

In The Matter Of:
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

V.1. ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN DEAN: First on the Action Agenda we have the Annual Statistical Report and presenter is Ms. Anita Sacrey.

MS. SACREY: Good morning. Anita Sacrey with DESE.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning, Ms. Sacrey. Welcome.

MS. SACREY: Thank you.

I'm submitting to you the 2019-20 Annual Statistical Report as required by ACA 6-20-23 -- 2203. It's required to be submitted by February 15th each year. The report contains information on revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of all traditional school districts, open enrollment charter schools, and education service cooperatives, and it also provides budgeted amounts for 2020-21. The reports are pulled from the statewide eFinance system and there are summary pages for -- that roll up for the traditional school districts, open enrollment charters, and the co-ops in the report. And at the end of the report there are rankings by selected items such as per-pupil expenditures, ADA, ADM, FTE, and classroom salary. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.

2 Do we have any questions or discussion or
3 comments?

4 DR. MOORE: I -- I'll -- I can start. And if
5 someone else has comments I don't have to start, but
6 --

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Go ahead.

8 DR. MOORE: -- I wrote down a few notes because
9 I think this is one of the most important documents
10 for us and people across the state to look at. We --
11 I wrote we received an email recently about comparing
12 two districts, and one district had bought computers
13 for their students and the other district hadn't. So
14 I went to look at the data here where it tells you
15 how much per-pupil they're spending for each student
16 and this -- well, this comparison was -- it turned
17 out Eureka Springs was spending \$13,000 per kid and
18 Bentonville was spending \$9,000 per kid. Now
19 Bentonville has a lot higher population but this is
20 important information for particularly parents to
21 know so that they can have these conversations with
22 their local school boards about what's going on in
23 the state. I think there's just a lot of information
24 here, especially when we're looking at the teacher's
25 salary conversation. I've been looking at that the

1 past couple of weeks and there's just a lot of
2 districts that -- you know, that have the same number
3 of students, they received the same amount per
4 student, and they're spending their money differently
5 by their choice. But parents and teachers need to
6 know that and become actively involved in these
7 conversations with the districts.

8 So that was just my plug and my notes.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Dr. Moore.
10 Any other comments or questions?

11 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, if I may, to -- Dr.
12 Moore, to your thoughts on that -- and just know this
13 information is available. I mean this is the type of
14 information that's on My School Info, so, you know,
15 that platform is -- it's much easier to extract
16 information from than just having to look up this big
17 long report. So it is the type of information that
18 we have encouraged patrons, school board members and
19 administrators, educators to use to engage in those
20 local conversations and My School Info is a great
21 platform for them to be able to extract that.

22 So thank you for pointing that out, and I agree
23 with you.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other questions or comments?

25 Okay. Well, with that I look for a motion from

1 the Board.

2 DR. MOORE: I move to approve.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Dr. Moore to
4 approve or to accept the report.

5 Do I have a second?

6 MS. WOODS: I'll second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Woods.

8 All in favor say "aye."

9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

11 Seeing none, motion passes.

12 V.2. STATE BOARD REVIEW OF PLSB 20-121 ETHICS HEARING

13 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - TIFFANY GANT

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Next we have the State Review of
15 PLSB 20-121 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation
16 for Tiffany Gant. And the presenter will be Ms. Amy
17 Douglas.

18 Welcome, Ms. Douglas.

19 MS. DOUGLAS: Good morning. This is Amy Douglas
20 with PLSB.

21 I sent you guys an email earlier in the week.
22 Due to weather, Mr. Valley, Ms. Gant's attorney, is
23 also on. We would like to have this hearing in
24 person. We're asking to continue it to the next
25 State Board meeting in March. Ms. Gant is not

1 currently employed in the education setting.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any questions
3 or comments?

4 Okay. Then I'll -- we'll look for a motion to
5 -- if it be the will of the Board, to move this to
6 the March meeting.

7 MR. SUTTON: So moved.

8 MS. NEWTON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, we have a -- okay, we have
10 a motion by Mr. Sutton and seconded by Ms. Newton.

11 All in favor say "aye."

12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

14 Seeing none, motion passes.

15 Okay. So we'll pick that up in March.

16 Thank you so much, Ms. Douglas.

17 Thank you, Mr. Valley, for joining us today.

18 MR. VALLEY: Thank you. Y'all take care.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You too.

20 V.3. CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL MEETING
21 DECISION - APPROVAL OF CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR RIVER
22 VALLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY (VAN BUREN SCHOOL DISTRICT)

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Well, let's see. Next we
24 have Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel
25 Meeting Decision for River Valley Virtual Academy in

1 Van Buren School District. And the presenter is Ms.
2 Tracy Webb.

3 Good morning, Ms. Webb.

4 MS. WEBB: Good morning.

5 In January, the Charter Authorizing Panel
6 approved an amendment request for River Valley
7 Virtual Academy to relocate their campus to another
8 building on their campus. The district conversion
9 charter was approved in 2016 and serves students in
10 grades K-12. The decision for the Board today is to
11 decide to review or not review the Charter Panel's
12 decision. And we have Dr. Nancy Robbins and Dr.
13 Jennifer Feeny on Zoom, if you have any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any questions,
15 concerns, or comments?

16 DR. MOORE: I do have a question for the
17 District, if that's okay.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay, Dr. Moore.

19 DR. MOORE: I don't have any concerns about the
20 request to move campuses, but I was interested in the
21 application about budget -- and the budget was
22 considerably lower for K-8 students. I was wondering
23 if devices and internet were included for those
24 students and why there is a discrepancy in the K-8
25 versus the 9-12.

1 DR. FEENY: I'm Jennifer Feeny; I'm the
2 Principal at our Virtual Academy in Van Buren. So --

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning, Ms. Feeny.

4 DR. FEENY: Hi. How are you guys?

5 So the difference in the budget, in previous
6 years we used Pearson's teachers which is what we're
7 still doing for our K-12 -- or for our 9-12 students,
8 which is why it's that \$4500 amount. This year we're
9 using our own K-8 teachers, and so the price went
10 down substantially from the \$4500 which included the
11 content teachers to the \$400, \$450 price range where
12 we use our own teachers. And then for the devices,
13 we have been checking out devices for all of our
14 students who need them and we are doing that from our
15 local schools, you know, here with us. Because, you
16 know, most of these kids that we've picked up this
17 year were already attending the Van Buren School
18 District and so they already have, you know, plenty
19 of devices for all the kids, so we check those out
20 through the schools.

21 DR. MOORE: Okay, that makes sense. It's -- for
22 those K-8 students are they therefore being taught by
23 local teachers or are they doing largely asynchronous
24 learning or are they able to connect with the
25 teachers?

1 DR. FEENY: The majority of it is asynchronous.
2 They do have access because our virtual teachers are
3 only virtual teachers, so they are not also teaching
4 a class, and so it works out great. So they have
5 flexibility to do the work when they want to do the
6 work, but then they also have access to a teacher
7 throughout the day. And so any session that they
8 want to schedule -- the teachers schedule sessions
9 each week, and so they have that flexibility and
10 they're not trying to steal time from a teacher who's
11 also, you know, teaching in a classroom all day, and
12 these are dedicated teachers for just the virtual
13 setting.

14 DR. MOORE: That's great. What type of feedback
15 have y'all received from parents?

16 DR. FEENY: It's been really positive. Last
17 semester we had a 93% pass rate for all of our
18 students K-12. And I know, you know, what you see in
19 the news and are hearing throughout, you know, the
20 country is very poor pass rates for virtual schools,
21 and we haven't experienced that. We have a really
22 good set-up and we think we do a really good job of
23 monitoring our kids. And so we had, you know, K-12 a
24 93% pass, so parents are really happy when they're
25 successful.

1 DR. MOORE: That's great. Thanks for sharing.
2 Those are all my questions and I appreciate it.

3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Any other questions or
4 comments?

5 Okay. Well, with that we're looking for a
6 motion to review or not to review for this particular
7 request.

8 DR. MOORE: I'll move to not review.

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: There's a motion to not review
10 by Dr. Moore.

11 Is there a second?

12 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.

14 All in favor say "aye."

15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

17 Seeing none, motion passes.

18 Okay. I'm trying to get back. Bear with me.

19 I'm having problems. Okay.

20 V.4. CONSIDERATION OF ACT 1240 WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST -
21 BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Now we have
23 Bentonville School District. Ms. Webb.

24 MS. WEBB: The Bentonville School District is
25 requesting an extension of previously granted 1240

1 waivers for Teacher Licensure, Leased Academic
2 Facilities, 420 Clock Hour Requirement for a Unit of
3 Credit, and Uniform Grading Scale.

4 Today we have Dr. Jennifer Morrow, Assistant
5 Superintendent on Zoom, if you have any questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning, Ms. Morrow.

7 Do we have any questions or comments?

8 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Dean, I would like to ask,
9 if I may --

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. McFetridge.

11 MS. McFETRIDGE: It's been a very successful
12 program for Bentonville. I'm really excited about
13 that. I wonder if they could address a little bit
14 more about safety concerns while our students are off
15 campus and if they have the policies in place that
16 keep those students safe?

17 DR. MORROW: Absolutely. There's a number of
18 safety concerns we have to consider. Some of those
19 just have to do with facilities and the many types of
20 facilities they can be in; some of those have to do
21 with emotional and physical safety of an individual.
22 And we have found opportunities over five years of
23 the program certainly for those policies and our
24 systems to kick in and to help support and protect
25 our students. One of these particular waivers is

1 about facilities, and all of the facilities off-
2 campus where we have had classes, with or without a
3 fee, have also conformed with the school facilities
4 standards in the Arkansas School Facilities manual.
5 But we've also had opportunities to make phone calls
6 to employers where our students have internships,
7 whether the students were in our nonprofessional
8 studies program or our career studies and our
9 traditional CTE programs. There are times when we
10 have to pick up a phone and talk to an employer about
11 the same sort of harassment concerns we might have in
12 our own population any time you've got 20,000 humans
13 together. So we have found the opportunity for the
14 Arkansas Facilities manual and all of our other
15 policies to come together and help us.

16 MS. McFETRIDGE: What do you do about background
17 phone checks? Is that a requirement of all --

18 DR. MORROW: So some of our programs in the
19 district require background checks -- for example, if
20 you're a volunteer coach or a volunteer with our
21 band. Some of our programs do not. So currently we
22 do not have a background check for every mentor in
23 every internship program but it is something that we
24 discuss and, depending on the agency we're dealing
25 with, some of those are already inherent in that

1 business. And some of those, in some of those
2 businesses, are higher than ours.

3 MS. McFETRIDGE: All right. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any other
5 questions?

6 MS. NEWTON: Ms. Dean, I have a question. It's
7 probably for Ms. Webb.

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

9 MS. NEWTON: I know that we're going to be --
10 start getting more and more of these requests for
11 extensions of these waivers. Is there any way that
12 we could put in there that they would have to give us
13 some sort of data on the success of the waiver in the
14 past, how successful has it been over the period of
15 time that they've had this waiver?

16 MS. WEBB: Absolutely. We could just add that
17 as a question.

18 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.

19 DR. MOORE: I would like to hear a little bit
20 about their standards-based grading. I know it looks
21 like y'all have been doing that for the elementary
22 levels. Are you moving that up to middle schools?
23 I'd like to hear a little bit more in-depth than what
24 was on your application about those plans at the
25 middle school level.

1 DR. MORROW: Certainly. I'm Jennifer Morrow;
2 I'm the Executive Director for our grades 9-12. And
3 I'm going to defer and switch seats here with my
4 colleague; it's Dr. Matt Saferite, and he's our
5 Executive Director for our middle grades.

6 DR. SAFERITE: Good morning, everybody. Thanks
7 for hosting us.

8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.

9 DR. SAFERITE: If I could -- repeat the
10 question. Just more specifics about how we've been
11 successful with our standards-based grading in the
12 past, is that the question?

13 DR. MOORE: Yes. And what that looks like going
14 into the middle school grades.

15 DR. SAFERITE: Certainly, happy to.

16 Our elementary schools have been implementing
17 and have used a standards-based reporting tool for
18 many years now. I think, in summary, the key points
19 that our elementary staff would say has been an
20 improvement over their past reporting is an increased
21 -- significantly increased depth of understanding of
22 the standards. All the formative and summative
23 assessment measures that it takes to accomplish our
24 state standards, it really drives them together. The
25 PLC work together has been significantly improved

1 since we've gone to that reporting feature. And
2 another main area that would be our feedback to
3 parents is very much -- very much improved focuses on
4 student learning, not on a grade, not on how many
5 points did I get, but whether my student really
6 learned that desired standard and to what degree. So
7 that's the summary.

8 We have in the middle level grades -- our middle
9 schools are grades 5 and 6, and then our junior highs
10 are 7 and 8. So we have been kind of living with one
11 foot in two different worlds where we have constantly
12 tried to improve our assessment practices while not
13 officially implementing a standards-based report card
14 -- and thus, the request for the waiver today. So we
15 -- with potential approval from y'all on this, we
16 would like to implement a true standards-based
17 reporting tool to parents starting this fall in
18 grades 5. So that means our elementary kids,
19 particularly today's 4th graders, that are used to
20 standards-based grading and have been their whole
21 time they've been with us would not know anything
22 different. They would roll up into 5th grade and
23 have -- continue the standards-based reporting very
24 -- in a similar way than we did in elementary school.
25 And then we -- again, with your approval we would

1 keep that class rolling up and adding basically one
2 grade level at a time. In an official capacity we
3 would still constantly continue the work of helping
4 our teachers understand better assessment practices
5 and focusing on that learning, not on the grades.

6 DR. MOORE: That's great and that makes sense as
7 far as that rollout goes as students move up.

8 Does this -- do y'all do some sort of training
9 for parents or is that done primarily at parent-
10 teacher conference, or what does that look like?

11 DR. SAFERITE: Significant training for parents
12 happens. That hasn't had to be so significant the
13 last couple of years because we've been doing it long
14 enough that our elementary parents are used to it.
15 So we do make a concerted effort to kind of onboard
16 parents that are new to the district that maybe
17 aren't used to that kind of grading system. But it's
18 not the -- our elementary schools are past that
19 initial implementation phase, so it is just the way
20 we do things now.

21 So with our middle schools we will have a
22 specific plan on how we will help parents understand
23 the standards-based report card. Quite honestly,
24 it's kind of -- we're kind of going to have to not do
25 what we've done in the past. Our middle schools have

1 had to teach parents about the standard report card,
2 not the standards-based. We've had our parents
3 rolling through on standards-based report card and
4 then they get to 5th grade and we have to actually do
5 the opposite of what you're asking; we have to teach
6 them what an old-fashion report card looks like and
7 -- because they're not used to it. And so the beauty
8 is we won't have to do that anymore; we'll be able to
9 continue with what they're used to in our
10 elementaries and they roll up.

11 But yes, to your point, Dr. Moore, we will
12 certainly have specific training sessions, be that
13 online training sessions and Q-and-A's and videos on
14 our YouTube channel, little snippets of how do I do
15 this, how do I do this, introductory kind of things,
16 and of course be available to them.

17 DR. MOORE: That's great. Thank you for
18 sharing. I want to come visit someday and look
19 forward to that. That's great. Thank you.

20 DR. SAFERITE: Anybody is welcome any time, but
21 it's cold up here.

22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you so much. Appreciate
23 it.

24 Any other questions?

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

1 Ms. Webb if she's still there.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Ms. Chambers.

3 MS. CHAMBERS: Forgive me; I feel like I'm in a
4 scene from The Birds. I have several dozen Robins
5 right outside my window taking apart a holly tree and
6 every now and then it gets a little crazy. So,
7 forgive me.

8 The question has to do with the waivers and even
9 back to something Ms. Newton was talking about.

10 So, Ms. Webb, I think it is -- it would be
11 really helpful to -- this question that we're going
12 to pose at the end if somebody comes back to renew a
13 waiver, so -- but more specifically for me about what
14 expectations --

15 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Chambers' dog
16 barks.)

17 MS. CHAMBERS: I'm sorry.

18 What expectations did you have --

19 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Chambers' dog
20 barks.)

21 MS. CHAMBERS: The dog is a little nervous about
22 the birds too.

23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: The birds.

24 MS. CHAMBERS: What expectations did you have,
25 what results did you get, what happened maybe that

1 exceeded your expectations or was less than maybe
2 what you might've anticipated? And the reason why
3 that's so important I think for not just renewing
4 this waiver, but if you started to -- with the waiver
5 for 10 years, for a decade, it starts to beg the
6 question does this become a consideration for a
7 standard and/or how do we share it with other school
8 districts so that there might be some shared learning
9 on the usefulness of that waiver. Just it's an
10 ongoing question, I think, as a board that we've had
11 about waivers and how long do you live with that and
12 when does it become something other than an
13 exception.

14 MS. WEBB: And we've had those same
15 conversations here as well at the Department -- and
16 we've got the number of schools that have the waiver
17 -- and is that something that we need to look at
18 waiving for all schools.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: Well, and not to throw too many
20 things into this but even back to Dr. Moore's
21 question about finances -- I love that every
22 community and every district is making decisions that
23 are best for them. But my guess is if we can also
24 find ways to share with them what different districts
25 are doing and why, more consideration for them as

1 they take care of their students.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Excellent point. Thank you for
3 bringing that up.

4 Do we have any other questions or comments?

5 Okay. Seeing none, then we -- I'm looking for a
6 motion to either review or not to review for
7 Bentonville School District.

8 MS. CHAMBERS: I move to not review.

9 MS. WOODS: I'll second.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So motion by Susan Chambers to
11 review -- I'm sorry, I missed who said second.

12 MS. CHAMBERS: To not review.

13 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean, is this a review or
14 not review, or is this an approval of the waiver? I
15 think this should be an approval of the request.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Oh, my mistake.

17 MS. CHAMBERS: Ms. Dean, I'd like to approve the
18 waiver please.

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

20 MS. WOODS: I, Adrienne, said I will second.

21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So we have a motion to
22 approve the waiver by Ms. Chambers, seconded by Ms.
23 Woods.

24 All in favor say "aye."

25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

2 Seeing none, motion passes.

3 Thank you, Ms. Webb.

4 DR. MORROW: Thank you all.

5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Bentonville.

6 DR. SAFERITE: Thank y'all very much.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.

8 V.5. APPROVAL FOR READING SPECIALIST (K-12) LICENSURE TEST

9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next we have the Approval
10 for Reading Specialist (K-12) Licensure Test. And
11 that will be Ms. Karli Saracini.

12 Good morning.

13 MS. SARACINI: Good morning. Karli Saracini,
14 Educator Effectiveness and Licensure.

15 Before you today is the -- our recommendation
16 for adopting the Praxis Reading Specialist Assessment
17 5302 with a cut score of 160, which would be an
18 effective date September 1, 2021. Every -- about
19 every five years standards -- new standards come out
20 to be reviewed, and this is just an update of this
21 current assessment. And so we are recommending for
22 action to approve the new test, the updated test and
23 the cut score.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

25 Do we have any questions or comments?

1 Well, I want to say -- I do have I guess a
2 comment-slash-question. Does this -- this new
3 licensure test, does this address the issues that
4 we've heard so much from the teachers about the
5 difficulties of passing the Praxis? Does this new
6 test kind of address those issues?

7 MS. SARACINI: This is -- this particular test
8 does not, but this is a particular test that is an
9 endorsement. So this is someone that already has a
10 license that is going back for the Reading
11 Specialist, which is usually a master's or specialist
12 degree; this does not address that. But we have a
13 pretty high pass rate on this Reading Specialist
14 test, in the 90s, so it doesn't address it. But we
15 are addressing with that new AAP where if you score
16 within two [inaudible] that you can -- it's that
17 super-score that we talked about last time.

18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

19 MS. SARACINI: And that is addressing that, but
20 we are also in the process -- we know that -- we are
21 pulling all the stakeholders together, not just the
22 higher ed., the ed prep programs, but we're also
23 pulling in our recruitment and retention specialists
24 at the co-ops. And we are in the process of devising
25 a kind of licensure assessment-ready kind of class

1 built around test-taking skills. I've spoke with Dr.
2 Pride from Learning Services to help us, that we
3 could try to have some kind of something ready to
4 help that. And, of course, we have to involve Higher
5 Ed., we have to involve other divisions in our agency
6 to try to address those needs. And we feel that if
7 we address the elementary math, science, social
8 studies, and English, and do that at the elementary
9 level and the middle level, and then address the
10 Science of Reading, the science test-taking skills,
11 that we will better prepare candidates to be
12 successful. So that's what we're working on and we
13 would really like to get something out by summer.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Saracini, does this also
16 address our dyslexia teaching?

17 MS. SARACINI: The Reading Specialist does not.
18 The Reading Specialist -- sometimes they -- this --
19 the dyslexia is a different pathway, a different
20 program of study. Usually, this is reading
21 intervention and a lot of times it includes a lot of
22 your dyslexia interventions within this pathway. But
23 dyslexia is another endorsement on a teaching
24 license; it's just a different pathway, but they do
25 cross over.

1 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any other questions?

3 Okay. Well, with that I'm looking for a motion
4 to approve, if that's the will of the Board.

5 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make the motion to
6 approve.

7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I have a motion to
8 approve by Ms. McFetridge.

9 DR. MOORE: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Moore.

11 All in favor say "aye."

12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

14 Seeing none, the motion passes.

15 MS. SARACINI: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Ms. Saracini.

17 Appreciate you.

18 V.6. HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Next we have High School
20 Course -- High School Course Requirements by Dr.
21 Kiffany Pride and Ms. Rachel Horn.

22 Good morning.

23 MS. HORN: Good morning.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.

25 MS. HORN: I'm Rachel Horn, Director of

1 Curriculum and Assessment in the Office of Learning
2 Services.

3 This morning we respectfully request the
4 approval of the 38 required high school courses for
5 the 2021-22 school year. Key changes this year
6 include an update to the layout for improved clarity
7 for district users; the addition of previously
8 approved physical education courses, which provide
9 flexible options for districts; and an update to the
10 language for computer science and computing or CSE
11 courses. DCSE courses are transitioning from single
12 semester course codes, as found in the current high
13 school courses, to yearlong courses.

14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Thank you.

15 Do we have any questions or comments?

16 MS. WOODS: Just for clarity's sake, Ms. Horn,
17 we're not changing the actual required number of
18 hours; we're just basically changing the layout and
19 then the offerings?

20 MS. HORN: That's correct. The only major
21 addition is the addition of those PE courses; it
22 specifically lists out those course codes which were
23 approved previously.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Any other questions?

25 Ms. Newton.

1 MS. NEWTON: The computer science, it just says
2 sequential combination. So are they free to choose
3 any one course or two courses from those that we
4 approved last month? How -- what is required there?

5 MR. OWEN: Rachel, would you like me to answer?

6 MS. HORN: (Nodding head up and down.)

7 MR. OWEN: So, Ms. Newton, there's actually a
8 newer version of that document out there where we
9 changed that language slightly, because we are
10 transitioning to that yearlong course code instead of
11 that sequential combination which was on the old
12 semester course codes. We, Rachel and I, and
13 actually Dr. Pfeffer, caught the fact that we need to
14 update that. And so there is an update that it now
15 says --

16 Rachel, can you read it, what it currently says?

17 MS. HORN: I can. It says "any ADE approved
18 year one computer science and computing one year
19 credit course."

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. That was my question. Okay.
21 I didn't go back in and update my agenda, I guess.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Owen. And thank
25 you, Ms. Horn.

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Do we have any other questions?

All right. Then I'll look for a motion.

MS. WOODS: I'll move to approve.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve by
Ms. Woods.

MS. NEWTON: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Newton.

All in favor say "aye."

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?

Seeing none, motion passes.

Thank you, Dr. Pride. And thank you, Ms. Horn.

MS. HORN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Now we've made it over
into the afternoon agenda. Let's take a break.
We're going to take a 10-minute break and meet back
at 10:50, if that's all right.

(The Action Agenda was concluded at 10:40 a.m.)

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