## In The Matter Of: BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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\text { July 11, } 2019
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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 11, 2019 10:00 A.M.

APPEARANCES
BOARD MEMBERS:
MS. DIANE ZOOK, Chairman
MS. CHARISSE DEAN, Vice Chairman
MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS
MR. BRETT WILLIAMSON
MS. OUIDA NEWTON
DR. FITZGERALD HILL
DR. SARAH MOORE
MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:
MR. JOHNNY KEY, Secretary of Education

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. LORI FRENO
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT
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ADE General Counsel
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## EXHIBITS

A-1: LICENSURE REVOCATION HEARING - TIMOTHY REDDIN ADE EXHIBIT ONE (1) Educator's License, valid to 12/31/89

ADE EXHIBIT TWO (2)
Sentencing Order, filed 2/7/19
ADE EXHIBIT THREE (3)
Notice of Disqualifying Offense, dated 3/22/19
ADE EXHIBIT FOUR (4)
Notice of Hearing, dated 6/4/19

A-6: CHARTER CONTRACT AGREEMENT
ADE EXHIBIT ONE (1)
Proposed Charter Agreement Format

PROCEEDINGS
A-1: CONSIDERATION OF REVOCATION OF TEACHING LICENSE LICENSURE ACTION CASE NO. 19-07 (TIMOTHY REDDIN)

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We'll move now to our Action Agenda.

Mr. Dugan, number one.
MR. DUGAN: Good morning. Taylor Dugan, Attorney for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Legal Services.

Board Members, what you have in front of you as the first agenda item is a license revocation of Mr . Timothy Reddin. I've put together a packet.

Ms. Freno, if you wouldn't mind sounding the halls to see if Mr. Reddin is available?
(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Freno steps into the hallway and calls for Mr. Reddin.)

MS. FRENO: No, he is not here.
MR. DUGAN: And since Mr. Reddin is not here may I proceed, Madam Chair?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please do.
MR. DUGAN: So what $I$ have in front of the Board today are a number of exhibits, four exhibits. The first exhibit is the Educator's license, which is marked as ADE Exhibit One (1), to show that he does have an existing license. We did send him notice on

March 22, 2019, that he did have these charges. What I've attached as ADE Exhibit Three (3) is that he was found guilty and pled guilty of Attempted Coercion and Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Criminal Sexual Activity, which would be a disqualifying offense under 6-7-410. And that we did send him notice of this hearing here today.
(WHEREUPON, ADE Exhibits One (1) through Four (4) were marked for identification and entered into evidence.)

MR. DUGAN: And so since he's not here, since we did provide him with proper notice, I would ask that this Board revoke Mr. Reddin's license.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are there any questions?
Do I have a motion?
MS. NEWTON: Move revocation.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. Newton, seconded by

MS. McFetridge: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- Ms. McFetridge.
All in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?
Great .
MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Ms. -- Madam Chair.

A-2: STATE BOARD REVIEW OF PLSB EVIDENTIARY HEARING RECOMMENDATION - JACOB CONRAD DE LA PAZ

MR. DUGAN: And we do have, I believe, on the second agenda item, for the action, is the State Board Review of Mr. Jacob Conrad de la Paz. I know Ms. Freno is going to go through the rules.

So would you like to do that first, Ms. Freno?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes. Would you come to the podium, Ms. Freno? Remind us so we --

MS. FRENO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- do everything correctly.
MS. FRENO: Lori Freno, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

This is an appeal of an Ethics Hearing Subcommittee's recommendation that Mr . Jacob de la Paz's educator license be suspended for a period of five years and that he be fined $\$ 500$.

On a procedural note, you might remember that in January of this year this board granted Mr. de la Paz's request to file his appeal beyond the time set forth in the rules -- and this board approved that, and that's fine. But now everything has been completely briefed and everything is ready for this hearing today.

If I may go over the procedures for this
hearing?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please do.
MS. FRENO: First, Mr. de la Paz will make a statement to the State Board for up to 10 minutes -of course, Mr. de la Paz or his counsel for up to 10 minutes. And then Mr . Dugan will make a statement to this board on behalf of the PLSB for up to 10 minutes as well.

This board -- at any time this board may ask questions of the Educator, the investigators, or their counsel. If anyone is asked a question who is not an attorney, they do need to be sworn in.

That is the procedure for the hearing. May I go over -- kind of give you a preview of what you all will be deciding at the end of the hearing?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.
She'll go over it now, and then if we have questions she can tell us again.

MS. FRENO: Great. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Zook.

The first thing that you're going to need to do is determine -- is make a Finding of Fact. In other words, you'll need to determine whether you agree with the Evidentiary Hearing Panel's factual underpinning with regards to this case.

Second, if you agree with the facts as determined by the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, you will need to make a determination based upon those facts, whether Mr. de la Paz violated Standard 1, Standard 2, or both, of the Code of Ethics.

And, third, if you do determine that there was a violation of Standard 1, Standard 2, or both, then you will need to decide whether you agree with the sanction that was imposed by the Subcommittee, which again was five years' suspension and a $\$ 500$ fine, or whether you would want to modify the sanction.

And probably it would be best and cleanest if you do this through three motions. One motion would be the Findings of Fact, one would be the Conclusions of Law, and one would be for the sanction.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
MS. FRENO: And if there are any questions -- no questions from the Board --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah. Would you clarify that even though this happened a couple of years ago he has been teaching, but once this decision is made by this board that will go on his record?

MS. FRENO: Once the decision is made by this board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean that's something he could appeal to the Circuit

Court.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right. Thank you.
Any questions of Ms. Freno?
Okay. Thank you.
MS. FRENO: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And the Educator starts first. Yes.

MS. FRENO: That is correct.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Would everyone who will be giving testimony please stand and raise your right hand? Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MR. DE LA PAZ: I do.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You may be seated.
And proceed.
MR. GIGLIO: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Joe Giglio from Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm Mr. de la Paz's counsel.

Mr. de la Paz, at the end of my presentation, would like to give a statement that we've timed at two minutes. And if the Chair and the Board would allow it, $I$ would like to be given a notice at say seven minutes if the Board would allow Mr. de la Paz time for his two-minute statement.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes. I'm saying yes.
MR. GIGLIO: Thank you, Ms. Chair.
The student in this case while she was a junior at Cabot High School developed a crush on her young millennial track coach, Jacob de la Paz, whom you've met, who started working at Cabot High School right out of college at age 24. Through text messages it was made clear that the student had an attraction for Mr. de la Paz. It became apparent that the attraction was mutual, but it also became apparent that the coach, Coach de la Paz, made it very clear that any potential relationship must wait until the student's graduation. The student lived at home with her father and stepmother. The coach lived at home with his parents. The student and the coach were never alone together at any time. There was no inappropriate touching, no inappropriate contact whatsoever, no kissing, nothing physical, no inappropriate pictures, nothing like that. The coach did on a volunteer basis tutor the young student in math and she excelled. The coach coached the student in track and she became a star, a state champion. The coach and his student met on a church mission trip. And the student herself testified that she excelled in track, she became a state champion, and
with Coach de la Paz's volunteer help she performed very well in math. The student admitted that at a certain point toward the end of her junior year, May of her junior year, the student testified that she developed a crush on Coach de la Paz. In questioning, I asked the student, "Did you sometimes confide in Coach de la Paz that you were comparing yourself to other students?" This was because she seemed in the texts to be asking Coach de la Paz for reassurance, and so I asked, "Did" -- "were you comparing yourself to others?" She said yes. "And did he reassure you that you were as competitive, as good, or better than the others that you were worried about?" And she said yes. "In one of the texts you stated, 'I love you with all my heart, DLP.'" DLP was her nickname for Coach de la Paz, DLP. "Did you mean that?" She answered yes. "In another text you state 'DLP's words mean the world to me,' and that you have -- and that you and he have an unbreakable bond; is that how you felt?" She said yes. "In one text you state 'I would love to spend time with you after I graduate.' Is that how you felt?" "Yes." I'm 66 but remember what it was like at age 17. I can understand what happened here. But here's what's important: towards the end of the texts, page

563 of the approximate 600 pages, I asked this question of the student; I said, "You state to Coach de la Paz in one of your texts, 'You told me not to text you unless it was about running or math. And I texted you this morning to have a great day, and I'm just now realizing that $I$ shouldn't have done it, even though I wanted to.'" I asked the student, "So you knew that he wanted the texting to stop?" She said yes. The student herself testified that Coach de la Paz was a gentleman. She confirmed they were never alone together; they never drove anywhere together; they both lived at home with their parents. The student testified that Coach de la Paz would support and reaffirm her while her family did not. Perhaps that is why the student said that when her stepmother read the messages and went to the school to try to have the coach fired she was hurt. She testified, "I was not happy anymore." The student testified that Coach de la Paz had built up her confidence and that she was better in her junior year than any other year in high school. In fact, at Cabot High School there is something called the Life Impact Award where a senior determines who he or she is going to name as the teacher who had the most positive influence on the young student's life during
high school. She was planning to have Coach de la Paz receive the Life Impact Award because he had, as she put it in the text, "influenced her in the most positive way."

We also called at the hearing testimony of Coach de la Paz's immediate supervisor, the head coach, Chesley [ps] White, a 40-year veteran at Cabot. He also served in the state position -- I forget the title. But he was a well-respected, a long-time coach. He had just retired at the time I called him for this hearing. He voluntarily came. He waited seven hours, because he was the last guy to be called, and I felt so bad for him because he had to wait. But he testified unequivocally, "Yes, I know the man's character, I know what happened, and I would rehire him."

It's clear that this Educator's character is good. He made a mistake. Now mind you, we're only asking that the sanction be modified. We don't dispute the facts, because they're all expressed in text messages. Mr. de la Paz's coworker stated that he is, quote, "a dedicated servant to his family, a tireless contributor to his job; he's an honorable selfless human-being." This was Coach Chris Beavert who --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have three minutes left, so

MR. GIGLIO: Thank you, ma'am. I'll wrap it up. Now for the last two years Jacob has been working at North Vermillion High School in Maurice, Louisiana. It's a little community about 15 minutes from Lafayette. He's planning and hoping to work there next year. He made the principal of that school and the superintendent aware of this proceeding in the very first interview, at the outset. The testimony at the hearing was clear that he was honest with everybody who questioned him about his status. "Jacob has been very conscientious," the principal states -- "very conscientious about his position as teacher and coach and has displayed mature and professional behavior in all capacities in his job description."

Ladies and Gentlemen, a suspension would effectively end his career. We are asking for a modification so that he may be held under some probation and take courses of whatever you, Ladies and Gentlemen, might require of him.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You have two minutes.
MR. GIGLIO: Considering the conduct involved in this case, without any inappropriate conduct --

Is that two minutes -- I need to --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, of the 10.
MR. GIGLIO: Of the 10. Okay. Well, then I need to wrap it up and tell you that my brief contains all of the other cases that you can read where more serious and egregious conduct resulted in a much less serious sanction. Thank you. And we would ask that Mr. de la Paz's sanction be modified. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. de la Paz.
MR. DE LA PAZ: I'll try to read it quickly.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.
MR. DE LA PAZ: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to speak before you today. In May of 2017, I was forcibly resigned from the Cabot School District amid the discovery of text messages between myself and a high school athlete that discussed the potential of a relationship after she graduated. For the record, the messages were never sexually explicit. There was never an inappropriate physical relationship, nor was there a suggestion of such. I never spoke in innuendo, nor did I ever insinuate or solicit anything malicious, immoral, or perverse from the athlete. I never asked her to hide any inappropriate
relationship, because there was not one. I did ask her to mask any feelings or emotions that she had for me. And I do understand that the messages discussing a potential relationship were inappropriate and unprofessional.

My actions have not been without consequences. I was essentially asked to leave my alma mater, which was my dream job. I moved out of the town that $I$ called home for 13 years. I incurred a heavy financial burden in retaining the services of an attorney. But the worst consequence for me is the embarrassment and the regret that $I$ feel in letting down my family, my friends, and my colleagues, and the female athlete involved.

For the past two years I have been teaching and coaching in Louisiana. I have been forthcoming and honest about every step of this process with my administration, who have mentored and supported me through it all. They've put an extreme amount of faith in me when I asked for the opportunity to redeem myself. Today I plead with this board to do the same. The students, parents, and administration at North Vermillion trust me. I have worked incredibly hard these past two years to earn that trust.

I respectfully and humbly ask this board that you allow me to continue to remain employed at my school in Louisiana by not suspending my license, and allow me to continue to walk the redemptive path I started two years ago. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Dugan.
Before he sits down, do any of you have questions prior to Mr . Dugan's presentation?

Okay. Mr. Dugan.
MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board. Taylor Dugan, Attorney for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. And in this case, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm going to be speaking on behalf of the PLSB on Mr. Conrad de la Paz's appeal here to the State Board.

I'm going to ask the Board today to uphold the sanction that the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee determined. In the transcript and in the briefs and in all the text messages that have been provided to the Board beforehand -- page 712 of the exhibits there was Findings and Recommendations that the Hearing Subcommittee put down, and I think they got it right because originally the Ethics Subcommittee voted unanimously to revoke Mr. de la Paz's license. The Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, after a hearing that
lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and had the evidence that you guys have seen today, over 600 pages of text messages from 25 days between a 27-year old teacher -- we're talking about a teacher here -and a student -- and they determined that they were going to give him some grace. They lowered that sanction from a revocation to a five-year suspension with the maximum fine of $\$ 500$. He's already been given some grace.

The PLSB wants to show that this is a case that they take very seriously. This was not just a crush that the student had on Mr. de la Paz. This is a student where he reciprocated those feelings, and it's outlined in all of those texts. He did tell the student to keep this relationship secret. At the lower hearing there was the complaint that was included from the school district when they made the original allegation. These are Mr. de la Paz's words in these texts to the student, "It will be tough but we have to do it to protect each other. We just have to be very good actors. I have to make it seem like you're just another runner, even though secretly you know you're much more to me and will be my future girlfriend. And you have to act like I'm just a coach, knowing that I will be your future boyfriend.

We can do it. It will be tough, but I'm willing to do it to protect our future." Later says, "Gosh, this year will be so long, but maybe having all that to look forward to will make it go faster, because I really cannot wait until that first day where I just finally get to spend time with you as Jacob and not Coach de la Paz. I just get to be close to you without having to worry about anything, and I just get to enjoy being with you. You will definitely still catch me staring, and now you know why." This was a willful and intentional violation of the Code of Ethics, of Standard 1 and Standard 2, and it's outlined in the evidence that has been presented to the Board prior to today. I highlighted a few texts, because I know I only have 10 minutes, but there is a mountain of evidence that this was more than just a crush. For example, the Educator states that --

May I have a moment, Madam Chair?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Sure.
MR. DUGAN: For example, on May 23, 2017, at 7:48 p.m. the Educator admits that he knew his actions could get him terminated, "It's hard to pay for dates if I'm out of a job, LOL." Later that day, at 8:20 p.m. the Educator states, "Okay, do you know that all they need -- all they would need is to pull
the script of you and I conversing through texts and I could never teach or coach again." The Educator was well aware of his actions; this was a willful violation of the Code of Ethics. He also states on May 23 rd in a text to the student, "I hate that it's like that but in the job I'm in, it is. My hope would be that even if we didn't text as often that would not make you not want to date me anymore. It would break my heart now." If you go through -these are the texts, these are the words; these are in the 600-plus pages of text messages spanning over 25 days that Mr. de la Paz and this student conversed. This is a teacher -- 27-year old teacher texting with a student, and that's why we're here today. We're here to see whether or not that violates the Code of Ethics. There is a mountain of texts between the Educator and the student where he states that he loves her. For example, on May 4, 2017, at 10:24 p.m. he states -- Educator says, "Absolutely agree. If I don't see you, make sure we run to -- we run into each other in the next three days. Again, I'm proud of you and I love you." This is the first record of this Educator saying to the student that he loves her. It goes on and on. For example, on May 8, 2017, Student says, "Are you sure?

Sometimes I feel like you tell me things, do I want to be down on myself, and you talk to me because I talk to you all the time, like you don't want to." Educator, "I do encourage you a lot but I'm always honest with you. I'm never fake and I genuinely enjoy talking to you." Educator, "I love you with all my heart, remember?" Student, "I hope you do." There is a mountain of these texts -- I just have to admit it -- so I'm just highlighting some. But I know the Board here has read the record, has read the transcript, they know that this is going back-andforth. It was just not a crush. It's had an adverse affect on the student.

I heard earlier today they said that this student here came from a home, was not given that support. The family is here today because they care about this case. In the hearing, from the transcript on page 103, the mother testified that "we put her into counseling because she really just didn't seem like she wanted to talk about it, and so she went to counseling the first summer." On page 222 the student states that she went to therapy during the summer of 2017 and the summer of 2018. This caused an effect on this student, a negative effect on this student. Not only was this a willful violation of
the Code of Ethics but it did have that negative effect on the student. This is multiple violations. This is 600-plus pages of text messages that this was a violation of the Code of Ethics.

So I'm here today asking this panel to uphold that sanction of a five-year suspension and a $\$ 500$ fine and any training that the Board sees fit. But again, this is not a case of just a crush; this is not a case of -- this is a case of willful intent on the -- for violation of the Code of Ethics, excuse me. Even further, just text messages from 12:15 a.m. on 5/25, while they talk about there's no physical relationship, he is encouraging. That says, "I know" -- well, she states, Student, "Gosh, I'm picturing in my head right now you calling me Babe and hugging me; it's awesome. Just hugging you differently than $I$ do is going to be so special, and us holding hands, I know." Educator, "The hugs will be what I'm feeling, for sure. I'm most looking forward to holding your hand and just spending time with you, watching movies, just cuddled up on the couch and being with you, and just being ourselves around each other."

This is the evidence that you guys have had.
And I know that after you guys have looked through the transcript, have looked through and read all the
texts -- again, this is just a few little bits of it. And so with the reservation for the rest of my time I would also -- there was some comments over here that this kind of started in May. There was testimony that it actually -- he had started developing feelings for her in February/March. Again, this is all in the transcript. This is all from the hearing. And so if there's any more time I would like to entertain questions.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, you have two-and-a-half minutes.

MR. DUGAN: Two-and-a-half minutes?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anybody have any questions?
Anyone have any questions at this point? And, remember, it'll be three separate things: Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Recommendations. So if you have any questions with regard --

Dr. Moore.
DR. MOORE: I do have some questions.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
DR. MOORE: Yes, at this point in time I -- as we've looked at many different cases over my year on a term, I still at times feel like the timeline for a suspension or probation is varied. How did that five-year timeline come into decision, as compared to
others? And which I think we saw one last month -last month or the month before -- that was a threeyear timeline. What's -- can you talk to me about that?

MR. DUGAN: Definitely. And the -- so right now the PLSB has the sanctioning matrix and that's what they're following. Originally in this case, right here, if you look at the transcript, the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee had stated on pages 351 through 353 that they went back-and-forth on a revocation and a suspension in this case. However, they did take into effect that -- Mr. de la Paz's age, and they -even one of the panel members, you know, stated that they had to weigh destroying his career or putting more kids in danger. So I think in this case they went through that sanctioning matrix. I can't speak on behalf of them, but they looked and went through those factors -- was this willful or intentional misconduct, was it multiple violations, did it have a negative effect on that student, and went through those to determine what type of sanction it would be. So this, again, is one that's in the record that they went back-and-forth on revocation, because the Ethics Subcommittee originally did recommend revocation for this Educator. And so what the Panel does is they go
through that sanctioning matrix and kind of apply what facts they have.

DR. MOORE: Okay.
MR. DUGAN: Did that answer your question, Dr. Moore?

DR. MOORE: A little bit. Can you -- and I'm sorry, I probably ask this question every-other-month -- but speak to me about the differences between probation and suspension?

MR. DUGAN: So probation, the Educator can still return to the classroom.

DR. MOORE: Okay.
MR. DUGAN: So there can be conditions also put on that probation. But while that Educator is on probation they have -- they can still teach during that time, they might have to complete those trainings, they will have to pay that fine. But then -- usually I believe it's 90 days of the State Board order. And if they don't complete that, then the Board has the authority to suspend them. A suspension is they cannot go back to the classroom.

DR. MOORE: Okay.
MR. DUGAN: So -- until they complete that suspension --

DR. MOORE: Okay. And --

MR. DUGAN: -- and pay the fine.
DR. MOORE: In this case, in another state, is it because the other state looks to this state for the license?

MR. DUGAN: I beg your pardon?
DR. MOORE: Since he's now teaching in another state, does that state check with our state for license?

MR. DUGAN: So what we would do in this case is we would -- well, and our rules do state that we have to send notice to the employee entity, if the Educator is employed. So that's how they would get notice as far as if the Board was to order a suspension. Also, it's reported to the NASTEC and -where schools can go on and look at that and it would show up as a suspension.

DR. MOORE: Okay. And then one final question: when PLSB is alerted of a situation in which a teacher might have had contact with a student outside the classroom, does the Board always request text messages? Is that common procedure or was -- these were turned in, or what is that?

MR. DUGAN: I bet Mr . James could answer that, because that would be more of an investi -- something that would be investigated. I know in this case what
had happened was that the school district had made the complaint, the allegation, and they had attached some of the text messages. The mother had found -looked through the student's phone and saw these text messages and took them to the school district in this case. However, in other cases --

Mr. James, would you be able to elaborate however text messages are acquired and --

MR. JAMES: Yes. Dr. Moore, the initial -- the allegation that was submitted contained the text messages.

DR. MOORE: Okay.
MR. JAMES: So when they submit it to our office sometimes it has a lot of information; sometimes we retrieve it through the investigation.

DR. MOORE: Okay.
MR. JAMES: So therefore it becomes part of what you have in front of you today.

DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. That's it, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers.
MS. CHAMBERS: Just building on that, is there any insight that you can share that helps us understand why we went from revocation to suspension with five?

MR. DUGAN: Just what was in the transcript that -- because when they go and deliberate, the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, they go off the record; and so what was said during deliberation, I'm not sure. But Mr. Shirey, who was on the panel that day, he did, on page 351 through 353 of the transcript, discuss that this was a very difficult case for them and they kept going back-and-forth between revocation and suspension and they had to weigh the factors of whether -- putting more kids in danger or the fact that he was just a young person here. So I think -I can't speak for them themselves, but it seemed like they were giving him some grace there.

MS. CHAMBERS: But there was nothing specific that really changed their opinion --

MR. DUGAN: Correct.
MS. CHAMBERS: -- in the evidence? Okay. Thank you.

MR. DUGAN: On their Findings and Recommendations, that was page 712 of the hearing, what they wrote down there at the very bottom is -if I may read it for the Board?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.
MR. DUGAN: "There is no evidence that the Educator is beyond rehabilitation and there has been
no prior sanction before the current violations of Standards 1 and 2. Therefore, this Committee finds that the sanction of permanent revocation is warranted. We too think that five-year suspension and a $\$ 500$ fine would be more appropriate. We feel that a lesser sanction would not give the impression that the PLSB does not take such violations seriously."

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
Okay. Would you -- and you may have to go get it. But would you clarify for us exactly what Standard 1 and Standard 2 state?

MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Were you finished with your presentation?

MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. Let me get my rules.
Madam Chair, Standard 1 is "an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside of the classroom;" and Standard 2, Madam Chair, "An educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position."

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are you finished with your 10minute presentation?

MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
MR. DUGAN: Do I still have time?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, you have two-and-a-half minutes left.

MR. DUGAN: I'll concede that. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And now five minutes for rebuttal, is that --

MR. DUGAN: Under these rules, that's it, unless --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's it. Okay. Thank you.
MR. DUGAN: It does state in the rules that -the hearing is on the consideration of the transcript, the pleadings, and oral argument only. However, at the request of the State Board Chair the Educator and the PLSB investigator for the case or chief investigator may provide testimony. And so that's the 10 minutes -- 10 minutes -- or if you would like to hear from the chief investigator.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Anyone --

MS. NEWTON: I would just wonder if the attorney for Mr. de la Paz had anything else they wanted to add to -- since they --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Did you hear her?
MR. GIGLIO: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please identify yourself again. MR. GIGLIO: I'm Joe Giglio, attorney for Jacob de la Paz.

And just to further amplify Ms. -- or Dr. Moore's question, the suspension would take Jacob out of the classroom. We would think a probation with training would be appropriate, given the other cases. The other cases -- for example, one where the female teacher took the young 16-year old male student on a joyride on an ATV; they had a wreck; she -- the boy/student got injured; and the teacher took the boy home, gave him a shower, and attempted oral sex on the boy, and she was given probation -- far more extreme conduct. My brief has three or four pages of similar cases to that bizarre case where probation was given.

Here, there is no question that his conduct is all revealed in the texts -- but that's the good
thing: there was nothing else. And it was clear from the texts that he wanted the relationship to wait, which is the appropriate response. The student, nevertheless, continued to pursue reassurance. And the testimony was clear; it was admitted -- or I mean I believe her testimony that she went to two therapy sessions, but she testified that that was because of what happened when her parents, I would suggest, over-reacted; her stepmother over-reacted to the situation.

So we kindly ask that this -- Jacob de la Paz be given a modified sanction that would allow him to continue teaching in Louisiana, where he's needed, and his principal says they would like him to remain -- and that would be at most probation. We would suggest that the case law -- the juris prudence, if you will -- the prior Arkansas Department of Education board cases, it varies from written reprimand to -- from written reprimand to admonition to probation -- nothing as extreme as what happened here.

I'd also suggest that it's not appropriate to sanction anyone, quote/unquote, to send a message; instead, the sanction should fit the crime. And here we had a teacher who was -- a young teacher who was
caught in the hard place of having to respond to a student who was looking for reassurance, and he did give it to her; and in the process, unfortunately, the relationship developed. But he said it must wait.

And so thank you for your consideration. And Mr. de la Paz is here if you have any questions directly of him under oath.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And he has been teaching the last two years while we were waiting for this case to come to us.

Anybody have any more discussion or questions?
Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: I'd ask a question of Mr . de la Paz.

Can you tell me about your interactions with students now and what precautions you're taking to make sure this would never happen again?

MR. DE LA PAZ: Sure. Well, within the district that I've -- that I went to interview with in Louisiana, they made it clear through my interview with the assistant superintendent and with my principal that within their district they have a certain set of guidelines for any electronic communication with students should that take place.

Anything that you -- any correspondence with students has to be turned in electronically, with a document that is filled out and turned in to the State Board -- or the district, letting them know what that interaction was. From my standpoint, I have not had any electronic communication with any students at North Vermillion except through my school email account. Me and my principal have worked that out. Like I said in my statement, he's mentored me through all of it. We meet on a regular basis to discuss growth and maturity from that. Any -- because I also coach down there, any Group Me or Remind Me apps -- I also include him in those as well. Any emails that I send to students $I$ also CC my principal in those emails. And so I make as many people aware of my interactions through those processes as I can, as discussed with my principal. So certainly it has made me take more appropriate steps to communicate with students.

Unfortunately, I put myself in the position where I had to learn it this way. But like I said in my statement, for two years I've tried my best to earn that trust from my administration. And, respectfully, I feel like the fact that my principal has gone to bat for me with a letter proves that I've
done that.
MS. NEWTON: What about -- you're talking about communication outside the classroom and in the athletic arena. What about relationships? Have you -- what have you done to make sure your relationships are kept at an appropriate teacher/student --

MR. DE LA PAZ: Again, that's something that I've met regularly with my principal about, especially when I was first hired, that first year. You know, I'm a lot more aware and perceptive to what my interaction with students looks like to the outside -- or the outside perception of what that looks like. I understand being a young coach around female students that that spotlight, that scope is even more so on me, maybe more so than any other -than, you know, any other professional or anything like that. And so it has definitely made me more conscientious of that and what it means to strictly be there for an educational basis and to not let it get to the point where my rapport with students puts me in the situation to where I'm teetering the line between what is professional and what is not. And so that has -- this incident, this, you know, unprofessionalism has allowed me to reflect on that for sometime and I think up to this point corrected
what needed to be corrected from a personal standpoint.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
Dr. Hill.
DR. HILL: Yes. Your Counsel made mention to something that I just want to -- as we decide what we're going to do, that we should bring to surface.

I have two daughters and I've actually dealt with this situation, almost identical; so it's very personal. And parents do over-react because -you're not a parent yet; is that right?

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir. I'm not a parent.
DR. HILL: Okay. So when you have a daughter who you place in a classroom under supervision of somebody, when you see a text of something inappropriate, we do over-react -- and I did overreact because that's my daughter, who -- I trust you. And so what you've done is broken a trust of parents to go to school and place them there. However, we all fall short and we all need grace. But what have you learned from this situation that can put parameters around yourself, as a hired teacher, as a principal, to make sure that you don't put parents in situations where my daughter is -- anybody's daughter is in that situation that those text messages, those
feelings were -- led you to a level of unprofessionalism, which you just called -- you identified it. And so that's -- you're owning up to it, and that's it. But do you realize a parent and their daughters -- the trust that has been broken in that process for us to make a decision on allowing you to go back into the classroom? And what would happen if you broke that trust again? I mean that's -- now this is serious -- really, really, really, really serious that you have to not allow your personal feelings to influence your public judgment, which you did.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
DR. HILL: And I just -- I just -- you know, from a parent of two daughters who -- I've done it exactly; I go through my -- they're older now, but I come get their phone. But at 16, 17 year olds, I pay for the -- I want to know what's going on.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
DR. HILL: And so it wasn't over-reaction; it was a protection mechanism that parents are called to provide, protect, and pastor their children. And I mean it's -- this is a very difficult situation for me because I know what I wanted for that individual at the time when I saw that, because I placed my
daughter in that situation. So I just hope as this board rules that you understand if given that opportunity, you know, that grace has been granted to you against what the State has recommended to us. Okay?

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge.
MS. MCFETRIDGE: I know you said you were a coach.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
MS. McFetridge: Are you teaching as well?
MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am. I'm a math teacher.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Can you also let us know, aside from the probation at this point, what other courses have you taken to help you -- help strengthen you against doing this again?

MR. DE LA PAZ: I had to -- in addition to professional development that I had to take as part of being a new-hire down there, I also had to take -as an agreement between myself and my assistant superintendent and my principal, I also had to do an additional three hours of Louisiana ethics training and I also did a three-hour seminar on social networking. Off the top of my head I don't recall what the -- what it -- it was through the Louisiana

State Board of Education. And I did a three-hour thing with the ethics and then a three-hour social media networking training through their online program, similar to the IDEAS that we had -- the Arkansas IDEAS that we have here. So those six hours I got on a condition of being hired through agreement with my principal and my assistant superintendent.

MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything else, discussions, questions?

Are we ready for a motion?
Remember we're going to do it in three parts.
The first is Findings of Fact.
MS. NEWTON: I have a motion on that, I think.
I think that there's a Finding of Fact that the Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with a female student via text messages.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do I have a second?
MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion by Ms. Newton, second by Mr. Williamson.

All in --
Do we need to take a roll-call?
SECRETARY KEY: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Would you do that,

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please?
SECRETARY KEY: Give me -- this is an old rollcall sheet, so let me make some --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
SECRETARY KEY: -- adjustments here real quick.
All right. Dr. Hill.
DR. HILL: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.
DR. MOORE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.
MS . DEAN: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Okay. It's unanimous.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Motion passes.
Next, we will talk about the Conclusion of Law, which is, my understanding, did the -- do we believe based on the evidence that he violated Standard 1 and 2, 1 or 2 , or --

Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: I make a motion that we follow the determination that the Educator violated both Standard 1 and 2.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have a second?
MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson. Motion by Ms. Newton, second by Mr. Williamson.

All in favor? Roll-call.
SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
DR. HILL: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.
DR. MOORE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
MS . NEWTON: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.
MS. DEAN: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Seven votes in favor.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Motion passed.

As far as Recommendations, do I have a motion or a suggestion?

MS. NEWTON: I have a suggestion, then we can discuss.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.
MS. NEWTON: Okay. I suggest that we give a three-year probation with a $\$ 250$ fine, and then give appropriate training to go with that.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Three-year probation, $\$ 250$ fine, and training.

Do we have others who want to comment regarding that?

DR. HILL: What would that training -- what --
MS. NEWTON: There's a Code of Ethics training video, there's a PLSB social media guideline training, and then there's a book on Active/Ethical Professional Behavior for Responsible Educators. So, all of that would be training with reflections to go along with that.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Further discussion?
Do I have a second?
MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll second that.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion by Ms. Newton, seconded by Ms. McFetridge.

All in favor? Roll-call.

## Sharon Hill Court Reporting

DR. HILL: Can I just ask --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes, quick. DR. HILL: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I don't mean "quick;" I'm sorry. DR. HILL: How -- with him being in Louisiana, how would we -- how are those things, making sure that -- how do we wrap that up?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Dugan, can you --
DR. HILL: I mean, how do we --
CHAIRMAN zOOK: -- answer that for that us?
DR. HILL: -- get feedback?
MR. DUGAN: To my understanding it would be that he would have to complete those conditions. If he does not complete those conditions, then this board could suspend his license.

Is that correct, Mr . James?
MR. JAMES: (Nodding head up and down.)
MR. DUGAN: That would be my understanding.
DR. HILL: How will we know this process is ongoing through this three-year period of time? I mean, how do we have those checks and balances to validate that he is --

MS. NEWTON: I think the training has to be completed within -- is it 60 days? I can't remember.

MR. DUGAN: Not the training. To my
understanding though the fine has to be paid within -- is it 90 days?

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
MR. DUGAN: I believe 90 days of the State Board order.

Mr. James, the training --
I mean, I see it when --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. James, do you want to come to the podium please?

MR. DUGAN: -- that they -- it will show when they've completed it.

MR. JAMES: In that letter that's sent to the Educator and their attorney they will be advised as to the requirements; they have to submit it to our office where we check-mark that that's been completed. If it's not completed or if there's they don't pay the fine in the amount of time, then it'll go into Licensure where they will put that license -- it'll become a licensure action for failure to adhere to the parameters you set forth.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So the school where he is, or any school where he may go, will get notice, and then y'all will flag it for a timeline?

MR. JAMES: Yeah. The three-year -- if it's three-year probation, during that time he has the
requirement to submit that information to us within that timeframe. Now as far as the school being notified initially from -- after you make your decision the school will be notified by letter from our office as well.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And if he changed schools would that letter follow him?

MR. DUGAN: No. And if it's probation --
Oh, excuse me?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No. No, microphone.
SECRETARY KEY: Microphone.
MR. DUGAN: If it is a probation, then the school is not notified of -- we don't send a letter out to the school; we send a letter to the Complainant in that case. So it's just a suspension or revocation, if that person is still teaching, that we send a letter to that school.

MR. GIGLIO: May I suggest --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Wait till you come to the microphone. We're being live-streamed, so --

MR. GIGLIO: May I suggest that this board could make it a requirement upon Mr . de la Paz to furnish evidence from his employer, whoever it may be, from time to time -- we suspect it's going to be Vermillion High School where he's teaching now --
that he must furnish from his employer the necessary evidence that you all require that he is fulfilling the terms of his probation. He also has evidence -excuse me -- he also has information that --

Did I say what you intended to say?
MR. DE LA PAZ: The -- I -- when I first got hired I applied for a Louisiana teaching license through reciprocity, and part of that was turning over my Arkansas teaching license. And then once I -- through the paperwork I had to notify -- I notified the Louisiana State Board of the pending investigation two years ago, when it started. And so I can't get my teaching license in Louisiana; they won't grant it until these proceedings are done. And so when -- I trust that if the motion passes with any training the Louisiana State Board is going to be notified of the training requirements that $I$ have to complete in that probationary period. And so I don't know if that helps answer how you would know. But certainly my principal, knowing of the proceedings anyway, and will be notified of whatever the final recommendation is, would certainly be willing to provide quarterly or monthly progress on any training that you would require me to do. So I don't know if that helps.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I think what your attorney is saying is another way you can show personal responsibility is that if you take it upon yourself to be in communication and notify and take the training and --

MR. DE LA PAZ: Notify the --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- not rely on your mentor.
MR. DE LA PAZ: -- the State Board. Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
DR. HILL: For the entire three years.
MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes.
DR. HILL: I mean that's what I -- that's the piece -- I don't want it to be a 90-day completion and we don't hear anything else over the process. I mean --

MR. DE LA PAZ: I understand.
DR. HILL: -- I want a --
MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
DR. HILL: -- thorough three-year update quarterly, however that's going to be, back to them, you know, that -- with your mentor writing and saying, "We've had no evidence of any inappropriate contact," dah-dah-dah-dah-dah --

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
DR. HILL: -- by granting you this opportunity.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
DR. HILL: Now you can be assured that you will make sure that happens; you'll take the initiative -MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So does the motion need to be amended to that degree or --

MR. DUGAN: Beg your pardon?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: The motion, does it need to be amended to include who's going to be in contact with you-all, who's responsible, those kinds of things?

MS. FRENO: Madam Chair, I think that would be the cleanest way to do it is if the motion would be amended to include those items so that way we'd have that on the record.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Newton, do you want to amend your motion?

MS. NEWTON: Yes. Dr. Hill, do you want to do it quarterly or semi-annually? How do you want to --

DR. HILL: Whatever the teacher -- I mean --
MS. NEWTON: Probably end-of-semester would probably work.

DR. HILL: Yeah, end-of-semester would be fine.
MS. NEWTON: So --
DR. HILL: Each semester.
MS. NEWTON: -- a report from the district or
the Educator? DR. HILL: I think we were saying -MS. NEWTON: The Educator? DR. HILL: the Educator. MS. NEWTON: Educator, at the end of the semester, that you had no other violations and that you are actively working on rehabilitation.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And I guess we could say from the Educator and the person who's hired him? MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And so --
MR. GIGLIO: Yes, ma'am.
MS. NEWTON: SO I think though --
MR. GIGLIO: I would suggest that he be required
to furnish evidence from his principal, no matter what principal.

DR. HILL: Yes.
MR. GIGLIO: Because the same school could hire him but a different principal.

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does that work?
MS. NEWTON: So evidence from the principal at the end of each semester that he is fulfilling the terms of his probation and has gotten into no further consequences from bad decisions.

MR. GIGLIO: Just to clarify, semesters are different in Louisiana. There are two semesters -the fall/winter and the spring. Is it a proper understanding that he would have to do it twice?

MS. NEWTON: Yes.
MR. GIGLIO: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So we have a motion that was amended. Will the person second the amended motion? MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. We have a motion and a second.

Ms. Donovan, do we need to restate it or did you get that?

MS. DONOVAN: I got it.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
All in favor -- roll-call.
SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
DR. HILL: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
MR. WILLIAMSON: No.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

DR. MOORE: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.
MS. DEAN: Yes.
SECRETARY KEY: Six in favor, one against.
MS. CHAMBERS: Can I make a comment?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers has something she'd like to say.

MS. CHAMBERS: Yeah, I just want to make a comment because it's a tough -- it needed to be a tough vote. I just so -- my background is human resources and so pattern is always what you're looking at. And we heard you say many good things about the acknowledgement of not being professional, but this goes so far beyond professionalism. It's really poor judgment. And I just want to make sure -- I didn't hear you say this, and I don't even know that the coursework will get at it, but it's not just about texts; it's about insuring you never put yourself in a situation again where a relationship like this could develop. And you have to be really conscious of that because it's not a level playing field with a child, a student. No matter how mature they seem, this wasn't a fair fight. And so it's so
important that on a very, very personal level you take this opportunity to kind of -- I won't say doover because the damage is done, but insure that it's never done again. I just want to make sure you heard that from us.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you. And --
Oh, Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: I just have one other comment along those lines. Dr. Hill brought it out very well that you are entrusted with parents' children that they love very much, and you've got to take that trust seriously. You cannot ever, ever put yourself in a situation like this again, cannot violate that trust. You've got to avoid -- you've got to go way above what anybody else in that district does. You've got to avoid the very appearance of evil. You've got to do what it takes to be a good educator. You've got to do what it takes to make sure those kids get a good education. They're entrusting you every day with those children and you've got to make sure that you do what you're supposed to do and not put yourself and, more importantly, not put a child in this situation ever again. And I hope you understand that we don't want to see you back here again.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
MS. NEWTON: And if we see you back the outcome is going to be a whole lot different than what it was today. So I hope you understand that we have taken this very seriously and we are expecting much better out of you than what we heard today.

MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN NATIONS: Anything else?
MR. DUGAN: Madam Chair, just I want to make sure when I draft the order I have it correct. So it's a three-years probation, $\$ 250$ fine --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: (Nodding head up and down.)
MR. DUGAN: Thank you, ma'am. And if you don't mind, Madam Chair, just those trainings that were brought up?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton has it written down.
(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Newton hands Mr. Dugan a list of trainings.)

MR. DUGAN: May I borrow this, Ms. Newton, to make a photocopy?

And then also the evidence from the principal twice a year that he is -- he's following his probation?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Whoever the principal may be.
MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. Was there anything
else?
Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We didn't hear from the parents, but I can, I think, express for the Board we hope that this young lady is doing fine.

A-3: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ASSESSMENT (SSA) FOR P-12 DISTRICT LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Being nothing further, I think we're ready for the next item -- School Superintendent Assessment for P-12 District Level Administrator.

MR. DUGAN: Are we free to go?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You are free to go, Mr. Dugan.
MR. ROWLAND: Good morning, all. Michael
Rowland with the Department Division, filling in for Ms. Luneau today.

Educational Testing Service has updated its School Superintendent Assessment. Arkansas is currently using the SSA 6021 as its administrator -district level administrator license assessment. ETS is replacing this with the 6991.

In April, ETS brought a copy of the 6991 for review by Arkansas administrators and administrator preparation faculty. ETS presented data from a multistate standard-setting study, which included a
test study value. As a result of this state review, participants recommend a cut score of 157. To allow administrator preparation providers to update their programs of study, the Department is recommending a start-date of September 1, 2020. For Board action, the Department recommends adopting the school superintendent assessment 6991 with a cut score of 157, effective September 1, 2020. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anyone have any questions? Seeing none, do I have a motion? DR. MOORE: I do.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, sorry. I apologize. I
looked away too soon.
DR. MOORE: Yeah. Is this a big change? Is this something you've received feedback from superintendents with any concerns or --

MR. ROWLAND: We did. Well, we -- at the April review that was their opportunity to review it. ETS updates their tests when there's $20 \%$ or so changes in standards, national standards, and they felt it was warranted to do that in this case. So they're replacing their existing one, which we are currently using as our district level, with this one. So we're recommending -- as the panel that reviewed it and the PLSB also agreed to replace it with the 6991.

DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And this will be for new superintendents?

MR. ROWLAND: Ma'am?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: This will be for new -MR. ROWLAND: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- superintendents?
MR. ROWLAND: Yes. Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No more questions?
Do I have a motion?
DR. MOORE: Motion to approve.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Dr. Moore. Second by

MS. DEAN: (holding up a finger)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- Ms. Dean.
Sorry, I didn't see you; I didn't turn around fast enough.

Okay. All in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?
Motion passes.
MR. ROWLAND: Thank you.
A-4: APPROVAL OF DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS (DLM) CUT SCORES
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Approval of the Dynamic
Learning Map cut scores.
Sharon Hill Court Reporting

MS. WORSHAM: Good morning. Hope Worsham from the Department of Education, Director, Assessment. And I believe you have these slides I'm going to walk you through today. We are requesting approval of the Dynamic Learning Maps cut scores.

Closer -- thank you.
(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Worsham steps closer to the podium microphone.)

MS. WORSHAM: 2018-2019 was our first administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps. This is the assessment that we use with our alternate population, so $1 \%$ of students that are severely cognitively disabled and by federal law are allowed to take an alternate assessment instead of taking ACT Aspire. We do require within our rules State Board approval of the cut scores. And this will be the first year that we have scores and would like to approve the consortium adopted cut scores. So I'll give you a little more information about the scores that we're seeking.

So, first of all, the Dynamic Learning Maps is given in grades 3 through 10. This year we did give the test in grade 11 for math and ELA. That's an anomaly; it's just because our students in 11th grade have not had a high school test. So moving forward
it will be grades 3 through 10, just like ACT Aspire. Dynamic Learning Maps is given in 11 other -- or 10 other states, 11 including Arkansas, and our first administration was in '18-19.

So the ELA and math cut scores were established prior to us joining the consortium. There were teachers from across the other states that were members at that time that participated in that process. The Technical Advisory Committee gave input all throughout the process. We've reviewed the documents and feel that the process they went through is very technically sound and defensible, and the other states have all adopted the cut scores as proposed by the consortium.

I provided you with the cut scores; they're on the screen. What's important for us is these are the data from Arkansas this year. And so what we would be proposing are that students that are at target or advanced, which is the far right column that you see there, is equivalent to ready and exceeding in our Arkansas system for ACT Aspire. So the nice thing about DLM is there are four cut levels, just like for ACT Aspire, and we're able to assign points the same as we do for Aspire. So emerging would be zero points and the ESSA system approaching would be a
half and so-on, just like one for at-target and advanced is one or one-and-a-half depending on the numbers.

So across the state for Arkansas in ELA you see the percentages on the far right of our number of students that were scoring in those top two categories. And these are the numbers for math -- so anywhere from $24 \%$ down to $13 \%$ of our students scoring at those two levels.

This assessment is given across the year, so it's not given all at one time in the end-of-year, which is why we made the switch to DLM. The test is given in small little chunks and students are able to digest that information as needed and when ready; so then teachers can give the test at any point throughout the year in small little bits.

For science, when we came on the cut scores were already established for 4-5, 6-8, and high school. So again we were not part of that process, but we do feel that the process was followed, was sound, technically sound. The Technical Advisory Committee signed off on that and we think that the cut scores are appropriate. But Arkansas did get to participate in the establishment of the cut scores for a couple of grades that were not already established for
science, and that would be 3-7 and -- 3 and 7. So you can see Arkansas had four educators out of the nine, and that is because Arkansas is the only state right now that's using the science assessment in every grade -- and we do that because we also do that with ACT Aspire. So we had nice representation on this panel for the science cut scores. As soon as we joined on, DLM was very open to having us participate in all -- any activity that we could and send our educators.

Again, the same approach was applied across consistently. All three assessments we feel are technically sound. The Technical Advisory Committee was a part of the process the entire time. There were five steps that they followed. The panels went through and reviewed, they recommended, and they came back to consensus.

So for Arkansas -- I'm going to skip over this -- grade 7, we were a part of that committee; we were also part of the grade 3 committee. But for Arkansas, we would propose that the cut scores that the consortium recommends we also adopt in our state. And these are the percentages of Arkansas students on the science assessment that are scoring at the top two levels.

So $A D E$ is requesting State Board approval of the DLM proposed cut scores for ELA, math, and science. And I will entertain any questions you have now.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore.
DR. MOORE: Yes. I know there are some challenges when you give a test the first year. What was the overall feedback of the assessment by teachers and districts?

MS. WORSHAM: Yeah, great question. The feedback was that there were some challenges giving the assessment across the year. Giving science in every grade level was new; we had only done 5, 7 and 10 previously, in a portfolio style. The feedback overall has been that the assessment is a good educational tool. And we are actually doing training right now. I have people training in co-ops on how to use the assessment as an instructional tool; and so we have about 1,000 -- I may be -- 600 educators signed up across 15 sessions this summer to come to that training, and that has been very well received and great feedback.

DR. MOORE: That's great. As far as the -- I noticed on the scores that the amount ready decreases per grade level. Do y'all have any ideas behind why that may be occurring?

MS. WORSHAM: I do not. And again with it being our first year this is our baseline data, and so I would probably know more as the assessment goes forward. As our teachers get comfortable giving this style of assessment I would assume -- I would hope to see those scores move up.

DR. MOORE: Thank you.
MS. WORSHAM: Uh-huh.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson? Ms. McFetridge? Anyone on this side?

Okay. I have a question. I'm assuming since the end number is probably not 10 or 15 this score will not go into figuring the letter grade for the school. Is that correct?

MS. WORSHAM: That is a question I would have to defer to Ms. Coffman on.

MS. COFFMAN: Deborah Coffman, Department of Ed.
All student scores are included into the accountability unless they meet the guidelines for exclusion. Just because they're a low number, those numbers are not reported publicly. If you go to our report card you'll see that for -- through our suppression those numbers are limited so as not to identify a student to the public. But every student is included --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
MS. COFFMAN: -- in accountability.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you for clarifying.
SECRETARY KEY: I have a question.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Secretary.
SECRETARY KEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
Could you go back to the ELA results --
MS. WORSHAM: Sure.
SECRETARY KEY: -- slide, please? So 3 through 7 you see pretty strong results, and then there's a significant decline in the number 8 through 11 . Any conclusions that $y$ 'all have been able to draw from that at this point?

MS. WORSHAM: Not at this point. Again, with it being baseline data and with our teachers getting used to the new format of the assessment could have some impact on that. The training this summer, again, has been very well received, so I think that we will see the assessment being better utilized next year. And it really should be given throughout the year as an instructional tool, and I think some of our districts were not in tune to that yet this year. So, I don't have a reason but that could be part of why.

SECRETARY KEY: And is there anything we can
learn about that approach to assessment that might apply on a larger scale as giving it in smaller chunks through the course of the year? And the reason I ask that is because, you know, we -- the states do have the opportunity for some flexibility in how they conduct their assessment and what type of assessments they have. So, just curious if you have any thoughts about that methodology?

MS. WORSHAM: Yeah. I think that was one of our draws to changing to DLM is that -- to see how this approach worked. There is a lot of evidence that formative -- good formative assessment across the year is the foundation for good learning. And so I think that, yes, there is room in our overall state system to look at eventually could we move to some type of assessment that is similar to this generally. And I don't think that it's out of the question; I think it's just a matter of how do we use assessment. We don't want to over-burden schools with testing too much, but help them to understand that assessment is a tool for learning and not -- yeah -- to inform learning, not --

SECRETARY KEY: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Did they get the same kind of results as far as percent of students tested that we
got with the ACT Aspire?
MS. WORSHAM: As far as like 95\% --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Uh-huh.
MS. WORSHAM: -- of students testing? Yes. So
the percent of students taking the assessment was in line with where it should be.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything else?
Do I have a motion?
DR. MOORE: Move to approve.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore moves. Do I have a second?

MS. DEAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean seconds.
All in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.
MS. WORSHAM: Thank you.
SECRETARY KEY: While -- before she gets too far away, Madam Chair, some of you may have seen the paper today, some of you may have not. But Hope is going to be leaving our team and joining the Little Rock School District team, and Mr. Poore has recommended her for the position of Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. So that's a great opportunity for her and a great move for Little

Rock, but we will miss her for sure.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you, Ms. Worsham.
A-5: DISTRICT REQUEST FOR WAIVERS GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTERS
a) SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. The next item is 1240 waivers. Ms. McLaughlin.

I will remind you that $5(b)$ was pulled, so we will do (a), (c), and then thereafter.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, ma'am. Kelly McLaughlin with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

First, we have action item A-5 (a), Southside School District. As a reminder, the district will have 20 minutes to make their presentation. Any opposition will also have 20 minutes as well, and the district will then have 5 minutes to respond before the question-and-answer begins.

As you know, Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools. And we do have representatives from the Southside School District appearing before the Board for petitions for waivers of Class Size and Teaching Load. Their 90 days will
expire on September 19th, and they are requesting for three years, ending on June 30, 2022.

We have Roger Rich, superintendent; Novella Humphrey, the director of curriculum and federal programs; and Dr. Kimberly Crosby, assistant professor of education and director of teacher education at Lyon College. And you will want to swear them in.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Help remind me since -is this considered like a charter and conversion charter where it's a verbal contract so they need to be put under -- they need to be sworn in, or is this

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: (Nodding head up and down.)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: They do?
MS. McLAUGHLIN: They do need to all three be sworn in.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. So if anyone --
MS. McLAUGHLIN: Except the lawyer, and I don't believe that any of those three are lawyers.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Rich doesn't need a lawyer.
If you'll stand and raise your hand -- do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You may approach the podium.

SUPT. RICH: I'm Roger Rich. I'm the superintendent of Southside School District, just south of Batesville. And Madam Chair, Board, Secretary Key, thank you for the opportunity to come today.

I have two individuals with me today who are really the architects behind all the work, and that's Novella Humphrey, our curriculum coordinator -anything great that's done within our school district she actually does it and her hands are all over that -- and Dr. Crosby with Lyon College, a great partner of ours.

So as Superintendent of Schools I think one of the most important things that I'm tasked with is to put high quality people in the classroom; that's where it all takes place. And so I kind of want to tell our history today, if I can, about how we want to make sure that we have great teachers in the classroom and our innovative way that we've tried to come up with here to combat the teacher shortage in our area, if I could.

We were a teacher cadet pilot school when it
first started. And the neat thing about that now is we're starting to see those students graduate and become certified teachers. I'll tell a couple of stories of individuals that I'm very proud of:

The first young lady, she contacted us about a month ago and 11 days short of her 20th birthday; she is -- now has her teaching certification. She left us with 54 concurrent credit hours. She got into the teacher education program at Arkansas State after her first semester; caused some issues there, trying to figure out how those obstacles and barriers were to be -- to go around. And we're extremely proud of her; she has her certification, she's going to get her master's degree at Harding University, and at 21 years old we'll be recruiting her back to be back at her alma mater teaching in our classroom and doing great things for kids.

Another story that I'm equally as proud of -- a young lady took a different path. She had a child as a junior in high school. That would've -- could've taken a lot of people off that path, but she continued to go with the support system she had, both at home and at school. Her goal was to be a nurse. So her future story is what we're all about at Southside, trying to make future stories come true.

We helped her go that direction -- and she had a change of heart, which is great as well. You want to find out what you don't want to do early and not waste a lot of time and money. But three years after high school she now has her teaching certification; decided she didn't want to be a nurse, wants to be a teacher. We did not have an opening in the area that she is certified in or would be able to help us, and she's teaching in a neighboring district. And I hope they don't get too used to having her because we'll be recruiting her back to come back to work as well.

But those are the stories and those are the things that kind of get us to where we're going today. These things don't happen by accident. We have great partners and we're very, very blessed and very lucky. But our strong partnership with our twoyear community college, with Lyon College, and with our universities is at an all-time high right now and we're very fortunate and proud of that.

We have a conversion charter at our 9-12, so that gives us some opportunities 9-12. But some of our other areas we don't have that, and that's what we're looking at today.

We have bi-monthly meetings with UACCB when we first started our conversion charter -- sit-down
meeting with their leadership team every-other-month, which we've been able to do some fantastic things for kids by having those meetings. But that's grown to not just Southside and UACCB; it's grown to eight area high schools that come together bi-monthly with Lyon College, with UACCB and other representatives in that area to do what's best for kids, do what's best for education in Independence County.

So our goal with this -- when we sat down and started talking we wanted to try to develop welders, nurses, all those type things for our community. Sad to say we did not really take care of ourselves. Collectively, education in Independence County is the second largest non-manufacturing employer in our county, and we were taking care of everybody else but ourselves. So we wanted to try to do some things to grow our teachers and create a teacher pipeline coming back within our schools. So our goal is not only to recruit, but our goal is to retain great teachers because they're the ones that make the difference. So, one way to do that is to reduce the time to degree and the cost. So with the hard work of these two ladies and others, you can get a fouryear degree in Independence County, going to UACCB and Lyon College, for $\$ 15,000$, and that's before PELL
or anything else; so those that are eligible for PELL can get it for less than that. They sit down with a seamless transition on how you could do a four-year degree and stay right there at home and make it very affordable for our kids and for parents. If you have a student that -- or child of yours that's went on to college recently or is going right now, it's quite expensive. So anything we can do to keep that cost down we definitely want to do so.

So the time to degree with our partnership with our colleges -- over half of our student body that graduated our senior class has taken at least one concurrent credit class and half of those kids have at least a semester or more. So those are the things that we want to make sure that we do, that we cut that down to make it easier for them and to cut the cost down.

We had a formal MOU that was developed by Lyon College and UACCB to insure that they can get that four-year degree and sit down and not only work with our counselors so they can make sure that they can counsel families and students, how they can do that and do so affordably.

So one question you might have is -- we've been here four different times asking for long-term sub
waivers for our K - 6 program. We think we have a pretty good fit for what we were doing $\mathrm{K}-6$, but we didn't have a 7-12 type model and that's what we're trying to look at today. The four interns that we've asked for in the past are all teachers for us now -another example of how sometimes we get in the way of ourselves. Thank goodness the Department and others have been so gracious to look outside the box and try to help with the teacher pipeline, though -- we had a young lady who'd worked for us for almost five years in our preschool program; she had five children within our school district. All this time that she was going back to school, trying to get her teaching degree -- she was going to have to leave the job that she has and we're paying her to go and intern for nothing at a nearby school district to come back to us to hopefully teach in our classroom. So the waiver that we received allowed her to be able to not only continue working in our district, but also to be paid a salary where she could continue to afford to go and support her family.

So at the K-6 level some of the things that we had in place were instructional facilitators to support and mentor our interns. At the 7-12 grade level in our district, that's something that we don't
have at this particular point in time. So we want to design a model that, for our interns to be supported by lead teachers or master teachers similar to an opportunity culture type school.

We turned to our partner, Dr. Crosby, at this time and with meeting together they've developed a program that also -- we want to make sure that we meet the expectations that they have as a college, meet the expectations that we have as a school district, and to be able to provide the support for our interns that are needed.

The plan as written has a written commitment with multiple layers inside that to support personnel, resources, professional development, and release time as well.

Our 7-12 model values the time for interns to observe, co-teach, teach, reflect, and prepare for instruction. The interns will observe under this model two class periods per day and then they will teach four periods per day and then have planning time to go along with that. Also, they will be involved in our grade level and our content area PLCs. And these interns would have to go through a collaborative interview process with our school district, with Lyon College, and personnel from each
institution. Lyon College will have the final say-so for those individuals; they know those students and they know who can handle this and who can't. I don't think it's for every particular intern, but I do think that this would work good for some interns. So our only goal here is to try to put high quality people in the classroom, cut time to degree for some people, make people want to stay in the teaching profession, and continue to do great things for kids. So that's all that I have at this particular point in time. And we'll ask any -- answer any questions that you have for us or for these two ladies.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Let me check and see if we have any opposition.

MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We do not. Okay.
If you want to close -- or if the Panel has questions at this point, or do you want to wait till he finishes?

Okay. Ms. McFetridge.
MS. McFetridge: I'm just curious, I didn't see it in here, maybe it is, but do you require these interns to work -- come back and work for you? Is there a requirement in there for that to happen?

SUPT. RICH: Yes, for that to happen they would definitely have to work for us -- come back and work for us.

MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. So it's in your agreement along with that?

SUPT. RICH: Yes, ma'am.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You may close.
SUPT. RICH: We are closed. Thank you so much.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. I have -- go ahead, Secretary.

SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Rich, so Dr. Pfeffer and I have been talking about your -- this model for I guess three years now. Is that right? Is that how long it's been going?

SUPT. RICH: Just about three years.
SECRETARY KEY: And so we've been encouraging other districts that have come to us and said, "Hey, what are y'all going to do about the teacher shortage?" And we say, "Well, what are y'all doing about it?" You know, "Go to Southside and look to see what they did. They were very proactive and innovative." And so, Ms. Humphrey, you know how much we've tried to direct people to you. How many districts have actually talked to y'all about
replicating or at least tailoring a model similar to this in their own districts with their own local higher ed. partners?

MS. HUMPHREY: In the last school year we've visited with at least four districts.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Identify yourself.
MS. HUMPHREY: I'm sorry. I'm Novella Humphrey from Southside School District.

In the last school year I know at least four. Plus, within our co-op we meet as a group often, the instructional leaders, and so we've talked about it within that group; so those 15, 16 school districts within our immediate educational co-op area. And then we had visits from three -- or phone calls from three to four districts in the last school year, and the prior school year we had at least three schools. And then we've had a couple of higher education institutions join our joint meetings at UACCB and Lyon College just to observe and see how we talk and interact and problem-solve together.

SECRETARY KEY: Okay. Good. Thank you.
MS. HUMPHREY: Uh-huh.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Newton.
MS. NEWTON: I have a couple of questions, Mr.
Rich. First of all, I want to thank you because you
recognize what I think Mr . Key is getting at, that -you said that "we've been helping everyone else, it was time for us to help ourselves" --

SUPT. RICH: Yes, ma'am.
MR. NEWTON: -- and I think that's what a lot of districts around the state need to start looking at. A couple of questions: this is going to be for secondary, correct, 7-12?

SUPT. RICH: 7-12. Yes, ma'am.
MS. NEWTON: And so you talked about that the intern would have a planning time. Is that going to be a common planning time with a mentor?

SUPT. RICH: Our plan is to assign them to a master teacher and have that common planning time. MS. NEWTON: Have a common planning time, okay. Good.

And then how many interns are you looking at trying to do in a year?

SUPT. RICH: I don't think it needs to be very many at one time. We had two prior in our K -6 program. One to two possibly at the most --

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
SUPT. RICH: -- each year.
MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then have you talked to parents and teachers about the possibilities of
starting this at the secondary level?
SUPT. RICH: We have talked with a group of teachers this week. We have not reached out to our parents at this particular point in time, but we will insure -- make sure that we do so.

MS. NEWTON: Okay. What has been the reception in the past from your community at the elementary level for what you've done?

SUPT. RICH: They were extremely pleased. And, of course, these are our own.

MS . NEWTON: Right.
SUPT. RICH: We're tracking our own kids. We track every child that leaves us and we've really been honing in on those who have an interest in education. We're going to follow them over the next three or four years and see exactly what they're doing because we want someone that's invested, wants to be in that area, wants to be in that school, knows our culture, knows what we're about, and what makes us a little different; you know, they have to have that servant's heart that we're looking for --

MS . NEWTON: Right.
SUPT. RICH: -- and it's hard to teach that sometimes.

MS. NEWTON: Yes, that's correct. I think
that's all I've got. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else on this side?
Ms. Chambers.
MS. CHAMBERS: My question is similar to Ms. Newton's in terms of the existing tenured teachers. So they feel good about this?

SUPT. RICH: (Nodding head up and down.)
MS. CHAMBERS: With gift comes responsibilities, especially if we're going to replicate this. I do think it'll be really helpful what you learn about engaging your more tenured teachers. You used the word "retention" earlier, and this has the opportunity to create a bigger, stronger base but the ladder is even stronger as you develop your more experienced teachers. And so I'm hopeful that you'll be able to capture what's working well and what's not so that as others come into this space we can accelerate the benefit of what you're doing. But I love the innovation.

SUPT. RICH: Thank you.
MS. CHAMBERS: So it'll be fun to see how these teachers do as they come back into the program as full-time professional teachers.

SUPT. RICH: Awesome. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge? Mr. Williamson?

Dr. Moore?
Okay. I have a couple of questions.
Working with secondary students and close to their same age, what kind of help and training will you be giving them with regard to classroom management and -- well, and she knows what I'm asking.

MS. HUMPHREY: As we have grown over the last two years, we instituted a new teacher academy. This will be our third summer of doing that. We spend about four days of intensive time with just novice teachers or new to our district, but novice teachers especially, and we go through classroom management, we go through assessment procedures, we go through cultural expectations, and also many things about being 22 years old and teaching an 18-year old; and so what's the professional standards that we should uphold and maintain every single day. We go beyond the ethics training that's required and we have conversations. And actually this year two of our novice teachers that completed the program are going to come back and lead that session. They really gained a lot of information, and as things unfolded through their first year of teaching they went back to things from that day. And so they just
voluntarily emailed this summer and said, "Hey, can we come lead that day?" And we said, "Absolutely." So they're really taking an active leadership role in that training.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And you mentioned the receptiveness by the teachers. What about the parents and the students?

MS. HUMPHREY: In the past at $\mathrm{K}-6$ the -- one of the students -- the first intern we came and asked for, she had taught for five years in our district as a parapro in a preschool classroom; so parents were very receptive to her because the relationship and trust was already built. So with this individual -as we move forward at 7 -12 we want to do the same thing -- introduce them to families, give them opportunities to build relationships at open house and those back-to-school activities.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I notice based on your ACT Aspire scores your -- if you look at the same cohort as they progress over '17, '18, to '19, you're making good progress with the cohort until you get to 7th to 10th and 8th to 10th. So just be careful with --

MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- the novice teacher that you
don't lose ground, because y'all are, you know, doing a lot of things. But that did sort of jump out at me.

MS. HUMPHREY: Yes. And then, so our Structures training and some other phonics trainings begin for junior high teachers in two weeks. So with approval today we'll be able to -- if the novice teacher is -or the intern is teaching literacy, we'll be able to embed them within all of the professional development.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I know you're using Phonics First with your dyslexic students.

MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: But I'm a little bit troubled by the -- that only 13 are being interventioned, and all the data shows that it's typically a much higher percentage based on student population.

MS. HUMPHREY: Yes. For --
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So can you help me with that?
MS. HUMPHREY: For eight years we've had a very intensive RTI program at our elementary and we have worked hand-in-hand with teachers and parents and literacy specialists through the co-ops. So we often identify early and intervene, and so most of the time that dyslexia has been coming at a later level
because we're catching up quicker. We have room to grow and we will see -- we had some referrals at the end of school-year, so I think we'll see that number grow. Our teachers are in Structures, they're in Phonics First, they're in RISE training this summer. And then our new dyslexia plan was unveiled to principals last --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And your speech therapist as well?

MS. HUMPHREY: Yes, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
MS. HUMPHREY: All three of them.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right. Well, thank you.
MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any more questions?
Do I have a motion?
MS. NEWTON: I just have one more. Is this a five-year waiver?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes, it was -- three is what they -- yeah, three years.

Do I have a motion?
MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll move to approve this waiver request.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I have a motion by Ms.
McFetridge. Second by --

MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- Ms. Chambers.
All in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
Okay. Let me look at this just a minute.
Okay. Would somebody let Mr. Ballard know that we will likely deal with -- okay -- we'll likely deal with that after lunch, because lunch is here and we've got one more to go. So if you will, let him know -- or let yourself know.
c) WESTERN YELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McLaughlin.
MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. For action item A$5(c)$, Western Yell County School District is appearing before the Board to request Superintendent Licensure waivers. Their 90 days will expire on September 28th, and they are requesting for one year ending on June 30, 2020. We do have Tommy Fink, board president; Julie Lane, the curriculum coordinator; and Herschel Cleveland here. And you will wish to swear them all in.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
MS. McLAUGHLIN: Except for Mr. Cleveland
actually is an attorney, so --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Well, we like for attorneys to promise too.

If you'll please stand, raise your right hand -do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.
You have 20 minutes.
MR. FINK: Thank you, Madam Chairman and Members of the State Board. I'm Tommy Fink, president of Western Yell County School Board. And we're here to request a waiver or ask for a waiver to hire Mr. Herschel Cleveland as our superintendent for a year.

On June 27th our present -- our past superintendent left us, and it was kind of late there, and we didn't know it. We're a real small community; no one on our staff certified to do this. We hope that we can get Mr. Cleveland. He's really well respected in the community. No one in the community since we have -- it's got out that we were wanting to do this has had anything to say negative. The local newspaper run an article and in their rambling or in their -- editor for the last of it, he even said that he hoped that he was granted the
waiver, that he could help us out. And the whole board -- when this happened we were looking and his name come up and we wanted to talk to him. And once we talked to him the whole board was unanimous not to even check with anyone else. It was before a fivemember board; it was a five-oh vote to hire him for a year if we could get Board approval. And he's really well respected in the community. And I know we will evaluate him and he'll evaluate the teachers. The community -- well, he works with the people, he works really well, and he's not -- you know, he doesn't have his certification, and I know that was a problem. But we feel like that he fits our community because, like I say, we're real small; we're hanging around 350, and we need help. And we feel like that he definitely can help us at this time because -- I don't want to seem like -- a superintendent needs to be not only a superintendent of the school, he has to be in the community, people have to accept him, he has to work well with the community. And Mr. Cleveland -- I've not found anyone that he can't work with. And we're just hoping that -- we need some help and we're hoping that we can get him to help us. Thank you.

MR. CLEVELAND: Madam Chairperson, and I guess
now Secretary Key, and Members of the Board, we appreciate very much the opportunity to present this petition for a waiver.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And if you'll identify yourself?

MR. CLEVELAND: And my name is Herschel Cleveland and I'm the superintendent of Western Yell County, if y'all approve me, and my residence is in Paris, Arkansas, just across the mountain.

What I would like to do today is give you some information about Western Yell County School District; and then I would like to tell you a little bit about why I considered this job; and then we'll talk about the technology that Western Yell has; we'll talk about the data reporting system, the cycle reports, and the financial ability and planning, the academics -- I'm going to ask Ms. Julie Lane, who is our curriculum coordinator, to come up here in a few minutes and talk about the academics -- and the stakeholder communication, mentoring, and the evaluation.

And, Madam Chair, if you'll let me know when I have about eight minutes left I'll call Julie up here. I asked her to do it, but I can't continually look around.

Western Yell County is located up Highway 10; you head out Cantrell and you keep going -- and probably most of you know where it is. [Clearing throat] Excuse me because of my allergies. But Perryville is one school, the next one is Two Rivers, next one is Danville, and then Western Yell County. It has about 158 square miles of territory and we have about 350 students; so that means we have a square mile for every two-and-a-quarter students. So we've got lots of area to cover. We've got four bus routes and they carry about 40 per bus route, so it's about 160 transported students. The faculty is all certified; there's 35 of them -- approximately 35. And I would be the only non-certified one there. We have classified -- about 35 classified employees. And we have a student population that's predominantly Caucasian, but we do have -- the last count was 66 Hispanic, have 15 Asian, we have 8 Mixed Race, and we have 3 Indians, and 4 African Americans. So we do have a diverse school population.

Now the schools that are surrounding us that people through Freedom of Choice have asked to go to are Two Rivers, Danville, Magazine, Booneville, and Dardanelle. So that's basically -- and I assume that you could say there's some competition for Freedom of

Choice students among the schools, so we're going to have to compete for that.

We -- all of our facilities meet standards. We're asbestos-free. We have an assessment value in the district of about $\$ 32,000,000$. So, you know, it's -- we've got good things and some bad things, but we are really anxious to address any issues we have this year.

Let me tell you -- some of you know me or know a little about me, but I'm a lawyer by trade. I've got a BSBA from $U$ of $A$ and also a JD degree. Most of my life I've been a practicing lawyer and I thought I was getting away from that, except when $I$ went to Western Yell County I mean that's what I did for the first two or three days is look up the law on this Freedom of Choice. But I was also Juvenile Judge, so I saw a lot of the students come through court and dealt with them as Juvenile Judge. I also dealt with DHS cases. And a lot of your teachers have to leave school and go testify -- custody cases, they have to go testify. So it's a very interesting thing. I've served on your GT Commission here, back here, and they gave me an award back there years ago. But I served on the Higher Education Coordinator Board for several years, and it was an experience. What we
were trying to do is align the high schools with the college admission to get the courses that had to be taken over in college, try to get that reduced -- and I'm not sure how successful that's been. And then I did distance learning. You remember back when we had 13 different entities delivering distance learning. And then the GIS Board that's -- we have zoned school board membership, so -- I mean everybody has to run from a zone, so GIS becomes important. And I've learned lately it's important where those school district lines are; so we deal with those. But I have -- in addition to that, I've been in the military and basic officer school, advanced officer school, and I got half of the command and general staff school done. And I also have a certificate from Purdue that I did pension and profit-sharing from Purdue.

Now the thing that has really helped me is being a delegate when I was in the Legislature; I've been in the Legislature for six years. I served on the Education Committee all six years and sort of headed up the preschool effort to -- when I was in the Legislature we had $\$ 10,000,000$ for preschool; it was cut to $\$ 2,000,000$; we passed the beer tax, got it up to $\$ 12,000,000$; and then when we were doing adequacy
then we stepped it up to $\$ 100,000,000$. But I've noticed since I've been at West-Yell that we're still charging people to come to preschool, so -- but I've done that. I've done leadership training over a twoyear period with the Cooperative Extension Program and I've done committee work with NCSL, which is National Conference for State Legislators. I've done the governing board of the Southern Regional Education -- well, Southern Regional Board Committee and -- but the SREB, which is located in Atlanta -some of y'all may be delegates from Arkansas; I hope you are because this is the most fascinating group and I learned more there than I have anywhere. And they are actually working on the Science of Teaching, and I was hoping they would have a magic bullet someplace but they don't. You know, you get this packet and say, "We're going to show you how to improve your schools." And when you get down to it, it's the relationship of the teacher to the student, the competency of the teacher, and the support that the teacher gets. I mean that's -- but anyway, one thing that you might find amusing, I was one of two attorneys that first taught continuing legal education in China, in the Guangdong Province. You know China hasn't had attorneys very long. But we
went over there and I had to do a lesson plan for the Communist Party over there and submit it before they'd let me come. But there's $80,000,000$ people there, and that's fine. I have filled in for my wife at Arkansas Tech, which I enjoyed immensely. But -and I have appeared at lots of schools lots of times. I coached a moot court team for Paris, and we did fairly well; we had a competition at Fort Smith and

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have eight minutes.
MR. CLEVELAND: How many?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Eight.
MR. CLEVELAND: Left?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes.
MR. CLEVELAND: I'd better hurry. Okay.
Let me get on to our technology. I'm going to rush on through this. We have fiber to both of our campuses; we have a campus at Belleville and a campus at Havana. We've got fiber to that. We've got laptops for every kid and we are in good shape technology-wise.

The data reporting cycle reports, we have 13 people who will submit those. If y'all approve me, they'll submit them to me and I'm going to know what's in there before $I$ sign off.

We've got the financial planning. We've got a budget of about $\$ 2,000,000$-- or, I'm sorry, $\$ 3,000,000$-- $\$ 3,293,000$. And we've got $\$ 594,000$ in unexpended, unrestricted funds. And we've got about $\$ 600,000$ in the building fund. So we're okay. I would go into the budget farther if I had more time, but I think that tells you that we're really kind of okay for right now. But we are losing children and our grades -- we've got a grade D in elementary, we've got a grade C in high school, and I'm going to ask Julie to come up here and spend a couple of minutes telling you what we're doing to improve that. We've been working -- I've been working with the high school principal and the elementary principal and the curriculum coordinator to try to correct some of these problems.

Julie.
By the way, she's from Coal Hill originally.
MS. LANE: Hi. I am Julie Lane; I'm the curriculum coordinator. I want to speak to the academics.

As you know, we have a D and a C. The elementary will possibly qualify for Level 3 support in reading in the $19-20$ school year.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Excuse me for interrupting.

Will you pull your mic down closer to your mouth? MS. LANE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.
MS. LANE: Thank you.
Prior to this we have been working to improve reading scores. The $\mathrm{K}-2$ teachers are trained in RISE, and they were trained the 18-19 school year and worked closely with Tanya Newton from Arch Ford. This summer the grades $3-6$ will be attending RISE and K-2 teachers are attending Phonics First training. We are hopeful for the improved reading scores from the RISE and Phonics First program. We're also working on training the K-6 staff in Sound Walls and incorporating the Sound Walls in the elementary buildings. We feel involving everyone is a process that will help increase reading scores.

During the 18-19 school year, I worked with the elementary principal and $\mathrm{K}-6$ teachers on re-writing the written curriculum and insuring standards were vertically and horizontally aligned. During the 19 -- the 2019-20 school year, the K-6 teachers will continue fine-tuning their written curriculum. Also during this school year the administration will be working with 7-12 students on re-writing their written curriculum, as well as insuring it is
aligned.
Last year I started looking over the dyslexia intervention program. We are using Barton. We served 46 students K -12 during the 18-19 school year and we're working closely with the teachers to identify students early for this program. We know that early is the key and the teachers have to have that knowledge.

Since July 1st, when Mr. Cleveland was hired pending ADE Board approval, we met several times to discuss the elementary and have started developing plans. We met Tuesday with an unpaid consultant, Leona Cleveland, to insure our plan for the elementary was appropriate. She determined the plan was appropriate. We feel the focus on the elementary will pay dividends to the high school test scores. The superintendent, principal and my-self will spend more time in the classrooms to insure teaching and learning and time on task.

I believe, if given the chance, Mr . Cleveland will help our school improve academically and will be focused on teaching and learning, as well as the finances. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything?
MR. CLEVELAND: Herschel Cleveland again. And
we are developing a team approach to things. I don't think that anybody -- any one person can get done in a school what needs to be done; it takes effort from everybody, including the community. And I was told yesterday that one of the churches in the district is giving all the children their initial school supplies. I just couldn't believe that, but that is -- I mean that's an indication that the community supports you. That doesn't mean there's not people that get upset and want to transfer their kid out of there.

The mentoring -- I heard a little bit about mentoring this morning. But even though I have a little age on me I don't have superintendent experience, and I know that. And I would be glad to go through the mentoring program and have a mentor, if I'm approved for this job. And the evaluation that the Board will give me -- I've been trying to get hold of Richard Abernathy because it's my understanding he has an evaluation tool for evaluating superintendents. In talking with Mr. Fink, I'm sure they'll want to evaluate me. They've offered only a one-year contract, which is what we would like. I mean, we would like to grow somebody that'll stay in that community, grow with that
school, and do everything that needs to be done. I found out through the years, because I was married -I am married to a former superintendent of Western Yell County and she -- and one of the reasons I agreed to do this is she told me how good the people were, plus I grew up not far from there and know some of them. And then my son wants me to do this because he wants to be able to tell me -- I mean, for me to ask him questions about what I should do, and that's been reversed. But I told the school board the night they tentatively hired me that there would be scrutiny on them. This is an unusual move that we're asking for and we can't afford to fail. You know, if we fail, we fail the community and we fail the kids. I'm going to tell y'all the same thing: if y'all grant this waiver and let me be superintendent for a while, then I will owe you the same responsibility as our school board that we can't afford to fail. And I'm prepared to make it a life, not a job, for the next year.

So I appreciate you again. And I'm sure my time is about up, so I'll sit down. Thank y'all.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do we have any opposition?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: No.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No. Thank you.
Was that your summation or do you want to --
MR. CLEVELAND: I have learned not to summarize during -- when people are getting ready to go to lunch.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Good point.
We'll start over here. Dr. Moore, do you have any questions at this point?

DR. MOORE: NO.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson?
MR. WILLIAMSON: No.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge?
MS. McFETRIDGE: I think I'm okay right now.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Dean?
MS. DEAN: No.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers?
MS. CHAMBERS: Just a question. This may go to the board.

You sound, Mr. Cleveland, very credentialed and very respected -- and what a great place to start -and that coupled with the mentoring sounds like it would position you very effectively for this year. I don't think any community can afford to just hold their own, to tread water in any given year. So that's a difficult position to put an interim in,
where you're wanting to position for what comes next, not lose any ground as you're bridging from now to the future. Do you have any thoughts on that or how you might work with --

MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.
MS. CHAMBERS: -- your board and your teachers to make progress this next year as you prepare for the future superintendent?

MR. CLEVELAND: Well, if you get a one-year contract and the people know you're going to be there for one year, they know you're a short-timer; so they -- what they don't like about you, they can say, "I can wait you out" -- and they do that and I've seen that happen before. But what I'm going to try to do is give enough of me to the District by going to the events, attending the ballgames, and communicating with the people. And I've asked the principals already to document the teachers. If they don't do right -- if there are problems, document them. Because when you really get mad at them and at the end of the year you don't have them documented, it doesn't do any good 'cause -- that's one thing I do know. I've represented school districts in dismiss elections and I've represented teachers asking not to be dismissed. So, you know, I've been all around the
school but I've never been in it. But I would hope -- I mean, they were on -- I don't think we have fiscal distress, but they were on fiscal distress a few years ago when my wife went over there. And so they know that they have to do well. And with this D in elementary, we have worked every day to put the right people in the right positions and make sure the frameworks are aligned to what's going to be tested. And then we've got to work on time on tasks with the teachers. If you get a D, you've got somebody not working every day from bell-to-bell. So we've got to -- and we've kind of got a system now. The principal in the elementary is also the basketball coach. So Ms. Julie back here, whom I have grown to love in two weeks, is going to go down there some when he's gone and I'm going to go down there to make sure they're doing what they need to be doing. But I tell you, when people -- if you get lax on them, they'll get lax on you, and they've got to know that you're looking at them. They're professionals, and I would never treat a teacher any way but a professional -and I expect professionalism out of them. They're certified, so they're supposed to know their subject matter; they're supposed to know their teaching techniques; they're supposed to know how to make
school good. But you don't get D's if you have school that's good. So they'll get tired of hearing that.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Hill?
MR. CLEVELAND: Does that --
DR. HILL: No.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton?
MS. NEWTON: Good morning. You mentioned that you would be willing to take a mentor or have a mentor help you through this next year. What about the training that a superintendent goes through each year; are you going to do those professional development trainings that are specifically for --

MR. CLEVELAND: If y'all approve me today -- if you approve this waiver, I've got to go over to AAEA to a new superintendents training this afternoon; it started this morning. And I'll go tomorrow. And anywhere that I can get knowledge -- you know, not being a certified superintendent, I don't know what I don't know. But if $I$ go to the trainings, then along with this other knowledge I feel like I've got an advantage over a lot of people through all of these -- I mean, SREB and being in the Legislature -- the Secretary knows how much information -- information is the best Arkansas has to offer in those
legislative sessions.
MS. NEWTON: So you are going to go through the trainings?

MR. CLEVELAND: I'm planning on it.
MS. NEWTON: Okay.
MR. CLEVELAND: I mean if something comes up at school I have to handle, then I might skip one; but otherwise, I'll be at the trainings.

MS. NEWTON: I guess -- and this may be for Legal -- these trainings are required for superintendents in Arkansas. Would they be required for him?

MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt from Legal.
So, yes. The concern I have is that if you look at the waiver request it does ask for a waiver of the Superintendent Mentoring Program, both the law and the rules. So I think we need to clarify if the mentoring is that superintendent mentoring program that's set up in law, which then would negate the need for that waiver -- not all of the waivers, but just the two that are about the superintendent mentoring. Or if it's a different type of mentoring program I think we need to clarify that so we can make sure we're getting them what they need.

MS. NEWTON: I definitely think that he would
need the mentoring and I would also like to make sure that he go through the required superintendent trainings for the year. So, is that something that y'all would be agreeable to?

MR. CLEVELAND: I would think so. I mean I think a mentor is good for everybody.

MS. NEWTON: Okay. The other --
MR. CLEVELAND: I know a lot of these superintendents, you know, and so -- and I don't really know how much time that would take. But as long as it doesn't detract from me actually getting things done at the school I think --

MS. NEWTON: Well, it's required; so I think that it would be worth your time.

MR. CLEVELAND: Well, if it's required we'll do it.

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
MR. CLEVELAND: The effort that Arkansans are giving to education is excellent right now. The effort is good. I'm not sure we're getting the results that we deserve to get, you know, because I want us to get better and better and better. And sometimes you go forward, then back a little bit. But I think you're actually right.

MS. NEWTON: Is the superintendent -- I know
this is a small district. Is the superintendent the only district-level administrator besides the curriculum coordinator?

MS . LANE: Yes.
MS. NEWTON: Yes, okay. All right. And then the secretary and bookkeeper at your district, how long have they been there?

MR. CLEVELAND: I believe four years. The eFinance director happens to be one of my classmates' daughters, that was one of my best friends until she passed away. So I've known her since she was a little baby.

MS. NEWTON: Is it the same person?
MR. CLEVELAND: The secretary is a different person than the bookkeeper.

MS. NEWTON: How long has she been there?
MR. CLEVELAND: I would guess three years.
MS. LANE: Three years, yes.
MR. CLEVELAND: Three years.
MS. LANE: (inaudible)
MS. NEWTON: Can you come to the microphone?
MS. LANE: Julie Lane.
She'd been a high school secretary, and then she's a nurse. So she went off, and then she came back for the District secretary position about three

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years ago.
MS. NEWTON: Both of those positions are fulltime?

MS. LANE: Yes.
MS. NEWTON: And so they've been in the office with the former superintendent that whole time?

MS . LANE: Yes.
MS. NEWTON: Okay. My other question is for your board president.

MR. FINK: Yes.
MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent leave?

MR. FINK: I'm - -
MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent leave?

MR. FINK: I'm sorry?
MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent leave?

MR. FINK: He left July [sic] 27th, Thursday.
MR. CLEVELAND: June.
MR. FINK: And he'd been there about three, four years.

MS . NEWTON: Okay.
MR. FINK: We didn't have any indication he was leaving or even looking --

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
MR. FINK: -- for anyone.
MS. NEWTON: Okay, so just recently. And then are your plans to do a superintendent search during this school year?

MR. FINK: Yeah. We're wanting to get him for a year -- you know, hire him for a year, if we can; see how it's going and see -- it's hard to jump into it in a small school because you don't get the -- I don't mean anyone is a bad apple, but you don't get all the best ones because they're wanting more money than we can pay and better -- they're better facilities or whatever. And he's offered to help and so he's there. And I'm not going to say that -- if it goes well this year and if we could get an extension we may want to do that, you know, if we can't find someone --

MS. NEWETON: But are you --
MR. FINK: -- in this year. But, yes, we will -- he will help us try to find someone this year.

MS. NEWTON: But you are planning on searching this year?

MR. FINK: Yes.
MS . NEWTON: Okay.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Hyatt --

MS. NEWTON: And have you -- I still have one more question; sorry. Have -- I forgot the board president's name -- have you talked to the people in your community?

MR. FINK: Yes. We have actually -- okay, two towns, Belleville and Havana is compiling to Western Yell County. They're four miles apart. The elementary is Belleville; the high school is in Havana. And a name has come up and everyone says it's a good choice if we can get him; no one -- I have not had one person since this started that said, "Oh, you don't need him." He's well thought of; he won't have any problem -- we won't have a problem with them, "Oh, you shouldn't have hired him" or "you should've hired someone else," because there's no one else right now. We had one turned us down four or five years ago was interested again when this came open, and the very same thing happened. I contacted -- we contacted him, interested, and then all of a sudden, "No, I'm not interested." So we feel like this is the way to go to keep stability in the community.

MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McFetridge?
MS. McFetridge: Yes. Is Mr. Cleveland finished
practicing law at this point then? Will this be his focus a hundred-percent?

MR. FINK: I'm hard of hearing; I'm sorry.
MS. McFETRIDGE: No, I'm sorry. Will Mr. Cleveland continue to practice law or will this be his full-time job?

MR. CLEVELAND: I can answer that, if you want me to.

MS. McFETRIDGE: That would be great. Thank you.

MR. CLEVELAND: I basically tried to reduce the law practice when I went to work for DIS -- and I was the Deputy Director over at DIS for several years and worked with the Department of Ed.; I was DUA Coordinator and everything. Because I could not reduce my caseload, so I got somebody else to come in and do the caseload. And when I retired from DIS I went back home; I never opened the office back up. But I had a partner that -- he and I, we'd been working together for 44 years, and he was a long-time smoker and got bedridden but he didn't want to give up the law practice. So what I did for him is he practiced from that phone and I would go run wherever he needed to go, take care of his cases. And he died back in February. And I occasionally do deeds or
trusts or something for people who are long-time clients or something like that, but I do not -- I've got one case set for the end of August, and all the rest -- any court cases -- I've tried not to take a court case ever since I retired that would put me at court on a certain day. Because in these four years I've been retired I've done some extensive traveling and the -- it suits me to totally not do -- I mean I wouldn't -- I'm ready -- I've done that for 48 years, so I'm ready not to have to do any law practice. But it looks like I'm going to at the school if y'all -if we get that waiver.

MS . McFETRIDGE: Okay.
MR. CLEVELAND: But, no, I plan on doing no law practice.

MS. McFetridge: Okay.
MR. CLEVELAND: I'll have to get rid of that one case.

MS. McFETRIDGE: Right. I understand.
MR. CLEVELAND: That's it.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. And my other question is of Ms. Julie. I didn't hear you speak about --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge, excuse me for interrupting. Would you straighten your microphone? MS. McFETRIDGE: Sorry.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I think you're cutting yourself off.

MS. McFETRIDGE: I can't ever get this -- okay.
You hadn't earlier mentioned Professional
Learning Communities.
MS. LANE: Okay.
MS. McFETRIDGE: Can you tell us where the District is at with that?

MS. LANE: Yes. On the Professional Learning Communities, the elementary is fully implemented. We --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Can you speak into the microphone?

MS. LANE: Yes; sorry.
We meet weekly. And actually the 3rd grade teacher has to meet three times a week with people and she's the pivot point at our school to get that going, so -- because we have one 3rd grade teacher. So she meets with $4 t h, 5 t h$ and $6 t h$, because we have a departmentalized group, and then she'll meet with 2nd to make sure everything is aligned, make sure -- and so everybody knows what's going on. And right now we're in the alignment process.

MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. So has everyone been trained --

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MS. LANE: Yes.
MS. MCFETRIDGE: -- in the District?
MS. LANE: Yes.
MS. McFetridge: Okay.
MS. LANE: High school will start -- they've been trained and they're going to start their PLC's this year. In a small district it was hard to find time, and we're still trying to just find the time to get their PLC's set up.

MS. McFeTRIDGE: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything -- anyone else?
I think all of my questions were covered.
I think one of my concerns based on your history is -- not your history, but the District's history -is that you have people around you with regard to being supportive with public school finance. Because as you know -- well know from your service, it's a whole different ballgame than just about anything else.

And my other question would be -- I don't know if it's Ms. Hyatt or Ms. Coffman -- if they get this waiver will they be cited for not meeting a standard because their superintendent is on waiver?

MS . HYATT: NO.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No, they would not. Okay.

Ms. Hyatt.
MR. CLEVELAND: May I respond to what you just said?

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Absolutely.
MS. HYATT: And I think -- and I wanted to make sure Ms. Newton heard this too -- the financial Tier 1 training that's required for financial officers he would still be required to do, which would go over all of the financial components. And so I know there was a training and a finance kind of concern, so I wanted to make sure you had that.

MR. CLEVELAND: I was in the Legislature -Herschel Cleveland again. I forget to do that.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's okay.
MR. CLEVELAND: I was in the Legislature during the adequacy -- in fact, I was Speaker of the House during the adequacy issue. I attended every adequacy meeting that they had; I met with Odden and Picus. And the Department of Ed. and the Governor's office did not give us a funding bill. So Olen Cook, me, Fred Milligan, Paul Weaver, Jody Mahony, and I think there was somebody else -- we wrote the funding formula for the schools based upon the reports of Odden and Picus, and what we did was a building-tobuilding funding formula. See, they -- we did
exactly what they said. The bill passed. We got it through the House, over to the Senate. And the Senate changed it so they used all of our figures and all of our work and made the funding formula a money-per-child, which meant that the larger districts who are more economically efficient would receive more money and the smaller districts less.

And so, you know, I was involved in the initial -- I think I can do school finance. I was the assistant budget director for the House, and my main fellow got hurt; you remember when the budget fellow couldn't do his work. So after a week in the Legislature I did the budget for my second year in there. And there's a few -- eight or nine people that do the budget, so I did the -- I was one of those eight or nine people for four years that did the state budget. So -- and I'll say this: I probably messed the budget up, but I think I can do that. But a refresher course will be just exactly what I need.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
Any other questions?
Do I have a motion?
MS. CHAMBERS: I have a question, please.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see
you.
MS. CHAMBERS: No, no, no. I'd like to make a motion, but just wanted to be clear on what -- what the waiver -- with the request is specifically targeting from a waiver perspective?

MS. HYATT: I'm glad you asked that question because my question was going to be similar.

So I'm still confused as to whether they're going to continue moving forward with their request for the Superintendent Mentoring rules and law, which is in the request as it's written. So that's one component of the waiver request. And the other is Superintendent Licensure, which they have the law and the standard for that as well.

So there's kind of two components -- the Superintendent Licensure and then the Superintendent Mentoring Program -- that are part of the waiver request. And it would be really helpful for me if they could clarify whether they intend to move forward with the Superintendent Mentoring component -- and if they are, then maybe to clarify what they meant by "mentoring program."

MR. CLEVELAND: Herschel Cleveland.
I've been informed that we don't even need the waiver for the mentoring program, since I'm going to
do that anyway. So I think we're good.
MS. HYATT: So I believe that would just make the request just for Superintendent Licensure; so it would have the standard and the law required for Superintendent Licensure.

Am I missing anything, Kelly?
MS. McLAUGHLIN: No, that's all.
MS. NEWTON: Would we need to make the stipulation that he undergoes the training -- the training for superintendents?

MS. HYATT: SO I believe all that training is going to be required as he'll be the superintendent and they didn't request a waiver of any of that training, just of the licensure component.

MS. NEWTON: Okay.
SECRETARY KEY: Yes. Madam Chair, I don't think we need to add that to the motion. I mean I think we'll work with AAEA setting that up. Mr. Cleveland -- I think he said that he's going to go through the training as soon as we get him out of here today, so I don't see the need. From my perspective, I think the only thing I was concerned about was the licensure. And if we eliminate the mentoring under the code 6-17-427 and the rules, I think what they need is reflected in 6-13-109, a waiver from that,
and Standard 4-B. 2 of the standards.
MS. CHAMBERS: So I would like to move that, what the Secretary just said.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Donovan, did you get that? MS. DONOVAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have a second?
MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.
MS. DEAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. Chambers, second by Ms. McFetridge and Ms. Dean.

All in favor say "aye."
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Go forth and superintend.
MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair.
SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, he -- I was going to mention, you know -- because I think he -- in his introduction and description of his background he did not initially mention the fact that he was Speaker during the time following the Lake View decision. I'm glad he got around to that because $I$ was going to have to tell that on him if he didn't. So I'm confident that the Department will be there to help them. I had asked Ms. Coffman to make sure that she was prepared to answer any questions from a standpoint of support, and she contacted the Western

Yell team in the last couple of days and really got down to a lot of the issues that might've been of concern. So I feel comfortable with this and appreciate $\mathrm{y}^{\prime}$ all taking this vote.

MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And as stated, you have a worthy goal and I think you have the support behind you to meet that goal.

MR. CLEVELAND: I think so too.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Because your numbers are not
what you or we want them to be.
MR. CLEVELAND: No.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You're excused.
MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: DO I have a motion to recess
until after lunch?
MS. CHAMBERS: So moved.
MS. DEAN: I'll move.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean and Ms. Chambers.
We will come back at 1:30.
(LUNCH BREAK: 12:40-1:31 p.m.)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I'll call the afternoon session of the State Board of Education to order.

A-6: CHARTER CONTRACT AGREEMENT
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And our first order of business
is the Charter Contract Agreement. And it looks like we have a duo going to present -- Ms. Hyatt and Mr. Ballard -- "dynamic duo," as Ms. Dean says.

MS. HYATT: Thank you, Ms. Zook -- our new Chair.

So I put a new copy of the Charter Agreement in all of your -- well, not in your chairs, but on top of your piles of things. The version that got uploaded to the agenda still had some of our markthru's from when we met with some stakeholders to kind of work out some components of the agreement. So I'm glad you got to see that because you can see some of the changes we made when we met with the stakeholders. But the version that's in your -- was on top of your stuff is the final version.

So just a little bit of background: we've used a formal charter contract in the past, but the last year or so we've really moved away from using a formal charter contract. And we have been using the application mixed with the minutes and the transcripts of their hearings, the videos from their hearings, and then any amendment requests as alltogether being the charter contract, which as you can imagine gets a little bit complicated when you're trying to find a particular provision. And we also
get a lot of requests to view the charter contract of particular charters, which it's hard to give people that information when it's not in a succinct place. So we're going to move back to having a charter contract, the one that you have in front of you.

So we drafted it; we did meet with some stakeholders and made some revisions; presented it to the Charter Panel in June and they approved it. And I think the goal is that anyone who doesn't have an active charter contract, anyone who has -- is granted a new charter contract -- in August?

MR. BALLARD: Yes.
MS. HYATT: August, okay -- or anyone who then goes through the renewal process will move to this contract. But we're not going to make people who have signed charter contracts then switch to this one; so it's not going to be retroactive or change anyone's currently existing charter contract. And I think the idea is that then once these are signed we'll start putting them on the website, on the charter school website for transparency and so everyone can see. And we've also added -- well, the whole thing is new, but one thing that $I$ want to point out is that the Appendix $C$ is just for amendments to the charter; so all of the amendment
requests through the year will be added in one place so that people can see them.

And do you have anything?
MR. BALLARD: I don't think so.
MS. HYATT: Okay. If you have any questions we're happy to --

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So since this was in-house, sort of administrative, did we get stakeholder -- or input, like we usually call them public comment? Did you get that?

MS. HYATT: So we didn't do -- this is -- since it's not a rule that has to be promulgated we didn't do a formal public comment hearing. But we did meet with some stakeholders; we met with APSRC; we did talk to some charter schools and get some feedback, as well as look at previous versions of the charter contract that we've used in the past.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do we have any questions?
Dr. Moore.
DR. MOORE: Are there any big differences between the previous versions of the contract to this?

MS. HYATT: So I think this one is much more comprehensive than ones we've used in the past -- and there have been multiple versions in the past. But
everything that's in this contract can either be found in law or rule or as something that the Charter Panel has the authority to do. So I don't know that it's ever been in one place so comprehensively, which is why this is longer than the previous contracts, but we really wanted to put all of the expectations in one place. But it's really hard I think even for existing charters to know all of the expectations that are in 5,000 pages of a code book and hundreds of rules, so --

DR. MOORE: Thank you. That's great. That's great to have that all in one document now.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
Do I have a motion?
DR. MOORE: Move to approve.
MS. NEWTON: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore moved and Ms. Newton seconded.

All in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?
It passed.
MS. HYATT: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Now I have good news with regard
to Action Item B on the School Choice applications:
all four of those have been resolved to the benefit of the students. They will all get to make the transfers that they had chosen.

B-2: CONSIDERATION FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: ADE RULES GOVERNING THE SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE PROGRAM AND THE SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And so that skips us right down to the Item 2, which is the Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing the School Worker Defense Program.

Mr. Dugan.
MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Board.

What you have in front of you are the School Worker Defense Rules. I had spoken with Ms. Alyssa Moore, who has retired now, but she was the one who administered this program. And what she was getting was a lot of attorneys that were not providing backup documentation and also putting their meals and things of that sort and wanting to be reimbursed for that. So she asked if we could add a definition for "costs," and so this is the definition that we came up with to put here in the rules. And also to require that anything that they would like to be reimbursed for that they provide back-up
documentation of that.
Also what has been included in these rules is Act 557 of 2019, which states that if you provide corporal punishment to a student that is disabled, non-ambulatory, that you will not be covered under this program; you will not get the benefit of this program.

And so I would ask that this board approve these rules so $I$ can release them for public comment. And with that, if there's any questions -- that's all I have.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do we have any questions?
There being none, do I have a motion?
MS. McFETRIDGE: Move to approve.
MS. DEAN: Second.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. McFetridge, second by Ms. Dean.

All in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion passes.
MR. DUGAN: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you very much.
MR. DUGAN: May I step aside?
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You may.
MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do we have any new business to come before the panel?

Seeing none, do we have any public comment? I'll entertainment a motion to adjourn.

MR. WILLIAMSON: So moved.
MS. DEAN: So moved.
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Mr. Williamson, second by Ms. Dean.

All in favor?
(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?
Okay. So we will see you tonight at dinner.
And then we will have three more school choice applications that will come before us tomorrow morning.
(The meeting was concluded at 1:38 p.m.)

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I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas State Department of Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 11, 2019, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

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

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

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| 71:25 | 96:21 <br> academics (3) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 96:10;123:4,9; } \\ & \text { 126:25;127:25; } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { affordable (1) } \\ & 72: 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { allows (1) } \\ 66: 19 \end{array}$ |
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