffer.

11 Do we have any more discussion or questions?

12 Ms. Martfeld, it was mentioned earlier that you
13 did actually consult the community and your teachers,
14 because that was a question I was going to ask that
15 Ms. Newton asked. But if I'm not mistaken, you said
16 you presented to the community. Can you kind of
17 explain what -- how that process went?

18 MS. MARTFELD: Yes, ma'am. We did a couple of
19 different venues. We presented at a parent -- Friday
20 parent nights. We actually -- I think -- I couldn't
21 hear who was just speaking, but they must've been in
22 our meetings this spring when we realigned ourselves
23 to Perkins Five --

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: That was Dr. Pfeffer.

25 MS. MARTFELD: -- to make sure that our -- so we

1 did forums. I'd say we had -- new presented and then
2 we had breakout groups for parents to have question-
3 and-answers and to learn about -- and then we did the
4 same thing with our school board; we did a study
5 session prior to that meeting and we went through --
6 right before I came in did some community groups and
7 feedback on what was the need, and it tied right into
8 how we built the new high school. But trying to
9 align the new building and approved millage to their
10 feedback and now into the educational programming
11 that's happening in our building.

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you so much for that
13 clarification, Ms. Martfeld. Because that's one
14 thing that we want to make sure that we're not just
15 telling our communities what we plan to do, but to
16 actually engage them and receive feedback and have
17 that two-way conversation and communication. So
18 thank you for that clarification.

19 Do we have any more questions or comments?

20 Okay. Then we are ready for a motion. And the
21 motion is to either approve or deny the waivers, in
22 whole or in part.

23 Do we need to do them in part since there's two
24 waivers?

25 No, we can go ahead. Okay.

1 So we'll just need a motion as to whether to
2 approve or deny the waivers in whole, both waivers
3 for Pea Ridge.

4 MR. SUTTON: Motion made to approve.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion from Mr.
6 Sutton to approve the waivers.

7 Do I have a second?

8 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

9 DR. MOORE: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

11 All in favor say "aye."

12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All opposed?

14 Seeing none, the motion passes.

15 Congratulations, Ms. Martfeld. We look forward
16 to seeing even more great things from Pea Ridge. I
17 thoroughly enjoyed the visit that we had -- I think
18 it was last year that we had. There are great things
19 going on there and we look forward to seeing even
20 more things.

21 MS. MARTFELD: Well, we look forward to hosting
22 you. I can't wait for you to see our new facility.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. Looking forward to
24 it.

25 MS. MARTFELD: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Have a good one.

2 MS. MARTFELD: Thank you.

3 A-15: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE AND ASBN RULES
4 GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF INSULIN AND GLUCAGON TO
5 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We'll move on the number
7 15. We've got Mr. Taylor Dugan. Consideration for
8 Final Approval for Governing the Administration of
9 Insulin and Glucagon to Arkansas Public School
10 Students. Go ahead, Mr. Dugan.

11 MR. DUGAN: Thanks, Madam Chair. Taylor Dugan
12 with the Division.

13 These rules were changed to incorporate the
14 changes in Act 757, just Section 37. We held a
15 public comment hearing for these rules on May 26,
16 2020. Public comments were received, but they
17 resulted in no substantive changes. And so the
18 Division is asking that these rules be approved for
19 final approval.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any questions
21 from the Board?

22 DR. MOORE: I do have a question.

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

24 DR. MOORE: Yes. So I think it said on the
25 document you worked with the State Board of Nursing

1 on these rules. Did they approve these rules, and/or
2 the Health Department? How does that work?

3 MR. DUGAN: Yeah. So these rules are jointly
4 promulgated with the State Board of Nursing. So they
5 went through the first approval for public comment in
6 January, and then they were put before the State
7 Board of Nursing for their June board meeting for
8 approval. So they have been approved by the State
9 Board of Nursing. So next what's going to happen is
10 they have to go before the House Committee, Labor --
11 let me see which -- it's the House Committee on
12 Public Health, Welfare and Labor. And then they have
13 to go before the Senate Committee on Public Health,
14 Welfare and Labor, because they're also State Board
15 of Nursing approval -- rules for approval. So, but,
16 yes, ma'am, we did go -- have been working with the
17 State Board of Nursing on these.

18 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Moore.

20 Any more questions?

21 Okay. Seeing none, we are ready for a motion.
22 And the -- what we're looking for is a motion to
23 approve or deny final approval for the --

24 DR. MOORE: For the rules.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: For the rules. Yes, thank you.

1 Do I have a motion?

2 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by
4 Ms. Newton.

5 Do I have a second?

6 DR. MOORE: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Moore.

8 All in favor say "aye."

9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

11 Seeing none, the motion passes.

12 A-16: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES
13 GOVERNING FISCAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY; AND REPEAL OF
14 ADE RULES GOVERNING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS
15 MANAGERS

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Number 17, Ms.
17 Courtney Salas-Ford, Final Approval of Rules
18 Governing Special Education and Related Services.
19 Good afternoon, Ms. Salas-Ford.

20 MS. SALAS-FORD: Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
21 Members of the Board. Courtney Salas-Ford for the
22 Division.

23 And you said the SPED rules?

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry.

25 MS. SALAS-FORD: That's okay. I just didn't

1 want to go out of order if you had something
2 different than I did.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: (inaudible)

4 MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. So for your consideration
5 is Final Approval of the Rules Governing the Fiscal
6 Assessment and Accountability Program; and along with
7 that, Repeal of the Minimum Qualifications for
8 General Business Managers.

9 These rules were approved for public comment,
10 went through the public comment process; we received
11 only two public comments and made non-substantive
12 changes. And so we're asking for your final
13 approval.

14 The repeal is actually just to clean up the fact
15 that relevant portions of those rules have been
16 incorporated into the fiscal assessment and
17 accountability. So we have brought those to you
18 together as one.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

20 Any questions or comments from the Board?

21 Seeing none, we are looking for a motion to
22 approve or not approve the rules. Do I have a
23 motion?

24 DR. MOORE: Move to approve.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve from

1 Dr. Sarah Moore.

2 Do I have a second?

3 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.

5 All in favor say "aye."

6 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

8 Seeing none, motion passes. Thank you.

9 A-17: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR FINAL APPROVAL: REPEAL OF
10 DESE RULES GOVERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES,
11 SEC. 22.00, 23.00, 27.00 AND 28.00

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Now we're on number 17, Rules
13 Governing Special Education and Related Services.

14 MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. And we are proposing to
15 repeal four sections of the special education rules.
16 This is also just a matter of cleaning up because the
17 sections governing home-schools, previously our
18 accountability system, charter schools, and uniform
19 grading scales are actually not special education
20 rules. These were just repeats of the rules that
21 have been promulgated and updated. And so to avoid
22 any confusion we just want to remove these from the
23 special education rules. And no public comments were
24 received on these.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Any questions,

1 comments?

2 Ready for a motion.

3 MR. SUTTON: So --

4 MS. WOODS: Move to approve.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. We have a motion by

6 Ms. Adrienne Woods to approve.

7 Do I have a second?

8 MR. SUTTON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.

10 All in favor say "aye."

11 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

13 Seeing none, motion passes.

14 MS. SALAS-FORD: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

16 A-18: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: REPEAL OF ADE RULES

17 GOVERNING CALCULATION OF SMART CORE FUNDING

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Now we are on number

19 18. Ms. Jennifer Dedman.

20 MS. DEDMAN: Good afternoon.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good afternoon.

22 MS. DEDMAN: Can you hear me okay?

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. But if -- yeah, if you can

24 move a little bit closer, that would be great.

25 MS. DEDMAN: Absolutely.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 MS. DEDMAN: Jennifer Dedman, attorney for the
3 Division.

4 First up, we have the repeal of the Rules
5 Governing Calculation of Smart Core Incentive
6 Funding. There was a public comment hearing held on
7 these rules. We received -- I beg your pardon -- we
8 did not receive very many public comments. We did
9 receive a question about, you know, what it is that
10 this rule governs, from BLR.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right.

12 MS. DEDMAN: But none of the comments resulted
13 in a change to the rule. And we're asking for final
14 approval, please.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 Do we have any questions or comments?

17 Okay. Seeing none, we're looking for a motion
18 to approve or not to approve.

19 DR. MOORE: Move to approve.

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

22 Do I have a second?

23 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.

25 All in favor say "aye."

1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

3 Seeing none, motion passes.

4 MS. DEDMAN: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

6 A-19: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES GOVERNING
7 THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES AND REPEAL OF
8 ADE RULES GOVERNING ENROLLMENT OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS

9 MS. DEDMAN: The next item is the Rules
10 Governing Consolidation and Annexation of Public
11 School Districts. A public comment hearing was held
12 on April 13th. The public comment period ended April
13 20th. We did receive public comments on the rules,
14 but none of them resulted in substantive changes.

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry.

16 DR. PFEFFER: Are we on the right number? I'm
17 sorry. Are you on number 18? What number are you on
18 now? 19?

19 MS. DEDMAN: I believe it's 19. I don't have an
20 agenda in front of me. But it's consolidation and
21 annexation of school districts, consideration for
22 final approval.

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

24 DR. PFEFFER: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Number 19 is actually Enrollment

1 of Children of Military Families and Repeal of ADE --

2 MS. DEDMAN: Oh, goodness. I'm so sorry.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: No, it's okay.

4 MS. DEDMAN: I can do those first.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

6 MS. DEDMAN: Also, there was a public comment
7 period for these. A public comment hearing was held
8 on April 13th, also ended on April 20th.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

10 MS. DEDMAN: We did receive a number of
11 comments. None resulted in substantive changes,
12 mostly grammatical changes. I'd like to note that a
13 number of the public comments were considered but
14 denied, mostly, when you turn to those later pages,
15 because they would've required a change in the law.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Right. Right.

17 MS. DEDMAN: And we're requesting final approval
18 of those rules.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. We -- do we have any
20 questions or comments?

21 MS. NEWTON: I just had a question -- and make
22 sure I'm understanding the one we're on. We're on
23 the military child; correct?

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. We're on --

25 MS. DEDMAN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- military child, number 19.

2 MS. NEWTON: There was -- in the public comments
3 there were several suggestions that were made. And I
4 know that we require legislation in order to address
5 any of those. You know, as we come into the next
6 session are any of those things that we might be
7 thinking about taking to the legislature that were in
8 those public comments?

9 MS. DEDMAN: I think you're referring to the
10 public comments later in the document. And is the
11 Department considering legislation to make these
12 changes? I don't know. I don't believe so.
13 However, the person who is with that group may, of
14 course, and has mentioned that he may, of course,
15 address that.

16 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Newton.

18 DR. PFEFFER: Ms. Dedman, do you want to give
19 them just a little bit of background on these rules
20 themselves and the work that you and Mr. Kaminar are
21 involved in with the Council maybe? Just give them a
22 brief summary.

23 MS. DEDMAN: I'd be happy to.

24 DR. PFEFFER: That may help.

25 MS. DEDMAN: So these rules go along with the

1 repeal of our former rules governing enrollment of
2 military students -- or military dependents, rather.
3 The change that happened here was we had the company
4 -- a multistate Compact that we're a part of that
5 governs how states help transitioning military
6 students. There was a change last year, Act 939 of
7 2019, that added some changes in the form of
8 attendance changes. So the part of the code that
9 governs student attendance is where these changes
10 were made. You'll see that a lot of the requests
11 that are made here are requests for changes that were
12 denied because -- well, because it would require a
13 change to the law. In a lot of these places you'll
14 see that the changes that are suggested are to the
15 Compact. The Compact is a multistate Compact and it
16 works kind of like a contract; you sign on to the
17 Compact. Mr. Kaminar, who is on staff here at the
18 Department, is also the Commissioner of the -- is the
19 Compact Commissioner, both nationally and also is
20 head of the MIC-3 Commission here in the state. So I
21 worked with him and also with Colonel Berry, to some
22 extent, on both these rules and also on the drafting
23 of the bill. So we've been in discussion, and I know
24 that he's got conflicts about some things that he
25 wishes were different in the law. Of course, our

1 position has been that we've got to make sure that
2 the rules reflect the law, and that we're open to
3 changes; it's just that they'll require a legislative
4 change.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you for that background
6 information.

7 Do we have any more questions or comments?

8 Okay. Seeing none, do we have a motion?

9 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.

10 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. We have a motion by
12 Mr. Sutton to approve, seconded by Ms. Ouida Newton.

13 All in favor say "aye."

14 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

16 Seeing none, the motion passes.

17 A-20: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES GOVERNING
18 CONSOLIDATION AND ANNEXATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. And now we are on
20 number 20.

21 MS. DEDMAN: Now we return to -- we return to
22 the Rules Governing Consolidation and Annexation of
23 Public School Districts.

24 These had a public comment hearing on April
25 30th. The public comment period expired on April

1 20th. We did receive public comments, but none
2 resulted in any substantive changes. And we're
3 requesting final approval of these rules as well.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

5 Any questions or comments?

6 Seeing none, we're looking for a motion to
7 approve or not approve for final approval.

8 MS. McFETRIDGE: So moved.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I have a motion to
10 approve by Ms. McFetridge.

11 Do I have a second?

12 DR. MOORE: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Moore.

14 All in favor say "aye."

15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

17 Seeing none, motion passes.

18 MS. DEDMAN: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Dedman.

20 A-21: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES GOVERNING
21 NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STANDARDS AND BODY MASS INDEX
22 FOR AGE ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Now we're on number 21,
24 Consideration for Final Approval: Rules Governing
25 Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards. Ms. Mary

1 Claire Hyatt.

2 MS. HYATT: These are also for final approval.
3 It is the Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical
4 Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age
5 Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools.
6 These were also reviewed by the Child Health Advisory
7 Committee and the State Board of Health. And
8 amendments to these rules were necessary as a result
9 of Act 641, which was Recess, and 428, which was the
10 Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act, both of
11 2019; and also to bring up-to-date some of the
12 federal pieces so that they would be in line with the
13 most current federal guidance. And no changes were
14 made after the public comment period. And I'm happy
15 to answer any questions.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any questions for Ms.
17 Hyatt?

18 Okay. Seeing none, do I have a motion?

19 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion to approve
20 these rules.

21 MR. SUTTON: Second.

22 MS. WOODS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moved -- motion by Ms.
24 McFetridge for approval, seconded by Mr. Sutton.

25 All in favor say "aye."

1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

3 Motion passes.

4 Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

5 A-22: EMBEDDED COURSE APPROVAL

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Number -- we are on number 22,
7 Embedded Course Approval. Ms. Kiffany -- Dr. Kiffany
8 Pride.

9 DR. PRIDE: Good afternoon.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good afternoon.

11 DR. PRIDE: Kiffany Pride, Assistant
12 Commissioner of Learning Services.

13 I am respectfully requesting that the Board
14 approve the embedded courses that we have attached --
15 I think you should have an attachment --
16 understanding that when the curriculum frameworks for
17 any of those courses are revised a new course
18 approval request will have to be submitted for the
19 Board's approval.

20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

21 Do we have any questions for Dr. Pride?

22 Seeing none, do we have a motion?

23 DR. MOORE: I have a question, if you don't
24 mind.

25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, Dr. Moore.

1 DR. MOORE: So I think some of these present
2 really interesting courses and scenarios for
3 students. Why don't more districts take advantage of
4 this, or are there other avenues to combine classes?

5 DR. PRIDE: Well, that's a great question. I
6 think some districts, there may be a unique
7 circumstance where they need to embed those courses
8 or they may see that benefit and apply. I'm not
9 quite sure why others don't. That's something I'll
10 have to look into. I would say -- what's the second
11 part of your question? I'm sorry.

12 (BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Dr. Moore.

14 DR. PRIDE: I'm sorry. What was the second part
15 of your question? I'm sorry.

16 DR. MOORE: Oh, just if a school wanted to
17 combine two courses is this the only avenue to do
18 that?

19 DR. PRIDE: Yes, they would have to submit --
20 they would definitely have to submit an approval
21 [sic] for an embedded course.

22 DR. MOORE: Okay.

23 DR. PRIDE: Like a course approval system.

24 DR. MOORE: Okay. And that includes for
25 technical education courses --

1 DR. PRIDE: Yes, ma'am.

2 DR. MOORE: -- combined with regular. Okay.

3 DR. PRIDE: Yes, ma'am.

4 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Moore. Thank

6 you, Dr. Pride.

7 Any more questions?

8 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, I had a question also.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, Ms. Newton.

10 MS. NEWTON: First, Dr. Pride, welcome. You've

11 got some big shoes to fill, but I know you're going

12 to do a great job. And welcome.

13 DR. PRIDE: Thank you.

14 MS. NEWTON: We're glad to see you.

15 Most of these were English and personal
16 communication, which I understand that's a very good
17 fit. But I was impressed by Texarkana, the band and
18 P.E., because over the years I've seen students
19 scramble for -- as a senior for that P.E. credit, but
20 they -- they just let it slide. And so I think that
21 was very innovative and very smart, so I was
22 impressed with that one. And then, also, the one
23 from Bergman, putting together the natural resource
24 management and environmental science. So to me,
25 those were two that were thinking a little bit deeper

1 than the ordinary and so I hope that we'll have more
2 districts try to do those sorts of things also.

3 DR. PRIDE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I believe I remember when we had
5 those conversations before -- it may have been last
6 year -- about those possibilities of embedding
7 courses. Because we know, especially in certain
8 schools, that band is really getting some physical
9 education. So --

10 DR. PRIDE: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- they're moving quite a bit,
12 so that's -- like you said, it's a good way for them
13 to get that credit. And I hope that more schools
14 will think innovatively and creatively on ways to
15 embed these courses, and actually apply, as Dr. Moore
16 said.

17 And welcome. It's good to see you.

18 DR. PRIDE: Thank you again. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Great to see you here.

20 DR. PRIDE: Any more questions on that?

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I don't think so. Thank you.

22 DR. PRIDE: All right. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So we need a motion to
24 either approve or not approve the embedded courses.
25 So do I have a motion?

1 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a move to -- motion to
3 approve by Ms. Newton.

4 Do I have a second?

5 DR. MOORE: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Moore.

7 All in favor say "aye."

8 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

10 Seeing none, motion passes.

11 A-23: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (ABC)

12 RENEWAL GRANTS FY21 - ROUND TWO

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moving on to number 23,
14 Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance Renewal
15 Grants. Ms. Lisa Tyler.

16 MS. UNDERWOOD: Susan Underwood.

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Susan Underwood. Yes. Sorry.

18 MS. UNDERWOOD: I almost look like her.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Underwood, good to see you
20 again.

21 MS. UNDERWOOD: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Welcome.

23 MS. UNDERWOOD: Susan Underwood with the
24 Division and Arkansas Better Chance program.

25 We are requesting that Round 2 for ABC program

1 for the 20-21 school year in the following. And you
2 have in your packet an outline of these three
3 requests. These funds are going to be used to
4 provide high quality preschool programs for the
5 following:

6 Nettleton has notified us that they are
7 relinquishing 20 slots due to limited space in the
8 school facility. That will bring them to a total of
9 40 slots, in the amount of \$202,800;

10 Westside Consolidated School, we're recommending
11 that they receive an additional 10 slots, at \$50,700.
12 That will assist in serving the children in the
13 Jonesboro/Nettleton communities, bringing their total
14 award to 45 slots. That will include a \$5,000 one-
15 time classroom set-up fund in the amount of \$233,150;

16 We're also recommending Pine Bluff to receive an
17 additional 20 slots. That would be 104 -- excuse me
18 -- \$101,400. That will bring them a total award to
19 115 slots and the total amount of \$590,550.

20 So we're requesting the Board to approve the
21 Arkansas Better Chance Renewal Grant Round 2 for
22 2020-21 school year, including that one-time funding,
23 in the total amount of \$150,100.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Underwood.

25 Do we have any questions?

1 Then, we just need a motion to approve.

2 MS. McFETRIDGE: Move to approve.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moved -- motion to approve by
4 Ms. McFetridge.

5 Any -- second?

6 DR. MOORE: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Moore.

8 All in favor say "aye."

9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

11 Seeing none, motion passes. Thank you.

12 MS. UNDERWOOD: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Underwood.

14 A-24: REVISION OF FINE ARTS STANDARDS

15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Moving on to number 24, Revision
16 of Fine Arts Standards. Dr. Pride again.

17 DR. PRIDE: Hello again. Kiffany Pride,
18 Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services.

19 So I stand before you again for consideration of
20 Fine Arts Standards that are respectfully submitted
21 to the State Board.

22 I would like to recognize before I finish this
23 Lana Hallmark; she's back in the back with us. She's
24 our Fine Arts Coordinator. She's retiring this year
25 and she has done an awesome job leading a diverse

1 team of stakeholders across the state to develop an
2 awesome document that will serve our schools well.
3 And so we will miss her and we're thankful for her to
4 be here, and hopefully she'll come say hi to us in
5 the coming years. So we'll definitely rely on her as
6 a resource, if she will allow us. So, thank you,
7 Lana.

8 I just wanted to say the revised standards were
9 created as four booklets comprised of Music, Visual
10 Arts, Dance, and Theater. Schools will begin
11 implementing those standards in 20-21 and fully
12 implement in 21-22 school year.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Pride.

14 Thank you, Ms. Hallmark -- I'm sorry -- for your
15 service and your dedication to the students. And as
16 you said, I hope that you'll continue to be a
17 resource for the students of Arkansas. But enjoy
18 your time with your family and your retirement. So
19 thank you so much for your service.

20 Do we have any questions?

21 MS. McFETRIDGE: Can you ask her -- Ms. Dean,
22 can you ask her to come up to the microphone so we
23 can see her and just thank her?

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, please. I forget y'all
25 can't see her.

1 MS. McFETRIDGE: No, I know.

2 Thank you so much.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you. Thank you.

4 MS. McFETRIDGE: You've just done an amazing
5 job. We appreciate you very much.

6 MS. HALLMARK: You're welcome. It's been my
7 pleasure.

8 DR. PFEFFER: And if I can just say -- I mean
9 I'm looking at these documents and these look nothing
10 like academic standards that I ever got to work with
11 as a teacher in a building. And I'm just looking at
12 them and I'm thinking how lucky educators are to be
13 able to have this kind of a resource. And I hadn't
14 looked closely at them, but, you know, you're making
15 the connection to the Every Student Succeeds Act.
16 They're broken down into these different booklets but
17 yet, you've got this common theme. And I know that
18 the teams that you worked with had so much to do, but
19 it was leadership here from you and from Dr. Pride
20 and Ms. Smith and the entire curriculum and
21 instruction team. So I know if Secretary Key were in
22 here he would be bragging on you, and I'm just glad
23 that I get to be the one to do it.

24 MS. HALLMARK: Well, thank you.

25 DR. PFEFFER: And so, thank you and we will miss

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. Thank you.

3 MS. NEWTON: I'd like to also echo my
4 congratulations. Coming from your background and
5 having to work with the old frameworks where they
6 were just checklists and coming to these, it's
7 amazing how far we've come. And it shows your
8 dedication and your hard work of you and your team
9 and then the stakeholders that you've involved around
10 the state. So congratulations on a job well done.
11 Thank you for all your hard work. Very much
12 appreciated.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes.

14 MR. LOOKADOO: And if I can, I'll add to that.
15 I think with the standards the way that they are
16 written, and even the categories and descriptions of
17 novice to proficient and accomplished, like coming
18 from the teacher standpoint who has done some
19 standards-based grading and we talk about competency-
20 based education, having that work -- I know how much
21 work that takes and the time that that takes. It's
22 an amazing thing and I think that can really move
23 education. You know, we talk about competency-based
24 learning. It can really move us forward and having
25 that here is fantastic. So, thank you.

1 MS. HALLMARK: Yes, thank you. The committees
2 were trained on competency-based education before
3 they began to work on this. So it was one of our
4 goals.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. I'd like to just say
6 coming from a music background and being a fan of the
7 arts I know as we move forward in education sometimes
8 the arts get pushed to the side and they don't --
9 they're not seen as something that's important as far
10 as an academic education. But I think it's so vital
11 and important that we realize the role that the arts
12 from all different perspectives -- as you said,
13 dance, music, theater, visual arts -- how that plays
14 into the whole child's education and how it's
15 important for us to be able to hone in on those
16 special areas that children are gifted in. And that
17 goes back to our looking at children individually,
18 the individual student, and how we can best educate
19 them from a whole-child perspective. So thank you so
20 much for the work that you're doing -- that you've
21 done over the years. Thank you.

22 Okay. So, if we -- yes.

23 [AUDIENCE APPLAUSE FOR MS. HALLMARK]

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any more questions?

25 Then we are looking for a motion.

1 MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.

2 MS. WOODS: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Motion to approve from Ms.
4 Chambers, seconded by Dr. Moore.

5 All in favor say "aye."

6 MS. WOODS: No, it was Adrienne Woods. Sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I'm sorry; I couldn't see
8 who it was. I was trying to go by voice.

9 Dr. Woods -- Ms. Woods seconded that motion.

10 All in favor say "aye."

11 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

13 Seeing none, motion passes.

14 A-25: CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION WAIVER
15 TRANSITIONS

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Last one on the agenda
17 for this part, Consideration of Standards for
18 Accreditation Waiver Transitions. Ms. Hyatt.

19 MS. HYATT: So some of you -- maybe not the two
20 new members -- but will remember that when we changed
21 the standards in 2018 we had that huge standards
22 walk-over process to insure that everyone who had
23 waivers under the old version of the standards had
24 waivers under the new version. This is essentially
25 that but so much easier because it's just changes in

1 numbering this time. So the new version of the
2 Standards for Accreditation went into effect July 1,
3 2020, and this is the walk-over for everyone who has
4 a waiver of a standard into what the new numbering
5 is. It's not substantive; it's just the numbers
6 changed. And in an effort to make sure that all the
7 data we have on My School Info and that's used for
8 the standards monitoring tool is correct we need to
9 walk them over to the correct version of the
10 standards.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hyatt.

12 Do we have any questions?

13 MS. WOODS: I just want to clarify and make sure
14 I understand. So we're not actually changing the
15 waiver under which they've been approved; it's just a
16 numbers issue, like a technicality?

17 MS. HYATT: Yes, that's correct.

18 MS. WOODS: Okay.

19 MS. HYATT: And I will say we're having some
20 internal conversations about how when standards and
21 other rules change and it's something minor, like
22 just the numbering, if there's a more efficient way
23 to do that. So we are looking at that and also
24 looking at how do we handle it when it is a
25 substantive change in a way that's easy for waiver

1 holders but also doesn't put too much strain on the
2 people at the Division that work with waivers. So
3 hopefully we'll be able to work through that and have
4 some new information on that for you guys soon.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

6 If there are no more questions, then we need a
7 motion.

8 DR. MOORE: Move to approve.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve --

10 MS. NEWTON: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- by Dr. Moore.

12 And who was that that seconded?

13 MS. NEWTON: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Newton.

15 All in favor say "aye."

16 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

18 Seeing none, motion passes.

19

20

21 (The Action Agenda was concluded at 3:03 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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 (via Livestream/Zoom due to Covid-19), on July 9, 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.

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

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