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BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF:  
THE MASTERS PROGRAM

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
CHARTER SCHOOL PUBLIC INPUT HEARING  
August 28, 2009  
9:29 a.m.  
300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Mabry Hall  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219  
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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

- MS. CATHERINE SMITH, Chair
- MR. M. ANDREW GARRISON, Vice Chair
- MS. MILLIE POGNA, Secretary
- MS. KATHRYN KRIVITZKY
- MS. CAROLYN SHEARMAN
- MS. CARLA LOPEZ

STAFF:

- DR. DON DURAN
- MR. SAM OBENSHAIN
- MR. MICHAEL C DE BACA
- MR. RUDOLPH ARNOLD, Attorney for PED
- MS. PATRICIA BUSTAMANTE, Attorney for PEC
- MS. MARJORIE GILLESPIE
- MS. CORINA CHAVEZ
- MS. WILMA MARTINEZ
- MS. LORIANNE VALENCIA
- MS. KAREN EHLERT
- MS. VERN TENNYSON

1 THE CHAIR: We had a delightful evening in  
2 Las Vegas last night. We had -- am I going to keep  
3 him promoted? We had Dr. C de Baca, whose family --  
4 and, of course, I always appreciate that Northern  
5 New Mexico abbreviated that name. But his family is  
6 the Cabeza de Baca family of Spanish renown. And so  
7 guess what those of us who rode in the car with him  
8 had last night? We had quite the tour. We learned  
9 about the hermit, and we even had one of our  
10 Commissioners who thought the hermit visited with  
11 her last night, but she didn't understand the  
12 language, and so she was unable to tell us what he  
13 said.

14 MS. SHEARMAN: But we had a lovely little  
15 tea party.

16 THE CHAIR: He is supposed to be a ghost  
17 that haunts the area. So it was a -- it was a  
18 fantastic evening to -- and find somebody who knows  
19 about the area to be with us. And so we all  
20 awakened refreshed this morning and drove down from  
21 Las Vegas to here. And then we'll be journeying to  
22 Taos later on today for our final hearing.

23 So I'm going -- I think I'll just continue  
24 with the process I have used to take roll call. And  
25 in that manner, we're able to introduce the

1 Commissioners to the Applicants and other people in  
2 the audience. And so good morning, Madam Attorney.

3 Ms. Shearman, we'll start with you, if you  
4 would, please.

5 MS. SHEARMAN: I'm Carolyn Shearman. I  
6 represent District 9, which is the far eastern part  
7 of the state, and I'm from Artesia.

8 MR. GARRISON: Good morning, everybody.  
9 Andrew Garrison, District 1. It's the west side of  
10 Albuquerque.

11 MS. POGNA: I'm Millie Pogna. I'm  
12 District 2, the far Northeast Heights.

13 MS. KRIVITZKY: Good morning. I'm Kathryn  
14 Krivitzky, District 3, which is central Albuquerque.

15 MS. LOPEZ: Carla Lopez, District 4, which  
16 is Santa Fe County and Sandoval County.

17 THE CHAIR: And I'm Catherine Smith. Good  
18 morning again. I represent District 6, which is the  
19 southwestern corner of the state, with the  
20 exceptions of Doña Ana and Sierra Counties. And I  
21 will say to you, as I have repeated many times  
22 throughout the hearings process, originally, when  
23 the legislature charged us with the responsibility  
24 of chartering State-chartered charter schools, we  
25 were required -- and we had an opinion issued by the

1 Attorney General, a verbal opinion -- that we had to  
2 have a quorum of the Board, which meant six of the  
3 ten members, even though we got down to seven  
4 members at one place. And we became very, very  
5 concerned that we would not have six members.

6 And so we went to the legislature. Our --  
7 and the legislature deemed that throughout the  
8 process of these hearings, three Commissioners would  
9 be sufficient to do this, because the statute does  
10 require that we go into every community where a  
11 proposed charter school is going to be formed. We  
12 have been extremely fortunate in that we have always  
13 had at least six members, and sometimes as high as  
14 seven or eight.

15 Mr. Gene Gant, who is a very loyal member  
16 from Las Cruces, had a death in his family, and so  
17 he is not even in the state. I do not know about  
18 Mrs. Price. I don't know whether there's anybody in  
19 the -- on the staff who has found out why Mavis  
20 Price has not been with us. She has had severe  
21 illnesses in her family. And so she's been unable  
22 to be with us for this process.

23 So we've had, I guess, as many as eight  
24 Commissioners for part of this process. We have six  
25 this morning, and we're very pleased to be here.

1 One more time, on our agenda, we have the Pledge of  
2 the Allegiance and the Salute to New Mexico. And,  
3 Ms. Lopez, would you honor us by leading us in the  
4 pledges.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance and  
6 Salute to the New Mexico Flag.)

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, ladies  
8 and gentlemen. I think that that is very, very  
9 important. When I was president of the State Board  
10 of Education, we started the salute to the state  
11 flag. And I had a very dear friend, Gloria Howes,  
12 from McKinley County, who was in the Senate. And  
13 Senator Howes was the one that required -- had  
14 legislation passed that required the school  
15 districts to display the flag in their classrooms  
16 and to learn the -- the State pledge.

17 I'm -- I will tell you I'm very, very  
18 pleased that Dr. Garcia, in her capacity as  
19 Secretary of Education, reaffirmed the -- the pledge  
20 in the public schools of New Mexico, because I  
21 believe our children do not have the opportunity to  
22 be as aware of civics as they should in this state,  
23 and probably in the United States.

24 But this is one thing that, hopefully, by  
25 the time they have completed 13 years of public

1 education in New Mexico, they will know the  
2 United States pledge and they will know the  
3 New Mexico salute. So it's nice when we can  
4 continue to do this at each of our meetings. And,  
5 Dr. Duran, thank you for putting that in the agenda  
6 for us so that we're able to do that.

7 Dr. Duran, at this time, would you  
8 introduce the members of your staff to the  
9 community.

10 DR. DURAN: I'd be very happy to. I'm  
11 very proud of our staff, as you all know. They have  
12 worked very hard and continue to support this entire  
13 process. Wilma Martinez is in the back from the  
14 Santa Fe area. Lorianne Valencia, Karen Ehlert.  
15 Corina Chavez, Marjorie Gillespie, Sam Obenshain,  
16 our attorney, Mr. Arnold, the eminent and  
17 well-known, Dr. C de Baca, Cindy Chapman, who is the  
18 vocal fingers for this transcript. She's not our  
19 staff, but we have adopted her. She is an official  
20 member of our family. And our newest member of our  
21 family, the attorney for the PEC, Attorney  
22 Bustamante.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. And  
24 earlier in the morning, Ms. Beverly Friedman and  
25 Ms. Vern Tennyson were in the room. And they are --

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1 have many hats in Public Education Department. But,  
2 Commissioners, we owe the functioning of -- of the  
3 overall part of the Commission to those two ladies.  
4 They do their very, very best to help keep us on  
5 track and do the things that we need to do with the  
6 agenda.

7 In fact, Ms. Friedman was bringing to me  
8 the additions, Mr. Garrison, that we decided on,  
9 even after our telephone conference call, because we  
10 became aware that we had some legal procedures that  
11 had to be met. And so she was -- she had added  
12 those before issuing the call for the -- for the  
13 September 10 and 11 meeting that will be at the  
14 National -- I guess it's National -- National  
15 Balloon Fiesta building off Alameda, in Albuquerque.

16 The Executive Committee, in its  
17 responsibility and the power that the Board gave to  
18 us, made the decision that we would hold the  
19 hearing -- or the meeting, rather -- on the approval  
20 or disapproval of the individual State-chartered  
21 school applications in Albuquerque at a place that  
22 was convenient to most people, because most of our  
23 applications did come from Albuquerque. And then  
24 others of them came from other places in the state.

25 And so we felt that it was more convenient

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1 for people to travel to Albuquerque than to come to  
2 Santa Fe. And you may or may not know. But since  
3 those of you who are here because you have an  
4 application undoubtedly know, because I'm certain  
5 you've been in Albuquerque, part of the PED is  
6 stationed in Albuquerque. And Dr. Duran has his  
7 major facility at the Workforce Training Center in  
8 Albuquerque. And so it's -- this is another  
9 consideration that we had in making the choice of  
10 Albuquerque for that September 10 and 11 meeting.

11 I will also tell you that we set aside two  
12 days, the 10th and the 11th. But experience has  
13 shown us that we probably will only need one day.  
14 And so I have been trying to caution everybody who  
15 is in the application process. Of course, you do  
16 not necessarily -- well, I guess you do have to be  
17 there, because they have to be able to make a short  
18 presentation, don't they?

19 DR. DURAN: Yes.

20 THE CHAIR: Yes. So you do have to be  
21 there. But, at any rate, just be aware that even  
22 though today, we are here in Santa Fe, and it's the  
23 next to the last hearing that we're holding, the  
24 chances are very, very good that we probably are  
25 going to complete that agenda in one day. So just

1 to alert you to it, that we have reserved the right  
2 to expedite business. And if it's expedited where  
3 we can accomplish it in one day, we believe in  
4 saving taxpayers' dollars, because the Commission is  
5 a nonpaid commission. It's an elected commission,  
6 but it's nonpaid. And the only thing we get out of  
7 it is per diem and travel.

8 So we try to -- to help save the taxpayer  
9 monies along those lines also. It is a major  
10 consideration for us. And, in particular, in times  
11 of tight budgets, it's a consideration for us.

12 So we are -- we are resting our case on  
13 the idea that we probably will finish in one day.  
14 We might not. If we don't, we will take the second  
15 day, of course.

16 So, now, we're down to Item 4 in the  
17 agenda. And the purpose of this hearing is to  
18 solicit both written and oral input on the proposed  
19 charter. In accordance with the Charter Schools  
20 Act, quote, "The Commission shall receive  
21 applications for initial chartering and renewals of  
22 charter for charter schools that want to be approved  
23 by the State and approve or disapprove those charter  
24 applications." End of quote. And this is a  
25 citation from 22-8B-16, New Mexico Statutes

1 Annotated, 1978.

2 In addition, the Charter School Act states  
3 that, quote, "The chartering authority shall hold at  
4 least one public meeting in the school district in  
5 which the charter school is proposed to be located  
6 to obtain information and community input to assist  
7 in its decision whether to grant a charter school  
8 application. Community input may include written or  
9 oral comments in favor of, or in opposition to, the  
10 application from the Applicant, the local community  
11 and, for State-chartered schools, the local school  
12 board and school district in whose geographic  
13 boundaries the charter school is proposed to be  
14 located." End of quote. And this is a citation  
15 from 22-8B-6, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978.

16 Whoops. I'm not in the right place. I  
17 guess I better move quickly here. I was going to go  
18 back to Las Cruces, I guess. I -- I would hope not.  
19 I think we went on Monday. And so -- where am I  
20 here? That's Taos. So I guess -- yeah. I just  
21 wasn't paying attention. See? Here we go. That's  
22 what happens to these old schoolteachers when you  
23 don't pay attention.

24 Thank you. The Applicant at this time  
25 will be The MASTERS Program. And when I have

1 completed the directions, we would ask that you, for  
2 the record, state the name of the school, the name  
3 or names of the founder or founders of the school,  
4 the proposed grade levels to be served and  
5 membership projection of the school.

6 We request that you state for the record a  
7 brief description of the school, the reasons you  
8 believe the school will benefit the children and  
9 citizens of this community, and any other  
10 information that you would like the Commission to  
11 know about your application.

12 And you will have 15 minutes to do this,  
13 so please be as precise as you can during this time.  
14 And I also will call to your attention that we will  
15 have an opportunity for the local school board and  
16 district representatives to make a statement. We  
17 will have an opportunity for community input. And  
18 then, basically, finally, in this hearing, we will  
19 have an opportunity for Commissioners to ask  
20 questions or make comments to the proposed  
21 applicants.

22 So at this time, if you would begin by --  
23 and everyone, if you will, please, even though you  
24 may think that your name is obvious -- when I get to  
25 "Smith," I have to spell S-M-I-T-H, because there

1 are even several ways to spell that name, and, in  
2 particular, sometimes with the Spanish surnames.  
3 And I've always understood that if a name, "Lopez,"  
4 for example, if it ends in "S," that it's  
5 Portuguese, and if it ends in "Z," it's Spanish.  
6 But, you know, over the years, I think that probably  
7 became very clouded, and so there's not even any  
8 assurance of that.

9 So, please, for the record, and for  
10 Ms. Chapman, who is very, very good, please spell  
11 your name for her. And we'd be most appreciative if  
12 you would begin now.

13 MR. BISHOP: My name is John Bishop,  
14 B-I-S-H-O-P, founder of The MASTERS Program. And  
15 we're going to serve grades ten through twelve and  
16 begin with 120 students, and, at year five, have  
17 200 students. I'll have Shelly Cherrin,  
18 C-H-E-R-R-I-N, assisting.

19 THE CHAIR: Sir, I've already had a  
20 request. If you would pull that mic up closer.

21 MR. BISHOP: Oh. I'm sorry.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Yes.

23 MR. BISHOP: I'm the founder of The  
24 MASTERS Program, and Shelly Cherrin, C-H-E-R-R-I-N,  
25 will be assisting today.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And you've not  
2 been timed in that part of this, so don't worry  
3 about that.

4 MR. BISHOP: Oh, thank you. Madam Chair,  
5 Commissioners, thank you for considering The MASTERS  
6 Program at Santa Fe Community College as an early  
7 college charter high school for the students and  
8 families of Santa Fe. Early college high school is  
9 an approach based on the principle that academic  
10 rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time  
11 and money, is a powerful motivator for students to  
12 work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges.

13 Early college high school programs are  
14 often motivators for students to graduate and pursue  
15 careers they began exploring while in high school.  
16 TMP's charter application -- I refer to The MASTERS  
17 Program as "TMP." TMP's charter application  
18 proposes to work with Santa Fe Community College in  
19 a specialized career pathways program centered on a  
20 STEM education curriculum.

21 This science, technology, engineering, and  
22 math curriculum was chosen in order to prepare  
23 students to compete in a dynamic, rapidly changing,  
24 global economy. Students need to be equipped with  
25 skills that are not confined and isolated within

1 single disciplines. According to current tech  
2 integration, students today will have 10 to 14 jobs  
3 in their lifetimes. By 2010, the amount of  
4 technical information is expected to double every  
5 three years.

6 According to the March 21st, 2008, CRS  
7 report for Congress, there was a growing concern  
8 that the United States is not preparing a sufficient  
9 number of students, teachers, and practitioners in  
10 the areas of science, technology, engineering and  
11 math. The report states that in a recent  
12 international assessment of 15-year-old students,  
13 the U.S. ranked 28th in math literacy and 24th in  
14 science literacy.

15 In addition, the U.S. ranks 20th among all  
16 nations in the proportion of 24-year-olds earning  
17 degrees in natural science or engineering. STEM  
18 curriculums are designed to engage students in  
19 stimulating, authentic, and contemporary  
20 problem-based scenarios involving the life, physical  
21 environment, and earth space sciences, technology,  
22 engineering, and mathematics.

23 Project ideas are incorporated into the  
24 curriculum to provide opportunities for real-life  
25 applications. Using an inquiry-based approach,

1 theories are tested and explored. Inquiry-based  
2 instruction is both hands-on and minds-on. Science,  
3 technology, engineering, and math are integrated and  
4 reinforced whenever possible through curriculum  
5 modules that vary from teacher-centered activities  
6 to independent student-centered investigations.

7 The inquiry-based cycle, five Es of  
8 engagement, exploration, explanation, elaboration,  
9 and evaluation, promotes different levels of  
10 inquiry, progressing from confirmatory to structured  
11 to guided to open. A STEM curriculum helps lead  
12 students toward solving problems by applying  
13 knowledge to design solutions, a skill that is  
14 identified as one of the most desirable skills  
15 sought after by companies today.

16 STEM is an experiential approach. And  
17 STEM curricula are written specifically for  
18 interactive instructional technology. According to  
19 the Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM  
20 Education, they have been involved in the creation  
21 of the Texas STEM network, which consists of 35 STEM  
22 schools. They've also participated in the  
23 development of the Ohio STEM learning network and  
24 are currently working in California, Maryland,  
25 New York, and North Carolina.



1           According to their research, students in  
2 career academics, such as STEM, outperform their  
3 nonacademic peers in a number of categories,  
4 including grade point average, test scores, and  
5 graduation rates. In addition, they have lower  
6 scores in attitudinal categories, such as dropout  
7 rates, suspensions, and expulsions.

8           According to the report, "The Gathering  
9 Storm," Hispanics are underrepresented minorities in  
10 STEM, and this impacts our status in the global  
11 economy in regards to national demographics, with  
12 Hispanic men being the highest population increases  
13 between the ages 17 to 24. By the year 2040 or 2050  
14 one in four to one in five will be Hispanic. Hence,  
15 if the trend of Hispanics not entering STEM fields  
16 continues, our nation will be in trouble.  
17 Nationally, money is being poured into STEM and  
18 recruiting underrepresented minorities.

19           On December 22nd, 2008, the STEM Coalition  
20 wrote a letter to then President-Elect Obama  
21 applauding his commitment and dedication to  
22 approving STEM education and for making STEM  
23 education a national priority on his administrative  
24 agenda. The STEM Coalition reiterated their support  
25 to strengthen the teaching and learning of science,

1 technology, engineering, and math by bringing high  
2 quality STEM students into the teaching field and  
3 improving the knowledge and professional development  
4 of K-through-12 STEM teachers.

5 The STEM Coalition is composed of  
6 advocates representing all sectors of the  
7 technological world, consisting of  
8 131 organizations, colleges, state boards of  
9 education, and other government agencies.

10 I have attached a copy of this letter to  
11 the back of this report for you to review.

12 TMP recognizes the importance of STEM  
13 education to our nation's future workforce, economy,  
14 and national security, and wants to ensure that our  
15 students today have the critical 21st century skills  
16 to address the challenges we all face.

17 To complement the STEM curriculum,  
18 teachers will be trained in the Paideia education  
19 methodology, which is grounded in three levels of  
20 teaching and learning. One, the didactic level,  
21 teaches students foundation, skills, and knowledge.  
22 Two, the coaching level leads students to apply the  
23 skills and knowledge they've learned. And, three,  
24 the seminar level takes students to the highest of  
25 thinking, examination of pertinent, primary source

1 documents.

2 TMP's curriculum will be delivered through  
3 several modalities depending on placement test  
4 scores and student circumstances. TMP's highly  
5 qualified and licensed teachers will teach core high  
6 school courses, and/or students will take IDEAL-New  
7 Mexico courses online. When a student qualifies for  
8 a dual credit course, those qualified courses will  
9 be taught through the Santa Fe Community College  
10 dual credit course program.

11 For the students taking dual credit  
12 courses in IDEAL-New Mexico courses, the TMP highly  
13 qualified and licensed teacher will be coaching and  
14 assisting the students with their dual credit and  
15 IDEAL-New Mexico courses.

16 The Paideia philosophy will be applied to  
17 both coaching and assisting as well as to the core  
18 courses that are taught by highly qualified,  
19 licensed TMP teachers.

20 TMP's program segues very nicely with the  
21 programs at Santa Fe Community College, particularly  
22 in the field of science and usage of facilities, as  
23 well as the arts. TMP will be offering similar dual  
24 credit courses that are available to the other local  
25 high schools; however, it is thought that by having

1 a high school located at the college, that will  
2 optimize usage of the dual credit program due to  
3 transportation focus and convenience issues.

4           Regarding facilities, TMP's being located  
5 at Santa Fe Community College is a perfect fit, in  
6 that TMP classes will be held 8:00 to 10:00 and  
7 after 2:00, typically the off hours of the college.  
8 Many students will be taking college level courses  
9 during the 10:00 to 2:00 period. There is plenty  
10 tea of classroom space available. Plus, with the  
11 new science center, Santa Fe Community College is  
12 adding 10 to 12 additional new classrooms and  
13 laboratory space.

14           Santa Fe Community College has just broken  
15 ground on their new sustainability science center,  
16 which will be ready in August 2010. They have  
17 agreed to lease space to TMP and make this building  
18 available for TMP's proposed nanoscience laboratory  
19 and sustainability science program. This new  
20 science building is truly an exceptional educational  
21 community resource.

22           Here in Santa Fe and in New Mexico, we  
23 have a 54-percent high school graduation rate,  
24 41 percent proficient in math, 55 percent proficient  
25 in reading. In Santa Fe, five out of 31 public

1 schools met AYP this year. A recent article in the  
2 Santa Fe New Mexican quoted Santa Fe Superintendent  
3 Bobbie Gutierrez as saying, "What is clear is that a  
4 lot of children are being left behind by getting out  
5 of the system, and that the first cohort graduation  
6 rate, which tracks a student from ninth to twelfth  
7 grade, is a disappointing 54 percent compared with  
8 the national average of 70 percent. Caucasian  
9 students had a 51.4 graduation rate, while Hispanics  
10 had a 50.2 graduation rate."

11 Ms. Gutierrez is quoted as saying it is  
12 alarming, and it is not only humanly impossible, but  
13 statistically impossible, to meet 100-percent AYP by  
14 2014.

15 TMP pledges to serve the students who have  
16 left the traditional education system and to meet  
17 AYP on an annual basis beginning year two.

18 When I was young, I grew up thinking that  
19 in America that we had the best schooling of any  
20 country in the world. Now, I see television ads of  
21 America being 28th in math and 24th in science in  
22 the world. But, even worse, New Mexico is ranked  
23 43rd among the 50 states.

24 This is one of the factors that has  
25 motivated me to establish this charter high school.

1 I believe it's the way to upgrade the quality  
2 education in New Mexico. I work in physics. I am  
3 president of a company that works in nanoscience,  
4 with ion electron beam technology as well as rapid  
5 pulse laser systems. We apply these technologies to  
6 the nano micro machine, diamond and archival  
7 preservation industries, where Los Alamos National  
8 Laboratory tech transfers spin off.

9 I founded the company in 1995. Prior to  
10 that, in 1986, I cofounded a company called  
11 Bandelier Designs, which was an environmental  
12 recycled stationery company with 75 employees here  
13 in Santa Fe. I moved to Santa Fe in 1986 after  
14 having sold my interest in Day Runner, manufacturers  
15 of the Day Runner organizer, which we founded in  
16 1978. I was chief operating officer of Day Runner.

17 I also have an accounting background, and  
18 I'm president of the Santa Fe Rotary Foundation for  
19 the Arts and a Santa Fe Rotary Club member for  
20 20 years.

21 The MASTERS Program received a grant from  
22 the McCune Foundation and SJR Foundations to support  
23 the hiring of an educational consultant team and  
24 charter school attorney to assist in the writing of  
25 this charter school application. I wish to publicly

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1 acknowledge these two foundations' involvement in  
2 supporting the educational enrichment of the youth  
3 of our community through the creation of The MASTERS  
4 Program at Santa Fe Community College.

5 I would also like to thank Shelly Cherrin,  
6 who is head of the educational consultant team. My  
7 goal is to establish the best high school program in  
8 New Mexico right here in Santa Fe with Santa Fe  
9 Community College. I think we can establish a model  
10 that can significantly improve the quality of  
11 education of our children. Thank you for  
12 considering The MASTERS Program as an early college  
13 charter high school for Santa Fe. I request your  
14 approval of our charter. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, sir. And, ma'am,  
16 are you just the support behind the scene?

17 MR. BISHOP: She's the support for  
18 questions and things like that.

19 MS. CHERRIN: Yes, ma'am.

20 THE CHAIR: All-righty. Thank you very  
21 much. We appreciate that. Okay. We are to Item 7  
22 of the agenda, which is the local school board and  
23 district representatives. At this time, we would  
24 like to hear from the local school board and/or  
25 district representatives. And if there are any

1 local school board members or district  
2 representatives present, please come forward and  
3 state your name and title for the record.

4 We will request that you state your reason  
5 or reasons this charter school application should be  
6 approved by the Commission, and/or reasons why this  
7 charter school application should be denied. You  
8 will have ten minutes, so please be as precise as  
9 you can during your time. You may begin now. Thank  
10 you.

11 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thank you, Chairman Smith  
12 and members of the committee. Good morning. My  
13 name is Bobbie Gutierrez. I'm the Superintendent of  
14 Santa Fe Public Schools. And with me is Deputy  
15 Superintendent Dr. Mel Morgan, who oversees our  
16 secondary instructional program.

17 We are here this morning to protest the  
18 approval of another secondary charter school within  
19 Santa Fe. Mr. Bishop just quoted me in saying some  
20 of our statistics are alarming. And, you know what?  
21 They are. I say this often and frequently. Our  
22 young people in Santa Fe are at risk. And many are  
23 in crisis. But we cannot improve our system if we  
24 continue to take students away from the system.

25 We are working hard to redesign our high



1 schools. We have a five-year plan for that.  
2 Unfortunately, that plan is currently underfunded,  
3 given the State mandates and the funding situation  
4 in New Mexico currently with public education, as  
5 well as the State's overall budget. We are  
6 concerned about what may happen in the future with  
7 the State's budget and very worried that we may have  
8 further cuts to our operational budget. To lose  
9 additional students would be a travesty at this  
10 point.

11 Our public schools in Santa Fe are our  
12 community schools, and I believe it takes the  
13 community to improve the system and not just simply  
14 extracting students and placing them in a charter  
15 school. If you look at our charter schools and  
16 their statistics, they are not faring any better  
17 than our local high schools in terms of their  
18 overall student achievement and in making AYP.

19 As I mentioned, we have a five-year plan  
20 that includes some of the same initiatives that  
21 Mr. Bishop described for his charter schools. We  
22 have strong partnerships with Santa Fe Community  
23 College, with Eastern New Mexico. We have a strong  
24 STEM initiative. We receive a significant amount of  
25 money from the LANL Foundation, and are currently

1 working on engineering programs.

2 We have a health careers pathway at  
3 Capital High School that has grown from 200 -- I  
4 mean, from 20 students to the current 253 enrolled  
5 in that program today. And we have charter school  
6 students, as well as private school students,  
7 requesting to attend that program.

8 I really have no further comments, other  
9 than to say I would ask for your consideration in  
10 not approving another secondary charter school at  
11 this time. And I would ask Dr. Morgan if he has  
12 anything to add to my comments.

13 MR. MORGAN: President -- sorry. Chair  
14 Smith and members of the Commission. Thank you very  
15 much for allowing Santa Fe Public Schools to present  
16 this morning. I agree wholeheartedly with  
17 Superintendent Gutierrez.

18 THE CHAIR: Would you speak more into the  
19 microphone? Yes. Thank you.

20 MR. MORGAN: I agree wholeheartedly with  
21 Superintendent Gutierrez and the points that she has  
22 made. I think it is critical for us to understand  
23 that Santa Fe city has a finite number of students  
24 within its boundaries. One of the things that we  
25 have experienced -- and this is our third day of

1 school, but we are watching it very carefully  
2 because, remember, Santa Fe is a service economy.  
3 And what we are experiencing is a declining  
4 enrollment because of the service providers being  
5 laid off.

6 So we have been very concerned about the  
7 numbers in our secondary schools continuing to -- as  
8 we have said, continuing to siphon off students from  
9 our secondary schools, will continue to dilute  
10 program that we have already.

11 We have the five-year plan for secondary  
12 redesign, which includes multiple initiatives for  
13 redesigning our high schools such that we can meet  
14 all students' needs. And that needs to be  
15 reinforced with you. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

17 And is there anybody here from your local  
18 board?

19 MS. GUTIERREZ: No, ma'am, not today.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIR: I just want to recognize them  
22 at least, if they were.

23 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thank you, Chairman  
24 Smith -- Chairwoman Smith, I should say. And thank  
25 you for allowing us to speak.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you for being here. We  
2 appreciate that. Now, if our presenters will return  
3 to the table.

4 DR. DURAN: Not yet. Not yet. You have  
5 to have the community input piece.

6 THE CHAIR: Community input?

7 DR. DURAN: Right.

8 THE CHAIR: Then stay seated where you  
9 are. Community input, public comments, and  
10 observations regarding the application will be heard  
11 at this time. There will be a four-minute time  
12 limit per presenter. Persons from the same group  
13 and having similar viewpoints are asked to select a  
14 spokesperson to speak on their behalf. Multiple and  
15 repetitious presentations of the same view will be  
16 discouraged.

17 So is there anybody from the community who  
18 would like to come forward? I see several people.  
19 And, sir, you're standing up. So come forward,  
20 please. And please, if you will, have the  
21 microphone close enough. The acoustics are not the  
22 best in the west in this room, unfortunately.

23 MR. REED: Good morning, Madam Chair,  
24 Commissioners. My name is Albert Reed, R-E-E-D. I  
25 am the Dean of the School of Business and Applied

1 Technologies at Santa Fe Community College. And I'm  
2 here to speak in support of The MASTERS Program.  
3 What I would like to add to John Bishop's comments  
4 are that Santa Fe Community College is developing a  
5 strong track record currently in successful  
6 engineering and STEM-related programs.

7 We currently have, over the last three  
8 years, more than quadrupled the number of students  
9 in our engineering programs. And the reason for  
10 that has been active recruitment of students in the  
11 high schools in developing clear pathways into  
12 careers, very strong redevelopment curriculum,  
13 increasingly around contextualized learning.

14 We -- these efforts have produced  
15 additional resources for the college. I'd like to  
16 say that this year, Santa Fe Community College was  
17 awarded, for the second year, a Perkins tech prep  
18 grant to continue our efforts in statewide STEM  
19 coordination. We have received funding from the  
20 Department of Labor. It's a wired grant for the  
21 development of green programs.

22 And we are in the process of completing a  
23 National Science Foundation grant for advanced  
24 technology education that we feel very good about,  
25 because, again, of our track record in successful

1 students in our STEM programs.

2 We will have a group of students  
3 graduating from another school this semester who  
4 will have earned a certificate in drafting  
5 technologies upon graduation from high school. Our  
6 goal all along has been to create successes for  
7 students in high school toward their college goals.

8 I would like to say that the addition of  
9 our sustainable technology center is the result of  
10 many years of work and curriculum redevelopment  
11 right now in working hard to integrate traditional  
12 engineering and core foundational studies into  
13 sustainable technologies.

14 We have a solar certificate, an AAS degree  
15 in environmental technologies. We have a new  
16 biofuels program. We have a green building  
17 construction skills certificate. All of these  
18 programs are combining the kind of core foundational  
19 learning that students have to have in academic  
20 areas with current programs and job careers out  
21 there.

22 So we feel we have a great opportunity, if  
23 we have the students on campus, to allow them to  
24 achieve a lot of hands-on learning. Our sustainable  
25 technology center, for example, the whole building

1 is a learning environment. Even the rooftop is part  
2 of a classroom, as we have students up there working  
3 on solar, concentrated solar, wind, smart grid  
4 center, control center for renewal energies. All of  
5 these resources and facilities, I think, will  
6 ultimately benefit students by putting them much  
7 closer to the kind of learning that they're really  
8 going to benefit from. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I thought I had  
10 somebody else. Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. BARNES: My name is Julia Barnes,  
12 B-A-R-N-E-S. I'm here for the New Mexico Charter  
13 School Coalition. I know several of you from my  
14 work as a board member on the New Mexico School for  
15 the Arts. But because I couldn't get enough, I've  
16 joined the New Mexico Charter School Coalition. We  
17 stand in support of this charter school application  
18 and hope that you will approve it.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, sir.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Chairman Smith  
21 and fellow Commissioners. My name is Steve Johnson.  
22 That's J-O-H-N-S-O N. I'm a Certified Public  
23 Accountant here in Santa Fe. And over the years,  
24 I've volunteered for a number of youth organizations  
25 and am very interested in youth development. I'm

1 particularly interested in supporting The MASTERS  
2 Program, because I do believe it'll bring  
3 opportunities to high school students who want to  
4 succeed academically and in preparing for life's  
5 challenges.

6 The MASTERS Program will provide an  
7 excellent educational opportunity for those who have  
8 decided to focus on science, technology,  
9 engineering, and mathematics. The early college  
10 initiative programs throughout the country have  
11 demonstrated a strong achievement in having its  
12 graduating students accepted at four-year colleges.  
13 That, coupled with the fact that under this program  
14 college will be more affordable to students, I think  
15 this is just a very good way to help a lot of the  
16 students in need of support in the state.

17 I want to be on the governing board for  
18 The MASTERS Program because I believe in its  
19 concept. And this is an opportunity, certainly, for  
20 me to give back to our community and to help the  
21 youth of our community. And as a CPA, I would hope  
22 to lend some fiscal discipline and some business  
23 acumen to it as well. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

25 DR. CHAMBERY: Good morning, Madam Chair



1 and Commissioners. I am Dr. Kathy Jane Chambery,  
2 C-H-A-M-B-E-R-Y, a resident in Santa Fe, a retired  
3 K-through-20 educator and administrator and  
4 experienced high school principal and holder of a  
5 New Mexico administration certification.

6 I'm familiar with The MASTERS application,  
7 the founder, John Bishop, and the proposed president  
8 of the masters board, Steve Johnson, previously  
9 speaking. I am not affiliated with their  
10 application.

11 You are sitting in Santa Fe, a state  
12 capital with a generally acknowledged challenged,  
13 perhaps even failing, public school district,  
14 particularly at the secondary school level. The  
15 2008-9 school report cards and other reports to PED  
16 indicate attendance at less than 80 percent at both  
17 high schools, that 181 high school students dropped  
18 out of our high schools in the last academic year,  
19 and that our high school students' SAT and ACT  
20 scores are markedly below the national averages.

21 Before you are representatives of the  
22 community who are prepared to provide an alternative  
23 secondary education experience in combination with a  
24 post-secondary experience at the local community  
25 college and early college high school program.

1           This proposed early college high school is  
2 not supported by the county's school district. This  
3 is tragically dissimilar to the recently announced  
4 collaboration among the Las Cruces area public  
5 schools, New Mexico State University, and the local  
6 community college for their early college program to  
7 target the middle 70 percent of the students with a  
8 real alternative of, quote, "high relevance  
9 education."

10           The early college program before you,  
11 supported by the visionary administration of  
12 Santa Fe Community College, does not rearrange the  
13 deck chairs on a cruise ship. The MASTERS Program  
14 proposes to jump ship and swim with the current of  
15 the community outcry for a local, public, secondary  
16 program opportunity that prepares our young fellow  
17 citizens, primarily low income, for economical,  
18 viable adulthood.

19           The proposed program will not entertain  
20 Santa Fe youth. It will provide academically  
21 challenging and meaningful learning experiences in  
22 an environment, the campus of Santa Fe Community  
23 College, where adults and young adults are  
24 intentional and intrinsically motivated to take  
25 charge of their lives through education.

1 I seek the support of your Commission for  
2 the courageous citizen and community college  
3 initiative in this application. Santa Fe youth  
4 deserve nothing less. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Is there anyone  
6 else? Seeing no one, at this time, the Public  
7 Education Commission reserves time to address any  
8 questions that the Commissioners may have of the  
9 Applicant. The Chair would ask the Applicant for  
10 some additional information, or others may do that.  
11 Or they may make a comment.

12 But, please, if you have comments,  
13 Commissioners, please keep those as brief as -- as  
14 possible to allow for questioning from other  
15 Commission members. Recall also that we still have  
16 another hearing in another city this afternoon. And  
17 I would not want us to -- to have a repeat of the  
18 other day, when we had to -- to cut Commissioners  
19 short because we simply had to be someplace else.

20 So let's try to be as aware,  
21 Commissioners, as we can be that everyone may have  
22 an opportunity to be recognized by the Chair. So at  
23 this time, the Chair will recognize anyone who would  
24 like to make a comment or ask questions. Now, that  
25 doesn't mean -- I don't want you to do this. So

1 please, please, come forward. Ms. Shearman? Thank  
2 you.

3 MS. SHEARMAN: Well, I had to finish  
4 writing myself that note before I lost it.

5 THE CHAIR: Oh, okay. Okay.

6 MS. SHEARMAN: Good morning. I don't  
7 really have very many questions, and my computer  
8 went to sleep in the meantime, so it's got to wake  
9 up before I know what I'm supposed to say.

10 THE CHAIR: Anybody else have -- I have a  
11 question of Dr. Duran. Only Dr. Duran left me, it  
12 looks like. Let me just give you my question, and  
13 somebody in the staff may be able to answer it,  
14 because it really is more of a general statement,  
15 although it -- or a question. It has to do with  
16 this application as well.

17 I am not familiar, except what I have read  
18 in the various applications and expanding the  
19 acronyms for STEM, for IDEAL-New Mexico. Then we  
20 had the International Baccalaureate, and we had the  
21 Paideia program. But, primarily, I would like to  
22 know, are "STEM" and "IDEAL-New Mexico" a patented  
23 or a protected program, such as the Kaplan and the  
24 K12 models we have heard about this week? Is that  
25 the same kind of product, or -- or -- how does --

1 does an applicant or somebody else access that?

2 Thank you. Sam Obenshain, if you could  
3 come to a microphone, I would appreciate a response  
4 to that.

5 MR. OBENSHAIN: Madam Chair, I'll do my  
6 best. Can you hear this?

7 MR. BISHOP: Here, Sam.

8 MR. OBENSHAIN: This is fine. The STEM --  
9 the acronym -- there you go. The acronym "STEM"  
10 stands for Science, Technology, Engineering,  
11 Mathematics. And it is an acronym that's used just  
12 in a general sense when describing that kind of a  
13 program.

14 IDEAL-New Mexico is a specific program.  
15 It offers classes for on -- online classes for  
16 students throughout the state. Those two are not  
17 connected in any way. "STEM" is just a general  
18 acronym to describe that type of program.

19 THE CHAIR: But IDEAL-New Mexico requires  
20 that the Applicant -- actually in the budgeting  
21 process, the IDEAL-New Mexico requires that they  
22 budget funding to be able to access that program.  
23 Is that correct?

24 MR. OBENSHAIN: IDEAL is, yes, a program  
25 you must pay for.

1 THE CHAIR: But "STEM" is just an acronym  
2 that's used to define a broad process?

3 MR. OBENSHAIN: That is correct. Yes,  
4 ma'am.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank  
6 you. I appreciate that. Okay. Ms. Shearman.

7 MS. SHEARMAN: I'm ready. Thank you.  
8 Good morning. On Page 15 of your application, in  
9 the lower center section, there's a bullet that  
10 struck -- begins with, "Over 65 percent of the  
11 graduates were accepted to four-year colleges." My  
12 question is --

13 THE CHAIR: Ms. Shearman, if you could  
14 press down on this. I don't do it, and I'm sorry.

15 MS. SHEARMAN: I'm sorry. Is that better?

16 THE CHAIR: I think that would help.

17 MS. SHEARMAN: The next sentence is where  
18 my question lies. "Others have chosen to complete  
19 an associate's degree by spending a fifth year at  
20 their early college high school." That's a totally  
21 new concept to me. Could you explain that and how  
22 it works.

23 MR. BISHOP: In some early college  
24 programs, it is a five-year program to where they  
25 get the AA degree in the fifth year. Okay? And so

1 it's -- we're not saying that all of The MASTERS  
2 Program students --

3 THE CHAIR: Sir, if you'd move your mic  
4 over again, it would be helpful.

5 MR. BISHOP: Sorry. We're not saying that  
6 all of The MASTERS Program students will receive an  
7 AA at the same time they graduate from high school.  
8 Some may require a fifth year to achieve that AA.  
9 But they would do that with the college under our  
10 program. We're not proposing a five-year program  
11 like some early college high schools are.

12 MS. SHEARMAN: So if I understand you  
13 correctly, that five-year -- the fifth year would  
14 not be funded --

15 MR. BISHOP: Right.

16 MS. SHEARMAN: -- as a child school  
17 program?

18 MR. BISHOP: Right. It would not be  
19 funded.

20 MS. SHEARMAN: Let me ask you a couple of  
21 questions on your budget, please.

22 MR. BISHOP: Yes.

23 MS. SHEARMAN: I'm looking at line 55  
24 under Other Purchased Services. The line has to do  
25 with Other Contracted Services.

1 MR. BISHOP: Yes.

2 MS. SHEARMAN: Starts out in the first  
3 year at \$35,000. And what caught my eye is the big  
4 jump, then, to the second year, when it's almost  
5 \$67,000. The third year is almost \$70,000 and so  
6 forth.

7 MR. BISHOP: What line is that again?  
8 What page is that on the budget?

9 MS. SHEARMAN: I don't have page numbers.  
10 But it's line 55 on the spreadsheet.

11 MR. BISHOP: Where it goes from \$35,000 to  
12 \$66,000 to \$69,000? That one?

13 MS. SHEARMAN: That's correct.

14 MR. BISHOP: Okay.

15 MS. CHERRIN: That would be an increase  
16 for contracted services that will be needed to  
17 service students; for example, that receive special  
18 education support. That number will grow as the  
19 student population grows.

20 MS. SHEARMAN: That's just almost a  
21 100-percent jump. You expect that many additional  
22 special ed students your second year?

23 MS. CHERRIN: Well, I think as the numbers  
24 grow, we anticipate a certain percentage of students  
25 who receive special education support, just based on



1 the number that seems to appear in charter schools.  
2 And we may have overbudgeted. But we really feel  
3 that it's better to overbudget and come in under  
4 than not to be prepared.

5 MS. SHEARMAN: One other question. It's  
6 line 328. Again, it's just a large number. And  
7 it -- I don't know. It's almost like a  
8 miscellaneous file when something is stuck in that  
9 area, Other Contract Services. And it's a large  
10 amount. It doesn't change. But I would appreciate  
11 knowing what it's for.

12 MR. BISHOP: Okay. That is for a contract  
13 business manager -- okay. We don't have a business  
14 manager, you know, listed as an employee here. We  
15 are -- we intend to work with a contract business  
16 manager, such as what they have available through  
17 the Charter School Coalition now. And it's also a  
18 figure for a community development individual and  
19 grant writing individual. But it's the community  
20 that -- development consultant. So those two  
21 functions.

22 MS. SHEARMAN: Okay. Thank you. I have  
23 no other questions.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Anybody else have  
25 a question.

1 MS. LOPEZ: I have a question.

2 THE CHAIR: Ms. Lopez?

3 MS. LOPEZ: It wasn't -- it wasn't clear  
4 to me how you're going to market it or recruit  
5 students or -- I know you're going after the needy  
6 students. But how are you going to put this out  
7 there?

8 MR. BISHOP: How are we going to put it  
9 out there? Well, basically, through all the media,  
10 newspaper ads, television ads, radio. I'm going to  
11 be talking on the radio. And open houses. And  
12 communicating in different sections of town, in  
13 particular, also. Do you have other thoughts on how  
14 we're going to do it?

15 MS. CHERRIN: Well, just, again, not just  
16 using the media, but also, you know, fliers and,  
17 again, open houses that will be held in, like,  
18 libraries and places like that, throughout different  
19 areas of the community, so that we can reach  
20 different populations. And then we'll have on-site  
21 open houses as well.

22 MS. LOPEZ: At the community college?

23 MS. CHERRIN: At the community college,  
24 yes.

25 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. Thank you. That's all

1 I have.

2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Anybody else? I  
3 have a question on Page 16 -- Page 16 of your  
4 application down at the bottom, basically, the last  
5 paragraph. And it says -- in the middle of the  
6 paragraph, it says, "Moreover, because TMP is  
7 located on the Santa Fe Community College campus,  
8 transportation issues are eliminated and dual  
9 enrollment is convenient."

10 Can you help me understand why  
11 transportation issues would be eliminated because of  
12 this location?

13 MR. BISHOP: Right. They're not exactly  
14 eliminated, except that the city bus system does  
15 have a dropoff at the community college. But the  
16 kids will be there already is what that meant. They  
17 don't have to go to Santa Fe High and then take a  
18 bus or take a car to the community college. The  
19 students will already be there is what I meant by  
20 that. They may have --

21 THE CHAIR: I guess I'm having a hard time  
22 understanding that. I've been to -- I'm from  
23 Southern New Mexico, but I've been to the Santa Fe  
24 Community College. And they have vast amounts of  
25 parking, which is truly convenient for students.

1 But it appears to me that a Santa Fe Community  
2 College student has to supply his or her own  
3 transportation. And when a student is a public  
4 school student, it appears to me that, by and large,  
5 the school district is responsible, by -- within  
6 certain constraints of the law, to provide  
7 transportation for the students.

8 And so I'm having a difficult time  
9 understanding why, just because it's on this  
10 community college campus, that that eliminates any  
11 responsibility to the students -- for the students.

12 MS. CHERRIN: Madam Chair, I -- again,  
13 I'll -- because the school is located on the campus,  
14 students will drive to school, and they'll be able  
15 to walk to their dual credit classes while they're  
16 already at school. I -- I'm not sure if -- if  
17 students from the other public high schools, if they  
18 take dual credit courses, if it is the school's  
19 responsibility to transport them there. I don't  
20 believe it is. And -- because it's not like busing  
21 them to school, to the high school and then home.

22 And I would think that with dual credit  
23 classes and with the number of students that take  
24 them at the varied times -- again, I'm not sure.

25 But I know that that's a question that can be

1 answered.

2 THE CHAIR: I'm not certain, either,  
3 ma'am. All I'm -- all I'm trying to point out is  
4 that it appears to me that -- that while an ordinary  
5 public school high school provides transportation  
6 within the constraints of the law, because your  
7 application is for a -- and I'm not really familiar  
8 with this new terminology to me -- a dual credit  
9 type of activity, then that eliminates the  
10 responsibility for helping a certain segment of the  
11 population that it appears to me you want to  
12 address, how that helps them get to -- get to the  
13 school, just because of the convenience of the  
14 classrooms on the -- on the college campus.

15 And I applaud you for that. And I applaud  
16 you for being able to -- to work closely enough with  
17 the Santa Fe Community College to see that -- that  
18 those students that you're addressing are really  
19 going to get a boost in trying to, first of all,  
20 enlarge their education, and then, secondly, make it  
21 possible for them to begin on their college careers.

22 My next question, probably, is very  
23 similar. And I won't -- I won't anticipate your  
24 answer. So I won't say that. But has to do with  
25 the -- a school lunch program. Again, I've been to

1 the Santa Fe Community College. And they have a  
2 nice access for their students to have a -- well, in  
3 a sense, I'm going to say a limited lunch program,  
4 and probably a limited breakfast program.

5 And so what do you anticipate -- is your  
6 student going to have to do the same thing? There's  
7 no access to any free lunch program or free and  
8 reduced lunch program?

9 MS. CHERRIN: Well, as a public school, we  
10 do have access to those programs as well. And if --  
11 when -- after students enroll, if we have the  
12 required number of students, we could offer the free  
13 and reduced lunch programs, like we can to all  
14 students in any public schools, in addition to other  
15 lunch programs by approved vendors as well. Many  
16 charter high schools have lunch programs for their  
17 students.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. And,  
19 again, I'm looking -- I know, because special ed has  
20 taken over the word "ancillary," my use of  
21 "ancillary" in this instance is not confined to  
22 special education or even alluding to special  
23 education. But the same thing, then, would be true  
24 of nursing services, counseling services?

25 MS. CHERRIN: That's right.

1 THE CHAIR: Because those students are  
2 going to be enrolled in a Santa Fe Community College  
3 for-credit course, then the community college is  
4 going to be the entity that takes over that  
5 responsibility?

6 MS. CHERRIN: No. They're still high  
7 school students. They're the responsibility of the  
8 high school. They're just taking the dual credit  
9 courses. But they are high school students. They  
10 belong to TMP.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that  
12 clarification. That's very helpful to me. Is there  
13 anybody else who has come up with a question or a  
14 comment that you would like to make?

15 I thank you very much for your  
16 presentation. And let's see. Let me move my  
17 materials here. We are to Item 10, then.

18 And the Commission encourages continued  
19 public input in writing until September 1, 2009, at  
20 5:00 p.m. Written comments should be sent to Public  
21 Education Commission care of Beverly Friedman,  
22 300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501,  
23 or e-mail comments to Beverly Friedman at  
24 bev.friedman@state.nm.us.

25 And that's September 1, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

1 And if you -- if you do the -- the Internet, it will  
2 certainly have a login time on that. And certain --  
3 did I see your hand up? Is there something I needed  
4 to go on -- okay. Thank you. Vern Tennyson,  
5 Commissioners, is back there in the back. And she  
6 will receive your expense vouchers before we leave  
7 Santa Fe, if you are prepared to do that.

8 The Public Education Commission would like  
9 to thank the community of Santa Fe for their  
10 hospitality. In particular, we thank the Public  
11 Education Department for the use of their  
12 facilities. We will recess until this afternoon.

13 MS. LOPEZ: Madam Chair. Madam Chair.  
14 Can I just bring up one thing? On this -- our  
15 schedule for the September 10th meeting, is it  
16 possible to move The MASTERS Program up on the list,  
17 just because I -- my other job, I have to work that  
18 evening here in Santa Fe, and I really would like to  
19 be there? Is that possible at all?

20 THE CHAIR: Ms. Lopez, I believe not. It  
21 is a published ed agenda. Dr. Duran?

22 DR. DURAN: Madam Chair, members of the  
23 Commission, certainly, at the beginning of the  
24 meeting, the Commission can switch agenda items.  
25 That's the prerogative of the Chair. However, I



1 would caution, because many people are in line.  
2 They know what their line is of presentation. If  
3 you move one school from the very end to the  
4 beginning, that's a whole community that has to  
5 switch. And I understand the concern --

6 MS. LOPEZ: I understand.

7 DR. DURAN: -- the concern that  
8 Commissioner Lopez has. But it impacts other  
9 community members as well.

10 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: I appreciate your concern.  
12 And perhaps, if it would do any help for you,  
13 perhaps the -- someone on the staff could call you  
14 when we're getting close to what we think The  
15 MASTERS Program would be, and you could come from  
16 Santa Fe to North Albuquerque?

17 MS. LOPEZ: I have to work here that  
18 night.

19 THE CHAIR: Pardon me?

20 MS. LOPEZ: I have to work here in  
21 Santa Fe that night. We'll figure it out. Thank  
22 you.

23 THE CHAIR: Talk to Dr. Duran and maybe we  
24 can work something out to help you be notified in  
25 time to leave Santa Fe in time for that program.

1 I'm very sorry that we weren't aware of that. So  
2 we'll try to work from there.

3 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: And I'm very appreciative that  
5 you do want to be present for that.

6 Okay. We're going to recess until this  
7 afternoon, August the 28th. The Commission will  
8 reconvene at 2:00 p.m. at the Taos Convention Center  
9 in Taos, New Mexico. And, again, thank all of you  
10 for coming. And, again, I want to thank the staff  
11 here in Santa Fe. I don't say it often enough or  
12 where you can hear it. But Vern and others, perhaps  
13 you will relay to the PED staff here how much we  
14 appreciate, as a Commission, the extended support  
15 that PED has given the Commission and the Charter  
16 Schools Division as we've gone through this process.

17 We, frankly, believe that we have the best  
18 process in the United States. Our Charter Schools  
19 Division is up for an award. We hope we win, or  
20 even come in -- you know, in a placing with the  
21 National Association of Charter Schools  
22 Accreditation. So we believe we have a good  
23 process. We're in our third year, and we're in our  
24 learning curve still. Dr. Duran, I'll let you  
25 finish this up, then, real fast.

1 DR. DURAN: Madam Chair, just because you  
2 have staff here -- and I apologize to the Santa Fe  
3 folks that I'm going to do our own plug -- but I  
4 think the Commission should know about three  
5 individuals who really make the -- the machine work  
6 and that you see the seamless process. And I think  
7 Vern, who does 10 million things in the PED, has  
8 been incredible. The eminent Dr. Michael C de Baca  
9 and the eminent Dr. Lorianne Valencia, I think they  
10 all work together to try to get you information as  
11 quickly as possible.

12 And so I want to extend my thank-you to  
13 all three of them, who are just critical, critical  
14 pieces to this puzzle. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Duran. Okay.  
16 We stand in recess. We'll see everybody in Taos in  
17 an hour or so. And, again, Vern's back there to  
18 receive your -- your materials if you have them  
19 ready.

20 (Proceedings concluded at 10:35 a.m.)  
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF:  
THE MASTERS PROGRAM

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true transcript of proceedings had before the said PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the State of New Mexico, County of Bernalillo, in the matter therein stated.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on September 2, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219  
201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Job No.: 3845D