In The Matter Of:

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 11, 2019

Sharon Hill Court Reporting 4021 Robinwood Cr. Bryant, AR 72022 (501) 680-0888

Original File BOE 7-11-19.prn Min-U-Script® with Word Index 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	ADE	General Counsel
MS.	MARY	CLAIRE HYATT	ADE	Specialist
MR.	TAYLO	DR DUGAN	ADE	Attorney

LOCATION:

Arkansas Department of Education #4 Capitol Mall - Auditorium Little Rock, AR 72201

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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

4 PROCEEDINGS 1 CONSIDERATION OF REVOCATION OF TEACHING LICENSE -2 A-1: 3 LICENSURE ACTION CASE NO. 19-07 (TIMOTHY REDDIN) CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We'll move now to our Action 4 Agenda. 5 Mr. Dugan, number one. 6 7 MR. DUGAN: Good morning. Taylor Dugan, 8 Attorney for the Division of Elementary and Secondary 9 Education, Legal Services. Board Members, what you have in front of you as 10 11 the first agenda item is a license revocation of Mr. 12 Timothy Reddin. I've put together a packet. Ms. Freno, if you wouldn't mind sounding the 13 halls to see if Mr. Reddin is available? 14 15 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Freno steps into 16 the hallway and calls for Mr. Reddin.) 17 MS. FRENO: No, he is not here. 18 MR. DUGAN: And since Mr. Reddin is not here may 19 I proceed, Madam Chair? 20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please do. 21 MR. DUGAN: So what I have in front of the Board today are a number of exhibits, four exhibits. 22 The 23 first exhibit is the Educator's license, which is 24 marked as ADE Exhibit One (1), to show that he does 25 have an existing license. We did send him notice on

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1 March 22, 2019, that he did have these charges. What 2 I've attached as ADE Exhibit Three (3) is that he was 3 found guilty and pled guilty of Attempted Coercion 4 and Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Criminal 5 Sexual Activity, which would be a disqualifying 6 offense under 6-7-410. And that we did send him 7 notice of this hearing here today. 8 (WHEREUPON, ADE Exhibits One (1) through Four 9 (4) were marked for identification and entered into 10 evidence.) 11 MR. DUGAN: And so since he's not here, since we 12 did provide him with proper notice, I would ask that 13 this Board revoke Mr. Reddin's license. 14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are there any questions? 15 Do I have a motion? 16 MS. MCFETRIDGE: Second. 17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge. 21 All in favor? 22 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES) 23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed? 24 Great. 25 MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Ms Madam Chair.		
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STATE BOARD REVIEW OF PLSB EVIDENTIARY HEARING 1 A-2: RECOMMENDATION - JACOB CONRAD DE LA PAZ 2 MR. DUGAN: And we do have, I believe, on the 3 second agenda item, for the action, is the State 4 Board Review of Mr. Jacob Conrad de la Paz. I know 5 Ms. Freno is going to go through the rules. 6 7 So would you like to do that first, Ms. Freno? CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes. Would you come to the 8 9 podium, Ms. Freno? Remind us so we --10 MS. FRENO: Thank you, Madam Chair. 11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- do everything correctly. 12 MS. FRENO: Lori Freno, Division of Elementary 13 and Secondary Education. This is an appeal of an Ethics Hearing 14 15 Subcommittee's recommendation that Mr. Jacob de la Paz's educator license be suspended for a period of 16 five years and that he be fined \$500. 17 18 On a procedural note, you might remember that in January of this year this board granted Mr. de la 19 Paz's request to file his appeal beyond the time set 20 21 forth in the rules -- and this board approved that, 22 and that's fine. But now everything has been 23 completely briefed and everything is ready for this 24 hearing today. 25 If I may go over the procedures for this

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hearing? 1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please do. 2 MS. FRENO: First, Mr. de la Paz will make a 3 statement to the State Board for up to 10 minutes --4 of course, Mr. de la Paz or his counsel for up to 10 5 And then Mr. Dugan will make a statement to 6 minutes. 7 this board on behalf of the PLSB for up to 10 minutes 8 as well. 9 This board -- at any time this board may ask questions of the Educator, the investigators, or 10 11 their counsel. If anyone is asked a question who is 12 not an attorney, they do need to be sworn in. That is the procedure for the hearing. May I go 13 over -- kind of give you a preview of what you all 14 15 will be deciding at the end of the hearing? 16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please. She'll go over it now, and then if we have 17 18 questions she can tell us again. 19 MS. FRENO: Great. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. 20 Zook. 21 The first thing that you're going to need to do is determine -- is make a Finding of Fact. In other 22 23 words, you'll need to determine whether you agree 24 with the Evidentiary Hearing Panel's factual 25 underpinning with regards to this case.

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1Second, if you agree with the facts as2determined by the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, you3will need to make a determination based upon those4facts, whether Mr. de la Paz violated Standard 1,5Standard 2, or both, of the Code of Ethics.6And, third, if you do determine that there was a7violation of Standard 1, Standard 2, or both, then8you will need to decide whether you agree with the9sanction that was imposed by the Subcommittee, which10again was five years' suspension and a \$500 fine, or11whether you would want to modify the sanction.12And probably it would be best and cleanest if13you do this through three motions. One motion would14be the Findings of Fact, one would be the Conclusions15of Law, and one would be for the sanction.16CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.17MS. FRENO: And if there are any questions no18questions from the Board19CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah. Would you clarify that20even though this happened a couple of years ago he21has been teaching, but once this decision is made by22this board that will go on his record?23MS. FRENO: Once the decision is made by this24board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean25that's something he could appeal to the Circuit		
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 21 has been teaching, but once this decision is made by 22 this board that will go on his record? 23 MS. FRENO: Once the decision is made by this 24 board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean 	19	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah. Would you clarify that
 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 	20	even though this happened a couple of years ago he
23 MS. FRENO: Once the decision is made by this 24 board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean	21	has been teaching, but once this decision is made by
24 board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean	22	this board that will go on his record?
	23	MS. FRENO: Once the decision is made by this
25 that's something he could appeal to the Circuit	24	board it would be a final decision, yes. I mean
	25	that's something he could appeal to the Circuit

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9

1 Court. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right. 2 Thank you. 3 Any questions of Ms. Freno? Okay. Thank you. 4 5 MS. FRENO: Thank you. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And the Educator starts first. 6 7 Yes. 8 MS. FRENO: That is correct. 9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Would everyone who will be giving testimony please stand and raise your right 10 11 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony hand? 12 you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole 13 truth, and nothing but the truth? MR. DE LA PAZ: I do. 14 15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You may be seated. 16 And proceed. MR. GIGLIO: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Joe 17 18 Giglio from Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm Mr. de la 19 Paz's counsel. 20 Mr. de la Paz, at the end of my presentation, 21 would like to give a statement that we've timed at two minutes. And if the Chair and the Board would 22 23 allow it, I would like to be given a notice at say 24 seven minutes if the Board would allow Mr. de la Paz 25 time for his two-minute statement.

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1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes. I'm saying yes. Thank you, Ms. Chair. 2 MR. GIGLIO: The student in this case while she was a junior 3 at Cabot High School developed a crush on her young 4 5 millennial track coach, Jacob de la Paz, whom you've met, who started working at Cabot High School right 6 7 out of college at age 24. Through text messages it 8 was made clear that the student had an attraction for 9 Mr. de la Paz. It became apparent that the attraction was mutual, but it also became apparent 10 that the coach, Coach de la Paz, made it very clear 11 that any potential relationship must wait until the 12 13 student's graduation. The student lived at home with her father and stepmother. The coach lived at home 14 15 with his parents. The student and the coach were 16 never alone together at any time. There was no inappropriate touching, no inappropriate contact 17 18 whatsoever, no kissing, nothing physical, no inappropriate pictures, nothing like that. The coach 19 20 did on a volunteer basis tutor the young student in 21 math and she excelled. The coach coached the student 22 in track and she became a star, a state champion. 23 The coach and his student met on a church mission 24 And the student herself testified that she trip. 25 excelled in track, she became a state champion, and

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with Coach de la Paz's volunteer help she performed 1 very well in math. The student admitted that at a 2 certain point toward the end of her junior year, May 3 of her junior year, the student testified that she 4 5 developed a crush on Coach de la Paz. In questioning, I asked the student, "Did you sometimes 6 confide in Coach de la Paz that you were comparing 7 8 yourself to other students?" This was because she 9 seemed in the texts to be asking Coach de la Paz for reassurance, and so I asked, "Did" -- "were you 10 comparing yourself to others?" She said yes. "And 11 12 did he reassure you that you were as competitive, as 13 good, or better than the others that you were worried about?" And she said yes. "In one of the texts you 14 15 stated, 'I love you with all my heart, DLP.'" DLP 16 was her nickname for Coach de la Paz, DLP. "Did you mean that?" She answered yes. "In another text you 17 18 state 'DLP's words mean the world to me, ' and that you have -- and that you and he have an unbreakable 19 bond; is that how you felt?" She said yes. 20 "In one 21 text you state 'I would love to spend time with you 22 after I graduate.' Is that how you felt?" "Yes." 23 I'm 66 but remember what it was like at age 17. 24 I can understand what happened here. But here's 25 what's important: towards the end of the texts, page

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563 of the approximate 600 pages, I asked this 1 question of the student; I said, "You state to Coach 2 de la Paz in one of your texts, 'You told me not to 3 text you unless it was about running or math. 4 And I texted you this morning to have a great day, and I'm 5 just now realizing that I shouldn't have done it, 6 7 even though I wanted to." I asked the student, "So you knew that he wanted the texting to stop?" 8 She 9 The student herself testified that Coach said yes. 10 de la Paz was a gentleman. She confirmed they were never alone together; they never drove anywhere 11 together; they both lived at home with their parents. 12 The student testified that Coach de la Paz would 13 support and reaffirm her while her family did not. 14 15 Perhaps that is why the student said that when her stepmother read the messages and went to the school 16 to try to have the coach fired she was hurt. 17 She 18 testified, "I was not happy anymore." The student 19 testified that Coach de la Paz had built up her confidence and that she was better in her junior year 20 21 than any other year in high school. In fact, at 22 Cabot High School there is something called the Life 23 Impact Award where a senior determines who he or she 24 is going to name as the teacher who had the most 25 positive influence on the young student's life during

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1	high school. She was planning to have Coach de la
2	Paz receive the Life Impact Award because he had, as
3	she put it in the text, "influenced her in the most
4	positive way."
5	We also called at the hearing testimony of Coach
6	de la Paz's immediate supervisor, the head coach,
7	Chesley [ps] White, a 40-year veteran at Cabot. He
8	also served in the state position I forget the
9	title. But he was a well-respected, a long-time
10	coach. He had just retired at the time I called him
11	for this hearing. He voluntarily came. He waited
12	seven hours, because he was the last guy to be
13	called, and I felt so bad for him because he had to
14	wait. But he testified unequivocally, "Yes, I know
15	the man's character, I know what happened, and I
16	would rehire him."
17	It's clear that this Educator's character is
18	good. He made a mistake. Now mind you, we're only
19	asking that the sanction be modified. We don't
20	dispute the facts, because they're all expressed in
21	text messages. Mr. de la Paz's coworker stated that
22	he is, quote, "a dedicated servant to his family, a
23	tireless contributor to his job; he's an honorable
24	selfless human-being." This was Coach Chris Beavert
25	who

	14 14
1	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have three minutes left, so
2	
3	MR. GIGLIO: Thank you, ma'am. I'll wrap it up.
4	Now for the last two years Jacob has been
5	working at North Vermillion High School in Maurice,
6	Louisiana. It's a little community about 15 minutes
7	from Lafayette. He's planning and hoping to work
8	there next year. He made the principal of that
9	school and the superintendent aware of this
10	proceeding in the very first interview, at the
11	outset. The testimony at the hearing was clear that
12	he was honest with everybody who questioned him about
13	his status. "Jacob has been very conscientious," the
14	principal states "very conscientious about his
15	position as teacher and coach and has displayed
16	mature and professional behavior in all capacities in
17	his job description."
18	Ladies and Gentlemen, a suspension would
19	effectively end his career. We are asking for a
20	modification so that he may be held under some
21	probation and take courses of whatever you, Ladies
22	and Gentlemen, might require of him.
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You have two minutes.
24	MR. GIGLIO: Considering the conduct involved in
25	this case, without any inappropriate conduct

1 Is that two minutes -- I need to --CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, of the 10. 2 MR. GIGLIO: Of the 10. Okay. Well, then I 3 need to wrap it up and tell you that my brief 4 5 contains all of the other cases that you can read where more serious and eqregious conduct resulted in 6 7 a much less serious sanction. Thank you. And we 8 would ask that Mr. de la Paz's sanction be modified. 9 Thank you very much. Mr. de la Paz. 10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: 11 MR. DE LA PAZ: I'll try to read it quickly. 12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please. MR. DE LA PAZ: Ladies and Gentlemen of the 13 Board, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity 14 15 to speak before you today. In May of 2017, I was 16 forcibly resigned from the Cabot School District amid the discovery of text messages between myself and a 17 18 high school athlete that discussed the potential of a relationship after she graduated. For the record, 19 20 the messages were never sexually explicit. There was 21 never an inappropriate physical relationship, nor was 22 there a suggestion of such. I never spoke in 23 innuendo, nor did I ever insinuate or solicit 24 anything malicious, immoral, or perverse from the 25 athlete. I never asked her to hide any inappropriate

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1	relationship, because there was not one. I did ask
2	her to mask any feelings or emotions that she had for
3	me. And I do understand that the messages discussing
4	a potential relationship were inappropriate and
5	unprofessional.
6	My actions have not been without consequences.
7	I was essentially asked to leave my alma mater, which
8	was my dream job. I moved out of the town that I
9	called home for 13 years. I incurred a heavy
10	financial burden in retaining the services of an
11	attorney. But the worst consequence for me is the
12	embarrassment and the regret that I feel in letting
13	down my family, my friends, and my colleagues, and
14	the female athlete involved.
15	For the past two years I have been teaching and
16	coaching in Louisiana. I have been forthcoming and
17	honest about every step of this process with my
18	administration, who have mentored and supported me
19	through it all. They've put an extreme amount of
20	faith in me when I asked for the opportunity to
21	redeem myself. Today I plead with this board to do
22	the same. The students, parents, and administration
23	at North Vermillion trust me. I have worked
24	incredibly hard these past two years to earn that
25	trust.

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1	I respectfully and humbly ask this board that
2	you allow me to continue to remain employed at my
3	school in Louisiana by not suspending my license, and
4	allow me to continue to walk the redemptive path I
5	started two years ago. Thank you.
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Dugan.
7	Before he sits down, do any of you have
8	questions prior to Mr. Dugan's presentation?
9	Okay. Mr. Dugan.
10	MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and Ladies
11	and Gentlemen of the Board. Taylor Dugan, Attorney
12	for the Division of Elementary and Secondary
13	Education. And in this case, Ladies and Gentlemen,
14	I'm going to be speaking on behalf of the PLSB on Mr.
15	Conrad de la Paz's appeal here to the State Board.
16	I'm going to ask the Board today to uphold the
17	sanction that the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee
18	determined. In the transcript and in the briefs and
19	in all the text messages that have been provided to
20	the Board beforehand page 712 of the exhibits
21	there was Findings and Recommendations that the
22	Hearing Subcommittee put down, and I think they got
23	it right because originally the Ethics Subcommittee
24	voted unanimously to revoke Mr. de la Paz's license.
25	The Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, after a hearing that

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1	lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and had the
2	evidence that you guys have seen today, over 600
3	pages of text messages from 25 days between a 27-year
4	old teacher we're talking about a teacher here
5	and a student and they determined that they were
6	going to give him some grace. They lowered that
7	sanction from a revocation to a five-year suspension
8	with the maximum fine of \$500. He's already been
9	given some grace.
10	The PLSB wants to show that this is a case that
11	they take very seriously. This was not just a crush
12	that the student had on Mr. de la Paz. This is a
13	student where he reciprocated those feelings, and
14	it's outlined in all of those texts. He did tell the
15	student to keep this relationship secret. At the
16	lower hearing there was the complaint that was
17	included from the school district when they made the
18	original allegation. These are Mr. de la Paz's words
19	in these texts to the student, "It will be tough but
20	we have to do it to protect each other. We just have
21	to be very good actors. I have to make it seem like
22	you're just another runner, even though secretly you
23	know you're much more to me and will be my future
24	girlfriend. And you have to act like I'm just a
25	coach, knowing that I will be your future boyfriend.

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1	We can do it. It will be tough, but I'm willing to
2	do it to protect our future." Later says, "Gosh,
3	this year will be so long, but maybe having all that
4	to look forward to will make it go faster, because I
5	really cannot wait until that first day where I just
6	finally get to spend time with you as Jacob and not
7	Coach de la Paz. I just get to be close to you
8	without having to worry about anything, and I just
9	get to enjoy being with you. You will definitely
10	still catch me staring, and now you know why." This
11	was a willful and intentional violation of the Code
12	of Ethics, of Standard 1 and Standard 2, and it's
13	outlined in the evidence that has been presented to
14	the Board prior to today. I highlighted a few texts,
15	because I know I only have 10 minutes, but there is a
16	mountain of evidence that this was more than just a
17	crush. For example, the Educator states that
18	May I have a moment, Madam Chair?
19	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Sure.
20	MR. DUGAN: For example, on May 23, 2017, at
21	7:48 p.m. the Educator admits that he knew his
22	actions could get him terminated, "It's hard to pay
23	for dates if I'm out of a job, LOL." Later that day,
24	at 8:20 p.m. the Educator states, "Okay, do you know
25	that all they need all they would need is to pull

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1	the script of you and I conversing through texts and
2	I could never teach or coach again." The Educator
3	was well aware of his actions; this was a willful
4	violation of the Code of Ethics. He also states on
5	May 23rd in a text to the student, "I hate that it's
6	like that but in the job I'm in, it is. My hope
7	would be that even if we didn't text as often that
8	would not make you not want to date me anymore. It
9	would break my heart now." If you go through
10	these are the texts, these are the words; these are
11	in the 600-plus pages of text messages spanning over
12	25 days that Mr. de la Paz and this student
13	conversed. This is a teacher 27-year old teacher
14	texting with a student, and that's why we're here
15	today. We're here to see whether or not that
16	violates the Code of Ethics. There is a mountain of
17	texts between the Educator and the student where he
18	states that he loves her. For example, on May 4,
19	2017, at 10:24 p.m. he states Educator says,
20	"Absolutely agree. If I don't see you, make sure we
21	run to we run into each other in the next three
22	days. Again, I'm proud of you and I love you." This
23	is the first record of this Educator saying to the
24	student that he loves her. It goes on and on. For
25	example, on May 8, 2017, Student says, "Are you sure?

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1	Sometimes I feel like you tell me things, do I want
2	to be down on myself, and you talk to me because I
3	talk to you all the time, like you don't want to."
4	Educator, "I do encourage you a lot but I'm always
5	honest with you. I'm never fake and I genuinely
6	enjoy talking to you." Educator, "I love you with
7	all my heart, remember?" Student, "I hope you do."
8	There is a mountain of these texts I just have to
9	admit it so I'm just highlighting some. But I
10	know the Board here has read the record, has read the
11	transcript, they know that this is going back-and-
12	forth. It was just not a crush. It's had an adverse
13	affect on the student.
14	I heard earlier today they said that this
15	student here came from a home, was not given that
16	support. The family is here today because they care
17	about this case. In the hearing, from the transcript
18	on page 103, the mother testified that "we put her
19	into counseling because she really just didn't seem
20	like she wanted to talk about it, and so she went to
21	counseling the first summer." On page 222 the
22	student states that she went to therapy during the
23	summer of 2017 and the summer of 2018. This caused
24	an effect on this student, a negative effect on this
25	student. Not only was this a willful violation of

1	the Code of Ethics but it did have that negative
2	effect on the student. This is multiple violations.
3	This is 600-plus pages of text messages that this was
4	a violation of the Code of Ethics.
5	So I'm here today asking this panel to uphold
6	that sanction of a five-year suspension and a \$500
7	fine and any training that the Board sees fit. But
8	again, this is not a case of just a crush; this is
9	not a case of this is a case of willful intent on
10	the for violation of the Code of Ethics, excuse
11	me. Even further, just text messages from 12:15 a.m.
12	on 5/25, while they talk about there's no physical
13	relationship, he is encouraging. That says, "I know"
14	well, she states, Student, "Gosh, I'm picturing in
15	my head right now you calling me Babe and hugging me;
16	it's awesome. Just hugging you differently than I do
17	is going to be so special, and us holding hands, I
18	know." Educator, "The hugs will be what I'm feeling,
19	for sure. I'm most looking forward to holding your
20	hand and just spending time with you, watching
21	movies, just cuddled up on the couch and being with
22	you, and just being ourselves around each other."
23	This is the evidence that you guys have had.
24	And I know that after you guys have looked through
25	the transcript, have looked through and read all the

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1	texts again, this is just a few little bits of it.
2	And so with the reservation for the rest of my
3	time I would also there was some comments over
4	here that this kind of started in May. There was
5	testimony that it actually he had started
6	developing feelings for her in February/March.
7	Again, this is all in the transcript. This is all
8	from the hearing. And so if there's any more time I
9	would like to entertain questions.
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, you have two-and-a-half
11	minutes.
12	MR. DUGAN: Two-and-a-half minutes?
13	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anybody have any questions?
14	Anyone have any questions at this point? And,
15	remember, it'll be three separate things: Findings of
16	Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Recommendations. So if
17	you have any questions with regard
18	Dr. Moore.
19	DR. MOORE: I do have some questions.
20	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
21	DR. MOORE: Yes, at this point in time I as
22	we've looked at many different cases over my year on
23	a term, I still at times feel like the timeline for a
24	suspension or probation is varied. How did that
25	five-year timeline come into decision, as compared to

1	others? And which I think we saw one last month
2	last month or the month before that was a three-
3	year timeline. What's can you talk to me about
4	that?
5	MR. DUGAN: Definitely. And the so right now
6	the PLSB has the sanctioning matrix and that's what
7	they're following. Originally in this case, right
8	here, if you look at the transcript, the Ethics
9	Hearing Subcommittee had stated on pages 351 through
10	353 that they went back-and-forth on a revocation and
11	a suspension in this case. However, they did take
12	into effect that Mr. de la Paz's age, and they
13	even one of the panel members, you know, stated that
14	they had to weigh destroying his career or putting
15	more kids in danger. So I think in this case they
16	went through that sanctioning matrix. I can't speak
17	on behalf of them, but they looked and went through
18	those factors was this willful or intentional
19	misconduct, was it multiple violations, did it have a
20	negative effect on that student, and went through
21	those to determine what type of sanction it would be.
22	So this, again, is one that's in the record that they
23	went back-and-forth on revocation, because the Ethics
24	Subcommittee originally did recommend revocation for
25	this Educator. And so what the Panel does is they go

1	through that sanctioning matrix and kind of apply
2	what facts they have.
3	DR. MOORE: Okay.
4	MR. DUGAN: Did that answer your question, Dr.
5	Moore?
6	DR. MOORE: A little bit. Can you and I'm
7	sorry, I probably ask this question every-other-month
8	but speak to me about the differences between
9	probation and suspension?
10	MR. DUGAN: So probation, the Educator can still
11	return to the classroom.
12	DR. MOORE: Okay.
13	MR. DUGAN: So there can be conditions also put
14	on that probation. But while that Educator is on
15	probation they have they can still teach during
16	that time, they might have to complete those
17	trainings, they will have to pay that fine. But then
18	usually I believe it's 90 days of the State Board
19	order. And if they don't complete that, then the
20	Board has the authority to suspend them. A
21	suspension is they cannot go back to the classroom.
22	DR. MOORE: Okay.
23	MR. DUGAN: So until they complete that
24	suspension
25	DR. MOORE: Okay. And

1	MR. DUGAN: and pay the fine.
2	DR. MOORE: In this case, in another state, is
3	it because the other state looks to this state for
4	the license?
5	MR. DUGAN: I beg your pardon?
6	DR. MOORE: Since he's now teaching in another
7	state, does that state check with our state for
8	license?
9	MR. DUGAN: So what we would do in this case is
10	we would well, and our rules do state that we have
11	to send notice to the employee entity, if the
12	Educator is employed. So that's how they would get
13	notice as far as if the Board was to order a
14	suspension. Also, it's reported to the NASTEC and
15	where schools can go on and look at that and it would
16	show up as a suspension.
17	DR. MOORE: Okay. And then one final question:
18	when PLSB is alerted of a situation in which a
19	teacher might have had contact with a student outside
20	the classroom, does the Board always request text
21	messages? Is that common procedure or was these
22	were turned in, or what is that?
23	MR. DUGAN: I bet Mr. James could answer that,
24	because that would be more of an investi something
25	that would be investigated. I know in this case what

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1	had happened was that the school district had made
2	the complaint, the allegation, and they had attached
3	some of the text messages. The mother had found
4	looked through the student's phone and saw these text
5	messages and took them to the school district in this
6	case. However, in other cases
7	Mr. James, would you be able to elaborate
8	however text messages are acquired and
9	MR. JAMES: Yes. Dr. Moore, the initial the
10	allegation that was submitted contained the text
11	messages.
12	DR. MOORE: Okay.
13	MR. JAMES: So when they submit it to our office
14	sometimes it has a lot of information; sometimes we
15	retrieve it through the investigation.
16	DR. MOORE: Okay.
17	MR. JAMES: So therefore it becomes part of what
18	you have in front of you today.
19	DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.
20	That's it, Madam Chair.
21	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers.
22	MS. CHAMBERS: Just building on that, is there
23	any insight that you can share that helps us
24	understand why we went from revocation to suspension
25	with five?

1	MR. DUGAN: Just what was in the transcript that
2	because when they go and deliberate, the Ethics
3	Hearing Subcommittee, they go off the record; and so
4	what was said during deliberation, I'm not sure. But
5	Mr. Shirey, who was on the panel that day, he did, on
6	page 351 through 353 of the transcript, discuss that
7	this was a very difficult case for them and they kept
8	going back-and-forth between revocation and
9	suspension and they had to weigh the factors of
10	whether putting more kids in danger or the fact
11	that he was just a young person here. So I think
12	I can't speak for them themselves, but it seemed like
13	they were giving him some grace there.
14	MS. CHAMBERS: But there was nothing specific
15	that really changed their opinion
16	MR. DUGAN: Correct.
17	MS. CHAMBERS: in the evidence? Okay. Thank
18	you.
19	MR. DUGAN: On their Findings and
20	Recommendations, that was page 712 of the hearing,
21	what they wrote down there at the very bottom is
22	if I may read it for the Board?
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.
24	MR. DUGAN: "There is no evidence that the
25	Educator is beyond rehabilitation and there has been

1	no prior sanction before the current violations of
2	Standards 1 and 2. Therefore, this Committee finds
3	that the sanction of permanent revocation is
4	warranted. We too think that five-year suspension
5	and a \$500 fine would be more appropriate. We feel
6	that a lesser sanction would not give the impression
7	that the PLSB does not take such violations
8	seriously."
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
10	Okay. Would you and you may have to go get
11	it. But would you clarify for us exactly what
12	Standard 1 and Standard 2 state?
13	MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am.
14	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Were you finished with your
15	presentation?
16	MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. Let me get my rules.
17	Madam Chair, Standard 1 is "an educator
18	maintains a professional relationship with each
19	student, both in and outside of the classroom;" and
20	Standard 2, Madam Chair, "An educator maintains
21	competence regarding his or her professional
22	practice, inclusive of professional and ethical
23	behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and
24	responsibilities relating to his or her
25	organizational position."

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1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you. 2 MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. 3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are you finished with your 10minute presentation? 4 5 MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: 6 Okay. 7 MR. DUGAN: Do I still have time? 8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, you have two-and-a-half 9 minutes left. MR. DUGAN: I'll concede that. 10 Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. 11 12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And now five minutes for rebuttal, is that --13 14 MR. DUGAN: Under these rules, that's it, unless 15 16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's it. Okay. Thank you. MR. DUGAN: It does state in the rules that --17 18 the hearing is on the consideration of the 19 transcript, the pleadings, and oral argument only. However, at the request of the State Board Chair the 20 21 Educator and the PLSB investigator for the case or 22 chief investigator may provide testimony. And so 23 that's the 10 minutes -- 10 minutes -- or if you 24 would like to hear from the chief investigator. 25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Anyone --

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I would just wonder if the attorney 1 MS. NEWTON: for Mr. de la Paz had anything else they wanted to 2 3 add to -- since they --CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. 4 Thank you. MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. 5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Did you hear her? 6 7 MR. GIGLIO: Yes, ma'am. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please identify yourself again. 8 9 MR. GIGLIO: I'm Joe Giglio, attorney for Jacob 10 de la Paz. And just to further amplify Ms. -- or Dr. 11 12 Moore's question, the suspension would take Jacob out 13 of the classroom. We would think a probation with training would be appropriate, given the other cases. 14 15 The other cases -- for example, one where the female 16 teacher took the young 16-year old male student on a joyride on an ATV; they had a wreck; she -- the 17 18 boy/student got injured; and the teacher took the boy home, gave him a shower, and attempted oral sex on 19 20 the boy, and she was given probation -- far more 21 extreme conduct. My brief has three or four pages of 22 similar cases to that bizarre case where probation 23 was given. 24 Here, there is no question that his conduct is 25 all revealed in the texts -- but that's the good

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1	thing: there was nothing else. And it was clear from
2	the texts that he wanted the relationship to wait,
3	which is the appropriate response. The student,
4	nevertheless, continued to pursue reassurance. And
5	the testimony was clear; it was admitted or I mean
6	I believe her testimony that she went to two therapy
7	sessions, but she testified that that was because of
8	what happened when her parents, I would suggest,
9	over-reacted; her stepmother over-reacted to the
10	situation.
11	So we kindly ask that this Jacob de la Paz be
12	given a modified sanction that would allow him to
13	continue teaching in Louisiana, where he's needed,
14	and his principal says they would like him to remain
15	and that would be at most probation. We would
16	suggest that the case law the juris prudence, if
17	you will the prior Arkansas Department of
18	Education board cases, it varies from written
19	reprimand to from written reprimand to admonition
20	to probation nothing as extreme as what happened
21	here.
22	I'd also suggest that it's not appropriate to
23	sanction anyone, quote/unquote, to send a message;
24	instead, the sanction should fit the crime. And here
25	we had a teacher who was a young teacher who was

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1	caught in the hard place of having to respond to a
2	student who was looking for reassurance, and he did
3	give it to her; and in the process, unfortunately,
4	the relationship developed. But he said it must
5	wait.
6	And so thank you for your consideration. And
7	Mr. de la Paz is here if you have any questions
8	directly of him under oath.
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And he has been teaching
10	the last two years while we were waiting for this
11	case to come to us.
12	Anybody have any more discussion or questions?
13	Ms. Newton.
14	MS. NEWTON: I'd ask a question of Mr. de la
15	Paz.
16	Can you tell me about your interactions with
17	students now and what precautions you're taking to
18	make sure this would never happen again?
19	MR. DE LA PAZ: Sure. Well, within the district
20	that I've that I went to interview with in
21	Louisiana, they made it clear through my interview
22	with the assistant superintendent and with my
23	principal that within their district they have a
24	certain set of guidelines for any electronic
25	communication with students should that take place.

1 Anything that you -- any correspondence with students has to be turned in electronically, with a document 2 that is filled out and turned in to the State Board 3 -- or the district, letting them know what that 4 interaction was. From my standpoint, I have not had 5 any electronic communication with any students at 6 7 North Vermillion except through my school email account. Me and my principal have worked that out. 8 9 Like I said in my statement, he's mentored me through 10 all of it. We meet on a regular basis to discuss growth and maturity from that. Any -- because I also 11 12 coach down there, any Group Me or Remind Me apps -- I 13 also include him in those as well. Any emails that I send to students I also CC my principal in those 14 15 And so I make as many people aware of my emails. 16 interactions through those processes as I can, as 17 discussed with my principal. So certainly it has 18 made me take more appropriate steps to communicate with students. 19 20 Unfortunately, I put myself in the position 21 where I had to learn it this way. But like I said in 22 my statement, for two years I've tried my best to 23 earn that trust from my administration. And,

has gone to bat for me with a letter proves that I've

respectfully, I feel like the fact that my principal

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24

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done that.

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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 --

7 MR. DE LA PAZ: Again, that's something that I've met regularly with my principal about, 8 9 especially when I was first hired, that first year. 10 You know, I'm a lot more aware and perceptive to what 11 my interaction with students looks like to the 12 outside -- or the outside perception of what that 13 looks like. I understand being a young coach around female students that that spotlight, that scope is 14 15 even more so on me, maybe more so than any other -than, you know, any other professional or anything 16 like that. And so it has definitely made me more 17 18 conscientious of that and what it means to strictly be there for an educational basis and to not let it 19 20 get to the point where my rapport with students puts 21 me in the situation to where I'm teetering the line 22 between what is professional and what is not. And so 23 that has -- this incident, this, you know, 24 unprofessionalism has allowed me to reflect on that 25 for sometime and I think up to this point corrected

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1	what needed to be corrected from a personal
2	standpoint.
3	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
4	Dr. Hill.
5	DR. HILL: Yes. Your Counsel made mention to
6	something that I just want to as we decide what
7	we're going to do, that we should bring to surface.
8	I have two daughters and I've actually dealt
9	with this situation, almost identical; so it's very
10	personal. And parents do over-react because
11	you're not a parent yet; is that right?
12	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir. I'm not a parent.
13	DR. HILL: Okay. So when you have a daughter
14	who you place in a classroom under supervision of
15	somebody, when you see a text of something
16	inappropriate, we do over-react and I did over-
17	react because that's my daughter, who I trust you.
18	And so what you've done is broken a trust of parents
19	to go to school and place them there. However, we
20	all fall short and we all need grace. But what have
21	you learned from this situation that can put
22	parameters around yourself, as a hired teacher, as a
23	principal, to make sure that you don't put parents in
24	situations where my daughter is anybody's daughter
25	is in that situation that those text messages, those

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1	feelings were led you to a level of
2	unprofessionalism, which you just called you
3	identified it. And so that's you're owning up to
4	it, and that's it. But do you realize a parent and
5	their daughters the trust that has been broken in
6	that process for us to make a decision on allowing
7	you to go back into the classroom? And what would
8	happen if you broke that trust again? I mean that's
9	now this is serious really, really, really,
10	really serious that you have to not allow your
11	personal feelings to influence your public judgment,
12	which you did.
13	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
14	DR. HILL: And I just I just you know,
15	from a parent of two daughters who I've done it
16	exactly; I go through my they're older now, but I
17	come get their phone. But at 16, 17 year olds, I pay
18	for the I want to know what's going on.
19	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
20	DR. HILL: And so it wasn't over-reaction; it
21	was a protection mechanism that parents are called to
22	provide, protect, and pastor their children. And I
23	mean it's this is a very difficult situation for
24	me because I know what I wanted for that individual
25	at the time when I saw that, because I placed my

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1	daughter in that situation. So I just hope as this
2	board rules that you understand if given that
3	opportunity, you know, that grace has been granted to
4	you against what the State has recommended to us.
5	Okay?
6	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
7	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge.
8	MS. McFETRIDGE: I know you said you were a
9	coach.
10	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
11	MS. McFETRIDGE: Are you teaching as well?
12	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am. I'm a math teacher.
13	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Can you also let us
14	know, aside from the probation at this point, what
15	other courses have you taken to help you help
16	strengthen you against doing this again?
17	MR. DE LA PAZ: I had to in addition to
18	professional development that I had to take as part
19	of being a new-hire down there, I also had to take
20	as an agreement between myself and my assistant
21	superintendent and my principal, I also had to do an
22	additional three hours of Louisiana ethics training
23	and I also did a three-hour seminar on social
24	networking. Off the top of my head I don't recall
25	what the what it it was through the Louisiana

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1	State Board of Education. And I did a three-hour
2	thing with the ethics and then a three-hour social
3	media networking training through their online
4	program, similar to the IDEAS that we had the
5	Arkansas IDEAS that we have here. So those six hours
6	I got on a condition of being hired through agreement
7	with my principal and my assistant superintendent.
8	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you.
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything else, discussions,
10	questions?
11	Are we ready for a motion?
12	Remember we're going to do it in three parts.
13	The first is Findings of Fact.
14	MS. NEWTON: I have a motion on that, I think.
15	I think that there's a Finding of Fact that the
16	Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with
17	a female student via text messages.
18	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do I have a second?
19	MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.
20	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion by Ms. Newton, second by
21	Mr. Williamson.
22	All in
23	Do we need to take a roll-call?
24	SECRETARY KEY: Yes, ma'am.
25	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Would you do that,

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1	please?
2	SECRETARY KEY: Give me this is an old roll-
3	call sheet, so let me make some
4	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
5	SECRETARY KEY: adjustments here real quick.
6	All right. Dr. Hill.
7	DR. HILL: Yes.
8	SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
9	MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.
10	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
11	MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
12	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
13	MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
14	SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.
15	DR. MOORE: Yes.
16	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
17	MS. NEWTON: Yes.
18	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.
19	MS. DEAN: Yes.
20	SECRETARY KEY: Okay. It's unanimous.
21	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Motion passes.
22	Next, we will talk about the Conclusion of Law,
23	which is, my understanding, did the do we believe
24	based on the evidence that he violated Standard 1 and
25	2, 1 or 2, or

1 Ms. Newton. MS. NEWTON: I make a motion that we follow the 2 determination that the Educator violated both 3 4 Standard 1 and 2. 5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have a second? MR. WILLIAMSON: Second. 6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson. 7 Motion by Ms. 8 Newton, second by Mr. Williamson. 9 All in favor? Roll-call. SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill. 10 11 DR. HILL: Yes. 12 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson. 13 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes. 14 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers. 15 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes. 16 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge. 17 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. 18 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore. 19 DR. MOORE: Yes. 20 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton. 21 MS. NEWTON: Yes. 22 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean. 23 MS. DEAN: Yes. 24 SECRETARY KEY: Seven votes in favor. 25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Motion passed.

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1 As far as Recommendations, do I have a motion or 2 a suggestion? 3 MS. NEWTON: I have a suggestion, then we can discuss. 4 5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please. MS. NEWTON: Okay. I suggest that we give a 6 7 three-year probation with a \$250 fine, and then give 8 appropriate training to go with that. 9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Three-year probation, \$250 fine, 10 and training. 11 Do we have others who want to comment regarding 12 that? DR. HILL: What would that training -- what --13 There's a Code of Ethics training MS. NEWTON: 14 15 video, there's a PLSB social media quideline training, and then there's a book on Active/Ethical 16 Professional Behavior for Responsible Educators. 17 So, 18 all of that would be training with reflections to go 19 along with that. 20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Further discussion? Okay. 21 Do I have a second? 22 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll second that. 23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion by Ms. Newton, seconded 24 by Ms. McFetridge. 25 All in favor? Roll-call.

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1	DR. HILL: Can I just ask
2	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes, quick.
3	DR. HILL: Yeah.
4	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I don't mean "quick;" I'm sorry.
5	DR. HILL: How with him being in Louisiana,
6	how would we how are those things, making sure
7	that how do we wrap that up?
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Dugan, can you
9	DR. HILL: I mean, how do we
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: answer that for that us?
11	DR. HILL: get feedback?
12	MR. DUGAN: To my understanding it would be that
13	he would have to complete those conditions. If he
14	does not complete those conditions, then this board
15	could suspend his license.
16	Is that correct, Mr. James?
17	MR. JAMES: (Nodding head up and down.)
18	MR. DUGAN: That would be my understanding.
19	DR. HILL: How will we know this process is
20	ongoing through this three-year period of time? I
21	mean, how do we have those checks and balances to
22	validate that he is
23	MS. NEWTON: I think the training has to be
24	completed within is it 60 days? I can't remember.
25	MR. DUGAN: Not the training. To my

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understanding though the fine has to be paid within 1 -- is it 90 days? 2 3 MS. NEWTON: Okay. MR. DUGAN: I believe 90 days of the State Board 4 5 order. Mr. James, the training --6 I mean, I see it when --7 8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. James, do you want to come 9 to the podium please? MR. DUGAN: -- that they -- it will show when 10 11 they've completed it. 12 MR. JAMES: In that letter that's sent to the 13 Educator and their attorney they will be advised as to the requirements; they have to submit it to our 14 15 office where we check-mark that that's been If it's not completed or if there's --16 completed. they don't pay the fine in the amount of time, then 17 18 it'll go into Licensure where they will put that 19 license -- it'll become a licensure action for 20 failure to adhere to the parameters you set forth. 21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So the school where he is, or 22 any school where he may go, will get notice, and then 23 y'all will flag it for a timeline? 24 Yeah. The three-year -- if it's MR. JAMES: 25 three-year probation, during that time he has the

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1	requirement to submit that information to us within
2	that timeframe. Now as far as the school being
3	notified initially from after you make your
4	decision the school will be notified by letter from
5	our office as well.
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And if he changed schools
7	would that letter follow him?
8	MR. DUGAN: No. And if it's probation
9	Oh, excuse me?
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No. No, microphone.
11	SECRETARY KEY: Microphone.
12	MR. DUGAN: If it is a probation, then the
13	school is not notified of we don't send a letter
14	out to the school; we send a letter to the
15	Complainant in that case. So it's just a suspension
16	or revocation, if that person is still teaching, that
17	we send a letter to that school.
18	MR. GIGLIO: May I suggest
19	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Wait till you come to the
20	microphone. We're being live-streamed, so
21	MR. GIGLIO: May I suggest that this board could
22	make it a requirement upon Mr. de la Paz to furnish
23	evidence from his employer, whoever it may be, from
24	time to time we suspect it's going to be
25	Vermillion High School where he's teaching now

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the terms of his probation. He also has evidence --3 excuse me -- he also has information that --4 5 Did I say what you intended to say? MR. DE LA PAZ: The -- I -- when I first got 6 7 hired I applied for a Louisiana teaching license through reciprocity, and part of that was turning 8 9 over my Arkansas teaching license. And then once I -- through the paperwork I had to notify -- I 10 notified the Louisiana State Board of the pending 11 12 investigation two years ago, when it started. And so 13 I can't get my teaching license in Louisiana; they won't grant it until these proceedings are done. And 14 15 so when -- I trust that if the motion passes with any 16 training the Louisiana State Board is going to be notified of the training requirements that I have to 17 18 complete in that probationary period. And so I don't know if that helps answer how you would know. 19 But certainly my principal, knowing of the proceedings 20 21 anyway, and will be notified of whatever the final recommendation is, would certainly be willing to 22 23 provide quarterly or monthly progress on any training 24 that you would require me to do. So I don't know if 25 that helps.

- July 11, 2019

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that he must furnish from his employer the necessary

evidence that you all require that he is fulfilling

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I think what your attorney is 1 saying is another way you can show personal 2 responsibility is that if you take it upon yourself 3 to be in communication and notify and take the 4 5 training and --MR. DE LA PAZ: Notify the --6 7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- not rely on your mentor. 8 MR. DE LA PAZ: -- the State Board. Yes, ma'am. 9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. 10 DR. HILL: For the entire three years. 11 MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes. 12 DR. HILL: I mean that's what I -- that's the 13 piece -- I don't want it to be a 90-day completion and we don't hear anything else over the process. 14 Ι 15 mean --MR. DE LA PAZ: I understand. 16 17 DR. HILL: -- I want a --18 MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir. 19 DR. HILL: -- thorough three-year update 20 quarterly, however that's going to be, back to them, 21 you know, that -- with your mentor writing and 22 saying, "We've had no evidence of any inappropriate 23 contact," dah-dah-dah-dah --24 MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir. 25 DR. HILL: -- by granting you this opportunity.

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1	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
2	DR. HILL: Now you can be assured that you will
3	make sure that happens; you'll take the initiative
4	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, sir.
5	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So does the motion need to be
6	amended to that degree or
7	MR. DUGAN: Beg your pardon?
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: The motion, does it need to be
9	amended to include who's going to be in contact with
10	you-all, who's responsible, those kinds of things?
11	MS. FRENO: Madam Chair, I think that would be
12	the cleanest way to do it is if the motion would be
13	amended to include those items so that way we'd have
14	that on the record.
15	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Newton, do you want
16	to amend your motion?
17	MS. NEWTON: Yes. Dr. Hill, do you want to do
18	it quarterly or semi-annually? How do you want to
19	DR. HILL: Whatever the teacher I mean
20	MS. NEWTON: Probably end-of-semester would
21	probably work.
22	DR. HILL: Yeah, end-of-semester would be fine.
23	MS. NEWTON: So
24	DR. HILL: Each semester.
25	MS. NEWTON: a report from the district or

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1	the Educator?
2	DR. HILL: I think we were saying
3	MS. NEWTON: The Educator?
4	DR. HILL: the Educator.
5	MS. NEWTON: Educator, at the end of the
6	semester, that you had no other violations and that
7	you are actively working on rehabilitation.
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And I guess we could say from
9	the Educator and the person who's hired him?
10	MS. NEWTON: Yeah.
11	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And so
12	MR. GIGLIO: Yes, ma'am.
13	MS. NEWTON: So I think though
14	MR. GIGLIO: I would suggest that he be required
15	to furnish evidence from his principal, no matter
16	what principal.
17	DR. HILL: Yes.
18	MR. GIGLIO: Because the same school could hire
19	him but a different principal.
20	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
21	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does that work?
22	MS. NEWTON: So evidence from the principal at
23	the end of each semester that he is fulfilling the
24	terms of his probation and has gotten into no further
25	consequences from bad decisions.

50

1	MR. GIGLIO: Just to clarify, semesters are
2	different in Louisiana. There are two semesters
3	the fall/winter and the spring. Is it a proper
4	understanding that he would have to do it twice?
5	MS. NEWTON: Yes.
6	MR. GIGLIO: Thank you.
7	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So we have a motion that was
8	amended. Will the person second the amended motion?
9	MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. We have a motion and a
11	second.
12	Ms. Donovan, do we need to restate it or did you
13	get that?
14	MS. DONOVAN: I got it.
15	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
16	All in favor roll-call.
17	SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.
18	DR. HILL: Yes.
19	SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.
20	MR. WILLIAMSON: No.
21	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.
22	MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.
23	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.
24	MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes.
25	SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

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1	DR. MOORE: Yes.
2	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.
3	MS. NEWTON: Yes.
4	SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.
5	MS. DEAN: Yes.
6	SECRETARY KEY: Six in favor, one against.
7	MS. CHAMBERS: Can I make a comment?
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers has something she'd
9	like to say.
10	MS. CHAMBERS: Yeah, I just want to make a
11	comment because it's a tough it needed to be a
12	tough vote. I just so my background is human
13	resources and so pattern is always what you're
14	looking at. And we heard you say many good things
15	about the acknowledgement of not being professional,
16	but this goes so far beyond professionalism. It's
17	really poor judgment. And I just want to make sure
18	I didn't hear you say this, and I don't even know
19	that the coursework will get at it, but it's not just
20	about texts; it's about insuring you never put
21	yourself in a situation again where a relationship
22	like this could develop. And you have to be really
23	conscious of that because it's not a level playing
24	field with a child, a student. No matter how mature
25	they seem, this wasn't a fair fight. And so it's so

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1	important that on a very, very personal level you
2	take this opportunity to kind of I won't say do-
3	over because the damage is done, but insure that it's
4	never done again. I just want to make sure you heard
5	that from us.
6	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
7	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you. And
8	Oh, Ms. Newton.
9	MS. NEWTON: I just have one other comment along
10	those lines. Dr. Hill brought it out very well that
11	you are entrusted with parents' children that they
12	love very much, and you've got to take that trust
13	seriously. You cannot ever, ever put yourself in a
14	situation like this again, cannot violate that trust.
15	You've got to avoid you've got to go way above
16	what anybody else in that district does. You've got
17	to avoid the very appearance of evil. You've got to
18	do what it takes to be a good educator. You've got
19	to do what it takes to make sure those kids get a
20	good education. They're entrusting you every day
21	with those children and you've got to make sure that
22	you do what you're supposed to do and not put
23	yourself and, more importantly, not put a child in
24	this situation ever again. And I hope you understand
25	that we don't want to see you back here again.

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	5.
1	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
2	MS. NEWTON: And if we see you back the outcome
3	is going to be a whole lot different than what it was
4	today. So I hope you understand that we have taken
5	this very seriously and we are expecting much better
6	out of you than what we heard today.
7	MR. DE LA PAZ: Yes, ma'am.
8	CHAIRMAN NATIONS: Anything else?
9	MR. DUGAN: Madam Chair, just I want to make
10	sure when I draft the order I have it correct. So
11	it's a three-years probation, \$250 fine
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: (Nodding head up and down.)
13	MR. DUGAN: Thank you, ma'am. And if you don't
14	mind, Madam Chair, just those trainings that were
15	brought up?
16	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton has it written down.
17	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Newton hands Mr.
18	Dugan a list of trainings.)
19	MR. DUGAN: May I borrow this, Ms. Newton, to
20	make a photocopy?
21	And then also the evidence from the principal
22	twice a year that he is he's following his
23	probation?
24	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Whoever the principal may be.
25	MR. DUGAN: Yes, ma'am. Was there anything

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54 1 else? 2 Okay. Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We didn't hear from the parents, but I can, I think, express for the Board we hope 4 5 that this young lady is doing fine. A-3: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ASSESSMENT (SSA) FOR P-12 DISTRICT 6 7 LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR 8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Being nothing further, I think 9 we're ready for the next item -- School Superintendent Assessment for P-12 District Level 10 11 Administrator. 12 MR. DUGAN: Are we free to go? 13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You are free to go, Mr. Dugan. MR. ROWLAND: Good morning, all. Michael 14 15 Rowland with the Department Division, filling in for 16 Ms. Luneau today. Educational Testing Service has updated its 17 18 School Superintendent Assessment. Arkansas is 19 currently using the SSA 6021 as its administrator --20 district level administrator license assessment. ETS 21 is replacing this with the 6991. 22 In April, ETS brought a copy of the 6991 for 23 review by Arkansas administrators and administrator 24 preparation faculty. ETS presented data from a 25 multistate standard-setting study, which included a

1	test study value. As a result of this state review,
2	participants recommend a cut score of 157. To allow
3	administrator preparation providers to update their
4	programs of study, the Department is recommending a
5	start-date of September 1, 2020. For Board action,
6	the Department recommends adopting the school
7	superintendent assessment 6991 with a cut score of
8	157, effective September 1, 2020.
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anyone have any questions?
10	Seeing none, do I have a motion?
11	DR. MOORE: I do.
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, sorry. I apologize. I
13	looked away too soon.
14	DR. MOORE: Yeah. Is this a big change? Is
15	this something you've received feedback from
16	superintendents with any concerns or
17	MR. ROWLAND: We did. Well, we at the April
18	review that was their opportunity to review it. ETS
19	updates their tests when there's 20% or so changes in
20	standards, national standards, and they felt it was
21	warranted to do that in this case. So they're
22	replacing their existing one, which we are currently
23	using as our district level, with this one. So we're
24	recommending as the panel that reviewed it and the
25	PLSB also agreed to replace it with the 6991.

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1 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And this will be for new 2 3 superintendents? MR. ROWLAND: Ma'am? 4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: This will be for new --5 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. 6 7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- superintendents? 8 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. Yes, ma'am. 9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No more questions? Do I have a motion? 10 11 DR. MOORE: Motion to approve. 12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Dr. Moore. Second by 13 (holding up a finger) 14 MS. DEAN: 15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- Ms. Dean. Sorry, I didn't see you; I didn't turn around 16 17 fast enough. 18 Okay. All in favor say "aye." 19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES) 20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed? 21 Motion passes. 22 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you. 23 A-4: APPROVAL OF DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS (DLM) CUT SCORES 24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Approval of the Dynamic 25 Learning Map cut scores.

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1	MS. WORSHAM: Good morning. Hope Worsham from
2	the Department of Education, Director, Assessment.
3	And I believe you have these slides I'm going to walk
4	you through today. We are requesting approval of the
5	Dynamic Learning Maps cut scores.
6	Closer thank you.
7	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Worsham steps
8	closer to the podium microphone.)
9	MS. WORSHAM: 2018-2019 was our first
10	administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps. This is
11	the assessment that we use with our alternate
12	population, so 1% of students that are severely
13	cognitively disabled and by federal law are allowed
14	to take an alternate assessment instead of taking ACT
15	Aspire. We do require within our rules State Board
16	approval of the cut scores. And this will be the
17	first year that we have scores and would like to
18	approve the consortium adopted cut scores. So I'll
19	give you a little more information about the scores
20	that we're seeking.
21	So, first of all, the Dynamic Learning Maps is
22	given in grades 3 through 10. This year we did give
23	the test in grade 11 for math and ELA. That's an
24	anomaly; it's just because our students in 11th grade
25	have not had a high school test. So moving forward

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it will be grades 3 through 10, just like ACT Aspire. 1 Dynamic Learning Maps is given in 11 other -- or 10 2 other states, 11 including Arkansas, and our first 3 administration was in '18-19. 4 So the ELA and math cut scores were established 5 prior to us joining the consortium. 6 There were 7 teachers from across the other states that were members at that time that participated in that 8 9 The Technical Advisory Committee gave input process. all throughout the process. We've reviewed the 10 documents and feel that the process they went through 11 is very technically sound and defensible, and the 12 13 other states have all adopted the cut scores as proposed by the consortium. 14 15 I provided you with the cut scores; they're on the screen. What's important for us is these are the 16 17 data from Arkansas this year. And so what we would 18 be proposing are that students that are at target or advanced, which is the far right column that you see 19 there, is equivalent to ready and exceeding in our 20 21 Arkansas system for ACT Aspire. So the nice thing 22 about DLM is there are four cut levels, just like for 23 ACT Aspire, and we're able to assign points the same 24 as we do for Aspire. So emerging would be zero 25 points and the ESSA system approaching would be a

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1	half and so-on, just like one for at-target and
2	advanced is one or one-and-a-half depending on the
3	numbers.
4	So across the state for Arkansas in ELA you see
5	the percentages on the far right of our number of
6	students that were scoring in those top two
7	categories. And these are the numbers for math so
8	anywhere from 24% down to 13% of our students scoring
9	at those two levels.
10	This assessment is given across the year, so
11	it's not given all at one time in the end-of-year,
12	which is why we made the switch to DLM. The test is
13	given in small little chunks and students are able to
14	digest that information as needed and when ready; so
15	then teachers can give the test at any point
16	throughout the year in small little bits.
17	For science, when we came on the cut scores were
18	already established for 4-5, 6-8, and high school.
19	So again we were not part of that process, but we do
20	feel that the process was followed, was sound,
21	technically sound. The Technical Advisory Committee
22	signed off on that and we think that the cut scores
23	are appropriate. But Arkansas did get to participate
24	in the establishment of the cut scores for a couple
25	of grades that were not already established for

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1	science, and that would be 3-7 and 3 and 7. So
2	you can see Arkansas had four educators out of the
3	nine, and that is because Arkansas is the only state
4	right now that's using the science assessment in
5	every grade and we do that because we also do that
6	with ACT Aspire. So we had nice representation on
7	this panel for the science cut scores. As soon as we
8	joined on, DLM was very open to having us participate
9	in all any activity that we could and send our
10	educators.
11	Again, the same approach was applied across
12	consistently. All three assessments we feel are
13	technically sound. The Technical Advisory Committee
14	was a part of the process the entire time. There
15	were five steps that they followed. The panels went
16	through and reviewed, they recommended, and they came
17	back to consensus.
18	So for Arkansas I'm going to skip over this
19	grade 7, we were a part of that committee; we were
20	also part of the grade 3 committee. But for
21	Arkansas, we would propose that the cut scores that
22	the consortium recommends we also adopt in our state.
23	And these are the percentages of Arkansas students on
24	the science assessment that are scoring at the top
25	two levels.

1 So ADE is requesting State Board approval of the DLM proposed cut scores for ELA, math, and science. 2 And I will entertain any questions you have now. 3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore. 4 DR. MOORE: Yes. I know there are some 5 challenges when you give a test the first year. 6 What 7 was the overall feedback of the assessment by 8 teachers and districts? 9 MS. WORSHAM: Yeah, great question. The 10 feedback was that there were some challenges giving the assessment across the year. Giving science in 11 12 every grade level was new; we had only done 5, 7 and 13 10 previously, in a portfolio style. The feedback overall has been that the assessment is a good 14 15 educational tool. And we are actually doing training 16 right now. I have people training in co-ops on how to use the assessment as an instructional tool; and 17 18 so we have about 1,000 -- I may be -- 600 educators signed up across 15 sessions this summer to come to 19 20 that training, and that has been very well received 21 and great feedback. 22 DR. MOORE: That's great. As far as the -- I 23 noticed on the scores that the amount ready decreases 24 per grade level. Do y'all have any ideas behind why 25 that may be occurring?

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1	MS. WORSHAM: I do not. And again with it being
2	our first year this is our baseline data, and so I
3	would probably know more as the assessment goes
4	forward. As our teachers get comfortable giving this
5	style of assessment I would assume I would hope to
6	see those scores move up.
7	DR. MOORE: Thank you.
8	MS. WORSHAM: Uh-huh.
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson? Ms. McFetridge?
10	Anyone on this side?
11	Okay. I have a question. I'm assuming since
12	the end number is probably not 10 or 15 this score
13	will not go into figuring the letter grade for the
14	school. Is that correct?
15	MS. WORSHAM: That is a question I would have to
16	defer to Ms. Coffman on.
17	MS. COFFMAN: Deborah Coffman, Department of Ed.
18	All student scores are included into the
19	accountability unless they meet the guidelines for
20	exclusion. Just because they're a low number, those
21	numbers are not reported publicly. If you go to our
22	report card you'll see that for through our
23	suppression those numbers are limited so as not to
24	identify a student to the public. But every student
25	is included

1	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
2	MS. COFFMAN: in accountability.
3	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you for clarifying.
4	SECRETARY KEY: I have a question.
5	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Secretary.
6	SECRETARY KEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7	Could you go back to the ELA results
8	MS. WORSHAM: Sure.
9	SECRETARY KEY: slide, please? So 3 through
10	7 you see pretty strong results, and then there's a
11	significant decline in the number 8 through 11. Any
12	conclusions that y'all have been able to draw from
13	that at this point?
14	MS. WORSHAM: Not at this point. Again, with it
15	being baseline data and with our teachers getting
16	used to the new format of the assessment could have
17	some impact on that. The training this summer,
18	again, has been very well received, so I think that
19	we will see the assessment being better utilized next
20	year. And it really should be given throughout the
21	year as an instructional tool, and I think some of
22	our districts were not in tune to that yet this year.
23	So, I don't have a reason but that could be part of
24	why.
25	SECRETARY KEY: And is there anything we can

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1	learn about that approach to assessment that might
2	apply on a larger scale as giving it in smaller
3	chunks through the course of the year? And the
4	reason I ask that is because, you know, we the
5	states do have the opportunity for some flexibility
6	in how they conduct their assessment and what type of
7	assessments they have. So, just curious if you have
8	any thoughts about that methodology?
9	MS. WORSHAM: Yeah. I think that was one of our
10	draws to changing to DLM is that to see how this
11	approach worked. There is a lot of evidence that
12	formative good formative assessment across the
13	year is the foundation for good learning. And so I
14	think that, yes, there is room in our overall state
15	system to look at eventually could we move to some
16	type of assessment that is similar to this generally.
17	And I don't think that it's out of the question; I
18	think it's just a matter of how do we use assessment.
19	We don't want to over-burden schools with testing too
20	much, but help them to understand that assessment is
21	a tool for learning and not yeah to inform
22	learning, not
23	SECRETARY KEY: Thank you.
24	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Did they get the same kind of
25	results as far as percent of students tested that we

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1 got with the ACT Aspire? MS. WORSHAM: As far as like 95% --2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Uh-huh. 3 MS. WORSHAM: -- of students testing? 4 Yes. So 5 the percent of students taking the assessment was in line with where it should be. 6 7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything else? 8 Do I have a motion? 9 DR. MOORE: Move to approve. 10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore moves. Do I have a second? 11 12 MS. DEAN: Second. 13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean seconds. All in favor? 14 15 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES) 16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you. MS. WORSHAM: 17 Thank you. 18 SECRETARY KEY: While -- before she gets too far away, Madam Chair, some of you may have seen the 19 paper today, some of you may have not. 20 But Hope is 21 going to be leaving our team and joining the Little Rock School District team, and Mr. Poore has 22 23 recommended her for the position of Executive 24 Director of Curriculum and Instruction. So that's a 25 great opportunity for her and a great move for Little

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1	Rock, but we will miss her for sure.
2	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you, Ms. Worsham.
3	A-5: DISTRICT REQUEST FOR WAIVERS GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT
4	CHARTERS
5	a) SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. The next item is 1240
7	waivers. Ms. McLaughlin.
8	I will remind you that 5(b) was pulled, so we
9	will do (a), (c), and then thereafter.
10	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, ma'am. Kelly McLaughlin
11	with the Division of Elementary and Secondary
12	Education.
13	First, we have action item A-5(a), Southside
14	School District. As a reminder, the district will
15	have 20 minutes to make their presentation. Any
16	opposition will also have 20 minutes as well, and the
17	district will then have 5 minutes to respond before
18	the question-and-answer begins.
19	As you know, Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school
20	district to petition the State Board of Education for
21	all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment
22	public charter schools. And we do have
23	representatives from the Southside School District
24	appearing before the Board for petitions for waivers
25	of Class Size and Teaching Load. Their 90 days will

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expire on September 19th, and they are requesting for 1 three years, ending on June 30, 2022. 2 We have Roger Rich, superintendent; Novella 3 Humphrey, the director of curriculum and federal 4 5 programs; and Dr. Kimberly Crosby, assistant professor of education and director of teacher 6 7 education at Lyon College. And you will want to 8 swear them in. 9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Help remind me since -is this considered like a charter and conversion 10 11 charter where it's a verbal contract so they need to 12 be put under -- they need to be sworn in, or is this 13 MS. McLAUGHLIN: (Nodding head up and down.) 14 15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: They do? They do need to all three be 16 MS. McLAUGHLIN: sworn in. 17 18 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. So if anyone --19 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Except the lawyer, and I don't 20 believe that any of those three are lawyers. 21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Rich doesn't need a lawyer. 22 If you'll stand and raise your hand -- do you 23 swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to 24 give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing 25 but the truth?

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1	(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)
2	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You may approach the
3	podium.
4	SUPT. RICH: I'm Roger Rich. I'm the
5	superintendent of Southside School District, just
6	south of Batesville. And Madam Chair, Board,
7	Secretary Key, thank you for the opportunity to come
8	today.
9	I have two individuals with me today who are
10	really the architects behind all the work, and that's
11	Novella Humphrey, our curriculum coordinator
12	anything great that's done within our school district
13	she actually does it and her hands are all over that
14	and Dr. Crosby with Lyon College, a great partner
15	of ours.
16	So as Superintendent of Schools I think one of
17	the most important things that I'm tasked with is to
18	put high quality people in the classroom; that's
19	where it all takes place. And so I kind of want to
20	tell our history today, if I can, about how we want
21	to make sure that we have great teachers in the
22	classroom and our innovative way that we've tried to
23	come up with here to combat the teacher shortage in
24	our area, if I could.
25	We were a teacher cadet pilot school when it

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1	first started. And the neat thing about that now is
2	we're starting to see those students graduate and
3	become certified teachers. I'll tell a couple of
4	stories of individuals that I'm very proud of:
5	The first young lady, she contacted us about a
6	month ago and 11 days short of her 20th birthday; she
7	is now has her teaching certification. She left
8	us with 54 concurrent credit hours. She got into the
9	teacher education program at Arkansas State after her
10	first semester; caused some issues there, trying to
11	figure out how those obstacles and barriers were to
12	be to go around. And we're extremely proud of
13	her; she has her certification, she's going to get
14	her master's degree at Harding University, and at 21
15	years old we'll be recruiting her back to be back at
16	her alma mater teaching in our classroom and doing
17	great things for kids.
18	Another story that I'm equally as proud of a
19	young lady took a different path. She had a child as
20	a junior in high school. That would've could've
21	taken a lot of people off that path, but she
22	continued to go with the support system she had, both
23	at home and at school. Her goal was to be a nurse.
24	So her future story is what we're all about at
25	Southside, trying to make future stories come true.

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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 We did not have an opening in the area that teacher. 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.

20 We have a conversion charter at our 9-12, so 21 that gives us some opportunities 9-12. But some of 22 our other areas we don't have that, and that's what 23 we're looking at today.

24We have bi-monthly meetings with UACCB when we25first started our conversion charter -- sit-down

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1	meeting with their leadership team every-other-month,
2	which we've been able to do some fantastic things for
3	kids by having those meetings. But that's grown to
4	not just Southside and UACCB; it's grown to eight
5	area high schools that come together bi-monthly with
6	Lyon College, with UACCB and other representatives in
7	that area to do what's best for kids, do what's best
8	for education in Independence County.
9	So our goal with this when we sat down and
10	started talking we wanted to try to develop welders,
11	nurses, all those type things for our community. Sad
12	to say we did not really take care of ourselves.
13	Collectively, education in Independence County is the
14	second largest non-manufacturing employer in our
15	county, and we were taking care of everybody else but
16	ourselves. So we wanted to try to do some things to
17	grow our teachers and create a teacher pipeline
18	coming back within our schools. So our goal is not
19	only to recruit, but our goal is to retain great
20	teachers because they're the ones that make the
21	difference. So, one way to do that is to reduce the
22	time to degree and the cost. So with the hard work
23	of these two ladies and others, you can get a four-
24	year degree in Independence County, going to UACCB
25	and Lyon College, for \$15,000, and that's before PELL

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1	or anything else; so those that are eligible for PELL
2	can get it for less than that. They sit down with a
3	seamless transition on how you could do a four-year
4	degree and stay right there at home and make it very
5	affordable for our kids and for parents. If you have
6	a student that or child of yours that's went on to
7	college recently or is going right now, it's quite
8	expensive. So anything we can do to keep that cost
9	down we definitely want to do so.
10	So the time to degree with our partnership with
11	our colleges over half of our student body that
12	graduated our senior class has taken at least one
13	concurrent credit class and half of those kids have
14	at least a semester or more. So those are the things
15	that we want to make sure that we do, that we cut
16	that down to make it easier for them and to cut the
17	cost down.
18	We had a formal MOU that was developed by Lyon
19	College and UACCB to insure that they can get that
20	four-year degree and sit down and not only work with
21	our counselors so they can make sure that they can
22	counsel families and students, how they can do that
23	and do so affordably.
24	So one question you might have is we've been
25	here four different times asking for long-term sub

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1 waivers for our K-6 program. We think we have a pretty good fit for what we were doing K-6, but we 2 didn't have a 7-12 type model and that's what we're 3 trying to look at today. The four interns that we've 4 5 asked for in the past are all teachers for us now -another example of how sometimes we get in the way of 6 7 ourselves. Thank goodness the Department and others 8 have been so gracious to look outside the box and try 9 to help with the teacher pipeline, though -- we had a young lady who'd worked for us for almost five years 10 11 in our preschool program; she had five children within our school district. All this time that she 12 13 was going back to school, trying to get her teaching degree -- she was going to have to leave the job that 14 15 she has and we're paying her to go and intern for 16 nothing at a nearby school district to come back to us to hopefully teach in our classroom. 17 So the 18 waiver that we received allowed her to be able to not only continue working in our district, but also to be 19 20 paid a salary where she could continue to afford to 21 go and support her family. So at the K-6 level some of the things that we 22 23 had in place were instructional facilitators to 24 support and mentor our interns. At the 7-12 grade 25 level in our district, that's something that we don't

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have at this particular point in time. So we want to 1 design a model that, for our interns to be supported 2 by lead teachers or master teachers similar to an 3 opportunity culture type school. 4 5 We turned to our partner, Dr. Crosby, at this time and with meeting together they've developed a 6 program that also -- we want to make sure that we 7 8 meet the expectations that they have as a college, 9 meet the expectations that we have as a school district, and to be able to provide the support for 10 11 our interns that are needed. 12 The plan as written has a written commitment 13 with multiple layers inside that to support personnel, resources, professional development, and 14 15 release time as well. Our 7-12 model values the time for interns to 16 observe, co-teach, teach, reflect, and prepare for 17 18 instruction. The interns will observe under this model two class periods per day and then they will 19 teach four periods per day and then have planning 20 21 time to go along with that. Also, they will be 22 involved in our grade level and our content area 23 PLCs. And these interns would have to go through a 24 collaborative interview process with our school 25 district, with Lyon College, and personnel from each

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1	institution. Lyon College will have the final say-so
2	for those individuals; they know those students and
3	they know who can handle this and who can't. I don't
4	think it's for every particular intern, but I do
5	think that this would work good for some interns. So
6	our only goal here is to try to put high quality
7	people in the classroom, cut time to degree for some
8	people, make people want to stay in the teaching
9	profession, and continue to do great things for kids.
10	So that's all that I have at this particular
11	point in time. And we'll ask any answer any
12	questions that you have for us or for these two
13	ladies.
14	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Let me check and see if we have
15	any opposition.
16	MS. HYATT: (Shaking head from side to side.)
17	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We do not. Okay.
18	If you want to close or if the Panel has
19	questions at this point, or do you want to wait till
20	he finishes?
21	Okay. Ms. McFetridge.
22	MS. McFETRIDGE: I'm just curious, I didn't see
23	it in here, maybe it is, but do you require these
24	interns to work come back and work for you? Is
25	there a requirement in there for that to happen?

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SUPT. RICH: Yes, for that to happen they would 1 definitely have to work for us -- come back and work 2 for us. 3 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. 4 So it's in your 5 agreement along with that? SUPT. RICH: Yes, ma'am. 6 7 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you. 8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You may close. 9 SUPT. RICH: We are closed. Thank you so much. 10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. I have -- qo ahead, 11 Secretary. 12 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Rich, so Dr. Pfeffer and I 13 have been talking about your -- this model for I guess three years now. Is that right? Is that how 14 15 long it's been going? 16 SUPT. RICH: Just about three years. 17 SECRETARY KEY: And so we've been encouraging 18 other districts that have come to us and said, "Hey, what are y'all going to do about the teacher 19 shortage?" And we say, "Well, what are y'all doing 20 21 about it?" You know, "Go to Southside and look to 22 see what they did. They were very proactive and 23 innovative." And so, Ms. Humphrey, you know how much 24 we've tried to direct people to you. How many 25 districts have actually talked to y'all about

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1	replicating or at least tailoring a model similar to
2	this in their own districts with their own local
3	higher ed. partners?
4	MS. HUMPHREY: In the last school year we've
5	visited with at least four districts.
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Identify yourself.
7	MS. HUMPHREY: I'm sorry. I'm Novella Humphrey
8	from Southside School District.
9	In the last school year I know at least four.
10	Plus, within our co-op we meet as a group often, the
11	instructional leaders, and so we've talked about it
12	within that group; so those 15, 16 school districts
13	within our immediate educational co-op area. And
14	then we had visits from three or phone calls from
15	three to four districts in the last school year, and
16	the prior school year we had at least three schools.
17	And then we've had a couple of higher education
18	institutions join our joint meetings at UACCB and
19	Lyon College just to observe and see how we talk and
20	interact and problem-solve together.
21	SECRETARY KEY: Okay. Good. Thank you.
22	MS. HUMPHREY: Uh-huh.
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Newton.
24	MS. NEWTON: I have a couple of questions, Mr.
25	Rich. First of all, I want to thank you because you

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1recognize what I think Mr. Key is getting at, that2you said that "we've been helping everyone else, it3was time for us to help ourselves"4SUPT. RICH: Yes, ma'am.5MR. NEWTON: and I think that's what a lot of6districts around the state need to start looking at.7A couple of questions: this is going to be for8secondary, correct, 7-12?9SUPT. RICH: 7-12. Yes, ma'am.10MS. NEWTON: And so you talked about that the11intern would have a planning time. Is that going to12be a common planning time with a mentor?13SUPT. RICH: Our plan is to assign them to a14master teacher and have that common planning time.15MS. NEWTON: Have a common planning time, okay.16Good.17And then how many interns are you looking at18trying to do in a year?19SUPT. RICH: I don't think it needs to be very20many at one time. We had two prior in our K-621program. One to two possibly at the most22MS. NEWTON: Okay.23SUPT. RICH: each year.24MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then have you talked to25parents and teachers about the possibilities of		
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	25	parents and teachers about the possibilities of

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1 starting this at the secondary level? SUPT. RICH: We have talked with a group of 2 teachers this week. We have not reached out to our 3 parents at this particular point in time, but we will 4 5 insure -- make sure that we do so. MS. NEWTON: Okay. What has been the reception 6 7 in the past from your community at the elementary 8 level for what you've done? 9 They were extremely pleased. SUPT. RICH: And, 10 of course, these are our own. 11 MS. NEWTON: Right. 12 SUPT. RICH: We're tracking our own kids. We 13 track every child that leaves us and we've really been honing in on those who have an interest in 14 15 education. We're going to follow them over the next 16 three or four years and see exactly what they're 17 doing because we want someone that's invested, wants 18 to be in that area, wants to be in that school, knows 19 our culture, knows what we're about, and what makes 20 us a little different; you know, they have to have 21 that servant's heart that we're looking for --22 MS. NEWTON: Right. 23 SUPT. RICH: -- and it's hard to teach that 24 sometimes. 25 MS. NEWTON: Yes, that's correct. I think

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1 that's all I've got. Thank you. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else on this side? 2 Ms. Chambers. 3 MS. CHAMBERS: My question is similar to Ms. 4 5 Newton's in terms of the existing tenured teachers. So they feel good about this? 6 7 SUPT. RICH: (Nodding head up and down.) 8 MS. CHAMBERS: With gift comes responsibilities, 9 especially if we're going to replicate this. I do think it'll be really helpful what you learn about 10 11 engaging your more tenured teachers. You used the word "retention" earlier, and this has the 12 13 opportunity to create a bigger, stronger base but the ladder is even stronger as you develop your more 14 15 experienced teachers. And so I'm hopeful that you'll 16 be able to capture what's working well and what's not so that as others come into this space we can 17 18 accelerate the benefit of what you're doing. But I 19 love the innovation. 20 SUPT. RICH: Thank you. 21 MS. CHAMBERS: So it'll be fun to see how these 22 teachers do as they come back into the program as 23 full-time professional teachers. 24 SUPT. RICH: Awesome. Thank you. 25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge? Mr. Williamson?

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1 Dr. Moore? I have a couple of questions. 2 Okay. Working with secondary students and close to 3 their same age, what kind of help and training will 4 you be giving them with regard to classroom 5 management and -- well, and she knows what I'm 6 7 asking. MS. HUMPHREY: As we have grown over the last 8 9 two years, we instituted a new teacher academy. This will be our third summer of doing that. We spend 10 about four days of intensive time with just novice 11 teachers or new to our district, but novice teachers 12 13 especially, and we go through classroom management, we go through assessment procedures, we go through 14 15 cultural expectations, and also many things about 16 being 22 years old and teaching an 18-year old; and so what's the professional standards that we should 17 18 uphold and maintain every single day. We go beyond the ethics training that's required and we have 19 conversations. And actually this year two of our 20 21 novice teachers that completed the program are going to come back and lead that session. 22 They really 23 gained a lot of information, and as things unfolded 24 through their first year of teaching they went back 25 to things from that day. And so they just

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1	voluntarily emailed this summer and said, "Hey, can
2	we come lead that day?" And we said, "Absolutely."
3	So they're really taking an active leadership role in
4	that training.
5	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And you mentioned the
6	receptiveness by the teachers. What about the
7	parents and the students?
8	MS. HUMPHREY: In the past at K-6 the one of
9	the students the first intern we came and asked
10	for, she had taught for five years in our district as
11	a parapro in a preschool classroom; so parents were
12	very receptive to her because the relationship and
13	trust was already built. So with this individual
14	as we move forward at 7-12 we want to do the same
15	thing introduce them to families, give them
16	opportunities to build relationships at open house
17	and those back-to-school activities.
18	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I notice based on
19	your ACT Aspire scores your if you look at the
20	same cohort as they progress over '17, '18, to '19,
21	you're making good progress with the cohort until you
22	get to 7th to 10th and 8th to 10th. So just be
23	careful with
24	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
25	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: the novice teacher that you

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1	don't lose ground, because y'all are, you know, doing
2	a lot of things. But that did sort of jump out at
3	me.
4	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes. And then, so our Structures
5	training and some other phonics trainings begin for
6	junior high teachers in two weeks. So with approval
7	today we'll be able to if the novice teacher is
8	or the intern is teaching literacy, we'll be able to
9	embed them within all of the professional
10	development.
11	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I know you're using
12	Phonics First with your dyslexic students.
13	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
14	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: But I'm a little bit troubled by
15	the that only 13 are being interventioned, and all
16	the data shows that it's typically a much higher
17	percentage based on student population.
18	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes. For
19	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So can you help me with that?
20	MS. HUMPHREY: For eight years we've had a very
21	intensive RTI program at our elementary and we have
22	worked hand-in-hand with teachers and parents and
23	literacy specialists through the co-ops. So we often
24	identify early and intervene, and so most of the time
25	that dyslexia has been coming at a later level

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1	because we're catching up quicker. We have room to
2	grow and we will see we had some referrals at the
3	end of school-year, so I think we'll see that number
4	grow. Our teachers are in Structures, they're in
5	Phonics First, they're in RISE training this summer.
6	And then our new dyslexia plan was unveiled to
7	principals last
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And your speech therapist as
9	well?
10	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes, ma'am.
11	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
12	MS. HUMPHREY: All three of them.
13	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Right. Well, thank you.
14	MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.
15	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Any more questions?
16	Do I have a motion?
17	MS. NEWTON: I just have one more. Is this a
18	five-year waiver?
19	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes, it was three is what
20	they yeah, three years.
21	Do I have a motion?
22	MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll move to approve this
23	waiver request.
24	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I have a motion by Ms.
25	McFetridge. Second by

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1	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
2	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers.
3	All in favor say "aye."
4	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
5	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.
6	Okay. Let me look at this just a minute.
7	Okay. Would somebody let Mr. Ballard know that
8	we will likely deal with okay we'll likely deal
9	with that after lunch, because lunch is here and
10	we've got one more to go. So if you will, let him
11	know or let yourself know.
12	c) WESTERN YELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
13	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McLaughlin.
14	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. For action item A-
15	5(c), Western Yell County School District is
16	appearing before the Board to request Superintendent
17	Licensure waivers. Their 90 days will expire on
18	September 28th, and they are requesting for one year
19	ending on June 30, 2020. We do have Tommy Fink,
20	board president; Julie Lane, the curriculum
21	coordinator; and Herschel Cleveland here. And you
22	will wish to swear them all in.
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.
24	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Except for Mr. Cleveland
25	actually is an attorney, so

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1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Well, we like for attorneys to promise too. 2 If you'll please stand, raise your right hand --3 do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're 4 5 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? 6 7 (ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY) 8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you. 9 You have 20 minutes. Thank you, Madam Chairman and Members 10 MR. FINK: of the State Board. I'm Tommy Fink, president of 11 12 Western Yell County School Board. And we're here to request a waiver or ask for a waiver to hire Mr. 13 Herschel Cleveland as our superintendent for a year. 14 15 On June 27th our present -- our past 16 superintendent left us, and it was kind of late there, and we didn't know it. We're a real small 17 18 community; no one on our staff certified to do this. We hope that we can get Mr. Cleveland. He's really 19 20 well respected in the community. No one in the 21 community since we have -- it's got out that we were 22 wanting to do this has had anything to say negative. 23 The local newspaper run an article and in their 24 rambling or in their -- editor for the last of it, he 25 even said that he hoped that he was granted the

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1	waiver, that he could help us out. And the whole
2	board when this happened we were looking and his
3	name come up and we wanted to talk to him. And once
4	we talked to him the whole board was unanimous not to
5	even check with anyone else. It was before a five-
6	member board; it was a five-oh vote to hire him for a
7	year if we could get Board approval. And he's really
8	well respected in the community. And I know we will
9	evaluate him and he'll evaluate the teachers. The
10	community well, he works with the people, he works
11	really well, and he's not you know, he doesn't
12	have his certification, and I know that was a
13	problem. But we feel like that he fits our community
14	because, like I say, we're real small; we're hanging
15	around 350, and we need help. And we feel like that
16	he definitely can help us at this time because I
17	don't want to seem like a superintendent needs to
18	be not only a superintendent of the school, he has to
19	be in the community, people have to accept him, he
20	has to work well with the community. And Mr.
21	Cleveland I've not found anyone that he can't work
22	with. And we're just hoping that we need some
23	help and we're hoping that we can get him to help us.
24	Thank you.
25	MR. CLEVELAND: Madam Chairperson, and I guess

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1	now Secretary Key, and Members of the Board, we
2	appreciate very much the opportunity to present this
3	petition for a waiver.
4	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And if you'll identify
5	yourself?
6	MR. CLEVELAND: And my name is Herschel
7	Cleveland and I'm the superintendent of Western Yell
8	County, if y'all approve me, and my residence is in
9	Paris, Arkansas, just across the mountain.
10	What I would like to do today is give you some
11	information about Western Yell County School
12	District; and then I would like to tell you a little
13	bit about why I considered this job; and then we'll
14	talk about the technology that Western Yell has;
15	we'll talk about the data reporting system, the cycle
16	reports, and the financial ability and planning, the
17	academics I'm going to ask Ms. Julie Lane, who is
18	our curriculum coordinator, to come up here in a few
19	minutes and talk about the academics and the
20	stakeholder communication, mentoring, and the
21	evaluation.
22	And, Madam Chair, if you'll let me know when I
23	have about eight minutes left I'll call Julie up
24	here. I asked her to do it, but I can't continually
25	look around.

Western Yell County is located up Highway 10; 1 you head out Cantrell and you keep going -- and 2 probably most of you know where it is. 3 [Clearing throat] Excuse me because of my allergies. 4 But Perryville is one school, the next one is Two Rivers, 5 next one is Danville, and then Western Yell County. 6 7 It has about 158 square miles of territory and we have about 350 students; so that means we have a 8 9 square mile for every two-and-a-quarter students. So 10 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 11 12 about 160 transported students. The faculty is all 13 certified; there's 35 of them -- approximately 35. And I would be the only non-certified one there. We 14 15 have classified -- about 35 classified employees. 16 And we have a student population that's predominantly Caucasian, but we do have -- the last count was 66 17 18 Hispanic, have 15 Asian, we have 8 Mixed Race, and we have 3 Indians, and 4 African Americans. 19 So we do have a diverse school population. 20 21 Now the schools that are surrounding us that 22 people through Freedom of Choice have asked to go to 23 are Two Rivers, Danville, Magazine, Booneville, and 24 Dardanelle. So that's basically -- and I assume that

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you could say there's some competition for Freedom of

25

1 Choice students among the schools, so we're going to have to compete for that. 2 We -- all of our facilities meet standards. 3 We're asbestos-free. We have an assessment value in 4 the district of about \$32,000,000. So, you know, 5 it's -- we've got good things and some bad things, 6 7 but we are really anxious to address any issues we have this year. 8 9 Let me tell you -- some of you know me or know a 10 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 11 12 life I've been a practicing lawyer and I thought I 13 was getting away from that, except when I went to Western Yell County I mean that's what I did for the 14 15 first two or three days is look up the law on this 16 Freedom of Choice. But I was also Juvenile Judge, so I saw a lot of the students come through court and 17 18 dealt with them as Juvenile Judge. I also dealt with DHS cases. And a lot of your teachers have to leave 19 20 school and go testify -- custody cases, they have to 21 go testify. So it's a very interesting thing. I've 22 served on your GT Commission here, back here, and 23 they gave me an award back there years ago. But I 24 served on the Higher Education Coordinator Board for 25 several years, and it was an experience. What we

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were trying to do is align the high schools with the 1 college admission to get the courses that had to be 2 taken over in college, try to get that reduced -- and 3 I'm not sure how successful that's been. And then I 4 5 did distance learning. You remember back when we had 13 different entities delivering distance learning. 6 And then the GIS Board that's -- we have zoned school 7 board membership, so -- I mean everybody has to run 8 9 from a zone, so GIS becomes important. And I've learned lately it's important where those school 10 district lines are; so we deal with those. 11 But I have -- in addition to that, I've been in the 12 13 military and basic officer school, advanced officer school, and I got half of the command and general 14 15 staff school done. And I also have a certificate from Purdue that I did pension and profit-sharing 16 from Purdue. 17 18 Now the thing that has really helped me is being a delegate when I was in the Legislature; I've been 19 in the Legislature for six years. 20 I served on the 21 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

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1	then we stepped it up to \$100,000,000. But I've
2	noticed since I've been at West-Yell that we're still
3	charging people to come to preschool, so but I've
4	done that. I've done leadership training over a two-
5	year period with the Cooperative Extension Program
6	and I've done committee work with NCSL, which is
7	National Conference for State Legislators. I've done
8	the governing board of the Southern Regional
9	Education well, Southern Regional Board Committee
10	and but the SREB, which is located in Atlanta
11	some of y'all may be delegates from Arkansas; I hope
12	you are because this is the most fascinating group
13	and I learned more there than I have anywhere. And
14	they are actually working on the Science of Teaching,
15	and I was hoping they would have a magic bullet
16	someplace but they don't. You know, you get this
17	packet and say, "We're going to show you how to
18	improve your schools." And when you get down to it,
19	it's the relationship of the teacher to the student,
20	the competency of the teacher, and the support that
21	the teacher gets. I mean that's but anyway, one
22	thing that you might find amusing, I was one of two
23	attorneys that first taught continuing legal
24	education in China, in the Guangdong Province. You
25	know China hasn't had attorneys very long. But we

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1	went over there and I had to do a lesson plan for the
2	Communist Party over there and submit it before
3	they'd let me come. But there's 80,000,000 people
4	there, and that's fine. I have filled in for my wife
5	at Arkansas Tech, which I enjoyed immensely. But
6	and I have appeared at lots of schools lots of times.
7	I coached a moot court team for Paris, and we did
8	fairly well; we had a competition at Fort Smith and
9	
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have eight minutes.
11	MR. CLEVELAND: How many?
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Eight.
13	MR. CLEVELAND: Left?
14	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes.
15	MR. CLEVELAND: I'd better hurry. Okay.
16	Let me get on to our technology. I'm going to
17	rush on through this. We have fiber to both of our
18	campuses; we have a campus at Belleville and a campus
19	at Havana. We've got fiber to that. We've got
20	laptops for every kid and we are in good shape
21	technology-wise.
22	The data reporting cycle reports, we have 13
23	people who will submit those. If y'all approve me,
24	they'll submit them to me and I'm going to know
25	what's in there before I sign off.

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1	We've got the financial planning. We've got a
2	budget of about \$2,000,000 or, I'm sorry,
3	\$3,000,000 \$3,293,000. And we've got \$594,000 in
4	unexpended, unrestricted funds. And we've got about
5	\$600,000 in the building fund. So we're okay. I
6	would go into the budget farther if I had more time,
7	but I think that tells you that we're really kind of
8	okay for right now. But we are losing children and
9	our grades we've got a grade D in elementary,
10	we've got a grade C in high school, and I'm going to
11	ask Julie to come up here and spend a couple of
12	minutes telling you what we're doing to improve that.
13	We've been working I've been working with the high
14	school principal and the elementary principal and the
15	curriculum coordinator to try to correct some of
16	these problems.
17	Julie.
18	By the way, she's from Coal Hill originally.
19	MS. LANE: Hi. I am Julie Lane; I'm the
20	curriculum coordinator. I want to speak to the
21	academics.
22	As you know, we have a D and a C. The
23	elementary will possibly qualify for Level 3 support
24	in reading in the 19-20 school year.
25	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Excuse me for interrupting.

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1	Will you pull your mic down closer to your mouth?
2	MS. LANE: Yes.
3	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.
4	MS. LANE: Thank you.
5	Prior to this we have been working to improve
6	reading scores. The K-2 teachers are trained in
7	RISE, and they were trained the 18-19 school year and
8	worked closely with Tanya Newton from Arch Ford.
9	This summer the grades 3-6 will be attending RISE and
10	K-2 teachers are attending Phonics First training.
11	We are hopeful for the improved reading scores from
12	the RISE and Phonics First program. We're also
13	working on training the K-6 staff in Sound Walls and
14	incorporating the Sound Walls in the elementary
15	buildings. We feel involving everyone is a process
16	that will help increase reading scores.
17	During the 18-19 school year, I worked with the
18	elementary principal and K-6 teachers on re-writing
19	the written curriculum and insuring standards were
20	vertically and horizontally aligned. During the 19
21	the 2019-20 school year, the K-6 teachers will
22	continue fine-tuning their written curriculum. Also
23	during this school year the administration will be
24	working with 7-12 students on re-writing their
25	written curriculum, as well as insuring it is

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aligned. 1 Last year I started looking over the dyslexia 2 intervention program. We are using Barton. 3 We served 46 students K-12 during the 18-19 school year 4 5 and we're working closely with the teachers to identify students early for this program. We know 6 7 that early is the key and the teachers have to have 8 that knowledge. 9 Since July 1st, when Mr. Cleveland was hired pending ADE Board approval, we met several times to 10 11 discuss the elementary and have started developing 12 plans. We met Tuesday with an unpaid consultant, 13 Leona Cleveland, to insure our plan for the elementary was appropriate. She determined the plan 14 15 was appropriate. We feel the focus on the elementary 16 will pay dividends to the high school test scores. The superintendent, principal and my-self will spend 17 18 more time in the classrooms to insure teaching and learning and time on task. 19 20 I believe, if given the chance, Mr. Cleveland 21 will help our school improve academically and will be focused on teaching and learning, as well as the 22 23 finances. Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything? 25 MR. CLEVELAND: Herschel Cleveland again. And

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we are developing a team approach to things. 1 I don't think that anybody -- any one person can get done in 2 a school what needs to be done; it takes effort from 3 everybody, including the community. And I was told 4 yesterday that one of the churches in the district is 5 giving all the children their initial school 6 7 supplies. I just couldn't believe that, but that is 8 -- I mean that's an indication that the community 9 That doesn't mean there's not people supports you. 10 that get upset and want to transfer their kid out of 11 there. The mentoring -- I heard a little bit about 12 13 mentoring this morning. But even though I have a little age on me I don't have superintendent 14 15 experience, and I know that. And I would be glad to go through the mentoring program and have a mentor, 16 if I'm approved for this job. And the evaluation 17 18 that the Board will give me -- I've been trying to get hold of Richard Abernathy because it's my 19 20 understanding he has an evaluation tool for 21 evaluating superintendents. In talking with Mr. 22 Fink, I'm sure they'll want to evaluate me. They've 23 offered only a one-year contract, which is what we 24 would like. I mean, we would like to grow somebody 25 that'll stay in that community, grow with that

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1	school, and do everything that needs to be done. I
2	found out through the years, because I was married
3	I am married to a former superintendent of Western
4	Yell County and she and one of the reasons I
5	agreed to do this is she told me how good the people
6	were, plus I grew up not far from there and know some
7	of them. And then my son wants me to do this because
8	he wants to be able to tell me I mean, for me to
9	ask him questions about what I should do, and that's
10	been reversed. But I told the school board the night
11	they tentatively hired me that there would be
12	scrutiny on them. This is an unusual move that we're
13	asking for and we can't afford to fail. You know, if
14	we fail, we fail the community and we fail the kids.
15	I'm going to tell y'all the same thing: if y'all
16	grant this waiver and let me be superintendent for a
17	while, then I will owe you the same responsibility as
18	our school board that we can't afford to fail. And
19	I'm prepared to make it a life, not a job, for the
20	next year.
21	So I appreciate you again. And I'm sure my time
22	is about up, so I'll sit down. Thank y'all.
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do we have any
24	opposition?
25	MS. MCLAUGHLIN: No.

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1	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No. Thank you.
2	Was that your summation or do you want to
3	MR. CLEVELAND: I have learned not to summarize
4	during when people are getting ready to go to
5	lunch.
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Good point.
7	We'll start over here. Dr. Moore, do you have
8	any questions at this point?
9	DR. MOORE: No.
10	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson?
11	MR. WILLIAMSON: No.
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge?
13	MS. McFETRIDGE: I think I'm okay right now.
14	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Dean?
15	MS. DEAN: No.
16	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers?
17	MS. CHAMBERS: Just a question. This may go to
18	the board.
19	You sound, Mr. Cleveland, very credentialed and
20	very respected and what a great place to start
21	and that coupled with the mentoring sounds like it
22	would position you very effectively for this year. I
23	don't think any community can afford to just hold
24	their own, to tread water in any given year. So
25	that's a difficult position to put an interim in,

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1	where you're wanting to position for what comes next,
2	not lose any ground as you're bridging from now to
3	the future. Do you have any thoughts on that or how
4	you might work with
5	MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.
6	MS. CHAMBERS: your board and your teachers
7	to make progress this next year as you prepare for
8	the future superintendent?
9	MR. CLEVELAND: Well, if you get a one-year
10	contract and the people know you're going to be there
11	for one year, they know you're a short-timer; so they
12	what they don't like about you, they can say, "I
13	can wait you out" and they do that and I've seen
14	that happen before. But what I'm going to try to do
15	is give enough of me to the District by going to the
16	events, attending the ballgames, and communicating
17	with the people. And I've asked the principals
18	already to document the teachers. If they don't do
19	right if there are problems, document them.
20	Because when you really get mad at them and at the
21	end of the year you don't have them documented, it
22	doesn't do any good 'cause that's one thing I do
23	know. I've represented school districts in dismiss
24	elections and I've represented teachers asking not to
25	be dismissed. So, you know, I've been all around the

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1	school but I've never been in it. But I would hope
2	I mean, they were on I don't think we have
3	fiscal distress, but they were on fiscal distress a
4	few years ago when my wife went over there. And so
5	they know that they have to do well. And with this D
6	in elementary, we have worked every day to put the
7	right people in the right positions and make sure the
8	frameworks are aligned to what's going to be tested.
9	And then we've got to work on time on tasks with the
10	teachers. If you get a D, you've got somebody not
11	working every day from bell-to-bell. So we've got to
12	and we've kind of got a system now. The principal
13	in the elementary is also the basketball coach. So
14	Ms. Julie back here, whom I have grown to love in two
15	weeks, is going to go down there some when he's gone
16	and I'm going to go down there to make sure they're
17	doing what they need to be doing. But I tell you,
18	when people if you get lax on them, they'll get
19	lax on you, and they've got to know that you're
20	looking at them. They're professionals, and I would
21	never treat a teacher any way but a professional
22	and I expect professionalism out of them. They're
23	certified, so they're supposed to know their subject
24	matter; they're supposed to know their teaching
25	techniques; they're supposed to know how to make

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1	school good. But you don't get D's if you have
2	school that's good. So they'll get tired of hearing
3	that.
4	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Hill?
5	MR. CLEVELAND: Does that
6	DR. HILL: No.
7	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton?
8	MS. NEWTON: Good morning. You mentioned that
9	you would be willing to take a mentor or have a
10	mentor help you through this next year. What about
11	the training that a superintendent goes through each
12	year; are you going to do those professional
13	development trainings that are specifically for
14	MR. CLEVELAND: If y'all approve me today if
15	you approve this waiver, I've got to go over to AAEA
16	to a new superintendents training this afternoon; it
17	started this morning. And I'll go tomorrow. And
18	anywhere that I can get knowledge you know, not
19	being a certified superintendent, I don't know what I
20	don't know. But if I go to the trainings, then along
21	with this other knowledge I feel like I've got an
22	advantage over a lot of people through all of these
23	I mean, SREB and being in the Legislature the
24	Secretary knows how much information information
25	is the best Arkansas has to offer in those

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legislative sessions. 1 2 MS. NEWTON: So you are going to go through the trainings? 3 MR. CLEVELAND: I'm planning on it. 4 5 MS. NEWTON: Okay. MR. CLEVELAND: I mean if something comes up at 6 7 school I have to handle, then I might skip one; but 8 otherwise, I'll be at the trainings. 9 MS. NEWTON: I guess -- and this may be for Legal -- these trainings are required for 10 11 superintendents in Arkansas. Would they be required for him? 12 MS. HYATT: Mary Claire Hyatt from Legal. 13 So, yes. The concern I have is that if you look 14 15 at the waiver request it does ask for a waiver of the 16 Superintendent Mentoring Program, both the law and the rules. So I think we need to clarify if the 17 18 mentoring is that superintendent mentoring program 19 that's set up in law, which then would negate the 20 need for that waiver -- not all of the waivers, but 21 just the two that are about the superintendent 22 mentoring. Or if it's a different type of mentoring 23 program I think we need to clarify that so we can 24 make sure we're getting them what they need. 25 MS. NEWTON: I definitely think that he would

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1	need the mentoring and I would also like to make sure
2	that he go through the required superintendent
3	trainings for the year. So, is that something that
4	y'all would be agreeable to?
5	MR. CLEVELAND: I would think so. I mean I
6	think a mentor is good for everybody.
7	MS. NEWTON: Okay. The other
8	MR. CLEVELAND: I know a lot of these
9	superintendents, you know, and so and I don't
10	really know how much time that would take. But as
11	long as it doesn't detract from me actually getting
12	things done at the school I think
13	MS. NEWTON: Well, it's required; so I think
14	that it would be worth your time.
15	MR. CLEVELAND: Well, if it's required we'll do
16	it.
17	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
18	MR. CLEVELAND: The effort that Arkansans are
19	giving to education is excellent right now. The
20	effort is good. I'm not sure we're getting the
21	results that we deserve to get, you know, because I
22	want us to get better and better and better. And
23	sometimes you go forward, then back a little bit.
24	But I think you're actually right.
25	MS. NEWTON: Is the superintendent I know

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1	this is a small district. Is the superintendent the
2	only district-level administrator besides the
3	curriculum coordinator?
4	MS. LANE: Yes.
5	MS. NEWTON: Yes, okay. All right. And then
6	the secretary and bookkeeper at your district, how
7	long have they been there?
8	MR. CLEVELAND: I believe four years. The
9	eFinance director happens to be one of my classmates'
10	daughters, that was one of my best friends until she
11	passed away. So I've known her since she was a
12	little baby.
13	MS. NEWTON: Is it the same person?
14	MR. CLEVELAND: The secretary is a different
15	person than the bookkeeper.
16	MS. NEWTON: How long has she been there?
17	MR. CLEVELAND: I would guess three years.
18	MS. LANE: Three years, yes.
19	MR. CLEVELAND: Three years.
20	MS. LANE: (inaudible)
21	MS. NEWTON: Can you come to the microphone?
22	MS. LANE: Julie Lane.
23	She'd been a high school secretary, and then
24	she's a nurse. So she went off, and then she came
25	back for the District secretary position about three

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1 years ago. MS. NEWTON: Both of those positions are full-2 time? 3 MS. LANE: Yes. 4 5 MS. NEWTON: And so they've been in the office with the former superintendent that whole time? 6 7 MS. LANE: Yes. 8 MS. NEWTON: Okay. My other question is for 9 your board president. 10 MR. FINK: Yes. 11 MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent 12 leave? 13 MR. FINK: I'm --MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent 14 15 leave? 16 MR. FINK: I'm sorry? MS. NEWTON: When did your former superintendent 17 18 leave? 19 MR. FINK: He left July [sic] 27th, Thursday. 20 MR. CLEVELAND: June. 21 MR. FINK: And he'd been there about three, four 22 years. 23 MS. NEWTON: Okay. 24 MR. FINK: We didn't have any indication he was 25 leaving or even looking --

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1 MS. NEWTON: Okay. 2 MR. FINK: -- for anyone. MS. NEWTON: Okay, so just recently. And then 3 are your plans to do a superintendent search during 4 5 this school year? We're wanting to get him for a 6 MR. FINK: Yeah. 7 year -- you know, hire him for a year, if we can; see 8 how it's going and see -- it's hard to jump into it 9 in a small school because you don't get the -- I 10 don't mean anyone is a bad apple, but you don't get all the best ones because they're wanting more money 11 12 than we can pay and better -- they're better 13 facilities or whatever. And he's offered to help and so he's there. And I'm not going to say that -- if 14 15 it goes well this year and if we could get an 16 extension we may want to do that, you know, if we can't find someone --17 18 MS. NEWETON: But are you --19 MR. FINK: -- in this year. But, yes, we will 20 -- he will help us try to find someone this year. 21 MS. NEWTON: But you are planning on searching 22 this year? 23 MR. FINK: Yes. 24 MS. NEWTON: Okay. 25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Hyatt --

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1MS. NEWTON: And have you I still have one2more question; sorry. Have I forgot the board3president's name have you talked to the people in4your community?5MR. FINK: Yes. We have actually okay, two6towns, Belleville and Havana is compiling to Western7Yell County. They're four miles apart. The8elementary is Belleville; the high school is in9Havana. And a name has come up and everyone says10it's a good choice if we can get him; no one I11have not had one person since this started that said,12"Oh, you don't need him." He's well thought of; he13won't have any problem we won't have a problem14with them, "Oh, you shouldn't have hired him" or "you15should've hired someone else," because there's no one16else right now. We had one turned us down four or17five years ago was interested again when this came18open, and the very same thing happened. I contacted19 we contacted him, interested." So we feel like21this is the way to go to keep stability in the22community.23MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.24CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McFetridge?25MS. MCFETRIDGE: Yes. Is Mr. Cleveland finished		
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24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McFetridge?	22	community.
	23	MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.
25 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. Is Mr. Cleveland finished	24	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. McFetridge?
	25	MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. Is Mr. Cleveland finished

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1 practicing law at this point then? Will this be his focus a hundred-percent? 2 MR. FINK: I'm hard of hearing; I'm sorry. 3 MS. McFETRIDGE: No, I'm sorry. 4 Will Mr. Cleveland continue to practice law or will this be 5 his full-time job? 6 7 MR. CLEVELAND: I can answer that, if you want me to. 8 9 That would be great. MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank 10 you. I basically tried to reduce the 11 MR. CLEVELAND: law practice when I went to work for DIS -- and I was 12 13 the Deputy Director over at DIS for several years and worked with the Department of Ed.; I was DUA 14 15 Coordinator and everything. Because I could not reduce my caseload, so I got somebody else to come in 16 and do the caseload. And when I retired from DIS I 17 18 went back home; I never opened the office back up. But I had a partner that -- he and I, we'd been 19 20 working together for 44 years, and he was a long-time 21 smoker and got bedridden but he didn't want to give up the law practice. So what I did for him is he 22 23 practiced from that phone and I would go run wherever 24 he needed to go, take care of his cases. And he died 25 back in February. And I occasionally do deeds or

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1	trusts or something for people who are long-time					
2	clients or something like that, but I do not I've					
3	got one case set for the end of August, and all the					
4	rest any court cases I've tried not to take a					
5	court case ever since I retired that would put me at					
6	court on a certain day. Because in these four years					
7	I've been retired I've done some extensive traveling					
8	and the it suits me to totally not do I mean I					
9	wouldn't I'm ready I've done that for 48 years,					
10	so I'm ready not to have to do any law practice. But					
11	it looks like I'm going to at the school if y'all					
12	if we get that waiver.					
13	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay.					
14	MR. CLEVELAND: But, no, I plan on doing no law					
15	practice.					
16	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay.					
17	MR. CLEVELAND: I'll have to get rid of that one					
18	case.					
19	MS. McFETRIDGE: Right. I understand.					
20	MR. CLEVELAND: That's it.					
21	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. And my other question is					
22	of Ms. Julie. I didn't hear you speak about					
23	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge, excuse me for					
24	interrupting. Would you straighten your microphone?					
25	MS. McFETRIDGE: Sorry.					

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1	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I think you're cutting yourself					
2	off.					
3	MS. McFETRIDGE: I can't ever get this okay.					
4	You hadn't earlier mentioned Professional					
5	Learning Communities.					
6	MS. LANE: Okay.					
7	MS. McFETRIDGE: Can you tell us where the					
8	District is at with that?					
9	MS. LANE: Yes. On the Professional Learning					
10	Communities, the elementary is fully implemented. We					
11						
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Can you speak into the					
13	microphone?					
14	MS. LANE: Yes; sorry.					
15	We meet weekly. And actually the 3rd grade					
16	teacher has to meet three times a week with people					
17	and she's the pivot point at our school to get that					
18	going, so because we have one 3rd grade teacher.					
19	So she meets with 4th, 5th and 6th, because we have a					
20	departmentalized group, and then she'll meet with 2nd					
21	to make sure everything is aligned, make sure and					
22	so everybody knows what's going on. And right now					
23	we're in the alignment process.					
24	MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. So has everyone been					
25	trained					

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1 MS. LANE: Yes. MS. McFETRIDGE: -- in the District? 2 3 MS. LANE: Yes. MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. 4 MS. LANE: High school will start -- they've 5 been trained and they're going to start their PLC's 6 7 this year. In a small district it was hard to find 8 time, and we're still trying to just find the time to 9 get their PLC's set up. 10 MS. McFETRIDGE: Thank you. 11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anything -- anyone else? 12 I think all of my questions were covered. 13 I think one of my concerns based on your history is -- not your history, but the District's history --14 15 is that you have people around you with regard to 16 being supportive with public school finance. Because as you know -- well know from your service, it's a 17 18 whole different ballgame than just about anything 19 else. 20 And my other question would be -- I don't know 21 if it's Ms. Hyatt or Ms. Coffman -- if they get this waiver will they be cited for not meeting a standard 22 23 because their superintendent is on waiver? 24 MS. HYATT: No. 25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No, they would not. Okay.

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1 Ms. Hyatt. 2 MR. CLEVELAND: May I respond to what you just 3 said? CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Absolutely. 4 MS. HYATT: And I think -- and I wanted to make 5 sure Ms. Newton heard this too -- the financial Tier 6 7 1 training that's required for financial officers he 8 would still be required to do, which would go over 9 all of the financial components. And so I know there was a training and a finance kind of concern, so I 10 wanted to make sure you had that. 11 12 MR. CLEVELAND: I was in the Legislature --13 Herschel Cleveland again. I forget to do that. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's okay. 14 15 MR. CLEVELAND: I was in the Legislature during the adequacy -- in fact, I was Speaker of the House 16 during the adequacy issue. I attended every adequacy 17 18 meeting that they had; I met with Odden and Picus. And the Department of Ed. and the Governor's office 19 20 did not give us a funding bill. So Olen Cook, me, 21 Fred Milligan, Paul Weaver, Jody Mahony, and I think there was somebody else -- we wrote the funding 22 23 formula for the schools based upon the reports of 24 Odden and Picus, and what we did was a building-to-25 building funding formula. See, they -- we did

1exactly what they said. The bill passed. We got it2through the House, over to the Senate. And the3Senate changed it so they used all of our figures and4all of our work and made the funding formula a money-5per-child, which meant that the larger districts who6are more economically efficient would receive more7money and the smaller districts less.8And so, you know, I was involved in the initial9 I think I can do school finance. I was the10assistant budget director for the House, and my main11fellow got hurt; you remember when the budget fellow12couldn't do his work. So after a week in the13Legislature I did the budget for my second year in14there. And there's a few eight or nine people15that do the budget, so I did the I was one of16those eight or nine people for four years that did17the state budget. So and I'll say this: I18probably messed the budget up, but I think I can do19that. But a refresher course will be just exactly20what I need.21CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.22Any other questions?23Do I have a motion?24MS. CHAMBERS: I have a question, please.25CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see		
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	25	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see

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1 you. MS. CHAMBERS: No, no, no. I'd like to make a 2 motion, but just wanted to be clear on what -- what 3 the waiver -- with the request is specifically 4 5 targeting from a waiver perspective? MS. HYATT: I'm glad you asked that guestion 6 7 because my question was going to be similar. So I'm still confused as to whether they're 8 9 going to continue moving forward with their request for the Superintendent Mentoring rules and law, which 10 11 is in the request as it's written. So that's one 12 component of the waiver request. And the other is 13 Superintendent Licensure, which they have the law and the standard for that as well. 14 15 So there's kind of two components -- the 16 Superintendent Licensure and then the Superintendent 17 Mentoring Program -- that are part of the waiver 18 request. And it would be really helpful for me if 19 they could clarify whether they intend to move 20 forward with the Superintendent Mentoring component 21 -- and if they are, then maybe to clarify what they 22 meant by "mentoring program." 23 MR. CLEVELAND: Herschel Cleveland. 24 I've been informed that we don't even need the 25 waiver for the mentoring program, since I'm going to

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1	do that anyway. So I think we're good.
2	MS. HYATT: So I believe that would just make
3	the request just for Superintendent Licensure; so it
4	would have the standard and the law required for
5	Superintendent Licensure.
6	Am I missing anything, Kelly?
7	MS. McLAUGHLIN: No, that's all.
8	MS. NEWTON: Would we need to make the
9	stipulation that he undergoes the training the
10	training for superintendents?
11	MS. HYATT: So I believe all that training is
12	going to be required as he'll be the superintendent
13	and they didn't request a waiver of any of that
14	training, just of the licensure component.
15	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
16	SECRETARY KEY: Yes. Madam Chair, I don't think
17	we need to add that to the motion. I mean I think
18	we'll work with AAEA setting that up. Mr. Cleveland
19	I think he said that he's going to go through the
20	training as soon as we get him out of here today, so
21	I don't see the need. From my perspective, I think
22	the only thing I was concerned about was the
23	licensure. And if we eliminate the mentoring under
24	the code 6-17-427 and the rules, I think what they
25	need is reflected in 6-13-109, a waiver from that,

	117
1	and Standard 4-B.2 of the standards.
2	MS. CHAMBERS: So I would like to move that,
3	what the Secretary just said.
4	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Donovan, did you get that?
5	MS. DONOVAN: Yes.
6	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have a second?
7	MS. McFETRIDGE: Second.
8	MS. DEAN: Second.
9	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. Chambers, second by
10	Ms. McFetridge and Ms. Dean.
11	All in favor say "aye."
12	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
13	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Go forth and superintend.
14	MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair.
15	SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, he I was going
16	to mention, you know because I think he in his
17	introduction and description of his background he did
18	not initially mention the fact that he was Speaker
19	during the time following the Lake View decision.
20	I'm glad he got around to that because I was going to
21	have to tell that on him if he didn't. So I'm
22	confident that the Department will be there to help
23	them. I had asked Ms. Coffman to make sure that she
24	was prepared to answer any questions from a
25	standpoint of support, and she contacted the Western

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Yell team in the last couple of days and really got 1 down to a lot of the issues that might've been of 2 concern. So I feel comfortable with this and 3 appreciate y'all taking this vote. 4 5 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And as stated, you have a 6 7 worthy goal and I think you have the support behind 8 you to meet that goal. 9 MR. CLEVELAND: I think so too. 10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Because your numbers are not 11 what you or we want them to be. 12 MR. CLEVELAND: No. 13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. You're excused. MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much. 14 15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do I have a motion to recess until after lunch? 16 MS. CHAMBERS: 17 So moved. 18 MS. DEAN: I'll move. 19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean and Ms. Chambers. 20 We will come back at 1:30. 21 (LUNCH BREAK: 12:40 - 1:31 p.m.) CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I'll call the afternoon session 22 23 of the State Board of Education to order. 24 A-6: CHARTER CONTRACT AGREEMENT CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And our first order of business 25

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1	is the Charter Contract Agreement. And it looks like
2	we have a duo going to present Ms. Hyatt and Mr.
3	Ballard "dynamic duo," as Ms. Dean says.
4	MS. HYATT: Thank you, Ms. Zook our new
5	Chair.
6	So I put a new copy of the Charter Agreement in
7	all of your well, not in your chairs, but on top
8	of your piles of things. The version that got
9	uploaded to the agenda still had some of our mark-
10	thru's from when we met with some stakeholders to
11	kind of work out some components of the agreement.
12	So I'm glad you got to see that because you can see
13	some of the changes we made when we met with the
14	stakeholders. But the version that's in your was
15	on top of your stuff is the final version.
16	So just a little bit of background: we've used a
17	formal charter contract in the past, but the last
18	year or so we've really moved away from using a
19	formal charter contract. And we have been using the
20	application mixed with the minutes and the
21	transcripts of their hearings, the videos from their
22	hearings, and then any amendment requests as all-
23	together being the charter contract, which as you can
24	imagine gets a little bit complicated when you're
25	trying to find a particular provision. And we also

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1	get a lot of requests to view the charter contract of					
2	particular charters, which it's hard to give people					
3	that information when it's not in a succinct place.					
4	So we're going to move back to having a charter					
5	contract, the one that you have in front of you.					
6	So we drafted it; we did meet with some					
7	stakeholders and made some revisions; presented it to					
8	the Charter Panel in June and they approved it. And					
9	I think the goal is that anyone who doesn't have an					
10	active charter contract, anyone who has is granted					
11	a new charter contract in August?					
12	MR. BALLARD: Yes.					
13	MS. HYATT: August, okay or anyone who then					
14	goes through the renewal process will move to this					
15	contract. But we're not going to make people who					
16	have signed charter contracts then switch to this					
17	one; so it's not going to be retroactive or change					
18	anyone's currently existing charter contract. And I					
19	think the idea is that then once these are signed					
20	we'll start putting them on the website, on the					
21	charter school website for transparency and so					
22	everyone can see. And we've also added well, the					
23	whole thing is new, but one thing that I want to					
24	point out is that the Appendix C is just for					
25	amendments to the charter; so all of the amendment					

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1 requests through the year will be added in one place so that people can see them. 2 And do you have anything? 3 MR. BALLARD: I don't think so. 4 5 MS. HYATT: Okay. If you have any questions 6 we're happy to --7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: So since this was in-house, sort 8 of administrative, did we get stakeholder -- or 9 input, like we usually call them public comment? Did 10 you get that? 11 MS. HYATT: So we didn't do -- this is -- since 12 it's not a rule that has to be promulgated we didn't 13 do a formal public comment hearing. But we did meet with some stakeholders; we met with APSRC; we did 14 15 talk to some charter schools and get some feedback, 16 as well as look at previous versions of the charter contract that we've used in the past. 17 18 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do we have any questions? 19 Dr. Moore. 20 DR. MOORE: Are there any big differences 21 between the previous versions of the contract to 22 this? 23 MS. HYATT: So I think this one is much more 24 comprehensive than ones we've used in the past -- and 25 there have been multiple versions in the past. But

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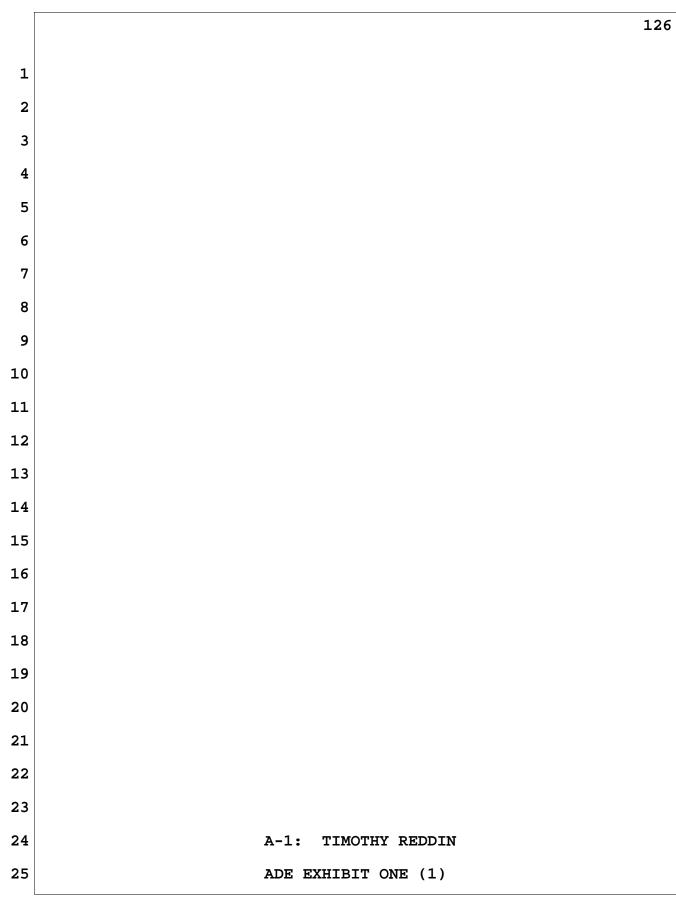
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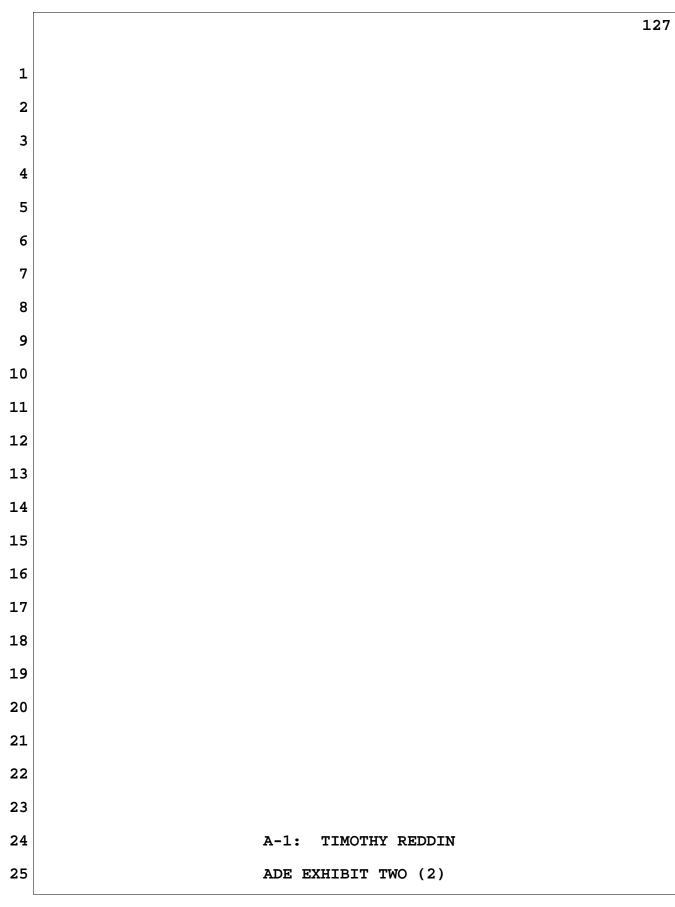
	rything that's in this contract can either be
2 5	
2 fou	nd in law or rule or as something that the Charter
3 Pan	el has the authority to do. So I don't know that
4 it'	s ever been in one place so comprehensively, which
5 is	why this is longer than the previous contracts,
6 but	we really wanted to put all of the expectations
7 in (one place. But it's really hard I think even for
8 exi	sting charters to know all of the expectations
9 tha	t are in 5,000 pages of a code book and hundreds
10 of :	rules, so
11	DR. MOORE: Thank you. That's great. That's
12 grea	at to have that all in one document now.
13	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Anyone else?
14	Do I have a motion?
15	DR. MOORE: Move to approve.
16	MS. NEWTON: Second.
17	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore moved and Ms. Newton
18 sec	onded.
19	All in favor?
20	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
21	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?
22	It passed.
23	MS. HYATT: Thank you.
24	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Now I have good news with regard
25 to .	Action Item B on the School Choice applications:

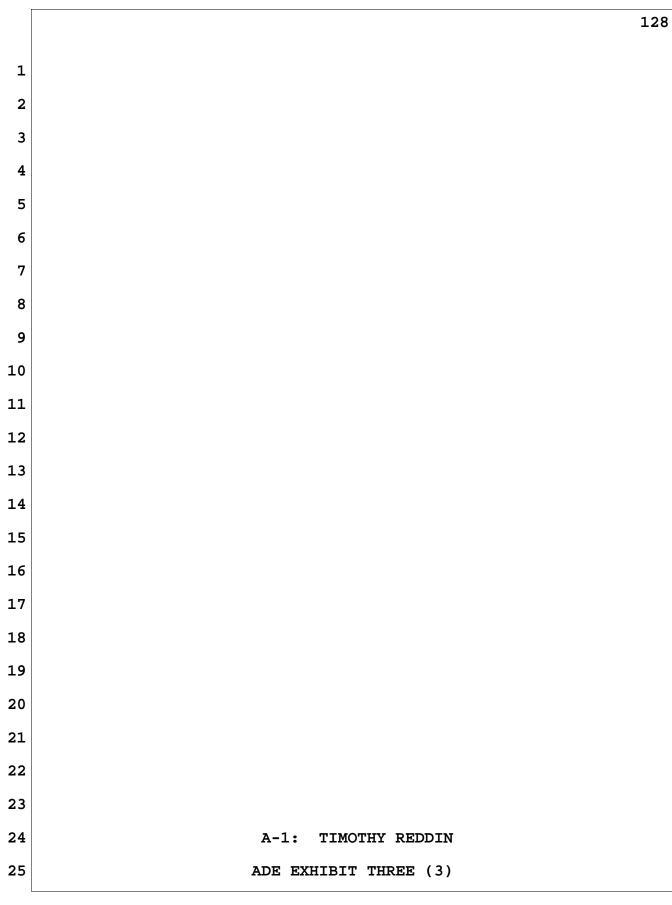
1	all four of those have been resolved to the benefit						
2	of the students. They will all get to make the						
3	transfers that they had chosen.						
4	B-2: CONSIDERATION FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: ADE RULES						
5	GOVERNING THE SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE PROGRAM AND THE SCHOOL						
6	WORKER DEFENSE PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD						
7	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And so that skips us right down						
8	to the Item 2, which is the Consideration for Release						
9	for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing the School						
10	Worker Defense Program.						
11	Mr. Dugan.						
12	MR. DUGAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good						
13	afternoon, Board.						
14	What you have in front of you are the School						
15	Worker Defense Rules. I had spoken with Ms. Alyssa						
16	Moore, who has retired now, but she was the one who						
17	administered this program. And what she was getting						
18	was a lot of attorneys that were not providing back-						
19	up documentation and also putting their meals and						
20	things of that sort and wanting to be reimbursed for						
21	that. So she asked if we could add a definition for						
22	"costs," and so this is the definition that we came						
23	up with to put here in the rules. And also to						
24	require that anything that they would like to be						
25	reimbursed for that they provide back-up						

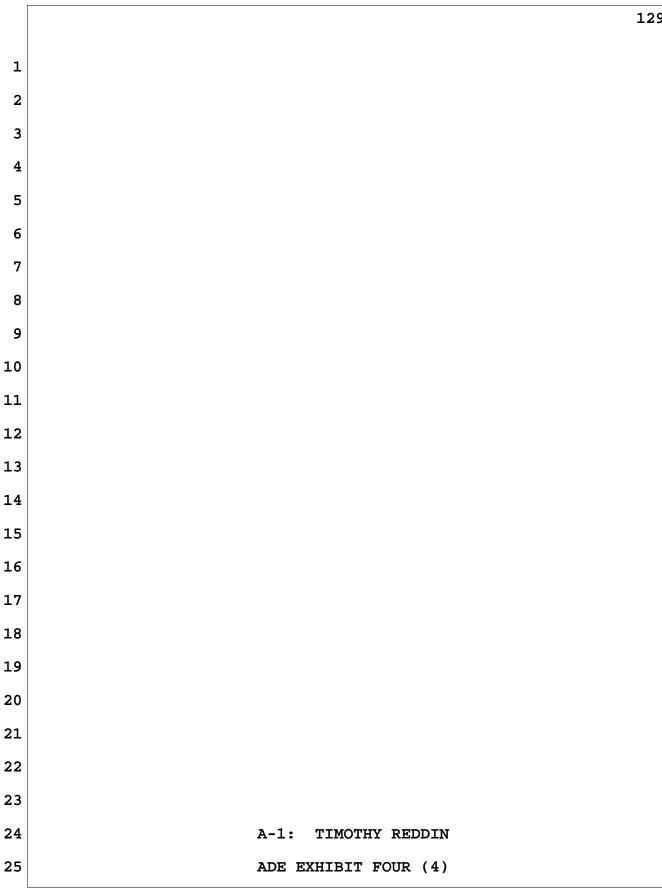
documentation of that. 1 Also what has been included in these rules is 2 Act 557 of 2019, which states that if you provide 3 corporal punishment to a student that is disabled, 4 5 non-ambulatory, that you will not be covered under this program; you will not get the benefit of this 6 7 program. 8 And so I would ask that this board approve these 9 rules so I can release them for public comment. And with that, if there's any questions -- that's all I 10 11 have. 12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do we have any questions? 13 There being none, do I have a motion? MS. McFETRIDGE: Move to approve. 14 15 MS. DEAN: Second. 16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Ms. McFetridge, second 17 by Ms. Dean. 18 All in favor? 19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES) 20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion passes. 21 MR. DUGAN: Thank you. 22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you very much. 23 MR. DUGAN: May I step aside? 24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You may. 25 MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

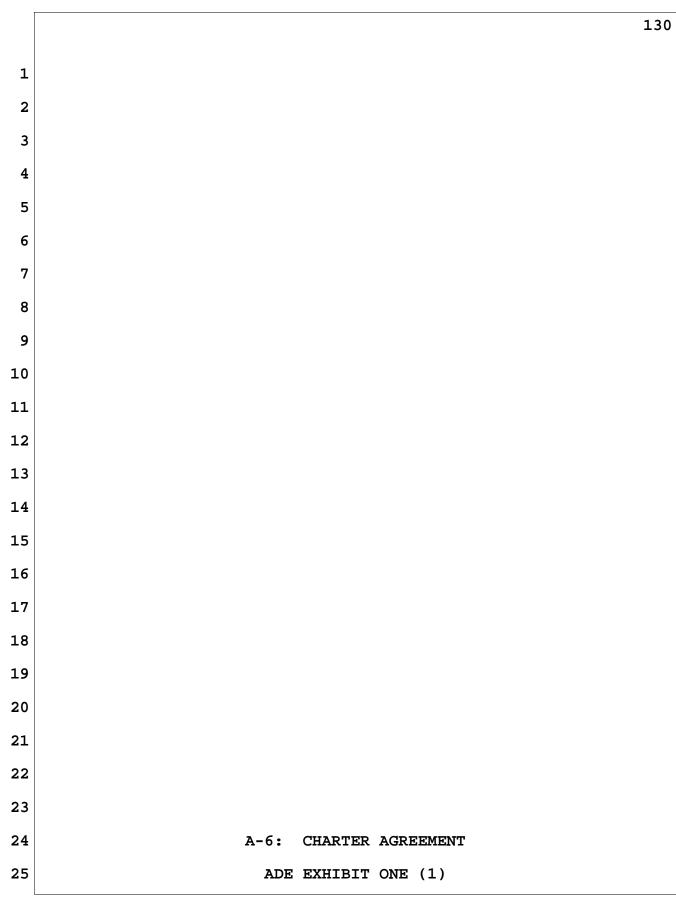
1	ADJOURNMENT						
2	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do we have any new						
3	business to come before the panel?						
4	Seeing none, do we have any public comment?						
5	I'll entertainment a motion to adjourn.						
6	MR. WILLIAMSON: So moved.						
7	MS. DEAN: So moved.						
8	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Moved by Mr. Williamson, second						
9	by Ms. Dean.						
10	All in favor?						
11	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)						
12	CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?						
13	Okay. So we will see you tonight at dinner.						
14	And then we will have three more school choice						
15	applications that will come before us tomorrow						
16	morning.						
17							
18							
19	(The meeting was concluded at 1:38 p.m.)						
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							











CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)) ss. COUNTY OF SALINE)

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

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: July 17, 2019.

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

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