

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARCH 14, 2019
10:00 A.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MR. JOHNNY KEY	Commissioner (Non-Voting)
DR. JAY BARTH	Chairman
MS. CHARISSE DEAN	Vice Chairman
MS. DIANE ZOOK	Board Member
MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS	Board Member
MS. OUIDA NEWTON	Board Member
DR. FITZGERALD HILL	Board Member
DR. SARAH MOORE	Board Member
MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE	Board Member
MS. RANDI HOUSE	Teacher of the Year (Non-Voting)

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT

LOCATION:

DON TYSON SCHOOL OF INNOVATION
2667 Hylton Road
Springdale, Arkansas 72764

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B-1: FT. SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT - ACT 1240 WAIVER REQUEST

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

Enhanced Internship Pilot Program

B-3: ACT 1240 CLASS SIZE & TEACHING LOAD WAIVER TRANSITION

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

Standards Waiver Transition - Malvern School District

P R O C E E D I N G S

A-2: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL DECISIONS -
SUMMARY INFORMATIONa) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER PANEL ACTION ON OPEN
ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: CAPITAL CITY LIGHTHOUSE
CHARTER SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We now move down to the
Action Agenda Item Number 2. And Mr. Ballard is here
for a flurry of Charter Authorizing Panel decisions.

MR. BALLARD: Good morning. So we have Item 2,
which is Consideration of the Charter Authorizing
Panel Decisions - Summary Information.

The first subsection on that, (a), is a
Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Action
on Open Enrollment Charter School Amendment to
Capital City Lighthouse Charter School.

On February 25, 2019, representatives of Capital
City Lighthouse appeared before the Charter
Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their
charter. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the
request. No request for the State Board of Education
to review the decision made by the Panel was
submitted. The State Board may exercise a right of
review and conduct a hearing on the Charter
Authorizing Panel's determination at the State

1 Board's next meeting.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Any questions on
3 this item to my right?

4 All right. This is the Capital City Lighthouse.

5 Any questions to my left?

6 Ms. Zook.

7 MS. ZOOK: No. I was at the meeting and
8 basically their two requests were instead of having
9 K-12 they have K-8, and any student that's currently
10 in the North Little Rock location who wants to
11 continue to the high school they will transport them
12 to Jacksonville.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any other questions?

14 All right. Everybody good?

15 Okay. So the proper motion here is to review or
16 to not review --

17 MR. BALLARD: Right.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- the Charter Authorizing
19 Panel's decision.

20 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.

21 MS. NEWTON: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Dean,
23 second by Ms. Newton.

24 All in favor say "aye."

25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed?

2 All right. Unanimous.

3 b) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
4 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: EXALT ACADEMY OF
5 SOUTHWEST LITTLE ROCK

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Next up is the
7 Exalt Academy amendment.

8 MR. BALLARD: So on February 25, 2019,
9 representatives of Exalt Academy of Southwest Little
10 Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel
11 requesting an amendment to their charter. By
12 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No
13 request for the State Board of Education to review
14 the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The
15 State Board may exercise a right of review and
16 conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's
17 determination at the next State Board meeting.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Any questions to my
19 left? Any questions on this item -- or comments?

20 Anything to my right?

21 Okay. All right. I'll entertain a motion on
22 this item to review or to not review.

23 MS. NEWTON: Move not to review.

24 MS. DEAN: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. Newton, second by

1 Ms. Dean.

2 All in favor say "aye."

3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

5 OKAY. Thank you.

6 c) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
7 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: FUTURE SCHOOL OF FORT
8 SMITH

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Future School of Fort Smith.

10 MR. BALLARD: All right. Future School of Fort
11 Smith also appeared on February 25, 2019. By
12 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request to
13 their charter. There is no request for the State
14 Board of Education to review the decision made by the
15 Panel submitted. The State Board may exercise a
16 right to review and conduct a hearing on the Charter
17 Authorizing Panel's determination at the State
18 Board's next meeting.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great.

20 Ms. Newton.

21 MS. NEWTON: It's not necessarily to do with
22 this but we've passed a lot of these waivers in the
23 past on School Start Date, and I know there's a bill
24 in the Legislature that -- to change that. How would
25 that affect the waivers that we've already passed?

1 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt, Arkansas
2 Department of Education.

3 So I think we're internally communicating on how
4 we're going to deal with that moving forward to make
5 sure it happens in a more seamless transition process
6 of how -- when laws and rules change how they'll
7 impact waivers. Right now, you've kind of seen this
8 happen once at least with the change of the
9 standards, how that impacted the waivers. We brought
10 them all to you kind of in chunks in order to get
11 every one transitioned over as they needed. I think
12 that's something that we'll continue to do in the
13 future is to work with schools that have waivers to
14 make sure that they know that the laws and rules that
15 they have waivers of have changed and that they may
16 or may not need to consider coming before you to
17 update that waiver. And we can also do it in kind of
18 these big chunks, how we've done before.

19 COMMISSIONER KEY: Let me add -- well, I would
20 just add to that I think we would need to take into
21 account the context of the legislation. So in your
22 specific example, if the Legislature says we want
23 school to start the first Monday -- or the Monday
24 before Labor Day, I think the bar changes on granting
25 waivers at that point.

1 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER KEY: And I think we would have to
3 -- you all would have to take into account, you know,
4 the -- any special circumstances or anything like
5 that. I think that would make it much more difficult
6 for us to just do a blanket waiver by a co-op or
7 region or anything like we did with the start-date
8 previously.

9 MS. NEWTON: So the law would take precedence;
10 is that kind of what you're saying?

11 COMMISSIONER KEY: I think in this case, yes, it
12 would.

13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And would that do away with
14 the waivers that we've already granted?

15 COMMISSIONER KEY: Well, and that's where Ms.
16 Hyatt was talking about; we would have to see what
17 that transition is. I would -- I wouldn't want to
18 make a blanket statement on that --

19 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER KEY: -- for any type of law change
21 and how it affects waivers because we've seen that
22 before that -- minor changes in the law that don't
23 change the essence of the waiver. But I think in the
24 School Start Date that would change --

25 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER KEY: -- the essence --

2 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER KEY: -- of the waiver.

4 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER KEY: And we would have to come
6 back considerably, review that.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. Because, you know, most
8 of the changes in law that have occurred after
9 waivers have actually been in the direction of --

10 MS. NEWTON: Right.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- making it easier.

12 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: This is actually in the
14 opposite direction. It is an exceptional case. It
15 raises great questions because, I mean, districts --
16 this -- I glanced at that legislation; it does not
17 explicitly bar the request of waivers. Right?

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: As originally filed, it did
19 not. I know that was an amendment that the sponsor
20 was contemplating adding to the bill.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And that would obviously
22 change.

23 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: But a district could still come
25 ask; right?

1 COMMISSIONER KEY: They could ask. Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: But that would be the judgment
3 of the Board, so --

4 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

5 MS. HYATT: And as the Commissioner said, in
6 that case, if it was a change completely of the law
7 where it made the previous waiver not exist kind of
8 because that law didn't exist, it would be new. But
9 we have seen changes in law that didn't impact the
10 reason why the school had the waiver and didn't
11 require any action on the part of the school or the
12 Department in order to maintain that waiver.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Are there any other
14 questions on this issue?

15 Okay. Any comments or concerns?

16 I hear folks on the -- is somebody on the phone?

17 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Dean pushed a
18 button on the conference phone and a dial-tone was
19 then heard.)

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oops. You hung up, Ms. Dean.

21 MS. ZOOK: Well, they were.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Any other
23 questions or comments?

24 Okay. Then --

25 COMMISSIONER KEY: You're not supposed to touch

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms.
2 McFetridge, second by Ms. Chambers.

3 All in favor say "aye."

4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

6 Okay. Let's take a pause for a minute and be
7 sure we're available.

8 [A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]

9 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Several people call
10 in.)

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Hello?

12 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Do we need to call back in?
13 Yeah -- do we need to call back in?

14 SUPT. LOGAN: This is Boyd -- Future School.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh, okay. Well, we just passed
16 your -- you're good to go. We voted not to review.
17 So any questions you have about that?

18 SUPT. LOGAN: No, that's great. Thanks for
19 letting me know.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Well, sorry, we --

21 MS. DEAN: It was my fault.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- thought you'd be fine with
23 that.

24 SUPT. LOGAN: That's okay. Sorry we couldn't
25 see the live-stream. I would like to see it, but

1 that's okay. Thank you so much.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thank you. Have a great
3 day.

4 Okay.

5 SUPT. LOGAN: Bye-bye.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Is there anybody else on
7 the call? Anybody else?

8 MS. LONG: Tina Long is on the call.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: From --

10 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Alex Noguera from Southeast
11 Arkansas Prep.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. You're up in a couple of
13 items. And --

14 MR. HINTON: Little Rock Preparatory Academy.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And you're next up.

16 Okay. Those two -- okay.

17 d) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
18 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: LISA ACADEMY

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. So the next item is
20 LISA Academy. Obviously the folks from LISA Academy
21 are here. So, Mr. Ballard.

22 MR. BALLARD: All right. So, Consideration of
23 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open Enrollment
24 Charter School Amendment to LISA Academy.

25 On February 25, 2019 --

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Ballard, just a second.

2 Can folks on the phone hear Mr. Ballard?

3 MR. BALLARD: Can you hear the audio?

4 MS. ZOOK: Can the folks on the phone hear Mr.
5 Ballard?

6 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: It's a little low.

7 MS. LONG: No.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

9 MR. BALLARD: All right.

10 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So we'll speak up.

11 MS. ZOOK: Okay. We're going to try to speak
12 louder.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: If you could just do a test and
14 see?

15 MR. BALLARD: Okay. Does that sound a little
16 louder, like the volume?

17 MS. ZOOK: Is that helpful?

18 MR. BALLARD: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Is that better?

20 MR. BALLARD: Is that better on the sound?

21 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Yes, it is.

22 MR. BALLARD: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Fantastic. Okay. Sorry
24 for interrupting.

25 MR. BALLARD: No worries. On February 25, 2019,

1 representatives of LISA Academy appeared before the
2 Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to
3 their charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved
4 the request. No request for the State Board of
5 Education to review the decision made by the Panel
6 was submitted. The State Board may exercise a right
7 of review and conduct a hearing on the Charter
8 Authorizing Panel's determination at the State
9 Board's next meeting.

10 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great. And
11 obviously from LISA are here, if there are any
12 clarifying questions. I'll start down here to my
13 left, any questions about this?

14 Ms. McFetridge.

15 MS. MCFETRIDGE: I know one of the panelists on
16 the voting sheet mentioned concern about budget. And
17 so budget concerns, is that something maybe they can
18 speak to today? Is that appropriate?

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Sure. If you'll come on
20 up and just remind us of your name for the record.
21 Welcome, and thanks for driving up this morning.

22 MS. BARONI: You're welcome. Luanne Baroni,
23 Assistant Superintendent for LISA Academy.

24 Were there particular questions that you wanted
25 answered about the budget? I think there were some

1 questions about the staffing that we had projected in
2 the budget at 29 teachers for the first year and 29
3 teachers for the second year. That was some of the
4 discussion at the meeting. I know Ms. Zook was
5 there. And the reason for that was that we were not
6 going to have full classrooms the first year, so
7 there was still room for growing the enrollment
8 without increasing the staffing in that second year.

9 I don't know if that's the question you have,
10 but that was one of them discussed.

11 MS. McFETRIDGE: Uh-huh.

12 MS. BARONI: The other was a question about an
13 ELL staff member, and we plan to have a full-time
14 staff member for that.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great.

16 MS. McFETRIDGE: I think that's good.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

18 MS. BARONI: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Any additional questions on
20 this side?

21 Ms. Zook -- or Dr. Hill?

22 MS. ZOOK: I don't think it was asked at Charter
23 Panel, and I don't want to review to get this answer.
24 But could you give me a little more explanation on
25 the salary -- the beginning salary waiver?

1 MS. BARONI: I'm not sure I understand your
2 question.

3 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Didn't you ask for a waiver on
4 the salary?

5 MS. BARONI: Did we?

6 SUPT. BOGREK: We didn't ask for the waiver. We
7 had already, you know, the waivers, you know.

8 MS. ZOOK: Right. I know it was coming up to
9 standard.

10 SUPT. BOGREK: Yes.

11 MS. ZOOK: But I also know that the Legislature
12 and the Governor has now signed a bill that an
13 increase will be \$1,000 to the base each of the next
14 four years.

15 SUPT. BOGREK: We are currently, you know,
16 giving more than minimum salary.

17 MS. ZOOK: Already?

18 SUPT. BOGREK: You know, our minimum salary is
19 Thirty-Five.

20 MS. ZOOK: Okay.

21 SUPT. BOGREK: We have also bonuses, so around
22 Thirty-Six. So we are above the minimum salary, even
23 if we have, you know, the waivers.

24 MS. ZOOK: Okay. That clarifies it. Thank you
25 so much.

1 SUPT. BOGREK: You're welcome.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. And if you could
3 just state your name for the record.

4 SUPT. BOGREK: I'm sorry. Fatih Bogrek,
5 superintendent.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thanks.

7 SUPT. BOGREK: Thanks.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Good to see you.

9 Okay. Any additional questions, Ms. Dean?

10 MS. DEAN: No.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any questions to my
12 right?

13 MS. NEWTON: Just one quick question, Dr. Barth.

14 The transfer between Montessori and then to the
15 LISA curriculum, are you thinking about extra
16 training for teachers next summer or --

17 MS. BARONI: We are actually currently doing
18 that now. We're actually working with them now in a
19 consulting way. We're providing training already on
20 some of the online platforms we're using. We've
21 worked with the administration there to make some
22 changes to grade level instruction already, and so I
23 think that transition will be fairly smooth. We also
24 plan to work with the teachers there that we can work
25 with in terms of certification and qualifications.

1 And also we have some teachers from our Little Rock
2 area who are interested in moving there to provide
3 some support in transition there. So --

4 MS. NEWTON: Great. Thank you.

5 MS. BARONI: Uh-huh.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I have a -- kind of a more
7 general question. And this is obviously a big move
8 for LISA in terms of moving out of a fairly
9 constrained geographical space into a broader
10 geographical space. And, in fact, I don't know that
11 we've seen this exactly in my time on the Board.
12 We've typically seen schools stay, you know, very --
13 more localized or, you know, or management
14 organizations kind of come in with a plan for
15 multiple campuses --

16 MS. BARONI: Right.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- in multiple places. Have
18 you as a school kind of studied models of -- not just
19 in Arkansas, but in other places -- of entities that
20 have had that success of ramping up in that
21 direction? And what lessons have you learned from
22 that?

23 MS. BARONI: I haven't personally. I know we've
24 looked at a lot of the data that's out there and
25 looked at turnaround school stories and tried to

1 learn from that. There's not, you know, a particular
2 model that we're trying to follow, but just trying to
3 implement the system that we've found effective, you
4 know, for our students in the Little Rock area, so --

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And my additional
6 question is in terms of governance issues at the --
7 at -- in the northwest Arkansas location, the plan is
8 that it would be -- would there be an advisory board
9 in the northwest Arkansas that would --

10 MS. BARONI: We plan to -- immediately we have
11 openings on our advisory board. We plan to
12 immediately invite members from the community there
13 to be on the advisory board, and then consider adding
14 a board -- a governing board member when we have an
15 opening or if we decide to increase the number of
16 board members.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

18 MS. BARONI: So we want that representation.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. That would be my
20 thought. I do have, you know, deep concerns when the
21 governing boards really are pretty disconnected from
22 the community, which they are -- where the schools
23 are primarily serving.

24 MS. BARONI: We've already had initial
25 conversations with a couple of folks that we feel

1 like would make strong advisory members for us --

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

3 MS. BARONI: -- that are open to that.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Great. Thank you.

5 Any -- yeah, Dr. Moore.

6 DR. MOORE: I did have a question, if y'all
7 don't mind.

8 I know you all are asking for a cap increase.
9 Are there plans for student recruitment prior to next
10 summer? And then, in addition to that, do y'all
11 provide transportation or have plans to provide
12 transportation for students?

13 MS. BARONI: In terms of the recruitment, yes,
14 we've actually posted an interest form on our website
15 and on Ozark Montessori's website and have, I think,
16 114 or 15 families who are interested already. In
17 addition, I think there were 134 of the current
18 students who have said they want to re-enroll at LISA
19 next year if this goes through. We plan -- we
20 actually have a website ready to rollover if we're
21 approved. We've already done some preliminary
22 planning for some advertising and recruitment, have
23 already tentatively set our timeline in terms of
24 application deadline and lottery. So we have that
25 plan in place already and are ready to move forward

1 with that if approved today.

2 In terms of transportation right now, no, we do
3 not have a plan to provide transportation. We are,
4 you know, open to looking at if there are some
5 options available. But right now we don't have any.

6 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

7 MS. BARONI: Go ahead.

8 SUPT. BOGREK: We have scheduled a visit with
9 the Springdale School District on April 2nd, so we
10 will bring this item to their attention. So if we
11 can come up with a plan with Springdale School
12 District, if we can use their buses, we are willing
13 to provide transportation.

14 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Any additional questions? Any
16 questions that have arisen on this side?

17 Okay. Thank y'all very much.

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Barth --

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER KEY: -- I just -- just want to
21 say, since the leaders of both of these systems are
22 here -- just to let y'all know, you know, we saw a
23 situation in Little Rock with another school that
24 kind of -- we helped but they rode it down. We have
25 a situation here that's different in that Ms. Padgett

1 and their team, their leadership, their board saw a
2 situation that, you know, it -- and it was very
3 difficult for them to make that decision. But I
4 think they all agree that this was the right decision
5 in that -- not just trying to hang on for the sake of
6 hanging on, but trying to do something that's the
7 right -- was the right decision for kids and creating
8 a partnership like this. So it's -- it is unusual.
9 Dr. Barth mentioned that it is highly unusual, but
10 "unusual" doesn't mean wrong. And it's, I think,
11 commendable that they were able to work together to
12 come up with a solution. And we certainly at the
13 Department are -- Mr. Ballard and the folks in the
14 Charter Unit have been very closely trying to assist
15 in any way we can, so -- and will continue to do
16 that.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.

18 All right. Any additional questions?

19 MS. ZOOK: I don't have a question, but I did
20 want to -- it's sort of off-topic but I wanted, while
21 they're still here, to compliment them. I attended
22 their STEM festival. And in the effort to do what
23 this board and ADE encourages, which is to
24 collaborate, they had traditional public schools,
25 they had open-enrollment charters, they had

1 conversion charters; they had over 2,000 students
2 there -- private schools came. So I commend LISA for
3 making the effort to collaborate with people who work
4 with children all over the state.

5 MS. BARONI: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Windle, I know that last
7 note on public comment that you sent me -- is that
8 general public comment at the end of the meeting, or
9 it's not tied to a specific item?

10 MS. WINDLE: (inaudible)

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Great.

12 Okay. Thank y'all very much.

13 MS. ZOOK: I move that we not review.

14 MS. DEAN: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Zook,
16 second by Ms. Dean.

17 All in favor say "aye."

18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

20 Okay. Thank y'all very much for being here. It
21 was helpful for y'all to have been here.

22 e) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
23 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: LITTLE ROCK
24 PREPARATORY ACADEMY

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Next up is the Little Rock

1 Preparatory Academy charter. And we do have somebody
2 from Little Rock Prep on the phone.

3 MR. BALLARD: All right. On February 25, 2019,
4 representatives of the Little Rock Preparatory
5 Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel
6 requesting an amendment to their charter. By a
7 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No
8 request for the State Board of Education to review
9 the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The
10 State Board may exercise a right of review and
11 conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's
12 determination at the State Board's next meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And if -- who's on the
14 phone from Little Rock Preparatory Academy?

15 SUPT. BROYLES: Donna Broyles and Darryle
16 Hinton. I'm the interim superintendent.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you very much.

18 Any questions to my right on this item?

19 Ms. Chambers.

20 MS. CHAMBERS: This is where I had a question
21 similar to Ms. Zook earlier about the Minimum Salary
22 statute, just a question about the implications of
23 that.

24 [A MOMENT OF SILENCE]

25 MS. ZOOK: Could you hear her?

1 SUPT. BROYLES: I can't hear.

2 MS. ZOOK: Okay. The question is, what is your
3 current minimum salary?

4 SUPT. BROYLES: Well, right now we have -- in
5 our primary school we pay associate teachers, those
6 that don't have -- it ranges between \$30,000 and
7 \$39,000, depending on their experience. Our
8 associate teachers usually start between \$30,000 and
9 \$32,000, and our more experienced teachers usually go
10 between \$39,000 and \$42,000. So we are reviewing the
11 budget to get everything in alignment.

12 MS. CHAMBERS: Are they wanting to waive or
13 change the base for teachers?

14 SUPT. BROYLES: I can't hear.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh, I apologize. So the
16 question of Ms. Chambers was, are you looking to
17 change the base salary?

18 SUPT. BROYLES: Yes. And that is something that
19 we are looking at right now for the next school year
20 and -- because we not only want to be in alignment
21 with what Governor Hutchinson has passed, but we also
22 -- I think it's very important for our teachers to
23 have that base salary. So, yes, we are looking at
24 that right now with our budget for next year.

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Chambers?

1 MS. CHAMBERS: They're wanting to raise it?

2 SUPT. BROYLES: It is in current review.

3 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And so you have a goal
4 of raising it. Is that correct?

5 SUPT. BROYLES: Yes. Yes, most definitely.

6 MS. CHAMBERS: Excellent. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. You have answered;
8 Ms. Chambers is happy.

9 Okay.

10 DR. MOORE: I've got a question.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Dr. Moore.

12 DR. MOORE: I guess it's about why is the waiver
13 necessary then?

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So the question for those on
15 the phone is why is this waiver necessary.

16 SUPT. BROYLES: Well, the waivers have always
17 been in place. And I just took over in January, so
18 we -- charter schools have always had the waivers for
19 teacher salary. But we want to make sure that it's
20 -- we're not just following the waiver, that we are
21 meeting the state minimum requirement. So right now
22 the waiver is in place, but it was already there.

23 So does that answer that question, sir?

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think we're getting some more
25 help from Ms. Hyatt.

1 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt.

2 So I believe that the waiver is requested
3 because they do not currently this year meet the
4 minimum salary schedule.

5 SUPT. BROYLES: Right.

6 MS. HYATT: They have not had this waiver in the
7 past, just to clarify. Other charter schools do have
8 this waiver, most of them. Their current salary
9 schedule doesn't meet the salary schedule in law, so
10 they need it at least until they raise their salary
11 to meet that. So it would be a new waiver for them
12 because the current salary schedule doesn't meet the
13 minimum salary schedule in the law.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: In the new law?

15 MS. HYATT: In the current law.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Current law. Okay.

17 SUPT. BROYLES: In the current -- right.

18 DR. MOORE: I guess the similar question is when
19 the new law goes into effect do we review the waivers
20 for the charters and for Act 1240?

21 MS. HYATT: I think it will depend on the
22 schools, whether they intend, once the law changes,
23 to meet the new salary schedule or not. So I think
24 we'll have to review it when that happens to decide
25 how we'll move forward with that. Because some may

1 want to continue with their current waiver; that may
2 not even need to be changed just because the salary
3 schedule is changing. And then others may want to
4 not have the waiver anymore because they want to meet
5 the minimum salary schedule.

6 So it will kind of depend on, once everything is
7 done, what it looks like and then each individual
8 school and how they kind of want to proceed.

9 DR. MOORE: I guess this is off-topic, but do we
10 have any 1240 waivers for Minimum Salary Schedule?

11 MS. HYATT: I think -- and this is like off the
12 top of my head -- I think Helena-West Helena has it,
13 and they are the only ones that are traditional
14 public school districts. I think there are a couple
15 of district conversions that have it --

16 DR. MOORE: Okay.

17 MS. HYATT: -- for their district conversion
18 school, and I think Helena-West Helena is the only
19 traditional public school.

20 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.

22 MS. ZOOK: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Questions?

24 Ms. Zook.

25 MS. ZOOK: I think since this is an initiative

1 specifically from the Legislature and the Governor
2 that we might want to or might need to revisit,
3 because they have now set a floor -- and I understand
4 if a teacher signs a contract and wants to work there
5 that that's between the teacher and that -- but since
6 the Governor has now said we want the minimum to be
7 this and we want it to go up \$1,000 each of the next
8 few years, I don't know how you can -- if we give it
9 to a charter, then a traditional district can request
10 it -- and I don't know that we can deny it if it's
11 given to the charter. So we may need to keep that on
12 our plate to say, well, how can this be handled or is
13 this something that can be waived.

14 COMMISSIONER KEY: So if I may add something to
15 that that does play into it -- it has to do with
16 money.

17 MS. ZOOK: Right.

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: And, you know, when we set
19 aside the \$60 million -- and we're in the process of
20 writing rules now as we committed to when the bill
21 was under discussion. And so one of the
22 considerations for the rules: obviously, if you have
23 a waiver then should you be eligible for the funds?

24 MS. ZOOK: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER KEY: You know, right now, I think

1 our draft says if you have a waiver you're not
2 eligible for the funds. So that may nudge some
3 schools to make a different decision as it relates to
4 waiver from minimum teacher salary.

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So I've got a question that in
6 many ways goes back to Ms. Newton's initial question.
7 Here we have a situation where the law doesn't change
8 in a way that totally undermines the old waiver, but
9 it certainly alters the context in which that waiver
10 was granted. And what does that do to those waivers?

11 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. So we've had this
12 before because, since 2015, the minimum salary
13 schedule has changed. But because it was simply the
14 number, not the concept of having a minimum salary,
15 we have not considered that as affecting the waivers.
16 And so we've looked at it that way. In this --
17 again, the context being different -- that it was a
18 significant initiative with funding behind it, I
19 can't say that we from a legal standpoint have made a
20 determination of does it make the waivers null and
21 void -- but those are things we're still working
22 through.

23 I don't know if, Mary Claire, if you want to add
24 to that?

25 MS. HYATT: I think he's absolutely right. We

1 haven't looked at it to see, as it's written, how it
2 changes the waivers. That is something that we could
3 do and report back to you on that, if that would be
4 helpful information for you. But it kind of -- we'll
5 just have to look at it and see, as it's written,
6 what parts of the law does it change -- is it just
7 the numbers or is it other significant parts of the
8 law; how does the initiative of the whole thing,
9 rather than just the numbers, impact the waiver --
10 and then kind of come to some sort of decision. And
11 that's kind of the process I think with any
12 significant law change we would go through to decide
13 how it impacts waivers.

14 MS. NEWTON: If we decided to review, would that
15 give you another month to kind of think through this
16 process and see what might be some future
17 implications?

18 MS. HYATT: We can -- I think we can do it
19 without you reviewing, if you wanted to grant this
20 waiver. If you do want to review this for Little
21 Rock Prep -- I mean, that's up to you guys. We can
22 come back next month as the Department and give you
23 more information kind of on our -- once we've had
24 time to look at all of it.

25 COMMISSIONER KEY: So, Mary Claire, as it

1 relates to --

2 SUPT. BROYLES: May I say something? Donna
3 Broyles --

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Just a second. The
5 Commissioner was about to say something --

6 SUPT. BROYLES: I'm sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- and then we'll come to you.

8 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. So --

9 SUPT. BROYLES: I'm sorry. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER KEY: It may be the same -- may be
11 the same thing. I think there was a
12 misunderstanding; we thought they had this waiver
13 already and this is still -- we're catching things in
14 the transition. So this isn't something that's
15 really prospective; it's trying to resolve a
16 situation that we have found recently.

17 MS. HYATT: Right. It's not a standards
18 transition -- because it's the law, not a standard.
19 But I do think that that entire standards transition
20 process -- we looked at all of the waivers kind of
21 with a fine-tooth comb to make sure everyone had
22 fully effectuated waivers. And like many schools, it
23 was -- it -- they realized that they were missing
24 waivers that they thought they had. Also, with the
25 new Standards for Accreditation monitoring tool,

1 that's bringing to light issues that may not have
2 been uncovered in such a timely way in the past. So
3 I do think this is a situation where Little Rock Prep
4 thought they had this waiver, didn't have the waiver,
5 and now are coming and requesting the waiver to avoid
6 any type of standards issue.

7 MS. NEWTON: So they actually need it for this
8 current school year?

9 MS. HYATT: Yes. They need it for this school
10 year because under the current minimum salary law
11 their minimum salary schedule does not meet the
12 current law.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And do we know for how many
14 years -- and I know you're on the phone -- for how
15 many years they've been in conflict with --

16 MS. HYATT: I can find out.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: That's fine.

18 MS. HYATT: I don't have it right in front of
19 me.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Well, probably more than just
21 this year? It's been a multi-year --

22 MS. HYATT: So I don't think that they've had
23 this waiver in the past. It's not a situation where
24 they had it and lost it. So I don't know what their
25 salary schedule has looked like in the past. I just

1 can say that this year it doesn't meet -- without
2 going back and reviewing their previous years --

3 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

4 MS. NEWTON: How many years was this waiver for?

5 MS. HYATT: I'm going to punt that to Reggie.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And we know you're on
7 the phone, but we're trying to get some
8 clarifications before we come to you.

9 MR. BALLARD: I would have to -- I apologize.
10 I'm going to pull it up here in a second for you
11 guys.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

13 MS. ZOOK: I think once they get a waiver it's
14 until they're reviewed on a charter --

15 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

16 MS. ZOOK: -- I'm pretty sure.

17 MR. BALLARD: So it would be until 2020.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Because they were just
19 --

20 MR. BALLARD: Yeah.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. 2020. Okay.

22 So let's go to the school on the phone. Again,
23 identify yourself just for the record.

24 SUPT. BROYLES: It's Donna Broyles.

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you, Ms. Broyles.

1 SUPT. BROYLES: Donna Broyles, interim
2 superintendent.

3 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes, ma'am. Yes, Ms. Broyles,
4 go ahead.

5 SUPT. BROYLES: Well, I want you guys to know
6 that we're doing everything -- we're working very
7 closely with the Charter Office and the ADE. We've
8 met quite extensively to make sure that we have
9 everything in compliance because we want our teachers
10 to get paid. They deserve to get that. And we are
11 reviewing the budget for next year very extensively.
12 And we're -- again, as I said, we're meeting with Mr.
13 Ballard and Ms. Perry and Ms. Coffman on making sure
14 that everything for Prep is in -- Little Prep is in
15 compliance.

16 So anything that you guys need for review we can
17 make sure to get that for you.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you very much.

19 All right. So I think the -- is everybody clear
20 on the facts -- as clear as we can be?

21 Okay. So the question is to review -- and as I
22 heard from Ms. Newton, it would not just be -- it
23 would be on this case, but it's the broader issue --
24 or are you comfortable moving forward to not review,
25 allowing this to move forward?

1 MS. NEWTON: They actually need it for this year
2 though, don't they?

3 CHAIRMAN BARTH: They do. And apparently -- but
4 it has to be until 2020. Correct?

5 MS. HYATT: They didn't set a different timeline
6 in their waiver request. So as the waiver request is
7 written it would be until 2020. If that's something
8 you might consider changing or asking them to change,
9 then you would need to review it to make that. But
10 today you can only vote to review or to not review.

11 MS. NEWTON: I move to review.

12 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. A motion by Ms.
14 Newton, second by Ms. McFetridge.

15 Any further discussion -- discussion on this
16 item?

17 Okay. Why don't we do a roll-call on this.

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Zook.

19 MS. ZOOK: No.

20 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Hill.

21 DR. HILL: No.

22 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Chambers.

23 MS. CHAMBERS: No.

24 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

25 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Moore.

2 DR. MOORE: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Newton.

4 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Dean.

6 MS. DEAN: No.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER KEY: Three yea's, four nay's.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So I vote yea.

10 COMMISSIONER KEY: That would make it 4-to-4.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Right. And what would that do

12 to the --

13 MS. ZOOK: It would fail.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. -- I need to have Ms. --

15 MS. HYATT: The motion would fail.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: No matter what, okay. All
17 right. Okay. I would've voted yes. Okay. So, in
18 fact, I will vote yes. And the motion fails.

19 So we need a motion on the other side. Can we
20 -- this is --

21 MS. ZOOK: I move not to review.

22 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Zook,
24 second by Ms. Chambers.

25 MS. NEWTON: Can I ask a process question?

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: You're about to read my mind.

2 MS. NEWTON: What happens if it's 4-4 again?

3 MS. HYATT: I don't know.

4 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

5 MS. HYATT: I will go -- well, if that happens,
6 my suggestion would be let's move it to the afternoon
7 to give me an opportunity to research that and figure
8 that out, because I don't know the answer off the top
9 of my head and I don't think our operating procedures
10 anticipate that happening. So I will go find out.

11 MS. NEWTON: Could we stop and maybe have a
12 discussion --

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes.

14 MS. NEWTON: -- on both sides? Maybe we can
15 resolve this now.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. So let's go -- further
17 discussion?

18 MS. NEWTON: My reasoning on reviewing was not
19 the school for this year. It was just that we would
20 have another month to think through how this waiver
21 would affect statewide, all charters and all
22 teachers, about the Minimum Salary, and that would
23 just give us more time. You know, I don't have any
24 problem foreseeing in the future that this school
25 would get that waiver next month; it would just be a

1 month delay. So that was kind of my thoughts behind
2 putting it off a month.

3 MS. ZOOK: Yeah. I think my reasoning was
4 because a review is that they come in and we provide
5 them with the questions they have. And I'm not sure
6 they have the answers to the questions that we have.
7 I think that will come from Legal and a lot of study.
8 And so since this was an effort for them to get in
9 compliance -- and I think it was nice that they
10 caught it and they came to us -- that -- so my
11 reasoning was the questions I might have had nothing
12 to do with Little Rock Prep; it just had to do with
13 the bigger picture of the minimum wage in general.

14 MS. NEWTON: Right.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Dean.

16 MS. DEAN: So delaying it one month, what does
17 that do for the school?

18 MS. HYATT: So what month is this? March.
19 April would be when you would hear it. I don't
20 believe that the standards report is until May, and
21 so I don't think it would result in any type of
22 violation on their standards report. And if you
23 wanted to -- and this is not a suggestion, it's just
24 going through the options -- if you wanted to limit
25 this type of waiver in any way to a specific amount

1 of time, then you could do that if you reviewed it.
2 But you can't alter the waiver today because you can
3 just view -- vote to review or not review.

4 MS. DEAN: Right.

5 MS. HYATT: Or any other alterations you may
6 want to make to a waiver, you would have to review it
7 in order to do that. But Ms. Zook is correct that
8 the questions that you would be asking would be to
9 the charter applicant and not really to the
10 Department, which is why I said the Department would
11 be happy to provide that information regardless of if
12 you review or not review.

13 MS. DEAN: That was -- you just answered my
14 question. Because I thought you said that earlier,
15 that you could provide that information for us
16 without the review.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I have a process question. We
18 have to decide this today; correct?

19 MS. HYATT: (Nodding head up and down.)

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: It cannot be tabled until next
21 month, which would get us exactly where I think we
22 need to be?

23 MS. HYATT: I think that -- I don't think there
24 would be a prohibition on you tabling it. But I
25 think it would have the same impact as if you voted

1 to review, if you voted to table it.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think what would be different
3 about tabling it -- it would be a decision to review
4 or not review in a month, not a full-fledged hearing
5 on the waiver, which I think we're wanting to prevent
6 both because it puts a burden on the school, but also
7 because, as we said, it's really not their -- it's
8 not their issue; it's really us getting clear on the
9 issue.

10 MS. HYATT: Just timeline-wise, if you waited
11 until April and then in April voted to review that
12 wouldn't be heard until May, which may cause issues
13 with the Standards for Accreditation report because
14 that is pulled in May. And that would only -- I
15 mean, if you voted to not review in April that issue
16 wouldn't come up. But if you did still vote to
17 review in April, then come May it may lead to issues
18 on the Standards for Accreditation.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Although it would be possible
20 to have a special meeting if it was going to bump up
21 against the -- get them in trouble in terms of
22 standards?

23 MS. HYATT: That's correct.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

25 Ms. Chambers.

1 MS. CHAMBERS: I got totally confused on what
2 you said there at the end. But kind of connecting
3 the dots for me in terms of what I've heard and what
4 my peers have said, our issue is not with the school;
5 our issue is with the process and the implications of
6 addressing this waiver issue as we go forward. And I
7 think I heard there's more -- this is not the only
8 school that we'll need to go back and make that
9 correction for. So is it possible to hear
10 affirmatively that we can get the information we're
11 interested in separately as a report from the
12 Department of Education in April?

13 MS. HYATT: Yes. I think Legal can put together
14 some sort of information that -- after communicating
15 with all the other departments specifically about
16 teacher salary and how we'll plan to address that
17 with waivers.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Commissioner also reminds me we
19 do have a special meeting that's already on the
20 calendar for the 25th to hear the Lee County issue.
21 It would be possible to table this item till then. I
22 don't know if that's enough time for Legal.

23 MS. HYATT: We're speedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: But that would be something

1 that would maybe be a good compromise. I'll throw
2 that out.

3 MS. NEWTON: I'm okay with that.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Dr. Moore.

5 DR. MOORE: Yes. I think my -- I do have
6 specific questions for the school, but it would
7 probably be for all charter schools that hold this
8 waiver. And in that case, is there -- when the new
9 laws were to go into effect is that something where
10 we could do a review or is that only done when that
11 charter is up for renewal?

12 MS. HYATT: Unless the waiver specifically says
13 a different time period, the waiver is for the length
14 of the current charter. Some options that you may
15 have though would be to ask that that be included in
16 any type of reporting that already exists on the part
17 of the charters. The Charter Unit could certainly
18 reach out to the schools and ask if they would
19 provide information that you guys are interested in
20 about the waiver. So we could, I'm sure, figure out
21 a way to help you guys get information. But in terms
22 of reviewing the actual waiver, it will also depend
23 on how the law impacts the waiver.

24 DR. MOORE: Right.

25 MS. HYATT: But let's say hypothetically it

1 doesn't impact the waiver; you would not have a
2 chance to review that until the waiver ends.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And this law does not have an
5 emergency clause; correct? Do we know?

6 COMMISSIONER KEY: Correct.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So we've got a little
8 time. There is time.

9 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yes. Yeah.

10 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Dean.

11 MS. DEAN: Just a point of clarification. So if
12 they're granted the waiver, the waiver cannot be
13 changed and it is extended through 2020?

14 MS. HYATT: That's correct.

15 MS. DEAN: One year. Okay.

16 MS. HYATT: It would expire, I think, June 30,
17 2020. So they're up for renewal. This year will
18 begin that renewal process I think in December. And
19 so that's coming pretty quickly. Yeah.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

21 DR. MOORE: Yeah. I think my thought process
22 was that this school, to be fair, would want --
23 again, would want to be -- for all schools with the
24 waiver to ask. I hear them saying they want to pay
25 their teachers at the minimum or above, but they're

1 not doing it. What are their barriers, and how can
2 those barriers be overcome? So that was my reasoning
3 to ask for review.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

5 MS. ZOOK: And I suspect that the different
6 schools that have this waiver are going to want to
7 know that anyway because they're right now planning
8 their 19-20 budgets.

9 DR. MOORE: Right.

10 MS. ZOOK: So the quicker Legal can give that
11 information -- and you may have to work with the
12 Bureau of Legislative Affairs or the Governor's
13 office or -- you know -- this is probably an issue
14 that the Legislature didn't anticipate as a result of
15 this law. So everybody is going to want to know
16 because they don't want to be -- they don't want to
17 get a Standards violation; they don't want to be on
18 probation.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: This law does have an emergency
20 clause but it's a July 1 emergency clause, not a more
21 immediate one.

22 Yes. Yes, ma'am.

23 SUPT. BROYLES: This is Donna Broyles with Prep.
24 I wanted to let you guys know that our lead teachers
25 are making more than the minimum requirement of the

1 salary; so they make around \$39,000. So I wanted to
2 try to give you that information now because you guys
3 have more questions and I want to make sure -- I'm
4 headed to the doctor to rule out flu. But I wanted
5 to make sure that you guys know that our lead
6 teachers -- because of our unique model that we have
7 at this school we have two teachers in the classroom.
8 Our associates make between \$30,000 and \$32,000,
9 whereas our leads make \$39,000. So that will give
10 you a little bit more information as you're asking
11 these questions. I don't know if that helps you
12 right now, but -- and that's for the elementary
13 campus. And at the middle school campus they make
14 between \$39,000 and \$42,000. So, just to kind of
15 give you some of that background information as
16 you're asking these questions for the salaries for
17 this year.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes, ma'am. And I just want to
19 be clear, I think we're all in consensus that we're
20 not really picking on you. You are simply the first
21 case that has come along --

22 SUPT. BROYLES: Not at all.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- on this issue and we need to
24 feel like we're getting it right for all schools.
25 And if we -- you know, if we can use your case to get

1 some answers that may serve all the students at these
2 schools well. But I think we're trying to figure out
3 the right path to get there.

4 We do have a motion --

5 SUPT. BROYLES: Anything that we can do to help
6 with that, we will certainly be willing to help with
7 that.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. And please get
9 well.

10 We do have a motion on the floor which we need
11 to deal with. And I don't know if we -- Ms. Newton's
12 plea to try to get us to a point -- I don't know
13 where that is, where we are. If folks want to pull
14 the motion back, that's also a possibility, if you
15 want a clean -- a blank slate for us to start anew
16 with motions. But if y'all want -- feel good about
17 your motion -- and that was Ms. --

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Zook.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- Ms. Zook, seconded by Ms.
20 Chambers -- is the motion on the floor, which is to
21 not review.

22 MS. ZOOK: I -- do you want to go ahead?

23 MS. DEAN: No, I was going to --

24 MS. ZOOK: Okay.

25 MS. DEAN: Go ahead.

1 MS. ZOOK: I think where my purpose is -- I
2 think the purpose of reviewing is to provide
3 questions to them that they can answer. And I don't
4 think the school at this point can answer the
5 questions that we might have about this law and this
6 waiver. So for that reason I feel comfortable with
7 the motion to not review.

8 MS. CHAMBERS: I would agree with that. I just
9 -- I thought if someone had a better motion to
10 replace it with and they wanted to share what that
11 might be, I would certainly entertain that. But I
12 agree that this is not -- not that we don't have
13 other things that we would benefit from hearing from
14 the school. The issue that we've debated/discussed
15 is not about this school specifically; it's about
16 charter waivers. And so if Legal can provide a
17 report to us, either in the special meeting that the
18 Commissioner was speaking to or in April, I'd really
19 appreciate it because it sounds very timely.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think my only reaction -- we
21 often do ask questions not just of the school, but of
22 the Department about the broader issues. And I do
23 think that, you know, we also ask questions that are
24 applicable beyond the school to give broader wisdom
25 to this Board as it's making decisions on other

1 things. But I totally get your -- we've got an odd
2 situation here. I certainly --

3 MS. ZOOK: I know. And this --

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think we're all on the same
5 page.

6 MS. ZOOK: This was an amendment request, not a
7 renewal request.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Exactly.

9 MS. ZOOK: So this is just for the amendment,
10 not for renewal.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Let's give it
12 another shot.

13 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ready to vote? Okay.

14 Ms. Zook: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Hill.

16 DR. HILL: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Chambers.

18 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

20 MS. MCFETRIDGE: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Moore.

22 DR. MOORE: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Newton.

24 MS. NEWTON: No.

25 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Dean.

1 MS. DEAN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So that motion does
3 pass; so no review on that.

4 But we -- do we think it makes good sense to add
5 this to the special meeting, or do we think it makes
6 sense to give y'all -- do y'all need a little more
7 time to get to April?

8 MS. HYATT: When is the special meeting? On the
9 25th?

10 MS. NEWTON: The 25th.

11 MS. HYATT: I think we can get it together for
12 you by then, absolutely.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. That would be great.
14 And we can always delay, if need be, on a report.
15 But we'll add it to that agenda for the 25th.

16 MS. ZOOK: So since it does have an emergency
17 attached to it, is that a 90-day --

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: It's a July 1.

19 MS. ZOOK: Still July 1?

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: It's -- yeah. So it's odd that
21 it was an emergency, but --

22 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- but it is.

24 MS. CHAMBERS: I just wanted to confirm, so we
25 -- is it a call or a meeting on the 25th?

1 SUPT. BROYLES: Excuse me --

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes. So we're finished with
3 your case, Ma'am.

4 SUPT. BROYLES: Okay. I just wanted to make
5 sure there's not anything I need to do in preparation
6 for March 25th. That doesn't involve me; right?

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: It does not. You might be
8 interested because it will affect you since you are
9 --

10 SUPT. BROYLES: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- a holder of that waiver as
12 of now.

13 MS. HYATT: And I think --

14 SUPT. BROYLES: Are we able to attend that?

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes. It's an open meeting and
16 it will be at the Department in the auditorium --

17 MS. ZOOK: 10:30.

18 SUPT. BROYLES: Okay. Great.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- at 10:30 a.m.

20 SUPT. BROYLES: I may want to be there for that.
21 Okay. Great.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you.

23 SUPT. BROYLES: Thank you so much for your
24 questions --

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.

1 SUPT. BROYLES: -- and your time this morning.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you, Ms.
3 Broyles.

4 MS. HYATT: I think I have the general idea of
5 the information you guys want. But if there's
6 anything specific, other than what we've talked about
7 today, that you would like to know -- if you will
8 just let Gina or the Commissioner or me or someone
9 know so that I can make sure and have everything you
10 want at the meeting.

11 MS. ZOOK: So do you have the question "is this
12 new -- with the new law is the salary schedule
13 waivable?" Is that a word?

14 MS. HYATT: Yeah, I say that's a word. I use
15 it, so I hope it's a word. Yes. And I will have all
16 the questions that you asked today. I'll go back and
17 look and make sure I have all those. But if you
18 think of anything between now and then -- I just want
19 to make sure I get everything you guys need together.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I do think that -- and one
21 reason I really did want to review this case is
22 because I thought it would allow us to get our heads
23 around the budget implications for schools like this.
24 That was why I thought it was a good idea. But --
25 and if we can begin to get some handle on what the

1 budget implications are -- and I don't know that we
2 need to look at every school, but maybe a handful and
3 maybe take the name off, just so we can get a feel
4 for how this actually plays out -- could play out at
5 a couple of different charters that do hold these
6 waivers that would be really helpful, I think.

7 COMMISSIONER KEY: We can have that ready for
8 you.

9 Ms. Chambers, you asked about the meeting on the
10 25th.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes. I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER KEY: It will be on-site, but we'll
13 make provisions for you to call -- for members to
14 call in if they can't travel.

15 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you. And is it a two-hour
16 meeting?

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: It's 10:30. We think the first
18 -- we think it will be a fairly compact meeting, but
19 we can't make promises because it is a full hearing.
20 Right? So it --

21 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- it could take a little
23 while. There's procedures that insure that it's
24 going to last a little while to give people time.

25 MS. CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is that good?

2 All right. Questions?

3 Okay. Folks good? Do you need to take a break?

4 Everybody good?

5 MS. ZOOK: Is Southeast on the phone?

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: They are on the phone.

7 Why don't we get through them and then we'll
8 take a quick break since we're running a little
9 ahead.

10 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So we are down --

11 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: A voice is heard on the
12 conference phone.)

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Excuse me. Who's that?

14 MS. LONG: Exalt Education.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh. We are actually done with
16 you. We -- you -- we did not review. I think that
17 -- I'm sorry. It's good to hear your voice, but we
18 are -- we're past you on the agenda and we -- yours
19 was passed without any questions.

20 MS. LONG: Great. I appreciate it.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.

22 MS. LONG: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Good. Thank you.
24 Take care.

25 MS. LONG: Bye-bye.

1 f) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
2 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS
3 PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So we are down to
5 Southeast Arkansas Prep. Could we get -- who's on
6 the phone from Southeast?

7 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Alex Noguera, superintendent
8 /principal.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you very much.
10 Mr. Ballard.

11 MR. BALLARD: So on February 25, 2019,
12 representatives of Southeast Arkansas Preparatory
13 High School appeared before the Charter Authorizing
14 Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. By a
15 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No
16 request for the State Board of Education to review
17 the decision by the Panel was submitted. The State
18 Board may exercise a right of review and conduct a
19 hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's
20 determination at the State Board's next meeting.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. To my right, are
22 there any questions in this case?

23 Okay. Any questions over here?

24 Ms. Zook.

25 MS. ZOOK: This may go into the kind of

1 questions we would cover in a review because of the
2 way they're wanting to do the guidance counselor and
3 -- this is their first year in existence, so we don't
4 have any data as far as -- unless they have some
5 interim data -- and they may have. Did y'all give
6 the MAP or the ACT Aspire interim?

7 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: We did not use the ACT Aspire
8 interims, but we did contract out to use MAP
9 assessments for summer, winter, and spring.

10 MS. ZOOK: Did you use them this year?

11 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. ZOOK: Okay. So you do have that data?

13 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: I do have some MAP data that I
14 could share. Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. ZOOK: Okay. That was the only question I
16 have before we decide to review or not.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right.

18 Ms. McFetridge.

19 MS. MCFETRIDGE: So are these new waivers? I
20 get a little confused. Okay.

21 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear
22 that.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think Legal is about to
24 answer. We were just -- the question was whether
25 these are new waivers.

1 MS. HYATT: Yes. And I will just clarify a
2 little bit. I have worked with Southeast Arkansas
3 Prep really closely on this amendment request. When
4 they had their original charter they had a different
5 school leader, who's not at the school anymore; Alex
6 is now the new school leader. And they were missing
7 several key components that they needed in order to
8 continue operating how they had been operating. I
9 think it was the idea that all of those waivers were
10 in place when the previous school leader was there,
11 and after his departure it was realized that there
12 were some holes in their waivers. And we worked
13 really closely -- the Charter Unit; we met with them,
14 Legal met with them. We worked through their waivers
15 and insured we got all of the holes kind of covered.
16 So this is a little bit of a unique situation, I
17 would say, given the background.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. McFetridge --

19 MS. MCFETRIDGE: I'm just a little uneasy about
20 the guidance counselor waiver.

21 MS. ZOOK: Yes.

22 MS. MCFETRIDGE: I have a real concern about
23 that with the age of the students, the needs of the
24 students -- just a real strong concern. So I would
25 really like us to review this.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Do you need an
2 answer to anything today or you just feel that you
3 want a full -- nothing could be kind of -- could not
4 be remedied? You couldn't get the answers you need
5 today?

6 MS. McFETRIDGE: Well, when you look at the --
7 they -- it's a small school, and I understand that;
8 they have 88 students. But they're splitting the
9 role of a guidance counselor among different people
10 to do different tasks, and I have a concern that
11 these people are actually trained to really work with
12 students maybe in a health crisis or anything like
13 that.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.

15 MS. McFETRIDGE: So to me, 88 students is quite
16 a few -- quite a few students that really could use a
17 true guidance counselor with the training that they
18 have.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. I'll see if there are
20 any other questions. I'll come -- I hear a motion
21 that you're ready to go with, but let's see if there
22 are any other questions.

23 Any other -- anything else? Any questions here?

24 Ms. McFetridge.

25 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'd like to move to review.

1 MS. ZOOK: I'll second that.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms.

3 McFetridge, second by Ms. Zook.

4 Why don't we do a roll-call on this just to be
5 sure.

6 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Hill.

7 DR. HILL: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Chambers.

9 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

11 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER KEY: Dr. Moore.

13 DR. MOORE: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Newton.

15 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Dean.

17 MS. DEAN: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER KEY: Ms. Zook.

19 MS. ZOOK: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Okay.

21 Thank you, sir. You will be on the agenda for
22 the April meeting for review. Obviously, the
23 Department will be in conversation with you about
24 that process.

25 MS. ZOOK: Do we have to give the questions

1 today?

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes, we do need to go around
3 and -- or we can -- we need to identify the questions
4 we need information from the school and/or the
5 Department about moving forward.

6 MS. McFETRIDGE: I think I'd just like more
7 detail on how they're going to handle the student
8 guidance counselor issue -- or waiver. Excuse me.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Chambers, anything that --

10 MS. CHAMBERS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- that pops in?

12 Okay. Ms. Zook.

13 MS. ZOOK: I think in addition to the guidance
14 counselor and the training of the people that it's
15 split among I'd also like some information on the
16 waiver request they had regarding a board. They are
17 not a charter management group, these people running
18 this charter. And I think we have people in the
19 audience who can say when you don't have a charter
20 management group then doing school is really hard
21 when you don't have a board. So I'd like questions
22 about the board and why they wanted those requests --
23 those waivers as well.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Any questions?

25 My questions relate to the Library Media

1 Specialist waiver and, you know, the absence of a
2 traditional library of any sort. And I've just got
3 major concerns about the access to materials --
4 appropriate materials and what preparation there is
5 in the faculty to carry out that role in the absence
6 of a Library Media Specialist.

7 Ms. Newton.

8 MS. NEWTON: Since this is the first year of
9 this charter and they are already, I think, using
10 some of these waivers they just -- they thought that
11 they had, could we go ahead and see some of the MAP
12 data to see how effective they are so far?

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Dr. Moore, anything?

14 DR. MOORE: (Shaking head from side to side.)

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. House.

16 MS. HOUSE: You asked mine.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great.

18 Okay. Is that plenty for y'all?

19 MS. HYATT: (Nodding head up and down.)

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We will return to this
21 issue in April.

22 And let's just take about a 5- to 7-minute break
23 since we're ahead of time.

24 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Can I ask you a quick
25 question?

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes, sir.

2 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: It was hard to hear some of
3 those. So should I just connect with somebody at the
4 Department to make sure I get the full list of
5 questions I need to prepare for?

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: That's exactly right. They
7 will be -- they'll talk you through the whole
8 process, how much time you should expect to have, et
9 cetera, including the questions and data that you
10 need to provide and the timeline.

11 SUPT. NOGUEROLA: Yes, sir. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank y'all.

13 (BREAK: 11:13 - 11:23 A.M.)

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Welcome back,
15 everyone. I failed to mention at the start Mr.
16 Williamson is unable to be here this month, but he
17 will be at our next meeting.

18 g) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
19 DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: FAYETTEVILLE
20 VIRTUAL ACADEMY

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: We are down to the
22 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Action on
23 the District Conversion Charter -- the Fayetteville
24 Virtual Academy. And we do have some folks from
25 Fayetteville who are here. And so I'll turn it back

1 over to Mr. Ballard.

2 MR. BALLARD: All right. On February 25, 2019,
3 representatives of Fayetteville Virtual Academy
4 appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel
5 requesting an amendment to their charter. By a
6 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No
7 request for the State Board of Education to review
8 the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The
9 State Board may exercise a right of review and
10 conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's
11 determination at the State Board's next meeting.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Are there any questions
13 to my right -- or comments on this case?

14 Okay. Any questions or comments over here?

15 All right. Sorry you drove up for this, but --
16 I will entertain a motion to review or to not
17 review.

18 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. All in favor say
21 "aye."

22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

24 All right. Congratulations.

25 DR. SLOCUM: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: On -- the motion was made by
2 Ms. Dean, the second was by --

3 MS. CHAMBERS: Me.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- Ms. Chambers. I apologize.
5 I failed. I'm usually pretty good, but I failed.

6 h) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
7 DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT: POLK COUNTY
8 VIRTUAL ACADEMY

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We are down to Polk
10 County Virtual Academy. I think we do have somebody
11 from Polk County on the phone. Who is that?

12 MS. ZOOK: Ask them again. I had it turned it
13 off.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So who's on the phone from Polk
15 County Virtual Academy?

16 [BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE]

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

18 MR. BALLARD: We'll work to try to get them on.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Let's see if we can get
20 them on.

21 MS. McLAUGHLIN: I'll call them again.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Call again?

23 [A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE]

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is somebody -- do I hear a
25 voice? Could you speak up, please?

1 COMMISSIONER KEY: It's on.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think it's on.

3 COMMISSIONER KEY: It was Kelly's phone.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Wait. Could you speak up,
5 please?

6 MS. ZOOK: I wonder if they're on mute. They
7 may have --

8 MS. SMITH: Hello?

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Perfect. Great. You are --

10 MS. SMITH: There we go.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: We can hear you very, very well
12 now. So, can you hear me okay?

13 MS. SMITH: Yes, I can.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And please let us know
15 if you can't hear any of the microphones.

16 I'll turn it over to Mr. Ballard. We're on your
17 case, Polk County Virtual Academy case.

18 MS. SMITH: Okay.

19 MR. BALLARD: All right. On February 25, 2019,
20 representatives of Polk County Virtual Academy
21 appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel
22 requesting an amendment to their charter. By a
23 unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No
24 request for the State Board of Education to review
25 the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The

1 State Board may exercise a right of review and
2 conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's
3 determination at the State Board's next meeting.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Are there any questions
5 to my left?

6 Are there any questions to my right?

7 Okay. I'll entertain a motion to review or to
8 not review this decision.

9 MS. NEWTON: Move not to review.

10 MS. DEAN: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. -- excuse me,
12 Ma'am?

13 MS. SMITH: Nothing. I'm sorry.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. All right.

15 Motion by Ms. Newton, second by Ms. Dean.

16 All those in favor say "aye."

17 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

19 Congratulations. We didn't have any questions
20 after all. So we appreciate you --

21 MS. SMITH: Okay. Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- taking time.

23 Okay. We are close to lunch. One question is,
24 do we want to go ahead and tackle the last couple of
25 items to give Mr. Ballard and Ms. Hyatt a little

1 freedom? Do we want to -- does that sound good?

2 Okay.

3 B-2: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL ACTION ON
4 CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS: CLASS SIZE AND TEACHING LOAD RULES

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: If there are no objections,
6 we'll go down to Item 2 in the afternoon, and these
7 are some -- a variety of other amendments. These are
8 things we've seen before that apply to a lot of
9 charters. And so I will turn it over to Mr. Ballard.

10 MR. BALLARD: All right. Item 2 is the
11 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Action
12 on the Charter School Amendments, Class Size and
13 Teaching Load Rules.

14 On October 29, 2018, new ADE rules governing
15 Class Size and Teaching Load became effective,
16 necessitating charter schools holding a waiver of the
17 Standards for Accreditation Section 1-A.6, "Obtain a
18 waiver of new rules to fully effectuate the waiver
19 topic."

20 On February 25, 2019, ADE staff appeared before
21 the Panel to request an approval of these waivers on
22 behalf of several charter schools. By a unanimous
23 vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for
24 the State Board of Education to review the decision
25 made by the Panel was submitted. The State Board may

1 exercise a right of review and conduct a hearing on
2 the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination at the
3 State Board's next meeting.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And so we have several
5 dozen charter schools that are affected by this.
6 These are effected by some changes elsewhere in our
7 rules.

8 Any questions to my right? Any questions?

9 Ms. Zook.

10 MS. ZOOK: Yes. I think because the more we
11 have experience on the Board and the more we learn
12 about what is important, and the fact that we know
13 that the majority of our schools are not doing all
14 that well when it comes to at least the achievement,
15 some of them not doing that well even with regard to
16 growth, I would like to see some objective,
17 quantitative data that says that these waivers are in
18 fact helping with academic performance and growth, or
19 vice-versa. And some have had it long enough that we
20 actually could compare them to people who don't have
21 it and with like populations to see if we're giving a
22 waiver but in fact it's not improving growth or
23 achievement. And I think maybe it's okay with
24 isolated teachers in certain subjects to provide
25 waivers. But then when you get a substitute in and

1 -- you know, what effect does that have, because, as
2 we know, we have chronic absenteeism with teachers in
3 some districts in the state.

4 So I'm not comfortable doing blanket waivers,
5 particularly in districts that could provide us some
6 quantitative data. When we started this process we
7 did not have the kind of ability we do now to look at
8 pure data, objective data, and now we do. And so I
9 think that at the very least the schools would need
10 to give us -- or give me some additional information
11 before I feel comfortable with a positive vote on
12 this.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: You're warming my heart, Ms.
14 Zook -- but I don't know what we do with that.

15 MS. HYATT: Well, I just was going to clarify
16 one thing. So the rules that are now -- the ADE
17 rules governing Class Size and Teaching Load, that
18 information all used to be in the Standards for
19 Accreditation and was pulled out of the Standards for
20 Accreditation and put into its own rule. So all of
21 these schools and the ones that are on the next
22 agenda item for the 1240's, which is the exact same
23 thing but for 1240's, they all had waivers of this
24 exact thing under the Standards for Accreditation.
25 And this is just one -- the final piece of that

1 Standards for Accreditation transition process,
2 because we couldn't transition them to a new Standard
3 for Accreditation because it was pulled out and put
4 in its own rule. So these schools -- these are not
5 new waivers for these schools -- so I just wanted to
6 make sure that was clear -- and it's just for schools
7 that had it so they can continue it for the same
8 length of time they were originally approved for. So
9 we're not changing any of that; we're just making it
10 the new title of the waiver.

11 MS. ZOOK: Right. I was aware of that, but
12 thank you for the clarification.

13 And I know that there is -- I don't know if it
14 has passed or not, Commissioner, over at the
15 Legislature right now -- some new things they're
16 trying to pass about Class Size. And I don't know
17 exactly what that law reads or what its implications
18 are. So I guess my point is -- maybe just a point of
19 privilege is when I voted for 1240 waivers or when
20 the Charter -- before -- I haven't ever been on the
21 Charter Panel, but before, the Board was the Charter
22 Panel and a lot of waivers were given in hopes that
23 the innovative way or the waiver might be getting in
24 the way of student achievement. And we've had these
25 long enough now that we need to know did it -- and if

1 it did, great, let's continue and maybe encourage
2 others to do the same. But if it didn't, then why
3 are we continuing to do something that's not
4 benefitting the achievement or the growth of the
5 child.

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Ballard.

7 MR. BALLARD: All right. So I was taking notes
8 while you were forming that, so --

9 MS. ZOOK: I wondered if you took shorthand.

10 MR. BALLARD: Yeah. Yeah, I took quite a few.

11 I just wanted to make sure -- you were wanting
12 -- you're wanting this report to come from the
13 schools themselves, the data that they have collected
14 throughout the years?

15 MS. ZOOK: For example, the 1240 waivers, we
16 have invited them to come back and most of them have
17 agreed. And Ms. McLaughlin gives those reports about
18 how did this -- did -- you know, did the student
19 attendance improve, did graduation improve, did
20 growth -- you know, are we seeing growth, those kinds
21 of things that we now through Act 930 and through
22 ESSA have declared in Arkansas these things are
23 important.

24 MR. BALLARD: Okay.

25 MS. ZOOK: And I don't know legally whether we

1 can bring them in to give the information or send the
2 information to you. I doubt if we legally can take
3 away the waiver, and I know that they need it for
4 Standards of Accreditation. But I do think that they
5 need to know, if the Board agrees as a whole, that we
6 want some data that shows that this waiver in fact is
7 making a difference for students.

8 MS. McLAUGHLIN: If you would like for it to be
9 similar in nature to the Act 1240 progress report --
10 you know, we usually present that on the Consent
11 Agenda. And, of course, if you have questions, then
12 I'll make sure that everyone is either here or they
13 call in. We can do -- right now, that report is
14 focused on student achievement, school growth, how
15 it's impacting the students and the staff of the
16 district. I can go more specific, if we want to be
17 specific, to graduation rate or really whatever is
18 your discretion as far as if we need to make changes
19 to that report. But if you like that report, then we
20 could probably make that happen.

21 MS. ZOOK: Yeah. Just so that we have -- they
22 would -- from my point of view that they would at
23 least know is this making a difference. And maybe
24 they haven't looked at their own data, so they don't
25 know if it's making a difference; you know, they have

1 it, they go with it, and then they have school --
2 and, you know, doing school is hard and you get
3 caught up in day-to-day. But we -- I need to know am
4 I voting to grant waivers that in fact are making a
5 difference. I understand the clean-up and I
6 understand that we don't want to get -- put people on
7 probation or get a citation because the standards
8 have changed. I understand that. But if you can
9 have them understand that when they do those reports
10 this isn't just fill-in-the-blank, this is saying,
11 you know, yes, I understand you'd like to know pre
12 and post the waiver and pre and post, you know, on
13 those kinds of things, if that's not out of line with
14 what we can do legally.

15 MS. HYATT: On the 1240 reports, those are
16 voluntary reports --

17 MS. ZOOK: Right.

18 MS. HYATT: -- that the applicant agrees to give
19 and I think we could request that as part of that
20 report. When it comes to the open enrollment and
21 district conversion charters, I think you could do
22 something similar when granting the waiver -- have it
23 be part of a voluntary reporting. If it was mandated
24 reporting, it may need to come from the Charter Panel
25 or from you on a review hearing where that was part

1 of your final motion, if that makes sense. So if the
2 Charter Panel was reviewing let's say a teacher
3 licensure waiver, they could request that that
4 reporting be part of the granting of the waiver and
5 then you could approve that. Or if they didn't do
6 that, you could move to review and then add that as a
7 condition of your approval in your review. I don't
8 think you could say today that all schools have to
9 have this report and make it mandatory. I think that
10 would be too far outside of kind of the authority.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. Let me see if I can
13 maybe simplify this. What I hear you saying is not a
14 school-by-school, but as a policy -- is this policy
15 that we've adopted and going on the last several
16 years of granting waivers, is it having a positive, a
17 negative, or a -- or no impact. And we have data.
18 So Dr. Airola is sitting back there -- yeah -- and I
19 know this will kind of take her by surprise. But we
20 also have Dr. Eric Flowers that we brought in-house
21 too; this is the kind of thing we want him to do.
22 Okay. So I don't think it's really going after
23 reports and getting reports from the schools or the
24 districts. I want to make sure -- and you can
25 confirm this -- I think it's the years of data that

1 we now have can it be correlated, can it be analyzed,
2 can it be determined if we are seeing any type of
3 impact with this policy that's been in place for
4 several years on student achievement.

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And I think -- yes, I think
6 that -- but I do think we have to -- we have to be
7 careful with this because we obviously -- many of
8 these schools get a variety of waivers at the same
9 time. But I think we now do probably have enough
10 data to do multi-varied analyses to see which of
11 these things are really popping in terms of making a
12 difference and which of them are not. And that's --
13 you're totally right. I think that's where the State
14 needs to go. I think it's exactly where this Board
15 needs to go in these decisions, moving forward. And
16 I do think what you're -- when we see a bunch of
17 waivers updates like this it does really highlight a
18 big question: has this, you know, Class Size/Teaching
19 Load stuff really mattered.

20 COMMISSIONER KEY: So we -- so I can get with
21 Dr. Flowers and the team here and Dr. Airola, because
22 I think together that group can design a study that
23 will give you what you're asking for, hopefully. I
24 mean, with the years of data that we now have that,
25 you know, can help inform where we go from here.

1 MS. ZOOK: I mean, it could be like on reports
2 day.

3 COMMISSIONER KEY: It can be whenever. Yeah, I
4 mean, we could -- we can. And I don't know the
5 timing of this undertaking.

6 MS. ZOOK: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER KEY: But we can bring that back on
8 a Friday reports day and provide that information.

9 MS. ZOOK: Because when schools come in the
10 future we need to be able to -- when schools come in
11 the future we need to be able to say to them, "I see
12 you're requesting this, but we have five or ten or
13 whatever years of this charter or this other district
14 that has it and it really isn't making a difference.
15 So is there some reason other than student
16 achievement that you're wanting this waiver?" I know
17 that 1240, they don't have to answer our questions,
18 but so far no one has refused to answer the questions
19 that we have. But, yes, I'm wanting overall data,
20 not school specific data.

21 COMMISSIONER KEY: Okay. We can do that.

22 MS. ZOOK: I mean, the overall data will be
23 school, but -- yes.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And I -- and just a -- I mean,
25 I would love a report that looked at all these --

1 because we've got that data -- with all the different
2 kinds of waivers --

3 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- which are the ones that
5 really matter. We need a comprehensive report. It
6 can't be piece-milled because --

7 MS. NEWTON: Just -- yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- we're not going to know if
9 this waiver is really changing the dependent variable
10 or not. We need all those variables.

11 MS. ZOOK: Yeah.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Chambers.

13 MS. CHAMBERS: I love what you just said and
14 this conversation, and I do think it's time -- I do
15 think we have --

16 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

17 MS. CHAMBERS: -- enough data that it would help
18 inform a number of other decisions. I do think it'll
19 be a challenge when a number of waivers go in at the
20 same time to isolate what's impacting or causal. But
21 the other thing that may be a surprise is a
22 combination of things that we wouldn't have even
23 thought to ask will emerge out of the data is -- this
24 is the sweet spot -- and hope we can go at the
25 analysis that way. But really appreciate and applaud

1 the request, would love to see it.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: You good, Ms. Zook?

3 MS. ZOOK: Yes. All that said, I do move that
4 we approve 2 and 3 for --

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: We need to do them
6 individually.

7 MS. ZOOK: Oh.

8 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. We'll need to do them
9 individually, so --

10 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Two.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: So motion is to approve the
12 waivers for the several dozen districts that were
13 listed in the report. Is there a second?

14 MS. DEAN: Second.

15 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Zook,
17 second by Ms. Dean.

18 Is there further discussion on this topic?

19 Okay. All those in favor say "aye."

20 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

22 B-3: ACT 1240 CLASS SIZE AND TEACHING LOAD WAIVER TRANSITION

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And let's go ahead and do 3.

24 And I think we have an addition to the list on this
25 item.

1 MS. HYATT: Before Reggie introduces, there was
2 one school that has one single Act 1240 waiver
3 transition that was omitted from the spreadsheet that
4 was uploaded on the agenda. And so I've got copies
5 for you guys that I'll pass out while Reggie is
6 talking. It was just one that was omitted.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great.

8 MR. BALLARD: All right. So, item 3 on the
9 action agenda for the afternoon is just the Act 1240
10 Class Size and Teaching Load Transition Waiver. And
11 so we have several attachments, and Mary Claire Hyatt
12 is passing out the final one that was not attached.

13 (WHEREUPON, B-3 Exhibit One (1) was marked for
14 identification and appended.)

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Okay. So very similar
16 to the previous item but these are the 1240 version
17 of that, plus Malvern.

18 Any questions or comments?

19 Okay. Then I will entertain a motion on this
20 item.

21 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.

22 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. Newton, second by
24 Ms. Chambers.

25 All those in favor say "aye."

1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

3 Okay. We're good.

4 So lunch is here but we can -- but Fort Smith is
5 also here and we could actually get done with this
6 item and get --

7 COMMISSIONER KEY: Fort Smith is not -- some of
8 the Fort Smith folks are here, but not the district.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I mean, the --

10 MS. McLAUGHLIN: They're not going to arrive
11 till 12:45.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. They're not going to
13 arrive till 12 -- okay.

14 So it's time -- we need to take a break. And so
15 everybody will come -- we will -- we'll try to be
16 back -- we'll be back between 1:15 and 1:30. How
17 about we say that? We won't start before 1:15.

18 MS. ZOOK: And we'll take public comment after
19 that?

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And we will take public comment
21 after that. So that gives us a little more
22 flexibility this afternoon but still gets us finished
23 early.

24 So we will return to this room at 1:15.

25 (LUNCH BREAK: 11:45 - 1:20 p.m.)

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Welcome back,
2 everyone. I just want to -- I want to thank Ms.
3 Tisher and just everybody here for an amazing --
4 amazing facility, but amazing students. It's a
5 really inspiring visit, so we really appreciate you
6 taking the time to make it happen. So, thank you
7 very much.

8 MS. TISHER: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Anything that my colleagues
10 would like to add to that?

11 Okay.

12 MS. NEWTON: Dr. Barth --

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes, Ms. Newton.

14 MS. NEWTON: -- I do have a comment, and I hope
15 that maybe some of the other districts are listening.
16 The facility here, technology here is fantastic. But
17 I want to add to that for the districts, you don't
18 have to have all this to do some of the amazing
19 things that they're doing here. They're turning kids
20 loose and letting them learn. The depth of knowledge
21 that kids are getting here is just unbelievable.
22 They're not just getting that surface knowledge that,
23 you know, sometimes teachers think "we've got to get
24 it all covered;" they're letting kids -- they're
25 turning kids loose and letting them learn. And how

1 much they're learning and the depth that they're
2 going to is so great. And, you know, it comes from
3 teachers having vision and administrators having
4 vision of letting students -- let learning be
5 student-focused. And so I wish that every district
6 could, you know, send a representative and let them
7 see what's going on. Because, again, the technology
8 and the building is fantastic but, you know, again,
9 you don't have to have all of this to make it work.
10 So, but thank you again for letting us come and see
11 what learning for kids could be.

12 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thank you.

13 All right. I made -- just to let everybody know
14 where we are, we have one action item left on the
15 agenda and then we do have some public comment.

16 B-2: CLASS SIZE AND TEACHING LOAD (revisited)

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: I made an error this morning on
18 the second item, the consideration of the Class Size
19 and Teaching Load rule amendments. That needed to be
20 -- it was passed, a motion in favor of that. The
21 proper motion actually would've been to not review.
22 And so that was my mistake. We got it right on
23 number 3, but not on number 2.

24 If there's not objection, I will say -- my
25 suggestion is for us to have -- recognize that motion

1 as the proper motion, which was the do-not-review,
2 which has the same clear intent as the motion that
3 was passed.

4 Is there objection to that?

5 Okay. All right. And I apologize again.

6 B-1: DISTRICT REQUEST FOR WAIVERS GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT
7 CHARTERS

8 a) FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So we are back up to
10 item 1. This is an Act 1240 waiver from the Fort
11 Smith School District. I want to also note that we
12 do have public comment on this item -- not general;
13 it is somebody who signed up today. And so at the
14 proper time I'll ask for a motion for public comment
15 on that as well. But I'll turn it over to Kelly
16 McLaughlin right now. Thank you.

17 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Kelly McLaughlin,
18 ADE.

19 Today we do have Fort Smith School District here
20 to ask for a waiver for Class Size and Teaching Load.
21 Just as a reminder, the school district will have 20
22 minutes to make their presentation; and for the
23 opposition, they will have that 20 minutes as well;
24 and the district will then have 5 minutes to respond
25 before the Q-and-A begins.

1 Also, as a reminder, Act 1240 of 2015 allows a
2 school district to petition the State Board of
3 Education for all or some of the waivers that are
4 granted to an open-enrollment public charter school
5 that serves those students who reside in their school
6 district.

7 We do have representatives of the Fort Smith
8 School District here to appear before you for these
9 waivers. Their 90 days will expire on May 14, 2019.
10 And they have requested for five years, so that would
11 be ending on June 30, 2024.

12 You will want to swear in the following: we have
13 Mr. Martin Mahan, assistant superintendent; Dr.
14 Darbeau, Professor and Dean of the UAFS College of
15 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Dr. Monica
16 Riley, interim Dean of the UAFS College of Education;
17 and Ron Orrick, executive director of the UAFS Babb
18 Center for Student Professional Development.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great.

20 So if everybody who plans to testify, if you
21 could stand and raise your right hand, assuming
22 you're not an attorney. Do you swear or affirm that
23 the testimony you're about to give shall be the
24 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

25 (CHORUS OF AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSES)

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Then, as you heard,
2 you have up to 20 minutes to make your presentation.

3 MR. MAHAN: First of all, good afternoon,
4 Commissioner Key and Members of the State Board of
5 Education. As mentioned, my name is Marty Mahan; I'm
6 assistant superintendent for Human Resources and
7 Campus Support at Fort Smith School District.

8 I'm pretty excited to be here today with this
9 initiative that I've worked out with a collaborative
10 group from University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. And
11 from UA-Fort Smith I have Dr. Riley, who's been
12 introduced, and Mr. Orrick. Unfortunately, Dr.
13 Darbeau had another commitment and couldn't make it
14 today.

15 Also, all of you have received a package. I
16 just want to kind of go over what's in that package.
17 You should have a letter of support from our
18 superintendent, Dr. Doug Brubaker, and within that
19 letter of support you will find quotations of support
20 from some of our board members. Also in the package
21 you'll have a letter from Dr. Darbeau, who couldn't
22 make it; but he has a letter of support from the
23 University of Arkansas, as the Dean of the STEM
24 program there. Also you'll have a letter of
25 explanation from myself and in that letter you'll

1 find quotes of support from teachers that have either
2 worked with novice teachers as a mentor teacher or
3 had experience with what we traditionally call
4 student teaching semester-long positions; they have
5 experience in both of those areas. There is also an
6 email exchange from Arkansas State Teachers
7 Association with our superintendent there. And
8 there's also a very recent article from Talk Business
9 about our school board meeting Monday night in which
10 we talked about this particular initiative. So
11 you'll have all that information there in front of
12 you for your review.

13 This kind of started a couple of years ago.
14 Actually, I attended an Arkansas Department of Ed.
15 meeting through ArkASPA, which is an organization for
16 Human Resources. And the topic of how do we retain
17 and recruit teachers -- young people to the
18 profession of teaching, we were bouncing a lot of
19 ideas around. And I just mentioned, you know, a lot
20 of professions that people look up to, that they are
21 selecting, unlike teaching careers have internships
22 that have some form of compensation. And so from
23 that idea I went back to Fort Smith -- and we have
24 met on a regular basis with UA-Fort Smith in lots of
25 different avenues, and one of the avenues is in

1 teaching in the College of Education -- and met with
2 Dr. Riley at UAFS. I mentioned the fact that I had
3 brought up "is there a model out there that we can
4 look at where we can compensate intern teachers and
5 maybe make the profession more attractive and maybe
6 make it more of an incentive, and also to help with
7 economics with a fourth-year student in college,
8 maybe touch on student loan issues and provide a
9 livable wage." And at that point Dr. Riley took off
10 with that and actually went and created a committee
11 of people. First of all, she met with Dr. Brubaker
12 to get his support to create a committee of people --
13 and with his support she went out and created a
14 committee, included UA-Fort Smith staff members,
15 included Fort Smith Public School staff members, and
16 included a couple of students from the University of
17 Arkansas College of Education that are about to be
18 interns or have gone through the process of interning
19 -- or student teaching, I should say.

20 As a collaborative team, Fort Smith, UA-Fort
21 Smith, and the students met several times over about
22 a year period. And we've also looked at -- through
23 the information that Dr. Riley provided, we looked at
24 a model out of the University of West Georgia, and in
25 this model they had compensated some intern teachers

1 over a five-year period. And I believe -- I think it
2 was around -- it was over 30 interns -- 34, 35,
3 around that area -- they retained all of those
4 interns with this paid model, except for one, over
5 that five-year period, which is a pretty neat
6 practice. So we looked at ways we could replicate
7 that model with a cooperative -- with UA-Fort Smith
8 and our own district.

9 So what we have looked at is, first of all,
10 identify a highly effective mentor teacher. And I'll
11 just use grade 3 as an example. This model really
12 will work very well K-6, but in the building -- we
13 have 19 elementary schools. But in the building
14 where there's more than one 3rd grade teacher you
15 have -- let's just say we have three 3rd grade
16 teachers. So you take a highly effective mentor
17 teacher that's already one of our staff members in
18 the 3rd grade. We have an open position in 3rd grade
19 that's yet to be filled. So we take the highly
20 effective mentor supervising teacher out of his or
21 her role as teacher. We hire an intern teacher from
22 UA-Fort Smith for a year-long internship. They don't
23 do the semester-long student teaching, but they hire
24 from the beginning. They participate in professional
25 development; they have the experience of opening the

1 school; they have the experience of the holidays;
2 they have the experience of the lulls in the
3 profession; and they have the experience of closing
4 the school, with the support of a highly effective
5 intern that gives them in-time support and resources.
6 But at the same time, when you pull this highly
7 effective novice -- or mentor supervising teacher, we
8 fill that position with an intern from UA-Fort Smith
9 for a full year as well. So you have a highly
10 effective teacher that has extended their reach to
11 two classrooms -- two sets of 3rd grade students --
12 and also two intern teachers for a full year, in the
13 hopes that this extension will affect student
14 learning at a higher level. Because you have a
15 highly effective supervising teacher there
16 influencing, co-teaching, model teaching, providing
17 critical feedback, providing reflective practice,
18 looking -- at the end of the day say, "What can we do
19 differently? What really went well? What didn't go
20 well," in-time on that day. And so the impact would
21 be exponential for the students in the classroom and
22 for the teachers that are learning the trade.

23 And so with this model the intern teachers, two
24 of them, would both earn 50% of their first year
25 salary; they would get access to benefits; they'd get

1 access to Arkansas Teacher Retirement; and they would
2 have a year of experience to go toward their first
3 teaching position on the salary schedule. And the
4 intern would be over-saw by, again, a highly-
5 effective supervising teacher; they would also be a
6 beneficiary of a stipend.

7 Now the waiver is in place because one of the
8 things that we do every year is we get cycle reports
9 on a continual basis through the Arkansas Department
10 of Ed. site and we get flagged or cited for someone
11 that goes over the allowed amount of students in a
12 class. We can't assign these students to the intern
13 teacher because they are not licensed and they do not
14 have their bachelor's degree. There's other pathways
15 with a degree that they could get a provisional
16 license, but not in this model. So we would assign
17 those students to the mentor and supervising teacher.
18 And so when it does show up on a cycle as an issue or
19 citation we would reconcile it with the waiver
20 showing we have permission -- we have a waiver
21 specifically for this pilot research-based practice
22 and that would be submitted to reconcile that issue.
23 So that is the rationale for this request.

24 Now what will we hope to have happen through
25 this process?

1 - We certainly want to enhance and extend the
2 reach of the highly-effective mentor teacher that
3 supervises the two interns and also has an affect on
4 the classroom instruction itself;

5 - Allow student interns to truly be immersed in
6 learning. I know that was mentioned even in this
7 setting, in this particular school. You see that
8 full immersion in the learning practice, and we'd
9 like to replicate that with student teaching interns
10 for a full year;

11 - Allow student interns to experience all
12 aspects of teaching. The current model of student
13 teaching is semester-long. You know, you observe for
14 six, eight, ten weeks, and you might get six or ten
15 sessions of teaching, and then you roll-out to a
16 fulltime position the next year traditionally -- and
17 I'm just using the word "traditionally." There's a
18 struggle with classroom management; there's a dip in
19 October where you decide as a teacher do I really
20 want to do this. And so you don't have the support.
21 You don't have that support that's right there in the
22 classroom with you. You don't have that in-time
23 support, and there's a highly -- a high likelihood we
24 would lose that person. So that would be one of the
25 aspects as well.

1 - We also want to create a student intern system
2 in which support is provided again at the point of
3 need. Support student interns at the point of need
4 with the UA-Fort Smith staff that will be there to
5 support; the mentor teacher that will be there to
6 support; the Fort Smith Public Schools professional
7 development department that would support; and then
8 the colleagues in the building -- our elementary
9 schools have fabulous teachers and they're going to
10 be there to support and attend professional
11 development, PLC's, collaborate, and grow.

12 - And then, finally, we definitely want to
13 improve teacher retention, above all, and also
14 teacher recruitment.

15 So the waiver that you have in front of you, the
16 request allows us to pilot this program next year,
17 over a five-year period. It allows us to provide a
18 highly-effective mentor supervising teacher to be the
19 teacher of record for two classes. It also gives us
20 the opportunity to look at the research and study
21 this over a year-long process and see what is good,
22 what needs to be tweaked, what needs to be adjusted
23 and make those adjustments as you would with any
24 pilot. And selfishly, my-self, I really would like
25 to see this be a model for teaching across the state.

1 I'm just so impressed with UA-Fort Smith's ability to
2 embed a semester of college courses in the actual
3 field experience so that the student adds that to
4 their full-year internship experience. There's not
5 an additional amount; it's embedded. It's a pretty
6 neat innovative practice.

7 And with that, I would like for Dr. Riley to
8 come up as well to talk about this initiative and
9 this proposal from the UA-Fort Smith perspective.

10 DR. RILEY: I am Monica Riley; I'm the interim
11 executive director for the School of Education at UA-
12 Fort Smith. And I want to talk to you from the
13 PowerPoint that you have in front of you. I'm just
14 going to point out a couple of pages to you.

15 If you will look at -- let's start with page 8.
16 Dr. Mahan talked a little bit about the benefits of
17 this program. I would tell you that for UA-Fort
18 Smith the benefits of this program is the
19 competitiveness that will be embedded within this
20 program. Because we will limit it to two this first
21 year -- two interns that are able to do this, and I
22 believe that will raise the bar for all of our
23 interns, of all of our students to move forward. And
24 then at the University the students will be able to
25 come to the table more prepared as they move into the

1 field. UAFS will report to ADE each year after we do
2 this, report the results of it. It is my intent to
3 be in touch with those -- as the executive director
4 to be in touch with those students on a regular basis
5 so that I'm collecting the data that I need to
6 monitor the success of the program.

7 If you flip over then to page 10, we'll talk
8 about the requirements of the teacher candidates.
9 They will have had to have passed all of their
10 licensure exams before they're able to do this; so
11 they will be ready. Just like they would to walk
12 into their internship, they will have passed all
13 those exams. They will have completed all of the
14 courses that they need to be proficient in the
15 Science of Reading. They -- we have those Science of
16 Reading standards embedded in our courses, have had
17 for a long time, and are quite successful around the
18 Science of Reading at UA-Fort Smith, which is -- I
19 know is a concern right now. Actually, we have for
20 our -- the first round of data for the 17-18 year we
21 had a 94% pass rate on the Science of Reading exam,
22 and actually 100% of the students have passed because
23 the one that didn't pass went back and re-took and
24 passed. So we feel pretty confident that our
25 candidates would be able to do what they need to do

1 in a classroom around the Science of Reading.

2 And I just feel like with this model that we are
3 preparing the best teachers that we can prepare. The
4 two interns will be our top interns and they will
5 actually be interviewed by us before we allow them to
6 be interviewed by the school district. And then they
7 would be interviewed by the school district and hired
8 at that point.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is that it? Okay. Thank you
10 very much.

11 I think what I'll do is see what questions the
12 board members have and then entertain a motion to
13 accept public comment on this item. So I'll just
14 start with -- Ms. House, do you have any questions?

15 MS. HOUSE: I do. Do you have a plan in place
16 if -- like how are you going to evaluate your teacher
17 interns that are in the classroom surveying? So
18 they'll have a mentor, but how are you going -- are
19 they going to go through the TESS model or what is
20 your -- what's your plan?

21 MR. MAHAN: We will treat them like a new
22 teacher through the TESS model.

23 MS. HOUSE: Okay.

24 MR. MAHAN: But they also will have another
25 level of evaluation just through the college

1 coursework as well.

2 MS. HOUSE: Okay.

3 DR. RILEY: Our students are currently evaluated
4 with the Danielson model through the TESS and they
5 would receive that from the University faculty as
6 well as from the schools.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Dr. Moore, anything?

8 DR. MOORE: Yes, I have a couple of questions,
9 first for Dr. Riley. How much time will these
10 interns have spent in classrooms prior to this year?

11 DR. RILEY: If they are an elementary major,
12 they will have spent 90 hours in the field already
13 prior to this experience. If they are -- well, a
14 mid-level or elementary person would have done that.

15 DR. MOORE: And will they have an advisor or an
16 instructor from UAFS also working with them during
17 this year?

18 DR. RILEY: Yes. Currently, in the model that
19 we have with just our regular internship the students
20 have -- five students are assigned to a faculty
21 member and that faculty member evaluates them. These
22 two students would be a part of the five-group and
23 would have that university supervisor. In addition,
24 what the interns generally don't have is my touch,
25 and I would be involved in this, especially during

1 this pilot year.

2 DR. MOORE: That's great. So the first year
3 would be to have two teachers. What would it be for
4 the rollout after that?

5 MR. MAHAN: We would have to assess it this
6 first year, at the end of the year, to see where
7 we're at. Logistically speaking, over five years you
8 would hope to have at least -- if it was very
9 successful add one maybe per year. But logistically
10 speaking, I think we might max out at four highly-
11 effective mentor teachers with opening positions. It
12 really all depends on the open positions; it depends
13 on the grade level configuration -- is it in a
14 position where there's more than one teacher --
15 because some of our elementaries are smaller than
16 others. Is it the right fit? And if it is, we'll
17 take advantage of that if we see success. But I do
18 not see us ever having more than four mentor
19 supervising teachers.

20 And I would also add, this is -- the rationale
21 explains that this waiver is specific to this pilot
22 program. Any changes or adjustments would require a
23 different waiver. This is only for us to pilot this
24 research-based program.

25 DR. MOORE: And is there a conversation about

1 doing it at the secondary level or just the
2 elementary level?

3 DR. RILEY: That is a conversation that we want
4 to have. The reason for starting with the elementary
5 and the middle level programs -- students in
6 elementary and middle level program, by the time that
7 they get to that semester before their internship
8 they're in pedagogy classes. Secondary folks are
9 still in content area courses, so it would take a lot
10 of revision of the program in order to get there.
11 But certainly, that is a conversation on the table.

12 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you for answering the
13 questions.

14 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Newton, anything?

15 MS. NEWTON: So right now you're only looking at
16 Fort Smith?

17 DR. RILEY: Yes. We want to start small so we
18 can monitor the outcome.

19 MS. NEWTON: So if the outcomes are what you
20 want, are you going to be open to other districts
21 coming onboard or --

22 DR. RILEY: Absolutely.

23 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. And then you
24 mentioned that -- right now that you're only thinking
25 about K-6. Is that also from the college, you're

1 only thinking about K-6?

2 DR. RILEY: We had talked about K-8, but we're
3 going to do what -- with our partnership with Fort
4 Smith what suits what they need.

5 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So why are -- I guess my
6 question is: why are you thinking not secondary?

7 DR. RILEY: Again, currently, the secondary
8 classes that the students take prior to internship,
9 that semester before internship, they're still in
10 content area classes.

11 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

12 DR. RILEY: K-8 folks are in pedagogy classes --

13 MS. NEWTON: Right.

14 DR. RILEY: -- which makes a huge difference --

15 MS. NEWTON: Sure.

16 DR. RILEY: -- in what we're able to embed.

17 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

18 DR. RILEY: There is a conversation with the
19 secondary, but it will take program revision to get
20 there. And so we're just kind of holding on and
21 having those conversations as we roll this out.

22 MS. NEWTON: So right now this would only be at
23 most K-8?

24 DR. RILEY: Yes.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then you mentioned the

1 mentor pay. The mentor is going to get the regular
2 classroom pay and then also a stipend above that?

3 MR. MAHAN: Yes. We will look at a stipend
4 above that. We pay mentors an additional amount
5 currently, but we would pay a stipend for this
6 particular program for the fact that there's -- they
7 will be the teacher of record for two classes and, of
8 course, they'll be mentoring two different teachers.

9 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And will it be up to the
10 mentor teacher how she divides her time between the
11 two?

12 MR. MAHAN: We want to -- we've had discussion
13 about this. We want it to be a 50/50 break, but we
14 don't want to define what 50/50 looks like.

15 MS. NEWTON: Right.

16 MR. MAHAN: I think it will depend on the
17 instructional practices that are going on on certain
18 days. It may depend on support needed in areas.

19 MS. NEWTON: Right.

20 MR. MAHAN: But we do want it to be equitable in
21 the support, but we also want that supervising
22 teacher to be accessible at any given time for both
23 people.

24 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

25 MR. MAHAN: And they would not be -- the other

1 thing we talked about, to be clear too, they still
2 would be housed in one classroom just as a -- they're
3 not going to be removed from that classroom, they're
4 not going to be somewhere else; they're going to be
5 there, present. Now they may be in and out of both
6 classrooms, but they will be set-up in one classroom
7 there.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I thought I understood. So
9 what you just said -- so I got it confused. The
10 mentor teacher does not have her own class?

11 MR. MAHAN: Yes, she -- both -- he or she mentor
12 teacher would have their own class, but the intern
13 teacher would take over that class. They would have
14 a workspace there.

15 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So she will have her own
16 class plus two other classrooms?

17 MR. MAHAN: She will have her own workspace in
18 her own class, but a new intern that works a year-
19 long would take over her instructional aspect of --

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right.

21 MR. MAHAN: -- his or her class.

22 MS. NEWTON: So there's only going to be two
23 classrooms of kids?

24 MR. MAHAN: That's correct.

25 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I got it.

1 MR. MAHAN: The mentor teacher would not be
2 teaching day-to-day; they'd be supporting day-to-day.

3 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Okay. There was
4 one more question I had. Let me find it. Oh. You
5 showed in your packet where you had board support and
6 then support of the College of Education. Have you
7 talked to your teachers and the parents of your
8 district? What kind of support are you getting that
9 direction?

10 MR. MAHAN: We have had limited discussion with
11 parents and teachers prior to this rollout. Now I
12 did reach out to some teachers yesterday to float the
13 idea; I'll have to get some responses. But as far as
14 the collaborative session -- no, ma'am -- we did not
15 do that.

16 MS. NEWTON: I would definitely encourage you to
17 do that because they're the ones --

18 MR. MAHAN: Yeah, I think as we go through this
19 pilot proposal this year that will be part of the
20 process as well to gather than additional data.

21 MS. NEWTON: Get feedback, yes.

22 MR. MAHAN: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. NEWTON: Definitely. Definitely, I think
24 you need to do that.

25 Okay. I think that's all I've got right now.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. I've got a question that
2 actually follows on Ms. Newton's question, and it
3 comes back to the newspaper article on the school
4 board meeting and the concern raised by one teacher
5 there. I just want to be clear for the record that
6 this waiver request only applies to this pilot and is
7 not a broader waiver?

8 MR. MAHAN: Absolutely.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

10 MR. MAHAN: We'll certainly follow direction of
11 the Arkansas Department of Ed. and the State Board of
12 Education. Any changes or tweaks to any type of
13 waiver would certainly come back to you-all for
14 approval for the length of this pilot program.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thank you very much.

16 Ms. Dean? Ms. Zook?

17 MS. ZOOK: We approved something similar but not
18 exactly the same in the UA-Monticello at Dumas and
19 Batesville Southside and UCA. So I would recommend
20 that you-all do it through Skype or however -- but
21 like a group of what I call critical friends so they
22 can share things they've learned, things they wish
23 they'd done differently, things that they've changed
24 to so that if they've invented a wheel you don't have
25 to reinvent it if it fits your program. And then

1 there will be things that they can learn from you as
2 well.

3 And, secondly, I love the idea because so many
4 times the internships are second semester, and the
5 first thing we want a teacher to do is start school.
6 And starting school and ending school is a whole lot
7 different.

8 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

9 MS. ZOOK: So I commend this. And touch-base
10 with those others and see if -- you know, what they
11 think and what they've learned.

12 MR. MAHAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Dr. Hill? Ms.
14 Chambers, anything?

15 MS. CHAMBERS: I too -- I really like the sounds
16 of this. It feels more like an apprenticeship, which
17 I think has a different connotation and benefit to
18 the recipient. The question I -- I'm assuming this
19 too will be successful. So when you think about
20 you'll establish a mentoring teacher and these two
21 interns in a year, the next year will you
22 deliberately move it to a different teacher,
23 different class? Or is the intention to keep that
24 same teacher because they're already good at
25 mentoring and rotating interns through that

1 particular individual? So my question is: keep it,
2 or do you move it around to get more experience with
3 it?

4 MR. MAHAN: From my perspective, I've actually
5 thought about that and I probably would lean -- it
6 really will depend on open positions and moving
7 teachers around. But I would lean on trying to
8 utilize that particular person because they will have
9 established them-self as a mentor already, if we can.
10 If not, we'll look at constant support and training
11 for new ones in other schools. And UA-Fort Smith --
12 Dr. Riley can speak to the support they will provide
13 to that position as well.

14 DR. RILEY: We understand the importance of
15 whoever that mentor teacher is being a real coach and
16 understanding the coaching perspective. And so our
17 intent is to provide some coaching for that mentor
18 teacher as well to help them gain the coaching
19 perspective that they need. And so we'll be working
20 on that and making that happen.

21 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. McFetridge. And
23 then I see Ms. Newton.

24 MS. MCFETRIDGE: I have a question on the
25 contract. It says each intern will receive a year

1 contract and that they will receive 50% of a first-
2 year teacher's contract. Maybe explain to me what
3 that means exactly. Is that just financially or is
4 it --

5 MR. MAHAN: Yes, ma'am. It will not be a
6 renewable contract; it will be a one-year contract --
7 and 38 -- we start out at \$38,050, I believe, first-
8 year teacher. So we would just take that 50% cost;
9 that would allow us to employ two intern teachers for
10 the price of that one position that was already
11 vacated. And then also allow us to provide them a
12 wage that would -- it could be used for paying for
13 that fourth year of college or it could be used for
14 living expenses. But -- and also, the other
15 important aspect for me is it gives them the second
16 year on the salary schedule when they go out for
17 their next contract. It gives them a year of
18 experience. It also gives them access to benefits
19 and gives them access to teacher retirement. So it's
20 just -- it's not a renewable contract, just a one-
21 year contract based on our current salary schedule.

22 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. All right.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Newton.

24 MS. NEWTON: That was my -- my question was the
25 teacher retirement. Have you reached out to someone

1 in the teacher retirement system to make sure that
2 this is going to go over with them?

3 MR. MAHAN: I have spoken to our payroll
4 department and they feel strongly that we will be
5 able to do that. Now I haven't specifically talked
6 to ATRS. But currently, like a substitute teacher,
7 they have access to ATRS. So with the fact that
8 they're going to be working full-time I feel pretty
9 comfortable that they can get that access -- but
10 still not completely confirmed. But we will continue
11 to work on that.

12 MS. NEWTON: I would recommend --

13 MR. MAHAN: You bet.

14 MS. NEWTON: You never know how long red-tape
15 sometimes takes.

16 MR. MAHAN: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. House?

18 MS. HOUSE: Yeah. Just as a classroom teacher
19 and as someone who is overseeing many student
20 interns, I love this idea. I love the idea that I
21 could leave with her in my classroom and not be
22 completely taken out of it. But I would strongly
23 encourage you to provide some additional training to
24 these teachers because mentoring an intern for a few
25 weeks, for a few lessons doesn't look like mentoring

1 a teacher full-time.

2 MR. MAHAN: Right.

3 MS. HOUSE: So I would definitely encourage
4 looking at some leadership training because it's a
5 different ballgame. But I'm excited about this --
6 this idea.

7 MR. MAHAN: Thank you.

8 MS. HOUSE: I think it's innovative and it's
9 interesting.

10 MR. MAHAN: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Okay. Thank y'all.

12 MR. MAHAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: If there are no further
14 questions, I would entertain a motion to accept
15 public comment on this item.

16 MS. DEAN: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is there a second?

18 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean,
20 second by Ms. Chambers.

21 All in favor say "aye."

22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

24 Okay. Great.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT RE: ITEM B-1

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And Donella Smither has signed
2 up for public comment on this and -- Ms. Smither, is
3 that correct?

4 MS. SMITHER: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great. You have up
6 to three minutes. Thank you very much for being
7 here.

8 MS. SMITHER: Thank you for having me. My name
9 is Donella Smither and I am a new teacher to the Fort
10 Smith School District. I'm not a new public school
11 teacher -- I have 27 years of experience -- but I'm
12 new to the Fort Smith School District. And I'm also
13 a member of the Fort Smith Education Association.

14 You may remember that the president of FSEA
15 spoke in front of you-all last December when our
16 administration applied for a waiver to take the PPC
17 election process away from the professional
18 educators. If you'll recall during that time FSEA
19 came to you to represent a large number of concerned
20 teachers who felt as if their voices were not being
21 considered in the decision-making process. On that
22 day FSEA brought you over 50 letters signed by FSPS
23 employees articulating their apprehension towards
24 being excluded from an important school district
25 decision. One of those letters was mine.

1 I've never done anything like this before, but I
2 have become so concerned that I come to you today to
3 give a platform to educators who feel dismissed and
4 disregarded while the administration continues to
5 make unilateral decisions without their input.

6 Last Thursday, educators of Fort Smith
7 discovered that their administration was applying for
8 a waiver on Class Size and Class Load -- not through
9 communication from the administration but instead,
10 through the posting of upcoming business on the ADE
11 website. Concern spread quickly among Fort Smith
12 educators because no one appeared to know anything
13 behind the waiver and how it would affect the
14 district. After reading through the district's
15 rationale for the waiver, I could not find any
16 connection between the waiver and the given
17 rationale. FSEA contacted the board for some clarity
18 but have received no contact since then. The final
19 page of every waiver request form gives a list of
20 suggested procedures to be followed by the district.
21 The latter half reads as follows: "Discuss the
22 transparency of the process and methods used for
23 garnering support for the waivers. Efforts included
24 methods, times, dates, places for notifying and
25 including all stakeholders, students, teachers, other

1 staff, parents, community members, school board,
2 board resolution. Feedback received from
3 stakeholders and how it was and will be used in the
4 discipline -- I mean, in the district plan,"

5 I do not know of any students, teachers, parents
6 or community members who have been educated or
7 informed on this process. I found no notifications
8 of meetings or town halls. I cannot find in the
9 school board minutes where it was discussed and
10 resolved to purpose.

11 I'm not here to argue for or against the waiver,
12 and I'm not here to argue whether that's a good
13 program -- because we all know that it is. I have
14 student-taught; I understand, and I think it's a
15 great program. I just want to make sure that we're
16 doing and making the right decisions in the process.
17 I want to -- I'm here to give all teachers --

18 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

19 MS. SMITHER: -- in our district a voice. Thank
20 you very much for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you, Ms. Smither. Thank
22 you very, very much. We appreciate that. And I --
23 you know, I hear you and I think it follows on Ms.
24 Newton's question as well. And it has been a
25 frustration with the 1240 process that, you know, the

1 input of teachers really have been very hit-and-miss
2 -- and too often missed. Because if these programs
3 are going to work they have to have support of
4 teachers and staff long-term, and I think that
5 districts are being short-sighted if they fail to
6 take that step in these waiver processes. So I
7 appreciate the comment, no matter the merits of this
8 proposal.

9 So any other questions or comments?

10 DR. MOORE: I have a question --

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yes.

12 DR. MOORE: -- for the Department. So this
13 waiver is just specific to these two classrooms; is
14 that correct? Or however many they have in the
15 future?

16 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt, Arkansas
17 Department of Education.

18 It's specific to the program. So based on what
19 they're saying today, if they only have the two
20 classrooms it would just apply to the classrooms in
21 the program. And the reason it's this waiver -- the
22 Class Size and Teaching Load waiver, as he explained,
23 is because the teacher-of-record will still be the
24 licensed teacher that's kind of overseeing both
25 classrooms. So it's not that one classroom in and of

1 itself really would exceed, but it's that it is the
2 teacher-of-record for both classrooms.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. Additional
5 comments or questions?

6 Okay. Are y'all ready?

7 I would entertain a motion on this waiver. The
8 proper motion is to approve or disapprove as
9 presented.

10 MS. ZOOK: I move to approve the waiver as
11 presented. And appreciate the fact that you did make
12 a commitment to us verbally that you will go back and
13 talk with the people who represent your community, on
14 the board, and also explain that every teacher is not
15 going to have to go over their load. Because I can
16 see why they're -- when I read it, you know, I wasn't
17 sure about that. And we ask everyone who comes in
18 for a 1240 waiver if they've involved their
19 stakeholders and their teachers. So with that, I
20 move that we approve.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is there a second?

22 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So a motion by Ms. Zook,
24 second by Ms. McFetridge.

25 Are y'all -- voice-vote or do y'all want to --

1 MS. NEWTON: No.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All in favor say "aye."

3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

5 I'll make a -- one of my last three-month
6 comments. And if the Board does get Act 1240 rule-
7 making authority ultimately, I really do hope that
8 the Board will include feedback from all the
9 stakeholders in the district as part of the process
10 of evaluating 1240 waivers moving forward. So I just
11 want to add that to the list.

12 Okay. All right. We are through with our
13 agenda. We thank the folks from Fort Smith who have
14 come out.

15 MISC. PUBLIC COMMENT

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: We are down to public comment.
17 We did have a handful of people sign up, and I have
18 totally lost that piece of paper. Do you have it?

19 MS. WINDLE: I have a list.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thanks, Ms. Windle.

21 Okay. So I'll first-off note that Mr. Gary Ault
22 had written a public comment. You should've received
23 that earlier, so that was one of the three.

24 Gabriel Kinghorn.

25 [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Gabriel Kinghorn?

2 [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

3 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Kelly Houses.

4 [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

5 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Going, going, gone.

6 Okay. So our public comment isn't here.

7 So is there any --

8 MS. ZOOK: There were some ladies that walked
9 out with the lady who did speak. I wonder if that
10 was one of the people. I don't know.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: They are not here now.

12 MS. ZOOK: I don't recognize them.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

14 MS. WINDLE: (Shaking head from side to side.)

15 MS. ZOOK: It was not? Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We are at the end of our
17 agenda. And so I would entertain a motion to
18 adjourn.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: So moved.

20 MS. DEAN: Motion to adjourn.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Chambers,
22 second by Ms. Dean.

23 All in favor say "aye."

24 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And, again, thank you for a

1 great meeting space here and a great day. And the
2 Board will -- has a long day tomorrow, starting at 8
3 a.m. But we'll see you at dinner tonight.

4 All right. Thanks.

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7 (The meeting was concluded at 1:59 p.m.)
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B-1: FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT WAIVER

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

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B-3: ACT 1240 CLASS SIZE & TEACHING LOAD TRANSITION

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

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 State Department of Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 14, 2019, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

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

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

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: March 23, 2019.

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

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