

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

---

*July 9, 2021*

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



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1 No. All right. So the appropriate motion would  
 2 be to review or not review this one.  
 3 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Ms. Dean  
 5 not to review.  
 6 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 8 All in favor?  
 9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 11 Okay.  
 12 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you.  
 13 2. GRADUATE ARKANSAS  
 14 MR. JOHNSTON: Next is Graduate Arkansas. They  
 15 submitted an amendment for a digital learning program  
 16 in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous  
 17 instruction virtually through the use of an approved  
 18 digital provider. The application has been reviewed  
 19 by the DESE team. The Charter Authorizing Panel  
 20 approved the digital learning program on June 15,  
 21 2021, with the exception of an enrollment increase.  
 22 And their charter expires in 2026.  
 23 So actually in their digital learning  
 24 application they had two components. They have their  
 25 -- the digital learning application -- or digital

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1 learning program, but then they had also included in  
 2 that an enrollment increase. And so that part was  
 3 pulled from that to go back before the Charter  
 4 Authorizing Panel.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: This one would make their  
 6 digital learning plan good for five years. Is that  
 7 correct?  
 8 MR. JOHNSTON: That is correct.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 10 MR. JOHNSTON: And Katie Hatley is available on  
 11 Zoom --  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 13 MR. JOHNSTON: -- if you have any questions.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any questions for the  
 15 Department or Ms. Hatley?  
 16 Okay. The motion is to review or not review.  
 17 MS. WOODS: I'll move to not review.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Ms. Woods  
 19 not to review.  
 20 DR. RANKIN: I'll second.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Dr. Rankin.  
 22 All in favor?  
 23 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 25 Okay.

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1 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you.  
 2 3. LISA ACADEMY  
 3 MR. JOHNSTON: Next is the LISA Academy. LISA  
 4 Academy has submitted an amendment for a digital  
 5 learning program in grades K-12 for all campuses.  
 6 The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous  
 7 instruction virtually through the use of an approved  
 8 digital provider and licensed district staff. The  
 9 application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The  
 10 Charter Authorizing Panel approved the digital  
 11 learning program at the June 15, 2021 meeting. The  
 12 charter does not expire until June 30th, and so that  
 13 was one thing that came up in conversation, and we  
 14 knew that the Board had not granted extended digital  
 15 learning programs. So the Charter Authorizing Panel  
 16 voted to approve the plan for three years. And  
 17 Luanne Baroni is available via Zoom, if you have any  
 18 questions.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Any questions for the  
 20 Department or Ms. Baroni?  
 21 All right. I need a motion to either review or  
 22 not review.  
 23 MR. SUTTON: Motion not to review.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: A motion by Dr. -- Mr. Sutton  
 25 not to review.

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1 MS. DEAN: Second.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Ms. Dean.  
 3 All in favor?  
 4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 6 Okay. Moving right along.  
 7 MR. JOHNSTON: Moving right along. Thank you.  
 8 4. FRIENDSHIP ASPIRE ACADEMY - LITTLE ROCK  
 9 MR. JOHNSTON: The next one is the Friendship  
 10 Aspire. Friendship Aspire Academy in Little Rock  
 11 submitted an amendment for a digital learning program  
 12 for grades K-8. The school will offer asynchronous  
 13 and synchronous instruction virtually through the use  
 14 of an approved digital provider and licensed district  
 15 staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE  
 16 team and the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the  
 17 digital learning program at the June 15, 2021  
 18 meeting. Their charter expires June 23rd -- or, I'm  
 19 sorry -- June of 2023. And Virginia Henry is  
 20 available on Zoom, if you have any questions.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Does anyone have  
 22 questions?  
 23 I did have a couple of questions on this one --  
 24 MR. JOHNSTON: Okay.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- if Ms. Henry is available.

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1 MR. JOHNSTON: I know I saw her on Zoom.  
 2 MS. HENRY: I'm here.  
 3 MR. JOHNSTON: Okay.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Good morning.  
 5 MS. HENRY: Good morning.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Thank you for joining us. I  
 7 had a couple of questions.  
 8 I saw that some of your teachers are going to be  
 9 doing dual roles. Is that correct?  
 10 MS. HENRY: Yes, ma'am. Correct.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Could you describe that a  
 12 little bit for me, please?  
 13 MS. HENRY: Sure. If it's necessary for them to  
 14 do both, we'll give them extra time to actually plan  
 15 and prepare. And we'll also make sure they -- that  
 16 they have extra time for office hours or conference  
 17 time in case the students actually need some extra  
 18 assistance. We don't anticipate -- well, it all  
 19 depends on the enrollment as far as if we'll have to  
 20 do the actual dual duty or not.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. And can you  
 22 just describe just a little bit in your early grades,  
 23 K-2, K-3, what your program will look like,  
 24 especially in the area of literacy?  
 25 MS. HENRY: Sure. We will be using -- well, for

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1 the most part during the actual synchronous learning  
 2 they will have the same literacy block of instruction  
 3 that the onsite kids actually have. Special time and  
 4 attention via paraprofessionals will be given to  
 5 actually make sure that they have time to practice  
 6 their literacy.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. And so that instruction  
 8 will be synchronous?  
 9 MS. HENRY: Yes, ma'am.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.  
 11 MS. HENRY: Uh-huh.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions?  
 13 Okay. Our motion is to either review or not  
 14 review.  
 15 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean not  
 17 to review.  
 18 DR. HILL: Second.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Dr. Hill.  
 20 All in favor?  
 21 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 23 Okay.  
 24 5. FRIENDSHIP ASPIRE ACADEMY - SOUTHEAST PINE BLUFF  
 25 MR. JOHNSTON: Okay. The next one is for

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1 Friendship Aspire also, but this is for the  
 2 Friendship Aspire Academy Southeast Pine Bluff  
 3 campus. They've submitted an amendment for a digital  
 4 learning program for grades 10-12. The school will  
 5 offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction  
 6 virtually through the use of an approved digital  
 7 provider and licensed district staff. The  
 8 application has been reviewed by the DESE team and  
 9 the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the digital  
 10 learning program at the June 15, 2021 meeting. And  
 11 their charter expires in June of 2023.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 13 MR. JOHNSTON: And Ms. Virginia Henry will be  
 14 able to answer any questions about this one as well.  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Anyone have a question  
 16 for the Department or Ms. Henry?  
 17 All right. The motion is to either review or  
 18 not review.  
 19 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Moved by Ms. Dean not to  
 21 review.  
 22 MS. WOODS: Second.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 24 All in favor?  
 25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 2 Okay.  
 3 VI. CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUESTS  
 4 1. THE EXCEL CENTER  
 5 MR. JOHNSTON: Next is The Excel Center. And  
 6 The Excel Center has submitted an amendment request  
 7 to add additional campuses. This school is the only  
 8 adult learning center in the state that -- and serves  
 9 students age 19 and over. The charter was originally  
 10 authorized in 2016, and has an enrollment cap of 350.  
 11 The charter expires in June of 2022. And the Charter  
 12 Panel approved the request unanimously at the June  
 13 25th meeting.  
 14 Brian Marsh, Markous Jewett, and Greg  
 15 Wertenberger are all here in person, if you have any  
 16 questions.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right.  
 18 Good morning. Thank you for joining us this  
 19 morning. Come up here. You made the trek; you might  
 20 as well come up here.  
 21 MR. JEWETT: Good morning. Markous Jewett, Vice  
 22 President of Mission Services for Goodwill Industries  
 23 of Arkansas.  
 24 MR. WERTENBERGER: And I'm Greg Wertenberger,  
 25 the School Director for The Excel Center.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Thank you both for coming this  
 2 morning. I just wanted to give y'all pats on the  
 3 back, and that was all I wanted to do is to thank you  
 4 for what you're doing. Because over the years I've  
 5 seen kids that would drop out and say, "Well, I'm  
 6 going to go get my GED," and it never happens, you  
 7 know; they don't. And this is going to have 1,050  
 8 students that are going to have the opportunity to  
 9 get that high school diploma. And it makes a  
 10 difference in lives, in their lives for the whole --  
 11 their whole lifetime, but it also makes a difference  
 12 in their families, you know. And it just has such a  
 13 huge impact on communities in the ones that you  
 14 serve. And so I just want to express my appreciation  
 15 for what y'all are doing.  
 16 I don't know if others on the Board have  
 17 comments or questions?  
 18 DR. HILL: I echo your sentiments, Chair,  
 19 because just when they drop out, they're not out of  
 20 sight, out of mind; they're dropping in somewhere.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 22 DR. HILL: And a drop-out will drop-in  
 23 somewhere. And so I appreciate you all giving them  
 24 -- working to give them another alternative, another  
 25 option, you know, to reboot, to recalibrate, to

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1 restart and jumpstart their education career. But  
 2 thank you all for what you're doing.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes. Yes.  
 4 MR. SUTTON: I have questions.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 6 MR. SUTTON: So I see your new locations,  
 7 proposed, are Springdale and Jonesboro and Fort  
 8 Smith. Where are you now?  
 9 MR. JEWETT: Yes, we are in Little Rock, 7400  
 10 Scott Hamilton, our corporate headquarters. We have  
 11 one school location there. The two that we are  
 12 looking at are the Jonesboro and the Springdale  
 13 areas.  
 14 MR. SUTTON: Northeast Arkansas, over in the  
 15 West Memphis/Marion area, Crittenden County, could  
 16 probably certainly use a campus.  
 17 MR. JEWETT: Agreed. And I think that's -- as  
 18 we look at the hot pockets in the state where we know  
 19 our services are needed, we are -- there are 31 Excel  
 20 Centers across the country.  
 21 MR. SUTTON: Thirty-one.  
 22 MR. JEWETT: We are the one in Arkansas, and we  
 23 are the only one of the 31 that don't receive state  
 24 funding. And so that is our challenge is how do we  
 25 -- we know there are pockets of folks that need our

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1 help --  
 2 MR. SUTTON: Right.  
 3 MR. JEWETT: -- how do we do that efficiently and  
 4 effectively with no funds. So --  
 5 MR. SUTTON: Got it. Thank you.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions? Would  
 7 you like to -- go ahead. Go ahead.  
 8 DR. RANKIN: I was just going to say, where does  
 9 your funding --  
 10 MR. JEWETT: Our funding comes from the donated  
 11 goods arm of Goodwill. So when people donate and  
 12 shop at our stores that funds all of our mission  
 13 programming, including The Excel Center. So to date,  
 14 there's about 8.5 million in investment from our  
 15 Goodwill directly into The Excel Center.  
 16 DR. RANKIN: Wow. So 100% funding is from --  
 17 MR. JEWETT: There is a couple -- we'll get  
 18 donations in terms of "here's a \$1,000 check for  
 19 technology" or things like that. But the vast  
 20 majority, 99%, is donated goods.  
 21 DR. RANKIN: Wow. Because I certainly see the  
 22 need for this across the entire state --  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 24 DR. RANKIN: -- that that would be a huge  
 25 component for all of our geographical areas for the

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1 state. So thank you for what you're doing.  
 2 And is there anything else you'd like to share  
 3 with us, for us to know?  
 4 MR. JEWETT: I want to say thank you for  
 5 allowing us to continue to do it. We know that it's  
 6 impactful work. And our students have children that  
 7 are school age, and so we know that it's a multi-  
 8 generational impact that we're making.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 10 MR. JEWETT: And we just hope to continue to do  
 11 that and expand that footprint to serve more people  
 12 than we do. So thank you all for the opportunity.  
 13 MS. POST: I'm curious about your student  
 14 population. Are they typically coming in as 18-year  
 15 olds?  
 16 MR. WERTENBERGER: No. Actually, our -- most of  
 17 the students who come to us have been out of school  
 18 for a minute; you know, they're not dropping  
 19 immediately out of high school and coming directly to  
 20 The Excel Center. Most of them are going out and  
 21 dropping in somewhere else, as you mentioned, and  
 22 then really experiencing challenges. So about 70% of  
 23 our students are coming to us -- they are single  
 24 parents. So one of the primary reasons that a lot of  
 25 our students had dropped out initially was because

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1 they became parents themselves; it was very, very  
 2 challenging to complete high school while being a  
 3 parent. So they've raised or started raising their  
 4 children up to about school age, and it's when their  
 5 kids start asking the question, "Why do I have to go  
 6 --  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 8 MR. WERTENBERGER: "-- when you didn't finish,"  
 9 or when they can't help their children with homework  
 10 that they -- that really sinks in. And that's what  
 11 they're telling us predominantly when they come in is  
 12 "I want to be able to help my kid;" you know, "I want  
 13 to be able to give them -- because I don't want them  
 14 to struggle the way I struggled for the last five,  
 15 ten, fifteen years." So that's what's really  
 16 compelling for us. So --  
 17 MS. POST: A couple more questions.  
 18 MR. WERTENBERGER: Yeah.  
 19 MS. POST: Is it a traditional day? Because I'm  
 20 assuming these are working adults.  
 21 MR. WERTENBERGER: Right. Yes. So it's very  
 22 flexible. We have a class schedule that meets onsite  
 23 in our building from 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through  
 24 Thursday. Students can come fulltime, they can come  
 25 part-time, because all of our core instruction

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1 happens by credentialed instructors in the building.  
 2 We are looking at adding for our next term some  
 3 greater flexibility with a couple of evening classes,  
 4 as we are able to fund that with our instructors,  
 5 just to add that greater flexibility.  
 6 So one of the -- a distinctive part of our model  
 7 is our life coaches that are assigned to every  
 8 student who comes in, who serves as kind of school  
 9 counselors, school social worker. They really  
 10 partner with services that we have right there at  
 11 Goodwill -- our career services, for example. They  
 12 also partner with outside entities and employers to  
 13 help connect students with flexible employment  
 14 opportunities that allow them to do both. Because  
 15 many, they do have rent and utilities and childcare.  
 16 We provide free onsite childcare for our students who  
 17 are needing to come to class, who have preschool age  
 18 kids who are not in school yet. So we're looking at  
 19 extending that and making that available in the  
 20 evenings as well, if it's -- based on the need of our  
 21 students, of course.  
 22 But, yeah, when they come to us, you know, 84%  
 23 of them are un- or under-employed, but many of them  
 24 are trying to juggle around at least a part-time job  
 25 while they are coming into class.

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1 MS. POST: And then -- oh, are they -- they're  
 2 actually receiving instruction from a teacher or is  
 3 it more of like an online credit recovery type  
 4 system?  
 5 MR. WERTENBERGER: No. All of our core content  
 6 classes are taught by licensed or credentialed  
 7 educators in the building. So we do use some online  
 8 curriculum for some of our elective courses, course  
 9 offerings. But all of the math, science, history --  
 10 you know, all of the core academic subjects are  
 11 taught by licensed educators.  
 12 MR. JEWETT: We know that over 90% of our  
 13 students come to us needing some level of  
 14 remediation. And so being able to provide that in-  
 15 person, high-touch service we know works best for our  
 16 students.  
 17 MR. WERTENBERGER: We hired two certified  
 18 special education teachers. We have a bilingual  
 19 teacher on staff to help with English Learners -- in  
 20 fact, just finished the ESL Institute at Henderson  
 21 State earlier this summer; so he's looking at taking  
 22 the Praxis and having that endorsement on his license  
 23 as well.  
 24 MS. WOODS: What's the grade level that you see  
 25 most of them coming back in at -- or is it really

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1 just across the board?  
 2 MR. WERTENBERGER: We use iReady diagnostic  
 3 assessments in math and reading as part of the  
 4 enrollment process. And predominantly when students  
 5 come in to us they are testing at around the 3rd  
 6 grade to 4th grade reading level, and pretty close to  
 7 the same in terms of math readiness. So we have in  
 8 math an English lab course that is facilitated by our  
 9 special education instructors who -- you know,  
 10 they're working on filling the gaps to get students  
 11 up to a point where they can successfully access high  
 12 school level work in an accelerated eight-week term.  
 13 You know, because we do want them to be successful  
 14 when they are coming in and, you know, be able to  
 15 earn credit. So --  
 16 DR. RANKIN: I have another question too. Do  
 17 you see that students have to toggle in and out of  
 18 your offerings? I mean, are they -- are you seeing a  
 19 pattern where they come and they stay and they're  
 20 able to complete it, or do you have a retention  
 21 issue?  
 22 MR. WERTENBERGER: So that's definitely one of  
 23 the benefits, and the challenges, to the kind of  
 24 alternative year-round eight-week accelerated  
 25 schedule that we offer. Because, yes, frequently

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1 there will be family issues, health issues,  
 2 employment issues that arise; so a student may come  
 3 in and attend for eight weeks, then they may step  
 4 back for eight weeks. Now we do have -- the majority  
 5 of our students do persist on, and that's a big part  
 6 of where that life-coaching comes in. Before they  
 7 step out that life coach really tries to exhaust, you  
 8 know, what -- how can we create the space, even if  
 9 it's just part-time, to continue. Because it is  
 10 harder; once students step back, it's harder to get  
 11 it back in.  
 12 We have hired a fulltime recruitment and  
 13 retention specialist who, interestingly enough, is  
 14 also one of our graduates of The Excel Center.  
 15 DR. RANKIN: That's great.  
 16 MR. WERTENBERGER: So he has lived where they  
 17 are and he has that unique perspective with our  
 18 students to be able -- in addition to their life  
 19 coach to say, you know, "Let's make sure we've  
 20 considered all of the options that are available,  
 21 even if we just pursue part-time, to continue to make  
 22 progress toward." All things considered, when our  
 23 people graduate with their diploma most of the time  
 24 they have been with us -- between five and seven  
 25 terms, for about 12 to 18 months, is the average for

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1 students to complete -- and that, of course, depends  
 2 on whether they can attend fulltime, whether they  
 3 persisted. Because, you know, two consecutive terms  
 4 or whether they stepped back and -- of course, we  
 5 have several students who we have not seen for the  
 6 last year during Covid. They are very interested in  
 7 coming back to us for this next school year, so we're  
 8 very excited to receive them.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Sure.  
 10 DR. RANKIN: And just curious, the term of your  
 11 life coaches, are you seeing consistency there? Is  
 12 there turnover? Because I could see that  
 13 relationship that a life coach as a mentor would  
 14 build with the student could be a real secret to  
 15 success.  
 16 MR. WERTENBERGER: So the school up until this  
 17 last year relied on two life coaches who have been  
 18 with the school since its inception for all four  
 19 years. One of them is our lead life coach, Becky  
 20 Lockett; incredible advocate for students, for their  
 21 families; passionate about the work that Goodwill and  
 22 Excel Center does. I think they're pretty well  
 23 locked in where they're going to be. In fact, it's  
 24 really interesting, Ms. Lockett was telling me that  
 25 one of the students who was going to be returning to

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1 us is one who we haven't seen for several terms, and  
 2 she's coming back. She has a lot of challenges, she  
 3 is somebody who's re-entering after incarceration.  
 4 And so she's asking about all of the instructors and  
 5 the people who are still there, and most of them are  
 6 still there. It's the -- you know, some of the  
 7 people that she was in school with --  
 8 DR. RANKIN: That's great.  
 9 MR. WERTENBERGER: -- have graduated and moved  
 10 on. But of course that's also inspiring because  
 11 that's another thing that has motivated some of our  
 12 students, when they've seen their friends, their  
 13 classmates in those caps and gowns complete it, "that  
 14 could've been me --  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 16 MR. WERTENBERGER: "-- should have been me,"  
 17 they're compelled to come back.  
 18 So we were able to add an additional life coach  
 19 over this last year. She just is practically in  
 20 tears every day when she comes in to work because  
 21 she's just so excited about what she does. So I  
 22 don't look for any of them to be transitioning out  
 23 any time soon.  
 24 DR. RANKIN: That is wonderful.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah, that's great.

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1 SECRETARY KEY: I had the opportunity to speak  
 2 at one of your graduations a few years ago. It was  
 3 -- it was fantastic, not just single parents but  
 4 grandparents, you know, graduating with their  
 5 grandkids in the audience. So, highly recommend --  
 6 if we can get you connected to go see one of these  
 7 events and be a part of it, I would definitely  
 8 recommend it to any board members who'd be interested  
 9 in that. It's pretty awesome.  
 10 MR. WERTENBERGER: One of our June graduates had  
 11 a 5th grade -- one of her 5th grade teachers who came  
 12 to our last commencement ceremony. And it really was  
 13 very special to acknowledge that we were sharing that  
 14 day with the graduate, with their family, but then  
 15 all of the educators prior to who helped. They were  
 16 a part of that student's story to get them to that  
 17 place. So it was a very, very compelling day and  
 18 something I would really encourage you to be a part  
 19 of, if you can.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Thank you very much. And just  
 21 -- and this is probably --  
 22 Oh, you had a question?  
 23 DR. HILL: Yeah, I just had one to ask  
 24 Secretary. Understanding the value of this program,  
 25 why is it that they're not receiving state funding

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1 when we pay for other issues?  
 2 SECRETARY KEY: I wondered when somebody would  
 3 get around to that question.  
 4 MR. JEWETT: We're going to sit down now.  
 5 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah. So when the -- so it's  
 6 complicated but it's not complicated. Arkansas  
 7 constitution sets ages in which, you know, public  
 8 funds to support public education. They could  
 9 receive some, but when the enabling legislation was  
 10 brought forward it had a component, a phrase in there  
 11 that basically said that -- and it was a commitment  
 12 and was a demonstration of the commitment by the team  
 13 from Goodwill at the time to say, "Hey, we want to  
 14 come set this up and we're going to do it with  
 15 donations and we're going to show you the  
 16 commitment." And I think the assumption was always  
 17 they would come back later and ask for that  
 18 legislation to be modified. So that just has not  
 19 happened, so that legislation that restricts them  
 20 from receiving state funds under the traditional --  
 21 because they -- you know, they're not going to get  
 22 the \$7,000, you know, whatever it is now per pupil  
 23 ADM. Also, their model is different. I mean, they  
 24 described that model being at eight weeks -- didn't  
 25 you say?

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1 MR. JEWETT: Uh-huh.  
 2 SECRETARY KEY: Okay. So eight weeks, you know,  
 3 we don't fund schools that way, so we don't count  
 4 students that way. So it would have to be, one, a  
 5 change in legislation, and, two, a different line  
 6 item that we'd have to determine where general  
 7 revenue could come from to support this and how that  
 8 would be distributed either straight line item or  
 9 some other mechanism.  
 10 DR. HILL: So that doesn't even fall under like  
 11 the career education? Like I have a GED program.  
 12 SECRETARY KEY: Right.  
 13 DR. HILL: I've got a GED program at Arkansas  
 14 Baptist for that reason of -- is that separate money?  
 15 SECRETARY KEY: It is separate money. And so  
 16 adult --  
 17 DR. HILL: Would it fall under that?  
 18 SECRETARY KEY: Adult education money is -- the  
 19 way we -- that that's structured, it puts those  
 20 students on a track to a GED. They actually give a  
 21 diploma -- I mean a high school diploma, just like a  
 22 graduating 18-year old gets.  
 23 DR. HILL: I gotcha. Okay.  
 24 SECRETARY KEY: So there is a difference there  
 25 too.

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1 DR. HILL: That makes sense.  
 2 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That was my question, was why  
 4 they didn't fall under the adult education.  
 5 SECRETARY KEY: And I really don't know if --  
 6 and that's probably a conversation for another time  
 7 of what the thoughts are on the timing for changing  
 8 that legislation. But I know that's something that  
 9 we would be open to discussing at the Department  
 10 level to make whatever recommendations to the  
 11 Governor and legislature, because they do have a very  
 12 successful model.  
 13 DR. HILL:  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 15 MS. DEAN: Madam Chair, may I say something as  
 16 well?  
 17 Thank you for what you're doing. As a single  
 18 mom, I know the challenges that single parents find  
 19 themselves in. And to have an opportunity to do --  
 20 have a do-over is amazing. And as a single parent,  
 21 you're basically doing it on your own and you don't  
 22 have that two-parent income. And there's so many  
 23 studies that talk about what children endure when  
 24 they have to live in a household where there's  
 25 poverty. And so one of the factors for getting

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1 children out of poverty is educating the parent, and  
 2 it jumps exponentially when you go from a parent who  
 3 has not -- does not have a high school degree -- I  
 4 mean, yeah, a high school diploma to one that does.  
 5 And then it jumps exponentially again to one that has  
 6 some college; I mean it goes again. So there are  
 7 studies that talk about a married couple and the lack  
 8 of poverty and how you level the plain -- how you  
 9 level it out is with education. When a single parent  
 10 has better education they're on the same level as a  
 11 two-parent household. So, and it does wonders in the  
 12 lives of the children. The children are the ones  
 13 that benefit the most from that.  
 14 So thank you for what you're doing. And I think  
 15 we need to work on making sure you get funding --  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 17 MS. DEAN: -- to continue -- to continue what  
 18 you're doing so that you can spread this throughout  
 19 the state in those areas that really need it. So  
 20 thank you for the work that you're doing.  
 21 MR. JEWETT: Thank you.  
 22 MS. DEAN: But it's amazing.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I think the consensus on this  
 24 board is we will do whatever we need to to help you.  
 25 Okay. Thank you very much.



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1 MR. JEWETT: Thank you.  
 2 MR. WERTENBERGER: Thank you.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. So I guess we need  
 4 to do -- I'm not sure how this motion is going to go,  
 5 if they're going to get a pass or not. We'll see.  
 6 [LAUGHTER]  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: But the motion is to review or  
 8 not review.  
 9 DR. RANKIN: I would be honored to make this  
 10 motion to not review.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 12 MS. DEAN: Second.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Motion by Dr.  
 14 Rankin, second by Ms. Dean.  
 15 All in favor?  
 16 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: And I'm going to vote "aye" on  
 18 this one too.  
 19 All right. Thank y'all.  
 20 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you very much.  
 21 2. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
 22 MR. JOHNSTON: So the last one is for the  
 23 Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy. Northwest  
 24 Arkansas Classical Academy has submitted an amendment  
 25 request to change the name of the charter. The

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1 charter was originally approved in 2012 and serves  
 2 students in grades K-12 with a current enrollment cap  
 3 of 1500. Their charter expires in 2028. And the  
 4 Charter Authorizing Panel approved this request  
 5 unanimously -- well, unanimously -- excuse me -- at  
 6 the June 15, 2021 meeting.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 8 And I see Dr. Moore has been able to join us.  
 9 Thank you, Dr. Moore. Welcome.  
 10 All right. Is there any discussion on this  
 11 item?  
 12 Okay. We need a motion to review or not review.  
 13 MS. DEAN: I move to not review.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean not  
 15 to review.  
 16 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Do we have a second?  
 18 DR. HILL: Second.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Dr. Hill.  
 20 All in favor?  
 21 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 23 Okay.  
 24 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you very much.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Thank you.

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1 ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS & WAIVERS  
 2 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Our next ones are  
 4 the Digital Learning Applications from our school  
 5 districts. Good morning, Ms. Smith.  
 6 MS. SMITH: Good morning. I missed y'all.  
 7 MS. DEAN: It's been so long.  
 8 MS. SMITH: The Excel Center -- if y'all have  
 9 not been there, you need to go visit it. It's doing  
 10 great things. And it is different. It's not a GED;  
 11 it's that diploma and that means something. So,  
 12 doing great work. I was thinking City Serve people  
 13 need to go visit and do a tour, don't you think?  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah. Thank you.  
 15 MS. SMITH: Okay. We have I believe it's 10 on  
 16 the list today.  
 17 VII. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS  
 18 (WILBUR MILLS)  
 19 1. AUGUSTA  
 20 MS. SMITH: The first one is Augusta and it's in  
 21 a consortium with Wilbur Mills. And it's the only  
 22 one that's a part of that consortium.  
 23 So are there any questions around Augusta?  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: No.  
 25 MS. SMITH: Okay. Would y'all like to go ahead

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1 and make a motion for Augusta for approval for three  
 2 years?  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Do we have a motion for  
 4 Augusta?  
 5 MS. DEAN: I move to approve Augusta for three  
 6 -- for the digital -- I'm sorry -- district waiver  
 7 for three years.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 9 Dean.  
 10 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 12 All in favor?  
 13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 15 Okay.  
 16 VIII. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (K-  
 17 12)  
 18 1. MOUNTAIN PINE  
 19 2. OZARK MOUNTAIN  
 20 3. SHIRLEY  
 21 4. MARKED TREE  
 22 5. NETTLETON  
 23 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next group are  
 24 singletons, and so I'm going to kind of go through  
 25 the whole list here. We have Mountain Pine for a

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1 one-year request, Ozark Mountain for a three-year  
 2 request, Shirley for a three-year request, Marked  
 3 Tree for a one-year, and Nettleton for one year.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I had --  
 5 MS. SMITH: And Melbourne, I'm sorry. And also  
 6 -- no, no, no, not Melbourne yet. Sorry.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Any  
 8 questions on those?  
 9 I had questions on Ozark Mountain, Marked Tree,  
 10 and Nettleton.  
 11 Dr. Moore, did you have any questions on any of  
 12 those?  
 13 DR. MOORE: No, not any of these.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 15 DR. MOORE: Thank you.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 17 MS. SMITH: So let's go ahead and -- if you're  
 18 ready to approve a motion on Mountain Pine and  
 19 Shirley for the number of years requested on their  
 20 application, because they're different; one's for  
 21 three and one's for one. So Mountain Pine and  
 22 Shirley.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. I need a motion for  
 24 Mountain Pine and Shirley.  
 25 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve Mountain Pine and

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1 Shirley for the number of years they've requested.  
 2 MS. WOODS: I'll second.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Mr. Sutton,  
 4 seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 5 All in favor?  
 6 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 8 All right.  
 9 IX. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (TRI-  
 10 REGION)  
 11 1. MELBOURNE  
 12 MS. SMITH: Okay. The next one is part of the  
 13 Tri-Region consortium, and that's Melbourne. Are  
 14 there any questions on that one?  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: No? Okay.  
 16 MS. SMITH: Okay, for a motion then on Melbourne  
 17 for three years.  
 18 MS. DEAN: I move to approve Melbourne for three  
 19 years.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Motion by Ms. Dean.  
 21 Do we have a second?  
 22 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 24 All in favor?  
 25 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 2 All right.  
 3 X. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS  
 4 (ARKANSAS RIVER CONSORTIUM)  
 5 1. WATSON CHAPEL  
 6 2. PINE BLUFF  
 7 3. SOUTH SIDE VAN BUREN  
 8 MS. SMITH: The next is Arkansas River  
 9 Consortium. You've got Watson Chapel, Pine Bluff,  
 10 and South Van Buren [sic].  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Questions on any of those  
 12 three?  
 13 DR. MOORE: I did want to ask some questions for  
 14 Pine Bluff.  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Pine Bluff.  
 16 Any others?  
 17 Okay.  
 18 MS. SMITH: Okay. So we'll ask for an approval  
 19 for Watson Chapel and South Side Van Buren.  
 20 MS. WOODS: I'll move to approve for Watson  
 21 Chapel and South Side Van Buren.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Ms. Woods.  
 23 MS. DEAN: Second.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Ms. Dean.  
 25 All in favor?

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1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 3 All right.  
 4 MS. SMITH: Okay. So let me make sure that  
 5 that's got me through all this here.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I think that was it.  
 7 MS. SMITH: It does.  
 8 So the districts that -- Ozark Mountain, Marked  
 9 Tree, Nettleton, and Pine Bluff should remain on the  
 10 Zoom.  
 11 VIII. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (K-  
 12 12)  
 13 2. OZARK MOUNTAIN  
 14 MS. SMITH: I think we'll loop back to Ozark  
 15 Mountain. Do we have a representative from Ozark  
 16 Mountain on the Zoom with us this morning?  
 17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I am. Nichole Cunningham.  
 18 MS. SMITH: Okay, Board.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Good morning, Ms.  
 20 Cunningham. Thank you for joining us.  
 21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I got -- I think it was my  
 23 question here. I got a little bit confused in your  
 24 -- between your digital learning plan and then your  
 25 addendum. In the digital learning plan it said K-6

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1 was going to be Guy Fenter, and Virtual Arkansas was  
 2 going to do 7-12. But then in your addendum it said  
 3 K-8 was going to be totally district staff and then  
 4 9-12 was either going to be district staff and  
 5 Virtual Arkansas. So I didn't know which way it was  
 6 actually going to be.  
 7 MS. CUNNINGHAM: That's a good question. I'm  
 8 sorry for that mistake. Our plan is to go 9-12 with  
 9 Virtual Arkansas, if needed, and district staff where  
 10 available. So district staff would not be  
 11 responsible for both face-to-face and virtual  
 12 students at the same time. But if we have a teacher  
 13 with additional prep hours that could teach a course,  
 14 then they could do that in their additional prep  
 15 time. But they will never be expected to have both  
 16 during the same time. But if we do not have a  
 17 teacher on staff to teach a course, then we would use  
 18 Virtual Arkansas for that course.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. What about your K-8?  
 20 MS. CUNNINGHAM: For K-8, we will have dedicated  
 21 teachers to teach those students. We will use  
 22 Linked-In Learning and the Buzz Learning Management  
 23 System and we will have teachers who are dedicated to  
 24 those students --  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: So these are --

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1 MS. CUNNINGHAM: -- only digital.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: So you will not be using Guy  
 3 Fenter?  
 4 MS. CUNNINGHAM: No. I'm not sure where that  
 5 came from.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Okay.  
 7 Thank you. That was my question.  
 8 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Uh-huh. All right.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions?  
 10 All right. Do you want to go ahead and do --  
 11 MS. SMITH: Yeah. So you could go -- if you  
 12 wanted to go ahead and do a motion for Ozark Mountain  
 13 for three years --  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Do we have a motion for  
 15 Ozark Mountain for three years?  
 16 MS. DEAN: I move to approve Ozark Mountain for  
 17 three years.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 19 DR. RANKIN: Second.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean,  
 21 seconded by Dr. Rankin.  
 22 All in favor?  
 23 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 25 Okay.

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1 VIII. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (K-  
 2 12)  
 3 4. MARKED TREE  
 4 MS. SMITH: So that moves us to Marked Tree. Do  
 5 we have a representative from Marked Tree on the  
 6 Zoom?  
 7 SUPT. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am, you do. It's Matt  
 8 Wright, Superintendent of Marked Tree.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Good morning, Mr. Wright.  
 10 Thank you for --  
 11 SUPT. WRIGHT: Good morning.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- being here.  
 13 I saw that your teachers are going to be  
 14 teaching simultaneously. Is that correct?  
 15 SUPT. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 17 SUPT. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: How did your teachers feel  
 19 about that?  
 20 SUPT. WRIGHT: Our teachers were in favor of  
 21 that. We did not have a lot of success using Linked-  
 22 In Learning last year. They wanted to have all their  
 23 kids in class if they possibly could, and this was  
 24 actually their idea, their plan.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. And

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1 community support?  
 2 SUPT. WRIGHT: Community support. There was no  
 3 issues when we visited with our community. A lot of  
 4 our parents wanted their kids to have that face-to-  
 5 face interaction, even if it was through a virtual  
 6 setting.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.  
 8 SUPT. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions for Mr.  
 10 Wright?  
 11 DR. MOORE: How many students do y'all expect to  
 12 have?  
 13 SUPT. WRIGHT: K-6, we anticipate one student.  
 14 There's a significant medical issue that we think  
 15 will prevent that student from attending. In our  
 16 high school, to be honest with you I believe it will  
 17 be fewer than 10.  
 18 DR. MOORE: Thank you.  
 19 SUPT. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions?  
 21 And, Dr. Moore, if I forget to ask just jump in  
 22 when you need to.  
 23 DR. MOORE: I already did.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 25 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Any other  
 2 questions or discussion?  
 3 Okay.  
 4 MS. SMITH: So a motion for Marked Tree for one  
 5 year.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion for Marked  
 7 Tree for one year.  
 8 DR. RANKIN: So moved.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Dr. Rankin.  
 10 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 12 All in favor?  
 13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 15 Okay.  
 16 MS. SMITH: Okay. That moves us --  
 17 SUPT. WRIGHT: Thank you.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: You're welcome. Thank you for  
 19 joining us.  
 20 VIII. ACT 1240 DIGITAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (K-  
 21 12)  
 22 5. NETTLETON  
 23 MS. SMITH: That moves us to Nettleton. Do we  
 24 have a representative from Nettleton on the Zoom?  
 25 MS. BAKER: Yes, ma'am. Stacy Baker, the

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1 Assistant Superintendent for Nettleton. And then we  
 2 also have Keith Thomas who is Director of the virtual  
 3 academy, and Courtney Speer who is the Instructional  
 4 Facilitator for the virtual academy.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Thank you all for joining us.  
 6 We appreciate your time.  
 7 MS. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: My question was -- and I could  
 9 not -- I didn't know for sure from your plan, are the  
 10 teachers going to be a dual role, are they going to  
 11 be virtual only? How is that going to work?  
 12 MS. BAKER: They're virtual only. Yes, ma'am.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. So, and I saw that they  
 14 would be given double prep time if they are doing  
 15 virtual, and I really appreciated that, to realize  
 16 that teachers did need extra time to prepare to do a  
 17 good job.  
 18 MS. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. So they will be virtual  
 20 only. Okay. That was my --  
 21 MS. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- question.  
 23 Any other questions?  
 24 Okay. All right. If there's no more  
 25 discussion, we need a motion for Nettleton.

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1 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve Nettleton.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion to approve  
 3 Nettleton.  
 4 MS. DEAN: Second.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Ms. Dean.  
 6 All in favor?  
 7 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 9 Congratulations.  
 10 MS. BAKER: Thank you so much. We look forward  
 11 to it.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Thank you for  
 13 being here.  
 14 X. ACT 1240 LEARNING APPLICATIONS AND WAIVERS (ARKANSAS RIVER  
 15 CONSORTIUM)  
 16 2. PINE BLUFF  
 17 MS. SMITH: And I would have been disappointed  
 18 if we didn't pull Pine Bluff. One of the things we  
 19 noticed this morning is their addendum got left off  
 20 the agenda; so I'm going to pass that to you.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Can you email it to Dr.  
 22 Moore?  
 23 MS. SMITH: Yes. Highlighting the addendum real  
 24 quick, they're in a consortium with Arkansas River.  
 25 And so this is very similar to the addendums that

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1 you've seen for other consortiums with Arkansas  
 2 River, kind of addressing the same -- it's almost  
 3 identical in some cases --  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 5 MS. SMITH: -- for those aspects of it. It was  
 6 for three years.  
 7 Another note I want to make on Pine Bluff -- and  
 8 then I do know that we have Cathi Swan on, and we  
 9 also I believe have Dee Davis on. Ms. Warren was not  
 10 available this morning due to a family emergency.  
 11 But one thing I wanted to note that you could not see  
 12 here was the co-op worked very closely with Pine  
 13 Bluff. They did not meet the deadline originally to  
 14 submit their application. And so as we were  
 15 watching, listening, going through the board  
 16 meetings, Cathi in Pine Bluff and Ms. Warren got  
 17 together and kind of talked about what does it look  
 18 like for Pine Bluff. Because they struggled this  
 19 last year, one, getting students back on campus -- by  
 20 the end of the year, in their elementaries we saw  
 21 75%, 80% of their students back on campus, which was  
 22 huge. High school still had very low numbers of  
 23 participation, very low. So one of the things that  
 24 we talked about with Pine Bluff is capping the number  
 25 of students that could --

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 2 MS. SMITH: -- have virtual, and this was put in  
 3 their board packet that went to Commissioner Key. So  
 4 we started with a 5% cap for the district on the  
 5 number of students that could actually be placed with  
 6 established criteria for them being successful within  
 7 the program, to be allowed in. And in just  
 8 conversation around that, if we were to expand it  
 9 beyond 5% that would go back to -- in a board packet  
 10 to Commissioner Key to look at the factors and stuff  
 11 around that.  
 12 So Dee Davis and Cathi Swan are on here.  
 13 Yes.  
 14 MR. SUTTON: How did you arrive at 5%?  
 15 MS. SMITH: That was something that Ms. Warren  
 16 herself felt like was a reasonable number. That's  
 17 about 140 students in the district and looking at the  
 18 criteria of who those students would be. We have  
 19 been having conversations this week in regards to the  
 20 community and how they view Covid themselves, the  
 21 numbers. Five percent may be too low, but at the  
 22 same time we -- especially with the secondary we've  
 23 got to have -- we feel like there's more kids that we  
 24 need to have onsite but how do we balance that.  
 25 MR. SUTTON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

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1 MS. SMITH: And then Dee Davis and Cathi Swan  
 2 are on for specific questions.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. We'll start  
 4 with Dr. Moore.  
 5 DR. MOORE: Yes. Thank y'all for presenting  
 6 today. And thank you, I just started looking through  
 7 the addendum.  
 8 In using both the consortium and Virtual  
 9 Arkansas, what type of touch-points will your  
 10 district staff have? I didn't quite understand in  
 11 the application how will -- you know, they will be  
 12 virtually checking on students, but will you all be  
 13 able to visually check on students at any point in  
 14 time during the year and provide other mental health  
 15 or other services for students?  
 16 MS. DAVIS: They were not sure -- good morning.  
 17 Dee Davis, Director of Curriculum and Instruction,  
 18 Pine Bluff School District. It's been a minute since  
 19 I've seen y'all, so Happy 4th and all that. Good to  
 20 be back.  
 21 We will have -- provide all students with the  
 22 same services. So if students receive special  
 23 services, such as dyslexia, such as speech, things  
 24 like that, we will provide those services. We will  
 25 make specific arrangements with each family and how

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1 that works for them. And we will accommodate all the  
 2 different services, curricularly and  
 3 extracurricularly, as well as any special needs for  
 4 all children, whether they are virtual or face-to-  
 5 face.  
 6 MS. SWAN: And just to add to what Ms. Davis  
 7 said -- hi, my name is Cathi Swan. Good to see you  
 8 all again. The district has identified a fulltime  
 9 connection coach that's part of our consortium model  
 10 and that Virtual Arkansas requires as well. So there  
 11 will be a fulltime dedicated principal there that is  
 12 only connecting with those K-12 virtual students and  
 13 families and connecting with our virtual principal  
 14 who we actually have on the line with us today. We  
 15 got her hired, so I wanted her to join in case she  
 16 wanted to actually speak -- a K-6 virtual principal.  
 17 So she's on the line in case you have any specific  
 18 questions about curriculum that we're going to be  
 19 using. But that connection coach is key, it's  
 20 crucial, and it's something that we require as a co-  
 21 op, and most of the consortiums have, and Virtual  
 22 Arkansas requires. So they have that fulltime  
 23 dedicated person that will make those connections.  
 24 DR. MOORE: Okay. Will -- does that connection  
 25 coach serve as sort of an advisor or mentor to

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1 students, you know, checking in if they are not  
 2 logging into their courses, if they are dropping  
 3 below in their grades? Does that coach have that  
 4 access to that information to work between?  
 5 MS. SWAN: Yes. Dee and I are both nodding,  
 6 wondering who's going to speak. We work in  
 7 partnership with this. So, yes, they will have  
 8 access to progress monitoring. They'll have constant  
 9 communication with Ms. Manning, who's our principal,  
 10 and those instructors. It's really just an extension  
 11 of that district, and so it's almost as if we are  
 12 their employees too. So it will be a very, very  
 13 close relationship to connect with and mentor every  
 14 student -- a partnership.  
 15 DR. MOORE: That's great. Particularly for some  
 16 students, that -- you know, by the end of next year  
 17 that will be almost two-and-a-half years that they  
 18 might have been virtual. And sort of along those  
 19 lines, and especially at the lower elementary grades,  
 20 I know that you included your plan for reading. But  
 21 if you could speak a little bit more to what that is  
 22 like, especially in those early grades.  
 23 MS. SWAN: I will introduce you to Tammy  
 24 Manning; she's the K-6 virtual principal. I want to  
 25 tell you a little bit about her first. She has

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1 taught kids across the nation, reading in elementary,  
 2 and she is also a certified principal and she's been  
 3 a member of Team Digital for the past three years, I  
 4 think; so she has a wealth of experience. So she's  
 5 really worked hard on this plan and the literacy  
 6 component.  
 7 So, Tammy, I'm going to let you answer those  
 8 questions.  
 9 MS. MANNING: Good morning, everyone. Yeah, and  
 10 I'm watching very closely with the literacy and I've  
 11 been working very closely with our literacy  
 12 specialist. And I actually started collaborating  
 13 with other consortiums, like Dawson, and we're  
 14 working together. I'm looking at those components  
 15 for -- the five components in making sure that all  
 16 are addressed for every student, and that will be  
 17 delivered synchronously daily.  
 18 For the K-2 and the 3-6, we're looking at using  
 19 the supplement program with Edgenuity's content,  
 20 aligning that with the RISE initiative, the Science  
 21 of Reading. We're looking at Benchmark Workshop  
 22 which hits all four of the components, except for the  
 23 phonological awareness and we will bring in Heggerty  
 24 for that piece. And initially only for K-2, Heggerty  
 25 is, for that phonological awareness. But we also

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1 will extend that to 3rd grade for those babies that  
 2 will -- probably will need that intervention, that  
 3 remediation piece maybe that they did not receive,  
 4 because we know what happened with the pandemic. So  
 5 we will look at that. The comprehension will be  
 6 addressed in that. Some days it will be  
 7 asynchronously, some days it will be synchronously.  
 8 But every day the students will have interaction with  
 9 teachers, small group instruction delivered by me,  
 10 delivered by a para that is going through the Science  
 11 of Reading now, learning how to do that, and the  
 12 certified teachers that have been hired that are  
 13 trained to do that. So every day they will have a  
 14 lesson, they will have small groups, depending on  
 15 where they fall, what group. Some days it may be  
 16 one-to-one interventions. So every day they will get  
 17 those pieces that meet those five components of that  
 18 literacy that I know that is so very important, that  
 19 foundational piece that they need, especially for  
 20 those K-2 babies. And then, moving on to the 3-6,  
 21 that they also need to be able to be successful.  
 22 So that is some of the things that we are doing  
 23 now and us collaborating together with other  
 24 cooperatives that are working in other areas that are  
 25 delivering virtual too, so that we can just have

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1 those conversations and make sure across the board  
 2 that we're meeting the needs of our students.  
 3 DR. MOORE: Thank you. Thank you for sharing  
 4 that. That's exciting to hear that level of  
 5 engagement with students. It's certainly challenging  
 6 in those early grades with reading. So thank you.  
 7 I think those are all my questions that I have  
 8 written down right now. Thank you.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Dr. Rankin?  
 10 DR. RANKIN: I just had a follow-up question on  
 11 the district connection coach. I see where they are  
 12 receiving training. Where are they receiving that  
 13 training? Where is that coming from?  
 14 MS. SWAN: That training will be in  
 15 collaboration with Virtual Arkansas. The training  
 16 will be what the connection coach needs to do for K-6  
 17 students and that model, and what the connection  
 18 coach needs to do for 7-12 students in that model.  
 19 So the two providers will get together and have a  
 20 training with the connection coaches across the state  
 21 so that everything is consistent and everybody knows  
 22 what the expectations are and that they are  
 23 successful as connection coaches.  
 24 DR. RANKIN: Thank you for that. I do think  
 25 that's going to be key in this situation especially.

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1 So thank you for your efforts there.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Ms. Dean?  
 3 MS. DEAN: No questions.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Hill?  
 5 DR. HILL: No, ma'am.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Mr. Sutton?  
 7 MR. SUTTON: No questions.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Woods?  
 9 MS. WOODS: No.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Post?  
 11 MS. POST: (shaking head from side to side)  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. My question that I had  
 13 on Pine Bluff, you hit on it in the very beginning,  
 14 was engagement, especially at the secondary level,  
 15 getting those kids back into the classroom and then  
 16 getting them engaged. So the criteria for being able  
 17 to have a secondary student in virtual --  
 18 MS. SMITH: So some of it will be based on their  
 19 success last year --  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 21 MS. SMITH: -- and the credits earned, being on  
 22 time with credits. So heavy emphasis on the  
 23 performance at last -- during last year's --  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 25 MS. SMITH: -- year.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. And, yeah -- and  
 2 because -- and then -- and this really doesn't have  
 3 to do with virtual, I don't think. But some of these  
 4 students to get them back in the classroom this year  
 5 you may have to go hunt them. What efforts are y'all  
 6 doing along those lines?  
 7 MS. SMITH: So each school campus next year is  
 8 going to have a social worker.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 10 MS. SMITH: That's something that they're going  
 11 to leverage their ESSER funds for and their other  
 12 title funds that they receive in their district,  
 13 because they felt like that was an important  
 14 wraparound service. And part of that is going to  
 15 their homes, getting them talking to them.  
 16 Yesterday, Dr. Moore talked to me specifically  
 17 about, you know, the concern for digital learning for  
 18 students in poverty and the additional supports that  
 19 are needed. You know, while we struggle with that  
 20 even in person learning.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 22 MS. SMITH: You know, especially teaching  
 23 schools that have an array of students sometimes  
 24 those kids just kind of disappear, and the schools  
 25 where it's your entire class, what does that look

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1 like when you're put in virtual learning with kids  
 2 from all over the state, you know, are you  
 3 disappearing there. For me, yesterday, when Dr.  
 4 Moore and I were talking about this, I think that's  
 5 what -- when I look up at the screen and I see Cathi  
 6 Swan, you know, she was the one in Arkansas who got  
 7 the grant from the Department first to start Virtual  
 8 Arkansas and kind of led a lot of our initiatives  
 9 around that. And she is based in Jefferson County,  
 10 Pine Bluff; that's her home. And so as we were  
 11 talking about the application for Pine Bluff and  
 12 certain students, that conversation keeps -- we're  
 13 continuing to have that, what does that look like;  
 14 training -- when we talk about the training being  
 15 received from Virtual Arkansas, the idea of moving  
 16 forward with not just training, how do you deliver  
 17 digital content, but how do you scaffold in a digital  
 18 world for students from poverty who may be  
 19 struggling. It's not that they're not smart enough,  
 20 it's not that they don't have access, and it's not  
 21 that they necessarily have to come back to school.  
 22 We've got to figure out what it is you've got to do  
 23 to make them successful.  
 24 And so while we've got Cathi on here and we've  
 25 got Tammy on here, I mean, I think that's kind of

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1 their charge as we're moving into this next year is  
 2 how do we address that. And for Pine Bluff and for  
 3 several of our districts in our state, that's real.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 5 MS. SMITH: So the social workers, I think, is  
 6 one piece of that.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you  
 8 for those efforts.  
 9 Are there any other questions or any more  
 10 discussion?  
 11 All right. Then I think we're ready for a  
 12 motion for Pine Bluff.  
 13 MS. DEAN: I move to approve the waiver for Pine  
 14 Bluff --  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 16 MS. DEAN: -- for the amount of years they've  
 17 designated.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean.  
 19 MR. SUTTON: Second.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 21 All in favor?  
 22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 24 Okay.  
 25 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: You went expedited again.  
 2 MS. SMITH: I'm telling you. I'm telling you.  
 3 I will tell you this while Ms. Freno is getting  
 4 ready, because they updated me this morning -- let me  
 5 go back to my notes here -- currently, for the next  
 6 Wednesday board meeting -- let me go over here --  
 7 there are currently eight applications already loaded  
 8 within the system for next Wednesday. That leaves 20  
 9 left that we're in the process of still reviewing, 5  
 10 of those are charter. So they'll go to the Charter  
 11 Panel and then come to you for review. So that  
 12 leaves 15. Today, the team is actually calling the  
 13 co-ops where these 15 districts reside to say, "Hey,  
 14 you've got a school in your district who has  
 15 submitted an application and it's not ready; reach  
 16 out to that district and help them get their  
 17 application ready or talk about possibly pulling it."  
 18 If -- so here's where I'm asking for grace or  
 19 permission or your direction. So the board meeting  
 20 is scheduled for next Wednesday. Is this board  
 21 comfortable with us continuing to add applications up  
 22 until Tuesday morning for that meeting?  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That would be the very latest.  
 24 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Yeah, I would think that  
 25 would be the -- and we could say Monday afternoon.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I would be more comfortable  
 2 with Monday afternoon. That would give me Monday  
 3 night --  
 4 MS. SMITH: Okay.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- to start, if we have --  
 6 because it takes quite awhile to go through them.  
 7 MS. SMITH: Okay. So Monday afternoon we would  
 8 stop loading applications.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 10 MS. SMITH: Okay. That works.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 12 XI: ACT 1240 WAIVER REQUEST - AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. We're ready to  
 14 move on. Let's see where we're at. So we're on 1240  
 15 waiver request for Augusta School District. Am I on  
 16 the right place?  
 17 MS. FRENO: That is correct --  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 19 MS. FRENO: -- Ms. Newton.  
 20 Lori Freno, Arkansas Department of Education.  
 21 The Augusta School District requests that the  
 22 State Board approve an Act 1240 waiver related to the  
 23 term of a contract for its vocational agriculture  
 24 teacher. The law requires that school districts have  
 25 a year-round Ag teacher; they contract that year-

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1 round. Augusta is requesting that this be reduced to  
 2 190 days for the reasons set forth in the  
 3 application. Cathy Tanner -- and this is a one-year  
 4 only; this is a waiver for one year only. And Cathy  
 5 Tanner from the Augusta School District is here to  
 6 discuss this waiver and answer any questions; she is  
 7 on the Zoom.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Good morning, Ms. Tanner.  
 9 SUPT. TANNER: Good morning. How are all of  
 10 you?  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: We're doing good.  
 12 SUPT. TANNER: Yes. I'm Cathy Tanner; I'm the  
 13 Superintendent of Augusta. I had my team ready to be  
 14 with me today, my principals and all, except for  
 15 they're so busy in interviews right now trying to,  
 16 you know, fill our staff for the next coming -- this  
 17 coming-up school year.  
 18 I know you -- I don't know if you are familiar  
 19 with Augusta. Augusta is a very small rural, little  
 20 town in the delta. We have about 330 students K-12.  
 21 We are experiencing a decline as far as in high  
 22 school for the next three years. And this came about  
 23 -- it wasn't because of Covid; this was just the  
 24 cycle that we're seeing. But there are good things  
 25 ahead because K-9 we're looking anywhere between 25

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1 to 32 students per class, so we see that the  
 2 enrollment is picking up.  
 3 But the reason that I wanted this waiver was  
 4 because, similar to what happened last year, my Ag  
 5 teacher who is a -- or Ag teacher was a 240-day  
 6 contract and he had a maximum of about 14 students in  
 7 Ag. And when I realized this, it was then I decided  
 8 that, well, I'm going to move him into SPED as a co-  
 9 teacher, because he had a SPED degree, which would  
 10 work with kids especially with a loss of learning.  
 11 And so being a small school like we are, the  
 12 teachers have -- everybody has multiple hats; the  
 13 teachers have multiple preps. And what cuts down on  
 14 the electives so much is because, you know, there's  
 15 only one science teacher, one math teacher, one  
 16 English teacher, and they're teaching all those. And  
 17 so it's -- the schedule, no matter how hard you try,  
 18 is always interfering with something. But it's even  
 19 more when your numbers get so low. And so what had  
 20 happened was is that when I realized this, and I  
 21 realized that I had all these teachers teaching  
 22 multiple things and I realized they have dual jobs, I  
 23 thought, well, it's not economically feasible for us  
 24 to have a 240-day contract for a teacher that's not  
 25 really 240, because he's only a part-time Ag teacher.

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1 And I contacted the Career and Technical Ed., and I  
 2 said, "This is where we are." And I am going to keep  
 3 my Ag program because, first of all, we're a School  
 4 of Innovation; we base it around career readiness.  
 5 My students are in the third or fourth generation of  
 6 generational poverty. We are one of the top schools  
 7 as far as how we rank in poverty. And I know the way  
 8 to -- we all know that the way to beat this cycle is  
 9 to educate, educate, educate, but you've got to  
 10 educate with careers, because they've got to see this  
 11 as being an area to be successful.  
 12 Augusta is one of the founding members for FFA,  
 13 and Augusta is a rural community with agriculture  
 14 being, you know, one of the main occupations around  
 15 here. And we wanted to keep our program because we  
 16 have some students that are very interested in  
 17 agriculture. And we also -- we're not -- we do not  
 18 need agriculture to meet the demands for the  
 19 standards; we want to do it because it's another  
 20 avenue for the kids that we have that may would help  
 21 them to be successful.  
 22 And so I ask for the waiver because the Ag  
 23 teacher that I had last year has left and resigned  
 24 and went to another school district, and we're in the  
 25 process of looking for another person. We have the



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1 1240 waiver in place that allows my teachers to teach  
 2 out of content area as long as they're highly  
 3 qualified. And also we've had very good success with  
 4 the nontraditional, especially in the areas of  
 5 careers. And the State Department when I -- or the  
 6 Career and Technical Ed. department, when I talked  
 7 with them they told me that they would give me  
 8 conditional approval if the first year that I would  
 9 offer just the beginning class of Survey, and then  
 10 the second year do the first year, and then the  
 11 second year an elective, and then the third year add  
 12 on three. And hopefully within four years or so,  
 13 when my numbers get more -- you know, they get -- the  
 14 numbers increase, then we would be able to add back  
 15 to where we were with the two programs of study.  
 16 And that is the reason why I'm bringing this  
 17 before you. With as rural as we are, you know -- and  
 18 I guess I kind of understand the 240-day contract in  
 19 a way, and in a way I do not, because I'm a -- I was  
 20 a former Career and Technical Ed. teacher as well.  
 21 But we're so rural that one of our schools, which is  
 22 Cotton Plant that consolidated with -- that has been  
 23 consolidated with Augusta, is 35 miles one-way. So  
 24 transporting the students all summer-long, you know,  
 25 for programs and stuff, I would do that in a

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1 heartbeat if it were feasible to do it and if the  
 2 interest was there. So I'm wanting to start this  
 3 next year on a clean slate, try to start over with  
 4 agriculture, but also have a teacher that will come  
 5 in and help the district in other areas as far as  
 6 teach other subjects that may be needed. And so  
 7 that's why I'm before you today asking for this  
 8 waiver.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Thank you. We'll see  
 10 if we have any questions from the Board.  
 11 Dr. Hill?  
 12 DR. HILL: No, ma'am.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Dean?  
 14 MS. DEAN: No.  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Rankin?  
 16 DR. RANKIN: No.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Moore?  
 18 DR. MOORE: No.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Mr. Sutton?  
 20 MR. SUTTON: No.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Woods?  
 22 MS. WOODS: No.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Post?  
 24 MS. POST: I don't know that much about this.  
 25 I'm just curious with the 240-day contract, what is

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1 it that the students are doing all summer-long that a  
 2 teacher has to have a contract of that length?  
 3 SECRETARY KEY: Well, we have Ross White who can  
 4 come and answer that question for us, our Director of  
 5 CTE.  
 6 MR. WHITE: Good morning. Ross White, Director  
 7 of Career and Technical Education.  
 8 I can't give you all the back history of it, but  
 9 I mean it is a part of the state requirements, state  
 10 law that all agriculture education teachers are  
 11 contracted on a 240-day contract. Now what I can  
 12 give you as from a CTE perspective, with agriculture  
 13 education is a lot of those programs obviously are  
 14 built off of like animal science programs, and  
 15 there's lots of others. But that program of study,  
 16 obviously involving the large nature of animals,  
 17 don't stop in the summer. And so there's teachers  
 18 and there's support through FFA to connect students  
 19 to -- even 4H doesn't fall into our Ag; it's still  
 20 kind of a piece of those programs and a lot of work  
 21 with that. And then in their programming, just  
 22 because of the extensiveness of it and their  
 23 programs, a lot of their equipment and supplies and  
 24 things just requires year-round work. And so that's  
 25 been a big push, I think, in the state for many, many

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1 years was that their work extends to a 240-day type  
 2 of work environment.  
 3 Does that answer that question?  
 4 A lot of schools also still have what they  
 5 consider vocational teachers still on some forms of  
 6 extended contracts. We have lots of teachers that  
 7 are on 210-day contracts, 205, versus a normal 190-  
 8 day contract. But the biggest piece usually goes  
 9 back to most of them are working with their students  
 10 with livestock throughout the summer, because that's  
 11 a part of what is considered their SAE projects,  
 12 which is a part of their career development through  
 13 the national FFA organization.  
 14 Does that make sense?  
 15 MS. POST: (Nodding head up and down)  
 16 MR. WHITE: Anybody else?  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Tanner, I'm not sure if  
 18 you heard all that or not, but his explanation was  
 19 the large livestock, working with them all through  
 20 the summer. Do you have anything that you want to  
 21 add to that?  
 22 SUPT. TANNER: We do not have livestock. We  
 23 have mosquitoes, that's about it.  
 24 No, we do not. And it would be great someday to  
 25 have that, the community gardens and things. But

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1 right now we do not have that.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right.  
 3 SUPT. TANNER: And I'm not against it at all. I  
 4 would think it would be excellent to have that.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. What was  
 6 your primary year-round before your declining  
 7 numbers?  
 8 SUPT. TANNER: What was my numbers before?  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: No. What was your primary use  
 10 for the year-round before your numbers declined?  
 11 SUPT. TANNER: Mowing, cleaning floors, those  
 12 things, simply because we did not have a program --  
 13 you know, a program where kids could be here.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. All right.  
 15 Does that --  
 16 MS. POST: (Nodding head up and down)  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Any other  
 18 questions from the Board?  
 19 All right. I think we're ready for a motion  
 20 then.  
 21 MS. DEAN: I move to approve the 1240 waiver for  
 22 Augusta.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Dean.  
 24 DR. RANKIN: I'll second.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Dr. Rankin.

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1 All in favor?  
 2 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 4 Congratulations, Ms. Tanner.  
 5 SUPT. TANNER: Thank you so much. Have a great  
 6 day.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: You too.  
 8 XII. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NOMINATED  
 9 MEMBERS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD TO  
 10 REPLACE MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE VACANT OR EXPIRED JUNE 30, 2021  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. PLSB Members. Ms.  
 12 Saracini.  
 13 MS. SARACINI: Karli Saracini, Assistant  
 14 Commissioner.  
 15 Today I'm coming to you to provide the  
 16 nominations for PLSB for two terms. One is a teacher  
 17 that has been on PLSB for several years and she has  
 18 been reappointed by AEA; she's a classroom teacher  
 19 for Helena-West Helena. And then we also have a new  
 20 one coming on that's never served that's a high  
 21 school teacher from Fort Smith -- and we're real  
 22 excited because we have an elementary and a high  
 23 school.  
 24 So I'm coming to you today that this is our  
 25 recommendation for these two positions on the PLSB

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1 board.  
 2 MR. SUTTON: How many members are on that board?  
 3 MS. SARACINI: You asked me and I went blank.  
 4 We have representation from -- we have four teachers,  
 5 we have administrators, we have higher ed.; so  
 6 probably about 12, I think. But I can send it to you  
 7 exactly. I'm trying to go around the room --  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Around the room and count.  
 9 MS. SARACINI: -- when we're in a board meeting  
 10 to see, but it's been so long since we've had one in  
 11 person.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 13 MS. SARACINI: About 12 to 15, somewhere in  
 14 there. Because then we have a couple that sit on it  
 15 that do not vote, like myself, Tonya Williams from  
 16 DHS/Early Childhood. So we have a few members like  
 17 that.  
 18 MR. SUTTON: The Ethics Subcommittee, is it made  
 19 up of the same members?  
 20 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh. And it's the same --  
 21 it's -- the Subcommittee is a representation, just a  
 22 smaller number --  
 23 MR. SUTTON: Right.  
 24 MS. SARACINI: -- on that.  
 25 MR. SUTTON: Okay.

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1 MS. SARACINI: Yes, sir. Uh-huh. And then we  
 2 have our Evidentiary Hearing Committee that is made  
 3 up of that, as well.  
 4 MR. SUTTON: And everyone serves a three-year  
 5 term?  
 6 MS. SARACINI: Yes, sir.  
 7 SECRETARY KEY: 17.  
 8 MS. SARACINI: 17? I was going around the room  
 9 and I was very close.  
 10 DR. RANKIN: And I have a question. They serve  
 11 a three-year term but then can be reappointed just  
 12 once or multiple times?  
 13 MS. SARACINI: Right now, not in the law and in  
 14 our rules, multiple times.  
 15 DR. RANKIN: Okay.  
 16 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh. So we have one that's  
 17 been on since the inception of 2008-09 school year.  
 18 Uh-huh, yes, ma'am.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any others?  
 20 All right. We are ready for a motion.  
 21 DR. RANKIN: I move to approve the two nominees.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 23 MS. SARACINI: Brenda Brown and Wendy Peer.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 25 And just one question real quick, Ms. Saracini,

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1 I saw Dr. Mary Jane Bradley's name in the  
 2 description. She's not up for --  
 3 MS. SARACINI: Yes, she'll come -- she's been  
 4 reappointed. I think that was last month.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. So it was just a  
 6 mistake that her name was in that list. Okay. All  
 7 right.  
 8 Okay. So we have a motion by Dr. Rankin to  
 9 approve Ms. Brown and Ms. Peer.  
 10 Do we have a second?  
 11 MR. SUTTON: I'll second.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Mr. Sutton.  
 13 All in favor?  
 14 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 16 Okay. All right.  
 17 XIII. LICENSURE ASSESSMENT APPROVALS  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. I think you're up  
 19 next -- on our next one also.  
 20 MS. SARACINI: Yes. And we're going to go on  
 21 with our assessments. Today I'm coming to you with  
 22 several assessments. We have eight. Most are just  
 23 up for their new -- this is the new testing year.  
 24 Anywhere from five to six years, they -- at date the  
 25 test sometimes it's even up to ten. As the national

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1 standards change, then the test changes. But the  
 2 Online Teaching K-12 Assessment is the -- we had no  
 3 tests at all and we collaborated with Team Digital to  
 4 come up with an evidence-based, performance-based  
 5 assessment, and that's what we're using with our  
 6 online -- they're going to use second semester with  
 7 our online academies.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 9 MS. SARACINI: Any questions about any of them?  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any questions over here?  
 11 Dr. Moore?  
 12 DR. MOORE: Yes, I did have a question on the  
 13 Online Teaching Assessment.  
 14 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh.  
 15 DR. MOORE: So is that something that will be  
 16 required that they teach online courses or it's just  
 17 an endorsement that you can choose to get?  
 18 MS. SARACINI: It's an endorsement that you can  
 19 choose to get for -- if you already have a teaching  
 20 license at this time.  
 21 DR. MOORE: Do we expect maybe in the future or  
 22 currently districts to say you need to go through  
 23 this before they teach? Or I guess we're kind of  
 24 building the plan as we're going otherwise.  
 25 MS. SARACINI: Yes. And we started that with

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1 those online academies. Currently, we -- UCA had a  
 2 program before this and they were our -- kind of our  
 3 guinea pigs, they were our pilot. And they took this  
 4 exam in the spring and we had five graduate with the  
 5 Online Teaching endorsement. But we feel that this  
 6 will grow, especially with the pandemic and all the  
 7 virtual learning. We're assuming that this is going  
 8 to be an area which grows. And we did not have a  
 9 licensure assessment for this and we felt that there  
 10 needed to be, and so we were ahead of the game  
 11 because this started happening about two years ago.  
 12 So we saw that it was going that way. And so we feel  
 13 very comfortable with this assessment. And it's a  
 14 pass/fail and not a cut score.  
 15 DR. MOORE: Thank you for sharing.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any questions over here?  
 17 All right. Okay. We -- do we need to approve  
 18 them as a group or can we do that?  
 19 MS. SARACINI: (Nodding head up and down)  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. For the licensure  
 21 assessment approvals.  
 22 MS. DEAN: I move to approve the licensure  
 23 assessments.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Moved by Ms. Dean.  
 25 DR. HILL: Second.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Dr. Hill.  
 2 All in favor?  
 3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 5 All right.  
 6 XII. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NOMINATED  
 7 MEMBERS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD TO  
 8 REPLACE MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE VACANT OR EXPIRED JUNE 30, 2021  
 9 (continuing)  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 11 MS. SARACINI: Madam Chair, I did leave out Dr.  
 12 Bradley. Can we go back and approve her?  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah, okay.  
 14 MS. SARACINI: Sorry about that.  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That's okay.  
 16 All right. So we're going back to nominations  
 17 for the members of the Professional Licensure  
 18 Standards Board. Dr. Mary Jane Bradley is also --  
 19 MS. SARACINI: Yes.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- on that.  
 21 MS. SARACINI: She is just being reappointed.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 23 MS. SARACINI: This is her second term -- will  
 24 be her second term of three years.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.

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1 MS. SARACINI: I just need that recommendation  
 2 and someone to --  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 4 MS. SARACINI: -- make a motion.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Can we have a motion for Dr.  
 6 Bradley?  
 7 MS. WOODS: I'll move to approve Dr. Bradley.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Motion by Ms. Woods.  
 9 MS. DEAN: Second.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Ms. Dean.  
 11 All in favor?  
 12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 14 Okay.  
 15 MS. SARACINI: Thank you.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 17 XIV. EMBEDDED COURSE APPROVALS  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. So we are now to  
 19 embedded course approvals. Dr. Pride.  
 20 Good morning.  
 21 DR. PRIDE: Good morning.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: And it's still morning.  
 23 DR. PRIDE: I don't know; I feel like it's  
 24 afternoon. It's morning. Great. All right. So,  
 25 good morning. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner

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1 of Learning Services.  
 2 I'm here to present embedded courses and ask for  
 3 your approval. Act 421 of 2013 allows curriculum  
 4 frameworks from two separate courses to be taught in  
 5 a single course, known as a combined or embedded  
 6 course. Nine school districts made application for  
 7 approval of combined or embedded courses and assured,  
 8 in writing, that the curriculum frameworks for both  
 9 courses will be fully taught in a combined or  
 10 embedded course. DESE respectfully requests the  
 11 State Board of Education to approve the embedded  
 12 courses, understanding that when the curriculum  
 13 frameworks for one of the courses are revised, a new  
 14 course approval must be submitted to the State Board  
 15 of Education and approved and must be granted before  
 16 a school will be allowed to offer the embedded  
 17 course.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Embedded courses -- Dr.  
 19 Hill?  
 20 DR. HILL: No, ma'am.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Dean?  
 22 MS. DEAN: (Shaking head from side to side)  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Rankin?  
 24 DR. RANKIN: (Shaking head from side to side)  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Moore?

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1 DR. MOORE: Yes. I was curious, do we have -- I  
 2 like to see embedded courses with CTE courses. Would  
 3 those be here if there were any, or is that -- does  
 4 that go through a different type of approval?  
 5 DR. PRIDE: Yes, that would be here, basically  
 6 through our course approval system as well. And  
 7 there are a few on here. When you look at the  
 8 Jessieville one, Keystone -- that's a CTE course;  
 9 that is a one-semester course and typically offered  
 10 in 9th and 10th grade. There's a career readiness  
 11 course -- let's see which one did the career  
 12 readiness -- so it was Hope, they did advisory in 8th  
 13 grade career development; so that would be CTE as  
 14 well. And I'm trying to see if there was one more.  
 15 I know that there was a career readiness and a  
 16 college and career readiness, so there are a few.  
 17 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Mr. Sutton,  
 19 question?  
 20 MR. SUTTON: No.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Woods?  
 22 MS. WOODS: No.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Post?  
 24 MS. POST: (Shaking head from side to side)  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. We're ready

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1 for a motion.  
 2 MS. DEAN: I move to improve -- to approve the  
 3 embedded courses for 2021-22.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 5 Dean.  
 6 Second --  
 7 DR. RANKIN: Second.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- by Dr. Rankin.  
 9 All in favor?  
 10 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 12 Okay.  
 13 DR. PRIDE: Thank you.  
 14 XV. LICENSURE EXCEPTIONS REPORT 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. So we are to our  
 16 last item, Licensure Exceptions. Ms. Saracini.  
 17 MS. SARACINI: I just want to go briefly over --  
 18 it will not take a lot of time.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 20 MS. SARACINI: But I know that this being the  
 21 pandemic year we've really talked about all the  
 22 exceptions and the licensure exceptions. So if we  
 23 just talk about our alternate licensure plan --  
 24 And this is going to work, Dan?  
 25 Okay. Yeah, it does. Good.

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1 We'll go -- and here's all of our exceptions.  
 2 The additional licensure plans are for teachers that  
 3 already have a license, our long-term subs, our over-  
 4 30-days -- I know some of us had a question about  
 5 that a few times ago. A long-term sub, if it's over  
 6 30 days, must hold a bachelor's degree and -- versus  
 7 a sub that's not 30-days. We don't see them. Okay.  
 8 And a long-term sub can stay for a semester, but  
 9 after a semester they have to reapply to be a long-  
 10 term sub. Okay. The emergency teaching permit is  
 11 just that, the emergency teaching permit; you would  
 12 be AQT and have some experience, but maybe you just  
 13 haven't passed that test but you are highly qualified  
 14 in that area. Act 1240 waivers are those waivers  
 15 that you do not have a teaching license. And then  
 16 our effective teacher licensure exceptions, I find  
 17 this -- and I know Melissa does too -- Melissa Jacks,  
 18 our coordinator for -- manager for Licensure -- this  
 19 is you can teach one area above or one area below.  
 20 So if you have that middle school math and you're a  
 21 really good 8th grade math teacher, you could go up  
 22 and teach that 9th grade algebra because that exam is  
 23 that rigorous. Again, you can see by comparison  
 24 special ed. by far is the most common of our  
 25 additional licensure plans, ALPs, and it's just

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1 always steady. And I was surprised that it wasn't a  
 2 larger gap between 19-20 and 20-21 of people on ALPs;  
 3 it's only slightly increased.  
 4 Here is by percents and this is what we do,  
 5 because we want you to see that the smaller districts  
 6 may have quite a few teachers on ALPs. But, again,  
 7 they already have a license and we just showed you  
 8 our top -- again, our long-term subs -- when you look  
 9 over the years, it wasn't that big of an increase for  
 10 this year. So, but when you look at those numbers  
 11 that's for a semester at a time. So that's really  
 12 double of what it should be, and I just want to  
 13 explain that, because we give long-term subs out for  
 14 a semester at a time. Okay. So 771 -- you know,  
 15 that's not 771 the whole year. Because I don't want  
 16 you to see numbers and think that they're skewed, so  
 17 that's why I'm trying to explain just enough.  
 18 But effective teaching license, this we get of  
 19 course out of My School Info. And if someone has  
 20 input something incorrectly, we try to see and we try  
 21 to go back and fix it, if we can, if at all possible.  
 22 And then, again, here's our previous for our  
 23 emergency teaching permits. It has gone up. Last  
 24 year, it was just 390; this year, it's 413. So that  
 25 kind of lets you look at a snapshot of where we are

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1 on our licensure exceptions.  
 2 And, again, ETPs by districts, we want you to  
 3 see how many that are asking. Because like that  
 4 charter school one, there's only four in the whole  
 5 school, so their percent is higher. We're just  
 6 trying to make sure that you're looking at apples-to-  
 7 apples.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 9 MS. SARACINI: And, again, the Act 1240 waivers,  
 10 this is a steady increase, but again not a huge  
 11 increase with the pandemic. And so this is broken  
 12 down so that you can see. And again the long-term  
 13 sub, that number is by semester.  
 14 MR. SUTTON: Is that what defines a long-term  
 15 sub?  
 16 MS. SARACINI: The -- yes. A long-term sub is a  
 17 sub that is in a classroom for more than 30 days. If  
 18 it is more than 30 days, on that 30th day you have to  
 19 have -- you fill out something with us, our office,  
 20 and then we approve it or deny it. And it comes to  
 21 you every month.  
 22 Okay. Any questions?  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Dr. Hill?  
 24 DR. HILL: No, ma'am.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Dean?

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1 MS. DEAN: No.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Rankin?  
 3 DR. RANKIN: I just want to say thank you for  
 4 that slide with the breakout of secondary and  
 5 elementary. That's been interesting and helpful.  
 6 MS. SARACINI: Yes, it is. So thank you.  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Hang on, Ms. Saracini. Let's  
 8 make sure nobody else has questions.  
 9 MS. SARACINI: Oh, okay.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Moore, did you have any  
 11 questions?  
 12 DR. MOORE: No.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. I did have a question,  
 14 and it actually goes back to yesterday's consent but  
 15 I didn't ask, and I thought this would be a better  
 16 place. How quick do schools give up on finding a  
 17 person for a position? Because I notice we had like  
 18 three or four long-term subs that were already on the  
 19 list for this next school year. And I know it was  
 20 special ed. but, you know, it seemed like they were -  
 21 - they would've had to have gotten their application  
 22 in in June and they've already given up and decided,  
 23 well, we're just going to put a long-term sub in that  
 24 special ed. classroom. That just seemed like awful  
 25 quick to say, "I'm not even going to try."

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1 MS. SARACINI: Well, here is one thing that we  
 2 have learned -- and Melissa may want to come up and  
 3 talk about it as well. With special ed. you can't  
 4 have an exception. You can't be a 1240.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 6 MS. SARACINI: You can't be an emergency  
 7 teaching permit.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 9 MS. SARACINI: So if I haven't passed that  
 10 special ed. test and I have just graduated -- and you  
 11 must pass the special ed. test and the Foundations of  
 12 Reading --  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 14 MS. SARACINI: -- and maybe they're in the  
 15 process of doing so. So --  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That makes sense.  
 17 MS. SARACINI: -- they want to hire you --  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 19 MS. SARACINI: -- because you're lacking just  
 20 one thing, but you have that degree.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 22 MS. SARACINI: And so that's where there is such  
 23 a large number on that special ed. long-term sub.  
 24 Because it really is someone that's completed the  
 25 degree; they just have not completed the requirements

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1 for licensure.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That makes sense.  
 3 MS. SARACINI: Does that kind of --  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes, that --  
 5 MS. SARACINI: -- explain that better?  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes, that does. And so  
 7 yesterday we talked about barriers on different ones  
 8 passing the Praxis in math or whatever. Are we  
 9 seeing that same barrier as far as teachers being  
 10 able to pass the special ed. portion of the Praxis?  
 11 MS. SARACINI: Not so much, but the Science of  
 12 Reading, the Foundations of Reading which were  
 13 already --  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: So you're working on that.  
 15 Okay.  
 16 MS. SARACINI: Yes, ma'am.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right.  
 18 MS. SARACINI: But does that kind of give you --  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 20 MS. SARACINI: -- a better -- because you don't  
 21 want to lose that person.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 23 MS. SARACINI: They may have interned in your  
 24 building.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.

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1 MS. SARACINI: And so that's why you see the  
 2 ones in the summer, because you want to give them a  
 3 job.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That makes sense. Yes.  
 5 MS. SARACINI: And anything else you want to  
 6 add?  
 7 MS. JACKS: It might also be someone that they  
 8 have found that may have been a special ed. parapro  
 9 in their school and they're putting them through an  
 10 MAT program for special ed., and they know that, you  
 11 know, I don't want to lose them, I've them in a  
 12 program. But you have to have six hours of  
 13 coursework in special ed. --  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 15 MS. JACKS: -- and the exams passed before you  
 16 can actually get that license. And so they're just  
 17 getting their paperwork done --  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 19 MS. JACKS: -- ahead of time. And also a  
 20 possibility might be -- and this is more a regular --  
 21 what the true definition of long-term sub would be,  
 22 would be somebody that they know is going to be out  
 23 on maternity leave or a long-term situation, illness.  
 24 And I've had a couple of calls just this week, as a  
 25 matter of fact, "Can I go ahead and put it in? I

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1 know they're going to be gone." And, you know, so,  
 2 "Yes, go ahead."  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.  
 4 Dr. Pfeffer.  
 5 DR. PFEFFER: And so -- and I want to commend  
 6 this team because they really are doing a lot of work  
 7 around really being proactive in looking long-term  
 8 and setting up some really good systems. You know, I  
 9 was thinking about the past few months, there are so  
 10 many things that they're putting in place that we've  
 11 probably not gotten to share with you all because of  
 12 trying to go through --  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Sure.  
 14 DR. PFEFFER: -- other things that need to get  
 15 taken care of. So, maybe in the next couple of  
 16 months there will be some opportunities for more of  
 17 that to get shared. But just some things for you to  
 18 know that are going on, you know, I think, first of  
 19 all, we just need to start adopting the mindset that  
 20 -- and Stacy is the one who actually verbalized this  
 21 not long ago -- if a school district hasn't had a  
 22 Grow Your Own program, we need to say, "Why not."  
 23 And I think those are things that we need to really  
 24 start emphasizing, and you all can help us with that.  
 25 Because if you don't have a Grow Your Own program,

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1 then it's going to be -- it's really hard for me to  
 2 understand later on why we want to keep asking for  
 3 waivers when we're not doing what we need to on the  
 4 front-end.  
 5 And to that end, y'all are going to be really  
 6 excited when they get to share what has been set up  
 7 for possibilities for students who can participate in  
 8 a teacher career pathway while they're in high  
 9 school. They can start earning concurrent credit.  
 10 If they're interested in that profession, they can go  
 11 on to a two-year college where there's scholarship  
 12 money to pay for them. In the two-year college, it  
 13 is the -- remind me which scholarship --  
 14 MS. SARACINI: Arkansas Futures.  
 15 DR. PFEFFER: The Arkansas Futures grant will  
 16 pay for that. There are several four-year  
 17 institutions then who will take that student as  
 18 they're ready to enter the Ed Prep program in a four-  
 19 year institution at the same rate as their community  
 20 college --  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Oh wow.  
 22 DR. PFEFFER: -- tuition. So --  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That's great.  
 24 DR. PFEFFER: -- you're talking about students  
 25 who, if they're also earning the Challenge

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1 scholarship, they're going to be able to get out of  
 2 school virtually debt-free.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 4 DR. PFEFFER: And that's important, you know,  
 5 for a starting teacher to be able to start a career  
 6 that has such lifelong benefits.  
 7 The other things we're doing are promoting those  
 8 students being able to work as a parapro while they  
 9 go to school. Because a lot of their courses,  
 10 especially if they're in their local community  
 11 college, they can still be working part-time/full-  
 12 time as a parapro, as a teaching assistant. If  
 13 they're doing that, they're already earning credit  
 14 towards teacher retirement.  
 15 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 16 DR. PFEFFER: So by the time they actually get a  
 17 teaching job they can be four years ahead in teacher  
 18 retirement.  
 19 And so these are just things that are starting.  
 20 Some data that'll be helpful for you, Karli's  
 21 team is working with our Comprehensive Center to  
 22 update our Workforce Stability Index, and what that's  
 23 going to help show is school districts where a large  
 24 number of teachers are not either licensed or fully  
 25 certified for the positions that they're teaching.

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1 And I think it's going to help give some early  
 2 warning indicators for us so that we can know, hey,  
 3 if this is a district that has more teachers on a  
 4 waiver than are licensed, then we need to take a  
 5 pause. And instead of just continuing to grant  
 6 waivers, we're going to probably need to have a  
 7 larger discussion.  
 8 So those are all things that will be coming out  
 9 more this fall. So I just wanted to kind of give you  
 10 a preview to say there's a lot of work being done,  
 11 but we really need your help and we also really want  
 12 to double-down in the area of special education. The  
 13 teaching academy that we've been able to fund with  
 14 our ESSER funds, we're getting tremendous, tremendous  
 15 progress from that. You're getting really good  
 16 content teachers, reading, math, science content  
 17 people who are earning a certification for special  
 18 ed. Those students are going to be part of an  
 19 inclusive classroom --  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 21 DR. PFEFFER: -- and not being pulled out of a  
 22 regular classroom situation. That's going to benefit  
 23 kids.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: It's huge.  
 25 DR. PFEFFER: It also benefits the teacher too.

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1 So anyway, we've got a great team here. They're  
 2 doing great work. But we're going to need to have  
 3 your continuous support, and your questions help us.  
 4 So, thank you.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Thank you for that work, and  
 6 the information is great.  
 7 MS. SARACINI: Any other questions?  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions?  
 9 Okay. Thank you.  
 10 Do we need to approve your report or are we --  
 11 MS. SARACINI: I don't think so. I think we --  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: It's just a report. Okay.  
 13 All right.  
 14 All right. We need a motion for that or not?  
 15 It's on the action agenda.  
 16 SECRETARY KEY: Yeah.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 18 SECRETARY KEY: It's on the action agenda, so  
 19 let's go ahead and --  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right.  
 21 SECRETARY KEY: -- do that.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I need a motion to accept the  
 23 report.  
 24 MS. DEAN: I move to accept the report.  
 25 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Motion by Ms. Dean.

1 MS. WOODS: Second.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Second by Ms. Woods.  
 3 All in favor?  
 4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 6 Okay. We're going to take -- you want about --  
 7 yesterday I gave you a 5-minute break and I thought  
 8 that wasn't long enough. Will 10 minutes work?  
 9 All right. So let's do a 10-minutes break and  
 10 that'll let Ms. Hill get her things gathered up too.  
 11 So, all right, be back about 10:50-ish.

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(The Action Agenda was concluded at 10:41 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
 ) ss.  
 COUNTY OF SALINE )

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, 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 July 9, 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: July 20, 2021.

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



	<b>add (9)</b> 12:7;18:5;23:18; 47:6;56:21;61:11,14; 64:21;83:6	14:17	<b>appreciated (1)</b> 42:15	69:17;70:2,5,13; 71:9,13,21
<b>\$</b>		<b>agriculture (7)</b> 57:23;60:13,17,18; 62:4;63:10,12	<b>appreciation (1)</b> 13:14	<b>assessments (4)</b> 20:3;69:21,22; 71:23
<b>\$1,000 (1)</b> 15:18	<b>addendum (5)</b> 36:25;37:2;43:19, 23;46:7	<b>ahead (13)</b> 15:7,7;31:25;33:17; 38:10,12;58:25;71:10; 83:19,25;84:2;86:17; 88:19	<b>appropriate (1)</b> 5:1	<b>assigned (1)</b> 18:7
<b>\$7,000 (1)</b> 25:22	<b>addendums (1)</b> 43:25		<b>approval (10)</b> 32:1;35:18;61:8; 66:8;72:6;74:3,7,14; 75:4,6	<b>assistance (1)</b> 9:18
<b>[</b>	<b>adding (1)</b> 18:2	<b>algebra (1)</b> 77:22	<b>APPROVALS (4)</b> 69:17;71:21;73:17, 19	<b>Assistant (4)</b> 42:1;66:13;73:25; 86:12
<b>[LAUGHTER] (1)</b> 29:6	<b>addition (1)</b> 21:18	<b>aligning (1)</b> 49:20	<b>approve (22)</b> 7:16;32:5;33:18,25; 34:18;35:20;38:16; 43:1,2;55:13;57:22; 65:21;68:21;69:9; 71:17,22;72:12;73:7; 74:11;76:2;79:20; 88:10	<b>assuming (2)</b> 17:20;71:7
<b>[sic] (1)</b> 35:10	<b>additional (7)</b> 12:7;23:18;37:13, 14;53:18;77:2,25	<b>allow (1)</b> 18:14	<b>approved (14)</b> 4:14,17;5:17,20;7:7, 10;8:14,16;11:6,9; 12:12;30:1,4;74:15	<b>assumption (1)</b> 25:16
<b>A</b>	<b>address (1)</b> 55:2	<b>allowed (2)</b> 45:7;74:16	<b>AQT (1)</b> 77:12	<b>assured (1)</b> 74:7
<b>able (19)</b> 11:14;17:12,13; 18:4;19:14;20:14,20; 21:18;23:18;30:8; 46:13;50:21;52:16; 61:14;82:10;86:1,5,8; 87:13	<b>addressed (2)</b> 49:16;50:6	<b>allowing (1)</b> 16:5	<b>area (9)</b> 9:24;14:15;60:11; 61:2;71:8;77:14,19, 19;87:12	<b>asynchronous (5)</b> 4:13;5:16;7:6;8:12; 11:5
<b>above (1)</b> 77:19	<b>addressing (1)</b> 44:2	<b>allows (2)</b> 61:1;74:3	<b>areas (6)</b> 14:13;15:25;28:19; 50:24;61:4;62:5	<b>asynchronously (1)</b> 50:7
<b>academic (1)</b> 19:10	<b>ADM (1)</b> 25:23	<b>almost (3)</b> 44:2;48:11,17	<b>along (4)</b> 8:6,7;48:18;53:6	<b>attend (2)</b> 21:3;22:2
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