

In The Matter Of:

*ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL*

February 15, 2022

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ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

FEBRUARY 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

PANEL MEMBERS:

MS. DEBORAH COFFMAN	Chairperson/ADE Asst. Commissioner - Public School Accountability
MS. KARLI SARACINI	ADE Asst. Commissioner - Educator Effectiveness & Licensure
MR. PHIL BALDWIN	CEO, Citizens Bank
DR. ERIC FLOWERS	ADE Asst. to Director
MS. TOYCE NEWTON	Former State Board of Education Member
DR. SONJA WRIGHT-McMURRAY	Division of CTE Associate Director

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. WHITNEY JAMES DESE Attorney

ALSO APPEARING:

DR. MATTHEW SUTHERLIN ADE Coordinator, Special Programs

LOCATION:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Good morning. The February 15, 2022 meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel is called to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to the Arkansas Department of Education auditorium and ask that you please silence all electronic devices.

I want to welcome Ms. Toyce Newton back to the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Ms. Newton, are you able to hear us?

Let's check, make sure we can hear you. You're on mute.

No, I can see you're -- I can see you're talking, but we can't hear you. So maybe we can help -- you can work on that and we'll get back to it.

So we now have six members on our Charter Authorizing Panel: myself, Deborah Coffman; Dr. Sonja Wright-McMurray; Phillip Baldwin; Dr. Eric Flowers; Ms. Toyce Newton, as I introduced; and Karli Saracini who will be joining us in a few moments.

So we're expecting to have a fair and responsible hearing. And I request that each person speaking state your name and title for the record each time and be sure to continue to speak clearly into the microphone for the benefit of the Panel, the audience, and the viewing audience.

1 This entire meeting is being live-streamed and
2 recorded; transcript of the meeting is available --
3 or will be available on the DESE website.

4 So with that, let's get directly into our
5 agenda.

6 CONSENT AGENDA

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And, Charter Panel Members,
8 we have minutes from our January 18th meeting for
9 your consideration.

10 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I move approval of the
11 minutes.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. I have a motion from
13 Dr. Wright-McMurray to approve the minutes.

14 MR. BALDWIN: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And a second from Mr.
16 Baldwin.

17 All those in favor?

18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Motion -- minutes
20 are approved.

21 1. APPROVAL OF OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER APPLICATION FOR 2022

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Action Agenda Item Number 1.
23 Dr. Sutherlin.

24 DR. SUTHERLIN: Number 1 is the approval of an
25 open enrollment charter application for 2022.

1 This is Matthew Sutherlin, Coordinator of
2 Standards and Systems Support, Interim Charter
3 Director.

4 The application has actually been updated.
5 There's only two pieces that have really changed: one
6 is the addition of a community school option, and the
7 other is actually a list of waivers that they can
8 choose from so that we don't get multiple names for
9 the same waiver.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Any questions or discussion?

11 If --

12 MR. BALDWIN: Do we need a motion?

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We need a motion to approve
14 the application.

15 MR. BALDWIN: I'll move to approve the
16 application as submitted.

17 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a motion by Mr.
19 Baldwin and a second by Dr. Wright-McMurray to
20 approve the open enrollment charter application for
21 2022.

22 All those in favor?

23 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Motion passes. Application
25 is approved.

1 2. CONSIDERATION OF CROSS COUNTY ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY
2 ACADEMY'S DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN AMENDMENT

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Number 2.

4 DR. SUTHERLIN: Next item is actually the
5 consideration of a renewal for Cross County
6 Elementary's DLP.

7 So the digital learning plan has actually been
8 reviewed internally by the DESE review team. The
9 amendment is being requested to extend the digital
10 learning plan through the duration of the charter for
11 Cross County Elementary Technology Academy.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do we have anyone with us
13 from Cross County?

14 DR. SUTHERLIN: Yes. Ms. Stacy is on the Zoom.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Stacy, we're getting no
16 sound; technical difficulties. We're working on it.
17 Hang on.

18 DR. SUTHERLIN: You might check on your
19 microphone there's a little carrot right next to your
20 sound, your audio, just a little triangle. Make sure
21 that it's the same as your computer.

22 MR. DAN DAVIS: Now try.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Ms. Stacy, can we
24 try again?

25 MS. STACY: Yes. Can you hear me now?

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I can. Thank you.

2 MS. STACY: Okay. Good.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So on the Cross County
4 digital learning plan --

5 MS. STACY: Yes, ma'am.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- this is for the elementary
7 only?

8 MS. STACY: Yes, ma'am.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And so talk to us about your
10 other buildings.

11 MS. STACY: The other building, the high school,
12 I believe theirs was approved for three years. We
13 came in December and renewed our charter, but our
14 digital learning plan was only for a year. And the
15 feedback we got from the Panel was that -- to bring
16 this back as an amendment, to approve it for the
17 length of the charter.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Correct.

19 So, Matthew, when we finish will you go back and
20 double-check on high school, to see if they have a
21 digital learning plan for high school --

22 DR. SUTHERLIN: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- for the remainder of their
24 charter?

25 DR. SUTHERLIN: Will do.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Any questions?

2 And so this digital learning plan has been
3 reviewed by all of our internal team?

4 DR. SUTHERLIN: Correct.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

6 Dr. Flowers, any questions?

7 DR. FLOWERS: Yes. I'm looking at -- when
8 you're talking about synchronous and asynchronous, so
9 you're saying that under extenuating circumstances
10 and at the direction of the participating districts
11 asynchronous will be available. So can you give me
12 some examples of when students will be allowed this
13 option?

14 MS. STACY: So it would be in the event of -- if
15 they had technical difficulties and they were missing
16 a lesson or something like that, that would be
17 provided to them.

18 DR. FLOWERS: Oh, okay. Thank you.

19 MS. STACY: They wouldn't miss out.

20 DR. FLOWERS: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. --

22 Any other, Dr. Flowers?

23 DR. FLOWERS: That's it.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin?

25 MR. BALDWIN: No questions.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Wright-McMurray?

2 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I don't have any
3 additional questions.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton, do you have any
5 questions?

6 MS. NEWTON: No.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Stacy --

8 MS. STACY: Yes, ma'am.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- how many students in the
10 elementary took advantage of the digital learning
11 option last -- this school year, I guess?

12 MS. STACY: We currently have two. We had at
13 one point up to four, but that changed then at
14 semester. So we have two at the current moment.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And what was the feedback
16 from the parents and students that were utilizing the
17 digital learning option?

18 MS. STACY: The students we have are ones that I
19 think are, you know, pretty committed to that mode of
20 education. You know, we [audio distortion] iReady
21 test and all of that in our district, so we still
22 have contact with them. But they seem very pleased.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And the students are
24 progressing as expected?

25 MS. STACY: They are. They're doing well. They

1 are.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. No other
3 questions?

4 I'll accept a motion.

5 MS. NEWTON: Can you hear me now, Ms. Coffman?

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I can. Thank you, Ms.
7 Newton.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Great.

9 MR. BALDWIN: I'll make the motion to approve
10 the digital learning plan as submitted.

11 DR. FLOWERS: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers, did you second?

13 DR. FLOWERS: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. I have a motion from
15 Mr. Baldwin and a second from Dr. Flowers to approve
16 the Cross County Elementary Technology Academy
17 digital learning plan.

18 All those in favor?

19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Motion passes.

21 Ms. Stacy, we'll follow-up with you to make sure
22 that we've got elementary and high school, everything
23 is done up to the ending of the charter.

24 MS. STACY: Thank you. I appreciate it.

25 3. CONSIDERATION OF HAAS HALL ACADEMY FIVE (5) YEAR RENEWAL

1 AND THE ADDITION OF TWO AMENDMENTS

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Sutherlin, Number 3,
3 please.

4 DR. SUTHERLIN: All right. So we have
5 consideration of Haas Hall Academy five-year renewal
6 and addition of two amendments.

7 So the charter is requesting a five-year renewal
8 of the charter with all existing waivers for Haas
9 Hall Academy, Haas Hall at the Lane, Haas Hall
10 Academy Jones Center, and Haas Hall Bentonville; the
11 addition of a new site for grades 7-12 in Fort Smith
12 and an increase in enrollment by 500 to accommodate
13 the Fort Smith campus students.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Good morning.

15 Ms. James, would you like to come up and go over
16 the process please?

17 MS. JAMES: My name is Whitney James, with the
18 Department.

19 So for this agenda item each person who is
20 speaking on behalf of the school will need to be
21 sworn in by the Chair. The school will have 20
22 minutes for their presentation. And as far as I
23 know, there is no opposition to this request.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

25 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All those speaking on behalf
2 of Haas Hall, if you will stand and raise your right
3 hand please?

4 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're
5 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and
6 nothing but the truth?

7 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

9 Dr. Schoppmeyer --

10 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- good morning.

12 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Good morning.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: You have 20 minutes. And I
14 believe you have a PowerPoint presentation?

15 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, I do. Yes, ma'am.

16 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: How are you?

18 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Good. About yourself?

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Good. Thank you.

20 MR. DAN DAVIS: Hold on one second, please. I
21 have to do a Zoom share.

22 Okay. Should be good.

23 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay. I'm Martin Schoppmeyer;
24 I'm the founder of Haas Hall Academy.

25 We're a multiple national award-winning model of

1 how a charter school can strengthen communities,
2 inspire innovation and be a catalyst for change --
3 excuse me -- the renewal of expectations for public
4 education.

5 We were founded in 2004. We were in a converted
6 dairy barn and had 16 students. We have a campus at
7 Fayetteville and we have a campus in Bentonville; we
8 have a campus in Rogers, and a campus in Springdale
9 at the Jones Center.

10 Haas Hall Academy has been recognized by the
11 Department of Education as a reward school for seven
12 consecutive years, top 5% in performance and top 5%
13 in growth. Since our inception, we've held the
14 highest accreditation status possible from the
15 Department of Education. And we're recognized as a
16 Success School.

17 For a decade now, Haas Hall Academy has been
18 recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the
19 number one public school -- high school in Arkansas.
20 And we're ranking in the top 10 for public schools
21 and public charter schools in the nation, according
22 to U.S. News and World Report.

23 In 2018, '19, and '21, our brand of schools made
24 history. Based on the ACT Aspire exam scores in '17-
25 18, we're numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the state. In '18

1 and '19, we were 1, 1, 2, 3 in the state. And in
2 '20-21, we were 1, 2, 3, 4 in the state.

3 So what makes Haas Hall Academy different?

4 Our curriculum is an accelerated, college-
5 preparatory curriculum focused on STEAM; we're
6 accredited by AdvancED and the Department of
7 Education; and our scholars take four 90-minute
8 blocks per day, five days a week. So they can take
9 two years of something in one calendar year. So if I
10 attend a traditional school and I go 7th, 8th, 9th,
11 10th, 11th, 12th, I can take six years of English; at
12 Haas Hall Academy, I can take 12. In one calendar
13 year -- oh, our scholars are placed on -- in classes
14 based upon academic ability, not by grade level,
15 except for English; this is the only class that tells
16 us what grade you're in. We have 100% graduation
17 rate and 100% college acceptance rate.

18 We have a faculty/scholar led tutoring program
19 that's phenomenal. My faculty give their time, as
20 well as other scholars give their time to help with
21 tutoring. So we have tutoring programs at all four
22 campuses, three days a week.

23 Scholars much take the ACT or SAT every year,
24 and they must take the PSAT every year. And the
25 reason we do that is because we want to make sure

1 that they're ready to take the ACT when they -- in
2 their 11th grade.

3 As a microcosm of the university, Haas Hall
4 Academy makes every effort to hire faculty with
5 advanced degrees in their respective fields -- not
6 necessarily certified, but certainly highly
7 qualified.

8 I want to introduce Rebecca Luebker, my Director
9 of Culture.

10 MS. LUEBKER: Hello. I'm Rebecca Luebker and
11 I'm here as the Director of Culture. I have been at
12 Haas Hall Academy for 16 years, and in that time
13 period I've served in the capacity of athletic
14 director, social science chair. And something that's
15 really important at Haas Hall Academy is our
16 scholars. And being from the dairy barn days to all
17 our transitions and watching the school grow from 31
18 to our now 1300 has been an absolute joy to see the
19 impact on our community and our four cities that we
20 serve and also in our own school in the environment
21 that we are seeing in these strides and changes.

22 So one of the big things that we have done is
23 we've really tasked with the Equity Assistance Center
24 here in Little Rock to work with us on implementing
25 our diversity and equity plan. And so you will see

1 in the packet that we have put together seven goals
2 that are measurable and that we have been going
3 through together. But the thing is is they're
4 continual. So once you have -- it's not just
5 checking boxes; it is making sure that we have a plan
6 that we can go back to and have a framework that we
7 can work within as our students' diversity change,
8 the different inclusions that we have -- and we've
9 seen this not only with just our students but also
10 with our faculty as well. And so this has become a
11 really awesome experience, especially during the time
12 with Covid because we've had to make a lot of changes
13 and we've had to do big resources. And one of the
14 biggest things that I think has been really amazing
15 that we did this year is when we were doing our
16 synchronous learning. We've always kept a virtual
17 option for our scholars and that has proved to be
18 extremely pivotal in the educational system where
19 they're not missing days; or, if they do have family
20 members that they need to be home with that they can
21 still get a quality education simultaneously. And
22 that's been something that's really been a joy to
23 watch this past year.

24 Thank you.

25 DR. SCHOPMEYER: So this has been a difficult

1 year for all schools certainly with Covid. At Haas
2 Hall Academy, we're -- there's nothing different with
3 us. We had -- there was a lot of work and a lot of
4 stress. But we did synchronous learning with our
5 scholars, so everybody logged in and worked together
6 at the same time. We have proud, determined faculty
7 to make sure that our scholars learned and our
8 scholars were well-prepared for the next year. We
9 have eager scholars, those young men and women who
10 want to learn every day and they want to be at Haas
11 Hall Academy; and we have engaged parents -- parents
12 that want to make sure their scholars are learning
13 something every day.

14 It's been an especially hard year for me
15 personally. I lost my mother last semester during
16 the Covid -- she didn't get Covid, but during the
17 Covid crisis that we had. So it's had an effect on
18 me certainly this year that -- not having her. She
19 was my headmaster on my Fayetteville campus and also
20 my department head of English. So she came to work
21 with me every day and left with me -- first ones
22 there and last ones to leave every day. So that's my
23 mom there.

24 Here's our intended Fort Smith campus. It's the
25 old Baxter Healthcare facility. We're going to have

1 the third floor. There are 4,000 parking spaces, so
2 there's enough parking certainly for us to be able to
3 have scholars drive themselves or ride a bus. It's
4 in partnership with the Arkansas College of
5 Osteopathic Medicine; so what we want to do is we
6 want to prepare young men and women to go into the
7 field of medicine. We'll have a state-of-the-art
8 facility there. I think it's going to be one of the
9 crown jewels of our state once it's up and running.

10 Do you want to go ahead and do your stuff?

11 MS. DUNAVAN: Yes.

12 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Okay. This is Amelia Dunavan.
13 She's my Executive Director of Special Services for
14 Haas Hall Academy.

15 MS. DUNAVAN: Hi. Good morning. My name is
16 Amelia Dunavan. I oversee all of our special
17 services for Haas Hall, for all four campuses.

18 We currently have a special ed. teacher at every
19 one of our campuses, and then with the new -- at the
20 new building I would want to do everything I can to
21 support the new scholars, however they need. Like
22 Dr. S was saying, with Covid we did have synchronous
23 learning, but we still made sure that our scholars
24 were receiving their resource support, their speech
25 services, reading interventions, math support. All

1 of those were incorporated in our synchronous
2 learning as well. So I want to make sure -- my goal
3 is to insure that those scholars are receiving the
4 same education and supported the same way with the
5 services that they need to continue to grow.

6 Okay. Thank you.

7 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you.

8 That's all we have.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. James, if you're ready
10 for our legal review?

11 MS. JAMES: My name is Whitney James, with the
12 Department.

13 And I apologize in advance, we have a lot to go
14 over, but I'll try to make it as quick as possible
15 without going too quickly.

16 On the -- oh --

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, yes, that will be --
18 we'll have to go through it because it was confusing
19 the way it's in the application.

20 MS. JAMES: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: To me, at least.

22 MS. JAMES: We have a lot of -- there's a lot of
23 clean-up.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

25 MS. JAMES: But I'll try to make it --

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So can I ask you a question
2 before you get started? So in this clean-up I was
3 thinking last night as I was reading back through
4 this that we're probably going to need a clean waiver
5 sheet to put on the State Board review. Because I
6 think if they read through the application and saw
7 things repeated --

8 MR. HENRY: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- I think it's just too
10 confusing.

11 MR. HENRY: Happy to help. Yeah.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. HENRY: I agree.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We appreciate that.

15 MR. HENRY: Good idea. We didn't know how to
16 resubmit stuff after -- because you know this is our
17 -- we had to continue the last meeting --

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. Right.

19 MR. HENRY: -- due to Covid.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

21 MR. HENRY: So we wanted to have the material in
22 front of you --

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We can do it together.

24 MR. HENRY: Happy to.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

1 MR. HENRY: And she's been wonderful to work
2 with on that.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

4 MS. JAMES: Thank you. So happy.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Ms. James, get us
6 started.

7 LEGAL REVIEW

8 MS. JAMES: Okay. So, on the agenda we have the
9 final legal review. Like I said, there are a lot of
10 things that we need to clean-up. But just to start
11 with the general legal concerns, yeah, I've worked
12 with Mr. Henry quite a bit on this, but we will go
13 through the current waiver topics, statute things,
14 and update the standards.

15 GENERAL LEGAL CONCERNS

16 MS. JAMES: They are going to add Section 7 of
17 the rules governing Educator Licensure to their
18 Teacher Licensure request.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So are we going down
20 the legal review?

21 MS. JAMES: I'm starting with the general legal
22 concerns --

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

24 MS. JAMES: -- at the top --

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right.

1 MS. JAMES: -- just to clarify that we've
2 resolved all of those.

3 Also, Haas Hall has reached out to our Child
4 Nutrition Unit and confirmed that their food services
5 at their Rogers campus, which I believe is the only
6 campus that uses child nutrition funding, they don't
7 need to ask for any waivers; that they're squared
8 away on child nutrition.

9 And it's also my understanding that they are not
10 using child nutrition funding for any of the other
11 campuses?

12 MR. HENRY: Correct.

13 MS. JAMES: And that they do not -- or they're
14 not asking for any food services waivers for those
15 remaining campuses?

16 MR. HENRY: Correct.

17 MS. JAMES: Okay.

18 WAIVER REQUESTS

19 1. UNIFORM DATES FOR BEGINNING AND END OF SCHOOL

20 MS. JAMES: And that brings us to the first
21 waiver request, the Uniform Dates for Beginning and
22 End of School Year. That's code section 6-10-106(a).
23 And I have asked that Haas Hall or Mr. Henry offer
24 some additional rationale for that.

25 MR. HENRY: Right. So we're not asking to have

1 less time; we need more time in the day. So the
2 waiver is not to avoid having full days; our waiver
3 is needed to have longer and so in order to comply
4 with the Carnegie unit -- the Carnegie unit approach
5 that they use. And so that's the reason for that
6 waiver is to add -- give us more flexibility to have
7 longer and more days.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Are you starting earlier --

9 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- than August 22nd?

11 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So are you providing more
13 than 178 days?

14 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: No.

15 MR. HENRY: Can you explain that better than for
16 them? Explain your rationale, if you would, and the
17 reason you need it?

18 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, if you do the math and
19 you add up your number of hours per day, we have to
20 start earlier to get our 120 hours of Carnegie unit.
21 Because we do the compressed timeframe of 90-minute
22 classes, and so four of those a day, and then you've
23 got to add that up and divide it. So that has to
24 have us start about a week earlier than everybody
25 else.

1 MR. HENRY: So are you offering more days than
2 (inaudible, not at the microphone).

3 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I don't think we are. No.

4 MR. HENRY: You see the difficulty in the logic
5 there?

6 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, sir.

7 MR. HENRY: If you get to start earlier --

8 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I hear you.

9 MR. HENRY: -- well, then you don't have to do
10 more than 178?

11 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: We must do some extra days.
12 We must do 183.

13 MR. HENRY: Okay. I believe you read the
14 statute to require starting on a certain day.

15 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes.

16 MR. HENRY: He's trying to start earlier than
17 that.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. The statute is to
19 start on -- this year, start August 22nd.

20 MR. HENRY: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And I mean if there was a
22 rationale for why --

23 MR. HENRY: Right.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: You know, if you're going
25 more than 178 days or, you know, you have some other

1 reason -- otherwise, you know, we would expect
2 schools to start on August 22nd, unless there was
3 some other -- if you're following an alternate
4 calendar or a 12-month calendar -- not an alternate
5 calendar -- a 12-month calendar, then, you know, that
6 would make sense too.

7 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's what I'm trying to
9 figure out.

10 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay. I think it's fair to
11 say we probably go 183 days.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So -- and that will be
13 reflected in your school calendar?

14 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: It should be, yes.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

16 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: I know we go longer than
17 everybody else. That's all I can tell you. I mean
18 our graduation is later than everybody else's.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Except you have a lot of days
20 -- I haven't looked at your calendar from last year.
21 But previously, you had a lot of days that you were
22 closed --

23 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: College visit days.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

25 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes. That's the purpose of

1 those days.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Now it's making more
3 sense.

4 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Okay. I apologize.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So on those college visit
6 days you don't consider those instructional days?

7 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: They're not instructional
8 days. No, ma'am.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That makes more sense.

10 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

12 2. QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN EVERY CLASSROOM

13 MS. JAMES: On the second waiver request, we're
14 going to re-title that Teacher Licensure. We're
15 going to remove that first part that says subchapter
16 10. That's not the correct way to cite that code
17 section.

18 And it's my understanding -- and please confirm
19 this, Mr. Henry -- that the school is going to remove
20 the et seq. there and just ask for a waiver of 6-15-
21 1004. There are some statutes following that that we
22 can't waive.

23 MR. HENRY: Right. Absolutely.

24 MS. JAMES: So we just want to remove et seq.

25 MR. HENRY: Right. And so the rationale there

1 is that Haas Hall has had a waiver of the teacher
2 certification requirement since its inception. And
3 we're not trying to add more to that; we're just
4 trying to renew. And it is correct to say that we're
5 looking for the standard waiver -- not standard --
6 the waiver that we had previously. It's 6-15-1004.

7 3. COMMITTEE FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

8 MS. JAMES: And then, on number 3, we're just
9 going to remove the language in subchapter 2
10 Personnel Policies, I believe the statute there. I
11 didn't have any legal concerns regarding that.

12 Same thing on number 4 --

13 Yes, ma'am?

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So on number 3, that was
15 Personnel Policy Committee? Is that what we're
16 waiving?

17 MS. JAMES: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Isn't it --

19 MR. HENRY: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

21 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am. It's just -- it's the
22 citation was incorrect.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

24 MS. JAMES: We're just doing some clean-up on
25 that.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That makes sense.

2 4. PUBLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPALS - QUALIFICATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

3 MS. JAMES: On number 4, more clean-up. We're
4 going to remove the language Subchapter 3 General
5 Provisions and remove the Section 7 of the rules.
6 That's repetitive; we've got that cited in a previous
7 waiver request.

8 5. TEACHER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENT

9 MS. JAMES: On number 5, Teachers License
10 Requirement, no legal concerns regarding that.

11 6. ARKANSAS HISTORY REQUIREMENT

12 MS. JAMES: No legal concerns regarding number
13 6, Arkansas History Requirement.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Let's discuss.

15 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So in this particular case,
17 it's -- 6-17-418. I just want to make sure I know
18 what we're saying.

19 MS. JAMES: I believe they're asking for the
20 waiver of the licensure requirement. However, they
21 still plan to offer Arkansas History.

22 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

24 MR. HENRY: That is correct.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

1 MR. HENRY: So we definitely teach Arkansas
2 History. That's not what we're trying to waive.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

4 MR. HENRY: It will only be the licensed
5 certified teacher aspect of that component that
6 flagged that section and necessitated that waiver.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And does the teacher that's
8 teaching Arkansas History, do they take advantage of
9 the Arkansas History professional development that's
10 available?

11 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Ms. Luebker teaches that.

12 MS. LUEBKER: Yes. I'm also the Social Science
13 chair. And very much so.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

15 MS. LUEBKER: Yes. As an eighth generation
16 Arkansas educator, it's extremely important.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

18 MS. LUEBKER: Yes. Thank you.

19 7. WARRANTS VOID WITHOUT VALID CERTIFICATE AND CONTRACT

20 MS. JAMES: All right. Moving on to waiver
21 number 7, I did not have any legal concerns regarding
22 that waiver request.

23 8. EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS' CONTRACTS

24 9. MINIMUM BASE SALARY - MASTER'S DEGREE

25 MS. JAMES: And regarding waivers 8 and 9, it's

1 my understanding that the school wishes to strike
2 those because the code sections have been repealed.

3 MR. HENRY: Right.

4 MS. JAMES: So we're going to cross those off
5 the list.

6 10. 6-17-1502 THROUGH 6-17-1510 EDUCATION

7 MS. JAMES: And that brings me to number 10. I
8 did not have any concerns regarding that waiver
9 request.

10 11. 6-17-1702 THROUGH 6-17-1705

11 MS. JAMES: I did not have any legal concerns
12 regarding waiver request number 11.

13 12. WRITTEN STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICIES REQUIRED

14 MS. JAMES: And then on waiver request number
15 12, the Written Student Discipline policies, the
16 school is asking to narrow that request down some,
17 which may alleviate some concerns, to subsection B(2)
18 and A(1)(c)(i). And that's also going to be included
19 in the waiver request number 51.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So B(2) --

21 MR. HENRY: B(2) only is what my notes reflect.

22 MS. JAMES: Yes. And then --

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So this is the -- only the
24 section that describes teacher?

25 MR. HENRY: The requirement of teacher

1 certification. We do have, of course, written
2 policies regarding --

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: It's in your handbook.

4 MR. HENRY: It is, absolutely. Yes.

5 MS. JAMES: Okay. All right. And then -- let
6 me know if I'm moving too quickly; I'll slow down.

7 13. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ACT

8 MS. JAMES: On number 13, School Discipline Act,
9 that statute has been repealed. So we're going to
10 toss that off the list.

11 14. TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

12 MS. JAMES: The school wishes to rescind number
13 14.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Is that confirmed?

15 MR. HENRY: Yes. My apologies. She looks like
16 she's on a roll and I agree with everything she said,
17 of course.

18 MS. JAMES: If you don't confirm, I'll ask you
19 at the end --

20 MR. HENRY: Okay.

21 MS. JAMES: -- as well.

22 MR. HENRY: We've worked through all of these.

23 MR. DAN DAVIS: Move closer to the microphone a
24 little bit.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dan is telling you to move

1 closer to the microphone.

2 MR. HENRY: Well, I want to be respectful for
3 sure.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

5 MR. HENRY: Yeah.

6 MR. DAN DAVIS: If one of you go to speak, if
7 you would step forward just a little bit to where the
8 live-stream and the --

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So the recording catches you.

10 MR. HENRY: Okay. So, yes, affirmed.

11 MS. JAMES: Okay. We're going to strike number
12 14.

13 15. CERTIFIED STAFF SALARY SCHEDULE

14 MS. JAMES: On number 15, I have no legal
15 concerns regarding that waiver request.

16 16. TEACHER EVALUATIONS

17 MS. JAMES: The school wishes to strike number
18 16.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: The whole thing?

20 MS. JAMES: The whole thing. Correct? The
21 teacher evaluations?

22 MR. HENRY: Yes, we certainly do provide those,
23 so we don't want that waiver any longer. We do
24 provide those; we don't need the waiver any longer.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

1 MS. JAMES: And that brings us to request number
2 17 --

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do you have a question about
4 TESS?

5 MS. SARACINI: They're using it.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

7 MS. SARACINI: That's my --

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

9 MS. SARACINI: Correct?

10 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am. They are rescinding
11 that request.

12 MR. HENRY: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So they're using -- but
14 they're using the -- using TESS?

15 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh.

16 MR. HENRY: We are.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

18 MR. HENRY: Absolutely.

19 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Yes.

20 MS. JAMES: Okay.

21 MR. HENRY: And have been for --

22 MS. SARACINI: Yes.

23 17. GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES

24 MS. JAMES: Okay. On number 17, Gifted and
25 Talented Services, they wish to add a couple of code

1 sections here to fully effectuate that waiver. They
2 wish to add code section 6-20-2208(c)(6) and 6-42-
3 109. And also the rules governing Gifted and
4 Talented Program Approval Standards.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And for the record, your
6 rationale?

7 MR. HENRY: Right, yes. And Dr. Schoppmeyer can
8 also expand on this, if he'd like. So our
9 rationality is that -- our rationale is that teaching
10 staff is already teaching based on ability, rather
11 than grade level. And so as those students who would
12 otherwise be flagged for GT at younger ages they're
13 able to take advantage of the curriculum that does
14 meet their needs in an accelerated format.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

16 18. STANDARD 1-A CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

17 MS. JAMES: On number 18, I did not have any
18 legal concerns regarding that request.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We do. So, Dr. Wright-
20 McMurray, the 1-A(1)(2)(7) is a waiver of Career and
21 Technical Education of grades 5 through 8. And
22 Standard 1-A(1)(3)(9) is the Career and Technical
23 nine units of sequenced career and technical
24 education courses representing three occupational
25 areas. Do you have any concerns about that waiver?

1 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I do have -- I have
2 concerns. I have some concerns on the rationale, and
3 so I would like a little bit more explanation on
4 differentiation between students that are college
5 preparatory and then the rationale that pursuing CTE
6 courses does not align with that mission.

7 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, the reason that we do
8 the -- we are a college prep institution, right, and
9 so it's accelerated. The goal here is instead of
10 taking the career and technical courses the scholar
11 would take advanced classes in the respective field
12 they're going to major in college. So, technically,
13 it is -- they're preparing themselves for the next
14 job, which is going to be college; so they take
15 advanced math, they can take advanced chemistries,
16 they can take advanced biologies -- those additional
17 courses that go beyond what's required by the State.
18 That's why we do that.

19 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So in CTE, we do have over
20 a 90% placement rate in postsecondary. So, just the
21 rationale that the inclusion of CTE courses in your
22 college preparatory curriculum would prevent students
23 from having those opportunities, I have some concerns
24 with the wording on there. And then also there are
25 various opportunities through CTE courses to meet

1 some of the needs that you've just expressed. And,
2 of course, a lot of what we do in CTE does prepare
3 students for their careers moving into postsecondary
4 and beyond. So, there's opportunities there that are
5 being missed.

6 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Okay.

7 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: And so that's just some of
8 the concerns I have with especially the wording of
9 the rationale.

10 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I could understand that
12 maybe -- because they do offer advanced classes,
13 advanced placement classes that maybe there was more
14 embedding of the work, if that could be -- to give
15 that more -- I don't know what the word I'm looking
16 for -- the more opportunity to -- for the hands-on to
17 go along with what you're learning, which I would
18 assume that they would do in most of their advanced
19 placement classes. But the question I had is how
20 does a student meet their 22 graduation requirements,
21 because they're required to get 6 CTE credits? So
22 what are they doing for that?

23 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: We have a waiver from that,
24 don't we?

25 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I think you referenced

1 your career-focus courses. And so what types of
2 career-focus courses are being offered?

3 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Journalism -- I can't remember
4 any of the other ones off the top of my head.

5 MS. LUEBKER: So in a lot of our CTE courses we
6 have engineering, programming; we have chemistry of
7 foods; we have a couple of food science classes;
8 we've had life science classes -- or early childhood
9 development, having courses offered; medical
10 terminology having courses offered that -- currently,
11 right now, this year. So we do have CTE courses to
12 help prepare our scholars in that direction.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So are your students required
14 to take six credits of CTE or content electives?

15 MS. LUEBKER: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And they meet that
17 requirement for graduation?

18 MS. LUEBKER: They meet that requirement.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

20 MS. LUEBKER: Because we have several course
21 offerings in that regards.

22 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: And I think that's why
23 they have to put the -- you know, the areas listed
24 here in your waiver of the courses that are offered.

25 MS. LUEBKER: Yes.

1 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So that's why I was -- I
2 know that they're offered there.

3 MS. LUEBKER: Right.

4 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I was just hung up on the
5 wording of the --

6 MS. LUEBKER: The wording of the waiver?

7 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Yes --

8 MS. LUEBKER: Yes.

9 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: -- the waiver.

10 MS. LUEBKER: Okay.

11 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: And I will just let you
12 know that if our Family Consumer Sciences teachers
13 saw you call it Home Economics they would have a fit.

14 MS. LUEBKER: Oh, I didn't call it that; right?

15 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Yeah, it's Home Economics
16 Education.

17 MS. LUEBKER: Oh.

18 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: It's now called Family and
19 Consumer Sciences.

20 MS. LUEBKER: Okay.

21 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. We'll come back and
23 revisit that one a little bit more probably.

24 MR. HENRY: All valid points. And if they are
25 receiving the instruction, it certainly begs the

1 question of whether or not the waiver is needed. I
2 hear that loud and clear.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah. I think we'll just --
4 we'll go on and get the rest of them and come back
5 and we'll circle back on that one.

6 19. LENGTH OF DIRECTOR'S TERM

7 MS. JAMES: On number 19, Length of Directors
8 Term, I did not have any legal concerns regarding
9 that request. However, the school has asked to add
10 some additional code sections regarding Board of
11 Directors. And I will go over those, and I will ask
12 the school to provide some additional rationale for
13 those since those were added a little bit later.

14 The additional code sections that they wish to
15 add are 6-13-612(b), 6-13-613, 6-13-615, 6-13-621,
16 and 6-13-631.

17 And here's the names of the code sections.

18 MR. HENRY: Okay. I had identified 6-16-634 as
19 well. I want to -- I'll give you a moment to --
20 according to my notes.

21 MS. JAMES: We already had that listed in a --

22 MR. HENRY: Got it.

23 MS. JAMES: -- different spot.

24 MR. HENRY: Okay, that explains it then.

25 So the rationale is that Haas Hall school board

1 from the inception has been comprised of interested
2 people in the community. So these code sections
3 relate to public elections for a normal public school
4 board, with the zoning situation there. This waiver
5 is merely a continuation of what we've been doing.
6 We have board members. We are -- well, a lot of them
7 served for a long time and the minutes reflect -- and
8 we've actually updated our board of -- our minutes on
9 the website to reflect additional years in the past.
10 We understood the law to require each year to be up
11 and we have since posted previous years as well. So
12 that's state required information. And my apologies,
13 these were left out on the original application.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Henry, will you -- if the
15 Fayetteville site is approved, will you expand your
16 board to include a board member from that
17 geographical area?

18 MR. HENRY: Great. So I believe you misspoke;
19 you said Fayetteville. The Fort Smith site?

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Fort Smith.

21 MR. HENRY: Totally understand, and I wanted to
22 be accurate.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Sure.

24 MR. HENRY: Dr. Schoppmeyer, will you address
25 that please?

1 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: The question was?

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So on your board --

3 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- are you representing the
5 geographical areas? So if you add in another campus,
6 are you going to add another member to your board to
7 represent that area?

8 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Represent Fort Smith, yes.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

10 20. VACANIES GENERALLY

11 21. ELECTION BY ZONE AND AT-LARGE

12 22. MEETINGS

13 23. APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL ELECTION LAWS

14 MS. JAMES: And waiver request 20, 21, 22 and 23
15 are also related to the board of directors. I didn't
16 have any legal concerns regarding those requests.

17 24. DEFINITION OF A TEACHER

18 MS. JAMES: Waiver request number 24, Definition
19 of a Teacher, I did not have any legal concerns
20 regarding that request.

21 25. PUBLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPALS - QUALIFICATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

22 MS. JAMES: Number 25, we're going to strike
23 that because it's duplicative.

24 26. CERTIFICATION WAIVER

25 MS. JAMES: On number 26, code section 6-17-309,

1 no legal concerns on that.

2 27. TEACHER'S SALARY FUND

3 28. NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STANDARDS

4 MS. JAMES: The school wishes to rescind waiver
5 request 27 and 28. They no longer need those
6 waivers.

7 MR. HENRY: Confirmed.

8 29. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

9 MS. JAMES: On number 29, Curriculum and
10 Instruction, the school is asking for a waiver of the
11 required 38. And I'd ask them to provide some
12 additional rationale.

13 MR. HENRY: So as the -- the rationale stated in
14 preparation for today's hearing is the waiver from
15 the required 38 units, which includes technical
16 instruction, as we've talked about -- already have it
17 from -- we already have had this waiver from the
18 beginning of the school. And then Dr. Schoppmeyer
19 has justified that the AP courses are the type of
20 courses that allow college-bound scholars to
21 accelerate in their chosen direction, which is
22 college.

23 And if Dr. Schoppmeyer would like to expand on
24 that?

25 DR. SCHOPPEYER: I mean we offer an enormous

1 amount of AP classes for the size of the school that
2 we have and give a number of -- bunch of tests. And
3 so if the child wants to take AP Biology instead of
4 Biology, we would like to be able to count that.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do you want to just kind of
7 sum them all up together at the end?

8 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: (Nodding head up and
9 down.)

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

11 30. PRINCIPALS AND OTHER BUILDING AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Number 30.

13 MS. JAMES: All rightee. Number 30, we're going
14 to strike that because it's duplicative.

15 31. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

16 MS. JAMES: On number 31, we're going to correct
17 that standard to read 2(D)(1). That's the correct
18 standard that they're looking for. I didn't have any
19 legal concerns regarding that change.

20 On number 32, the school wishes to rescind this
21 waiver. They no longer need it.

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Can we back-up? On number
23 31, on 2(D)(1), so you're utilizing other library
24 services, not just in the schools. Is that the
25 rationale?

1 MR. HENRY: That's exactly the rationale.

2 Right.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

4 MR. HENRY: They have a public library. There's
5 lots of libraries in the region, as well. We just
6 don't have the size or the resources to have a
7 fulltime librarian and a library. And, of course,
8 with the digitization of the environment, you know,
9 the physical location is certainly becoming less and
10 less.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. Did you -- and you
12 provide lots of access to digital resources for
13 students?

14 MR. HENRY: Absolutely.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Great.

16 MR. HENRY: Thank you.

17 32. HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES

18 MS. JAMES: Number 32, the school wishes to
19 rescind that waiver request. They no longer need it.

20 33. GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

21 MS. JAMES: Number 33, we'll strike that. It
22 was duplicative.

23 34. TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD SERVICES

24 MS. JAMES: On number 34, the Transportation
25 waiver, we're going to cross out Food Services

1 because this is really regarding transportation and
2 add code section 6-19-101 et seq.

3 Number -- oh, yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So this is always a sticky
5 wicket right here about safety. So by striking
6 6(a)(2) -- or by waiving 6(a)(2), that means what?
7 What does that mean? That you're not providing
8 safety policies and procedures?

9 MR. HENRY: Regarding like buses, correct -- the
10 transportation component of it.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

12 MR. HENRY: That was the intention is to
13 identify the issues surrounding the fact that we do
14 not have buses to make routes; but instead, for those
15 scholars who need it we provide bus passes.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. But that's not the
17 standard.

18 MR. HENRY: Okay. 6(a)(2), I'm happy to revisit
19 that.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: "Each public school district
21 will adopt and implement school safety policies and
22 procedures in accordance with the laws of the state
23 of Arkansas and the rules of the Division."

24 MR. HENRY: Well, we certainly have those. So I
25 would -- that's certainly --

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And do you -- and in APSCN do
2 you report your fire drills and tornado drills and --

3 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do you have a Continuity of
5 Operations plan?

6 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: That's a good question.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I mean you kind of do
8 because you have a Ready for Learning plan, probably.

9 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Right.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: But a full Continuity of
11 Operations plan is, you know, like if this building
12 were destroyed by fire or tornado what would you do
13 to pick up services and move quickly.

14 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Pivot. So if you don't have
16 a Continuity of Operations plan, you might want to
17 get one. They're required.

18 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: We'll have one. Yes, yes,
19 yes.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So are we removing 6(a)(2)?

21 MR. HENRY: Yes, we're deleting that, 6(a)(2).

22 35. SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME FOR CITATIONS OR PROBATIONS

23 MS. JAMES: Waiver request number 35, the school
24 wishes to rescind this. I think that was actually an
25 old -- may have been an old citation. Either way,

1 they wish to rescind it.

2 36. UNIFORM DATES FOR BEGINNING AND END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR

3 MS. JAMES: Number 36 is duplicative, so we'll
4 strike through that.

5 37. QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS

6 MS. JAMES: Number 37, Qualifications of
7 Directors -- I believe we might've already gone over
8 that. But I did not have any legal concerns
9 regarding the waiver of that code section.

10 38. SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SIZE

11 MS. JAMES: Number 38, School District Board of
12 Directors - Size, I did not have any legal concerns.

13 39. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

14 MS. JAMES: Number 39 is duplicative. We'll
15 strike that.

16 40. QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN EVERY CLASSROOM

17 MS. JAMES: Same for number 40.

18 41. ARKANSAS HISTORY AS A DEDICATED COURSE

19 MS. JAMES: On number 41, the school wishes to
20 rescind this request because they are offering
21 Arkansas History, as previously discussed.

22 42. SCHOOL DAY

23 MS. JAMES: On number 42, the school wishes to
24 rescind the request for a waiver of Instructional
25 Day, which is 6-16-102. But they wish to continue

1 with their waiver of 6-10-126 so that they will have
2 more days that they can delay or release early.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay, hang on. I've got to
4 flip to that one, 6-10-126. So talk us through what
5 is the school day. What is your bell schedule school
6 day?

7 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Classes start at 7:55. The
8 next block starts at 9:30.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then, ends?

10 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Oh, I'm sorry. 2:30.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 2:30. So you have a six-hour
12 instructional day?

13 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And are you on-site
15 now?

16 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I'm sorry?

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Are all buildings on-site --
18 on-site instruction this year?

19 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Okay.

21 43. CERTIFIED STAFF SALARY SCHEDULE

22 MS. JAMES: On number 43, the school wishes to
23 remove the code section that I have in red there, 6-
24 20-319(4)(b). That's actually been repealed.

25 44. COMMITTEE FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 MS. JAMES: On number 44, I believe we're going
2 to strike that as duplicative.

3 MR. HENRY: Yes, confirmed.

4 45. EMPLOYMENT OF LICENSED PERSONNEL

5 MS. JAMES: On number 45, the school is going to
6 narrow their waiver request down to 6-17-301(a). Is
7 that correct?

8 MR. HENRY: I have (a) and (b).

9 MS. JAMES: I've got, yes, (a) --

10 MR. HENRY: We do not want subsection (c).

11 MS. JAMES: Okay. You're right, (a) and (b).

12 Thank you. That's why you're here.

13 46. MINIMUM TEACHER COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

14 MS. JAMES: On number 46, we'll remove code
15 section 6-17-2403. That's duplicative.

16 MR. HENRY: Right. I'd say all of 46 is
17 duplicative; right? Do you see that?

18 Well, I see what you have. Your notes are
19 correct.

20 MS. JAMES: Right. It's just clean-up. We're
21 going to remove 6-17-2403 because that would actually
22 be included in 6-17-2401 et seq.

23 47. ALTERNATIVE PAY PROGRAMS

24 48. RULES GOVERNING ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE PAY PROGRAMS

25 MS. JAMES: On 47, that code section has

1 actually been repealed, so we wanted to strike that
2 waiver request. That's actually 47 and -- 47 and 48
3 we're going to strike; same thing.

4 49. CREDIT FOR COLLEGE COURSES

5 MS. JAMES: On number 49, Credit for College
6 Courses, I did not have any legal concerns regarding
7 that waiver request.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Let me read it real quick.
9 So what does that do if we waive that?

10 MS. JAMES: The school might be able to offer
11 rationale that would answer your question.

12 MR. HENRY: Right. So this is really a finer
13 point here. We offer instruction from 7th -- right
14 -- through 12th. As we read this, it only permits
15 college credit to be given to scholars who have
16 completed the 8th grade. Right? So that narrows our
17 window to exclude 8th graders who could test and
18 actually take these courses and receive credit for
19 them in 8th grade. So it is a real fine reading of
20 the statute that says "a public school student who is
21 enrolled in public school in Arkansas, and who has
22 successfully completed the 8th grade, shall be
23 eligible to enroll in publicly supported community
24 college or four-year programs." Right? So there's a
25 lot of 8th grade students who we'd like to provide

1 instruction to -- that would then receive college
2 credit for these AP courses. It's a real nuance.
3 Sorry. We're not waiving the ability to provide
4 this; instead, we're trying to expand the window of
5 opportunity for the children who are otherwise
6 prohibited under this statute.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's the part that's kind
8 of scary. Because if we said we waive that
9 altogether does that waive your right to give college
10 credit to the 8th graders?

11 MR. HENRY: Well, that was certainly not the
12 intention.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

14 MR. HENRY: Right.

15 MS. JAMES: Perhaps we could add a note
16 regarding why they're asking for this waiver request
17 and grant the waiver with the understanding that it
18 is not to keep the school from offering the credit
19 for college courses, but rather to expand -- to allow
20 them to offer college credit to younger -- or
21 students in grade -- students that have not completed
22 the 8th grade.

23 MR. HENRY: Did I fairly summarize that?

24 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Yes, sir.

25 MR. HENRY: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah, I think we need to have
2 a special note on that because --

3 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Right.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- otherwise I --

5 MR. HENRY: It's almost the permission to offer
6 these courses --

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

8 MR. HENRY: -- to 8th graders, rather than throw
9 in the whole --

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Usually when you get a waiver
11 --

12 MR. HENRY: Sure.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- from something it means
14 you're not going to do it.

15 MR. HENRY: Right. Well, but it said shall.
16 Right?

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

18 MR. HENRY: And so -- and when we interpret that
19 language to be exclusionary --

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah.

21 MR. HENRY: -- that limits our opportunity, as
22 we've read it.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

24 MR. HENRY: And I'm not -- of course, I'm not
25 the definitive guide on how to interpret the statute,

1 but --

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's why we've got a lot of
3 attorneys around.

4 MR. HENRY: Yes, a whole lot.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. We'll come back
6 and look at that one too.

7 MR. HENRY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We may have to get some more
9 --

10 I was trying to find, Matthew, where it talks
11 about 8th graders in our procedures for doing that.

12 So I've got to think through that a little bit.

13 50. RULES GOVERNING CONCURRENT COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Number 50,
15 please.

16 MS. JAMES: On number -- yes, ma'am. On number
17 50, the school wishes to add subsection (a). That's
18 really the only subsection that they would need for
19 this waiver request.

20 51. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

21 52. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

22 MS. JAMES: On number 51 --

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay, that's the one we just
24 talked about.

25 MR. HENRY: Yes.

1 MS. JAMES: Okay. Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's making a little bit
3 more sense.

4 MS. JAMES: This is a whole lot of waivers. I'm
5 sorry.

6 MR. HENRY: Yes.

7 MS. JAMES: On number 51, I have some code
8 sections and standards and rules to add. So I'm
9 sorry; please be patient with me.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

11 MS. JAMES: The school wishes to add 6-18-
12 503(a)(1)(c)(i) -- and we went over that a little bit
13 before, but again. They also wish to add 6-15-
14 1005(b)(5); 6-48-102; 6-48-103; the standard for ALE,
15 which is 2-I.1; and the rules governing student
16 special needs funding section 4.

17 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Excuse me. I'm sorry, I'm
18 trying to -- which waiver are we on now?

19 MS. JAMES: We're on --

20 MR. HENRY: 51.

21 MS. JAMES: -- 51.

22 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: 51, okay.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 51 and 52 seem to be --

24 MR. HENRY: We are striking 52 as a duplicate.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right.

1 MR. HENRY: So we're considering only 51.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So what I think we're saying
3 is Haas Hall is not going to offer an alternative
4 learning environment. Is that correct?

5 MR. HENRY: That's precisely --

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

7 MR. HENRY: -- what it is. And the rationale,
8 as stated from the client, is we have 100% graduation
9 and 100% college acceptance rate, although we do
10 provide 504 and IEPs. And you were introduced to Ms.
11 Dunavan earlier about -- and she's happy to answer
12 any of your questions as to the extent of assistance
13 that we provide for these scholars. We've not
14 experienced a need to have a separate alternative
15 learning environment established formally is the
16 rationale. And he's certainly here, or Ms. Dunavan
17 can answer any questions.

18 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Just a curiosity question.
19 I can ask it later.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yeah, we'll put it all
21 together.

22 53. 1-A CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

23 MS. JAMES: Okay. Number 53, the school wishes
24 to rescind that waiver request.

25 And then --

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Whoa.

2 MS. JAMES: -- number --

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Whoa. So we're taking that
4 one off?

5 MR. HENRY: I'm sorry. Which one, fifty --

6 MS. JAMES: Number 53.

7 MR. HENRY: I have 53 as not --

8 MS. JAMES: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So that doesn't make any
10 sense to me. So I'm not sure what we're saying, so
11 I'm not sure if it's --

12 MR. HENRY: Well, on 53 --

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- making sense to me or not.

14 MR. HENRY: We're at 53? Are we on 53?

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

16 MR. HENRY: Okay.

17 MS. JAMES: We're on 53.

18 MR. HENRY: So I think we're in agreement -- oh.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I don't know why you would
20 want a waiver of that.

21 MR. HENRY: No.

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's what you're trying to
23 do.

24 MR. HENRY: No. No. I think her notes are
25 correct. It does say rescind, and so I'll stand on

1 that. Apologies.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. We're rescinding?

3 MR. HENRY: We are.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. That makes more sense.

5 MR. HENRY: It does.

6 54. SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - SUMMER SCHOOL

7 MS. JAMES: And number 54, they've already asked
8 for a waiver of that standard, so that's duplicative.

9 All right. So that is actually --

10 MR. HENRY: Got it.

11 MS. JAMES: -- duplicative.

12 MR. HENRY: Thank you.

13 55. PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

14 MS. JAMES: On number 55, the school wishes to
15 add Standards 4(f)(1) and 4(f)(2).

16 56. UNIFORM DATES FOR BEGINNING AND END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR

17 MS. JAMES: On 56, that is duplicative, so we'll
18 strike that.

19 57. PERSONNEL

20 MS. JAMES: On 57, I believe that we agreed to
21 change the topic to Superintendent Licensure. Is
22 that correct?

23 MR. HENRY: Yes.

24 MS. JAMES: Okay. Or Administrative Licensure.

25 On 58, there are --

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Stop.

2 On 57, you're requesting 4(b)(1) which is a
3 fulltime superintendent, because you have a director.
4 And would you not need a waiver of 4(b)(2) for
5 Superintendent Licensure?

6 MR. HENRY: Well, the code section that we cited
7 is 6-17-427, which is a waiver of the Superintendent
8 Licensure.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. But the standard is
10 4(b)(2).

11 MR. HENRY: Okay. I see the 4(b)(1), as
12 discussed earlier. And then it would make sense to
13 put 4(b)(2) as well since that was the purpose of --
14 to have parity with the statute.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then on 4(c)(2) --

16 MR. HENRY: I see that.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- you're requesting a waiver
18 of the Principal Licensure. But you do have a
19 principal in each building?

20 MR. HENRY: Absolutely.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And then, 4(d)(1) is
22 the Teacher Licensure?

23 MR. HENRY: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

25 MR. HENRY: Thank you.

1 MS. JAMES: I think the reason I had suggested
2 changing that waiver topic is because I believe that
3 some of these have already been cited before. But we
4 can make it administrative.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. We just don't want it
6 to be standard 4, all human capital.

7 MS. JAMES: Right. Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: That's the part we're
9 striking out. Correct?

10 MS. JAMES: Correct.

11 MR. HENRY: Confirmed. Yes.

12 MS. JAMES: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Because at one point
14 it becomes a disadvantage -- disadvantages you if you
15 strike the whole thing.

16 MR. HENRY: (Nodding head up and down.)

17 58. SUPPORT SERVICES

18 MS. JAMES: On number 58, there are some code
19 sections and standards to add to this. We're going
20 to add 6-18-2002(2)(a), 6-18-2003(a)(2)(a), and
21 standards 4(e)(1) and 4(e)(2). Those are regarding
22 the Counselor.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Can you come back and
24 repeat those again? And what are we doing with
25 standard 2(c)?

1 MS. JAMES: 2(c), they're --

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: The comprehensive school
3 counseling plan.

4 MR. HENRY: We have that. We have a counselor,
5 as well. And the only issue we have that
6 necessitates the rationale supporting this waiver is
7 that we're asking for a waiver of the licensure of
8 those people through the state; instead we use
9 professionally licensed counselors with their own
10 professional standards.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Which is --

12 MR. HENRY: Which is my understanding of 4(e)(1)
13 --

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 4(e)(1).

15 MR. HENRY: -- and 4(e)(2). Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So are we striking standard
17 2(c)?

18 MR. HENRY: I do not see that listed, no.
19 Do you see that on yours?

20 MS. JAMES: I asked if you wanted a waiver of
21 2(c)(1).

22 MR. HENRY: Can I see that? I'm going to look
23 at that real quick so that --

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

25 MR. HENRY: -- I can give you an informed

1 decision. My apologies.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Now you know how hard it was
3 for us to read through this and make sense.

4 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

5 MS. JAMES: Do you want that?

6 MR. HENRY: No, we don't need that. We have
7 that.

8 MS. JAMES: Don't need it?

9 MR. HENRY: We have that --

10 MS. JAMES: Okay.

11 MR. HENRY: -- counseling plan.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So we're rescinding the 2(c)
13 section?

14 MS. JAMES: We're rescinding 2(c).

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

16 MR. HENRY: Yes.

17 MS. JAMES: Adding the code sections and 4(e)(1)
18 and 4(e)(2).

19 MR. HENRY: Confirmed. Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I'm sorry, Whitney; I didn't
21 understand what you said. Adding what?

22 MS. JAMES: Add the two code sections, the 6-18-
23 2002(2)(a), 6-18-2003(a)(2)(a), and standards 4(e)(1)
24 and 4(e)(2); removing 2(c).

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Hang on.

1 MS. JAMES: And I think they already have asked
2 for 2(d)(1), so that may actually be duplicative.

3 Is that all correct?

4 MR. HENRY: Yes.

5 MS. JAMES: Okay.

6 59.

7 MS. JAMES: And then we did over the additional
8 board of directors citations. And Haas Hall has
9 confirmed with me that they are asking for all of
10 these same waivers for their Fort Smith campus, which
11 I don't have any legal concerns with that as long as
12 we resolve anything outstanding today.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So with the renewal,
14 the waivers discussed here would apply to all the
15 renewals plus Fort Smith, if it's approved?

16 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

18 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am. They've confirmed they
19 don't want any additional special waivers for Fort
20 Smith.

21 AMENDMENT

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. All right. Let's talk
23 a little bit about the amendment.

24 So, you're wanting to add a campus. And talk a
25 little bit about -- talk a little bit about the cap,

1 adding the campus. So, historically, you do your
2 lottery in February, if it's needed?

3 DR. SCHOPPEYER: That's correct.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So that time has kind of
5 passed. What are you going to do? Kind of talk us
6 through that.

7 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Well, I don't want to open the
8 Fort Smith campus until 2023-24. I want to increase
9 my enrollment cap 500 because all of our campuses
10 have -- that's the goal is to have 500 scholars at
11 each campus.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So in that building that you
13 showed us in the presentation, is -- are there other
14 tenants in the building?

15 DR. SCHOPPEYER: There will be. Yes,
16 researchers. It's going to be all medical stuff, so
17 researchers and those types of things that our kids
18 will be able to work with.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So talk about the safety
20 issues that -- how you're going to address those.
21 Because typically --

22 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- in a school district there
24 are background checks on every person that's coming
25 in contact with students. And you're going to be in

1 a building, so -- with other people. So kind of talk
2 us through how you're going to insure the safety of
3 the students.

4 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, we're going to hire
5 security. That will be our first thing.

6 We'll also make sure that everybody has been
7 vetted. I suspect to work at the osteopathic medical
8 school you've got to be vetted, I would think. If
9 not, we'll make sure that the ones that interact with
10 our scholars will be.

11 MR. HENRY: Why don't you describe, as a prompt,
12 how it is that your scholars work with the Jones
13 Center in Springdale, which is, as you know, a very
14 public facility where -- a swimming pool and all
15 these things. And tell them about the security
16 procedures that you have already in existence,
17 please.

18 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, we've got everything
19 locked down; so we have to have a key fob to get
20 inside the facility. Same thing would be at the new
21 -- at the Fort Smith facility; it will be all key-fob
22 entrance. We have a security guard. We have video
23 cameras everywhere. So we're -- we take security
24 very seriously.

25 MR. HENRY: Have you had any instances at

1 Springdale --

2 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: No, sir.

3 MR. HENRY: -- that caused concern?

4 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: No, sir. We've not had any
5 instances at any campus.

6 MR. HENRY: And I bet this -- I bet the board
7 would like for you -- I mean what -- tell how they --
8 how you were approached. Was this an empty building?
9 Is this a partially filled building?

10 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: It's an empty building.

11 MR. HENRY: Okay.

12 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: It's going to be filled, with
13 us on the third floor. It was an opportunity for
14 myself and Kyle Parker to get together, the director
15 -- the guy in charge of the osteopathic medicine
16 school, to try and correct a high school that would
17 hopefully gear young men and women into the medical
18 fields. And so not necessarily go to their school,
19 but they could go to any other type of medical school
20 that they wanted to. But the hope would be that they
21 would be able to do some research, get to see some
22 things that high-schoolers don't get to see because
23 of -- we don't have the cadavers, we don't have a lot
24 of the other things that they have that we can work
25 on. That will make our school that much better.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Talk to us a little bit about
2 your relationship with the traditional public schools
3 in that area.

4 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: I've spoken with the
5 superintendent. He had no complaints about us trying
6 to go to Fort Smith. My hope is that, if I am
7 approved, I'll go down there and start making
8 relationship with him.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. All right. Let's
10 start with questions.

11 Dr. Flowers, would you like to begin?

12 DR. FLOWERS: Sure. My question is geared
13 toward your diversity equity report.

14 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Okay. Ms. Luebker.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers, can you repeat
16 your question?

17 DR. FLOWERS: Yes.

18 Well, thank you, both. My question is geared
19 toward your diversity equity report for Fall 2021. I
20 know that this is a newly formed committee. So what
21 I want you to talk to me about is -- I noticed that
22 with your goals and objectives you have 17 objectives
23 that are marked as Priority. So can you speak
24 briefly about how you plan to kind of organize and
25 tackle those?

1 MS. LUEBKER: Yes. So we meet monthly.

2 DR. FLOWERS: Okay.

3 MS. LUEBKER: And then sometimes we meet even
4 more frequently, especially as different things arise
5 or different circumstances. But we have standing
6 meetings and then we -- we usually go back and see if
7 we're back-checking -- like making sure we're going
8 back to our framework that we have created.

9 DR. FLOWERS: Sure.

10 MS. LUEBKER: And we do checks within our
11 committee, and then we'll also include other faculty
12 members and even scholars in part of the process.

13 DR. FLOWERS: Okay. And so it's just the three
14 of you-all that are part of this committee?

15 MS. LUEBKER: We're currently expanding and
16 we've -- like teachers and different scholars have
17 volunteered to be part of it. It just hasn't been
18 formalized in the --

19 DR. FLOWERS: Okay.

20 MS. LUEBKER: -- in the report.

21 DR. FLOWERS: Okay. Do you have any idea of
22 maybe the demographics of your committee and those
23 interested in being a part of it?

24 MS. LUEBKER: Yes. So through our various
25 different -- for our different campuses-wide,

1 especially with our Latin/Mex faculty, our Asian
2 faculty, and our Black faculty that we -- and staff
3 -- and definitely staff needs to be a part of the
4 committee, and our scholars.

5 DR. FLOWERS: Okay.

6 MS. LUEBKER: Making sure that every -- that we
7 are representative of -- if you look at like our
8 numbers, especially in the Asian population, it might
9 not -- we have diversity even within that area --

10 DR. FLOWERS: Yes.

11 MS. LUEBKER: -- between southeast and southwest
12 --

13 DR. FLOWERS: Sure.

14 MS. LUEBKER: -- and making sure that we are
15 accommodating each of those.

16 DR. FLOWERS: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin?

18 MR. BALDWIN: Yes. Thank you.

19 And I want to say, before I ask my question,
20 thank Dr. Schoppmeyer for hosting me on a tour of all
21 the campuses up in northwest Arkansas. I spent an
22 entire day doing that and he personally, along with
23 his senior team, rode with me -- rode in his car, he
24 drove, and we got to see not only all the buildings
25 but a lot of teachers and a lot of students. And my

1 favorite part was the students and a very impressive
2 program. So I just wanted to --

3 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you very much.

4 MR. BALDWIN: -- thank you for that.

5 Looking through your Fort Smith expansion, I was
6 looking for -- and I may have missed it; it's
7 probably in here -- a financial budget.

8 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I have one. I printed off
9 copies. Is it okay to hand those out today?

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Uh-huh. Thank you.

11 (WHEREUPON, Haas Hall Exhibit One (1) was marked
12 for identification and entered into the record.)

13 MR. BALDWIN: Maybe just walk us through this
14 because I bet you'll answer my question.

15 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Sure. State Foundation Aid,
16 we hope to have 350 scholars our first year, kind of
17 build up our senior class as far as doing 7, 8, 9,
18 10, 11, and then adding the seniors the next year.

19 Our salaries are about \$925,000.

20 Some technology that we'll buy. We're also
21 getting \$1,000,000 worth of technology from the
22 osteopathic medical school; so that's something that
23 we're not going to have to pay for, a lot of the
24 wiring and things like that. Some General Supplies.
25 Textbooks, we use a lot of digital textbooks now.

1 Classroom Equipment, that's a high expense. Legal
2 Services. Water/Sewer. The lease is \$360,000, so
3 it's \$30,000 a month for 60,000 square feet.

4 And so when you take the revenue minus
5 expenditures you're looking at about \$800,000 in the
6 black at the end of the year.

7 MR. BALDWIN: And that's in year-one?

8 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Yes, sir, that's in year-one.

9 MR. BALDWIN: How long is your lease? What is
10 your lease?

11 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Our lease will be for three
12 years, until -- through the length of the renewal.
13 So if I only go to five years, and I open it in 2023-
14 24, it will be for three years.

15 MR. BALDWIN: Okay. And you feel pretty good
16 about 350 students?

17 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Yes, sir, I certainly do.
18 There's a lot of interest.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Saracini?

20 MS. SARACINI: I just had a few questions about
21 your staffing, but I think you've answered them.

22 I just would like when you go back through in
23 your renewal, or going forward, we no longer use HQT
24 because now that's not federal. It's now state and
25 we use AQT, Arkansas --

1 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

2 MS. SARACINI: -- Qualified.

3 But I've read through it. I missed your
4 presentation; I'm sorry, but I had another conflict.
5 But I feel good about your starting -- you're using
6 TESS. And so those were some of my questions --

7 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. SARACINI: -- but you've answered them all.

9 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay. Well, thank you so
10 much.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Wright-McMurray?

12 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Thank you again for your
13 presentation and walking us through. It was helpful
14 to have you guys walk through and explain some of the
15 waivers because I had some that wasn't as clear when
16 I first read it; but now that you walked through it
17 was very helpful.

18 I did already share my comments before about
19 your working on the CTE section. Just looking at the
20 waiver initially, when you listed the courses, I
21 understood because I was able to kind of do that
22 follow-up before coming in. But it's almost like you
23 were asking to not have those courses initially.

24 And -- but then my other question I did have
25 about ALE was just for my information. When you have

1 students that come on your campus and if it's
2 discovered that they would learn better in an ALE
3 environment, what happens to those students? Are
4 they -- because it's not available there, are they no
5 longer welcomed on the campus, or are they -- how are
6 they supported or --

7 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: It's never happened.

8 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: It's never happened?

9 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: No, ma'am.

10 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So no one has ever needed
11 to be in an alternative learning --

12 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: No.

13 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: -- environment?

14 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: We've had kids come from ALEs
15 to our campus and done well, but not the other way
16 around.

17 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton, do you have
19 questions?

20 MS. NEWTON: No, don't have any specific --
21 well, I do have just -- and it's not a question maybe
22 we can get an answer to. But how do you plan the
23 next phase in terms of movement? I know that -- I
24 remember the beginnings of Haas Hall and the humble
25 beginnings. And how do you know that you're ready

1 for the next phase? You know, do you go through a
2 list of things that -- goals and objectives, or how
3 do you approach expansion? Because I'm sure there's
4 some folks that are interested in having the concept
5 of a charter like Haas in their communities.

6 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Well, there has to be some
7 interest in the community for us to be there. And
8 one of the things -- when you get interested
9 community members, they're the ones that help you
10 sell it. And we're -- we've had Bentonville open for
11 -- I'm going to say 10 years; Springdale and Rogers
12 for three apiece. So I think we're ready to expand
13 one more time. And certainly Fort Smith is a town
14 that we're excited about being able to be a part of.
15 And having the partnership -- the real big thing with
16 us is having the partnership with the medical school.

17 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

18 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: That's the big one. If I
19 didn't have that, I don't think I'd be going to Fort
20 Smith. We're trying it though.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you, Ms. Newton.

22 CLEAN-UP ISSUES

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So I have a clean-up sheet --

24 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- I just want to kind of run

1 though.

2 So you -- I did hear you say that board minutes
3 had been posted for previous years?

4 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Uh-huh. Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you for that.

6 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, ma'am.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Just quickly on background
8 checks, who is responsible in your district for
9 checking the SFA tool for any outdated background
10 checks?

11 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Susan Bendure.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So we have some that
13 are hanging that are -- have been on there too long.

14 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: I'm sorry?

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We have some background
16 checks in SFA --

17 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: SFA?

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- in the Standards for
19 Accreditation tool --

20 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- that have not been
22 checked, verified, finished off, cleaned up.

23 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, just bringing --

25 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: We'll take care of that.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- bringing that to your
2 attention.

3 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am. Thank you for
4 doing that.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So in the SFA tool, if
6 someone is up for renewal of license or you newly
7 hired them they should flag.

8 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Right.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And what that does, that lets
10 you know how long they've been in process and is that
11 time reasonable. And the reasonable time for
12 background checks is currently --

13 MS. SARACINI: The background checks, the FBI
14 and State Police are within 48 to 72 hours. But the
15 Child Maltreatment can take up to 10 days.

16 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Okay.

17 MS. SARACINI: So, but we're trying to expedite
18 that. We're working on that. And so usually within
19 10 days, 10 to 15 they should be cleared.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So if you see someone that's
21 hanging on for a month -- and in that SFA tool it
22 tells you the day it flagged originally --

23 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- and then the current date
25 so you can see how long they've been hanging there.

1 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And if they've been hanging
3 longer than a month, you need to contact Ms.
4 Saracini's office --

5 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

6 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- and get that resolved.

8 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Thanks. We'll take care of
9 it. Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

10 MS. SARACINI: Sometimes things come up, and
11 that candidate will have moved; so they may have
12 gotten a letter sent to their old address. And so
13 sometimes it's just clerical, very easy to clear up.
14 So please, call.

15 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: From our side, we can't tell
17 what it is. So we just know it's not cleared.

18 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And so you should be aware of
20 that and take care of it quickly.

21 So I believe in your high school you do Student
22 Success Plans, but I think you call them something
23 different?

24 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: No, they're called Student
25 Success Plans.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: They are?

2 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. I didn't -- I was
4 looking for that word in your application.

5 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Everybody -- we meet one-on-
6 one with every scholar.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And you have a written
8 Student Success Plan?

9 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Oh, yes.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And we mentioned
11 briefly a while ago about the lottery. So in your
12 campuses are all of them full to capacity --

13 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: No.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- and you offer a lottery?

15 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: No, ma'am. There are more
16 seats available. The problem is we're heavier on
17 your 7th and 8th graders, so there are more seats
18 available for older scholars. It's not that
19 dramatic, but there may be five or six extra seats
20 for an older scholar.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So you haven't reached your
22 cap in any of the buildings for --

23 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: We're close.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- to need a lottery?

25 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: No, we have not. But we do --

1 have to do a lottery anyway.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So in your application
3 I do not see an application for a Digital Learning
4 Plan, and your Digital Learning Plan is set to expire
5 at the end of this school year.

6 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I know.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, what's your -- tell us
8 what your plan is?

9 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I guess come back.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And how many -- I
11 mean, and I know we've had pivots and things like
12 that, but how many are truly enrolled in semester or
13 year-long Digital Learning options?

14 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Our scholars?

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Uh-huh.

16 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: I would say it's probably
17 district-wide about 25.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: One thing you said I caught
19 at the end. So if we're approving Fort Smith --

20 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- for five years, the 22-23
22 school year would be kind of your planning year, get
23 everything together?

24 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Correct.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 23-24 you will open to which

1 grades?

2 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 7 through 11. And will your
4 cap be 500 for that level?

5 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: No. It will be 350.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: 350. And then, in 24-25
7 you'll expand to 7 through 12?

8 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am. And have 500
9 scholars hopefully.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then that will be what it
11 is going forward?

12 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, that's correct.

13 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. It will be important
14 that we enter that into LEA Insights when you're
15 requesting an LEA number for Fort Smith --

16 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Yes, ma'am.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- and that we're getting all
18 of that clean from the front.

19 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And all of these will be
21 listed as schools underneath Haas Hall Academies;
22 right?

23 DR. SCHOPPMAYER: That's correct. Yes, ma'am.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Those are all of my
25 questions.

1 Anyone have any more?

2 All right. I'll accept a motion.

3 MR. BALDWIN: I'll make a motion to approve the
4 application as presented.

5 MS. NEWTON: Second.

6 MS. SARACINI: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a motion by Mr.
8 Baldwin and a second by Ms. Newton to approve the
9 Haas Hall Academy five-year renewal of all current
10 charters and the addition of the 7-12 in Fort Smith
11 with -- find my notes -- with that school to open in
12 23-24 with 350 students in grades 7 through 11, and
13 then to expand in 24-25 to 7-12 with 500 students
14 thereon.

15 DR. SCHOPPEYER: That's correct.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And that, in essence, raises
17 your enrollment cap for the network of --

18 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Yes, ma'am.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- Haas Hall Academy.

20 Okay. All those in favor?

21 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Those opposed?

23 Motion passes.

24 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Well, thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: If you will ask Mr. Henry to

1 work with Ms. James, and I think we're going to need
2 a very clean waiver request --

3 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- to send to the State
5 Board. So we'll need to get that timely --

6 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- so that hopefully their
8 review will go smoothly.

9 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And we're so sorry to hear
11 about your mother.

12 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: I appreciate that very much,
13 Ma'am.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

15 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: If you'll wait just a moment,
17 we'll do our voting sheets.

18 MS. NEWTON: Could I instead put a comment in
19 the chat box?

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

21 MS. NEWTON: Yeah, because I'm having a problem.
22 I've had to change laptops.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes. If you'll put it in the
24 comments section, Dr. Sutherlin will grab it and put
25 it in your voting sheet.

1 MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers.

3 DR. FLOWERS: I vote to approve the five-year
4 charter renewal of current locations and campus
5 addition in Fort Smith for Haas Hall Academy, with
6 waivers as discussed. I'm excited about the advanced
7 educational opportunities, especially the potential
8 added interest to medicine as you continue to produce
9 college and career ready scholars.

10 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Saracini.

12 MS. SARACINI: I support the Haas Hall Academy

13 --

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Microphone.

15 MS. SARACINI: I'm on.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: You're on? Okay. Not giving
17 much sound.

18 MS. SARACINI: I'm probably not --

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Close enough.

20 MS. SARACINI: Uh-huh. I support the Haas Hall
21 Academy renewal and addition of the Fort Smith
22 campus; excited to see the opportunities that will be
23 afforded to students in the Fort Smith area,
24 beginning in the 23-24 school year.

25 DR. SCHOPPEMEYER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin.

2 MR. BALDWIN: Yes. Haas Hall clearly has an
3 outstanding program, great benefit to students that
4 participate in your program. And I'm real excited
5 about the expansion to Fort Smith and the tie-in with
6 the medical profession there.

7 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton.

9 MS. NEWTON: Haas Hall has a comprehensive plan
10 to continue college ready -- readiness preparation
11 for students.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And Dr. Wright-McMurray.

13 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I support the renewal
14 application for Haas Hall and addition of the Fort
15 Smith campus. They have demonstrated -- [clearing
16 throat] excuse me -- strong outcomes on prior
17 campuses. I anticipate they will continue success at
18 the new site.

19 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Congratulations.

21 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Well, thank you so much.

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: We'll get together and get
23 this waiver list --

24 DR. SCHOPPEYER: Yes, ma'am.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- and then the State Board

1 will review it in March.

2 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Thank you so much.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

4 DR. SCHOPPMEYER: Y'all have a great day.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do y'all need a quick 5-
6 minute before we start the next one?

7 Okay. We're going to take a 5-minute break and
8 then we will hear from our next item.

9 (BREAK: 10:34 A.M. - 10:42 A.M.)

10 4. PREMIER FORT SMITH (tabled at CAP meeting on 1/18/22)

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Thank you, everyone.

12 Dr. Sutherlin, number 4 please.

13 DR. SUTHERLIN: Matthew Sutherlin, Coordinator
14 for Standards and Systems Support, Interim Charter
15 Director.

16 The next item is actually an item that was
17 tabled at the CAP meeting on 1/18/22. It is for the
18 -- the amendment is actually for a new location in
19 Fort Smith.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Ms. Saracini.

21 MS. SARACINI: I would like to make a motion to
22 un-table this action item. I move to remove the
23 action agenda item number 4 from the table and
24 consider Premier Fort Smith's request to amend its
25 charter application in regard to the location.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Do I have a second?

2 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a motion from Ms.
4 Saracini and a second from Dr. Wright-McMurray to
5 remove this action item from the table for
6 consideration.

7 And we received a letter I think that's cleared
8 it up.

9 DR. SUTHERLIN: Uh-huh.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Any discussion,
11 questions?

12 I just want to say thank you, and everybody else
13 will thank you too that's going to need the same
14 letter in the future.

15 All right. Any other discussion?

16 Then do we have a motion to --

17 Ms. James, are we -- we need to kind of come
18 back and -- yeah, we need to kind of come back and
19 have a discussion. What's our next step? What do we
20 need to do now?

21 MS. JAMES: Well, we received the letter from
22 the Alcohol Board confirming that the statute that we
23 were concerned about only applies to liquor sales.
24 And it's my understanding that the Dollar General
25 does not sell liquor, so there shouldn't be any

1 issues with them keeping their permit. But we need
2 that -- we needed that confirmation and we were
3 asking for that confirmation from the Alcohol Board
4 which we have since received.

5 So now that the item is no longer tabled, if the
6 Panel would like to move to approve the amendment
7 request regarding the location, we can do that. Or
8 if there's another motion that the Panel would like
9 to make, that's fine as well.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Questions, comments, motion?

11 MS. SARACINI: I move to approve Premier Fort
12 Smith's request to amend its charter application in
13 regard to location.

14 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a motion from Ms.
16 Saracini and a second from Dr. Wright-McMurray to
17 approve the amendment for the Fort Smith location.

18 All those in favor?

19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Any opposed?

21 Amendment is approved.

22 Do we need to make a voting sheet or -- or is
23 that just clean-up?

24 MS. JAMES: No, ma'am, I don't believe so. The
25 charter was already approved. This was just a matter

1 of amending the charter because the location will be
2 within 1,000 feet of alcohol sales.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And now we have clarification
4 of what all that means?

5 MS. JAMES: Yes, we do. And so I think that
6 we're good to move forward now.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right.

8 5. PREMIER LITTLE ROCK AMENDMENT REQUEST

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Action item number 5, please.

10 DR. SUTHERLIN: All right. Premier Little Rock
11 amendment request -- the charter is requesting to
12 merge Premier High School Fort Smith charter with
13 Premier High School Little Rock charter; add two
14 satellite campuses (one in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and
15 one in Texarkana, Arkansas) to the charter license;
16 increase the enrollment cap to 600 for the Premier
17 High School Little Rock charter to reflect the merger
18 of the two charters and the additional campuses.

19 Now last night I received an email that actually
20 alters this amendment request. I believe I sent that
21 to all of you, so you should have that communication.
22 But the amendment request now reads, "To increase the
23 enrollment cap to 600; to create a new district,
24 Premier High Schools of Arkansas; to merge charters
25 under the new district of Premier High School Little

1 Rock and Premier High School Fort Smith; and to add
2 an expansion campus in Texarkana." So Jonesboro has
3 been taken out of the actual amendment request.

4 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Ms. James, I'm
5 assuming we'll follow the same 20-minute --

6 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am, that is correct. Just
7 anyone who is going to speak on behalf of the school
8 should be sworn in.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. All right.

10 If you are speaking on behalf of Premier, in
11 general, if you will stand and raise your right hand?
12 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're
13 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth,
14 and nothing but the truth?

15 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Thank you.

17 Be sure that if you're coming to the microphone
18 that you're speaking clearly into the microphone,
19 stating your name and title for the record.

20 And, Mr. Felton, you have 20 minutes.

21 Oh, you have a presentation, Dan.

22 MR. FELTON: Good morning. My name is Dennis
23 Felton. I serve as the State Director of Premier
24 High Schools of Arkansas.

25 I want to spend some time introducing my team

1 that I have with me. Some are virtual and on-site.
2 I have Mr. James Taylor who's our Chief Financial
3 Officer for Responsive Education Solutions; I have
4 Mr. Anthony Edwards who's our Executive Vice
5 President of School Expansion and Innovation; I have
6 Kent Brown who's our Vice President of Real Estate
7 and Construction; I have Ms. Rhonda Bradford who's
8 our RES Arkansas Superintendent; I have Ms. Katie
9 Stephens who's our Arkansas Director of Finance; I
10 have Mr. Curtis Shack who's our Executive Director of
11 Data Systems Management; I have Mr. Aaron Duvall
12 who's our Arkansas CTE Director; I have Ms. Marla
13 Pearson who's our RES Arkansas Special Programs
14 Director; and I also have Ms. Bria Howse McCartney
15 who's actually Campus Director at our Premier High
16 School in Texarkana, on the Texas side.

17 So why are we here today?

18 We are seeking to offer a license through our
19 Premier High School Little Rock charter by converting
20 it to the district and to Premier High Schools of
21 Arkansas. Under the Premier High Schools of Arkansas
22 district, we will have our Little Rock campus and our
23 Fort Smith campus. And then we're seeking to add an
24 additional location in Texarkana, and then with the
25 merger of the campuses and with the expansion of

1 campuses to increase the enrollment cap to 600
2 students.

3 So to give you a little background on Responsive
4 Education Solutions, we were founded in 1999. We
5 operate more than 90 schools across the country,
6 across six different school brands. We have had to
7 date over 22,000 graduates. Currently, we serve over
8 22,000 students and we employ over 2400 individuals.

9 Talking about Premier High School's impact in
10 Arkansas, we opened Little Rock in 2013; we opened
11 North Little Rock in 2019; we opened Springdale in
12 2021. Currently, we are serving over 350 high school
13 students across the state of Arkansas. So look at
14 some of the numbers: since 2013, we've awarded 144
15 Arkansas high school diplomas; we have had -- 71 of
16 those students have previously dropped out or been
17 retained in high school; 17 of those students had
18 opportunity to graduate early; 15 of those students
19 were actually parents while they were graduating. We
20 also had opportunity for students to earn up to 43
21 college hours through our concurrent credit program.
22 And then, 85 of those students have either enrolled
23 in a college or postsecondary institution.

24 One of the unique things about Premier High
25 School is we try to connect with students. We know

1 that some of our students have talents as well as in
2 the classroom and interests outside the classroom; so
3 that comes through student organizations,
4 extracurricular activities. As well as another key
5 component is our college and career readiness; we
6 want to make sure we're getting students on college
7 campuses. We want students to be able to see what it
8 looks like to be on a college campus and to be able
9 to get the technical assistance needed in order to
10 fill out things like FAFSA and college applications.

11 Also, we want to make sure each student has an
12 advisory period where students are engaged in
13 dialogue about their personalized plan, where are
14 their strengths and weaknesses; what are things they
15 have towards a graduation diploma, what are things
16 that they need to complete those requirements; what
17 are the things they want to do after high school
18 which is driven through their postsecondary plan; and
19 then how do we start setting goals in high school and
20 start preparing to meet those postsecondary goals.

21 Parents in the community is really big in our
22 Premier High Schools. We have opportunities where
23 parents can volunteer, as well as we want parents to
24 have voices, do things like our parent/teacher
25 association as well as serving on committees to be

1 involved in school decision-making. And as well as
2 working with our community partners to make sure that
3 we're providing wraparound services for our students,
4 as well as tapping into those resources in the
5 community, but also helping the same unique
6 population that we serve.

7 One of the things we've tried to do over past
8 years is collaborate with other high schools,
9 collaborate with higher ed. institutions. And so
10 we've collaborated with other charter schools and
11 traditional schools to do professional development.
12 We've partnered with other districts to offer
13 students additional career pathways, and we've also
14 partnered with higher institutions to provide
15 students with concurrent credit opportunities for
16 those that's eligible, and as well as additional
17 industry-based pathways to earn the industry-based
18 certifications.

19 Some of the awards and recognitions amongst
20 Premier High Schools -- just recently, Premier High
21 School of North Little Rock was recognized by the
22 Office of Education Policy as Beating the Odds in
23 their literacy growth, located in the central region
24 of Arkansas, and a high school in the state of
25 Arkansas. We also opened that campus (inaudible)

1 with 115 students, graduating 15 students, and 50 --
2 almost 50% of those students have previously dropped
3 out of high school. We've been recognized by people
4 like the Secretary and the Governor for our
5 participation in the Professional Learning Community
6 project.

7 We've also had educators that have been
8 recognized for work they're doing in the school, as
9 well as we've also been recognized by the Arkansas
10 Charter School Office as one of the best practices in
11 personalized learning.

12 Currently, we are located in Little Rock, North
13 Little Rock, Springdale, and Fort Smith this upcoming
14 school year. Our proposed new location is Texarkana.

15 With our new organization structure we will have
16 our Premier High Schools of Little Rock -- I mean
17 Premier High Schools of Arkansas. And under Premier
18 High Schools of Arkansas, you see our three Premier
19 High Schools we will have: Little Rock, Fort Smith,
20 and Texarkana.

21 So, in Texarkana, we are seeking to provide an
22 alternate academic program to the community that
23 emphasizes and focuses on this unique group. Also,
24 the charter will decrease the dropout rate in the
25 community and increase the graduation rate amongst

1 the educational disadvantaged students. This is
2 driven through local support, community support, as
3 well as our mission and vision to replicate one of
4 the best practices that's been identified by the
5 state in personalized learning across the state to
6 increase our capacity to impact on other high school
7 students.

8 Why Texarkana? In the 2020-2021 school year,
9 34% of the seniors that were anticipated to graduate
10 in Texarkana did not graduate during this academic
11 year; 66% of students that withdrew from the
12 Texarkana, Arkansas school district decided to enroll
13 in another school or a school out-of-state.
14 Currently, we serve over 140 students in our Premier
15 High School in Texarkana on the Texas side. We have
16 families and students in the community who are
17 seeking options on the Texas side to engage in this
18 education entity.

19 In Texarkana, we will continue to provide our
20 mission by providing hope to students through our
21 caring mastery-based learning environment. We're
22 providing a free society and cultivating more
23 academic excellence.

24 So who will we serve in Texarkana? Students who
25 are seeking a smaller personalized learning

1 environment, the disengaged student, the student
2 who's employed fulltime, the student who's at risk of
3 dropping out of high school or who has dropped out of
4 high school. These same students are dealing with
5 attendance and truancy issues in traditional school.

6 We continue to expand on our academic model by
7 offering a personalized learning model to students
8 where students engage in goal-setting, students
9 engage in mastery-based learning, students engage in
10 advisory. Students are assigned personalized coaches
11 and exposed to high-quality instruction. We want to
12 continue to offer a myriad of instructional
13 strategies to meet individual student needs. It may
14 come through direct instruction, independent
15 instruction, accelerated instruction, and connected
16 instruction.

17 We want to continue to support our school
18 leadership, as well as the teachers and staff we have
19 employed in the school. That comes through job
20 embedded coaching. We want to make sure that our
21 teachers are getting instructional feedback. We want
22 to make sure that our novice teachers are getting
23 appropriate mentoring guidance. We want to make sure
24 our staff is engaged in professional growth plans and
25 then have opportunities to attend national, state,

1 and local conferences, as well as the district team
2 and the national team you heard me talk about --
3 providing adequate support from the district level
4 and the national level. And as well as continue to
5 operate Professional Learning Communities where all
6 individuals in the school are working towards mutual
7 goals and there's mutual accountability towards those
8 goals that we're working towards.

9 So talking about a day in the life of a Premier
10 High School Texarkana student or Premier High School
11 student -- students are engaged in advisory where
12 they're checking in with their advisory and setting
13 their goals and looking at their progress. Students
14 are also engaged in small group instruction, 1-on-1
15 tutorial, whole group tutorial, project based
16 learning. Also, some students are engaged in career
17 pathways. So our juniors and seniors that only need
18 a few credits to graduate, we want them going to
19 school for half-a-day. We want to immediately start
20 working towards those postsecondary goals. Then when
21 they leave high school they have a high school
22 diploma and a certification, ready to enter the
23 workforce.

24 We will continue to provide support through our
25 college and career coaches, our personalized learning

1 coaches, our graduation advisory committee, our
2 attendance recovery program, as well as our dropout
3 recovery program. We want to continue to have
4 adequate communications to all stakeholders using
5 platforms that we use, such as Parent Square, or have
6 an engagement event such as Literacy Night, College
7 Night, Math Night. And also having accessibility to
8 school leadership; we want parents to feel we have an
9 open door. If you have concerns or feedback about
10 the way we're operating the school or the decisions
11 that we're making, we want to make sure that we have
12 opportunities where they can have a platform to be
13 able to express those.

14 Another key feature of the school is we care
15 about the morals and values of our students as well.
16 We want to produce good citizens in Arkansas, as well
17 as high school graduates. So we get our students
18 engaged in programs like Pizza With a Professional,
19 which we're inviting community members into the
20 school to engage in conversation with our students
21 about the things it takes to accomplish -- to get
22 into that career, their pathways -- the perseverance,
23 the resilience that it took to be able to accomplish
24 their goals. We want to continue to promote, as much
25 as we can, student life and getting students involved

1 in the community; getting students involved in
2 extracurricular activities, and as well as
3 recognizing the small lens. We've learned with our
4 Premier High Schools that it's very important with
5 the population that we serve to make sure that we're
6 taking advantage of the small lens. We're constantly
7 reminding students of the things that are important
8 and recognizing their success for them and their
9 families.

10 We want to continue to offer students CTE
11 certifications. So we plan to partner with the
12 University of Arkansas Hope at Texarkana. We want to
13 equip the school with mobile science labs. We want
14 to make sure that students can get opportunities to
15 engage in things like welding, medical professions,
16 diesel technology, and also a chance to get
17 certifications like your OSHA-10, your pharmacy tech,
18 your forklift operator certifications to maybe have
19 them better equipped to enter the workforce.

20 I previously talked about our partnerships.
21 We're very excited about the partnership we're going
22 to have with University of Arkansas Hope at
23 Texarkana. They're offering several one-year
24 industry-based pathways in which our students will be
25 able to actively engage in every day on their campus.

1 So, why CTE industry-based certifications? As
2 we talk to community members, as we talk to business
3 leaders, as we talk to employers, we're finding out
4 there is a strain and a demand in some of these
5 fields and a lack of qualified individuals. As you
6 can see in the numbers in this presentation that we
7 have opportunities for students to earn a
8 certification and enter the workforce making a decent
9 living. We're not here to argue that college is not
10 for everyone; we just know, based on historical data,
11 everybody is not going to college. So we want to
12 make sure that we're providing alternate options for
13 our students as well, in the event that they don't
14 want to go directly into college after high school.
15 We even see it supported by research, even in
16 Arkansas. Students who complete a CTE program are 24
17 -- 21 percentage points more likely to graduate high
18 school than their peers. So it goes hand-in-hand
19 with our efforts with dropout recovery.

20 So looking at our potential partnership -- we're
21 seeking to partner with the local high schools to try
22 to identify this group that's falling through the
23 cracks, to identify these students that are walking
24 the streets of Texarkana. We've been meeting with
25 the juvenile justice probation officer, the juvenile

1 detention center to talk about some of these issues
2 and the trends they're seeing in the community in
3 Texarkana, and how we can work together to address
4 those. Partners -- we're looking into partnering
5 with the Texarkana School District. We're looking to
6 partnering with the local education co-ops to provide
7 resources and professional development, as well as
8 those youth intervention programs and agencies that's
9 in the community targeting this unique group already.

10 As we spent time in the community, I will share
11 with you all as well today some letters of support
12 from various members of the community that represent
13 higher ed. institutions, they represent parents, they
14 represent community leaders, as well as business
15 leaders in the community.

16 (WHEREUPON, Premier High School Exhibit One (1),
17 a compilation of letters in support, was marked for
18 identification and entered into the record.)

19 MR. FELTON: Most importantly, we like to think
20 when it comes to Premier High School a lot of times
21 we are the voice of the unheard, the unspoken, and we
22 want to be an advocacy for parents and community
23 members that are looking for choice.

24 From the federal and state support -- Responsive
25 Education Solutions has received over \$3,000,000 to

1 expand these Premier High Schools in Arkansas, in
2 opportunity zones. RES Arkansas has received over
3 \$2,000,000 in state CSP funds to open Premier High
4 Schools across Arkansas.

5 First year in Arkansas we graduated 10 high
6 school students. Last year we awarded more than 40
7 high school diplomas to students who otherwise
8 wouldn't have a high school diploma. And to date,
9 we've awarded more than 140 high school diplomas to
10 Arkansas high school students.

11 Once again, we are here today asking to convert
12 the district to Premier High Schools of Arkansas, to
13 merge Little Rock and Fort Smith under that district,
14 to expand to Texarkana this upcoming school year, and
15 to increase our enrollment cap to reflect those
16 mergers and expansion to 600. Premier High School
17 will continue to keep students in the center and the
18 priority of everything we're doing, and we continue
19 to be responsive to the needs of the communities in
20 Arkansas.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Can you go back -- can you
22 back that up to the slide that has the amendment?

23 So I want to make sure that I know what we're
24 asking for today.

25 MR. FELTON: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay? I just want to be
2 clear. So the first thing we're asking is to name
3 this network of all five schools the Premier High
4 Schools of Arkansas. Is that correct?

5 MR. FELTON: No. Right now, I'm trying to just
6 put Little Rock and Fort Smith and Texarkana -- so it
7 will be three.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So Little Rock, Fort Smith,
9 and Texarkana?

10 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: You want to put those three
12 under Premier High Schools of Arkansas. And you're
13 going to keep North Little Rock as a separate charter
14 and Springdale as a separate charter?

15 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And someday you may want to
17 merge those into Premier High Schools of Arkansas?

18 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So on that second one,
20 where it says merge charters, in reality, you're
21 placing those charters under one charter, one network
22 charter of Premier High Schools of Arkansas?

23 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Even though they'll all have
25 their own LEA number?

1 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And then the cap -- so
3 let me ask another question. So you would open Fort
4 Smith August 22nd --

5 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- 2022? You would open
7 Texarkana August 22nd, 2022?

8 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And what is the cap of
10 the Little Rock campus?

11 MR. FELTON: The current cap is 250.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And what is the cap for Fort
13 Smith?

14 MR. FELTON: 300.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And so, what are you
16 requesting then for Texarkana?

17 MR. FELTON: It will be encompassed in that 600.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: No. I need a number, because
19 if you're going to offer a lottery you have to have a
20 lottery for the number of positions at that school.
21 So you're at -- there's 250 in Little Rock, 300 seats
22 in Fort Smith. How many seats are you going to have
23 available at Texarkana?

24 MR. FELTON: 75.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So that's -- 625 would be the

1 total cap for Premier High Schools of Arkansas?

2 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. And then are you
4 requesting that the waivers that you have for Little
5 Rock, Fort Smith, and Texarkana be exactly the same
6 for all campuses?

7 MR. FELTON: That is correct. I'm seeking the
8 same waivers that I have for Premier High School of
9 Little Rock.

10 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So the ones -- the current
11 waivers that you have for Little Rock would be the
12 waivers that would apply to all the schools under
13 Premier High Schools of Arkansas?

14 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So, Ms. James, so the Little
16 Rock campus is set to expire 6-30-23.

17 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

18 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And if we approve all of
19 this, would that then make all of those schools fall
20 under a new five-year timeline?

21 MS. JAMES: That's a good question. Let me
22 think on that for a second.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Because I would assume that
24 Fort Smith, when we give them a new charter
25 independently, that would have given them a five-

1 year. Right?

2 MS. JAMES: Right.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So it would make sense then
4 -- and you would give that to Texarkana. And if
5 you're going to put it all -- package it all under
6 Premier High Schools of Arkansas that the Little Rock
7 would extend to be in alignment.

8 Tripp, am I right?

9 MR. WALTER: That's my understanding. Yes,
10 ma'am.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

12 MS. JAMES: Okay. That's a lot to wrap my --
13 and when does Little Rock expire?

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Little Rock expires '23 --
15 2023.

16 MS. JAMES: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So they would be coming up
18 for renewal very soon.

19 MS. JAMES: Right.

20 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So in this package it just
21 kind of shifts them all over and packages them all
22 together.

23 MS. JAMES: Yes. I think that we need them to
24 all be on the same timeline.

25 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And I think we'll have to

1 come back and look at all the waivers and make sure
2 that -- I mean since Little Rock was approved, there
3 have been legislative meetings or new standards,
4 there's new rules, there's a lot of those things that
5 we'll need to come back and just review again very
6 carefully.

7 Tell us about your location for Texarkana?

8 MR. FELTON: So we found a location -- I think
9 it's listed in your packet as well -- 3216 Stateline
10 Avenue. We feel like the location meets our
11 checklist as far as making sure students are safe,
12 making sure the location is accessible, making sure
13 it's within our budget as well, and an opportunity to
14 be located where we anticipate our target population
15 to be able to receive the education options.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And residents -- Texas
17 residents will not be attending this school?

18 MR. FELTON: That is correct.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Because there's another one a
20 few feet away on the other side of the line?

21 MR. FELTON: That is correct. Arkansas is
22 pretty pumped about it, as I've talked to the
23 community.

24 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Wright-McMurray, do you
25 have additional questions?

1 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Not right -- no, I don't
2 have any questions, but I do have some comments.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Yes.

4 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I do appreciate you guys
5 working to make those connections between UACC Hope
6 at Texarkana and providing those opportunities for
7 students to make those connections. And then, also,
8 I noticed that you guys are focusing on wanting your
9 certifications to be the Work Keys Assessment. So I
10 guess that is a little bit of a question. Is that
11 done through the Workforce Services Centers, or how
12 is that done for your students that are on the
13 Premier campus that are taking the Work Keys
14 Assessment as part of their career readiness
15 certification?

16 MR. FELTON: As far as the Work Keys goes, on
17 campus. But the ones I'm primarily talking about are
18 the ones offered through the higher ed. institutions;
19 so they kind of facilitate the testing and all those
20 things. And one of the things that me and Mr. Duvall
21 try to do is when we engage in these conversations we
22 care about quality as well. I mean we care about --
23 we want to hear about -- you know, we have X-amount
24 of students enrolled in these programs, but what is
25 your actual passing rate of students. And so we're

1 trying to make sure we're partnering with
2 institutions to have high completion rates, because
3 we don't want students just necessarily doing the
4 pathway; we really want them to pass the assessment
5 and get that proficiency.

6 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Thank you.

7 MR. FELTON: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton, do you have
9 questions or comments?

10 MS. NEWTON: No.

11 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin?

12 MR. BALDWIN: Yes, just one.

13 I'm curious about the plan to merge Little Rock
14 and Fort Smith and Texarkana, and then not to merge
15 Springdale and North Little Rock. So just explain
16 that, if you would.

17 MR. FELTON: Okay. So Springdale and North
18 Little Rock, I wrote the open-enrollment application
19 for those schools at the same time I actually wrote a
20 CSP grant application. In my application to the CSP
21 office I did indicate I would open these campuses up
22 separately, as separate open-enrollment charters.

23 And so to make sure I'm staying within the rules of
24 the CSP and I'm upholding my promise to the office
25 and the grantee, then until those grants expire I

1 will not consolidate them. But that's the only
2 reason why.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers?

4 DR. FLOWERS: No questions or comments. Thank
5 you for your presentation.

6 MR. FELTON: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right, Mr. Felton. This
8 amendment request does not include a digital learning
9 plan that would extend for the full amount of time to
10 meet these three schools. So I think to have a clean
11 pathway you'll need to have a -- you'll need to do a
12 digital learning plan and bring it through the
13 process.

14 MR. FELTON: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then, that way, there
16 will be no confusions.

17 Also, in Standards for Accreditation you're
18 flagging for business manager. And so we're
19 wondering about why that -- you have a business
20 manager. Is the business manager a hiree of the CMO
21 or -- because they're not showing up in eSchool.

22 MR. FELTON: I may need Tripp to help me, but,
23 my understanding, that is correct. And I think it's
24 mainly because the business manager does not directly
25 work with one school.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Right. But they're not
2 entered into eSchool -- or into eFinance as the
3 business manager, so -- because I think they're
4 probably an employee of the CMO. Is that correct?

5 MR. FELTON: Yes, that's correct.

6 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So you need a waiver of -- I
7 didn't write down the rule -- the standard, 3-A.5,
8 Each public school district shall employ a general
9 business manager responsible for the physical
10 operations of the school district. So you don't have
11 one in eFinance, so it's flagging. So you actually
12 --

13 Ms. James, am I correct, he needs this waiver
14 because that person is employed by the CMO?

15 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am, that is correct.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So -- hang on, Ms. James.
17 So, today, if we were to approve that and say that's
18 okay for Premier High Schools of Arkansas to cover
19 Little Rock, Fort Smith, and Texarkana --

20 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: -- can he also make that
22 request today for North Little Rock and Springdale?

23 MS. JAMES: Since that was not added to the
24 agenda, I'm afraid that we can't do that today. But
25 if he wanted to add the waiver request for what we're

1 here on today --

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: As an amendment for the other
3 two campuses?

4 MS. JAMES: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

5 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So, Mr. Walter, do you
6 have comments?

7 MR. WALTER: Yes, briefly. Thank you, Madam
8 Chair, Members of the Panel. Tripp Walter, Staff
9 Attorney, APSRC.

10 I guess the only thing I wanted to make sure on,
11 rather, is the business -- is I know there was a new
12 change made to the law this year, effective this
13 year, on a business manager. So I don't know how
14 that impacts standards, if there would need to be a
15 waiver. I mean now it doesn't have to be an employee
16 of the school. I don't know how that impacts the
17 entering of that, so-to-speak. I wouldn't think that
18 would be a problem now from that end.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Usually, in standards, if we
20 have on record that it's a part of the CMO and
21 there's a CMO contract or something -- people want to
22 enter just a statement page, "Joe is my business
23 manager," and that's not documentation. So we just
24 need to make sure that there's either a waiver or
25 thorough documentation to be able to have something

1 that meets the law on that standard.

2 MR. WALTER: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: So do you want us to table --
4 do you want us to just wait on that and come back,
5 when he comes back with everything else and do it at
6 that time?

7 MR. WALTER: Well, I guess what I'm saying is I
8 don't -- I mean I'm assuming you have the
9 documentation from Stephens and everything could be
10 provided.

11 MR. FELTON: Yeah.

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

13 MR. WALTER: Yeah. And I think that might be
14 the easier way, perhaps -- way to handle it.

15 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay.

16 MR. WALTER: Because they're -- and I guess I'm
17 thinking, too, it may not be specifically relevant
18 for this, but I think it kind of threads the needle
19 with the new law that they're in compliance with
20 that.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Well, if we're putting it all
22 together under Premier High Schools of Arkansas, we
23 just want to make sure they've got the district
24 things put together as well.

25 MR. WALTER: Yes, ma'am.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. So we have Premier
2 High Schools of Arkansas as the overarching LEA, and
3 then three schools underneath with the LEA (Little
4 Rock, Fort Smith, Texarkana); 250 students cap at
5 Little Rock, 300 at Fort Smith, 75 at Texarkana, for
6 a cap of 625 students; with the same waivers at each
7 school under that umbrella of Premier High Schools of
8 Arkansas, and the same -- this approval would give a
9 five-year extension, so that's -- this is '22, that
10 would be '23, '24, '25, '26, '27. Is that correct?

11 DR. SUTHERLIN: (Nodding head up and down.)

12 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Okay. Now we've got the
13 facts.

14 Dr. Flowers, do you have any additional
15 questions?

16 DR. FLOWERS: No, I do not.

17 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin?

18 MR. BALDWIN: No.

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Wright-McMurray?

20 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: No, I do not.

21 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton?

22 MS. NEWTON: No.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. I'll accept a
24 motion.

25 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I move approval of the

1 amendment request.

2 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Get a little closer to the
3 microphone, please.

4 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: Sorry. I move approval of
5 their amendment request.

6 MR. BALDWIN: And I'll second.

7 MS. NEWTON: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. I have a motion
9 by Dr. Wright-McMurray and a second by Mr. Baldwin to
10 approve the amendment request as discussed and
11 summarized.

12 All those in favor?

13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Any opposed?

15 Motion passes.

16 So our panel members will put their notes in the
17 voting sheet. And we will come back with a clean
18 waiver sheet to make sure that's what you agreed to,
19 and a clean sheet with the names, titles, and caps of
20 each school, just so -- for -- our records were clear
21 what we've got.

22 MR. FELTON: Thank y'all.

23 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And then, don't forget you'll
24 come back with a digital learning plan if you plan to
25 continue that.

1 MR. FELTON: I will.

2 (A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Mr. Baldwin.

4 MR. BALDWIN: Yes. I support the application
5 and vote in favor of it as presented with the -- I
6 guess the change in the cap of the students to 625.

7 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Flowers.

8 DR. FLOWERS: I vote to approve the merger of
9 Premier High School Fort Smith charter and Premier
10 High School Little Rock charter, the addition of a
11 satellite campus in Texarkana, and to increase the
12 enrollment cap to 625. I look forward to hearing
13 about your continued efforts to support the needs of
14 students that may be educationally disengaged in that
15 region of our state.

16 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Dr. Wright-McMurray.

17 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: I voted for the amendment.
18 I support the amendment request. I'm excited about
19 the opportunities for students to complete their
20 education and pursue CTE programs of study at UACC
21 Hope/Texarkana.

22 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Ms. Newton.

23 MS. NEWTON: I voted in favor of the motion.
24 The need for this focus of the charter has been
25 demonstrated as an example by the success of others.

1 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Congratulations.

2 MR. FELTON: Thank y'all.

3 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: And as I said, we'll get
4 those documents cleaned up and let you review before
5 we put them on the State Board agenda for March, to
6 make sure we're accurate and clean.

7 MR. FELTON: Sounds good.

8 ADJOURNMENT

9 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: Panel Members, do we have any
10 other business?

11 Then, I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

12 DR. WRIGHT-McMURRAY: So moved.

13 MR. BALDWIN: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: I have a motion by Dr.
15 Wright-McMurray to adjourn and a second by Mr.
16 Baldwin.

17 All those in favor?

18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

19 CHAIRMAN COFFMAN: All right. Meeting is
20 adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

21

22

23 (The meeting was concluded at 11:23 a.m.)

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HAAS HALL ACADEMY

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

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PREMIER LITTLE ROCK

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