

1 DR. HERNANDEZ: We will have -- Mr. Poore should
2 be either on the line or calling in. Kind of the
3 approach -- I sent you a link to the presentations
4 slide and basically just wanted to start out with --
5 I think our first one is --

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Let me interrupt you just a
7 second --

8 DR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- Dr. Hernandez. Someone is on
10 the phone and I don't know why we're getting feedback
11 of music in the auditorium. Dan, can --

12 MR. DAN DAVIS: I'll check and see if Poore was
13 on there, but nobody is there now; that's why it's
14 playing music.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Okay. No one is on the
16 line at this point.

17 **A-7: CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT: DOLLARWAY SCHOOL**
18 **DISTRICT**

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: But we're starting with
20 Dollarway. Proceed, Dr. Hernandez. I apologize for
21 interrupting.

22 DR. HERNANDEZ: No problem. Just wanted to see
23 -- you know, obviously the face of what we were doing
24 in schools and how we are approaching that has
25 drastically changed. But I just wanted -- based on

1 the presentation or any items in the slide, was there
2 any questions related to the Dollarway report or any
3 questions about Dollarway in general?

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do any of the members have
5 questions with regard to Dollarway?

6 MS. NEWTON: I have just a quick question.

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton.

8 MS. NEWTON: When we're looking at the exit
9 criteria for Dollarway, where are we in that as far
10 as what's been met and what else do we need to get
11 done?

12 DR. HERNANDEZ: So we were working very
13 diligently in a lot of the qualitative measures. You
14 know, obviously, with the modification in what we're
15 looking at with testing and not being able to do
16 testing this year that does put a big curveball in
17 how we address that. So obviously one of the main
18 parts of the qualitative -- having the schools with
19 no F letter grades -- you know, we were encouraged by
20 some of the interim data within Dollarway that was
21 showing some very good upward trends from fall to
22 winter, but just not having that test is not going to
23 give us information. And so just like with the other
24 -- Pine Bluff and with Little Rock, we're going to
25 have to look back at those and figure out what a path

1 forward may be in terms of looking at any revisions
2 that may need to happen to the exit criteria.

3 MS. NEWTON: So since we're not going to have
4 testing -- and their deadline, if I'm not mistaken,
5 is December; is that correct?

6 DR. HERNANDEZ: Their five-year mark will be in
7 December. Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. NEWTON: So what -- would we just completely
9 -- and I don't know if that would be even fair to the
10 school district to completely revise the exit
11 criteria. So what are some thoughts that maybe y'all
12 have given in that direction?

13 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Dr. Hernandez is
14 speaking but without sound.)

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Hernandez, you're on mute.

16 DR. HERNANDEZ: Oh. I was asking if Secretary
17 Key wanted to chime in on that. I know we're having
18 some of those discussions right now.

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Secretary Key.

20 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah. I mean, obviously, you
21 know, we are trying to figure out what -- with
22 respect to the academics what we would be looking at.
23 But I would remind everyone that we also -- Dollarway
24 is also a district that was under fiscal distress.
25 So, you know, considering the situation that we're in

1 now we're also weighing the risk to the fiscal
2 integrity of the districts that have -- because of
3 all districts experiencing the Covid-19 health
4 emergency.

5 So there are a lot of things that we just don't
6 have answers for right now, Ms. Newton. I wish we
7 did. I think the focus when we can get back to on-
8 site instruction is to make sure that we continue
9 with those qualitative measures that Dr. Hernandez
10 mentioned. The issue with testing is something that
11 -- because we have statutory requirements there, the
12 letter grades, all of those things that right now we
13 don't have, there's no authority to really address
14 those because the emergency authority that we have
15 only lasts through the 17th of April. So any waivers
16 or anything that we would consider are going to have
17 to be considered over a longer period of time, and we
18 know that that is -- that is going to play into the
19 five-year -- December 2020 five-year deadline, if you
20 will, for Dollarway.

21 So we're looking at all that and we hope to be
22 able to bring you back better recommendations than
23 what we could have for you right now. And hopefully
24 we'll have those for you by next month, because we
25 know that there are a lot of things kind of in

1 suspension right now waiting on what we're going to
2 do, not just for Dollarway but for some of the other
3 districts.

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Has there been any thought given
5 to -- since all of those districts we have either
6 through ACT or NWEA tests that they did in the fall
7 and that they did again in December or January -- to
8 have that as a point of comparison if they give the
9 same type of evaluation this coming fall and
10 December? It may not be something that we can do
11 because it's not the Aspire, but it is something that
12 will give the Board some -- and the Department some
13 level of confidence about what is -- what kind of
14 progress is being made in what areas and what kind of
15 data we need to provide to the districts for progress
16 beyond that.

17 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah, that is something that I
18 think is a possibility. It's not a possibility for
19 using under the letter grade system because to do
20 that I mean you're -- the way we did the letter
21 grades is taking into account the ESSA School Index.
22 We created those ranges for the letter grades based
23 on the whole state. But I think for our individual
24 districts that have some type of -- you know, not
25 everybody does NWEA all the way through 8th grade; so

1 we would have to look to see what data elements are
2 there that could be presented or could be analyzed in
3 a way that gives some certainty, some level of
4 consistency. So that is an option that we could look
5 at and have talked about how we might look at that.
6 We just don't have any hard evidence right now for
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right. And I think as an
9 educator it would be helpful to me to know where my
10 kids are compared to where they were and all of those
11 kinds of things.

12 Okay. Ms. Newton, did you have any other
13 questions?

14 MS. NEWTON: Yeah, just on that particular
15 thing, you know, we've got to really be careful, you
16 know, trying to do a fall-to-fall comparison because,
17 you know, as a teacher I would -- you know, I would
18 be having a nervous breakdown right now if you said
19 that you were going to come back next fall and test
20 my kids to see -- and compare to what they were last
21 fall. Because, you know, I've got some kids that are
22 doing a great job -- I'm just speaking in general --
23 I would have some kids that would be doing a great
24 job with AMI and that would be working very
25 diligently on every assignment, but there's going to

1 be some kids that are not; they don't have parents at
2 home that are encouraging it and are helping. And so
3 that fall-to-fall comparison would be very scary to
4 me because we're thinking -- you know, there's a
5 whole nine weeks here that, you know, kids are not in
6 the classroom, and then you go that summer where, you
7 know, we think about the summer slide; and so that
8 fall-to-fall comparison just would be scary as a
9 teacher to me.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah. I wasn't thinking of it
11 as a predictor; I was thinking of it as a teacher who
12 might teach 4th grade English, and typically she
13 might start at X-point but then she realizes all that
14 went on the year before. So, if she had some
15 information to see did they go ahead and make the
16 growth because, you know, of the involvement or did
17 they fail to so she would know how to modify the
18 lessons that she typically would teach from one
19 August/September to the following August/September,
20 so she could monitor and adjust her sequence of
21 standards teaching.

22 MS. NEWTON: And that kind of data would be
23 useful. But as far as looking at it school-wide and,
24 you know, trying to judge a school I just don't think
25 we need to go there, so --

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I agree with you completely.

2 Is that -- okay.

3 Any other questions from the Board before we go
4 on with Dr. Hernandez's report?

5 DR. MOORE: Yes. And maybe this is in the
6 report.

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore.

8 DR. MOORE: But I wanted to ask what their AMI
9 days were looking like and if the District is
10 considering any summer learning programs or extended
11 summer opportunities, as we know that, you know, even
12 in a normal school year summer (inaudible) right now.

13 DR. HERNANDEZ: So it isn't in the actual
14 report, because this was the report for March which
15 was the previous three months. What we intend to do
16 is come back in June and report out what that process
17 looked like for AMI. We've been working with all the
18 districts. I don't want you to think work hasn't --
19 has stopped with them. We've actually been reviewing
20 their AMI plans, asking some more questions, and
21 trying to address several of the needs that are out
22 there as it relates to, in some cases, technology.
23 You know, you have kind of a mixed group of teachers
24 and administrators that are really concerned about
25 standards and being able to stick to what normal

1 school looks like in this out-of-school sense. And,
2 you know, the reality is is that that's not real
3 possible in these settings where we have students
4 that may not have access to technology at home; they
5 may not have access to parents on a regular basis to
6 support the learning. So we're moving them to more
7 of an enrichment and trying to look at past skills
8 that have been taught and moving away from actually
9 having parents, as much as possible, trying to
10 deliver new content. But we should have a pretty
11 definitive report. And part of the questions we are
12 asking is related to summer school and then also
13 looking at their school-level plans on how those
14 would be updated, given that they're not going to
15 have data. So the conversation about fall-to-fall,
16 what will that data be able to tell us or tell the
17 teachers in terms of how they might need to deal with
18 skills when they come back to school.

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything --

20 DR. MOORE: Thank you. I know y'all are all
21 working so hard in these times. So thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else on Dollarway?

23 Okay. I guess the only questions I have is --
24 or the only two questions I have is where are they
25 with regard to the dyslexia audit?

1 DR. HERNANDEZ: So, they did have their dyslexia
2 review and in the -- inside the document is their
3 plan of how they're addressing those deficiencies and
4 kind of where they are on the status of those. You
5 know, when we stopped school, you know, the kind of
6 -- the service that was being provided was slow in
7 Dollarway, but it started to pick up steam and more
8 students are starting to receive services. But I'll
9 be honest, a lot of that stalled as -- you know,
10 having -- as they're trying to transition. But
11 that's some of the questions that we've posed to the
12 districts and they've replied back how they're trying
13 to address the students and their special ed. needs,
14 their dyslexia needs, and things like that as well.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And the other question I
16 had -- I know that they were one of the districts
17 that did not do AMI days initially. And I wondered
18 if they were up-to-speed on that for the students now
19 that we are not going to have school till next year?

20 DR. HERNANDEZ: So during those days that they
21 were initially out, there was a total of six they did
22 not have AMI and they will have to make those days
23 up. But during that time they prepared development
24 of AMI packets and plans and are now -- actually have
25 a pretty reasonable plan that they're trying to work

1 through now with their students. So they are up-to-
2 speed on their AMI process, but they weren't. And,
3 you know, I tend to agree with Ms. Warren in some of
4 the decisions in not having AMI developed because,
5 you know, she would rather make those days up. And
6 not foreseeing that this situation would happen --
7 because she knows that when students are at home
8 they're not getting the same, you know, access and
9 support that they are when they're at school. So
10 that was the reasoning behind not doing AMI in the
11 first place. But they have since developed a process
12 that they're working through.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And were -- was Dollarway able
14 -- I know we mentioned fiscal distress before. Was
15 Dollarway able to provide Chromebooks for their
16 students and for the ones who did not have Wi-Fi or
17 internet access? Did they provide them any thumb-
18 drives or packets?

19 DR. HERNANDEZ: They are providing devices and
20 also packets. They are working in the community to
21 identify providers for internet access. You know,
22 they're probably -- you know, when you look at Earle
23 or Marianna they're a lot better off with providers
24 and able to get students access. And surprisingly
25 what's been found in Pine Bluff and Dollarway, there

1 are a lot of students that do have access to internet
2 at home or via through their parents' mobile phones
3 and making those in the hotspots and things like
4 that. And so they're continuing to try to provide --
5 fill in those gaps for students.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else have questions?

7 Do I have a motion?

8 MS. NEWTON: Move to accept the report.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. Newton to accept
10 the report.

11 Do I have a second?

12 MS. DEAN: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Second by Ms. Dean.

14 All in favor?

15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?

17 Motion passes.

18 **A-8: CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT: PINE BLUFF SCHOOL**
19 **DISTRICT**

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Next is Pine Bluff. And is Dr.
21 Owoh or anyone from Pine Bluff on the line?

22 DR. HERNANDEZ: They are not. They're actually
23 distributing food and doing -- dropping -- leaving
24 regalia out for seniors right now.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Well, we've got to

1 satisfy their basic needs, so --

2 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, ma'am.

3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- if you will.

4 Did you have a video presentation that you
5 wanted us to see on Dollarway?

6 DR. HERNANDEZ: I sent you the link, but I'll
7 just -- it's in the chat box.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right.

9 DR. HERNANDEZ: And so I think just the same
10 thing with Dollarway, are there any -- has there been
11 any questions on the report or any specific questions
12 about Pine Bluff?

13 MS. NEWTON: My question was from last month.
14 One of the things I was concerned about last month
15 was the graduation rate that they've had in the past.
16 How is -- not having face-to-face instruction, how is
17 that going to affect their graduation for seniors
18 this year, the number of expected graduates? Do they
19 have plans for those that were close but needed some
20 extra help? What's going on with that?

21 DR. HERNANDEZ: So with their seniors they do
22 have plans. You know, they were on track to do
23 better in terms of supporting their students with
24 graduation this year. Obviously, this has caused
25 some problems with that. But they actually, you

1 know, are working with seniors that are on track to
2 graduate as of the third nine weeks. They will go
3 ahead with moving those students on, still providing
4 the support as needed. But students that weren't on
5 track and needed credit recovery, that will extend
6 all the way through the summer in allowing them to
7 continue. A lot of those students are still sticking
8 to their same schedules, and so they have access to
9 online platforms and things like that that are
10 helping them continue their work.

11 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.

12 DR. HERNANDEZ: And they do have Chromebooks
13 with internet access. All the seniors have access to
14 that.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any other board member with a
16 question about Pine Bluff?

17 Okay. On -- under the exit criteria link on
18 page 8, what does "decodable texts had been ordered
19 but have not had access" -- what does that mean?

20 DR. HERNANDEZ: Back to that question -- so what
21 was the question again? I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I wondered what the statement
23 "decodable texts had been ordered but not have
24 access" -- what does that mean?

25 DR. HERNANDEZ: So what I understood from our

1 review is that their decodable texts had been ordered
2 and were in the process of coming in, but some of the
3 reports that we are getting is that the teachers
4 didn't have full access. But we know now that that
5 has since been corrected.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

7 And I noticed Pine Bluff High School was the
8 only school in the District that had met their growth
9 goals, so they're to be commended for that, everyone
10 who's working on that.

11 I also see it written a lot of PD training, but
12 not much mention of how it's being implemented and
13 whether they're doing one-size-fits-all as opposed to
14 individualizing, like we encourage teachers to do for
15 students. Can you speak to that?

16 DR. HERNANDEZ: You know, a lot of the
17 professional development is guided by the PLC process
18 with Solution Tree.

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes.

20 DR. HERNANDEZ: So there are a lot of cases
21 where there is a lot of whole-group instruction,
22 especially this being the first year of
23 implementation. So that -- I think that will kind of
24 move towards what we've seen in Dollarway; a lot of
25 that PD moves to the different kinds of PLC teams

1 where it's not necessarily individualized but it's
2 more individualized for that group, whether it be a
3 literacy or a math group, and kind of moves more
4 towards smaller individualized group trainings.

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. I know Dr. Wilde used to
6 be very concerned that we tried -- when districts had
7 needs it wasn't like a need or two needs, and so
8 sometimes rather than getting focused or prioritizing
9 we tried to do too much at once. Do you think that
10 is the case in Pine Bluff or Dollarway?

11 DR. HERNANDEZ: You know, I don't, when it comes
12 to the PLC process. What I think, you know, becomes
13 problematic in some of these districts is that we --
14 when districts that have notoriously not been
15 compliant with all the different laws that are out
16 there and trying to do all those things, just to meet
17 the bare minimum of compliance, it can be
18 overwhelming. And so we have schools that were
19 behind in their implementation of the dyslexia laws,
20 that weren't doing special ed. correctly, you know,
21 struggle with, you know, the implementation of the
22 new Right to Read act and things like that; that when
23 you put all those things together, you know, it can
24 be -- but we've tried to be very diligent in planning
25 and tried to, you know, provide support and make sure

1 that districts are still continuing to show
2 improvement in these areas and make sure that it's
3 timed-out right. But it can be -- you know, when you
4 first take over you've got a very short window to
5 make change, and so that -- trying to get all those
6 things going in the right direction does sometimes
7 put a lot of stress on districts.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any other comments from other
9 board members?

10 Do I have a motion to approve the report on Pine
11 Bluff?

12 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make that motion to
13 approve the report on Pine Bluff. This is Kathy.

14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. McFetridge.
15 Second?

16 MS. DEAN: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Second by Ms. -- Ms. Dean showed
18 up on my screen first. Second by Ms. Dean.

19 All in favor?

20 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?

22 Motion carried.

23 **A-9: CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT: LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL**
24 **DISTRICT**

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Little Rock.

1 Dan, would you check to see if Mr. Poore is on
2 the line?

3 Okay.

4 MR. POORE: I am on the line. This is Mike
5 Poore.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Hernandez, you may proceed.

7 DR. HERNANDEZ: So Mr. Poore is on the line; is
8 that correct?

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes.

10 DR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, good. So --

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Somebody is on the line. We
12 don't know who.

13 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, he should be. He texted
14 me, said that he was trying to turn off the webcast
15 because it was delayed.

16 So with Little Rock as well, you know, kind of
17 in the same boat with Pine Bluff and Dollarway in
18 terms of exit criteria, we are in the process of
19 meeting with the District; because in the rules it
20 talks about development of that thing with the
21 District, and so we're having those kinds of
22 conversations. And obviously, you know, we've kind
23 of hit an odd thing with not being able to test this
24 year, and so that's kind of had us to thinking, just
25 like around Dollarway and some of the other

1 districts, how we want to think about modification
2 and look at exit criteria possibly a little bit
3 differently. And so we actually will have some of
4 those conversations in the coming weeks in trying to
5 develop working plans for the remainder of this year
6 and the summer and going into next year with the
7 District.

8 But as far as the report goes, are there any
9 specific questions about the report?

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have comments or questions
11 from any board members on the Little Rock School
12 District legislative report?

13 DR. MOORE: Yes, I have a question.

14 I see there's a huge difference in the informal
15 TESS observations, going from 4,000 to 11,000. What
16 does that look like? What did that look like this
17 past fall in the school?

18 DR. HERNANDEZ: So --

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Did you understand the question,
20 Dr. Hernandez?

21 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. So in terms of the
22 numbers going up, you know, I think it's just a
23 reflection of having the local team and the District
24 putting emphasis on those, you know, classroom walk-
25 thru's and informals and things like that. I just

1 think they've really hit their stride in making that
2 a point of emphasis with the District, and so, you
3 know, getting things into the system and getting the
4 quality up. My understanding from our principal
5 supports, Rocci and Brent, that have been working
6 with principals there in the District, along with
7 Sheila, you know, we've really been pretty happy with
8 the progress that's being made in terms of getting in
9 the classrooms and trying to support teacher
10 practice.

11 DR. MOORE: Do y'all have any understanding as
12 to what that feedback looks like, if it's meaningful,
13 if it's just checking boxes?

14 DR. HERNANDEZ: So based on our discussions is
15 that that -- the feedback is getting a lot better
16 than it was in previous years, that it's not just a
17 time to get in the class -- the time, the amounts
18 that they're staying in the classrooms, and being
19 able to provide feedback through the EdReflect
20 system. If you go back to, you know, previous years,
21 there were even certain administrators that weren't
22 necessarily even in the system to provide feedback.
23 And so getting everybody where that's just a part of
24 their normal operations has been -- there's been a
25 significant difference this year.

1 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any other board member have a
3 question or a comment?

4 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes, I do, Ms. Zook.

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay, Ms. McFetridge.

6 MS. McFETRIDGE: I know Little Rock has done an
7 amazing job working with Solution Tree in PLCs. I'm
8 just curious, have the teachers been able to keep up
9 at all in PLCs as they're putting together their AMI
10 plans? Does that make sense?

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Uh-huh.

12 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, it does. So I know Mr.
13 Poore is on the line. I know that not -- they're
14 doing some trainings and have been involved. They're
15 not exactly doing the embedded coaching that the
16 districts are -- that the other districts are.
17 They're going to be moving to more of that model next
18 year. But as far as actual PLCs, you know, still
19 getting to meet, that may be a good question for Mr.
20 Poore. I know the principals are really trying to
21 support the teachers during this time, but as far as
22 them being able to formally meet for PLCs --

23 MS. McFETRIDGE: Well, I didn't know if there
24 was a way for the teachers to use Zoom where they
25 can, you know, work together or what.

1 DR. HERNANDEZ: I will say that, you know, not
2 specific to Little Rock, but in Pine Bluff and
3 Dollarway that have been working solely with them,
4 they have been continuing to have virtual meetings
5 and things like that, trying to continue keeping
6 those teams together and discussing.

7 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Good. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Poore, did you have anything
9 you wanted to add to that?

10 SUPT. POORE: I will -- and thank you for the
11 question, Ms. McFetridge. I think Mike handled it
12 pretty well. But one thing I'll tell you is just as
13 we moved into our Phase 2 of our AMI it's been a big
14 adjustment for both students, parents, and staff, and
15 so we're learning a lot. We're -- our goal is to get
16 better every day, and one of those components is to
17 have our teachers work together. And we actually
18 have some of our specialists and some of our elective
19 teachers that will start to push into a new
20 collaborative of trying to help and support learners
21 through our platform delivery. You know, it's going
22 to take a little bit different shape, to be honest
23 with you, over the next two months in terms of just
24 trying to make sure we're wrapped around to provide
25 the support to the families and the students in a

1 different way. I hope that addresses the answer --
2 or the question. Excuse me.

3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anyone else have any
4 questions or statements?

5 MS. McFETRIDGE: Could we have Dr. Hernandez
6 repeat what Mr. Poore said? I really --

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Sure.

8 MS. McFETRIDGE: -- couldn't hear him. Just
9 summarize it maybe.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: It's easier to hear Dr.
11 Hernandez than it was Mr. Poore, because Mr. Poore is
12 on the phone and Dr. Hernandez is on Zoom. So, Dr.
13 Hernandez?

14 DR. HERNANDEZ: And I think I heard the same
15 thing you guys did, so I don't know that I can repeat
16 what he said.

17 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay.

18 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Zook -- and he may have said
19 this and I couldn't hear Mr. Poore at all -- but I'm
20 getting a lot of emails from parents concerned about
21 the level of intensity of the AMI that they're doing,
22 the number of hours that they're having to spend on
23 it. Could someone describe to me what they're doing
24 for AMI and how flexible they're being with students
25 and parents? I know it's a stressful time for

1 parents. And so can someone describe to me -- and it
2 may not can be Mr. Poore, because I can't hear him at
3 all --

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

5 MS. NEWTON: -- what they're doing for AMI and
6 what they're doing to work with parents?

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are you addressing this
8 specifically to Little Rock or to districts in
9 general?

10 MS. NEWTON: Specifically to Little Rock.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Mr. -- Dr. Hernandez, see
12 if you can hear what Mr. Poore says and then we'll
13 try to get the answer.

14 SUPT. POORE: I'm speaking as loudly --

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Poore, did you hear the
16 question?

17 SUPT. POORE: -- as I possibly can. Can anybody
18 hear me at all?

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Get as close as you can and talk
20 as loud as possible.

21 SUPT. POORE: Yeah, I'm shouting right now, Ms.
22 Zook. So I've got the whole -- my whole front office
23 wondering what's going on in here. Can you hear me
24 at all?

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes, I can.

1 SUPT. POORE: Okay. One thing about AMI -- and
2 I don't think Little Rock is unique in this -- in
3 that some parents are saying we're doing too much,
4 others are saying we're not doing enough. We -- this
5 week was our first week to go into virtual platforms
6 for both elementary and secondary. We also have
7 expectations of how staff will interact with parents
8 and try to be a support to them. We also are trying
9 to create extreme flexibility on attendance and
10 grading. But the systems do allow us to monitor so
11 that we know who's involved, whether a teacher is
12 being involved or whether a student is being
13 involved, and that will shape then how we can go back
14 and create additional support to anybody that's not,
15 you know, participating. We did deploy probably
16 about 8,000 devices so that all the families can be
17 taken care of with virtual learning and have come up
18 with good plans so far, that I can tell, on getting
19 family data.

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Were you able to hear any of
21 that, Ms. Newton and other board members?

22 MS. NEWTON: No, not really. Could you
23 summarize maybe?

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I can.

25 SECRETARY KEY: Let me try this.

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Secretary Key is going to
2 summarize for you.

3 SECRETARY KEY: Well, let me get Mr. Poore on my
4 phone and I'll put my phone there closer to the
5 microphone that you all are hearing. And Dan said
6 that might work better than -- yeah, he's -- both
7 fingers crossed. So, Mr. Poore, I'm going to call
8 you on your phone; so if you want to hang up this
9 one, I'll get you on your cell phone.

10 SUPT. POORE: Got it.

11 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Supt. Poore hung-up
12 from the conference call (livestream) and Secretary
13 Key called him on his cell phone (Zoom).

14 SUPT. POORE: Hello. Mike Poore.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Can you hear that?

16 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. So give us a sound check.

17 SUPT. POORE: This is Mike Poore, Little Rock
18 Superintendent.

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Newton is nodding her
20 head.

21 MS. NEWTON: I can hear.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Go ahead, Ms. Newton.

23 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Go ahead. Mr. Poore, say -- if
25 you can remember what you said before, would you say

1 it again please?

2 SUPT. POORE: Yes. This is our first week into
3 our Phase 2 delivery for AMI instruction. That began
4 this week with us deploying basically about 8,000
5 devices out to families. We also feel pretty good
6 about where we're at with data plans. The good thing
7 about the platforms that we're using in terms of an
8 online platform is that allows us to create a uniform
9 delivery of instruction for all learners and we can
10 actually monitor who has got on the system and who
11 hasn't, so that we'll be able to follow up next week
12 even with direct calls to families to see, you know,
13 why they haven't gone on to the online platform --
14 and if they're not getting on, what do we need to do
15 to support them, if they're having technical
16 difficulties or still don't have a device. We have
17 had parents voice frustration but also are saying
18 that they really like what's happening; so you get
19 kind of a mix. We have some parents saying we're
20 doing too much, others saying we're not doing enough.
21 In talking to superintendents throughout the state on
22 our Zoom conferences, I think many of my colleagues
23 are experiencing the same things. We are trying to
24 make sure we create a flexible approach and
25 environment right now on grading, as well as

1 attendance, and we're trying to work on our messaging
2 on that over the course of this week so that both
3 staff and parents know that we've just got to keep
4 working at it and keep getting better. I hope that
5 gives a good overview. I could go into more depth,
6 but hopefully that gives a snapshot.

7 MS. NEWTON: Very helpful. Thank you. You
8 know, I get emails but I don't always see the big
9 picture; so that was helpful. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else have questions while
11 we have our audio working more efficiently?

12 DR. MOORE: I do.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore.

14 DR. MOORE: Superintendent Poore, I appreciate
15 all of y'all's hard work. I know these are hard
16 times. Will y'all be continuing the online platform
17 through the end of this school year? And are there
18 any thoughts of what summer enrichment -- summer will
19 look like?

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mister --

21 SUPT. POORE: I'm not sure if that was a
22 question for me or Ms. Zook. I can't hear the
23 question.

24 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. So let me try to
25 paraphrase for you, Mr. Poore. And the question that

1 Dr. Moore had was about summer and what does it look
2 like after the end of this school year, going into
3 the summer. And let me start with just kind of a
4 broader answer to that because we know that this
5 disruption -- we don't know that it's going to be
6 over before the next school year starts. And we are
7 looking at what other contingencies that we need to
8 be thinking about statewide for, you know, some type
9 of bridge. We recognize there is learning loss, so
10 we're trying to make sure that our thinking is in
11 terms of how do we make up for the learning loss, not
12 make up for the time. Because a lot of times we get
13 -- we get to thinking that those two are equated, and
14 they aren't.

15 [UNKNOWN SOUNDS COMING OVER THE SPEAKERS]

16 SECRETARY KEY: So --

17 [UNKNOWN SOUNDS COMING OVER THE SPEAKERS]

18 SECRETARY KEY: It's okay. I heard myself
19 saying stop, stop, stop, over and over again.

20 But anyway, that's kind of a broader approach
21 that we're going to be looking at for the whole
22 state. And, Mr. Poore, I'll let you jump in there on
23 any thoughts that y'all are having as far as the
24 District.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Poore, were you able to hear

1 him?

2 SUPT. POORE: Yes. Thank you very much.

3 On our summer approach, first off, the easier
4 solution is with secondary when we'll have a summer
5 school, but it will be a virtual delivery this year
6 for credit recovery for secondary. So that's the
7 simplest one. On the elementary, one of the things
8 that I learned today that I was very glad about is
9 that the city did not cut their summer program for
10 our collaborative effort to work together on summer
11 school. And I had previously believed that to be
12 true, but in talking to Dr. Barth that is not the
13 truth. So we actually are able to possibly still
14 deliver a setting for our elementary children who
15 most may need that type of delivery. We would push
16 it back. And our additional thoughts, probably not
17 -- wouldn't happen until July; we'd move it back one
18 month. We have a lot of planning to do. We have
19 moved forward with principal selections for summer
20 school, for elementary. And then we just have to,
21 you know, take the advice of the Commissioner and the
22 Governor related to, you know, social distancing and
23 whether or not we can pull something like that off.
24 So we're going to keep planning and hopefully deliver
25 in July. But as the Commissioner shared, there's

1 going to be some potential limitations based upon the
2 pandemic.

3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any other questions from anyone?

4 Hearing none, thank you, Mr. Poore.

5 SUPT. POORE: Thank you all.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Seeing no questions or comments,
7 do I have a motion regarding Little Rock's
8 legislative report?

9 MS. McFETRIDGE: I move to accept the Little
10 Rock legislative report as presented.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. McFetridge.
12 Second?

13 MS. NEWTON: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Second by Ms. Newton.
15 All in favor?

16 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?

18 Okay. Let me pause here and ask Ms. Windle.
19 Ms. Windle, did we have any public comment come in in
20 writing, either by email of USPA [sic]?

21 MS. WINDLE: No.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

23

24

25 (The Action Agenda was concluded at 11:41 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, via livestream and Zoom (due to Covid-19), do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on April 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 to the best of my ability.

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

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

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: April 13, 2020.



Sharon K. Hill

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

