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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION	
2	STATE OF NEW MEXICO	
3		
4	IN THE MATTER OF:	
5	TIERRA ADENTRO	
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9	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS CHARTER SCHOOL PUBLIC INPUT HEARING	
10	August 27, 2009 12:18 p.m.	
11	5600 Eagle Rock NE Albuquerque, New Mexico	
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20	REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219 Bean & Associates, Inc.	
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1	A P P E A R A N C E S	
2	COMMISSIONERS:	
3	MS. CATHERINE SMITH, Chair MR. M. ANDREW GARRISON, Vice Chair	
4	MR. M. ANDREW GARRISON, VICE CHall MS. MILLIE POGNA MS. KATHRYN KRIVITZKY	
5	MS. CAROLYN SHEARMAN	
6	MR. JEFF CARR MR. VINCE BERGMAN	
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8	DR. DON DURAN MR. SAM OBENSHAIN	
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	SANTA FE OFFICE 119 East Marcy, Suite 110 Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 989-4949 FAX (505) 820-6349 FAX (505) 820-6349 PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTING SERVICE	MAIN OFFICE 201 Third NW, Suite 1630 Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505) 843-9494 FAX (505) 843-9492 1-800-669-9492 e-mail: info@litsupport.com

THE CHAIR: We do have a quorum still present. Ms. Shearman, Mr. Bergman, Ms. Smith Mr. Garrison, Ms. Pogna, Ms. Krivitzky. I'm assuming that other people will be coming back. The statement for the hearing.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit 6 7 both written and oral input on the proposed charter in accordance with the Charter Schools Act. 8 Ouote, 9 "The Commission shall receive applications for initial chartering and renewals of charter for 10 11 charter schools that want to be chartered by the 12 State, and approve or disapprove those charter 13 applications." This is a citation from 22-8B-16, 14 New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978.

In addition, the Charter School Act states 15 16 that, "The chartering authority shall hold at least 17 one public hearing in the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located to 18 19 obtain information and community input, to assist in 20 its decision whether to grant a charter school 21 application. Community input may include written or 22 oral comments in favor of, or in opposition to, the 23 application from the Applicant, the local community, 24 and, for State-chartered schools, the local school 25 board and school district in whose geographic



boundaries the charter school is proposed to be
 located." And that's a citation from 22-8B-6, NMSA
 1978.

The Applicant, at this time, will be Tierra Adentro. We would like to hear from the applicants, and they are already seated, and we appreciate that. So, please, for the record, state the name of the school, the name or names of the founders of the school, the proposed grade levels to be served and membership projection of the school.

We request that you state for the record a brief description of the school, the reasons you believe this school will benefit the children and citizens of this community, and any other information that you would like the Commission to know about your application. You have 15 minutes. So please be as precise as you can during that time.

And, also, we are asking you for our recorder, if you will please state your name slowly enough that she gets it and spell it for her. So at this time, we will begin. Thank you very much. DR. DURAN: If you'll begin by introducing yourselves first, and then we won't start the clock until everybody's introduced themselves.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Duran.

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MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Gretchen 1 2 Williams, and I'm on the board of the founders. 3 MS. TORRES: Veronica Torres, also on the 4 board of the founders. 5 MR. LAUER: Gregory Lauer, L-A-U-E-R, also a founder. 6 7 MS. LOVATO: I'm Rhonda Lovato. I'm 8 actually a consultant for finance. 9 MS. MAGALLANEZ: My name is Marisa 10 Magallanez. Last name, M-A-G-A-L-L-A-N-E-Z. And I'm a founder. 11 12 MR. ENCINIAS: My name is Joaquin 13 Encinias, E-N-C-I-N-I-A-S. And I'm a founder. 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My name is --15 DR. DURAN: Excuse me. Only the ones who 16 are going to present should introduce themselves. 17 So are we ready? 18 MR. ENCINIAS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and 19 Commissioners, for your time. My name is Joaquin 20 Encinias. And with me are the founding members of 21 Tierra Adentro, the New Mexico School of Academics, 22 Art and Artesanía. I come from four generations of 23 cultural educators in the disciplines of dance and 24 music. 25 Twenty-seven years ago, my mother, Eva

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Encinias Sandoval, founded the National Institute of 1 2 Flamenco, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate the American family in the rich culture 3 4 Since the inception of NIF, we have of flamenco. 5 recognized the dire need in our state for a school focused on cultural education, preservation, and 6 7 progression, in a very hands-on, comprehensive and 8 purposeful way.

9 This school meets the critical need for generational continuity of New Mexican culture 10 11 through academics, Spanish language, art and 12 artesanía. At one time, the study of artesanía and 13 art were synonymous disciplines seamlessly 14 integrated in the community and culture creating a standard based on beautiful, appealing and ordinary 15 16 aesthetic. Art and artesanía are expressions of 17 culture and a major element in our curriculum and 18 educational process.

At Tierra Adentro, the New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía, or TANM, the study of art includes dance, music, drawing, and painting, which leads right into the functional disciplines of artesanía, such as weaving, pottery, jewelry making, carving and tin work. It is our responsibility to nurture the vision of the children in our community



and to provide the tools to build and maintain a 1 2 community based on cultural heritage. In our state, with an Hispanic population 3 of 44 percent, there is no school with a 4 5 comprehensive and method-based curriculum focusing 6 on art, academics and artesanía through an Hispanic 7 lens. We need to give our children the opportunity 8 to learn these three disciplines in one place. 9 Educational opportunities at TANM, combined with an 10 in-depth study of cultures will provide not only a 11 relevant academic experience, but also help students 12 become aware of the important role they play in the 13 revival of cultural traditions in their communities. 14 All the students benefit from an in-depth study of culture leading to young adults who are 15 16 compassionate and respectful of other cultures and 17 ideas. The mission of Tierra Adentro is to create a 18 learning environment based on our philosophy that a 19 well-rounded education includes the intensive study 20 of academics, art and artesanía. These disciplines 21 are hands-on, creative and intellectual by nature 22 and become more relevant for students when they're 23 culturally based. 24 TANM will offer a rigorous academic

24 TANM WILL Offer a rigorous academic25 curriculum through a college preparatory experience.

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TANM will serve students in the Albuquerque metro and surrounding areas in grades six through twelve. We will provide an innovative excellent educational setting with meaningful cultural experiences for children of all backgrounds through an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Aside from the fact there is no school 7 offering this curriculum in the state, we feel that 8 9 the population of sixth- through twelfth-grade 10 students in Albuquerque more than supports the need for this school. In order to give the cultural 11 12 relevance and continuity to our educational process, 13 we have chosen the "Iberian Diaspora" as our theme, 14 "diaspora" meaning the movement of people and their 15 contact with other cultures.

The Iberian Diaspora provides a focus to our program without leading them to a Spanish world view. Our approach is to provide a deeper understanding of Spanish culture and its role in New Mexico, and this will serve as a basis for the study of other cultures.

A key factor in our success is our partnership with the National Institute of Flamenco. As the leader in flamenco arts education worldwide, we have developed an expertise in cultural education



through our flagship programs: Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque, the National Conservatory of Flamenco Arts, and our performance company, Yjastros, the American Flamenco Repertory Company, our pre-professional company, Alma Flamenca, and the children's company, Niños Flamencos.

8 NIF has become an internationally and 9 nationally successful organization because of our 10 strong artistic vision, integrated programs and 11 expertise in curricular development. NIF will 12 provide Tierra Adentro world-renowned education, 13 unparalleled expertise in cultural curriculum 14 development, and a widespread community of support. 15 NIF has a network of support which includes over 16 1,000 students and over 15,000 patrons annually.

17 Additional prospective partners include the National Hispanic Cultural Center, who are NIF's 18 19 professional flamenco company; Yjastros, the 20 resident dance company; as well as the University of 21 New Mexico Theater and Dance Department, where four 22 of our founders are faculty members. NIF's 23 educational model is in use around the country and 24 in other local schools, including the Public Academy 25 for Performing Arts as well as the University of



New Mexico, where two years of our methodology has
 been adapted in its flamenco emphasis degree
 program, which is the only one of its kind in the
 world.

5 The proposed location for Tierra Adentro is downtown Albuquerque. NIF has an established 6 7 history of excellent programming in this area. We believe a culturally based school will thrive and 8 9 bring much needed educational synergy to downtown. 10 NIF is currently involved in a \$5 million 11 headquarter project in partnership with the City. 12 We have successfully raised over \$1.5 million from 13 State of New Mexico capital outlay funds. Our 14 vision is to develop a cultural campus where cultural education and entrepreneurship thrive. 15 16 NIF's copywritten dance methodology, Baile

Flamenco: A Method, evolved over years of teaching flamenco dance and was derived from the students' need for consistent instruction. Baile Flamenco is based on a study through a trilateral approach; technique, application, and theory, by integrating the trilateral approach into academics and other art forms.

24 Tierra Adentro will facilitate a learning 25 environment of the highest quality in an engaging,



1	fun, and creative way. The trilateral approach is
2	currently implemented in the sixth grade English
3	class at the Public Academy for Performing Arts.
4	At TANM, we are proud to offer the state's
5	only comprehensive curriculum of academic arts and
6	artesanía, studied through Iberian Diaspora. We go
7	beyond the typical thematic unit arriving at a
8	comprehensive thematic curriculum. This is a shift
9	from compartmentalized learning of dates, facts, and
10	information, moving towards an educational vision
11	based upon creating cohesive experiences,
12	relationships and connections.
13	Appendices C, D, E, and F of our charter
14	provide examples of a school of innovative
15	curriculum. We are proud to incorporate a thematic
16	and cohesive educational philosophy, while
17	maintaining alignment with New Mexico standards and
18	benchmarks.
19	In particular, Appendix C includes a
20	curricular framework for sixth-grade English,
21	illustrating classroom integration of the Iberian
22	Diaspora. Provided is an example of the scope and
23	sequence of TANM. As the primary curricular
24	adviser, NIF will utilize the expertise of
25	exceptional artists and artisans as consultants,

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including master teacher and musician, John Truitt,
 master artisan Charlie Carrillo, and master painter
 Federico Vigil.

The art and artesanía programs are based on skilled development of fundamental concepts for years, followed by two years of study through a wheel program. The wheel program enables students to study a diverse set of disciplines and maximize exposure in many subject areas.

10 In the tenth grade, students will select a 11 specific area of focus for in-depth study. As 12 founders, we believe in fostering a proactive 13 learning environment through consistent student 14 assessment, And students' own self-assessment will 15 be a key factor in our success. One of the major 16 benefits of the trilateral approach is its 17 consistent and easy mechanism of assessment on a 18 daily basis. The implementation of the trilateral 19 approach and the daily assessment process is 20 facilitated through sample curricular models consisting of New Mexico standards based curricular 21 22 framework.

From these frameworks, thematic unit plans are developed by teachers. From these unit plans, daily lesson plans are derived. The checklists and



rubrics are the mechanism for implementation of 1 2 these daily lesson plans. Checklists contain all skill sets students need to know in a subject and 3 4 have a built-in mechanism for tracking repetition 5 and immediate information on skill development --These elements work in tandem to determine 6 7 proficiency of specific skill sets and facilitate a 8 proactive assessment process identifying 9 developmental issues almost immediately. То 10 complement the built-in assessment methods of our 11 methodology, NIF will use information systems such 12 as PowerSchool to manage and report student data. 13 The first year of student performance will 14 set the benchmark for TANM performance standards. Academic progress will be communicated through 15 16 report cards and progress records. 17 Our goals. TANM's goals are categorized 18 under five major areas to direct and measure the 19 success of our school. Under each major area, we've 20 created complementing, yet distinct goals, 21 separately and specifically measured. The synergy 22 of this approach allows us to set broad, thematic 23 goal areas, while allowing us the ability to set 24 specific benchmarks and milestones under each area. 25 In fact, these goals work together to create success



1 in five areas.

 upon a governing council, advised by five nonvoting advisory committees. The advisory committees insure that all TANM stakeholders have a direct line of communication to the GC. However, they will not be involved in the daily operation of the school. The governing council has the authority to hire and fire the principal, and, as stated in the Tierra Adentro charter on Page 82, the principal shall recruit, select, hire and discipline, as well as promote all other school personnel, pursuant to New Mexico law. The instructional leader, along with the principal, the National Institute of Flamenco and advisory committees will develop and implement the curriculum for TANM. The instructional leader's main function, aside from curricular development, is to insure that teachers have creative liberty while maintaining philosophical unity and a cohesive
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21 approach within the methodal are
21 approach within the methodology.
22 The principal, along with an
23 administrative licensed instructional leader, will
24 be responsible for faculty evaluation. A sample is
25 included in your handouts. The philosophy behind



1 TANM's governing council is to guide the long-term 2 strategic interests of the school, assure compliance 3 with state and federal laws, as well as maintain the 4 original intent as set forth in the charter.

5 We would like to say that no NIF 6 appointees shall be an employee or receive any form 7 of compensation from NIF. In addition, NIF 8 appointments to the GC shall recuse themselves from 9 voting on any specific matters relating to financial 10 compensation to National Institute of Flamenco.

11 The NIF appointees' primary function on 12 the GC is to protect the artistic vision, 13 encouraging the curricular integrity pertaining to 14 the artesanía curriculum, ultimately protecting the 15 original intent of the charter, the innovative 16 nature of the school, and the students' best 17 interests.

18 Several waivers were also requested as a 19 proactive measure to insure flexibility during the 20 planning year, at which time any unnecessary waivers 21 will be amended. Employee relations shall comply 22 with all provisions of the New Mexico Personnel Act and the New Mexico Charter Schools Act. 23 24 In your handout is a template for an 25 employee handbook, which describes all personnel



policies and procedures. This template will serve as a working document for the principal and the business manager to develop personnel policy during the planning year, with final approval by the GC.

As founders, we believe the most effective employee handbook must be developed by the principal in accordance with their supervision and management style.

9 TANM will promote community awareness and 10 advertise enrollment through the school's Web site, local newspaper, and material distribution through 11 12 outreach efforts. Promotional awareness will be 13 facilitated through the widespread performance and 14 educational outreach of the National Institute of 15 Flamenco to over 15,000 people each year. Examples 16 of the outreach packet and brochure are also in your 17 handouts.

18 TANM's student discipline policy shall 19 comply with the student rights and responsibilities 20 as set forth in the Public Education Department The founders believe that 21 rules and regulations. 22 student discipline policies are more appropriately 23 handled by the principal to reflect the population 24 of the school. However, we have demonstrated a 25 template of a student handbook to demonstrate our

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capacity to develop discipline policies, as well as
 other student policies and procedures.

The arts and artesanía curriculum at TANM 3 4 uses its universal mechanism of communication to 5 facilitate needs, learning, and growth of all students, including those with special needs. 6 Ιn 7 addition to this, TANM will be well-suited to meet 8 the needs of your students and special populations. 9 TANM will provide a student assistance team in 10 compliance with all PED and NMAC regulations. Α 11 sample is included in your handbook. Early 12 identification of special needs students, including 13 ELL students, will be determined during the 14 registration process.

TANM has initially consulted with Rhonda 15 16 Lovato in the area of business management. Rhonda 17 has seven years of experience in charter school 18 business management and has worked in and set up 19 four schools in her experience. To insure sound 20 fiscal management and safeguard TANM against any 21 unauthorized or illegal financial activity, we will 22 follow all policy and employ internal controls as 23 mandated by the generally accepted accounting 24 principles as well as state and federal regulations. 25 Internal controls will be defined by the



business manager and approved by the GC during the planning year. A sample of our internal controls is included in your handbook. The business manager will deliver financial reports for approval to the GC on a monthly basis.

6 TANM will work with experts in charter 7 school real estate, architects, as well as the 8 Public Schools Finance Authority, along with state 9 experts to determine and meet facility needs. Ιn 10 addition to meeting adequacy standards for public 11 schools, TANM will also provide dance studios in 12 workshop areas to facilitate the art and artesanía 13 curriculum.

I would like to say that the vision and passion for this school has grown from the community via the National Institute of Flamenco. We feel blessed as a family and organization to create a home for flamenco here in New Mexico, and we realize the impact that this has had in children and families in our community.

21 Now we have an opportunity to apply our 22 expertise and impact children through the public 23 education system. Thank you for your consideration. 24 And thank you, supporters, for being here with us

25 today.



THE CHAIR: Thank you. 1 2 He made it within one second. DR. DURAN: 3 MR. CARR: That was good. 4 THE CHAIR: Item 4 on our hearing agenda 5 is local school board and district representatives. 6 And I think they can just remain seated where they 7 are? 8 DR. DURAN: Yes. I think so. 9 THE CHAIR: At this time, we would like to 10 hear from the local school board and/or district 11 representatives. We will request that anyone who 12 does come forward from the local board or the 13 district state your name and position and then your 14 reasons this charter school application should be 15 approved and/or reasons why this charter school 16 application should be denied by the Commission. 17 Those presenters from the local board or from the local district will have ten minutes. 18 So we ask you 19 to be as precise as you can. 20 We have Dr. Diego Gallegos from the 21 Albuquerque Public School district who was here 22 yesterday. He made a brief presentation. And he 23 left us with a letter. And I have been reading the 24 first two paragraphs of the letter so that we get 25 the spirit of it, I hope.

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And it says, "The Albuquerque public 1 2 Schools cannot support authorization of any of the new charter applications within our district 3 4 boundaries. We have reviewed each of the eight new 5 charter applications to the NMPEC, and we want to acknowledge the applicants' desire to create new 6 7 charter schools. It is clear that they have worked 8 hard to identify what they believe to be unique 9 needs and unique responses to those needs. The 10 Albuquerque Public Schools extends an invitation to 11 them to present their ideas to us as possible 12 inspiration for future magnet schools within the 13 district. We believe that the current economic 14 situation in New Mexico necessitates that we move 15 slowly on adding new schools that may duplicate 16 programs and services already being offered by the 17 local district or the State of New Mexico. Further 18 complicating the economic issue are the yet 19 unresolved challenges of providing public buildings 20 to current APS charter schools and PEC charter 21 schools within a local district." 22 And I assume that you have a copy of this. 23 So we'll move forward, then, with that. 24 As you know, we're in item 5, community 25 Public comments and observations regarding input.



1	the application will be heard at this time. There
2	will be a four-minute time limit per presenter.
3	Persons from the same group and having similar
4	viewpoints are asked to select a spokesperson to
5	speak on their behalf. Multiple and repetitious
6	presentations of the same view will be discouraged.
7	And I am discouraging it at this time.
8	We've been advised by staff that we need to leave
9	here by 1:30 in order to be in Las Vegas,
10	New Mexico, by 4:00 for another hearing. So we'd
11	ask your cooperation in allowing us to adhere to our
12	schedule so that other people have the same
13	opportunity we hope we are granting you.
14	So at this time, if the there is
15	community input, you will be recognized by the
16	Chair. Please come to the podium and use the
17	microphone and state your name, spelling it for the
18	recorder. Sometimes what may seem a very common
19	name to you may not be to the recorder, even though
20	she's doing an absolutely fantastic job and has done
21	this in the past for us. And so we know from
22	experience that she does do this.
23	So please help us in this. So at this
24	time, the Chair will recognize people yes, sir,
25	back there, in the back. And you will be timed by

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Mr. -- I called you "Mister" this time. I lost your 1 2 graduate degree. Dr. C de Baca. 3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Hi. My name is Jorge 4 J-O-R-G-E, H-E-R-N-A-N-D-E-Z. Hernandez. Welcome. 5 Thank you for giving me this time. I also thank 6 each of you for your service on behalf of the State. 7 All this is for our kids, and I just really 8 appreciate everybody being here for that. 9 I am a parent of two children. My 10 19-year-old son and my 15-year-old granddaughter, both of them have attended charter schools and very 11 12 successfully. I'm a strong supporter of the charter 13 school movement. my son graduated from the Public 14 Academy for Performing Arts. He had a very rich 15 education there, and he's now in the film program at 16 We're very proud of the progress he's made. CNM. 17 It was very obvious to us that the regular 18 public education system does not offer the kind of 19 rich experience that an art school or a dance school 20 can bring to the academic process. His emphasis was 21 on film and video. And it really helped him enrich 22 how he learned his academics. He is a much stronger 23 student for that experience. 24 My daughter -- let's get to my 25 Excuse me. Her name is Gabriella granddaughter.

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2.2

1	Garduño. And she has been a student of some of the
2	teachers here for flamenco. She's young. She
3	started two-and-a-half years ago; three years ago in
4	dance, but she just started flamenco two-and-a-half
5	years ago. And she started in flamenco after she
6	had started in hip hop. You know, she went to the
7	hip hop because that's what's very popular with our
8	kids. But when she saw the flamenco, when we saw
9	the flamenco, it was such a passionate and such a
10	rich experience that she was drawn right to it.
11	She's been doing it now for two-and-a half
12	years, and she takes so much pride in it. She goes
13	to the conservatory for classes during the summer,
14	which we pay for ourselves, as a student at the
15	Public Academy for the Performing Arts. Her dance
16	has greatly given her so much confidence and so much
17	of an ability to express herself that I totally buy
18	into the premise of this charter school.
19	I was so excited when I saw this that I
20	thought, you know, I need to come down there. So
21	thank you for waiting for us. Quite a time here.
22	But I do want to say that this has support. I have
23	direct experience from my kids. We look forward to
24	this school being there.
25	The only other comment I would add here is



we have checked. The regular public education 1 2 school system, including the brand new school that's 3 just opened up on the west side, Volcano Vista, they 4 have no dance program. Nothing. We went there. 5 They have cheer. That's what they have. And cheer 6 I'm not taking anything from that. That's is good. 7 a great experience. But it's not art. And it's not flamenco. 8 9 And it's not that rich. So we need this in our 10 And I would respectfully disagree with the schools. 11 comment from APS or the -- that, you know, let's not 12 duplicate what's already -- there's no duplication 13 Dance is woefully unaddressed in the regular here. 14 school system. So this has all my support, and I wish all of you all of my passion and all of my 15 So thank you. 16 energy. 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, sir. I had a young 18 lady back there in a white --19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, no. I'm sorry. 20 THE CHAIR: All right. Yes, ma'am. MS. CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. And thank 21 22 My name is Carol Crawford. And I'm a you. 23 grandparent of four that dance in flamenco. And I 24 cannot begin to tell you how much confidence these 25 little ones have as a result of being in the dance

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1	school. They are well, well rounded. It has
2	influenced them so positively.
3	So I feel strong about this. And in
4	another city, lots of other cities, they have strong
5	art. And our city is getting to be the size that
6	it's needed. And it's such an international place.
7	So I really wish you would consider this school.
8	It's extremely important. And it really, really
9	helps the children. And I just thank you for
10	listening.
11	THE CHAIR: Thank you. Is there anybody
12	else? Yes, ma'am.
13	MS. VIGIL: Good afternoon. My name is
14	Dolores Vigil. And I am a mother of eight,
15	grandmother of 17. I am here to tell you that my
16	last two graduated from PAPA, the Public Academy for
17	Performing Arts. That's where the older one got
18	into flamenco. And because of the the passion
19	that they have for that dance and the discipline
20	that they showed, because of them, she is now in
21	college, which she really didn't want to go.
22	But they encouraged her. They showed her
23	the vision of going to school and getting that
24	education. So she is reg and thanks to these two
25	ladies here, they would not let her give up. And so

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1	in about two years, she will have her teaching
2	degree, because that's what she wants to do.
3	This is what they have taught. They
4	showed this passion. They don't let them give up.
5	They want them to focus. And that, I think, is so
6	important for the kids nowadays. They don't have a
7	focus. They don't have anything that they can
8	mentor anyone that they can mentor. But these
9	people, all they're like family. And they take
10	everybody in. And they all stress education,
11	education, education, and within bringing the art
12	into it. I think that has all the makes all the
13	difference in the world.
14	And I now have another daughter that just
15	graduated. And she also is going to college and
16	going to be taking her flamenco class there at UNM
17	also. And also my grandchild. She's there in
18	flamenco. And she is now in sixth grade. So she'll
19	be going to PAPA. But she's excited about this
20	program.
21	And I think this program will bring more
22	to New Mexico because it just brings in our culture.
23	And maybe one of these days, people will figure out,
24	you don't need a passport to get to Albuquerque, New
25	Mexico, you know. So please consider this school.

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1 Thank you.

2	THE CHAIR: We'll hope so. Yes, ma'am.
3	Yes, sir. Oh, it's "ma'am." I'm sorry.
4	MS. ENCINIAS SANDOVAL: Good afternoon.
5	My name is Eva Encinias Sandoval, and I'm the
6	director of the National Institute of Flamenco. I
7	thank you very much for being here. I know you had
8	a long morning, and, hopefully, this will go very
9	smoothly. I'd like to thank all the people that are
10	here in support of this endeavor. Unfortunately, it
11	got a little longer than we expected, so it lost a
12	lot of people. But we thank you for holding on.
13	Just to let you know that I'm a full
14	professor at the University as well as my
15	directorship of the Institute. And throughout the
16	years, we have had a wonderful articulation with the
17	Public Academy for Performing Arts in regard to
18	being able to articulate students that have been
19	introduced to dance and music into the University
20	program.
21	And we see, with this development of
22	something like Tierra Adentro, our ability to do
23	that in a much more comprehensive and complete way.
24	So we are very, very excited. For generations, our
25	family has been very invested in education. That's

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1 what we do. And we do it through performance, 2 production, and learning. And we're all very 3 invested in that. So we hope that you will consider 4 our application. 5 I wanted to read to you -- Senator Pete Campos, our State senator, was not able to be here 6 7 today but sent an e-mail that he would like to share 8 with you. So I wanted to read that. Excuse me. 9 I'm back to teaching now, and I'm a little hoarse. 10 From Senator Pete Campos. "I wholeheartedly support 11 your efforts to engage in a much-needed charter 12 academy that will specifically address the complete 13 development of academic and artistic talents of our 14 youth. Can you imagine, we hone the specific talents of youth in the areas of academic basics and 15 16 core artistic talents. This will catapult us to new 17 and never imagined level of students self-esteem, 18 global competitiveness, and ultimate meaningful 19 employment. We must not stop at traditional or ordinary education. If we stop at the routine, 20 21 students will falter. They will move more slowly 22 through life and become disengaged because their 23 input did not make a positive or meaningful 24 difference."

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25



He wanted me to pass that on to you.

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Ι

1 thank you for your time.

2	THE CHAIR: Thank you. Is there anybody
З	else? Yes, ma'am. Oh, we have a team effort here.
4	MS. VIGIL: Hi. My name is Sonia Vigil,
5	V-I-G-I-L. This is my daughter, Evangelina Vigil.
6	She's a student at the conservatory. She's also
7	going to PAPA, the Public Academy for Performing
8	Arts. She's 11, and she's Type 1 diabetic. She's
9	on an insulin pump. And I know that there's
10	different kinds of dances where it's very difficult
11	for her to incorporate her diabetic life. But at
12	the conservatory, they have been so supportive, and
13	they have really met her special needs. Not to
14	mention she's not the only child there with a pump.
15	Being on a pump takes a lot of discipline,
16	and also studying flamenco does as well. They've
17	also put this in a very positive aspect for her of
18	focusing and focusing on something positive. I note
19	that in public schools I I have two other in
20	public schools. And they do not focus like this,
21	positively.
22	I know that flamenco has really given her
23	a drive to be very not picky, but she is very
24	precise in how she does things. She focuses more,
25	and she pays a lot more attention to her work. And

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1	I also have a son. He's nine years old. He's also
2	into art. And it's not just only dance that is
3	artistic. There's martial arts. There's also art
4	as in Leonardo da Vinci. He is very, very into
5	that. He can tell you exactly anything about him.
6	He is very, very focused on that as well.
7	And I know that this is something
8	positive. And it's something that will help the
9	children focus and stay out of trouble. Because
10	children have so much energy. I have four. I know
11	how much energy it takes and how how much time it
12	takes and effort it takes to have the energy focus
13	on something positive. And flamenco does that for
14	them. Every single one of them, they go and they
15	support.
16	I also have two younger sisters that are
17	doing flamenco as well, and I know that it's just
18	something that drives you. It's something inside of
19	yourself. It's something that you're so focused on
20	that you want everything else to be better. You
21	don't have time to get into trouble because you're
22	focused on doing something positive, you know.
23	And that's something that I want my
24	children to be able to do. And I think that if this
25	charter school isn't approved, that it's going to be

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a lot more difficult. And me, as a single parent, 1 2 having to come up with money for a parochial school -- because I really believe either it's a 3 4 parochial school or it's a charter school. And this 5 school is just so family-based. And, seriously, children come from 6 7 families, and they need to be able to have that 8 stiff foundation in order to be somebody in life. 9 So I really hope that you guys approve this school. Know that it's going to better the lives of children 10 11 here in New Mexico. We are a melting pot. So I 12 think that this is something that's going to be good 13 for the kids. Think about the kids. Approve it. 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 15 MS. VIGIL: Thank you. 16 THE CHAIR: Is there anyone else? Yes, 17 ma'am. My name is Elena 18 MS. OSUNA CARR: Hello. 19 Osuna Carr. And I am a member of the dance company, 20 Yjastros. I also have been involved in the National 21 Conservatory of Flamenco Arts for many years now. 22 And I have just recently entered the teaching field, 23 so I am now a part-time teacher. 24 I have just finished any master's in 25 secondary education with endorsements in fine arts

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1 and modern languages.

2	The first experience that I had with
3 :	flamenco was through the University of New Mexico
4	with Eva Encinias Sandoval. One thing to consider
5	is that young people are having a hard time finding
6 1	ways of how to express themselves in good, healthy
7	ways. They are feeling a lot of feelings, and they
8 8	are expressing them, a lot of times, in negative
9 1	ways in terms of ditching school, drugs, alcohol,
10 :	fights, and gangs.
11	When I met Eva, I was at a place in my
12	life where I was there. And I couldn't find a way
13	to focus or how to express the things that I was
14	feeling. And through flamenco, I was able to learn
15	how to express myself in a positive way. And the
16 0	discipline and the rigor, the persistence that
17 :	flamenco requires is something that bled over into
18 3	all of my other academic into the academic arena,
19 8	and I was able to go to college to finish, which is
20	something I never thought I would do.
21	I dropped out of high school. I dropped
22	out after a year and a half. I went to T-VI, and I
23	took some typing classes. And then Eva was someone
24	who was pivotal, and flamenco, the art form, in
25	changing my life. And so for young people today,

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sometimes they need another way to get to the skills 1 2 that they're going to need to be academically successful, and this is an option for them. 3 I don't 4 know quite what to do with this. 5 THE CHAIR: Is there anyone else? Yes, ma'am. 6 7 MS. ENCINIAS: Hello. My name is Marisol Encinias. I'm a teacher and dancer of flamenco, 8 9 danced flamenco my whole life. I teach at the 10 University of New Mexico and the Conservatory of 11 Flamenco Arts. I'd just like to speak in support of 12 this charter. 13 While we're all talking about flamenco --14 and it definitely is -- flamenco has been the major focus -- well, the major focus of my life. 15 This 16 school will not only focus on flamenco, but it will 17 focus on Hispanic arts and crafts in general that 18 are pertinent and important to people from 19 New Mexico and for people who live here. And so 20 kind of including all of those ideas and disciplines as well as academics into the education of our young 21 22 people, I think is important, gives them a -- a 23 place where to become excited about learning and 24 learning about all kinds of things and going on to 25 if they're going to be dancers, to study arts with

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renewed enthusiasm, to go to college, to get a
 degree, to do whatever they're going to do in the
 long-term successfully.

So I'd like to speak in support of this charter, not only because I'm passionate about flamenco, but just because I'm passionate about learning and passionate about education and making sure that our students, our young people, have an opportunity to study all these things in a place that is going to be successful. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Is there anyone 12 All right. Thank you very much. We move to else? 13 At this time, the Public Education Item 6. 14 Commission reserves time to address any questions 15 that the Commissioners may have of the Applicant. 16 And then we have our applicants up here at the 17 microphone. So please keep your responses as brief as possible to allow for questioning from other 18 19 Commission members. Commissioners, please be 20 recognized by the Chair. Are there any questions? 21 Mr. Carr? 22 MR. CARR: I don't think I have any 23 questions for you. I just wanted to -- it's nice --24 I always hear math and science, math and science, 25 math and science, all the time. And math and

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1 science is very important. Art is also very 2 I'm a musician, and I like to dance. important. 3 And Taos High School, we've got a flamenco program 4 for quite a few years and some other dance programs. 5 And I saw -- I've seen the benefit in my students 6 for that. 7 And I want to applaud you in this action 8 that you're taking. And one thing you guys didn't 9 bring up, and something we don't hear enough about, 10 is that the arts in dancing, music, improve math 11 scores, you know. So that was something -- you need 12 to bring up, too, maybe at some point. 13 So thank you. 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Anybody else? 15 Ms. Shearman? 16 MS. SHEARMAN: I always have questions. 17 MR. GARRISON: Here it comes. 18 MS. SHEARMAN: Good morning. And thank 19 you all for waiting on us. Could we go to the 20 budget, please. I'm looking at a particular line 21 item, line No. 60, General Supplies and Materials. 22 MS. LOVATO: I'm sorry. Just one moment. 23 MS. SHEARMAN: I'm sorry? 24 MS. LOVATO: Which line item? 25 MS. SHEARMAN: Pardon me?

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MS. LOVATO: Which line item is it? 1 2 MS. SHEARMAN: It's General Supplies and Materials. It's line 60. 3 4 MS. LOVATO: And function. 5 MS. SHEARMAN: It's 11000, 1000, 56118. It's under "Supplies." 6 7 MS. LOVATO: (Indicates.) 8 MS. SHEARMAN: My question concerns the 9 big change from year one to the succeeding years, going from \$3,200 to \$40,000, \$53,000, \$51,000. 10 11 MS. LOVATO: Can I answer? 12 THE CHAIR: Please use the mic. 13 MS. LOVATO: There's actually a couple of 14 reasons I budget this way. One way, in creating 15 these budgets, you cannot project growth. And in 16 here, you will get growth in the first year of 17 operation. Also, there's a supplemental grant that 18 we'll apply for, which is our federal stimulus 19 funding. And that is where we'll apply in the first 20 year to completely supply, furnish, and equip our 21 facility. 22 In the following years, we won't have that 23 federal stimulus to fall on because that's just more 24 for implementation. It's years two and three. So 25 that will be part of our budget in the following

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years. The first year, we'll try to get all of that 1 2 from our federal stimulus funding. MS. SHEARMAN: Thank you. Come on down 3 4 to -- what are you all going to do for a building 5 for the first two years? 6 MR. ENCINIAS: I can answer that. 7 MS. SHEARMAN: Or forever. I quess you 8 don't have any maintenance costs for the first two 9 years. But it starts in year three. But when you come down to property, utilities, rental of a 10 11 building, or whatever, maintenance, I don't see 12 anything. I'm down in the 3100s. 13 MR. BERGMAN: While you're doing that, you 14 had that building thing. Could you put that back up 15 there so we can be looking at while we're answering 16 that question? 17 MS. LOVATO: It's under 2600, I believe. 18 11000, 2600. 19 THE CHAIR: I think we're having 20 conversations among four people over here. Let's get it where everybody can understand the questions 21 22 and then understand the answers. 23 MR. ENCINIAS: Concerning --24 Looking in the right place? MS. SHEARMAN: 25 I knew you had someplace to be. 2600s.

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MS. LOVATO: It's in 11000, 2600. 1 2 MS. SHEARMAN: Yeah. She found it in the The only other thing I note is you don't 3 2600s. 4 have anything budgeted for auditing. And I think 5 that was one of the findings in the preliminary review as well. That's in the 3100s. 6 MS. LOVATO: It should be under 2300. 7 8 Yeah. There's \$8,000 budgeted for auditing in the 9 It's actually under function -- fund first year. 10 11000, 2300, 53411. It's on Page 11. 11 MS. SHEARMAN: Thank you. I'm looking in 12 the wrong part. Thank you very much. 13 MS. LOVATO: You're welcome. That's all 14 right. 15 Anybody else? Mr. Bergman. THE CHAIR: The reason I asked for that. 16 MR. BERGMAN: 17 I think you indicated in your application that you 18 were looking at several different properties. One 19 of them is Fifth and Gold. There was an old museum 20 down on Mountain Road? Is this complex on Mountain 21 Road, or has the City and Bernalillo County acquired 22 another complex? 23 MR. ENCINIAS: Mr. Commissioner, this is 24 not on Mountain Road. This is on Lomas and the 25 railroad. I'll just stand up, if I may. This right

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here is the Lomas Boulevard. This is the railroad track. This is a building that's currently being developed by the National Institute of Flamenco. We have looked into availability of properties all around this building as well as here to the east of this building.

7 And if the property owner here is interested in leasing us 20,000 square feet 8 9 immediately to the east of our headquarters, as well 10 as there's empty space -- here it is -- that is also 11 for lease -- we're looking at establishing a campus 12 that would be more temporary for the first two years 13 with possibly portable units or utilizing this 14 building on this space and then supplementing that 15 with this headquarters that's already being 16 developed here, so that we can utilize and save some 17 taxpayer money by utilizing the synergy within these 18 spaces.

Eventually, we would like to see this area grow into a cultural campus, where this right here would be what would be earmarked for Tierra Adentro's charter school. This is currently George Maloof property that became available within the last two months. And we are in conversations with community members and real estate experts as

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well as we will be in conversation with the Public 1 2 School Finance Authority to figure out the possibilities of utilizing all this space in this 3 4 We've also looked at other spaces in facility. 5 downtown that could meet requirements. 6 MR. BERGMAN: Okay. Thank you. And I had 7 just one other general -- I'm not sure it's even a 8 question. Probably is. With all the -- I read the 9 application and listened to you today. With all the 10 excitement and the passion for the flamenco and the 11 dance and all that, when we get to the final 12 analysis, it's still the reading and the writing and 13 the arithmetic that's a part of the school. I would 14 just like to hear you say that you're going to be just as excited and passionate about that. 15 16 MR. ENCINIAS: Veronica. 17 MS. TORRES: Hi. To answer your question, 18 I'm currently a level three teacher currently 19 working on my admin license, and I'm a sixth grade 20 English teacher at the Public Academy for Performing 21 Arts and also the head of the dance department there 22 and the flamenco teacher there and also the 23 department head for English. 24 At PAPA, I have utilized, as he said in 25 his speech earlier, the trilateral approach and have

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1 been very successful with it. When I first got to 2 the school, I found that with a diverse community of 3 kids that charter schools can bring, you're -- you 4 have ranges of second-grade readers all the way to 5 twelfth-grade readers in a sixth-grade classroom. And it was my job, in a full inclusion school, to 6 7 meet the needs of each one of these children. We 8 have successfully implemented that approach, and it 9 has worked amongst kids of diverse needs in meeting 10 AYP every year that the school has been opened in 11 each one of the disciplines. 12 And I'm currently starting to train other 13 teachers in this trilateral methodology, not only in 14 dance, but also in the academic areas. And we hope to carry it over -- its successes over into math and 15 16 science as well as other art disciplines. 17 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you very much. 18 THE CHAIR: Anybody else? 19 MR. CARR: One quick, one -- are you going 20 to teach -- are you going to teach anyone to dance 21 through the computer? 22 MS. TORRES: No. 23 MR. BERGMAN: We're talking about a little 24 higher art form. 25 MR. CARR: Good. Okay.

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1 MS. KRIVITZKY: I just have a quick 2 question. What does the name of your school mean? The word "Tierra Adentro" 3 MR. ENCINIAS: comes from, actually, the Camino Real. 4 El Camino 5 Real that goes from Mexico still to Santa Fe was once -- the official name of that road was El Camino 6 7 Real del Tierra Adentro. That means "the inward 8 land." From the Spanish perspective a long time 9 ago, they referred to this land, from Santa Fe up to 10 Colorado all the way down to Mexico, as "the inward 11 land," we're calling this. We thought it was a very 12 beautiful name, and also has some mystical 13 characteristics about the inner person, Tierra 14 Adentro, a rich history, but not being exclusive to Spanish culture. 15 16 MS. KRIVITZKY: Thank you. 17 MR. ENCINIAS: Thank you. 18 THE CHAIR: Anybody else? Okay. I need 19 to do two or three things, so please stay with me, 20 folks. No. 7 is the Commission encourages continued 21 public input in writing until September 1, 2009, at 22 5:00 p.m. Written comments should be sent to the 23 Public Education Commission in care of Beverly 24 Friedman, 300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, 25 New Mexico, 87501. Or e-mail comments to Beverly

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Friedman at bev.friedman@nm.state.us. 1 2 First of all, I'd like to thank you folks for making the presentation today and staying with 3 4 The Public Education Commission would like to us. 5 thank the community of Albuquerque for their hospitality. In particular, we thank CNM Workforce 6 7 Training Center for the use of their facilities and 8 for working so cooperatively with our staff. 9 We are going to recess in a few minutes 10 until this afternoon in Las Vegas at Highlands 11 University at Thomas Donnelly Library. And that 12 will be at 4:00 p.m. 13 I want to read something, if I may. 14 Commissioner Carr asked a legal opinion of our 15 attorney. 16 And she says, "Dear Commissioner Carr: 17 Thank you for your request for a legal opinion on the subject of waiver of requirements set forth in 18 19 the public school code. As I interpret your 20 request, you would like to know the following: 21 "1. What requirements are subject to 22 waiver; 23 "2. Is there any limit on the number of 24 listed requirements that may be waived. 25 "The legal authority for waiving certain

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1	requirements set forth in the Public School Code is
2	found in statutes, Section 22-8B-5, parentheses C,
3	New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978. It states the
4	following: " Quote, "C. The Department shall waive
5	requirements or rules or provisions of the Public
6	School Code 22-1-1 NMSA '78, pertaining to
7	individual class load, teaching load, length of
8	schoolday, staffing patterns, subject areas,
9	purchase of instructional materials, evaluation
10	standards for school personnel, school principal
11	duties and driver education. The Department may
12	waive requirements or rules and provisions of the
13	Public School Code pertaining to graduation
14	requirements. Any waivers granted pursuant to this
15	section shall be for the term of the charter
16	granted, but may be suspended or revoked earlier by
17	the Department." End of quote.
18	"Under the regulations governing charter
19	schools, an application for a charter must provide a
20	description of the waivers the charter school is
21	requesting from PED and cite by policy number and
22	title the requirement for which waiver is requested.
23	NMAC 6.80.4.12, parentheses X."
24	Then she goes on to say, now, "Based upon
0 5	

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25



the statute cited above, it appears the Secretary is

mandated to waive any other requirements listed, 1 2 except graduation requirements, upon the submission 3 of a request that comports with the governing 4 Therefore, if an approved charter regulations. 5 contains a request for waiver, submitted 6 appropriately, of any of the listed requirements, 7 the Secretary must grant the waivers. 8 "For your information, I have listed the 9 statutory location for the particular requirements 10 listed in Section 22-8B-5, parentheses C supra. 11 Individual class load, Section 22-10A-20. Teaching 12 load, Section 22-10A-20. Length of schoolday, 13 Section 22-2-3.1. Staffing patterns, 14 Section 22-10A-20. Subject area, Section 22-13-1. Purchase of instructional materials, 15 16 Section 22-15-1, et seq. See Section 22-15-8. 17 Evaluation standards for school personnel, Section School principal duties, Section 18 22-10A-19. 19 Driver education, Section 22-13-12. 22-10A-18. 20 "I hope I have responded to your inquiry. 21 Please let me know if you require additional 22 information." 23 I would just say this. I certainly 24 misspoke myself this afternoon when I told previous 25 groups that I would be reluctant to grant a waiver.

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1 And I knew better. But I will tell you. I also 2 said to this group of Commissioners that, basically, this is our one chance. We have a little one on 3 4 September the 10th and 11th. But this is our one 5 chance for us to state why or why not we are having 6 a problem with your -- with your application. 7 And so if I'm going to say to somebody I'm 8 going to have a negative vote, when it comes down to 9 the final result of that vote, if it's approved, we 10 can approve it with certain kinds of clauses, if you 11 will. If it's disapproved, I believe Dr. Duran --12 just a minute, Mr. Bergman --13 MR. BERGMAN: Yeah. I just wanted --14 THE CHAIR: Okay. I recognize you're 15 waiting to be recognized. But I'm just going to try 16 to finish, if I may. When it comes down, then, I 17 think, also, if we disapprove it, we have to say why 18 we are disapproving that charter. 19 So, folks, let's be very carefully aware 20 of this. We've had some -- well, I'm not going to say "difficulty." I'm hunting for the word. 21 But 22 we've had some concerns sometimes in how we phrase 23 our ultimate motions so that they cover the kinds of 24 things that we, as a total Commission acting on 25 whatever the final vote is, that we, as a total

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1 Commission, say to an Applicant, We are approving 2 you, but with these. 3 DR. DURAN: Conditions. 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I kept saying 5 "concessions," and that wasn't it. Conditions. And so then we then rely on the staff to -- to try to 6 7 sort out all of those conditions and then sort out 8 whether or not, in ultimate conversations and in 9 ultimate addenda to the -- to whatever your 10 application is, we have to then try to be able to be 11 absolutely certain that our motion that passes 12 the -- the Commission must be so written that there 13 really isn't any question about what we're doing and 14 why we're thinking this way, and that we don't leave 15 the staff wondering, Well, what did they mean by 16 this. 17 So, folks, this is why I'm saying to you and why I personally said to -- to various people 18 19 throughout the day, I'm having a difficulty about 20 the waiver request. I would have a very difficult 21 time, for example, to approve a charter -- and 22 that's just one vote out of ten -- but to approve a 23 charter that has a waiver request that's very broad 24 or very vague or something of that sort. 25 And so I'm saying this, because on

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September 10th and possibly the 11th, this 1 2 Commission will be meeting in -- I hope, here. 3 DR. DURAN: Madam Chair, I am happy to 4 announce that the Commission will be meeting at the 5 Balloon Fiesta Museum as we did last time, which is 6 right down the street on Alameda. So --7 THE CHAIR: At the Balloon Fiesta Museum. 8 And we did meet there before. So I'm just saying 9 that on the 10th and the 11th, are reserved for 10 those days. We hope that we are through September 11 the 11th. But we're willing, as unpaid volunteers, 12 elected officials, to take our time to give as much 13 time to the process as is necessary. So I just 14 wanted to try to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Carr, for your request of 15 16 the attorney. Thank you, Madam Attorney, for making 17 that response so rapidly. And thank you, folks, for 18 being here with us today. And please understand 19 what our position is when we approve a charter. 20 Then, basically, I guess that's really kind of our last shot at it, isn't it? 21 22 DR. DURAN: Madam Chair, that is your last 23 shot at it. And then after that --24 THE CHAIR: From then on, it's in the 25 hands of the Department and the Secretary.

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DR. DURAN: That is correct. 1 2 THE CHAIR: And so this is why we come, we 3 listen, we ask. And sometimes it may seem that we 4 are coming and listening long and asking long. But 5 we try not to. Now, Mr. Bergman. MR. BERGMAN: Very quickly. 6 To the 7 founders, thank you for this presentation you gave 8 to us. I look forward to reading it when I get a 9 minute or two. I know a lot of hard work and effort 10 went into it. 11 THE CHAIR: Anybody else? All right. We are recessed until 4:00 p.m. in Las Vegas, New 12 13 Mexico. 14 (Proceedings concluded at 1:18 p.m.) 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 SANTA FE OFFICE MAIN OFFICE 119 East Marcy, Suite 110 Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 989-4949

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Inc.

PROFESSIONAL COURT

REPORTING SERVICE

	50
1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
2	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
3	
4	IN THE MATTER OF:
5	TIERRA ADENTRO
6	
7	
8	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
9	I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified
10	Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby
11	certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true
12	transcript of proceedings had before the said PUBLIC
13	EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the State of New
14	Mexico, County of Bernalillo, in the matter therein
15	stated.
16	In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
17	hand on September 2, 2009.
18	
19	
20	
21	Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219
22	201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
23	
24	Job No.: 3981D
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