

**In The Matter Of:**  
*ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

---

*June 28, 2021*

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

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ARKANSAS DIVISION OF  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JUNE 28, 2021  
9:00 A.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. CHARISSE DEAN, Chairman  
MS. OUIDA NEWTON, Vice Chairman  
DR. SARAH MOORE  
DR. FITZGERALD HILL  
MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE  
MS. ADRIENNE WOODS  
MR. STEVE SUTTON  
DR. BETH ANNE RANKIN  
MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS

NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS:

MR. JOHNNY KEY, Secretary of Education  
MR. JOEL LOOKADOO, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

DESE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. LORI FRENO General Counsel  
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT Legal Counsel

LOCATION:

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

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1 PROCEEDINGS  
 2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Well, today we have  
 3 quite an ambitious agenda, but I feel confident that  
 4 we can move through this expeditiously. And Ms.  
 5 Smith is going to guide us through this today.  
 6 So, good morning.  
 7 MS. SMITH: Good morning.  
 8 Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.  
 9 Can everybody hear me online okay?  
 10 All right. So with 60 applications I thought  
 11 prayer was the most appropriate word, but I get it.  
 12 All right. So what we're going to do is similar  
 13 to what we did last time. We're going to talk  
 14 through them in batches. If you have one you want to  
 15 pull, we'll pull it. But we're going to go through  
 16 and approve all the ones we don't have questions for,  
 17 and those that get pulled will stay online and we'll  
 18 be able to ask questions of those.  
 19 V.1: TRI-REGION CONSORTIUM  
 20 a) Hillcrest  
 21 b) Jackson County  
 22 c) Sloan Hendrix  
 23 d) Southside Independence  
 24 e) Mammoth Springs  
 25 f) Midland

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1 g) Cave City  
 2 h) Izard County  
 3 i) Blytheville  
 4 j) Valley View  
 5 k) Dawson Consortium  
 6 1) Lake Hamilton  
 7 2) Harmon Grove Saline  
 8 MS. SMITH: So the first batch we have is the  
 9 Tri-Region Consortium. And these are the school  
 10 districts we'll be discussing: Hillcrest, Jackson  
 11 County, Sloan Hendrix, Southside Independence,  
 12 Mammoth Springs, Midland, Cave City, Izard County,  
 13 Blytheville, and Valley View.  
 14 Are there any of those districts that the Board  
 15 would like to pull for further discussion?  
 16 MS. NEWTON: I have -- this is Ouida Newton. I  
 17 have questions on Tri-Region, the consortium, and  
 18 then questions for Mammoth Springs. And then I don't  
 19 know where this question is going to fit, but in  
 20 general for the whole batch of 60 I have questions  
 21 for Virtual Arkansas.  
 22 MS. SMITH: Okay.  
 23 MS. McFETRIDGE: I would also like to pull  
 24 Blytheville. This is Kathy McFetridge.  
 25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.

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1 MS. SMITH: So let me clarify one thing real  
 2 quick and see what the board would like to do on  
 3 this. Since we have questions for the Tri-Region  
 4 Consortium, I'm going to keep all the districts on  
 5 here as we go through the applications. And then  
 6 when we come back to the beginning we'll ask the  
 7 questions of the consortium and then decide if we can  
 8 move people off or keep them on. Does that work?  
 9 Okay. Because, Ms. Newton, so if you have  
 10 questions for the consortium that would kind of hit  
 11 every district then. Correct?  
 12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're muted. Ms. Newton,  
 13 you're muted.  
 14 MS. NEWTON: I'm not used to this. Okay.  
 15 It's really more of a comment in appreciation  
 16 for something they've done, and so it's just a  
 17 general type thing. So --  
 18 MS. SMITH: Listen, yeah, if you want to brag on  
 19 them, just go ahead right now. That would be great.  
 20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Well, out of all the  
 21 consortiums and co-ops that have done -- to me, they  
 22 have made a great effort at making sure that every  
 23 grade was covered by a teacher, the teachers had the  
 24 right numbers, they are doing one per grade, their  
 25 ratios are good. They've just done a great job with

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1 that, and I just wanted to tell them how much I  
 2 appreciated them doing that, the one teacher per  
 3 grade and then keeping their numbers within the  
 4 limits. So I was very appreciative of that.  
 5 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Newton.  
 6 So I'm going to ask the Board, if there's no  
 7 other districts to pull from that first group, that  
 8 we make a motion for Hillcrest, Jackson County, Sloan  
 9 Hendrix, Southside Independence, Midland, Cave City,  
 10 Izard County, and Valley View, at the number of years  
 11 they requested. All of those districts are either  
 12 three years or less.  
 13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have a motion?  
 14 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.  
 15 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by  
 17 Mr. Sutton, seconded by Ms. Chambers.  
 18 Is there any other discussion?  
 19 If not, then all in favor say "aye."  
 20 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 22 Seeing none, the motion passes for that group,  
 23 minus Mammoth and Blytheville.  
 24 MS. SMITH: So, Mammoth and Blytheville, if  
 25 you'll stay online. All those other districts can

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1 leave -- and congratulations.  
 2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Congratulations. And thank you.  
 3 Y'all have a great day.  
 4 V.1.k. DAWSON CONSORTIUM  
 5 1) Lake Hamilton  
 6 2) Harmony Grove Saline  
 7 MS. SMITH: All right. The second batch is two  
 8 districts with Dawson Consortium. That would be Lake  
 9 Hamilton School District and Harmony Grove in Saline  
 10 County. Do any board members have questions for  
 11 those districts or consortiums?  
 12 MS. NEWTON: I had a question just for Dawson.  
 13 MS. SMITH: Do you want to go ahead and do that  
 14 now?  
 15 MS. NEWTON: Just that Guy Fenter was going to  
 16 come back in the fall, I think, and give us an update  
 17 on how they were doing with their numbers and how  
 18 that was working. And I was just wondering if Dawson  
 19 would be willing to do that also.  
 20 MS. CANDISS BENNETT: Yes, ma'am. We will  
 21 definitely do that. And our numbers actually have  
 22 lowered. We've -- right now, we have 82 students  
 23 with three teachers, and so we don't even foresee a  
 24 maximum of 120 students probably. So you're looking  
 25 at probably each teacher will have less than 40

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1 students. But, yes, we will definitely do that.  
 2 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Anyone else?  
 4 Okay.  
 5 MS. SMITH: Okay. So I'd ask for a motion for  
 6 Lake Hamilton School District and Harmony Grove in  
 7 Saline County for three years.  
 8 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.  
 9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by  
 10 Mr. Sutton.  
 11 MS. WOODS: Second.  
 12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 13 Was that Ms. -- okay. Great. Seconded by Ms.  
 14 Woods.  
 15 Any discussion?  
 16 Seeing none, all in favor say "aye."  
 17 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 19 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 20 Congratulations, everyone.  
 21 And let's see.  
 22 MS. SMITH: Okay. Then --  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: So that was the whole thing on  
 24 that one?  
 25 MS. SMITH: Yes.

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1 V.2. WILBUR D. MILLS CONSORTIUM  
 2 a) Riverview  
 3 b) McCrory  
 4 c) Carlisle  
 5 MS. SMITH: So the next group is Wilbur Mills  
 6 Consortium, and we have three districts for Wilbur  
 7 Mills. Those three districts are Riverview, McCrory,  
 8 and Carlisle.  
 9 Does anyone have any questions for those  
 10 districts?  
 11 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)  
 12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. It doesn't look like we  
 13 have any questions.  
 14 MS. SMITH: Okay. Then, I'd ask for a motion  
 15 for Riverview, McCrory, and Carlisle on the number of  
 16 years that they requested in their application.  
 17 Carlisle is for one year and the other two are for  
 18 three.  
 19 DR. RANKIN: I move to approve.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Dr. Rankin.  
 21 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.  
 23 Any discussion?  
 24 Okay. All in favor say "aye."  
 25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 2 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 3 Congratulations, and thank you.  
 4 V.3. ARKANSAS RIVER CONSORTIUM  
 5 a) Danville  
 6 b) Dover  
 7 c) Mayflower  
 8 d) Guy-Perkins  
 9 MS. SMITH: The next batch is with Arkansas  
 10 River Consortium. The four districts, we have  
 11 Danville, Dover, Mayflower, and Guy-Perkins. Anyone  
 12 have a question for one of those districts?  
 13 (BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE)  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 15 MS. SMITH: Then I would ask for a motion to  
 16 approve those districts -- Danville, Dover,  
 17 Mayflower, and Guy-Perkins for the number of years  
 18 requested on their application.  
 19 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll move to approve.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by  
 21 Ms. McFetridge.  
 22 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry, I didn't see who  
 24 seconded.  
 25 Okay. Thank you.

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1           Seconded by Ms. Chambers.  
 2           Any discussion?  
 3           All right. All in favor say "aye."  
 4           (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 5           CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 6           Seeing none, motion passes.  
 7           Congratulations, and thank you for joining us  
 8           today.  
 9 V.4. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CONSORTIUM  
 10        a) Farmington  
 11           MS. SMITH: We have one district underneath  
 12           Northwest Arkansas Consortium and that is Farmington,  
 13           for three years. Does anyone have any questions for  
 14           Farmington?  
 15           MS. NEWTON: I have a question for the  
 16           consortium, Northwest Arkansas.  
 17           MR. LAW: Okay. Go ahead.  
 18           MS. NEWTON: Okay. I saw that you have one  
 19           teacher K-6. And I would just like a little bit more  
 20           information on the teacher/student direct  
 21           interaction, with how much synchronous learning  
 22           you're going to have in the early grades, and have  
 23           you thought about scheduling how that's going to go.  
 24           MR. LAW: Well, we have thought. We spent a lot  
 25           of time on this discussing our numbers. When we

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1           started out we had a significantly higher number, and  
 2           we determined that that number was too high. We were  
 3           up in the 70s and 80s. We pulled the number back to  
 4           about 40, and I believe on the application we show  
 5           45. But right now we are -- we have 38 students that  
 6           are involved. That number changes daily. The --  
 7           we're going -- we will have synchronous learning, as  
 8           it states in the plan, for each one of the students  
 9           weekly. The majority of our learning will be  
 10          asynchronous learning. We spent a large amount of  
 11          time meeting with Florida Virtual who will be our  
 12          provider on this. And one of the things that we  
 13          learned in talking with them was the parents that are  
 14          involved with this is a small number; you're talking  
 15          about 38 out of 92,000 in our co-op. The parents  
 16          that are involved with this are really looking for an  
 17          asynchronous option and they are looking for an  
 18          opportunity to have flexibility in the schedule due  
 19          to their work schedule or due to the arrangements for  
 20          their children. So with the number -- with the  
 21          number that we're talking, 38 out of 92,000, we do  
 22          have a large amount of synchronous learning that will  
 23          be involved, but the students will meet synchronously  
 24          every week.  
 25          MS. NEWTON: (audio distortion) going to just

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1           once a week or --  
 2           MR. LAW: I'm sorry, I couldn't -- that cut out.  
 3           MS. NEWTON: I'll get closer. In K-2, tell me a  
 4           little bit more about their literacy.  
 5           MR. LAW: Okay. In K-2, you know, the unique  
 6           potential that we have here is we will have our  
 7           person housed here and we have -- we have four RISE  
 8           specialists that are involved. And our RISE  
 9           specialists have been involved with us in writing our  
 10          plan and determining what would be best for these  
 11          students to work with in literacy. And we will --  
 12          you know, I think that's a really unique thing that  
 13          we have bringing this out of a co-op, as opposed to  
 14          bringing it out of just the school, is we have  
 15          specialists that are right -- I mean they're actually  
 16          right down the hallway from where the learning will  
 17          take place. And we will have direct access where we  
 18          can be more nimble and be more fluid than a  
 19          traditional school setting, we believe.  
 20          MS. NEWTON: Thank you.  
 21          MR. LAW: Uh-huh.  
 22          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. If there are no other  
 23          questions --  
 24          MS. SMITH: Then I ask for a motion for  
 25          Farmington School District for three years. And that

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1           was Bryan Law, the Co-op Director that was talking.  
 2           CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have a motion?  
 3           MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.  
 4           CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Mr. Sutton.  
 5           MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.  
 6           CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge to  
 7           approve.  
 8           All in favor say "aye."  
 9           (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 10          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 11          Seeing none, motion passes.  
 12          Thank you. Congratulations, Mr. Law.  
 13          MS. SMITH: So the next --  
 14          MR. LAW: Thank you.  
 15 V.5. SECONDARY VIRTUAL ARKANSAS  
 16        a) Hermitage  
 17        b) Poyen  
 18        c) Harmony Grove (Ouachita)  
 19        d) Clinton  
 20        e) Crossett  
 21        f) Omaha  
 22        g) Gravette  
 23        h) Nevada  
 24          MS. SMITH: The next group is all Secondary  
 25          Virtual Arkansas. And I know, Ms. Newton, you had

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1 questions for Virtual Arkansas. So would you like me  
 2 to just pass over this group for a minute and then  
 3 come back with Virtual Arkansas for some questions?  
 4 Or you want me to go ahead and go through the group  
 5 as a --  
 6 MS. NEWTON: Is Virtual Arkansas online?  
 7 MS. SMITH: I know that we were working on that.  
 8 Don?  
 9 DR. PFEFFER: We're giving them a call right  
 10 now.  
 11 MS. SMITH: Don, is Virtual Arkansas online?  
 12 MR. BENTON: (inaudible, sitting at the back of  
 13 the room)  
 14 MS. SMITH: We're reaching out to them. Let's  
 15 go ahead and move forward and we'll have somebody on  
 16 the line in just a minute.  
 17 MS. NEWTON: Okay.  
 18 MS. SMITH: So if -- for right now, I'm going to  
 19 ask the secondary schools for Virtual Arkansas to  
 20 stay on for a little bit and we will come back to you  
 21 pretty quickly. That would be Hermitage, Poyen,  
 22 Harmony Grove (Ouachita), Clinton School District,  
 23 Crossett School District, Omaha, Gravette, and  
 24 Nevada.  
 25 Okay. So if you guys will hang on, I will come

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1 back to you once we get Virtual Arkansas on the line.  
 2 MR. BENTON: She thinks that John has military  
 3 duty.  
 4 MS. SMITH: Is there anyone from Virtual  
 5 Arkansas?  
 6 MR. BENTON: But Kerstin -- we'll try to get  
 7 hold of Kerstin (inaudible).  
 8 V.6. GUY FENTER CONSORTIUM  
 9 a) Booneville  
 10 b) Clarksville  
 11 c) Charleston  
 12 d) Mulberry Pleasant View  
 13 e) Cedarville  
 14 f) Magazine  
 15 g) Ozark  
 16 h) Mansfield  
 17 MS. SMITH: Okay. So we're going to jump over  
 18 real quick to V.6. on the agenda, which is the Guy  
 19 Fenter Consortium. So that would be -- there's a  
 20 large group here.  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Smith --  
 22 Y'all bear with us. Just -- give us just a  
 23 moment.  
 24 MS. SMITH: Okay. So for Guy Fenter Consortium  
 25 we have Booneville, Clarksville, Charleston, Mulberry

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1 Pleasant View, Cedarville, Magazine, Ozark,  
 2 Mansfield. So that would be the Guy Fenter  
 3 Consortium.  
 4 Does anyone have a question for one of those  
 5 districts?  
 6 Then, I'd ask for a motion to approve those  
 7 districts for the number of years indicated on their  
 8 application. And that was Booneville, Clarksville,  
 9 Charleston, Mulberry Pleasant View, Cedarville,  
 10 Magazine, Ozark, and Mansfield.  
 11 MS. WOODS: Move to approve.  
 12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Ms. Woods.  
 13 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.  
 15 All in favor say "aye."  
 16 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 18 Okay. Seeing none, motion passes.  
 19 Congratulations to the Guy Fenter Consortium.  
 20 V.7. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS  
 21 a) Hoxie  
 22 b) Junction City  
 23 c) Paragould  
 24 d) Yellville  
 25 e) Searcy County

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1 f) Hackett  
 2 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next group is a pretty  
 3 large group again, and it's a K-12 and there's no  
 4 consortium with these districts: Hoxie, Junction  
 5 City, Paragould, Yellville, Searcy County, and  
 6 Hackett. I'm going to pause right there and see if  
 7 any of those need to be pulled.  
 8 MS. NEWTON: I had a question on Yellville, with  
 9 APSRC.  
 10 MS. SMITH: Okay. I'm going to pull Yellville.  
 11 Any questions for any of the other ones?  
 12 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes, ma'am. Hoxie and I  
 13 believe Paragould.  
 14 MS. SMITH: Any other questions for Junction  
 15 City, Searcy County, or Hackett?  
 16 Then I'd ask for a motion to go ahead and  
 17 approve those three: Junction City for one year --  
 18 Oh, I'm sorry -- Searcy County, I did want to  
 19 note on that one their application was for five  
 20 years. And so if there was wanting to be an  
 21 amendment on that one for three by the Board that  
 22 would need to be specific.  
 23 Hackett was for three years.  
 24 MS. NEWTON: I would like to amend to three  
 25 years.

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1           SEARCY COUNTY MOTION/VOTE  
 2           MS. SMITH: Okay. So let's do a motion specific  
 3 to Searcy County for three years.  
 4           MS. NEWTON: Okay. I move for Searcy County for  
 5 three years.  
 6           MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.  
 7           CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 8 Newton to approve Searcy County for three years,  
 9 seconded by Ms. McFetridge.  
 10          Any discussion?  
 11          Seeing none, all in favor say "aye."  
 12          (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 13          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 14          Seeing none, motion passes.  
 15          Congratulations, Searcy County.  
 16          JUNCTION CITY & HACKETT MOTION/VOTE  
 17          MS. SMITH: I'd like to ask the Board for a  
 18 motion for Junction City and Hackett for the number  
 19 of years indicated in their applications.  
 20          MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.  
 21          CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion by Ms. Chambers  
 22 to approve Junction City and Hackett for the number  
 23 of years in their packet.  
 24          MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 25          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.

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1          Any discussion?  
 2          All in favor say "aye."  
 3          (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 4          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 5          Seeing none, motion passes.  
 6          Congratulations, Junction City and Hackett.  
 7          MS. SMITH: The next group of school districts I  
 8 would like to present to you: Greenwood --  
 9          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes?  
 10          SECRETARY KEY: This is a little too expedited.  
 11 I'm having trouble keeping up with the votes here.  
 12 So let me catch up just for a second.  
 13          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 14          MS. SMITH: Okay.  
 15          SECRETARY KEY: Okay. That was -- my vote  
 16 sheet, I'm trying to make sure it lines up. So that  
 17 was Hackett and --  
 18          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Junction City.  
 19          SECRETARY KEY: -- Junction City?  
 20          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Uh-huh.  
 21          SECRETARY KEY: So V.7.b.  
 22          MS. SMITH: And then --  
 23          SECRETARY KEY: F.  
 24          MS. SMITH: -- V.7.f.  
 25          SECRETARY KEY: All right. And the motion was

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1          made by whom?  
 2          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Chambers, and was seconded  
 3 by Mr. Sutton. Is that right? Okay.  
 4          MR. SUTTON: Yes.  
 5          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 6          MR. SUTTON: It sounds like we need to get  
 7 somebody else taking minutes than --  
 8          SECRETARY KEY: May be. You may be right.  
 9          MR. SUTTON: [laughter]  
 10          SECRETARY KEY: Thankfully, we do have somebody  
 11 backing me up who's not here.  
 12          All right. Thanks, Stacy.  
 13          MS. SMITH: You're welcome.  
 14 g) Greenwood  
 15 h) Ouachita River  
 16 i) Little Rock  
 17 j) Bradford  
 18 k) North Little Rock  
 19 l) Batesville  
 20 m) Flippin  
 21 n) Greenbrier  
 22 o) Western Yell  
 23 p) Cutter Morning Star  
 24          MS. SMITH: Okay. So we're on V.7.g.  
 25          So applications I'd like to present for

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1          consideration would be Greenwood, Ouachita River,  
 2 Little Rock, Bradford, North Little Rock, Batesville,  
 3 Flippin, Greenbrier, Western Yell, and Cutter Morning  
 4 Star. Would the Board like to pull any of those for  
 5 further questions?  
 6          MS. NEWTON: Yes, I have questions --  
 7          MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Smith, Little Rock is five  
 8 years, along with Batesville, if we're going to amend  
 9 those at this time.  
 10          CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Ms. Newton.  
 11          MS. NEWTON: I had questions for North Little  
 12 Rock and Batesville.  
 13          CHAIRMAN DEAN: North Little Rock and  
 14 Batesville?  
 15          MS. NEWTON: Yes, ma'am.  
 16          MS. SMITH: Did we have any questions for Little  
 17 Rock or just for them to amend to three years?  
 18          MS. McFETRIDGE: Just to amend to three years.  
 19 I thought their application was very good.  
 20          MS. SMITH: Batesville is for three years; their  
 21 addendum was for three years.  
 22          MS. McFETRIDGE: Oh, okay.  
 23          MS. SMITH: But we still have questions, I  
 24 believe, from Ms. Newton for Batesville. Correct?  
 25          Okay. So Batesville, I have pulled theirs.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 2 MS. SMITH: So --  
 3 Little Rock - Motion/Vote  
 4 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion then to  
 5 amend Little Rock to three years.  
 6 MS. SMITH: Okay. So to approve their -- okay,  
 7 so let's go ahead and do a motion for Little Rock for  
 8 three years, for approval.  
 9 MS. WOODS: I'll second.  
 10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So we have a motion by  
 11 Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 12 All in favor say "aye."  
 13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 15 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 16 MS. SMITH: Okay.  
 17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Congratulations, Little Rock.  
 18 MS. SMITH: And this next bundle that I'm going  
 19 to do a motion for, there's a group, but I think this  
 20 -- these are the right ones.  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Ms. Smith, can you hold up just  
 22 one minute? Someone I think is echoing somehow. I  
 23 think maybe someone may need to mute.  
 24 Okay, it's gone now. Okay. Thank you.  
 25 Greenwood, Ouachita River, Bradford, Flippin,

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1 Greenbrier, Western Yell - Motion/Vote  
 2 MS. SMITH: So I'm asking the Board to approve  
 3 Greenwood, Ouachita River, Bradford, Flippin,  
 4 Greenbrier, Western Yell for the number of years  
 5 indicated on the application.  
 6 DR. RANKIN: I move to approve.  
 7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve --  
 8 one moment. Sorry.  
 9 We have a motion to approve by Ms. Rankin -- or  
 10 Dr. Rankin.  
 11 Do we have a second?  
 12 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 13 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.  
 14 All in favor say "aye."  
 15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 17 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 18 Congratulations.  
 19 Okay.  
 20 Cutter Morning Star - Motion/Vote  
 21 MS. SMITH: So on my notes, for Cutter Morning  
 22 Star, the reason I didn't include them in that group  
 23 was I'm noting that they're still at five years. So  
 24 would the Board like to amend them to three years?  
 25 And if so, I need a motion for Cutter Morning Star to

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1 amend to three years and approve their application.  
 2 MS. WOODS: I'll move that we amend Cutter  
 3 Morning Star --  
 4 MS. McFETRIDGE: (inaudible) to approve to three  
 5 years.  
 6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. I have a motion by Ms.  
 7 Woods to amend Cutter Morning Star to three years,  
 8 seconded by Ms. McFetridge.  
 9 All in favor say "aye."  
 10 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 12 Seeing none, the motion passes -- Cutter Morning  
 13 Star for three years.  
 14 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.  
 15 CHAIRMAN DEAN: What number was that?  
 16 MS. SMITH: They were P -- V.7.p.  
 17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yeah. That was Ms. Woods -- Ms.  
 18 Woods made the motion, and then seconded by Ms.  
 19 McFetridge, I believe. Okay.  
 20 V.8. MISCELLANEOUS  
 21 a) Westside Consolidated Craighead County  
 22 b) Searcy  
 23 c) Mountain Home  
 24 d) Alpena  
 25 e) Vilonia

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1 f) Greene County Tech  
 2 g) Bay  
 3 h) Concord  
 4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right, Ms. Smith.  
 5 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next group of  
 6 applications, we've got Westside Consolidated  
 7 Craighead County, Searcy, Mountain Home, Alpena,  
 8 Vilonia, Greene County Tech, Bay, and Concord.  
 9 Is there any questions for those districts?  
 10 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)  
 11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 12 Searcy and Mountain Home - Motion/Vote  
 13 MS. SMITH: I'd like to note that there are two  
 14 districts on this list, Searcy and Mountain Home,  
 15 that are asking for five years.  
 16 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion to move  
 17 those both to three years.  
 18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 19 DR. RANKIN: I'll second.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So we have a motion to  
 21 approve Searcy and Mountain Home -- that's V.8.b --  
 22 MS. SMITH: For three years.  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: -- for three years. And so that  
 24 is a motion by Ms. McFetridge and seconded by Dr.  
 25 Rankin.



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1 SECRETARY KEY: Okay.  
 2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All in favor say "aye."  
 3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 5 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 6 And Mountain Home is V.8.c.  
 7 All right.  
 8 Westside Consolidated Craighead County, Alpena, Vilonia,  
 9 Greene County Tech, Bay and Concord - Motion/Vote  
 10 MS. SMITH: So then I would be asking for a  
 11 motion to approve Westside Consolidated Craighead  
 12 County, Alpena, Vilonia, Greene County Tech, Bay, and  
 13 Concord for the number of years that's indicated on  
 14 their application.  
 15 MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by  
 17 Ms. Chambers.  
 18 MS. WOODS: Second.  
 19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 20 All in favor say "aye."  
 21 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 23 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 24 Congratulations. Thank y'all.  
 25 Okay.

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1 V.5. SECONDARY VIRTUAL ARKANSAS (continuing)  
 2 MS. SMITH: Okay. So I'm going to jump back to  
 3 V.5.a -- or V.5., which was the Act 1240 Digital  
 4 Applications and Waivers (Secondary Virtual  
 5 Arkansas).  
 6 Ms. Newton, I know you had questions pertaining  
 7 to Virtual Arkansas. So I'm going to go ahead and  
 8 let you ask your questions, and we'll see if there's  
 9 someone online or someone here that could answer  
 10 those questions. So V.5., Secondary Virtual.  
 11 MS. NEWTON: My question was really specifically  
 12 to them, as far as those districts, but to Virtual  
 13 Arkansas in general. At my last count there are 52  
 14 districts that are using Virtual Arkansas for either  
 15 all or part of their digital learning, and then their  
 16 other districts that are going to use them for  
 17 supplemental. And so I was just curious on the  
 18 number of educators that they're going to have to add  
 19 this summer, are there -- have they been able to find  
 20 teachers? Are they going to be able to maintain  
 21 their current projected class size/teaching load?  
 22 And how is professional development going this  
 23 summer? Are we able to get those teachers trained?  
 24 MR. BENTON: Don Benton, Assistant Commissioner,  
 25 Research and Tech.

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1 I work directly with John Ashworth and Virtual  
 2 Arkansas. John has assured me that they will and do  
 3 hire additional staff members, as needed. Last  
 4 count, I think when we hit the initial pandemic they  
 5 had over 100 people they'd hired as adjunct or  
 6 additional educators. And they are highly trained;  
 7 they have to go through a very rigorous training  
 8 program to even be a part of Virtual Arkansas. I  
 9 spoke with John as recently as last week, maybe the  
 10 week before -- Summit was last week; sorry -- the  
 11 week before, and he said they are going to be ready  
 12 to go. And his last report to me is that they are  
 13 going to be able to support anyone and everyone that  
 14 needs their resources.  
 15 So, Ms. Newton, I think we're going to be in  
 16 really good hands in that --  
 17 MS. NEWTON: Okay.  
 18 MR. BENTON: -- situation, so --  
 19 MS. NEWTON: You know, when we're talking about  
 20 that many districts, you know, going to that one  
 21 provider I was a little concerned that they would be  
 22 able to find enough teachers to be able to meet the  
 23 need. But it sounds like they've got it under  
 24 control.  
 25 MR. BENTON: Oh, I'm totally confident. Yes,

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1 ma'am.  
 2 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.  
 3 MR. BENTON: Yes, ma'am.  
 4 MR. SUTTON: That was a good question, Ms.  
 5 Newton.  
 6 MS. SMITH: So I'm going to kind of bring all  
 7 the board members then back to section V.5. and the  
 8 group of districts. That would be Hermitage, Poyen,  
 9 Harmony Grove Ouachita, Clinton School District,  
 10 Crossett, Omaha, Gravette, and Nevada.  
 11 I will note that Nevada is there for five years.  
 12 Hermitage, Poyen, Harmony Grove, Clinton, Crossett,  
 13 Omaha and Gravette - Motion/Vote  
 14 MS. SMITH: So if there's no one -- if we're not  
 15 going to pull anyone out, I would ask for a motion  
 16 for the number of years indicated on their  
 17 application for Hermitage, Poyen, Harmony Grove,  
 18 Clinton, Crossett, Omaha, and Gravette.  
 19 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve by  
 21 Ms. Newton.  
 22 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.  
 24 All in favor say "aye."  
 25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 2 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 3 Now we've got Nevada.  
 4 Nevada - Motion/Vote  
 5 MS. SMITH: And then on Nevada, if there's  
 6 someone who'd like to make a motion to approve their  
 7 application but amend it to three years.  
 8 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion --  
 9 MR. SUTTON: Motion. Go ahead.  
 10 MS. McFETRIDGE: Go ahead, Steve.  
 11 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve Nevada with the  
 12 amendment to three years on their application.  
 13 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll second it.  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. So we have a motion to  
 15 amend Nevada and approve this by Mr. Sutton, seconded  
 16 by Ms. McFetridge.  
 17 All in favor say "aye."  
 18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 20 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 21 Congratulations, everyone. Congratulations,  
 22 Nevada.  
 23 REMAINING QUESTIONS  
 24 MS. SMITH: Okay. So I just want to confirm and  
 25 make sure I've got the right schools that we still

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1 have online and that we need to talk to.  
 2 School districts that are online, when I call  
 3 your school district name out, if you will go into  
 4 the chat and put your name and your school district  
 5 in the chat so we know who's here from your district,  
 6 I would appreciate that.  
 7 So we have Mammoth Springs still that we need to  
 8 be -- to talk to; Blytheville that we still need to  
 9 talk to. Hang on just a second. Hoxie, Paragould,  
 10 Yellville, North Little Rock, Batesville -- and those  
 11 are the only ones that I had marked.  
 12 So if those school districts will go into the  
 13 chat and put your name, who you are, so that we can  
 14 make sure we've got somebody here from each district.  
 15 V.l.e. TRI-REGION CONSORTIUM - MAMMOTH SPRINGS  
 16 MS. SMITH: So the first district we're going to  
 17 talk to is Mammoth Springs.  
 18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And we have Ms. Whisnant from  
 19 Mammoth Springs -- Jenny Whisnant.  
 20 SUPT. WHISNANT: Yes, I'm [audio distortion].  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: If you would -- there we go.  
 22 All right. Good morning. Thank you for joining  
 23 us.  
 24 SUPT. WHISNANT: Can you hear me?  
 25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. Yes.

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1 All right. Ms. Newton.  
 2 SUPT. WHISNANT: Can everybody hear me?  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, we can hear you.  
 4 SUPT. WHISNANT: Okay.  
 5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, we can hear you.  
 6 SUPT. WHISNANT: Okay.  
 7 MS. NEWTON: My question was I know that your  
 8 provider is Edgenuity, and in your plan it says the  
 9 class size in 7-12 is going to be 150-to-1 and  
 10 they're going to provide the teachers. What I want  
 11 to know is at your local district what is going to be  
 12 your plan to keep track of your Mammoth Springs  
 13 students so that you don't have students falling  
 14 through the cracks? Because your plan said that the  
 15 students are going to have to set up a bi-monthly  
 16 appointment with their teacher. And so students  
 17 having to do it twice a month, to go to their teacher  
 18 -- I just want to know what your local district is  
 19 going to do to make sure you don't have any students  
 20 falling through the cracks?  
 21 SUPT. WHISNANT: Our point of contact is very  
 22 familiar with most of our students and their parents.  
 23 We are a small school district. But she is also  
 24 going to keep in touch with Edgenuity and she can go  
 25 online and check their grades constantly and make

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1 sure that they're doing what they're supposed to and  
 2 getting those things done.  
 3 The twice a month is just a minimum to make the  
 4 students responsible for making those contacts with  
 5 that teacher online. And we plan also that if  
 6 they're not being very successful that we have  
 7 tutoring that we've also mandated, that they will  
 8 have to come in for, either in the morning or  
 9 afternoon, or both.  
 10 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.  
 11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any other  
 12 questions for Ms. Whisnant?  
 13 Okay. Seeing none, we are ready for a motion  
 14 for Mammoth.  
 15 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve  
 17 Mammoth for the years that they asked for in their  
 18 application, by Mr. Sutton.  
 19 DR. RANKIN: Second.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Rankin.  
 21 All in favor say "aye."  
 22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 24 Seeing none, motion passes for Mammoth.  
 25 Thank you, Ms. Whisnant, and congratulations.

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1 V.1.i. TRI-REGION CONSORTIUM - BLYTHEVILLE  
 2 MS. SMITH: The next district we're going to  
 3 speak with is Blytheville. That's item V.1.i.  
 4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. And we have Ms.  
 5 Sally Cooke from Blytheville.  
 6 Good morning.  
 7 MS. COOKE: I'm here, if you can hear me.  
 8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. Good morning. Thank you  
 9 for joining us.  
 10 MS. COOKE: Good morning.  
 11 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Cooke, I noticed on your  
 12 application that you're going to be working with the  
 13 6th through 8th grade simultaneously. And I just  
 14 wanted to hear you talk a little bit more about how  
 15 you're going to support your teachers and your  
 16 students doing that.  
 17 MS. COOKE: Well, our 6th through 8th grade are  
 18 the -- what is made up of our middle school. I mean  
 19 all of those students are housed in the same -- on  
 20 the same campus, 6th through 8th grade, and that is  
 21 our middle school. They've been -- we've had no  
 22 trouble in the past making sure that all of the  
 23 standards were met for the 6th graders on that campus  
 24 at the same time. Because we had an exploratory  
 25 wheel for that group of students; that way, they can

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1 meet all of the 6th grade standards that are a little  
 2 bit different for them. But we're also, with -- that  
 3 middle school configuration should be fine to work  
 4 with them in that capacity as well.  
 5 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. So what is your per-  
 6 class size for that situation?  
 7 MS. COOKE: For the virtual, at this point it's  
 8 going to be very small. We do not have -- we've put  
 9 a cap at 25. But we have very few students who have  
 10 applied yet on the virtual end in that 6th through  
 11 8th grade, so it will be very small. And -- but in  
 12 our normal situation it's between 18 and 24, 25.  
 13 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Okay. Well, all right.  
 14 I think that's all the questions I have. I  
 15 appreciate it.  
 16 MS. COOKE: Thank you.  
 17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions for Ms.  
 18 Cooke?  
 19 Yes, Ms. Smith.  
 20 MS. SMITH: I would like to note that  
 21 Blytheville's application is asking for five years.  
 22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 23 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make a motion to approve  
 24 Blytheville and amend their application to three  
 25 years.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 2 McFetridge to approve Blytheville for three years.  
 3 Do we have a second?  
 4 DR. HILL: Second.  
 5 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Hill.  
 7 All in favor say "aye."  
 8 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 10 Seeing none, motion passes for Blytheville.  
 11 Ms. Cooke, thank you so much for joining us, and  
 12 congratulations.  
 13 MS. COOKE: Thank you. We appreciate it.  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Have a good  
 15 day. Okay.  
 16 V.7.a. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS - HOXIE  
 17 MS. SMITH: The next district is Hoxie, which is  
 18 item V.7.a., Hoxie School District.  
 19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have questions?  
 20 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. I was wondering if you  
 21 were -- what is your cap for your teaching load? I'm  
 22 not sure it was -- what was in there. If you could  
 23 explain your class size request, along with your  
 24 teaching load request. I think it was confusing.  
 25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have Ms. Gillham, Kelly

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1 Gillham.  
 2 MS. GILLHAM: Yes. Good morning.  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good morning.  
 4 MS. GILLHAM: Well, in K-6 we're only going to  
 5 have one teacher for all of our online students, but  
 6 at this time we only have 10 online students. We  
 7 really don't expect to have, you know, over 15 in  
 8 elementary. We're going to have a process to allow  
 9 students to move to online once school has started,  
 10 and our goal is to keep them in school face-to-face  
 11 if possible.  
 12 In high school, we don't expect to exceed the  
 13 maximum of 150 students per day, per teacher.  
 14 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay.  
 15 MS. GILLHAM: But we included the teaching load  
 16 of 175 students just in case something did happen due  
 17 to Covid. We were unsure at this time what that  
 18 might look like come August. We currently only have  
 19 17 students enrolled total, district-wide, K-12 for  
 20 this coming school year. So we don't expect that to  
 21 happen. But it was just to be prepared in case -- in  
 22 case we needed it.  
 23 MS. McFETRIDGE: I appreciate that.  
 24 Can you talk to us a little bit about your  
 25 dyslexia screening? I don't think it was really

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1 described within your plan. I'm sorry; I can't find  
 2 your plan right now, there's so many here.  
 3 MS. GILLHAM: This is Jennifer Huff, the  
 4 curriculum coordinator in K-8, and I'm going to let  
 5 her answer that because she is part of our online  
 6 team and we all work together for, you know, our  
 7 online programming.  
 8 MS. HUFF: Good morning. All of our required  
 9 screening includes dyslexia. It takes place face-to-  
 10 face. Students are scheduled to come on campus and  
 11 our -- we have two dyslexia interventionists that are  
 12 trained in the area, and then that screen our  
 13 students in Level 2, if needed. And then our  
 14 classroom teacher provides, you know, our regular CVM  
 15 screenings, our DIBELS, and our STAR reading and  
 16 math. And then if those students qualify for any  
 17 further screening, that's where the dyslexia comes  
 18 in. So, all state requirements are met face-to-face  
 19 in that setting.  
 20 MS. McFETRIDGE: All right. Thank you for  
 21 explaining that.  
 22 MS. HUFF: You're welcome.  
 23 MS. McFETRIDGE: Those are all the questions  
 24 that I have for Hoxie.  
 25 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any further

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1 questions for Hoxie?  
 2 All right. We are ready for a motion.  
 3 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make the motion to approve  
 4 Hoxie with a three-year duration.  
 5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 6 McFetridge to approve Hoxie for three years.  
 7 Do I have a second?  
 8 MS. CHAMBERS: Second.  
 9 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Chambers.  
 10 All in favor say "aye."  
 11 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 12 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 13 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 14 Congratulations, Hoxie. Thank you, Ms. Gillham  
 15 for joining us today.  
 16 MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank you.  
 17 MS. GILLHAM: You're welcome. Thank you very  
 18 much.  
 19 V.7.c. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS - PARAGOULD  
 20 MS. SMITH: The next district would be  
 21 Paragould, which would be item V.7.c. -- V.7.c,  
 22 Paragould.  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. And then we have Mr. Nick  
 24 Jankoviak joining us for the Paragould School  
 25 District.

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1 Did I pronounce that correctly?  
 2 MR. JANKOVIK: Jankoviak.  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Jankoviak.  
 4 MR. JANKOVIK: You were very close.  
 5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I was very close. Dog-gone it.  
 6 Jankoviak. Thank you for joining us this morning.  
 7 MR. JANKOVIK: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.  
 8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.  
 9 MS. McFETRIDGE: Good morning. I noticed that  
 10 you're also teaching -- your teachers are going to  
 11 teach both simultaneously, the K-6. Will you talk to  
 12 us a little bit about how that's going to be done and  
 13 how you're supporting your teachers?  
 14 MR. JANKOVIK: Absolutely, yes. This past year  
 15 our teachers taught a dual role, teaching both onsite  
 16 and virtual students at the same time, and we hope to  
 17 continue to do that this year. We have learned a lot  
 18 from this past year and have been providing our  
 19 teachers with professional development throughout the  
 20 year, and we'll be doing the same this summer to help  
 21 prepare them for the work that lies ahead.  
 22 In addition, we have provided additional support  
 23 staff. We have a specialist for literacy and a  
 24 specialist for math as well, and an administrator  
 25 operating the Central Office who will be providing

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1 ongoing support. The teacher will work with both  
 2 onsite and virtual students at the same time, and we  
 3 will utilize Zoom technology to do that. They have  
 4 added quite a few engagement features to Zoom and we  
 5 hope to take advantage of that in the upcoming school  
 6 year. Students will be able to log in for  
 7 synchronous instruction. They will also have the  
 8 opportunity to complete some activities  
 9 asynchronously. We will record Zoom sessions and  
 10 activities such as math can be done at night with the  
 11 parents present. And that will be done in grades K-  
 12 6. We've surveyed our teachers and we have teachers  
 13 that have volunteered to be the virtual teacher at  
 14 each grade level.  
 15 MS. McFETRIDGE: And then you've got support of  
 16 your community and your parents?  
 17 MR. JANKOVIK: Yes, ma'am.  
 18 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. All right. I think  
 19 those are all the questions I have for Paragould.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. Do we have any other  
 21 questions for Paragould?  
 22 Okay. Seeing none, then we are ready for a  
 23 motion.  
 24 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make the motion to approve  
 25 Paragould for three years.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve  
 2 Paragould for three years.  
 3 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.  
 5 All in favor say "aye."  
 6 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 8 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 9 Congratulations, Mr. Jankoviak and Paragould.  
 10 MR. JANKOVIK: Thank you.  
 11 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Thank you and  
 12 have a great day.  
 13 MR. JANKOVIK: You too.  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thanks.  
 15 V.7.d. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS - YELLVILLE  
 16 MS. SMITH: The next district on the agenda  
 17 would be Yellville, item V.7.d -- V.7.d, Yellville.  
 18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: And we have Wes Henderson,  
 19 Marilyn Pangle, and -- I think that's it for  
 20 Yellville. Let me make sure I have that right.  
 21 MR. HENDERSON: Good morning.  
 22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, Pangle. Excuse me, my  
 23 handwriting.  
 24 Good morning. Thank you for joining us.  
 25 All right. Do we have questions for Yellville

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1 Summit?  
 2 MS. NEWTON: Yes. Mr. Henderson, I'm not sure  
 3 if you'll be able to answer it because I know that  
 4 you're using APSRC as your provider. And your plan  
 5 didn't really give any specifics on how many teachers  
 6 APSRC was going to have at the K-6 level, what grades  
 7 they were going to be responsible for, and a little  
 8 bit more on teacher/student interaction, how much was  
 9 going to be synchronous and how much asynchronous.  
 10 And so I don't know how much of this you'll be able  
 11 to answer.  
 12 MR. HENDERSON: Well, I do know that we're  
 13 hiring an accredited teacher. We've only got about  
 14 14 students signed up for K-6, and we're hiring a  
 15 teacher to work with the Science of Reading and any  
 16 other needs they have specifically for that. And Ms.  
 17 Pangle can answer better than I can on any other  
 18 questions.  
 19 MS. PANGLE: We are planning to use -- we are  
 20 hiring a K-6 teacher who will be --  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry --  
 22 MS. PANGLE: -- employed by Yellville Summit --  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I'm sorry, Ms. Pangle; we aren't  
 24 able to understand you. Is there a way you can move  
 25 closer to the mic?

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1 MS. PANGLE: We are hiring a K-6 teacher who  
 2 will be working with our kindergarten through 6th  
 3 grade students. The APSRC portion will take place  
 4 with our 7th and 8th grade students. And so,  
 5 therefore, our K-6 students will be able to  
 6 synchronously to do all of their reading (inaudible).  
 7 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I didn't get that from your  
 8 plan. So K-6 is going to be from the local district  
 9 then?  
 10 MS. PANGLE: Yes.  
 11 MS. NEWTON: And you have one teacher for how  
 12 many students?  
 13 MS. PANGLE: We have 14 currently enrolled.  
 14 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Okay. And you're going --  
 15 you have -- K-2 are going to be doing the same  
 16 reading/literacy that you have in your district  
 17 currently?  
 18 MS. PANGLE: Correct.  
 19 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you. I  
 20 just didn't get that from your plan. So thank you  
 21 for clearing that up. I appreciate it.  
 22 MS. PANGLE: Thanks.  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Do we have any other questions  
 24 for Ms. Henderson -- Mr. Henderson or Ms. Pangle?  
 25 Okay. If not, then we're ready for a motion for

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1 Yellville Summit.  
 2 MS. NEWTON: Move to approve.  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have a motion to approve  
 4 Yellville Summit for the amount of years that they  
 5 asked for in their application, by Ms. Newton.  
 6 DR. HILL: Second.  
 7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Dr. Hill.  
 8 All in favor say "aye."  
 9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 11 Seeing none, motion passes.  
 12 Thank you, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Pangle, for  
 13 joining us. Congratulations.  
 14 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you very much.  
 15 MS. PANGLE: Thank you.  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Have a great  
 17 day.  
 18 V.7.k. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS - NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
 19 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next district that we  
 20 requested to speak with would be North Little Rock.  
 21 That's item V.7.k.  
 22 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. And then we have LeAnn  
 23 Alex, Greg Pilewski, and Brooke Reynolds from North  
 24 Little Rock -- LeAnn Alexander. I'm sorry. LeAnn  
 25 Alexander.

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1 Good morning. How are y'all?  
 2 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Good morning. Thank you for  
 3 having us.  
 4 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome. Thank you for  
 5 being here.  
 6 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Yes, ma'am.  
 7 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. We have questions by Ms.  
 8 Newton.  
 9 MS. NEWTON: My question was in your early  
 10 grades, especially K-2 and even up to 3rd grade, I  
 11 really didn't get any specifics on what your plans  
 12 were as far as reading, how you were going to handle  
 13 that, what your curriculum is going to be, what --  
 14 just I'm needing more specifics on reading at the  
 15 early grades.  
 16 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Sure. And I'll certainly have  
 17 my colleagues jump in for any additional information.  
 18 In our digital learning plan that we have  
 19 proposed is to go completely with Pearson K-12,  
 20 approved by the Department of Education, as well as  
 21 our virtual teachers will be able to supplement with  
 22 the K-2 Science of Reading. That will be integrated,  
 23 and certainly providing that by Pearson.  
 24 Dr. Reynolds, would you like to add any more to  
 25 that?

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1 DR. REYNOLDS: Just confirming, yes, we're going  
 2 to have the daily synchronous lesson with our K-2 for  
 3 the Science of Reading with Pearson teachers. And  
 4 they are going to be using the Science of Reading  
 5 pathway with our trainings so teachers will have some  
 6 special training for those early grade levels.  
 7 MS. NEWTON: So you have the curriculum that is  
 8 aligned with Science of Reading and K-2 will have the  
 9 daily Science of Reading lesson?  
 10 DR. REYNOLDS: Yes, ma'am. They will have a  
 11 daily synchronous lesson with the Pearson teachers.  
 12 Yes, ma'am.  
 13 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. That was what I  
 14 wasn't sure of. Thank you.  
 15 DR. REYNOLDS: Sure.  
 16 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other questions for North  
 17 Little Rock?  
 18 DR. MOORE: May I ask a question from that?  
 19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Sure.  
 20 DR. MOORE: With the Pearson, I know you're not  
 21 asking for a Class Size waiver at the K-6. So their  
 22 class sizes fall within our laws. Is that correct?  
 23 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Yes, ma'am. That's correct.  
 24 DR. MOORE: And what type of interaction do your  
 25 building -- do you have someone who's the point of

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1 contact working with Pearson in that sense?  
 2 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Yeah, and great question. So  
 3 that is Dr. Reynolds, who's on here. She is our  
 4 point of contact; so she'll be working directly with  
 5 Pearson, as well as she'll be working with all of our  
 6 building administrators, our assistant principals, as  
 7 well as our school counselors. She is also our daily  
 8 monitor to insure that no child, you know, slips  
 9 through the cracks, that we're monitoring that. In  
 10 the event that there needs to be a parent conference,  
 11 we'll certainly do that as well. Dr. Reynolds will  
 12 be the main point of contact.  
 13 DR. MOORE: Okay. I certainly -- I certainly  
 14 see there's pros and cons of when you're, you know,  
 15 outsourcing to some extent, for lack of a better  
 16 term, like you're doing here. The concern though is  
 17 that if a student [sound cuts out] what would that  
 18 transition look like? Would that person be in charge  
 19 of that? Do y'all feel that everything is aligned  
 20 such that that would be an easy transition for a  
 21 student?  
 22 SUPT. PILEWSKI: I'm sorry; you cut out on that  
 23 first part. Was it the --  
 24 DR. MOORE: The transition. If a student were  
 25 to come back into the building at semester, do y'all

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1 feel that there -- that could be a seamless  
 2 transition moving from Pearson back to a district  
 3 teacher?  
 4 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Absolutely. Absolutely. So --  
 5 [AUDIO DISRUPTION]  
 6 SUPT. PILEWSKI: We do. We feel that it will be  
 7 a seamless transition. You know, we're going to be  
 8 doing a lot of parent contact, virtual meet-and-greet  
 9 sessions, so-forth, to make sure that parents as well  
 10 as students are comfortable with the platform. In  
 11 the event that a child needs to transition back,  
 12 we'll be having those meetings early on to prepare  
 13 for that transition process; so a parent conference  
 14 between, you know, the administrator, the school  
 15 counselor, the virtual teacher, Dr. Reynolds to  
 16 insure that there is an absolute seamless transition  
 17 back to onsite, if need be.  
 18 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.  
 19 SUPT. PILEWSKI: Yes, ma'am.  
 20 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other questions for Mr.  
 21 Pilewski?  
 22 Seeing none, then we are ready for a motion.  
 23 They have asked for two years on their particular  
 24 waiver.  
 25 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve for two years.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve  
 2 North Little Rock School District for a two-year  
 3 waiver, by Mr. Sutton.  
 4 MS. NEWTON: Second.  
 5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. Newton.  
 6 All in favor say "aye."  
 7 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 9 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 10 Congratulations, Mr. Pilewski. And thank you  
 11 for joining us, Ms. Alexander and Dr. Reynolds.  
 12 Y'all have a good day.  
 13 V.7.1. K-12 NO CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS - BATESVILLE  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay.  
 15 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next school district I  
 16 have is Batesville School District, V.7.1.,  
 17 Batesville.  
 18 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Okay. And Batesville, we have  
 19 Ms. Lisa Barber.  
 20 Good morning.  
 21 MS. BARBER: Yes. Good morning.  
 22 Can you hear me?  
 23 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, just barely. If you could  
 24 get a little closer to the mic, that would help us.  
 25 MS. BARBER: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Thank you.  
 2 MS. NEWTON: Good morning, Ms. Barber.  
 3 MS. BARBER: Good morning.  
 4 MS. NEWTON: My question -- I was a little --  
 5 between your plan and the email that I got I had a  
 6 little bit of confusion on -- I know some of your  
 7 students are going to be able to take onsite classes  
 8 remotely, which will mean your teachers will be  
 9 teaching both at the same time. Is it going to be  
 10 just for grades 6-8 or will it be grades 6-12 that  
 11 can do that?  
 12 MS. BARBER: It's grades 6-12 who can join  
 13 remotely, but we do have very few students who have  
 14 chosen that option.  
 15 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And so because it's going to  
 16 be simultaneous learning for your teachers, I know  
 17 one of the comments that I read was that a lot of  
 18 your teachers were not happy about having to teach  
 19 both at the same time. And so that's concerning to  
 20 me that they're going into the school year already  
 21 concerned about having to do both onsite and remote  
 22 students at the same time. What are you doing as far  
 23 as professional development -- you know, starting the  
 24 year with a negative culture is not a good thing. So  
 25 what are you doing to help with that so that this

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1 process could be successful?  
 2 MS. BARBER: The junior high and the high  
 3 school, they have scheduled a lot of professional  
 4 development this summer related to this. And it's  
 5 only just a very few teachers who have expressed  
 6 concern with teaching remotely. But that -- last  
 7 year, we had approximately -- around 950 students K-  
 8 12 who would go back and forth, and that was a  
 9 struggle for the teachers. But this year we've put  
 10 in guidelines to where, even though we won't have  
 11 nearly as many students who are remote, they have to  
 12 keep a certain grade and they have to attend the  
 13 classes. And I believe most of the frustration came  
 14 from the going back and forth and the students just  
 15 not participating like they should. So we have put  
 16 those guidelines in.  
 17 MS. NEWTON: Are you doing anything upfront to  
 18 -- you know, develop some sort of an application  
 19 process with the kids, if they have to meet --  
 20 MS. BARBER: Yes.  
 21 MS. NEWTON: -- things upfront to be able to  
 22 participate in the simultaneous learning?  
 23 MS. BARBER: Yes. I am the virtual academy  
 24 coordinator, and so I have a lot of contact with the  
 25 students, the teachers, and the parents -- and I did

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1 all year last year. And so in order to qualify for  
 2 this year they must have completed that learning  
 3 successfully last year with a grade of C or better  
 4 and have attended the classes. And if they didn't do  
 5 that, then they must attend in person.  
 6 MS. NEWTON: All right. You know, the comments  
 7 that we've gotten all year, the simultaneous was the  
 8 ones that teachers had the most trouble with, the  
 9 ones where teachers were overwhelmed, and probably  
 10 the least accessible. And so when you're starting an  
 11 option like this that's already got some negative  
 12 connotations around it, you know, it's a little  
 13 concerning to know that your teachers are already  
 14 under that pressure.  
 15 So, you know, I hope that you're doing  
 16 everything possible to support your teachers and to  
 17 work a little bit on your culture there so that --  
 18 MS. BARBER: We are.  
 19 MS. NEWTON: -- students --  
 20 MS. BARBER: And we're -- uh-huh, we have plans  
 21 for that and I believe that will be addressed before  
 22 school ever begins. And I think it will be fine this  
 23 year because each teacher will probably only have a  
 24 couple of students who are joining remotely versus  
 25 half the class last year.

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1 MS. NEWTON: Thank you.  
 2 MS. BARBER: Uh-huh. You're welcome.  
 3 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any other questions for Ms.  
 4 Barber?  
 5 Okay. Seeing none, I have here that Batesville  
 6 asked for a five-year waiver.  
 7 MS. SMITH: Three.  
 8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Three. Okay.  
 9 MS. SMITH: They amended.  
 10 CHAIRMAN DEAN: They amended. Okay. Thank you.  
 11 All right. So Batesville has asked for a three-  
 12 year waiver, so we're just waiting for a motion.  
 13 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve for three years.  
 14 CHAIRMAN DEAN: We have a motion to approve  
 15 Batesville for three years, by Mr. Sutton.  
 16 MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.  
 17 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Seconded by Ms. McFetridge.  
 18 All in favor say "aye."  
 19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 20 MS. BARBER: Thank you.  
 21 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any opposed?  
 22 Seeing none, the motion passes.  
 23 Congratulations. Thank you, Ms. Barber, and  
 24 have a great day.  
 25 MS. BARBER: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN DEAN: You're welcome.  
 2 MS. BARBER: Thank you.  
 3 CLOSING COMMENTS  
 4 MS. SMITH: I'm showing that we've covered all  
 5 the items, but I'm happy for someone to verify.  
 6 CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have that as well.  
 7 MS. SMITH: Okay.  
 8 CHAIRMAN DEAN: All right. Well, thank you to  
 9 everyone at the Department, online. Thank you,  
 10 everyone that's on Zoom, all of our board members.  
 11 Very good, productive day.  
 12 And if there is no other business --  
 13 Secretary Key, do you have anything?  
 14 SECRETARY KEY: I'm just going to ask Mr. Sutton  
 15 if this was expedited, if he felt like this met the  
 16 definition, after I got caught up.  
 17 MR. SUTTON: Yes, it was. Great job by  
 18 everyone.  
 19 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes. Thank you.  
 20 All right.  
 21 MS. NEWTON: I want -- can I quickly say thank  
 22 you to the Department? These plans are getting  
 23 better and better, and the information 99% of the  
 24 time is clear, that I'm looking for. So I really  
 25 appreciate the work that the Department is doing on

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1 the front-end to get the information for us.  
 2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Yes, absolutely. It's --  
 3 DR. MOORE: I wanted to echo that. And ask how  
 4 many more districts are left --  
 5 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Good question.  
 6 DR. MOORE: -- sitting out there? But I  
 7 certainly think the applications look way different  
 8 than they did two months ago, and we're going to see  
 9 better [sound cuts out] because of that.  
 10 MS. SMITH: We've got about 45 to 50  
 11 applications that we're working with right now --  
 12 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 13 MS. SMITH: -- that are left. So some of those  
 14 will come as recommended, and some of those that we  
 15 don't recommend we'll be reaching out to districts to  
 16 see if they want to pull or come forward. So those  
 17 are some of the things we're working out right now.  
 18 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.  
 19 MS. McFETRIDGE: What is your deadline to get  
 20 these all completed? Do you have a deadline? I'm  
 21 sure you do.  
 22 MS. SMITH: We were -- July board meeting. If  
 23 we have to do -- ask for another like mid-July  
 24 meeting, we would. But we're hoping that we can be  
 25 wrapping up by the July -- by July, mid-July.

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1 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.  
 2 CHAIRMAN DEAN: Any further questions or  
 3 comments?  
 4 All rightee, then. Well, thank you so much for  
 5 your time today. And I guess we'll see you all next  
 6 month, in July.  
 7 We are adjourned. Thank you. Have a good day.  
 8  
 9 (THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:09 A.M.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
COUNTY OF SALINE ) ss.

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 28, 2021, 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: June 30, 2021.

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

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