TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
June 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Jerry Apodaca Education Building - Mabry Hall Santa Fe, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR \#219
Bean \& Associates, Inc.
Professional Court Reporting Service
201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

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| 1 | Raftery? | 1 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Here. | 2 | Commissioner Ruiz, a second by Commissioner Crone. |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 3 | Do we do a roll call for this? |
| 4 | Crone? | 4 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'll do it. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Here. | 5 | Commissioner Ruiz? |
| 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 6 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. |
| 7 | Ruiz? | 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Present. | 8 | Crone. |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 9 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 10 | Caballero isn't here. | 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 11 | So we have eight. | 11 | Raftery? |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: Eight Commissioners present. | 12 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. |
| 13 | Thank you so much. | 13 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 14 | I'm going to -- well, I will lead us in | 14 | Gipson? |
| 15 | the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Crone, | 15 | THE CHAIR: Yes. |
| 16 | I'll ask to do the Salute to the New Mexico Flag. | 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 17 | (Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the | 17 | Davis? |
| 18 | New Mexico Flag conducted.) | 18 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I'll try to memorize | 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 20 | it one of these days. I promise. | 20 | Armbruster votes "Yes." |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: After you're gone. | 21 | Commissioner Voigt? |
| 22 | We're on to the Approval of the Agenda. | 22 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. |
| 23 | And I have just two small changes. In 4-B, letter | 23 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 24 | d, Alma d'Arte -- that's in the Consent Agenda -- it | 24 | Robbins? |
| 25 | needs to be removed from the Consent Agenda. And | 25 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
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| 1 | they are already in 6-C on the regular agenda. | 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Eight-to-zero |
| 2 | And in 6-C, No. 1, AIMS can be removed. | 2 | vote. |
| 3 | Does anyone else have any other changes? | 3 | THE CHAIR: Motion passes, eight-zero. |
| 4 | (No response.) | 4 | Thank you. |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: If not, I'll entertain a | 5 | We are now on to Item No. 5, which is a |
| 6 | motion. | 6 | presentation by the Albuquerque Sign Language |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: So move. | 7 | Academy. You didn't think you were going to be up |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Second. | 8 | so quick, did you? |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by | 9 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Is the green light on? |
| 10 | Commissioner Robbins, a second by Commissioner Ruiz. | 10 | THE CHAIR: Is the green light on? |
| 11 | All in favor? | 11 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: No. Now it is. There |
| 12 | (Commissioners so indicate.) | 12 | it is. Good morning. |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: Opposed? | 13 | THE CHAIR: Good morning. |
| 14 | (No response.) | 14 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Good morning. Sorry. |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Hearing no opposition, the | 15 | Thank you for having me. The Albuquerque |
| 16 | motion passes. | 16 | Sign Language Academy, Rafe Martinez, Executive |
| 17 | We are on to Item No. 3, which is Open | 17 | Director. |
| 18 | Forum. And no one has signed up. | 18 | We were asked to present -- it's not an |
| 19 | So now we are on to Item No. 4 , which is | 19 | amendment -- but we are expanding our program |
| 20 | the Consent Agenda. | 20 | through what already exists in a K-12 set. But we |
| 21 | (Chair consults with PEC counsel.) | 21 | are creating a transition program for students, 18 |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: So I will entertain a motion | 22 | to 21, who are following in the Abilities Pathway so |
| 23 | for the Consent Agenda, as modified. | 23 | that they -- kids that have left us because they |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: So move. | 24 | went to another high school and, quote, graduated |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Second. | 25 | but they're coming back to us to really graduate in |


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| 1 | this three-year program. | 1 | So it -- so the discussion is exciting for |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Okay. | 2 | us. It's what we want to do in long-term. So this |
| 3 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: So we're doing this | 3 | is a first step in our adult education endeavor. So |
| 4 | under the lens of literacy in connection to the | 4 | beyond just the 21-year-old kind of cap, we want to |
| 5 | Striving Readers federal grant that we received last | 5 | build a workforce development program that |
| 6 | year in connection with the Presbyterian Ear | 6 | specializes in working with deaf, hard-of-hearing, |
| 7 | Institute, which is a preschool that works with the | 7 | and special needs adults into -- to, quite honestly, |
| 8 | deaf and hard-of-hearing kids in Albuquerque. But | 8 | to purposeful citizenship. That's our driver. |
| 9 | it's an oral deaf program. And in partnership with | 9 | We're the only ones that are doing it in |
| 10 | them, us. And then ACE Leadership High School, | 10 | New Mexico, for sure. And the argument is whether |
| 11 | whose specialty is getting kids into the workforce. | 11 | we're the only ones doing it in the nation. So it's |
| 12 | And so ACE Leadership agreed to kind of | 12 | exciting for us. It's a lot of work. But it's very |
| 13 | take on this challenge of creating a deaf program in | 13 | cool. |
| 14 | connection to our program so that we can create a | 14 | So I will entertain any questions if you |
| 15 | pipeline of employment for our kids who are deaf and | 15 | have any for me. |
| 16 | hard-of-hearing; and special needs, by the way. | 16 | THE CHAIR: Is there any limited capacity |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 17 | with the partnership that you have with ACE? Is |
| 18 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: So it's an exciting | 18 | there any challenges with that? Or will they be |
| 19 | project. And I'll just tell you the reason it came | 19 | able to accommodate however many students you may |
| 20 | to be was last year was our first graduating class. | 20 | have? |
| 21 | So we had our first group of kids that started with | 21 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Yes. So right now, we |
| 22 | the school graduated last year. And so it was a | 22 | have seven kids who will be coming back into our |
| 23 | celebration, for sure. | 23 | transition program. Some of our kids have already |
| 24 | But then after they graduated, they were | 24 | matriculated into their population already. |
| 25 | kind of thrown into the -- the throes of what | 25 | So they have an interpreter. They have |
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| 1 | existed in the public system without us. So this | 1 | systems built out for the deaf students that have |
| 2 | last year -- this year -- actually, this year that | 2 | gone to them since ninth grade. |
| 3 | just finished, a co-founding parent whose son was at | 3 | This is a little different, for sure. But |
| 4 | the age to either transition -- graduate and/or | 4 | their willingness to be adaptive, to be flexible, to |
| 5 | transition, was given the choice, through the | 5 | listen to us is really a plus, you know. And I |
| 6 | comprehensive -- the district -- about what their | 6 | think it's kudos to them for wanting to take on this |
| 7 | transition services look like. | 7 | project. |
| 8 | And just so you understand, the mission of | 8 | You know, we've taken steps to partner |
| 9 | our little school is that we're trying to keep | 9 | with other schools. It just didn't go as well. |
| 10 | the -- a community together of students who can | 10 | This is going so-far-so-good. |
| 11 | communicate with one another through sign language. | 11 | Now, again, there's capacity around -- |
| 12 | And the district's transition program doesn't do | 12 | financial capacity because of this grant; so that is |
| 13 | that. As much as it should, it basically is divided | 13 | helpful for sure. And I've got to tell you, we're |
| 14 | by geography. So where kids live in the city, they | 14 | kind of -- in the whole story of our existence, we |
| 15 | are sent to the transition program in that -- by | 15 | are building it based on the needs of families and |
| 16 | where they live, not by what their needs are. | 16 | kids, right? Because there's such a chasm of not -- |
| 17 | So there was a need for us to step in. | 17 | of non-service, of non-program, we're trying to fill |
| 18 | Now, the reason the Striving Reader grant | 18 | in those blanks. But also by learning by what |
| 19 | was important to us is it gave us financial capacity | 19 | doesn't work well in transition programs that have |
| 20 | to go ahead and launch that -- that -- that program | 20 | existed over the past -- in the past. |
| 21 | this coming year with support from that grant. And | 21 | So, you know, part -- I need to probably |
| 22 | because we're in partnership with ACE Leadership and | 22 | say this as well. We're not doing it just with |
| 23 | PEI -- ACE Leadership, more specifically because of | 23 | those on-the-ground partners of schools. We're also |
| 24 | their mission to get kids into the work pipeline, | 24 | working with Penn State University, University of |
| 25 | okay? | 25 | Minnesota, Harvard, of course, UNM, to create |


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| 1 | systems that will hold water on a national platform | 1 | So... |
| 2 | when it comes to deaf education. | 2 | THE CHAIR: So where are you in your |
| 3 | So those partners have been really | 3 | expansion plan? |
| 4 | powerful for us to get some perspective. And to be | 4 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Well, that's a great |
| 5 | quite honest, it's given us some street cred around | 5 | question. So, Madam Chair, members of the |
| 6 | deaf ed, where, you know, people want to take shots | 6 | Commission, that's a great question. |
| 7 | at us in the deaf education world. And so we can | 7 | So we've been working with the County -- |
| 8 | say, "No, but we're working with these guys, too"; | 8 | Bernalillo County over the past year to create a |
| 9 | So | 9 | plan where we would be able to, in partnership with |
| 10 | MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair? | 10 | the County, we'd be able to pull in our partners, |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. I'm going to put | 11 | which consist of Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation, |
| 12 | this out publicly so it's on the record. Is there | 12 | U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish \& Wildlife, Rocky |
| 13 | any possibility through the CSP grant, through the | 13 | Mountain Youth Corps, The Nature Conservancy, those |
| 14 | concept of expansion, that -- because they are | 14 | guys, and the Bernalillo County Extension Office, |
| 15 | expanding their program, is there -- is there any | 15 | $4-\mathrm{H}$, to use a piece of Bernalillo County property to |
| 16 | way they can get some of that CSP money? | 16 | build a new school where all those services would |
| 17 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of | 17 | exist. |
| 18 | the Commission and Mr. Martinez, I would love to | 18 | And we build program through that lens of |
| 19 | work with Rafe, too, to see what we can possibly do. | 19 | conservation, the land, 4-H, getting back into kind |
| 20 | If there's a possibility for that to happen, we | 20 | of what I believe is the roots of New Mexico as a |
| 21 | would definitely make that an option, for sure. | 21 | New Mexico boy, right? |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: I think that would be | 22 | So we'll be pulling back those tenets of |
| 23 | fabulous; because to me, that's what that money | 23 | New Mexico into our program around serving deaf, |
| 24 | should be going towards. So hopefully we can get it | 24 | hard-of-hearing, and disability. |
| 25 | done. | 25 | Now, just so you know, that those talks |
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| 1 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, thank | 1 | have stalled a bit. I'm not sure if it's |
| 2 | you. | 2 | summertime. We were on the -- so we're at the point |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? | 3 | where we have the plan. We've gone through an RFP |
| 4 | MS. VOIGT: Thank you, Madam Chair. | 4 | with -- so we have an architect and a builder. We |
| 5 | Director Martinez, I just want to commend you for | 5 | don't have money yet. That's -- you know, we've got |
| 6 | being innovative and reaching out of the box to not | 6 | kind of to work on that piece. |
| 7 | only obtain this grant, but the collaboration with | 7 | But the other piece is in partnership with |
| 8 | another charter school that strengthens both of your | 8 | the County, the hope is that we would be able to |
| 9 | missions. But also the bottom line is that you're | 9 | work with them to leverage anything we have as far |
| 10 | providing such great outcomes for your kids at ASL | 10 | as being a public charter school and all the |
| 11 | and also at ACE. So great work. | 11 | triggers around through PSFA, that we leverage those |
| 12 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, | 12 | connections, that power, with the County, to really |
| 13 | Commissioner Voigt, thank you very much. I'll say | 13 | maximize funding. |
| 14 | this also, right? So the partnership with ACE has | 14 | And so the County -- you know, talks have |
| 15 | given us capacity; not just educational capacity, | 15 | gone well for a year. We're to the point now where |
| 16 | but space capacity. So we're approved to 200 kids. | 16 | we're meeting with neighborhood associations. And |
| 17 | We can only fit 100 in our current building. So the | 17 | that's a whole other ball of fun right there. So |
| 18 | expansion into 107 is going to happen off-site. | 18 | we've been pushed off of their agenda twice. So -- |
| 19 | So those seven kids will be away from our | 19 | and we have conceptual design about where this will |
| 20 | site; but they'll still be our kids with our teacher | 20 | happen. We're just waiting for government |
| 21 | and under our payroll and all that kind of thing. | 21 | processes, I think, to catch up. |
| 22 | And that just goes also to the point we | 22 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. Welcome to that world. |
| 23 | are working really hard in partnership with a whole | 23 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Yeah. Yeah. |
| 24 | lot of folks to try to either build or secure a new | 24 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Madam Chair? |
| 25 | building to continue, grow, you know, in service. | 25 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? |


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| 1 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: As the parent of a | 1 | intellectual capacity as everyone else. They have |
| 2 | profoundly hearing-impaired child, bilateral hearing | 2 | the same physical abilities as everyone else. The |
| 3 | loss, I applaud you and the staff on what they're | 3 | only thing, for the most part, is they have a |
| 4 | doing to support all the children, not only there, | 4 | hearing loss. |
| 5 | but reaching out and with this transition plan. | 5 | And they can perform virtually any job |
| 6 | Do you work at all with the School for the | 6 | necessary. But a lot of the people look at that as |
| 7 | Deaf in Santa Fe and have any sort of liaisons or | 7 | an impediment, and resistance to hire or promote. |
| 8 | relationships with them? | 8 | And we need to get past that in our society. |
| 9 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, members | 9 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, |
| 10 | of the Commission, Commissioner Robbins. No, we | 10 | Commissioner Robbins. Absolutely. And thank you |
| 11 | don't. And partly is they see us as a threat. And | 11 | for saying that. I didn't realize your history. |
| 12 | that's been since our conception. | 12 | But it mirrors mine, almost -- |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. | 13 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: My youngest is a |
| 14 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: We -- we exist because | 14 | daughter. And she grew up learning sign language. |
| 15 | of a whole lot of gaps in their programming. And | 15 | And she communicates very well with our son. And my |
| 16 | since we've come online, it's been a constant | 16 | wife and I, we use sign language. He can read lips |
| 17 | struggle to kind of -- what's the word? -- | 17 | a little bit. But his primary means of |
| 18 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Collaborate? | 18 | communication and of receiving direction is sign |
| 19 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Not just collaborate, | 19 | language; so. |
| 20 | but also kind of defend ourselves, right? So like I | 20 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Yeah. I completely |
| 21 | said, for a whole lot of reasons, that's an | 21 | understand. Thank you for saying that. I'll |
| 22 | historical system of deaf education that's been | 22 | just -- I will say this kind of to maybe put a |
| 23 | around since the 1800s. We represent something new, | 23 | period on this, is one of the glaring statistics in |
| 24 | in that we not only work with deaf children, but we | 24 | deaf education -- well, there's two that really jump |
| 25 | work with deaf children with disability and hearing | 25 | out at you. These are historic and they're |
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| 1 | children that have connection to deaf, which makes | 1 | national. |
| 2 | us nationally unique. No one is doing what we're | 2 | So deaf students, upon graduation from |
| 3 | doing. | 3 | high school, tap out -- top out at about between a |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I applaud you for | 4 | third- and a fourth-grade reading level. That's a |
| 5 | that. I don't want to push you into that if they | 5 | national statistic. That's -- when you start |
| 6 | are not receptive to that. When my child was very | 6 | understanding the tenets of deaf education and how |
| 7 | young, we explored the possibility of attending the | 7 | kids learn to read and not having access to a |
| 8 | school. And, really, the only option we had was for | 8 | phonetic base, you understand kind of why that is. |
| 9 | him to be housed here in Santa Fe. We lived in | 9 | But the other one, as a parent of a deaf |
| 10 | Albuquerque. With his multiple disabilities and | 10 | child, as they grow up into adulthood, you're |
| 11 | interactions with family, we felt that that was more | 11 | looking between a 65 and 70 percent unemployment, |
| 12 | important, the interaction with family and the | 12 | under-employment rate in the deaf community. That's |
| 13 | closeness with family and the support that his | 13 | national. All indications in New Mexico is it's a |
| 14 | family could provide him was more important. | 14 | higher number in the state. |
| 15 | And he went through APS. And | 15 | So our partnerships with U.S. Forest |
| 16 | unfortunately, the Sign Language Academy did not | 16 | Service, all that group that I named earlier around |
| 17 | exist at that time; otherwise, we probably would | 17 | conservation and hands-on is a direct effort to |
| 18 | have moved him over to that. So if I can help you | 18 | break that cycle, to give our kids a shot at |
| 19 | in any way, please look at my contact information. | 19 | being -- again, I'm going to use that term -- useful |
| 20 | Let me know how I can help you in this transition | 20 | citizens, where they're able to get up in the |
| 21 | plan; because I think it's very important, and it's | 21 | morning -- my son -- we created a summer |
| 22 | an area where I think a lot of people don't | 22 | conservation program that works with our school in |
| 23 | understand. | 23 | connection with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. |
| 24 | People look at individuals who are deaf as | 24 | My son does that now. He's 15. He's |
| 25 | not having the skill sets. They have the same | 25 | multiple needs plus deaf. But he wakes up every |


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| 1 | morning telling me he has to go to work, gets his | 1 | money, right, for that? So when your kids graduate, |
| 2 | uniform on, gets out there and loves it. That's | 2 | does that stop, or can they not quite graduate and |
| 3 | taken root across our community. I think if we just | 3 | continue until 21 and get the money? |
| 4 | stay on this trajectory, I'm hopeful we'll be able | 4 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: So if they graduate, |
| 5 | to change some of those statistics here in New | 5 | then they're off the table for us. They basically |
| 6 | Mexico. | 6 | transition into an adult, you know, college or |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Crone? | 7 | something of that sort, education. So these kids |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. Thank you. | 8 | that are coming back to us are -- don't tell them |
| 9 | I'm retired from Northern College in | 9 | that they didn't graduate. You'll have a fight on |
| 10 | Española. And recently, Northern gave an athletic | 10 | your hands. |
| 11 | scholarship, a basketball scholarship to a deaf | 11 | But they are -- they walked the line, |
| 12 | student. So in terms of the needs of your students, | 12 | because they'll go through the ceremonial processes |
| 13 | what is the PE part of it? | 13 | to -- but they're not officially graduated until |
| 14 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, | 14 | they receive a diploma. And that happens at the age |
| 15 | Commissioner Crone, members of the Commission. | 15 | of 21. That's why we're able to pull them back. So |
| 16 | Great question. | 16 | essentially, they're still in the K-12 system; so |
| 17 | So we -- everything we get as far as | 17 | there's not an additional stand-alone transition |
| 18 | budget goes to kids. And one of the things that I | 18 | system. Does that make sense? |
| 19 | believe in, as a former basketball coach, by the | 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Absolutely. |
| 20 | way, is everyday PE. So we have an everyday PE | 20 | That's why I was trying to figure out how all those |
| 21 | program. It's -- it's vital for our kids -- regular | 21 | things were working together. But I know that the |
| 22 | ed kids, kids with able bodies. But it's probably | 22 | issue is graduation; because -- but it's graduation, |
| 23 | doubly vital with kids with disability. | 23 | and maybe isn't, exactly, sort of. |
| 24 | So we are connected to UNM's adaptive PE | 24 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, |
| 25 | program. So they send in interns, and they work | 25 | Commissioner Armbruster. Yes, because you're -- |
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| 1 | with our staff. So we flourish in partnership. | 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Because that's a |
| 2 | That's what we do. We have to make our -- we have | 2 | lot of money you would be losing when you are |
| 3 | to stretch our dollar, right? So we do that through | 3 | continuing to give services. That's why I asked. |
| 4 | partnership, through interns, through connection | 4 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Correct. And, again, |
| 5 | with other programs in the city and the county. | 5 | so the Circle grant, the Striving Leaders grant, |
| 6 | Bernalillo County Workforce, that kind of stuff. | 6 | allows us to conceive money for this idea. And the |
| 7 | I know the young man you're talking about. | 7 | SEG, the funding formula, will take over to make it |
| 8 | In fact, as a former coach, a lot of old basketball | 8 | sustainable long-term. So it all fits nicely now; |
| 9 | coaches in Albuquerque were calling me to see if | 9 | SO... |
| 10 | they could get him to transfer to their school | 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Good. |
| 11 | through me because of my connection to the deaf | 11 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? |
| 12 | community, right? | 12 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I just wanted to |
| 13 | It's exciting. He's good, too; he's big. | 13 | say, virtually everyone in the country, and even |
| 14 | So, yeah. So PE in my mind is a huge part of a -- | 14 | around the world, has an experience with the deaf |
| 15 | just a well-rounded education. And we firmly will | 15 | community, and they probably don't even realize it. |
| 16 | now present that [verbatim]. | 16 | The huddle in football was created by |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Thank you. | 17 | students at Gallaudet University because they use |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster? | 18 | sign language to lay out their plays. And that is |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes, thank you. | 19 | something that is still present in almost every |
| 20 | I guess we've all had experience with children on | 20 | football game; they huddle together and things like |
| 21 | the spectrum because it is a spectrum of disorders | 21 | that. It started with the deaf students at |
| 22 | just like almost all disabilities. | 22 | Gallaudet so they could actually lay out their plays |
| 23 | So -- and I don't know the answer to this, | 23 | and communicate. I just wanted to add. |
| 24 | so that's why I'm asking you. So I know that with | 24 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Great story. |
| 25 | special ed, you can go until you're 21. And you get | 25 | THE CHAIR: It is a good story; it is. |


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| 1 | Commissioners? I wanted to remark that we | 1 | (Applause.) |
| 2 | have ten. | 2 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: We also -- this is |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Yes. Let the record show that | 3 | hiring season for sure for the Charter School |
| 4 | Commissioner Chavez and Commissioner Caballero are | 4 | Division as well as for the entire Department. So |
| 5 | now here. | 5 | we are in the process of filling several positions |
| 6 | So we truly appreciate this. And this is | 6 | this month and over the summer. |
| 7 | exactly what we hope happens, those partnerships | 7 | The first position I wanted to give a |
| 8 | with charters, the community, other charters, | 8 | quick update on is the Data and Financial |
| 9 | hopefully traditional, so that I hope we can | 9 | Administrator position that we have on our team. I |
| 10 | continue to highlight this so that folks see that | 10 | think it was only filled for just a short period of |
| 11 | there's a pathway for expanding their programs and | 11 | time last year. |
| 12 | being able to serve students better by a mutual | 12 | THE CHAIR: Barely. |
| 13 | agreement for services and things like that. It | 13 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: And so we are in the |
| 14 | really is; it's exciting. And I hope the government | 14 | process of finalizing that hiring decision. So I am |
| 15 | entities can get their act together. | 15 | hoping surely by the next time we meet in August, |
| 16 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Yeah. Madam Chair, | 16 | we'll have a person in seat for that role. |
| 17 | members of the Commission, thank you. Me, too. | 17 | We also are in the process of the Charter |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: Because it's also what's in | 18 | School Authorizing Practices Administrator to be the |
| 19 | the statute as well, that we're supposed to move | 19 | colleague to what Megan Maestas does as the other |
| 20 | into public buildings. The challenge is the public | 20 | Authorizing Practices Administrator. |
| 21 | buildings aren't there a lot. And when someone | 21 | So we have a strong pool of candidates, |
| 22 | tries to get into and use public land and facilities | 22 | and we hope to move forward with additional |
| 23 | and there's challenges, then it becomes, "Do it," | 23 | interviews over the coming weeks for that position. |
| 24 | because it's so difficult. So certainly if there's | 24 | Another position that's in the works is |
| 25 | anything we can do -- | 25 | the Training and Support Specialist position. We're |
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| 1 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Madam Chair, thank | 1 | setting up interviews as -- as I speak right now for |
| 2 | you. | 2 | that role. And, again, hopefully we'll be able to |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: -- please let us know. | 3 | move through that hiring process as quickly as |
| 4 | MR. RAFE MARTINEZ: Thank you all. Thank | 4 | possible to get somebody in seat for that role. |
| 5 | you for that. | 5 | THE CHAIR: So that's Christmas, about. |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Thank you so much. | 6 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: I am hoping -- |
| 7 | Commissioners I'm going to ask for just a | 7 | Madam Chair, I am hoping we could celebrate |
| 8 | quick break. I know it's early, but -- | 8 | Christmas in at least August this year. |
| 9 | (Recess taken, 9:31 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.) | 9 | And then, finally, Leslie Kelly, the |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: We are on to Item No. 6, which | 10 | manager of the New Mexico Charter School Program |
| 11 | is the report for Options for Parents. So first | 11 | Grant, is in the process of hiring a coordinator, |
| 12 | item is your updates. | 12 | and we're in the process of setting up interviews |
| 13 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of | 13 | over the next couple of weeks for the support with |
| 14 | the Commission, good morning. I have a few updates | 14 | the grant as well. |
| 15 | today. I wanted to start out with some staffing | 15 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. |
| 16 | updates. | 16 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: So the next time I join |
| 17 | First and foremost, I wanted to introduce | 17 | you all, my hope is that we have some really great |
| 18 | to the Commission our newest member of the team, | 18 | news about rounding out our entire team and having |
| 19 | Carolyn Bayne, who I think I shared last month that | 19 | all the open positions filled for sure. |
| 20 | we were hiring her for the new Executive Assistant | 20 | I'm going to move on to brief updates on |
| 21 | to the Director role. And so I wanted her to just | 21 | the New Mexico Charter School Program Grant. We did |
| 22 | stand up and acknowledge her as the newest part of | 22 | have several amendments that we have been in |
| 23 | our team. | 23 | discussion with the USDE about. And we're awaiting |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Welcome. | 24 | approval for that -- those amendments to go in |
| 25 | MS. CAROLYN BAYNE: Thank you. | 25 | place. |


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| 1 | We did want to make sure that those | 1 | And then I do have a two-page stapled |
| 2 | amendments for the grant itself is in alignment to | 2 | document as well that gives an overview of the |
| 3 | the mission and vision of the PED and the PEC. And | 3 | conference, and then the big picture headlines, as |
| 4 | so we have -- we feel like we have a path moving | 4 | well as the sessions at a glance. |
| 5 | forward with that. | 5 | I did want to acknowledge that similar to |
| 6 | At the same time, we did post the | 6 | other annual conferences, we do have a time slot for |
| 7 | application for this upcoming year on the RFPs, | 7 | the Public Education Commission to have space with |
| 8 | RFIs, RFAs part of the website of NMPED. And Leslie | 8 | charter leaders and governing council members and |
| 9 | Kelly, the manager of the grant, is also reaching | 9 | other folks in attendance on Saturday from 8:45 to |
| 10 | out to schools to provide more context as needed. | 10 | 10:00. So that's set up for you all to engage with |
| 11 | The big spirit of this is to ensure that | 11 | your constituents during that time. |
| 12 | there is more equity in providing access to the | 12 | Right now, the conference is going to be |
| 13 | resources, similar to what you shared, Madam Chair, | 13 | next Friday, June 21st, starting at 11:00 on Friday |
| 14 | with regard to ASLA. I think that is the spirit of | 14 | with registration. Then we'll jump into lunch and, |
| 15 | what we hope. | 15 | then we'll have an open plenary with -- I'm excited |
| 16 | We think there are many great examples of | 16 | to say that every single executive leadership member |
| 17 | charter schools across the state. And we want to | 17 | of the NMPED will be here for an open panel and |
| 18 | make sure that this expansion grant and the monies | 18 | dialogue with our attendants so that -- to really |
| 19 | available can really be supportive of as many | 19 | kick us off in that way. |
| 20 | schools as possible. | 20 | I also wanted to acknowledge a leader in |
| 21 | I wanted to give an encouraging update on | 21 | the room right now. Jessica Helen Lopez, who is |
| 22 | school closures. SAHQ -- sorry -- SAHQ is in the | 22 | bringing some just really talented student leaders |
| 23 | process of disbursing their materials. I talked to | 23 | to kick us off in the morning as well. |
| 24 | Sandy Beery last night to get the most updated | 24 | We have about 200 registered attendees, |
| 25 | understanding of where we are with the disbursement | 25 | special guests, presenters, and PED staff, and the |
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| 1 | of the inventory. We did feel like it was important | 1 | PEC. |
| 2 | to provide the two new schools that are up for | 2 | We also -- I just wanted to acknowledge |
| 3 | Commencement of Operations first -- first dibs, for | 3 | that this is the 20th anniversary of the Charter |
| 4 | lack of a better way of saying that, to the | 4 | School Act. And so we are celebrating 20 years of |
| 5 | inventory, especially given the timeline, as they | 5 | the diversity of our charters from across the state. |
| 6 | are potentially opening up soon. | 6 | As a consequence of that, a positive consequence, we |
| 7 | So Saturday, June 22nd, is the day that | 7 | have ten different schools that are presenting best |
| 8 | the schools are going to receive their inventory. | 8 | practices, lessons-learned or case studies |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Is that next week? | 9 | throughout the training. So I think that is |
| 10 | During the conference? | 10 | something that is a little bit of a shift from years |
| 11 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: I think it's just right | 11 | past that the CSD team is really excited about. |
| 12 | up the road from where the conference will be. So, | 12 | I also wanted to acknowledge the CSD team |
| 13 | Madam Chair, yes, it is actually on that same day. | 13 | who has been really supportive in planning the |
| 14 | Thank you for acknowledging that. | 14 | conference, especially Melissa Brown, who has really |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Okay. | 15 | been my support in creating a lot of the program |
| 16 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Speaking of the | 16 | elements and being a great Editor in Chief for those |
| 17 | conference, I wanted to give a few updates about the | 17 | documents, as well as the Charter School Division |
| 18 | conference. And I wanted to acknowledge two | 18 | team who are going to be presenting, the PED staff, |
| 19 | different handouts that we provided to the PEC this | 19 | and other community members who will be joining us |
| 20 | morning. | 20 | for this as presenters. I just wanted to share my |
| 21 | We have a 99 percent ready-for-approval | 21 | gratitude for them early on. |
| 22 | program that you'll see in front of you. And it | 22 | That's all I have on the -- on the |
| 23 | comes with a new NMPED logo, as well as the | 23 | conference at this point. |
| 24 | breakdown of the programming elements and the | 24 | I wanted to share, in terms of governing |
| 25 | sessions. | 25 | board concerns, we have -- we have one concern for |


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| 1 | Alma d'Arte for this -- at this time. And at the | 1 | MS. LISSA HINES: It is currently the |
| 2 | time of my -- my comments right now, I don't believe | 2 | New Mexico International School. It is their |
| 3 | that we received the updated notification of a | 3 | location until June 30th. And they're expanding. |
| 4 | change to their governing board. | 4 | THE CHAIR: Okay. But it doesn't come up |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. | 5 | as that on -- it came up as a suite of offices. |
| 6 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: I wanted to just | 6 | MS. LISSA HINES: So I think originally it |
| 7 | highlight, there's a -- also been a request for a | 7 | had been built as a suite of offices. It was an |
| 8 | change in location for Altura Preparatory School. I | 8 | empty shell when the New Mexico International School |
| 9 | believe, Madam Chair, that's going to be discussed | 9 | approached the owners about building it out as a |
| 10 | later on today as well? Or no? | 10 | school. |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: No, I think this is the -- | 11 | They are moving to become a K-8 school and |
| 12 | yeah, this is the moment. | 12 | expanding; so they needed to get bigger. And as -- |
| 13 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Okay. Great. Great. | 13 | when this all happened, that was the only building |
| 14 | But the school has requested a change in location | 14 | with E-Occupancy that would be available to us in |
| 15 | for their campus. So I don't know if I should pause | 15 | such a short amount of time. |
| 16 | and have discussion at this point or -- | 16 | THE CHAIR: Right. And that was one of my |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: No, we can have discussion at | 17 | questions. Did it have E-Occupancy? Because once |
| 18 | this point, because this had originally been on the | 18 | again, when -- you know, when I got the snapshot of |
| 19 | Consent Agenda, and I requested that it be pulled | 19 | it, it's just, like, divided offices. And it's, |
| 20 | off because I just had a couple of questions | 20 | like, how is that going to be ready for August? So |
| 21 | regarding it. Because when I Googled it, it seemed | 21 | it's -- |
| 22 | like it was a substantial move. | 22 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yeah. That particular |
| 23 | So -- hi. Sorry. I didn't see you. | 23 | address, there's a -- there are a suite of buildings |
| 24 | MS. LISSA HINES: I'm happy to answer any | 24 | that have, like, a pediatrician's office, et cetera, |
| 25 | questions. | 25 | on one side. Then across the street is the actual |
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| 1 | THE CHAIR: Is the green light on? | 1 | school where New Mexico International School is, |
| 2 | MS. LISSA HINES: Oh. I'm sorry. | 2 | which would be the building that we would be taking |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: And if you could just identify | 3 | over. |
| 4 | yourself for the record? | 4 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. But I think |
| 5 | MS. LISSA HINES: Lissa Hines. And I'm | 5 | there's -- I guess I still have, you know, a concern |
| 6 | one of the co-directors at Altura Preparatory | 6 | about the significant distance and the move. And I |
| 7 | School. | 7 | get the challenges. |
| 8 | THE CHAIR: And thanks for this. I had | 8 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yeah. |
| 9 | had a preliminary conversation, so I knew that there | 9 | THE CHAIR: But there's always that |
| 10 | was a move that was necessitated, which is always | 10 | concern about enrollment. |
| 11 | unfortunate. But, you know, things happen when | 11 | MS. LISSA HINES: Right. So our -- we |
| 12 | you're not in public buildings. | 12 | contacted all of our families. All of our families |
| 13 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yes. | 13 | except for about five will be going with us. And we |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: So that's one -- this is, | 14 | are providing transportation. |
| 15 | unfortunately for you, one of the highlights that we | 15 | THE CHAIR: Right. |
| 16 | can use as to why we need to really move to have | 16 | MS. LISSA HINES: So we'll have one stop |
| 17 | greater partnership. It doesn't help you any at | 17 | there right where our school has been housed, and |
| 18 | all. But I did have -- when I -- when I did a quick | 18 | then another in the Uptown area to accommodate our |
| 19 | Google of the addresses, I got 14 miles. | 19 | families' needs. |
| 20 | MS. LISSA HINES: It is across town. | 20 | THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. Thanks. I |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: So that is -- that was a | 21 | appreciate that. |
| 22 | challenge for me, because it seems like you're | 22 | Commissioner Voigt? |
| 23 | really going out of a geographic zone. And when I | 23 | MS. VOIGT: Thank you. Hi. |
| 24 | did the Google map of the site, it's just office | 24 | MS. LISSA HINES: Hi. Good morning. |
| 25 | buildings; correct? | 25 | MS. VOIGT: Good morning. So I just have |


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| 1 | a question about the community impact in your new | 1 | THE CHAIR: And you do all this great |
| 2 | geographic location. Were you able to have any kind | 2 | planning to serve this community. And then for |
| 3 | of community meetings before you planned your | 3 | reasons completely out of your control, you have no |
| 4 | relocation? | 4 | ability to stay in that community. |
| 5 | MS. LISSA HINES: So our landlord passed | 5 | So -- but I appreciate you coming up and |
| 6 | away in March, and the new landlords met with us in | 6 | just giving a little bit of an update so that -- |
| 7 | April. And that was when they let us know that they | 7 | little bit clearer. And I'm glad it already has |
| 8 | would be unable to work with us on the growth needs | 8 | E-Occupancy. That was my big concern. I looked at |
| 9 | that we needed to become a K-5 school. And so we | 9 | it and said, "There's just no way that's going to |
| 10 | have not -- literally, this has been, you know, a | 10 | happen." |
| 11 | lightning flash of a timeline. So we have not been | 11 | MS. LISSA HINES: We were panicked as |
| 12 | able to have community meetings at the new location. | 12 | well. |
| 13 | MS. VOIGT: Do you plan to? | 13 | THE CHAIR: Well, it's happy happenstance |
| 14 | MS. LISSA HINES: Absolutely. Yeah. | 14 | for you that you were able to find that E-Occupancy |
| 15 | MS. VOIGT: Okay. How does your current | 15 | building, because I don't know what you would have |
| 16 | community -- when you did your community input | 16 | done otherwise. |
| 17 | meetings before your school opened, how do they feel | 17 | MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair? So just a |
| 18 | about that distance? | 18 | follow-up question to that, because your intention |
| 19 | MS. LISSA HINES: All of our families, | 19 | originally was to be in the International District; |
| 20 | like I said, except for five, who are not going to | 20 | isn't that correct? |
| 21 | be able to come with us for various reasons, where | 21 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yes. |
| 22 | they're moving out of state or moving to the | 22 | MS. VOIGT: Do you have any future sites |
| 23 | East Mountain area, for example, everyone is going | 23 | of possibly relocating there, working with the |
| 24 | to be with us except for about five families. | 24 | community to create that space, that intentionality |
| 25 | MS. VOIGT: I understand about facility | 25 | for a community school in the ID? |
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| 1 | locations and obtaining facilities are a great | 1 | MS. LISSA HINES: Again, if something with |
| 2 | challenge. But there was nothing within that span | 2 | E-Occupancy were to become available and we were |
| 3 | within your original site location intention that | 3 | able to move, I'm sure that that would absolutely be |
| 4 | was available. | 4 | up for grabs. But right now, I mean, it's really |
| 5 | MS. LISSA HINES: Nothing. This is the | 5 | about fulfilling our charter contract, you know, as |
| 6 | only building available right now with E-Occupancy | 6 | it was written, and be in a place that can house as |
| 7 | in Albuquerque. | 7 | $\mathrm{K}-5$, and, in addition to that, serving the families |
| 8 | MS. VOIGT: In the City of Albuquerque. | 8 | that we have already started to serve. |
| 9 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yes. | 9 | MS. VOIGT: How many other charter schools |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: That's the challenge. They | 10 | are in your immediate area right now in your new |
| 11 | needed a space they could move into. | 11 | location? |
| 12 | MS. VOIGT: I totally understand how it | 12 | MS. LISSA HINES: I don't think there -- I |
| 13 | is. | 13 | don't think there are any other charter schools in |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: And I get that. | 14 | the area, in the new location. I'm not sure. |
| 15 | MS. VOIGT: Yeah. | 15 | THE CHAIR: I'm not sure. Matt? |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: But I just -- | 16 | MR. MATT PAHL: Yeah. That part of |
| 17 | MS. VOIGT: It's just unfortunate. | 17 | Albuquerque does not have a lot of charters. |
| 18 | MS. LISSA HINES: Basically, with, like, | 18 | THE CHAIR: One more. Is there outdoor |
| 19 | eight weeks to come up with something. | 19 | space for the kids? |
| 20 | MS. VOIGT: Yeah. That's too bad. | 20 | MS. LISSA HINES: Yes. Yeah. |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: It is a shame. And once | 21 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. Great. Thanks |
| 22 | again, thank you for giving us this highlight that | 22 | so much. I appreciate it. |
| 23 | we can use moving forward. But it's -- you know, | 23 | MS. LISSA HINES: Thank you. Can I turn |
| 24 | it's just a shame that these events take place. | 24 | this off? |
| 25 | MS. LISSA HINES: I agree. | 25 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. Thanks. |


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| 1 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of | 1 | students were at 80 percent or better on the |
| 2 | the Commission, just a quick point of clarification. | 2 | curriculum-based measurements for literacy. |
| 3 | Is there any need for a vote right now before -- | 3 | First-graders were at 75 percent -- sorry -- |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: No, there is not. It's just a | 4 | 75 percent of students were at 80 percent or better |
| 5 | notification. | 5 | on the curriculum-based measurements for literacy. |
| 6 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Okay. Great. Thank | 6 | And then according to the MAPs NWEA growth |
| 7 | you. | 7 | for second grade, out of 17 students, seven met, and |
| 8 | I wanted to close out my remarks on our | 8 | five exceeded, the growth. So 12 out of the 17 met |
| 9 | school acknowledgments for this month. And the | 9 | the expected growth for this year or exceeded that. |
| 10 | Charter School Division team and I felt like this | 10 | So I just wanted to acknowledge their work |
| 11 | was a good opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate | 11 | and their effort as well for this last year. |
| 12 | the three new schools that were started last year | 12 | And then finally I wanted to acknowledge |
| 13 | and received Commencement of Operations from you | 13 | Altura Preparatory School. They -- at the 120-day |
| 14 | all. | 14 | S.T.A.R.S. count, they were at 57 students. At the |
| 15 | And so I wanted to highlight, first, | 15 | time of my comments, we did not receive an updated |
| 16 | Albuquerque Collegiate Charter. I believe Director | 16 | additional context about their academic experiences |
| 17 | Rivera is here in the room. I'll just start out | 17 | and achievement this year. But conferring with the |
| 18 | with they finished up the year -- or at least at the | 18 | Charter School Division team during their school |
| 19 | 128th day, with 35 students, serving 35 students at | 19 | sites and what they know about this school, they had |
| 20 | their school. | 20 | some really strong results as well in literacy, |
| 21 | We reached out to the administrators at | 21 | similar to that of Collegiate. |
| 22 | the school and we wanted to highlight some student | 22 | And so I wanted to acknowledge their |
| 23 | achievement results from the -- from this year. At | 23 | efforts as well in closing out the first year. So I |
| 24 | the beginning of the year only 20 percent of | 24 | just wanted to give a congratulations to each of |
| 25 | Collegiate's students were able to demonstrate | 25 | those three schools from the Charter School |
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| 1 | proficiency on Istation. By the end of the school | 1 | Division. |
| 2 | year, students worked really hard to push that | 2 | THE CHAIR: I think the biggest highlight |
| 3 | proficiency to 85 percent. This included zero | 3 | is they were actually able to find an E-Occupancy |
| 4 | students performing at Level 1. | 4 | school in that short of time. That was a monumental |
| 5 | In addition, on our internal reading | 5 | feat. Thank you for that. |
| 6 | assessments, which is STEP, the students averaged | 6 | We are on to -- unless you have anything |
| 7 | 1.49 years of reading growth since September. And | 7 | else? I'm sorry. |
| 8 | nearly 100 percent of scholars demonstrated a full | 8 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, that's it. |
| 9 | year's worth of growth on this literacy assessment. | 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. We're on to |
| 10 | I did want to also just note that I had | 10 | No. 7, which is Discussion and Possible Action on |
| 11 | the chance to join the school for their | 11 | Charter Contract Amendment Requests. |
| 12 | end-of-the-year celebration. And it was really | 12 | And we have just one school, and that's |
| 13 | great to see the families and the students and the | 13 | Explore. |
| 14 | staff truly celebrate the academic achievement this | 14 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Madam Chair, before we |
| 15 | past year. | 15 | go on, because we removed the change of location |
| 16 | And so thank you, Ms. Rivera, for that | 16 | from the Consent Agenda -- |
| 17 | invite to join you all that day. | 17 | THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. Say that again? |
| 18 | I also wanted to highlight and acknowledge | 18 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Because we removed the |
| 19 | Hózhó Academy in Gallup, New Mexico. At the 128th | 19 | change of school location from the Consent Agenda, |
| 20 | day report, they were serving 176 students. | 20 | it has not actually been approved yet. |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: Oh, okay. | 21 | THE CHAIR: It's not an approval. They're |
| 22 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: And the administrator | 22 | notifying us of the move. It's just a notification, |
| 23 | provided us a little bit of information about | 23 | not a vote. |
| 24 | academic results from this year as well. | 24 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: The form has a |
| 25 | For kindergarten, 78 percent of the | 25 | documentation for you to approve and sign. |


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| 1 | THE CHAIR: Because we don't normally vote | 1 | good solid round number to propose. So in regards |
| 2 | on notifications. | 2 | to the 1,100 student capacity, that is the Fire |
| 3 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: We do that as part of | 3 | Marshal's recommendation. |
| 4 | the Consent Agenda items now. That's why it's not | 4 | I -- having walked the halls every day, I |
| 5 | separate. | 5 | do not recommend 1,100 students in that school. But |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: But that form is a | 6 | we feel like remaining the size we want to remain at |
| 7 | notification. | 7 | that site and the community that we've built, we |
| 8 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. | 8 | like that 500-to-600 range. And so I think we'd |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Good morning. | 9 | just like the flexibility to operate within what was |
| 10 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Good morning. | 10 | once our cap, 500, and would potentially be our new |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: This is becoming a routine. | 11 | cap at 600, where we could float between those two |
| 12 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: A regular trip, yes. | 12 | numbers. |
| 13 | Good to see everyone again. My name is Justin | 13 | MS. MATTHEWS: Madam Chair, members of the |
| 14 | Baiardo. I'm the founder of Explore Academy. | 14 | Commission, Mr. Baiardo has asked me to speak before |
| 15 | MS. ELISHA VARELA: I'm Elisha Varela. I | 15 | it goes for a vote on this -- I assume you will take |
| 16 | work with Operations for Explore. | 16 | the various amendments separately. Because the |
| 17 | MS. MATTHEWS: Patricia Matthews for the | 17 | second amendment is a request to develop and |
| 18 | charter school. I'm sorry; I'm an attorney. | 18 | implement a second site. And I'm not sure, with the |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: You don't have to | 19 | Commission's discussion based on the work session |
| 20 | apologize for being an attorney. | 20 | yesterday and what I understand that they've pulled |
| 21 | MS. MATTHEWS: It just comes natural. I | 21 | the policy on developing a second site. |
| 22 | start with the words "I'm sorry." | 22 | So we have an idea. So I'm not sure -- |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Usually, the Charter School | 23 | and the idea has to do with enrollment. And so I |
| 24 | Division does their little schtick. | 24 | would -- I don't know if you want to wait -- I ask |
| 25 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. Schtick it is. | 25 | the Commission to hold on the vote with regard to |
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| 1 | Next section will be 7 . | 1 | enrollment after the -- until after the discussion |
| 2 | So, Commissioners, Madam Chair, in | 2 | with regard to the second site; because we'd like to |
| 3 | Section 7, you have the rationale for the request | 3 | propose a concept that I think falls within a policy |
| 4 | and some academic performance and financial | 4 | that exists with the Commission and have that |
| 5 | performance and analysis provided by CSD for the | 5 | discussion. So I can go further if you'd like; but |
| 6 | amendment request of increasing the enrollment cap | 6 | I don't want to jump ahead. |
| 7 | from 500 to 600 students. | 7 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: For discussion, |
| 8 | Following that, behind the pink sheet is | 8 | Madam Chair. Was there a -- did we post this second |
| 9 | the actual request form from the school, as well as | 9 | item? |
| 10 | their supporting documentation. And, obviously -- | 10 | THE CHAIR: Oh, yeah. Yeah. |
| 11 | the analysis is that the school, you know, obviously | 11 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: All right. |
| 12 | is doing well both academically and financially, and | 12 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. It's there. I don't |
| 13 | they are operating in a capacity -- in a building | 13 | think the proposal is there. The amendment request |
| 14 | that has a capacity of 1,100 students. So they | 14 | is there. |
| 15 | certainly can accommodate 600. | 15 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Okay. |
| 16 | And I stand for any questions. | 16 | THE CHAIR: So they did put the |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: So anything you want to add? | 17 | amendment -- but they're asking for us to make a |
| 18 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yeah. We feel like | 18 | decision on the second amendment request before we |
| 19 | we're going to obviously have our capacity this year | 19 | make a decision on this first one. I don't have a |
| 20 | with exceeding the waiting list. And the intent | 20 | problem with that, you know. |
| 21 | behind this amendment request was just to provide | 21 | MS. VOIGT: Yeah. I'd like to hear what |
| 22 | the school with some flexibility if we need to go | 22 | their idea is. |
| 23 | above 500 and have a range. | 23 | THE CHAIR: Well, we're going to vote |
| 24 | We feel like probably 530 to 550 is a good | 24 | first. We'll vote on -- we'll entertain B, if |
| 25 | sweet spot. But my board decided that 600 was a | 25 | that's what the Commission wants to do. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I'd like to hear | 1 | to you once they have that other site. But right |
| 2 | this. | 2 | now, we have in our -- in this whole concept, the |
| 3 | MS. VOIGT: I'd like to hear their idea. | 3 | capacity to move forward with $1,200 \mathrm{kids}$. And so |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I'd like to hear | 4 | the cap would be increased to 1,200. As you just |
| 5 | discussion on that. Then we'll vote on the cap and | 5 | heard Mr. Baiardo say, the school can accommodate |
| 6 | then on the site. | 6 | about 600 as it is, and then they would look for |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: They want us to vote on B | 7 | another site to accommodate the balance of that |
| 8 | first and then vote on the cap. That's my | 8 | enrollment as it comes. |
| 9 | understanding. | 9 | But they have approved in their charter at |
| 10 | MS. MATTHEWS: I'm more than happy just to | 10 | that point in time the ability to go forward. Then |
| 11 | put it out on the table what it is we might be | 11 | we come to you with the notification of where that |
| 12 | suggesting. I'm assuming -- or if you wouldn't -- | 12 | second site would be. Or -- I won't call it second |
| 13 | MS. VOIGT: Yeah. Let's hear it. | 13 | site; just the -- a place to grow into. That was |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: I'm kind of uncomfortable with | 14 | the idea. I'm sorry if it was more than three |
| 15 | not having seen this. | 15 | sentences. |
| 16 | MS. MATTHEWS: It's a one-sentence | 16 | MS. VOIGT: That was way more than three |
| 17 | request. | 17 | sentences. |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: This, we have not seen. We | 18 | THE CHAIR: So this is my question. Are |
| 19 | saw the amendment request; but this, we have not | 19 | you, at this moment in time, saying you're not |
| 20 | seen. And we did have a robust discussion yesterday | 20 | asking us to move forward with B? Or are you making |
| 21 | about what B is about. So my -- my understanding | 21 | an assumption about what we're going to do about B ? |
| 22 | was there was a direction the Commission was going | 22 | MS. MATTHEWS: I'm making an assumption. |
| 23 | to go in today. So I'm somewhat perplexed as to | 23 | THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. So, really, |
| 24 | what we want to do at this moment in time. | 24 | the enrollment cap is just an enrollment cap |
| 25 | MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair, I think -- how | 25 | increase at this point in time. And the issue |
|  | Page 51 |  | Page 53 |
| 1 | brief? | 1 | becomes the issue whenever. |
| 2 | MS. MATTHEWS: It's about three sentences. | 2 | MS. VOIGT: Right. That's what it sounds |
| 3 | MS. VOIGT: So showing some flexibility to | 3 | like. |
| 4 | see what the school has -- what they have to offer. | 4 | THE CHAIR: That's what we're getting at |
| 5 | It could be a growth -- great idea. I'd like to | 5 | at this point in time, right. |
| 6 | just hear it out. | 6 | MS. MATTHEWS: To have another -- we would |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. | 7 | come to you -- we'd have a 1,200 student enrollment |
| 8 | MS. MATTHEWS: The idea, Madam Chair, | 8 | cap, and we'd come to you with a site notification |
| 9 | assuming that the second amendment would be denied | 9 | eventually. |
| 10 | because of the policy changes by the Commission, I'm | 10 | THE CHAIR: I understand. If we vote for |
| 11 | looking at something called the "School Location | 11 | the enrollment cap increase, that's not an |
| 12 | Within District Notification." | 12 | indication that that second site amendment would be |
| 13 | And effectively what the school would | 13 | approved. |
| 14 | propose -- and I think this is what they're | 14 | MS. MATTHEWS: Understand. We understand. |
| 15 | proposing, anyway, which would be just to simply | 15 | THE CHAIR: Right. |
| 16 | increase their cap from not the 600 requested, | 16 | MS. MATTHEWS: That the concept that |
| 17 | right, to 1,200 and have that cap sit. | 17 | you're objecting to under the second site concept is |
| 18 | And then when the school finds the next | 18 | replication and the concept of -- |
| 19 | location -- because they're not planning to | 19 | THE CHAIR: Well, you know what? I think |
| 20 | replicate; they're planning to expand the current | 20 | that's a conversation to have later. |
| 21 | enrollment on -- in a different location. So | 21 | MS. MATTHEWS: That's why I was thinking |
| 22 | it's -- and it would be under the same | 22 | we should do that afterward. But -- |
| 23 | administration. | 23 | THE CHAIR: Okay. So that's why I'm |
| 24 | And if I look at the School Location | 24 | somewhat confused. Because the enrollment cap, you |
| 25 | Within District Notification, they would then come | 25 | want anyway. So I don't know why we have to hold |

off B until A.
I'm fine to do that. But I don't -- it really doesn't matter, does it? Because you're making an assumption of what we're going to do with B. You want the enrollment cap anyway; correct?

MS. MATTHEWS: Of 1,200 , correct.
MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair, just a clarifying question?

THE CHAIR: Yeah.
MS. VOIGT: Okay. So the enrollment cap is an independent piece, right?

MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: That's correct.
MS. VOIGT: So whatever repercussions for the school come out of approving an enrollment cap, you guys can deal with and come back to us with whatever that might be; you know, a remodel, a new site location, whatever. So -- but right now, we're just looking at an enrollment cap.

THE CHAIR: Yeah. So, I mean, if it's your preference -- because it's no skin off my teeth -- for us to take action on B first, we will. But you wanted the enrollment cap increase, so I don't know why we need to hold off on it. You want it anyway; correct? Or no?

MS. VOIGT: I think we might be jumping
the gun if we packaged this all together. If we can just do the -- you know, look at separate items but right now --

THE CHAIR: They are two separate items.
MS. VOIGT: Yeah, right now. So let's just look at the first one, which is only --

THE CHAIR: They asked us to look at the second one first. That's why I have confusion. They asked us to take action on the second one first. So we will.

COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Quick question?
THE CHAIR: Sure.
COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I have a question. So I'm understanding that their current cap is 600 .

THE CHAIR: Right.
COMMISSIONER DAVIS: They'd like us to expand it to 1,200 , even though they don't have the capacity for 1,200 ; is that correct? Is that correct?

THE CHAIR: Yeah. You know --
MS. MATTHEWS: We withdraw the request.
THE CHAIR: Thank you. Because we can't give you an enrollment cap increase that goes beyond your current E-Occupancy.

We've been told that time and time again.

THE CHAIR: -- we did have a fairly robust third or fourth discussion about this issue. And it came up also, in part, when we were looking at the renewal applications and statutory requirements.

And we really circled around yesterday the issue of revocation and that the State statute is fairly clear as to what revocation is, and the dilemma, if there's a second site and there has to be a revocation hearing, we can't revoke half of a charter; so that the consensus at the time of yesterday of the Commission was that we really need some statutory clarification in order to be able to clearly and cleanly move forward on this topic.

It's not going to happen soon. But even outside -- we felt that statutory clarification was even a better route than trying to look at rule-making, because rule-making gets a little wonky as well.

And it's also not a quick process as well. But that for the -- you know, there's a number of areas where the Charter School Act needs to be cleaned up. The last cleanup act was really a new glossary, for all intents and purposes, and that was it.

But there is -- as we move forward and

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | things are becoming more complex and things are | 1 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes, to table. |
| 2 | changing, but the statute hasn't changed, it was | 2 | THE CHAIR: The motion passes nine-one. |
| 3 | the -- I believe the comfort level of the Commission | 3 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Nine-one. |
| 4 | yesterday to have the guidance through statute to be | 4 | THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. |
| 5 | able to do this in a -- in a better manner. | 5 | Okay. Now we're back to letter A. |
| 6 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Madam Chair? | 6 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Just for |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner? | 7 | clarification, the most recent vote tabling would |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: And that was the | 8 | require that it be heard at the next meeting again; |
| 9 | extent of our conversation, a long conversation | 9 | is that -- |
| 10 | yesterday, as in previous Commission meetings. | 10 | THE CHAIR: No. It's tabled until there's |
| 11 | So I make a motion that the Public | 11 | statutory clarification on it. Yeah. |
| 12 | Education Commission table Explore Academy's request | 12 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Okay. I mean, just |
| 13 | for a new school in the same school district. | 13 | for clarification, the second school is not the |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Second. | 14 | request. It was a second facility to serve more |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by | 15 | kids. |
| 16 | Commissioner Ruiz, a second by Commissioner Crone. | 16 | THE CHAIR: It specifically says, "New |
| 17 | Any further discussion? | 17 | school in same district." That's what the item says |
| 18 | (No response.) | 18 | on the agenda. |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Roll call, Commissioner | 19 | MS. MATTHEWS: With all due respect, |
| 20 | Armbruster. | 20 | Madam Chair, members of the Commission, at the time |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'm trying to -- | 21 | this school came forward to request -- to do what it |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: The vote is to table letter B | 22 | wants to do, which is to dramatically expand its |
| 23 | in Item No. 7. | 23 | enrollment to make this very successful school |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. | 24 | available to other students, this was the process |
| 25 | Commissioner Voigt? | 25 | that they were guided into. |
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| 1 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 1 | In all practicality, it is essentially |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 2 | just expanding the enrollment and then putting more |
| 3 | Chavez? | 3 | kids at a different location. So I think you're |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 4 | right. There needs to be statutory clarification |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 5 | for -- I'm not even going to say that. I think it's |
| 6 | Raftery? | 6 | well within the statute that you can do what you're |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 7 | doing, in addition to the Department's stated |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 8 | position that the Secretary has the authority to |
| 9 | Robbins? | 9 | waive to the extent that they could make this |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 10 | happen. |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 11 | But let's put that aside. This school |
| 12 | Davis? | 12 | came before the Commission in its process that was |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 13 | available at the time. What we're asking the |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 14 | Commission to do is to say, "Okay, we decided. We, |
| 15 | Armbruster votes "No." | 15 | the Commission, decided, after this school came |
| 16 | Commissioner Gipson? | 16 | forward and made the request, to yank that process." |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 17 | So do we have any other process by which |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 18 | we can foster this school's extension? |
| 19 | Crone? | 19 | And so I'm looking at your own policy that |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. | 20 | says, "A School Location Within the District |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 21 | Notification is used to notify the Commission of a |
| 22 | Ruiz? | 22 | planned change in the school's physical location, |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. | 23 | including additional facilities or facility space |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 24 | when the school will be staying within the same |
| 25 | Caballero? | 25 | district. This notification shall also be used to |


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| 1 | notify the Commission when the school is adding an | 1 | the agenda is "New school in the same district." |
| 2 | additional facility or facility space within the | 2 | And that was not our intention. We applied for a |
| 3 | same district, because the primary facility does not | 3 | second site under the same charter, which would be, |
| 4 | have sufficient capacity." | 4 | by definition, the same school, two facilities. The |
| 5 | So, now, given that you brought up the | 5 | second site amendment is the -- |
| 6 | issue of the actual technical building capacity, | 6 | THE CHAIR: That wasn't this amendment |
| 7 | which is identified in the E-Occupancy -- which is | 7 | request, was it not? |
| 8 | 1,100 ? Then we would amend the request to 1,100 for | 8 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: The amendment request |
| 9 | the amendment request. | 9 | that existed previously that they submitted reads, |
| 10 | Now, the school obviously doesn't want the | 10 | "New school or new site amendment request form." |
| 11 | Commission just to deny growth at its current site, | 11 | And so it probably should have been worded, "New |
| 12 | if that's the inclination to deny the first request | 12 | school or new site" on the agenda, because that's |
| 13 | which was at 600; but we're asking the Commission to | 13 | the way the amendment request was written. |
| 14 | have a discussion about flexibility to move the | 14 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Our intention is to |
| 15 | enrollment cap of this school to 1,100 so that it | 15 | establish a second facility where we can expand our |
| 16 | can do what it actually intended all along, which | 16 | enrollment to more students, not a second governance |
| 17 | was just to make this school available to other | 17 | council, second contract. We just want to be able |
| 18 | kids -- this school; not another school; this | 18 | to serve more students at a site that is more |
| 19 | school -- and expand its enrollment. That's the | 19 | amenable to where the students are coming from, |
| 20 | request. | 20 | closer to their homes. |
| 21 | Is that fair, Mr. Baiardo? | 21 | THE CHAIR: And I'll just direct you to |
| 22 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yes, it is. | 22 | the purpose -- what's listed as the purpose of that |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Sure. | 23 | other amendment site that you cited. But I don't |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Discussion. I | 24 | think we're going to have any further discussion on |
| 25 | think you need to -- what you just read, you need to | 25 | this. |
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| 1 | read on the policy decision that the Commission did | 1 | But I think the point at hand is -- and |
| 2 | to clarify and to say that if there's -- that we | 2 | I'm going to be honest. I'm uncomfortable with |
| 3 | cannot do another school without going through the | 3 | amending an amendment on the day of -- that this was |
| 4 | recharter. It has to be another charter. | 4 | not what Commissioners were thinking about when we |
| 5 | And in that policy decision, what you just | 5 | were coming here to vote. We were thinking of that |
| 6 | read is further clarified. There is no -- no | 6 | smaller enrollment cap. |
| 7 | unclear area. | 7 | I think that's a discussion that needs to |
| 8 | And I can tell you the Commission does | 8 | be had, and people need to think about it. So I'm |
| 9 | have the authority and the power to make policy | 9 | not comfortable with it; but I'm willing and open |
| 10 | decisions. This school was not before the | 10 | for anyone else that wants to -- Commissioner |
| 11 | Commission when we stopped them and we made a policy | 11 | Robbins? |
| 12 | decision. | 12 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, I think |
| 13 | We made a policy decision -- it has been | 13 | things seemed kind of confused. I was and am still |
| 14 | an ongoing conversation within the Commission for a | 14 | in favor of increasing the cap on the first motion |
| 15 | long time, a long, long time, even the other | 15 | to the 600. And if you needed more at that current |
| 16 | administration. | 16 | site because your E-Occupancy is almost 1,100, |
| 17 | And so we managed to hammer out a | 17 | that's fine. It seems like that should have been |
| 18 | definition just recently. And what I think is | 18 | the first step. |
| 19 | there's an attempt to circumvent the decision by the | 19 | And then if you wanted, later on, after |
| 20 | Commission. And then the decision and the policy | 20 | you -- because to approve a second site, we don't |
| 21 | for that decision is very, very clear. I don't | 21 | know location; we don't know anything about that. |
| 22 | think there's anything unclear about it. | 22 | We don't know the -- how you're going to actually |
| 23 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Commissioner, just to | 23 | handle that, the distance, how you're going to |
| 24 | clarify on our end just to make sure our intentions | 24 | handle administrative things, what the governance |
| 25 | are crystal-clear, yeah, the -- what's written on | 25 | council is going to do with regard to this; because |


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| 1 | we don't see anyone from the governance council | 1 | should be tabled. There's too much in there on what |
| 2 | speaking to us now. | 2 | the intent really is. Is their intent really to |
| 3 | Those concerns I have with the second site | 3 | grow their school in behalf of students or something |
| 4 | at this time. | 4 | else? So I feel uncomfortable at this time with all |
| 5 | Increasing the cap in the motion that was | 5 | that has been said in motion and counter-motion. I |
| 6 | put forth was -- in the request -- was to increase | 6 | will abstain. |
| 7 | it to 600 . Now, I'm all in favor, and I'll put | 7 | THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. Thank you. |
| 8 | forth a motion to do so at this time. | 8 | Anyone else? |
| 9 | But I don't like, as has been expressed, | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I just want to |
| 10 | changing the motion at this time, when the original | 10 | clarify something, that what we're voting on. We |
| 11 | request was to increase from 500 to 600, and then to | 11 | are voting to expand, to -- |
| 12 | say, "Now we want to take it to 1,100 or 1,200 ." | 12 | THE CHAIR: Increase the enrollment cap. |
| 13 | 1,200 is a no-brainer, because you don't have an | 13 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: To increase |
| 14 | existing facility that can accommodate that. And | 14 | their enrollment cap to 600, is that correct? |
| 15 | you, by your earlier statement, said even the 1,093, | 15 | THE CHAIR: Correct. That's the motion. |
| 16 | which I think is what the E-Occupancy is, would be | 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Does everyone |
| 17 | too much for your current site. | 17 | understand? I just wanted to make sure what we were |
| 18 | The 600, you said you can adequately | 18 | voting on. |
| 19 | accommodate that in the site without overburdening | 19 | Ready? |
| 20 | the facilities or anything. I am more than prepared | 20 | THE CHAIR: If there is no further |
| 21 | to make that motion. I'll leave it at that. | 21 | discussion, we are. |
| 22 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Okay. | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And no further |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster? | 23 | abstentions besides Commissioner Caballero? |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Madam Chair, I'm | 24 | All right. Commissioner Gipson? |
| 25 | just a little confused. | 25 | THE CHAIR: Yes. |
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| 1 | So when this was sent to us, dated -- it | 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 2 | seems like it was dated before we changed the rules. | 2 | Crone? |
| 3 | And so I'm just -- we've been in a lot of appeals | 3 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 4 | lately. So I just wondered. | 4 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: I need a point of | 5 | Robbins? |
| 6 | clarification. Which are you talking about dated? | 6 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
| 7 | The enrollment cap increase? | 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: The new school | 8 | Voigt? |
| 9 | site. | 9 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: No, no, no. We've already | 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 11 | tabled that. We've tabled that issue. So we're | 11 | Davis? |
| 12 | speaking solely to the enrollment cap right now. So | 12 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. |
| 13 | the new school site has been tabled. | 13 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. | 14 | Ruiz? |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: So if there's no | 15 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. |
| 16 | other discussion, Madam Chair, I move the Public | 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 17 | Education Commission approve the enrollment cap | 17 | Armbruster votes "Yes." |
| 18 | increase for Explore Academy from 500 to 600. | 18 | Commissioner Chavez? |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Second. | 19 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by | 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 21 | Commissioner Robbins, a second by Commissioner Ruiz. | 21 | Raftery? |
| 22 | Any further discussion? | 22 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. |
| 23 | Commissioner Caballero? | 23 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: That's a nine |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I will announce | 24 | to -- nine votes for and one abstention. |
| 25 | my abstention. I think that this particular item | 25 | THE CHAIR: Nine affirmative, one |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | abstention. The motion passes. Thank you. | 1 | returned it or if it's 23 for both. |
| 2 | MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Thank you. | 2 | They -- this letter is kind of a pattern |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: All right. We're going to | 3 | of not completely and accurately addressing |
| 4 | take a short break. Sorry. | 4 | questions that this Commission has put forth to |
| 5 | (Recess taken, 10:31 a.m. to 10:48 a.m.) | 5 | them. And I'm very concerned that, you know, we ask |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Okay. We are on to Item | 6 | about something, and they don't quite understand |
| 7 | No. 9 -- 8. I'm sorry. Item No. 8, Discussion and | 7 | what we're asking for. |
| 8 | Possible Action on the Response by Alma d'Arte | 8 | And this is a tremendous concern for me |
| 9 | Charter School. | 9 | that do they understand statutory requirements? If |
| 10 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of | 10 | a simple letter asking for the name of something and |
| 11 | the Commission. | 11 | then they reply without giving us the name, if they |
| 12 | Alma d'Arte was asked for -- asked to send | 12 | don't answer those basic, simple questions how can |
| 13 | information to us from the May -- May meeting. They | 13 | they assure us that they're fulfilling the statutory |
| 14 | did comply with that and send the information to us. | 14 | requirements of education for their students? |
| 15 | The -- in the packet, in your packet, | 15 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. I do believe there |
| 16 | after the first -- first page, you'll find the | 16 | is folks, once again -- oh, I'm sorry. Does CSD |
| 17 | response from Alma around the special education | 17 | want to add anything else before we -- |
| 18 | services. It's a little hard to see. But the more | 18 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: I just want a point of |
| 19 | faint type in this document, it would have been red | 19 | clarification on the -- what's in your packet. So |
| 20 | if it was in color. And that is the special | 20 | the first page was what we had asked for. And then |
| 21 | education response that's embedded in that. | 21 | the -- the letter that you're looking at on Pages 2 |
| 22 | EL. I apologize. The first page is the | 22 | and forward are -- is the letter that we received |
| 23 | EL. So the more faint language is from the Language | 23 | back. |
| 24 | and Culture Bureau. | 24 | But the notes in the red text were added |
| 25 | And then after that document, there is | 25 | by CSD since we received the letter. |
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| 1 | another document referring to special education | 1 | So though -- on the first page we asked |
| 2 | services at the school as well, and there is | 2 | the number of parents who receive and who returned |
| 3 | embedded information from the Special Education | 3 | the letter stating they declined those services, we |
| 4 | Bureau in there as well. | 4 | added that in there. That's the lighter text. |
| 5 | We also have the Special Education Bureau | 5 | So the school has not had a chance to |
| 6 | team here if there is any questions specifically for | 6 | respond to what is the name of the tutor. Our |
| 7 | them, or if there is questions for the CSD team. | 7 | concern there, though, is who is the tutor, what |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Madam Chair? | 8 | certifications, and when were these services |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? | 9 | provided, because when we were on site visits, that |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: If I could, I | 10 | did not exist. |
| 11 | thought some of the questions that you had put forth | 11 | So I agree with you, Commissioner Robbins, |
| 12 | originally in the Letter of Concern were very clear. | 12 | that there's some serious concerns about the |
| 13 | But it looks like sometimes the responses we | 13 | requirements and the understanding of what is |
| 14 | received while they were in person are dancing | 14 | required here. |
| 15 | around the question. They don't answer the question | 15 | I did want to clarify they did not have |
| 16 | specifically. | 16 | the question of, "What is the tutor?" That was |
| 17 | "What is the name of the tutor?" | 17 | notes added later because of what the response was. |
| 18 | It's not mentioned. | 18 | I just wanted to clarify that one piece for the |
| 19 | "What certification does he hold?" | 19 | school. |
| 20 | Not mentioned. | 20 | Also, if you continue on, you will see |
| 21 | So, you know, we have specific questions | 21 | that one of the issues was around the initial and |
| 22 | asking for the number of parents who received the | 22 | annual letters. And there still is a |
| 23 | letter and the number of parents who returned the | 23 | misunderstanding about what should be in each of |
| 24 | letter. And they give us a single number of 23. I | 24 | those. As indicated on the back side of the letter |
| 25 | don't know if that's 23 that received it or 23 that | 25 | you'll see in the lighter text, those are notes |


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| 1 | added by CSD in collaboration with Ms. Laine from | 1 | back. |
| 2 | the Language and Culture Bureau about some obvious, | 2 | And there is a discrepancy between |
| 3 | still, misunderstandings of how the process works | 3 | understanding between the screening instrument which |
| 4 | for identifying and notifying -- identifying | 4 | is to screen for English Language proficiency of a |
| 5 | students and notifying parents. | 5 | student entering public education and an annual |
| 6 | And then further on in the letters that | 6 | assessment. |
| 7 | they sent, we documented some concerns. So I just | 7 | There seems to be a discrepancy in that |
| 8 | wanted to be clear that, you know, that the lighter | 8 | understanding. It's hard to tell from paper whether |
| 9 | text happened after it was submitted to the school. | 9 | that's really just not knowing all the language or |
| 10 | Also -- but still some very serious concerns. | 10 | not knowing all the terminology, or really not |
| 11 | And then the special ed report is further | 11 | understanding the process. And that was one of the |
| 12 | back. It has a heading of "Special Ed Bureau Report | 12 | questions that we had. |
| 13 | to the Public Education Commission." And they are | 13 | And as Ms. Woerner was saying, we weren't |
| 14 | here to respond to any questions about that section | 14 | sure about the tutoring services, because that was |
| 15 | of the report, as they -- as you recall, they had to | 15 | not mentioned before. And that was really in |
| 16 | upload IEPs to a secure location. And they were | 16 | response to Commissioner Chavez' question about what |
| 17 | reviewed by the Special Ed Bureau who are also here. | 17 | are you really doing for ELs in the program. |
| 18 | And Ms. Laine is here as well. | 18 | So those were the things -- so there is |
| 19 | Thank you. | 19 | isn't -- so from our perspective, it's hard to tell |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 20 | from paper if the flow really is there on serving |
| 21 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: And, of course, the | 21 | ELs, identifying and serving ELs. |
| 22 | school's representatives are here in the audience as | 22 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you so much. |
| 23 | well. | 23 | Commissioners, do you have any questions? |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Right. I was just looking | 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Just a |
| 25 | through. Our -- the requests that we made for what | 25 | clarifying question, thank you, because I'm not |
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| 1 | the school needed to send out is not here; correct? | 1 | familiar with EL; let me just say that. |
| 2 | Is it here? | 2 | So because this is high school, one would |
| 3 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: It's on the Executive | 3 | assume that before they got there, they had that |
| 4 | Summary sheet, Madam Chair, Commissioners. | 4 | survey and things, so that the school would not be |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: Oh, okay. I'm looking at the | 5 | responsible for doing that because it's already |
| 6 | documents. Okay. All right. Okay. So I have to | 6 | there somewhere, unless the child came from another |
| 7 | close this file out. | 7 | state or just moved here or whatever, but new to |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: This is the | 8 | the -- new to New Mexico. |
| 9 | first one, right? First one? | 9 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: Yes. |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. Sorry. Okay. | 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Am I correct on |
| 11 | So once again, I want to thank the bureaus | 11 | that? |
| 12 | for cooperating with this. And if there is any | 12 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: Yes. So the process for |
| 13 | clarifying information that you wish to offer us, we | 13 | when a student transfers from another school is that |
| 14 | would greatly appreciate it. | 14 | all of that information is really housed in |
| 15 | So I don't know who wants to go first. | 15 | S.T.A.R.S. And we do support State charters, |
| 16 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: Madam Chair -- can you | 16 | really, in accessing information in S.T.A.R.S. They |
| 17 | hear? | 17 | don't always have it. And so they look for that |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: Is the little green light on? | 18 | information. So if a student was identified as an |
| 19 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: No. There. | 19 | EL and was not exited yet, then a student is |
| 20 | Madam Chair and Commissioners. So when we | 20 | currently an EL and gets an annual letter saying |
| 21 | looked at the submission from the school -- so the | 21 | that they're in the EL program for that year. |
| 22 | questions still became as to is there really an | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And if that -- a |
| 23 | understanding of the identification process or how | 23 | child exited from the program because the English |
| 24 | to determine if a student was an EL. So the wording | 24 | proficiency was adequate, then that child would not |
| 25 | is always a little bit changed when we get something | 25 | have another language survey go home, because he or |


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| 1 | she had been exited from that program. | 1 | And then in the service logs -- I'm |
| 2 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: Exactly. Yes. | 2 | sorry -- yes, the service logs -- we didn't see a |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any other | 3 | link to the amount of time that was being spent |
| 4 | questions? | 4 | providing the reading, writing, and math goals. |
| 5 | (No response.) | 5 | And so the service log, we put some |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Thank you so much once again. | 6 | recommendations in here that -- in the IEP -- I'm |
| 7 | Thank you. | 7 | sorry. In the service log, we were seeing content |
| 8 | MS. KIRSI LAINE: Thank you. | 8 | mastery being listed a lot of the times; and also |
| 9 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Did you want to hear | 9 | we're seeing that in the IEP. So we're not sure if |
| 10 | from the Special Ed Bureau? | 10 | content mastery is the same thing as services being |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: Yes. If he's finished his | 11 | provided in reading, writing and math. |
| 12 | cookie. | 12 | So there was a lot of inconsistencies in |
| 13 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Have you finished your | 13 | what we were seeing in service logs that were being |
| 14 | cookie? | 14 | provided, as well as in the PWN and in the service |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Thank you once again for your | 15 | pages of the IEP. |
| 16 | time. And if you would just identify yourselves for | 16 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 17 | the record. | 17 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: There was also a |
| 18 | MR. TIM CRUM: Good morning, Madam Chair. | 18 | few students that didn't have a need indicated for |
| 19 | My name is Tim Crum. I am the Deputy Director of | 19 | special education in the IEPs. And that was |
| 20 | the Special Education Bureau. Nice to be with you. | 20 | concerning as well. There -- they have a |
| 21 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: Good morning. My | 21 | disability; but in order to qualify for special |
| 22 | name is Charlene Marcotte, Education Administrator | 22 | education services, you have to have a disability |
| 23 | assigned to Alma d'Arte. | 23 | and it has to impact your education. |
| 24 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: Good morning. I'm | 24 | And a student -- there were a few students |
| 25 | Cynthia Romero, and I'm the data supervisor at the | 25 | that had a disability; but there was no |
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| 1 | Special Ed Bureau. | 1 | documentation showing it was impacting their |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Thank you for this once again. | 2 | disability. And they were not receiving any |
| 3 | So if you want to highlight any continued | 3 | specialized instruction according to the IEP; so, |
| 4 | concerns, any new concerns in light of what you -- | 4 | therefore, they need to act into looking at the data |
| 5 | all the information that you received, we'd | 5 | and seeing if they need to exit these students from |
| 6 | certainly appreciate it. | 6 | special education, because they don't qualify to be |
| 7 | MR. TIM CRUM: Thank you. Do you want to | 7 | in special education. |
| 8 | go first? | 8 | Just overall, it appears that, from what |
| 9 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: So there were a | 9 | we see on paper, what we've seen, that there is a |
| 10 | couple of concerns when we reviewed the IEPs that | 10 | mismatch between what students are receiving and |
| 11 | were uploaded into the secure site for us. | 11 | what they should be receiving. Special education is |
| 12 | I'll go over some of -- some of those | 12 | supposed to be specialized instruction. And what's |
| 13 | concerns. | 13 | recorded in service logs appears to be just support. |
| 14 | One of the concerns that we saw in -- in | 14 | So if they're in the general education |
| 15 | the report itself that Charlene and I were able to | 15 | classroom, they're receiving math. Then if a |
| 16 | put together has more or less the percentage of the | 16 | student asks for help, then that's the type of |
| 17 | IEPs that we saw items missing or items not in | 17 | support that's logged into the service logs. |
| 18 | compliance with. | 18 | First is specialized instruction, which |
| 19 | And so for one of the areas is in the area | 19 | would be based off of the goals in the IEP. So if a |
| 20 | of the specialized instruction. So we would see a | 20 | student was reading, for example, at a tenth-grade |
| 21 | goal, for example, in reading, writing, or math. | 21 | level, then that's where the specialized instruction |
| 22 | And in the Prior Written Notice, we wouldn't see the | 22 | comes in. If they're a senior, they should be |
| 23 | amount of service that that student was going to be | 23 | trying to work them up to close that gap. And |
| 24 | receiving, how many hours that service was going to | 24 | that's what we're not seeing with the service logs |
| 25 | be provided for. | 25 | that were provided and then the needs that were |


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|  | indicated. There's a gap there for students with | 1 | And what we were seeing is not indicating |
| 2 | disabilities. | 2 | specialized instruction. It's indicating that the |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. I don't know if | 3 | special ed teacher was in the general classroom -- |
| 4 | you want to add any more. | 4 | the general ed classroom. That's all that's |
| 5 | MR. TIM CRUM: No, Madam Chair, not for | 5 | indicated. That's all the service logs indicate. |
| 6 | specifics. But I think, overall, what I've heard in | 6 | It's not indicating that the students received |
| 7 | my brief review of the report -- because I haven't | 7 | specialized instruction. |
| 8 | looked at it that closely for that long -- there are | 8 | THE CHAIR: Received compensatory. |
| 9 | concerns beyond what would be normal, in my view of | 9 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: So, therefore, |
| 10 | an LEA, what we should see. | 10 | this raises a new need for compensatory services. |
| 11 | And there was also mention of compensatory | 11 | THE CHAIR: Right. |
| 12 | in the report. So did you want to speak to that a | 12 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: Because if they |
| 13 | little bit? | 13 | never received any specialized instruction, they |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. | 14 | will owe all the time for the whole school year. So |
| 15 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: So from what we're | 15 | it's not only the time that they were without a |
| 16 | seeing is in -- if we were looking at another | 16 | special education teacher; it would be now if they |
| 17 | school's IEPs, we would see that they had special | 17 | didn't receive any specialized instruction. |
| 18 | education math, special education reading, special | 18 | THE CHAIR: Right, right. Yeah. Okay. |
| 19 | education writing. But what they have to offer, | 19 | Thank you. |
| 20 | Alma d'Arte, is learning lab and content mastery. | 20 | Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 21 | So we don't know if that's special education. | 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I just wanted to |
| 22 | But what we're inferring from the service | 22 | clarify some things for me, which may or may not |
| 23 | logs providing -- that they provided, it's not | 23 | have anything to do with Alma, as a matter of fact. |
| 24 | special education. It's more like tutoring. And | 24 | So when you have a special ed teacher who's going |
| 25 | tutoring is not special education, because it's not | 25 | into an inclusion class with special ed students |
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| 1 | specialized instruction trying to help them close | 1 | with needs and IEPs as well as regular ed students, |
| 2 | that gap and working with them where they are | 2 | and they're just working so that they're able to do |
| 3 | according to their goals in their IEP. | 3 | what they're supposed to be doing in class; so then |
| 4 | So that's where -- that's where we're | 4 | in order to give them the specialized instruction |
| 5 | indicating if they cannot provide service logs to | 5 | that you mentioned, would -- how would that occur? |
| 6 | indicate they've worked with those students at the | 6 | Would it be like you'd have to have a |
| 7 | level they needed that specialized instruction, they | 7 | class where you just worked with those kids on that? |
| 8 | will owe these students compensatory services in | 8 | Or how does that occur? Or where? Does that make |
| 9 | those areas where they have a need. | 9 | sense what I'm asking you? |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: And that's -- so let me ask, | 10 | MS. MARJORIE GILLESPIE: Yes. |
| 11 | because when we started this way back months ago, | 11 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: It could be seen in a |
| 12 | there was -- correct me -- about 300 hours of | 12 | variety of ways. They could do it as a small group. |
| 13 | compensatory time owed? Is that the number that we | 13 | They could do it even as a co-teaching situation, |
| 14 | were -- I think it was somewhere around 300, wasn't | 14 | where the two teachers, the general ed and the |
| 15 | it? | 15 | special ed teacher, are teaching together. |
| 16 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: It was significant. | 16 | But oftentimes, you would see the special |
| 17 | And that was at the time they didn't have a special | 17 | ed teacher in the general ed classroom working in |
| 18 | ed provider. | 18 | the groups with the students that needed the |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: My question is, is there any | 19 | specific help in that area that -- the content area |
| 20 | indication to what might be still owed? What a | 20 | that is being taught at that time. |
| 21 | deficiency might be, if there is one? Or if there | 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So if you had |
| 22 | is one? | 22 | something that was -- was or was not developed for |
| 23 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: If there is one. | 23 | special ed -- I don't know; I've been out of this |
| 24 | So what we would need to see is service logs showing | 24 | for a while -- I don't know. Does the little book |
| 25 | specialized instruction happening for every student. | 25 | say, "Only for special ed children"? I don't think |


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| 1 | so. | 1 | it's difficult for LEAs to generally meet all of the |
| 2 | So if you're doing specialized instruction | 2 | requirements under the IDEA B. They're pretty |
| 3 | in an area like writing or reading, that type of | 3 | spectacular intensive requirements. |
| 4 | thing, and you're doing it with everyone who needed | 4 | So we would expect to sometimes see some |
| 5 | that type of service, which is probably most in the | 5 | latency in maybe IEPs by two weeks or three weeks or |
| 6 | classroom of this inclusion class, that would be | 6 | something like that. That would be more normal. |
| 7 | considered specialized instruction? | 7 | We would -- we would not expect to see |
| 8 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: It's also going to be | 8 | specifics in the failure of executing or |
| 9 | dependent on the students' goals. So the special ed | 9 | implementing IEPs as normal, where students are - |
| 10 | teacher will also be providing a specific -- will | 10 | where there's not a distinguishing characteristic or |
| 11 | need to be providing the specific things in the | 11 | a log that shows that students are receiving |
| 12 | goals of that student's IEP. And so they would be | 12 | specific services that are required under the IEP in |
| 13 | providing those particular services during that | 13 | the least restrictive environment, which we refer to |
| 14 | inclusion time. | 14 | as inclusion as well. So that would -- that's not |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So I would say, | 15 | normal. |
| 16 | just off the top of my head, generally, goals for LD | 16 | So just those normal breakdowns, if there |
| 17 | kids would be increasing reading speed. It would | 17 | are such a thing. I don't want to imply that it's |
| 18 | be -- in terms of writing, they would be able to | 18 | normal not to do something that's fully in |
| 19 | write a topic sentence and supporting sentences and | 19 | compliance. But there are things that do happen, |
| 20 | conclu- -- I mean, those are the general kinds of | 20 | and they're less impactful. |
| 21 | things. I'm just talking about English, not about | 21 | So I would say that this is what I'm |
| 22 | math now. That would be the sort of thing they | 22 | reading in the report is impactful on students with |
| 23 | would be doing. | 23 | disabilities, particularly as it relates to time and |
| 24 | So if that special ed teacher were in a | 24 | the time that they -- as they're aging and the time |
| 25 | classroom and doing that specifically as part of the | 25 | that they need the services and the amount of |
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| 1 | co-teaching, then that would count towards what | 1 | services. |
| 2 | you're talking about; am I right? | 2 | So -- now, the report, if it's accurate |
| 3 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: Yeah. It would | 3 | and it's consistent with the service log, the lack |
| 4 | really depend on the particular student's IEP. Also | 4 | of the service logs or the lack of the content and |
| 5 | we'd have to take into consideration any | 5 | the service logs, then that's very concerning to me; |
| 6 | accommodations or modifications that are also in the | 6 | because then there could be an assumption from the |
| 7 | IEP. They would have to be following all of those | 7 | report or what information we have is that there |
| 8 | items while they were in the inclusion setting. | 8 | could be a systemic problem with the students |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And the | 9 | receiving specialized services and those times for |
| 10 | accommodations would basically not be on the special | 10 | those services on a regular basis in the least |
| 11 | ed instruction; it would be on the general ed | 11 | restrictive environment. |
| 12 | instruction and goals and tests and how they're | 12 | That's kind of the ballpark of what I'm |
| 13 | grading a paper and that type of thing; right? | 13 | seeing as outside of the scope of normal. I hope |
| 14 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: Yes, correct. | 14 | that helps. |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Thank you. | 15 | MS. VOIGT: Thank you. Yes, that did. |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? | 16 | Thank you. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. | 17 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Question? |
| 18 | Mr. Crum, you stated that there were | 18 | THE CHAIR: Certainly. Commissioner |
| 19 | concerns beyond what would be normal concerns. So | 19 | Caballero? |
| 20 | what is a normal concern that the Special Education | 20 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. And so when |
| 21 | Bureau would have when they see these entries into | 21 | you're looking at all this information, this |
| 22 | the portal? | 22 | information that was inputted to a portal, and you |
| 23 | MR. TIM CRUM: I'm glad you asked that | 23 | received and that's what you saw, do you make visits |
| 24 | follow-up question. | 24 | to the schools to see their actual files at any |
| 25 | We do see, on a pretty regular basis, that | 25 | point? |


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| 1 | MR. TIM CRUM: Yes, sir. We would -- we | 1 | I'm sorry to interrupt. |
| 2 | do site visits as they are necessary. In this case, | 2 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: No, no, no. |
| 3 | we were able to remotely review the IEPs. Site | 3 | MR. TIM CRUM: We have something called |
| 4 | visits would take us further into the depth of | 4 | early intervention; we call it coordinated early |
| 5 | compliance or non-compliance. And they are | 5 | intervention. That is also an opportunity for Local |
| 6 | definitely in order when certain criteria hit. | 6 | Education Agencies to use techniques to determine |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And would your | 7 | whether or not the student can get assistance before |
| 8 | criteria dictate a site visit to this school? | 8 | being diagnosed or being found with a need for |
| 9 | MR. TIM CRUM: If I were exposed to only | 9 | disability, which, you know, we always promote. |
| 10 | this report and what I've heard from my staff, I | 10 | You can do them voluntarily, or you have |
| 11 | would say yes, it would meet the criteria for a site | 11 | to do them on a mandatory basis if you're found to |
| 12 | visit. | 12 | be what we call significant disproportionality; in |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: The -- my other | 13 | other words, where you might be identifying them |
| 14 | question is, it was mentioned that possibly some | 14 | systematically too many under a particular race, |
| 15 | students may not belong in special ed. And if | 15 | maybe, or disability or both. |
| 16 | that's the case, would a site visit then entail that | 16 | So a number of thing -- that's highly -- |
| 17 | investigation? Because that would go into the | 17 | that's highly regulated and watched. There's data |
| 18 | number of hours owed to those students that qualify. | 18 | on that. |
| 19 | So if 300 hours was the last count, it could be less | 19 | So we determine whether or not it's |
| 20 | or it could be more depending on the total number of | 20 | happening or not. |
| 21 | students and what they received or didn't receive, | 21 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Thank you. Thank |
| 22 | right? | 22 | you, sir. |
| 23 | MR. TIM CRUM: Yes, sir. I think if I | 23 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 24 | expand a little bit on that is that if, in fact, a | 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yeah. I wanted |
| 25 | student was identified for special education, and | 25 | to go back to the service logs. And with guilt, I |
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| 1 | their disability -- there was a disability that was | 1 | will say that ten years ago, I don't actually recall |
| 2 | identified, and the IEP team convened, and -- with | 2 | ever writing them down as a special ed teacher. |
| 3 | the EDT and they had a disability, but in the end | 3 | So what teachers are supposed to do -- |
| 4 | the diagnosis was not special education and they | 4 | just go to where we're supposed to be -- is on a |
| 5 | were in special education, that would constitute a | 5 | daily basis, for each child that you see, you would |
| 6 | problem in the -- perhaps the SAT process, the | 6 | write down what that child does? So is that |
| 7 | process that leads up to the student being | 7 | correct? And everyone does that? I'm just not sure |
| 8 | identified with a disability. | 8 | what the service logs mean. |
| 9 | And it could fall into the categories of | 9 | MR. TIM CRUM: That's a good question. |
| 10 | disproportionate. We talked about significant | 10 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: To ensure that an |
| 11 | disproportionality before. Maybe we didn't -- there | 11 | LEA has documentation that they met the service |
| 12 | could be disproportionate numbers if that was | 12 | hours according to every IEP, they should be |
| 13 | systemic. | 13 | documenting the services they're providing to |
| 14 | And then a compensatory component, yes, in | 14 | students with disabilities. That goes for the |
| 15 | fact, that would be reduced; but there would be | 15 | ancillary providing, too; the OT, PT, the speech |
| 16 | non-compliance, a very serious non-compliance if | 16 | therapists. They have to be documenting what they |
| 17 | you're identifying a student in special education | 17 | did with the student and the service time. |
| 18 | when they shouldn't have been identified. | 18 | Because, for example, if an IEP calls for |
| 19 | And there's also resources. It's | 19 | 365 minutes a week of special education math, they |
| 20 | impactful on resources as well. So you've got to -- | 20 | should be able to back up that they provided the |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: You're servicing | 21 | 365 hours [verbatim] of special education math. |
| 22 | more students than you actually should have, and | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: If there were a |
| 23 | you're spreading your resources. Uh-huh. Yeah. | 23 | class -- learning labs or something -- I don't know; |
| 24 | There's an impact on that. | 24 | I just wrote it down somewhere -- and that were a |
| 25 | MR. TIM CRUM: We have something called -- | 25 | class where a special ed teacher was in charge, and, |


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| 1 | you know, 12 of the children whose IEPs indicated | 1 | there that day, what days were they absent, what do |
| 2 | that they should have that time went to that class, | 2 | you have to make up, when were you absent so you |
| 3 | then would you need a service log in addition to | 3 | have to make it up. When the child is absent, |
| 4 | that? Or you knew that the children were in that | 4 | that's different; but to track all that. |
| 5 | class getting special ed services? | 5 | So we do advise schools that they need to |
| 6 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: You would need a | 6 | keep service logs for their special ed services. Of |
| 7 | service log, because not every kid might be working | 7 | course, we cannot require that because we have not |
| 8 | on the same goal. So it has to be -- I mean -- | 8 | been able to find a statute or regulation that |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Who checks | 9 | actually mandates it. But we stress to the schools |
| 10 | those? Or when do those get checked? | 10 | at site visits that -- and I just learned of some |
| 11 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: They get checked | 11 | new reasons why we need to. |
| 12 | whenever we request them. We can ask for them any | 12 | We always stress that this is a highly |
| 13 | time with the -- when they ask for reimbursement, we | 13 | litigious population that could have serious |
| 14 | can ask to see those. When we are looking at | 14 | ramifications for the school. An IEP is just an |
| 15 | S.T.A.R.S. data, we can ask to see those as well. | 15 | intent to serve. Without the service logs, you |
| 16 | So at any time. It just depends on whenever we feel | 16 | cannot prove to a judge how you provided those |
| 17 | we need to look at them, we can ask for them. | 17 | services. |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And so those are | 18 | So I try to get them to think of it as to |
| 19 | sort of stored year to year someplace. | 19 | the why they would want to do that. Because it is |
| 20 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: The LEA is | 20 | burdensome. There is a valid reason for doing so. |
| 21 | responsible for keeping those. We only keep them | 21 | So to your point, yes, we do cover this at every |
| 22 | when we ask for them. | 22 | site visit. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'm assuming | 23 | THE CHAIR: I just wanted that -- right. |
| 24 | that is something you do for every school every | 24 | Yeah. |
| 25 | year. | 25 | MR. TIM CRUM: Madam Chair and |
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| 1 | MS. MARJORIE GILLESPIE: No. It just | 1 | Commissioner, if I may just add a little bit on |
| 2 | depends on the situation. And if we have a concern, | 2 | this? Yeah. What Charlene described, if it were |
| 3 | we will ask for them. But it's up to the LEA to be | 3 | outside of that context, it would be outside of best |
| 4 | keeping those logs. | 4 | practice at the very least. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So basically, | 5 | But when we find -- let's say if we found |
| 6 | Administration is looking for those and doing those. | 6 | a finding like that, that services were being |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: I want to interrupt for just a | 7 | provided in a less conventional way, then we would |
| 8 | second and see -- is that something for the site | 8 | find a procedural compliance issue to deal with, and |
| 9 | visit? When you're looking at the IEPs, is that | 9 | they would deal with the procedural component. |
| 10 | something that you look at as well? | 10 | So, you know, we -- we'd like to give them |
| 11 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Yes. Every site | 11 | the benefit of the doubt; because, let's say |
| 12 | visit, we do recommend strongly to the school that | 12 | students are receiving services, and it's in an |
| 13 | they keep those service logs. The ones for the | 13 | unorthodox way, one that's less conventional, but |
| 14 | ancillary services are automatically done because | 14 | there's proof of it, you know, there's some sort of |
| 15 | they have to do those for their Medicaid billing and | 15 | proof. We would look into that, too. |
| 16 | things like that. The ones for the ancillary | 16 | So we take a -- make a discretionary call |
| 17 | services are easy. | 17 | there. And then we would call for is this a |
| 18 | What you're getting at are the ones for | 18 | systematic problem and there would be a procedural |
| 19 | the classroom teachers get a little harder. But we | 19 | change to help them out to assist them in moving |
| 20 | do explain to them that based on our advice from the | 20 | into the proper way. |
| 21 | Special Ed Bureau, that a couple of things: | 21 | You know, when you think about it, too, |
| 22 | One is that keeping them -- sometimes they | 22 | there's case management law, case waiver, caseload |
| 23 | say, "Well, it's in the IEP and it's in the | 23 | waivers law in the NMAC, that requires that a |
| 24 | schedule." | 24 | licensed teacher manage the caseloads. So that |
| 25 | But that doesn't show that the child was | 25 | would be part of their responsibilities. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And then there's a reason that those | 1 | MR. TIM CRUM: Madam Chair and |
| 2 | caseloads only allow so many students under | 2 | Commissioner, boy, that's a -- you're asking a |
| 3 | particular severity levels that would change the | 3 | Deputy Director if he has enough resources. I have |
| 4 | formula, you know, to only manage so many students | 4 | to restrain myself to some degree. To some degree. |
| 5 | and -- so many case loads. Excuse me. And that | 5 | But in actuality, I mean, we -- we have a |
| 6 | would be one of them: Make sure the service logs | 6 | tremendous volume of compliance requirements. And |
| 7 | are up to date, make sure the IEPs are in place, | 7 | we're down a few staff now; we're working in that |
| 8 | make sure the evaluations are going on, so forth. | 8 | area. But when we're staffed up and we have a |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? | 9 | tremendous network of help through provider -- or |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. Just one | 10 | technical assistance providers, professional |
| 11 | more question of the Special Education Bureau. | 11 | development providers well beyond just those two |
| 12 | Do you have confidence that provided | 12 | academies that we have every year. |
| 13 | that -- with the documentation that you've been | 13 | So I would say that when we're -- as the |
| 14 | provided, that the special education students' needs | 14 | way we function, we have -- we can provide the |
| 15 | are being met through the documentation that you've | 15 | resources. |
| 16 | been provided? Do you feel that the students' needs | 16 | And not only that, we will move and |
| 17 | are being met? | 17 | prioritize resources in areas, especially if LEAs |
| 18 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: With the | 18 | are struggling, and students are -- there's a |
| 19 | documentation provided, no. | 19 | systematic -- or a systemic problem of some sort. |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 20 | So I hope that answers your question. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Question? | 21 | It's kind of broad. But we do have it down pretty |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: Sure. | 22 | good. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Do you spend any | 23 | A tremendous director. Deborah |
| 24 | time training school personnel on what schools | 24 | Dominguez-Clark, she's got over a quarter century in |
| 25 | should be doing in this area? | 25 | the work. That's one of the things. She makes |
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| 1 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: We have -- we have | 1 | herself very, very accessible to any of the |
| 2 | two directors' conferences a year. We have one in | 2 | tremendous detail. She has an unbelievable |
| 3 | the fall; we have one in the winter. Then we also | 3 | knowledge base in special education, well beyond |
| 4 | have monthly webinars. And then we have our website | 4 | mine. |
| 5 | which has a host of documents and -- and resources. | 5 | And so we try to leverage that, as well as |
| 6 | We have guidance manuals posted on our | 6 | all of our staff. We have tenured staff as well. |
| 7 | website as well, as well as I'm also available. You | 7 | We try to keep people. It's not an easy |
| 8 | know, I tell my districts they can call me at any | 8 | job. You know, grow a lot of -- a lot training goes |
| 9 | time. If they're stuck, if they have a question, | 9 | on in our bureau. |
| 10 | that's what my job is, to support them. | 10 | And so beyond compliance, we really focus |
| 11 | But I haven't -- they haven't really | 11 | on TA when we can. It's a fine line, because our |
| 12 | reached out to me to request any support or | 12 | job is to ensure the IDEA B Act is followed |
| 13 | anything; so... | 13 | according to the law. That's a very fine line. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And the follow-up | 14 | And when you're giving TA, you're giving |
| 15 | question, also, to that is taking into account the | 15 | TA. You cannot be the one that's advising on when |
| 16 | growth of charter schools, do you feel you have | 16 | they're making decisions, for instance. |
| 17 | enough resources in your Department to stay on top | 17 | But we're very careful to point to |
| 18 | of training and retraining, if you feel that what | 18 | manuals -- that's why we have an extensive library |
| 19 | you're doing is doing not enough in training and | 19 | of manuals, including a manual with policies. And |
| 20 | retraining? Because it's very involved. I have | 20 | we can also refer to the CFR for the statute. But |
| 21 | been finding that out in the last few years. It's | 21 | the resources, we can always use a little more. We |
| 22 | tough. | 22 | never turn them away, you know. |
| 23 | Do you have enough resources to stay on | 23 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Thank you. |
| 24 | top of the increase of charter schools and school | 24 | MR. TIM CRUM: Thank you. |
| 25 | demands? | 25 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster? |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I just want to | 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It could be |
| 2 | clarify a point. | 2 | everybody else's education, not theirs; right? |
| 3 | So in the identification of special | 3 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: Yes, correct. |
| 4 | education students, if a child is ED, emotionally | 4 | THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any other |
| 5 | disturbed, needs the services -- if that child is | 5 | questions? |
| 6 | not -- is doing quite well academically but still | 6 | (No response.) |
| 7 | has those issues that are hindering progress, if | 7 | THE CHAIR: Thank you so much, once again. |
| 8 | that child is not in special ed with an IEP, that | 8 | We truly do appreciate this. |
| 9 | child would see a counselor; but not a psychologist, | 9 | MR. TIM CRUM: My pleasure. Thank you. |
| 10 | a licensed psychologist, correct? | 10 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. So I know there |
| 11 | So it's possible that labeled ED -- | 11 | are folks from the school here as well. So if the |
| 12 | because everybody gets labeled here -- an ED child | 12 | school wants to come up, you're certainly -- |
| 13 | would be in special education, and the services | 13 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: The little green light |
| 14 | would be coming just from a licensed psychologist, | 14 | is on. I think it's on. There it is. |
| 15 | but he or she could be doing quite well | 15 | Good morning, Madam Chairwoman, members of |
| 16 | academically. But you would continue them on then | 16 | the Commission. |
| 17 | or not? | 17 | As you know, my name is Gene Elliott. I'm |
| 18 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: No. That's where | 18 | the president of the governance council of Alma |
| 19 | you have your 504 plans. And even the regulations | 19 | d'Arte. And Holly can introduce herself. |
| 20 | state if a student only requires ancillary service, | 20 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: Good morning. I'm |
| 21 | like psychological services, they don't qualify for | 21 | Holly Schullo. Thank you. |
| 22 | special education. And that should not be the sole | 22 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Sitting here listening |
| 23 | basis for putting a student in special education. | 23 | to the speakers from the Special Ed Bureau |
| 24 | So... | 24 | reinforced something that I wanted to say. And that |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So as a -- | 25 | is why were we not directed way back in December to |
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| 1 | sorry. As a 504 child, you can get psychological | 1 | consult with the Special Ed Bureau and the ELL folks |
| 2 | services from a psychologist as a counselor; is that | 2 | and create the plan that would be acceptable? That |
| 3 | true? | 3 | didn't happen. We were given a Corrective Action |
| 4 | MS. CHARLENE MARCOTTE: Ancillary, yes. | 4 | Plan by, I guess, PED. |
| 5 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: So in order for them | 5 | THE CHAIR: No, that was by us. Let's |
| 6 | to actually qualify for special education, they have | 6 | just clear that up. |
| 7 | to meet two prongs: One, they have to have the | 7 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Okay. By you. And |
| 8 | need, the disability; and then, two, they have to | 8 | since then, for seven months that I've counted here, |
| 9 | have the need academically. | 9 | we have been back and forth talking, talking back |
| 10 | And so the IEP team is looking at the NM | 10 | and forth. And this could all have been done by |
| 11 | TEAM, New Mexico TEAM manual. And under each | 11 | January, had we -- and I'm assuming that they are |
| 12 | eligibility category, they're asked those | 12 | the ultimate authority on what we do with special |
| 13 | two-pronged questions. And if they can't say as a | 13 | education and ELL; is that correct? |
| 14 | team that they meet the eligibility criteria under | 14 | THE CHAIR: For the most part, yes; |
| 15 | meeting the services, meeting the academic need, | 15 | because that's not our position. That's what we |
| 16 | then they can't technically officially say yes, they | 16 | rely on the Bureau. |
| 17 | are students of special education needs. | 17 | But I'm going to say -- I'm going to put |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: There's a really | 18 | the onus back on the school as well. The school |
| 19 | fine line on spectrum disorders, for example. | 19 | knew what our concerns were. So if the school |
| 20 | Because they could be academically quite fine; | 20 | wanted to clear this up, all they had to do was to |
| 21 | behaviorally, possibly not. So then you have to | 21 | contact the Special Ed Bureau. |
| 22 | make the decision whether the behavior is | 22 | If you felt you were fully in compliance, |
| 23 | interfering with. | 23 | say, "Here, review our records so that we can show |
| 24 | MS. CYNTHIA ROMERO: Yes, with their | 24 | and clear out these concerns with the Commission." |
| 25 | education. | 25 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Well, then, my |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | opinion -- | 1 | question; it's a fact. We're sitting here now, six |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: So that's on the school. The | 2 | months into this, and you've continued to be out of |
| 3 | school was fully aware from January of what the | 3 | compliance with Special Ed and with some concerns |
| 4 | concerns were, that there were these overwhelming | 4 | with EL. But to have the Special Ed Bureau be able |
| 5 | special ed compliance issues. And if the school | 5 | to make that report that you're -- what was the |
| 6 | felt that they were in compliance or needed help in | 6 | term? -- out of the norm? |
| 7 | figuring out how to get into compliance, it's not us | 7 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Above what could be |
| 8 | that gives that direction. It's the Special Ed | 8 | expected. |
| 9 | Bureau. | 9 | THE CHAIR: That's concerning. And when |
| 10 | And as they so often said as they've been | 10 | the Special Ed Bureau can answer a direct question |
| 11 | up here, that's what they're here for, to offer that | 11 | and say, you know, "Do you believe that the school |
| 12 | help. You've got a -- for want of a better term, a | 12 | is in compliance?" -- is that not what you asked, |
| 13 | liaison to contact. So there shouldn't be a | 13 | Commissioner Voigt? |
| 14 | question as to, "I don't know where to go." | 14 | MS. VOIGT: Yeah. What was -- I had asked |
| 15 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: I didn't say that. | 15 | Mr. Crum what was beyond a normal issue. |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Well -- | 16 | THE CHAIR: Right. But then when you |
| 17 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: I said we were directed | 17 | asked that second question... |
| 18 | to create a Corrective Action Plan. | 18 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: The documents |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: No. We created the Corrective | 19 | provided. |
| 20 | Action Plan. You did not create the Corrective | 20 | THE CHAIR: "Do you have confidence?" |
| 21 | Action Plan. | 21 | Right. |
| 22 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: We were to comply with | 22 | MS. VOIGT: With the documents provided. |
| 23 | it. | 23 | THE CHAIR: And the Special Ed Bureau says |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: And to fall into compliance | 24 | no. And we've continued to have this overwhelming |
| 25 | with that Corrective Action Plan, you needed to get | 25 | concern, ultimately, that the issue is that students |
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| 1 | into compliance with Special Ed. | 1 | aren't being served. That is the -- that is the |
| 2 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: And if you will recall, | 2 | bottom line with this. And it continues to be. |
| 3 | I think it was at the February meeting, I have the | 3 | And when just that is addressed, and month |
| 4 | transcription here, that I asked the question to | 4 | after month it is the same issue, that students -- |
| 5 | whom -- I mean, there are three agencies, at | 5 | we've got children that are not receiving the |
| 6 | least -- well, two of them and one there, and the | 6 | services they're supposed to have -- |
| 7 | Commission -- to whom -- where is the ultimate | 7 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Measured by which -- |
| 8 | point? | 8 | THE CHAIR: By the Special Ed Bureau. |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Us. We're the ultimate point. | 9 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Okay. Then I would -- |
| 10 | But we are not the -- we are not the bureau that | 10 | I would invite them to come to the campus and do a |
| 11 | determines whether you are in compliance or not. As | 11 | site visit and see if we are or are not meeting the |
| 12 | I said at that meeting, that we are the ultimate | 12 | standards. |
| 13 | arbiter; but it is not our capacity or authority to | 13 | THE CHAIR: They reviewed all of your |
| 14 | determine whether you are or not in compliance with | 14 | IEPs. I mean, what more -- honestly, what more do |
| 15 | Special Ed. | 15 | you want? That's what I -- you know -- |
| 16 | But we take the information about those | 16 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Then what would you |
| 17 | compliance concerns from the various bureaus into | 17 | have us do? |
| 18 | consideration when we are making our decisions. And | 18 | THE CHAIR: They are the experts that do |
| 19 | I do believe that's what I said at the meeting. | 19 | that. I don't -- and I can maybe ask them. But I |
| 20 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: I would have to go back | 20 | don't know what, beyond -- I know there may be a |
| 21 | and look. But there was not any clarification or | 21 | more in-depth. But by and large, when you're going |
| 22 | response to my statement about that, as I recall it. | 22 | to those schools and you're doing the audit or the |
| 23 | I'd have to go back and check. | 23 | site visit, the first thing you're looking at is the |
| 24 | So the question is -- | 24 | IEPs and the service logs, which is what they did, |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: The question is -- it's not a | 25 | remotely. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: And I will tell you | 1 | But to simply say, "It's their fault |
| 2 | that we took the initiative to correct the IEPs. | 2 | because they didn't give me feedback" is completely |
| 3 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: So I realize that -- | 3 | inappropriate, especially when we're sitting here |
| 4 | Madam Chair and Commissioners, I realize this is | 4 | six months later with the same report. Honestly, |
| 5 | like we're digging here. This is something that I | 5 | it's the same report. |
| 6 | identified when I walked in to Alma d'Arte. I'm a | 6 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: For discussion? |
| 7 | new administrator. It is my first year, and I | 7 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: So Commissioner |
| 8 | myself have made my own mistakes. | 8 | Armbruster actually said this. None of the logs |
| 9 | I identified the deficiencies in special | 9 | that were uploaded were classroom logs, not for |
| 10 | education. I hired two people on an early morning, | 10 | push-in or pullout or co-teaching. None of those |
| 11 | on a Saturday morning, mid-August, to audit all of | 11 | logs were included because we don't keep those logs. |
| 12 | our special education files. | 12 | And if I had received that directive, my teacher |
| 13 | And what I found was that, you know, we | 13 | would have been keeping those logs. |
| 14 | could do better. We could do a lot better. So I | 14 | And I hired an expert, you all. I hired |
| 15 | placed that teacher on administrative leave, and | 15 | someone who is a very seasoned special education |
| 16 | then she did not return to the building. | 16 | teacher. And if we don't have these answers in |
| 17 | So we had a lapse in service. And I made | 17 | Las Cruces -- and I did. On May 14th, when I sent |
| 18 | other mistakes there with, you know, filling that | 18 | the new IEPs and what was required of us, I e-mailed |
| 19 | gap. And that is on me. | 19 | and I said, "Will this do? We do want help. We do |
| 20 | However, we hired somebody else to do the | 20 | want to improve." |
| 21 | work and help us. And I think we did good work. | 21 | When you asked about resources, what we |
| 22 | One of the struggles that I see in the | 22 | need for next year, we dedicated -- we need two |
| 23 | report that we received back from Special Education | 23 | special education teachers, period, and one EA. And |
| 24 | is this: We didn't put classroom minutes or | 24 | that's out there. |
| 25 | inclusion or pull-out minutes. | 25 | I was hoping one of my faculty members |
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| 1 | (A discussion was held off the record.) | 1 | would step up and take half English and half special |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: We had that set up because of | 2 | education, because she has degrees, two degrees in |
| 3 | the next item. It's the next school. So we had it | 3 | special education. And we are working on this. And |
| 4 | set up. Sorry. | 4 | next year, we'll be better. |
| 5 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: So that snapshot is -- | 5 | I want to -- |
| 6 | we sent logs for compensatory and the ancillary. | 6 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Caballero has a |
| 7 | And we received what you're reading that is feedback | 7 | question. |
| 8 | on that data, and our IEPs that we uploaded, all of | 8 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: Yes, please. |
| 9 | them. | 9 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I've been around |
| 10 | When you go back in time to the 40th day, | 10 | through all the discussions. And -- but today, what |
| 11 | where we first uploaded all of the previous work | 11 | I did learn that was different is that if, in fact, |
| 12 | from last year and where we could do better -- | 12 | everything has been the same since six months back, |
| 13 | that's what I was working from -- from there to | 13 | and Special Education should, in my opinion -- I |
| 14 | where we are now is much better, okay? | 14 | don't know if they have regulation for that -- do a |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: No, it's not. It's not. | 15 | site visit, because -- and that's why I asked the |
| 16 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: So from the 40th day, | 16 | question. |
| 17 | though, where our troubles began, that's where we | 17 | That's -- when you receive -- when they |
| 18 | should have had detailed feedback. I put them up in | 18 | receive that information, it's inputted into the |
| 19 | the same site; but we didn't receive feedback on | 19 | system. It could be different on paper, could be |
| 20 | that 40th day. | 20 | different on time. And so that's why I asked to -- |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: You know, I'm going to say | 21 | maybe I should have -- the question should have |
| 22 | this. At some point in time, someone has to say -- | 22 | been, "Are you -- are you required to make a site |
| 23 | reach out and say, "Did I do this right? I'm a | 23 | visit?" |
| 24 | brand new administrator. I need help. Is this | 24 | So my question was -- "And in this |
| 25 | okay?" | 25 | situation, would this promote a site visit?" |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And the answer is yes. | 1 | says, "Well, no, we don't want to help the schools, |
| 2 | So I actually believe that we've -- there | 2 | or we don't want those kids." |
| 3 | should have been a site visit sometime back. That | 3 | But I'm at the point where I would say |
| 4 | should have been from us, should have been from that | 4 | that we should wait until the bureau makes a site |
| 5 | end. It has been an ongoing coming here constantly. | 5 | visit and can come back and give us a true picture; |
| 6 | The Commission, guys, has gone through a | 6 | because we've been getting the same picture from |
| 7 | change of moving away from punitive to an early | 7 | what was loaded to them. And I think that we need |
| 8 | alert system and to a helping system. And if | 8 | to find out once and for all and not go back and |
| 9 | charter schools don't make it that way, then they | 9 | forth monthly or bimonthly with this problem. |
| 10 | need to be removed from charter. | 10 | And I'm sure that a charter school, if |
| 11 | But I think that we still have a confusion | 11 | they owe services, they will have to -- to do it. |
| 12 | as to what we were doing in the past and what we | 12 | Or maybe some kids didn't belong there, and they |
| 13 | should be doing now. And what I have learned about | 13 | were overwhelmed themselves, not knowing; so that -- |
| 14 | special education, that it is tough; it is tough, | 14 | that's where I'm at, Madam Chair. I don't know |
| 15 | guys. And as a teacher, I don't think I would ever | 15 | about the other Commissioners; but that's -- |
| 16 | decide to be a special ed. It's just -- | 16 | THE CHAIR: I have a recommendation. |
| 17 | kindergarten was tough for me. And I taught | 17 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Okay. |
| 18 | kindergarten. | 18 | THE CHAIR: So, you know, this is a |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: God bless you. | 19 | process that the school is in. So we did send the |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I was the only | 20 | Letter of Concern. So we're on a pathway in the |
| 21 | guy who taught kindergarten. But special ed, it's | 21 | intervention ladder towards a breach and then |
| 22 | something else. | 22 | revocation. |
| 23 | And I've talked to parents. For some | 23 | The Letter of Concern, in my opinion, |
| 24 | reason, parents feel at ease talking to me. And a | 24 | can't be closed out, because the concern is still |
| 25 | lot of them have special ed children in charter | 25 | there. So this is what I'm suggesting: That a |
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| 1 | schools. And they have run to charter schools | 1 | Notice of Breach be sent to the school. There is a |
| 2 | because they -- they want help. And the charter | 2 | time frame for that Notice of Breach that I would |
| 3 | schools have received them because they have to. | 3 | ask it to be extended until the end of August. |
| 4 | But I personally believe that it takes a | 4 | And during that time period, that we'll |
| 5 | lot more resources in the charter school to do that. | 5 | work with CSD to get a couple of different contracts |
| 6 | And at some point, the number or the percentage is | 6 | going. One is for an operational audit of the |
| 7 | going to be overwhelming for one particular school. | 7 | school, so that we can check on -- because there |
| 8 | And there has to be a step-in for | 8 | have been concerns with the governance council and |
| 9 | additional resources. That's just me, as an | 9 | Open Meetings Act violations. I know there has been |
| 10 | opinion; because the rest of the kids get less. And | 10 | a complaint filed with another bureau. |
| 11 | so the administrator then has to decide, "The rest | 11 | So I would like to see if we can -- if |
| 12 | of the kids need help; but I'm required by law to | 12 | that's finalized by that time or there's additional |
| 13 | provide this, no matter what. I cannot deny." | 13 | information on that, that would -- that would give |
| 14 | And I've asked the parents, "Do you think | 14 | us a little more leeway to be able to get that |
| 15 | you got pushed out?" | 15 | information. |
| 16 | And they all say yes, but they cannot | 16 | At the same time, I would also like a |
| 17 | articulate how. But they just feel that charter | 17 | contract of special ed mentoring for the school. |
| 18 | schools is the answer for them. And for a lot of | 18 | And if the Special Ed Bureau feels during that time |
| 19 | times, it has been. For a lot of times. | 19 | they should do an audit, that would give them the |
| 20 | And, Madam Chair, I just don't know what | 20 | time to do it. But that's entirely on them to |
| 21 | the balance is. I don't know what the solution is, | 21 | determine if they feel that a site visit -- a site |
| 22 | other than it's a matter of resources. | 22 | visit would be necessary. |
| 23 | Parents accuse the charter schools of | 23 | But that the school be provided, through |
| 24 | not -- of not feeling for them or not trying. I | 24 | us, the opportunity for mentoring so that we're |
| 25 | haven't seen that in a single charter school that | 25 | clear by August where they stand. |


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| 1 | So that's my suggestion. | 1 | mentor. |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I think that's an | 2 | THE CHAIR: Correct. Yeah. |
| 3 | excellent suggestion. I don't know if the end of | 3 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: A quick question |
| 4 | August may give the Special Ed Bureau sufficient | 4 | here, and then I want to comment, which is -- so how |
| 5 | time to actually do an on-site, since school is out | 5 | many special ed students -- I know you may not know |
| 6 | of session right now. I'm thinking perhaps the | 6 | everybody -- but what do you think you're going to |
| 7 | middle or the end of September. Also to go out and | 7 | have next year? In August. How many students? |
| 8 | do contracts right now, we're closing out one fiscal | 8 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: Right now, with my |
| 9 | year, starting another fiscal year. That can be | 9 | incoming freshmen, I don't see but a few. So maybe |
| 10 | somewhat problematic to get something done in the | 10 | we'll have 34. But if we're removing -- or ED |
| 11 | next couple of weeks, to get a contract in place, | 11 | doesn't belong in special ed anymore, that would |
| 12 | unless there are people already available that would | 12 | bring our numbers to 26, I think. |
| 13 | qualify under a price agreement or something that | 13 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And I'm thinking |
| 14 | the State has. I would just suggest maybe we push | 14 | even with your ED students, even if they're doing |
| 15 | it to the end of September. | 15 | well academically, they may need a counselor. They |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Our problem is we don't have a | 16 | don't just sort of, like, become gone. |
| 17 | September meeting. | 17 | So with 26, you would need about how |
| 18 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes, we do. | 18 | many -- like, two special ed teachers? |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: No. It's the end of August | 19 | One-and-a-half? |
| 20 | for the votes. | 20 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: We would like two. |
| 21 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Oh, sorry. | 21 | THE CHAIR: And you have how many right |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: That's our September meeting. | 22 | now? |
| 23 | We go August into -- so we don't have another | 23 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: I have an open |
| 24 | September meeting. | 24 | position for one, and we need two, and an open |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Right. | 25 | position for an EA that I'm interviewing for next |
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| 1 | THE CHAIR: And I think we can face that | 1 | week. |
| 2 | if we have to. | 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. Because, |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. And that's | 3 | you know, I think that although it seems like we're |
| 4 | fine. I was concerned the timing of getting untried | 4 | attacking you -- |
| 5 | people in place and getting something done with a | 5 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: No, not at all. |
| 6 | short fuse, so to speak. | 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It really isn't. |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 7 | I've heard very fine things about your school. I've |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: If need be, we can | 8 | heard that's it's very much needed in your area, |
| 9 | address it in August. | 9 | that the many students who are there are there |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: There might be something on | 10 | because they need that small attention. |
| 11 | the vendors list that we can work through, that that | 11 | I would also suspect that students have |
| 12 | is most likely not the problem. So I think we're -- | 12 | been getting some special ed direct instruction. |
| 13 | I think we should be okay with that. | 13 | And maybe it hasn't been reported in the right way. |
| 14 | MS. MATTHEWS: Madam Chair? I'm trying to | 14 | I don't think it's as bad as it probably appears on |
| 15 | clarify. So the contract with the auditor would be | 15 | paper, which -- and it's very complicated, as |
| 16 | let by the Department? | 16 | Commissioner Caballero said. And I have that crown |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: By us through CSD, yeah. | 17 | because I had middle school special ed. |
| 18 | MS. MATTHEWS: Okay. | 18 | But, anyway, I think the things are not |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. | 19 | necessarily as bad. But you need help. And I think |
| 20 | MS. MATTHEWS: I was going to recommend | 20 | that that's a fine thing to admit to, and I commend |
| 21 | the Coalition -- I'm sorry, PCSNM. I don't know if | 21 | the Chair for suggesting that instead of saying, |
| 22 | we were going to initiate that or -- | 22 | "Oh, let's just get rid of the school," that they do |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: No, it's us initiating it; | 23 | something to help you, that once you're on the |
| 24 | SO... | 24 | track, you say, "Oh, that's what we're talking |
| 25 | MS. MATTHEWS: And the same with the | 25 | about," and to ask questions as well; because, |


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|  | really, it is hard. There are so many i's to dot | 1 | But we would be able to get the frame only |
| 2 | and t's to cross, it's very complicated. | 2 | for, like, two weeks or whatever. But the service |
| 3 | And it's especially complicated if you're | 3 | logs could be uploaded to the Special Ed Bureau |
| 4 | new, and it's even complicated if you're not new; it | 4 | by -- for whatever time the school has been open for |
| 5 | just is. So I'm really happy that we're looking | 5 | the upcoming school year. Would that suffice? |
| 6 | forward to helping children. Because in the end, | 6 | MS. VOIGT: Sure. Yeah. This is more of |
| 7 | that's what our goal is, to help children. And | 7 | earning component, also, going forward that will |
| 8 | you're open to that, and we are open to that, and I | 8 | really help you solidify your program. |
| 9 | see a path forward. And that's why I'm -- | 9 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Thank you. |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Are we ready for a | 10 | HE CHAIR: So that -- |
| 11 | motion? | 11 | MS. MATTHEWS: That helped. Thank you. |
| 12 | MS. VOIGT: One more comment before we go | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I think the |
| 13 | to that. | 13 | thing that you will be able to see is that special |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Oh, sure. | 14 | ducation services are not services that fit into |
| 15 | MS. VOIGT: In addition to the | 15 | the existing way the school is run. It's what is |
| 16 | recommendations you made, I think we should also -- | 16 | determined on what those students need, and that's |
| 17 | we should have the final approval stamp from the | 17 | how the -- it's done. It's not like you stick them |
| 18 | Special Education Bureau that their service logs | 18 | in there because that's where we can fit. It's, no, |
| 19 | retain all the components that they should be having | 19 | they drive that. |
| 20 | to verify the durations and descriptions of their | 20 | MS. MATTHEWS: I think it would be just |
| 21 | service hours and how these service hours are | 21 | tremely helpful for the Bureau to come, even |
| 22 | meeting the needs of the written IEP goals; I mean, | 22 | though that wasn't part of your recommendation, just |
| 23 | very specific that is basic information that's | 23 | because it appears -- and I'm hearing whispers |
| 24 | provided by the service logs. I think that should | 24 | behind me and your comments alone, about what the |
| 25 | be a component. | 25 | expectations are. It would be very helpful for the |
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| 1 | THE CHAIR: Okay. | 1 | school to have, directly from the mouth of the |
| 2 | MS. MATTHEWS: Madam Chair? | 2 | Bureau, "This is it." |
| 3 | If that is, could we have clarification? | 3 | Because it does seem to me there is |
| 4 | Because I'm not sure what she's asking. Is she | 4 | perhaps some question about what is to be logged, |
| 5 | saying retroactively or prospectively, that's what | 5 | when is it to be logged and by whom. I get |
| 6 | they will recommend to the school? I mean, I'm not | 6 | ancillary services. Got that piece. But the |
| 7 | understanding. | 7 | classroom, the SpEd teacher -- I just think -- I'm |
| 8 | THE CHAIR: So are you asking for this | 8 | not sure I know, I don't know how that works. But |
| 9 | current year's -- | 9 | the Bureau, if they could come through -- |
| 10 | MS. VOIGT: No retroactive. No. But | 10 | THE CHAIR: Whatever we set up in terms of |
| 11 | moving forward, you should know and demonstrate that | 11 | he special ed mentoring, we can certainly |
| 12 | you know what components need to be written into a | 12 | coordinate that through the Special Ed Bureau to |
| 13 | service $\log$ as recommended by the Special Education | 13 | make sure that all those areas are being covered so |
| 14 | Bureau that provide the description and the duration | 14 | that there's no concerns. |
| 15 | of how services are being met. | 15 | MS. MATTHEWS: That would be consistent, |
| 16 | So there's a time frame; there is a | 16 | yeah. |
| 17 | descriptor. And then also how are those descriptors | 17 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. So that's -- I don't |
| 18 | really meeting the needs of the students' goals that | 18 | think that's a problem. We can either set out -- |
| 19 | are written in the IEPs. | 19 | with whoever we contract with, they can coordinate |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: So I -- and this -- I believe | 20 | th the Special Ed Bureau and create -- help to |
| 21 | at the very least -- because we don't meet until the | 21 | create that plan so that we're on the same page. |
| 22 | end of August; so school will have begun already. | 22 | Yeah. |
| 23 | So I think what we could do -- and Commissioner | 23 | MS. MATTHEWS: That sounds very workable. |
| 24 | Voigt can correct me if -- if it's not going to be | 24 | THE CHAIR: So I'm going to try to |
| 25 | sufficient. | 25 | navigate myself through this one. |


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| 1 | MS. MATTHEWS: Madam Chair, will there be | 1 | mentioned, we are in closing stages and ramping up |
| 2 | a formal Letter of Breach? | 2 | for the new year. |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Yes, there will be. Yes. | 3 | So it will -- it will be a few weeks |
| 4 | MS. MATTHEWS: And then they will be | 4 | before we can get a contract in place. We can work |
| 5 | articulating particularly the violations that caused | 5 | through different channels to expedite it. But I |
| 6 | the breach? | 6 | would say that we're probably looking mid-July, |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Correct, yes. Yes. So I move | 7 | probably, is -- I want to be reasonable and also |
| 8 | that the Public Education Commission acknowledge | 8 | expedite this. But just knowing what I've learned, |
| 9 | that Alma d'Arte's response does not satisfy the | 9 | it'll be probably around that before we can execute |
| 10 | PEC's concerns raised in the Notice of Concern, and | 10 | that and put it in place. |
| 11 | Alma d'Arte be provided the following Notice of | 11 | THE CHAIR: Can we just have an agreement, |
| 12 | Breach: | 12 | if it can't because of hurdles that we don't see now |
| 13 | There are concerns beyond the norm that | 13 | with the contracts, that they drastically delay when |
| 14 | continue with the School's -- with the School | 14 | we can start all of this, that we set August 12th as |
| 15 | related to the special ed services. I think the -- | 15 | the tentative? |
| 16 | the qualifiers will come in the Letter of Concern. | 16 | But if something comes up -- and we're |
| 17 | And there continues to be issues with EL | 17 | going to have a July meeting when we're on the road |
| 18 | services. | 18 | trip; so we'll know by that July meeting if we -- if |
| 19 | And that the Commission will work with the | 19 | we face significant hurdles and can't get it done by |
| 20 | Charter School Division in obtaining contracts for | 20 | that time. If we can't get it reasonably done by |
| 21 | special ed mentoring for the school in coordination | 21 | that time, we'll then look at extending the time. |
| 22 | with the Special Ed Bureau, and an operational | 22 | And I have no issue with that. |
| 23 | budget to be -- to be conducted, and that the Notice | 23 | Does anyone else have an issue with that? |
| 24 | of Breach will be extended to -- and I'm looking at | 24 | And we can -- you know, we'll deal with it if we |
| 25 | my calendar. | 25 | have to deal with it. But we're -- but the letter |
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| 1 | So we meet August 22nd and 23rd. Do we | 1 | will indicate August 12th. And if you want us to |
| 2 | think that we could complete this work by | 2 | put a qualifier in there, or, you know, delay if |
| 3 | August 12th so that reports could come back? And | 3 | unforeseen circumstances or whatever... |
| 4 | I'm just thinking, is that -- because I know this is | 4 | MS. MATTHEWS: I think the foreseeable -- |
| 5 | also a new application. Because we're voting on the | 5 | if you could put that language in there. |
| 6 | new applications, that -- that week in August; so I | 6 | THE CHAIR: But I'm trying to live in my |
| 7 | don't want to, you know, just completely overwhelm | 7 | perfect world. |
| 8 | what's coming in. But I want to give the school | 8 | MS. MATTHEWS: Me, too. |
| 9 | ample opportunity to have notice of whatever is | 9 | THE CHAIR: And that's -- so let's -- I'd |
| 10 | going to be in the reports. | 10 | rather try to get it done, also, because I'd like it |
| 11 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, | 11 | done for the start of the school year. I think that |
| 12 | Commissioners, Alma d'Arte leadership, when is the | 12 | just makes sense. So we're going to do whatever we |
| 13 | first day of school for you? | 13 | can to get it done expeditiously. |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Of school, yeah. Then we'll | 14 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Good. |
| 15 | get the -- they're not going to get the service logs | 15 | THE CHAIR: So do I need to read this |
| 16 | by that time. | 16 | motion? Do people remember that I made the motion? |
| 17 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: So August 1st is our | 17 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Second. |
| 18 | first day. | 18 | THE CHAIR: All right. So let me -- |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Oh. Well, two weeks. | 19 | Cindy, you got it; right? Do you want to read it |
| 20 | MS. MATTHEWS: So today's -- | 20 | back? |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: Today's the 14th. | 21 | (The record was read as requested.) |
| 22 | MS. MATTHEWS: How fast can they get | 22 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Second. |
| 23 | contracts? | 23 | THE CHAIR: Because I need to modify. |
| 24 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, | 24 | Because it's not "operational budget"; it's |
| 25 | Commissioners, Ms. Matthews, as Commissioner Robbins | 25 | "operational audit." I need to amend that, because |


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| 1 | it is an operational audit that will be conducted, a | 1 | No. 8, which is Discussion and Possible Action on |
| 2 | contract for that. | 2 | the Corrective Action Plan for La Academia de |
| 3 | There's a second by Commissioner Ruiz. | 3 | Dolores Huerta. Oh, I'm sorry. No. 9. I went |
| 4 | Any further discussion? | 4 | ahead. Now I had to go back. Now I'm going back |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Let's vote. | 5 | again. |
| 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Are there any | 6 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Would you say your name, |
| 7 | abstentions? | 7 | please? |
| 8 | (No response.) | 8 | THE WITNESS: It's Melissa Miranda, |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Good. Okay. I | 9 | M-I-R-A-N-D-A. |
| 10 | am not -- Commissioner Chavez? | 10 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. Can everyone |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 11 | hear her? Okay. All right. Thank you. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 12 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Thank you. I'm |
| 13 | Crone? | 13 | going to put mute so that I don't interfere; and |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. | 14 | I'll unmute when I need to talk. Is that okay? |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 15 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Sure. |
| 16 | Voigt? | 16 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Okay. Thank you. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 17 | THE CHAIR: Great. So for the |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 18 | Commissioners that didn't have the opportunity to be |
| 19 | Robbins? | 19 | on our contract negotiations road show, we were down |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 20 | in Las Cruces to negotiate with Alma d'Arte, Dolores |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 21 | Huerta, and Raíces, while we were down there, |
| 22 | Davis? | 22 | because the Commission, if you remember, voted to |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 23 | place the Corrective Action Plan on La Academia |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 24 | Dolores Huerta. |
| 25 | Ruiz? | 25 | And this all revolves -- in part, revolves |
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| 1 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. | 1 | around part of the Secretary's decision. So we just |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 2 | want to have some clarifying elements so we're sure |
| 3 | Gipson? | 3 | where we're going in terms of the Corrective Action |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 4 | Plan. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 5 | So I do have a couple of questions here. |
| 6 | Armbruster votes "Yes." | 6 | So my question for -- it's actually for the Charter |
| 7 | Commissioner Raftery? | 7 | School Division -- is did the Secretary's decision |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 8 | and order on March 18th direct the Commission to |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 9 | renew La Academia's charter for two years? |
| 10 | Caballero? | 10 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 11 | the Commission, yes, it did. And I think it did |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ten-zero vote. | 12 | include -- and this might be another question you |
| 13 | The motion passes. | 13 | had -- with conditions, which I know is potentially |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Ten-zero. Thank you all. | 14 | a disagreement between the Public Education |
| 15 | MS. MATTHEWS: Thank you. | 15 | Commission and the PED at this time. |
| 16 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Madam Chair, one | 16 | THE CHAIR: Okay. So we're -- so we did |
| 17 | question. If we complete and thoroughly pass all of | 17 | have -- Commissioner Voigt, Commissioner Armbruster |
| 18 | these audits, will that be the end? | 18 | and myself, as well as the Charter School Division, |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. | 19 | the evening before, the late afternoon of the -- |
| 20 | MR. GENE ELLIOTT: Okay. Thank you very | 20 | before we did the contract negotiations, we felt |
| 21 | much. We appreciate that. We look forward to it. | 21 | that that would be a good time to be able to sit |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: Well, subject to anything else | 22 | down and talk with the school about the Corrective |
| 23 | that comes up; but -- | 23 | Action Plan. And the subcommittee, at that time, |
| 24 | DR. HOLLY SCHULLO: Thank you. | 24 | had -- actually, shortly before that, had sent a |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Okay. We are now on to Item | 25 | template of a starting point for the school for the |


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| 1 | discussion of the Corrective Action Plan. | 1 | would be the easiest thing to do. Okay. We've got |
| 2 | So we did have that discussion, and we | 2 | it. So the school wouldn't have to upload anything |
| 3 | appreciate all of that time. And at that time, the | 3 | additional to us. We've got the data, and it's |
| 4 | school had indicated that they were using the short | 4 | provided directly by PED. |
| 5 | cycle assessment of Illuminate. And there wasn't a | 5 | Unfortunately, it doesn't look like that |
| 6 | lot of identifying information about Illuminate for | 6 | dashboard piece is going to be available by the -- |
| 7 | that. And the subcommittee had identified that we | 7 | after -- at the conclusion of this coming-up school |
| 8 | wanted to see data that showed that there was | 8 | year. So that's not going to be on the dashboard |
| 9 | approximately a year-and-a-half's growth with -- | 9 | report for August of 2020. The dashboard is going |
| 10 | with their student population in order to feel | 10 | to be there; but that particular component -- so we |
| 11 | comfortable with an Illuminate goal. | 11 | have to look -- we have to continue to look at |
| 12 | And the school indicated that they would | 12 | Illuminate. |
| 13 | be able to get back to us by the following | 13 | We have discovered through the director |
| 14 | Wednesday. | 14 | that the Illuminate Southwest Coordinator -- is that |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I think that | 15 | what he refers -- is that what he's called? -- |
| 16 | they hadn't yet used it, that they were going to use | 16 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, I think so. |
| 17 | it, which is why they didn't know -- | 17 | Simone, I think, is the same person that Ms. Miranda |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: I'm not sure about that. | 18 | and the team was -- |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I thought they | 19 | THE CHAIR: -- for Illuminate is actually |
| 20 | were just starting it. | 20 | in Santa Fe. But we've just discovered this. So |
| 21 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: Madam Chair, my name | 21 | we're in -- this is State government. So we're in |
| 22 | is Robert Palacios. I'm the treasurer for the | 22 | the very early stages of discussion with him on what |
| 23 | governing council. We had just started using it, | 23 | this all looks like and what it all means. |
| 24 | this method, for this school year. | 24 | So I'm going to ask that we take a little |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: This next year | 25 | more time, a week or so, so that we can get our |
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| 1 | or the current? | 1 | answers -- our questions answered from the |
| 2 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: The current school | 2 | Illuminate folks, get some answers, come back to the |
| 3 | year that just ended. | 3 | school with, "What you've presented is great," or, |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: Okay. But the question really | 4 | "We think maybe we should tweak it and it should be |
| 5 | was about does -- what does this goal equate to. So | 5 | this." |
| 6 | the school had said that they were going to have a | 6 | I'm not sure yet. I don't have that |
| 7 | conversation with their Illuminate rep, and that | 7 | answer. And that, we'll -- we'll allow the school, |
| 8 | they would get back to us by the following Wednesday | 8 | certainly, the opportunity to provide input with |
| 9 | with some clarifying information. | 9 | that. And then we would make a final decision at |
| 10 | And I received a message from their -- I | 10 | the July meeting. |
| 11 | don't remember if it was the school or their | 11 | But right now, we just don't -- what |
| 12 | counsel -- that that information was not going to be | 12 | was -- what was provided, we don't have clarifying |
| 13 | available for that May target date. | 13 | information for it. |
| 14 | And the reason for that target date was we | 14 | So, you know, there's still questions. So |
| 15 | were still all together, so that it becomes very | 15 | the director has had the early discussions with |
| 16 | challenging when we can't meet to look at something. | 16 | them, and I think we can get to a place. But we're |
| 17 | The school did provide a goal. But once again, | 17 | not there at this point in time, because the |
| 18 | there was the big question of what does this really | 18 | information that we had asked for from the school to |
| 19 | mean? | 19 | say, "Please try to get this" -- that's not what -- |
| 20 | So I reached out to the director to see if | 20 | we weren't given really any clarifying information |
| 21 | he could find some information about Illuminate and | 21 | to -- for us to be able to make an adequate decision |
| 22 | to give us some clarifying information about the | 22 | here today. |
| 23 | goal, and/or would it be possible if we could simply | 23 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: Madam Chair, if I |
| 24 | capture off of the dashboard that's coming a | 24 | may ask? So we're moving away from the |
| 25 | year-and-a-half-growth per student; because that | 25 | year-and-a-half and working with Illuminate to |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | figure what standard we're going to use based off of | 1 | IEPs. By, you know, numerous lawsuits, we cannot -- |
| 2 | their short cycle assessments. | 2 | we cannot take out; because the goal, as you |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Correct. We won't be able to | 3 | indicated, is all students without IEPs. And we |
| 4 | capture that year-and-a-half. I'm not saying we're | 4 | cannot do that. |
| 5 | moving away from that year-and-a-half. It's | 5 | MS. ELAINE PALMA: So, Madam Chairperson, |
| 6 | probably not going to be worded as that target. But | 6 | and Commissioners, my name is Elaine Palma. I'm the |
| 7 | the goal is to try to figure out what pathway | 7 | secretary on the governing council. On the IEP, |
| 8 | Illuminate has that can bring us the closest to show | 8 | those students sometimes have to take alternative |
| 9 | us that that would be an approximation. | 9 | assessments. |
| 10 | That's what we're looking at; because we | 10 | THE CHAIR: We'll take care of that. The |
| 11 | don't have a clear sense at this point in time what | 11 | wording can't be "all students except those with |
| 12 | mastery really means with that, is this a -- is this | 12 | IEPs." |
| 13 | truly a rigorous goal. We need to dig deeper into | 13 | MS. ELAINE PALMA: That will be covered |
| 14 | Illuminate to see what exactly that all means. And | 14 | with the IEP with the individual student. |
| 15 | we don't have those questions answered yet. But the | 15 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: If I can interrupt |
| 16 | director -- and if you want to add anything, because | 16 | real quick? |
| 17 | you had the conversation. | 17 | THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. I forget there's |
| 18 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Sure. Madam Chair, | 18 | someone in that little box. |
| 19 | members of the Commission, leader -- sorry -- | 19 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: The reason why that |
| 20 | Dolores Huerta -- I think the area where we really | 20 | verbiage was on there is when we received the draft |
| 21 | want to figure out, and we haven't had a chance to | 21 | of the CAP, it stated that; so I left it, just |
| 22 | do so, is from a very quick review of the -- the | 22 | because it was already on the previous CAP. But |
| 23 | Corrective Action Plan that you shared with the | 23 | I'll more than gladly remove that verbiage. |
| 24 | Commission, there are some -- the goals in there, | 24 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Then we're good. |
| 25 | such as, you know, 71 percent of the students will | 25 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Thank you. |
|  | Page 139 |  | Page 141 |
| 1 | meet a certain percentage of set standards, we need | 1 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. I will say that we |
| 2 | to get a little bit more clear on what those | 2 | would like to move forward -- before any other |
| 3 | standards are. | 3 | decisions are made, we would like to move forward |
| 4 | From my understanding from my conversation | 4 | with the governance council training, because you |
| 5 | with Illuminate, there are essentially what I would | 5 | did -- and thank you -- provide that additional |
| 6 | call power standards, that the school chooses those | 6 | information. So we're going to try to move forward |
| 7 | specific standards in reading and math to really | 7 | with that sooner rather than later as well. |
| 8 | drive instruction and to drive student success. | 8 | But as you heard before, sooner rarely |
| 9 | What we just kind of need to learn a little bit more | 9 | exists in our world; so -- but we're going to work |
| 10 | about is, you know, the -- is 60 percent meeting | 10 | on that based on the feedback that you gave us. |
| 11 | expectation? Is that a rigorous goal for all | 11 | Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 12 | students to drive towards with Illuminate? | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So I was |
| 13 | And so my initial couple of conversations | 13 | incorrect; not my first time on this Illuminate. |
| 14 | with Simone, I still have some questions there. And | 14 | But you have the results from that, |
| 15 | I would love to -- if it pleases the Commission, | 15 | because you gave it; correct? On the short cycle |
| 16 | maybe we can do a -- a conference call with them or | 16 | assessment? Short cycle assessment? And so I |
| 17 | do some work together to come to -- from the -- from | 17 | wondered, of your students, how many -- it must |
| 18 | the Division side as well as from Dolores Huerta, to | 18 | test, like, proficiency; right? It has to tell you |
| 19 | really kind of coalesce our thoughts around kind of | 19 | something; so I'm assuming it's proficiency. |
| 20 | what is, like, a rigorous goal. What cohort of | 20 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: Ms. Miranda, can you |
| 21 | students are we looking at so that we just feel like | 21 | speak on that part? |
| 22 | there's something there that we can really show | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ms. Miranda, do |
| 23 | significant growth with students. | 23 | you understand that question? |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: But I will add a qualifier or | 24 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes. Unfortunately, |
| 25 | a clarifier, that we cannot exempt out students with | 25 | I can't answer that question. Because we started |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | with Illuminate later in the year; but we're | 1 | of those students who are returning already are |
| 2 | comparing apples to oranges. So how we can work it | 2 | proficient, or at least were proficient this year |
| 3 | so we can address the issue is we're going to give | 3 | was my point. Thank you. |
| 4 | the same assessment at the beginning of the year | 4 | THE CHAIR: And I think it'll just be |
| 5 | that we did at the end. | 5 | helpful if we have that conference call, and we |
| 6 | This year, because we were getting | 6 | can -- and, certainly, those that participated |
| 7 | familiar with Illuminate, we did not use the same | 7 | are -- you know, will be welcome in on that |
| 8 | assessment at the beginning to the end. So it was | 8 | conversation so that we can be able to provide the |
| 9 | just addressing the benchmarks in between. | 9 | best information and get a goal that is also going |
| 10 | Does that make sense? | 10 | to be useful for the school. |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: No. But -- | 11 | This is not something that we're trying to |
| 12 | well, you wanted me to be honest. I can see that | 12 | create that's -- that is something you have to do, |
| 13 | you can't see growth because it was the first time | 13 | but doesn't serve any purpose with the school as |
| 14 | you gave the test. And I have no idea what this | 14 | well. The purpose is to get the students to a |
| 15 | test -- I actually do not. But I thought it might | 15 | certain point. How are we going to do it? What |
| 16 | just show, like, "20 out of our 100 children are | 16 | should it be? And we want it to be -- to serve a |
| 17 | already proficient." But I don't know that. So | 17 | purpose for you. So hopefully, at least the |
| 18 | that's why I was asking. | 18 | conference call, we know we can get done fairly |
| 19 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Well, what happened | 19 | quickly. |
| 20 | is Illuminate has four different assessments. And | 20 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: Madam Chair, |
| 21 | they color-code them; so it's, like, orange, pink, | 21 | Commissioners, are there any more expectations or |
| 22 | green, blue. And the blue is the comprehensive | 22 | needs from La Academia at this point? |
| 23 | assessment. And we didn't give the comprehensive | 23 | THE CHAIR: At this point, no. No. |
| 24 | assessment at the beginning. We just have the | 24 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Madam Chair, if I |
| 25 | comprehensive at the end. | 25 | could, I'm familiar with Illuminate. I know there's |
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| 1 | So we don't know -- I could tell you like | 1 | different ways to administer and use of the |
| 2 | the end of the year; but I wouldn't know how many | 2 | software. One is just what the company provides, as |
| 3 | grew because we didn't give that same assessment at | 3 | what was mentioned, the different colors; they |
| 4 | the beginning of the year that we did to the end. | 4 | color-code the different assessments. So my |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: So assuming no growth, because | 5 | understanding, if I can ask for clarification, the |
| 6 | we wouldn't know that, did some students test | 6 | green assessment was the one that was given? |
| 7 | proficient? | 7 | THE CHAIR: I thought she said blue. |
| 8 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes. Yes, they did. | 8 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: I believe it was |
| 9 | But, of course, I mean, I'm going to be quite | 9 | orange. The blue was [incomprehensible] -- and that |
| 10 | honest, not as many as we would like. But we were | 10 | one wasn't given at the beginning. |
| 11 | working with the new Illuminate, getting our pacing | 11 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. |
| 12 | guides in order with illuminate, getting familiar | 12 | THE CHAIR: Sorry. |
| 13 | with it. | 13 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: That's okay. |
| 14 | So, you know, we're familiar with it; | 14 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: So orange is usually |
| 15 | we're working with Simone as well, to get it in | 15 | the fall assessment. |
| 16 | place so that we can have the [incomprehensible] to | 16 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: And that was given |
| 17 | show [incomprehensible] making growth we need to | 17 | in, I want to say end of October, beginning of |
| 18 | target in specific areas. | 18 | November. So we were trying to get our data rolled |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So when you're | 19 | over from how we share our system with LCPS. So we |
| 20 | writing the goals for those students who tested | 20 | had to work with them to acquire the data and to get |
| 21 | proficient this year, just out of the blue, so to | 21 | Illuminate to talk to our student system. |
| 22 | speak, some of those students won't be with you next | 22 | So it took us a while to implement |
| 23 | year because they're going into -- whatever -- high | 23 | Illuminate. But when we finally did, it was, I want |
| 24 | school or something. So some of those students | 24 | to say the end of October to the beginning of |
| 25 | would remain. So you would probably know how many | 25 | November that we gave the orange assessment. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. So was it | 1 | already given us some information what they feel |
| 2 | administered in October? | 2 | which standards would be beneficial for the students |
| 3 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes. | 3 | to learn so that they're successful in high school. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. And so you | 4 | And those are the standards that we would like to |
| 5 | never took the green in the spring? | 5 | target in our assessments, so that when the students |
| 6 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: We did take the | 6 | leave La Academia that they're successful in |
| 7 | green. And then we took the blue. But we can give | 7 | whatever high school they go to. |
| 8 | the blue at the beginning. So instead of giving the | 8 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. The last |
| 9 | orange, I feel that leads perfectly -- to see if | 9 | point is you all received your summative assessments |
| 10 | what the students grew comprehensively is I feel we | 10 | for your students earlier this month. Will you be |
| 11 | should have given the blue in October and then the | 11 | sharing that information when they become finalized |
| 12 | blue again in May so that we would be able to see | 12 | in July? |
| 13 | what -- the student growth over the year. | 13 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Can you clarify |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: So again, for | 14 | which summative assessments? |
| 15 | clarification, you do have three data points. | 15 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: The State summative |
| 16 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes. | 16 | assessment which was formerly known as PARCC. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. So you should | 17 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: I don't believe |
| 18 | be able to see growth or how the kids did. | 18 | we've received those yet. We had a governing |
| 19 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes, based on those | 19 | council meeting yesterday, and our instructional |
| 20 | particular standards. So my understanding is that | 20 | coach told us that -- who is also our testing |
| 21 | the orange only assesses the orange standards, | 21 | coordinator -- that we had not received any |
| 22 | according to the pacing guides that we use from | 22 | information at this time, yet. |
| 23 | Illuminate. So it doesn't necessarily tell us the | 23 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: I know they were |
| 24 | comprehensive. It's just for that -- like, that | 24 | released. The preliminary results were released a |
| 25 | quarter, I guess you could say. | 25 | couple of weeks ago. |
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| 1 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: That's correct. And | 1 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Okay. I'll get with |
| 2 | the purpose is to inform instruction. | 2 | her to make sure. |
| 3 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes, yes, and that's | 3 | THE CHAIR: So that hopefully by the July |
| 4 | probably -- | 4 | meeting, we would have that or -- |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: And -- which is why | 5 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Right. |
| 6 | it's not comprehensive. But you could see how the | 6 | THE CHAIR: Can you get us that |
| 7 | kids are performing according to the standards, you | 7 | information? |
| 8 | know, if they're progressing. | 8 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Can you repeat that? |
| 9 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes. Oh, yes, | 9 | THE CHAIR: The information from the |
| 10 | definitely. Definitely. I was just thinking more | 10 | summative assessments, can you just get that for us? |
| 11 | so we could see the growth from, you know, beginning | 11 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Yeah. We can work on |
| 12 | of the year to the end, it would be better to use | 12 | that. |
| 13 | the same assessment, which is the blue, the | 13 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. Okay. So there is no |
| 14 | comprehensive, to see how they did overall. | 14 | action to be taken at this point in time because |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: And for next year, | 15 | we're not voting on the CAP. But we will proceed |
| 16 | will you be using it in the same manner? Or will | 16 | forward, as I mentioned. We'll -- the director will |
| 17 | you be creating your own assessments for those | 17 | set up the conference call for us at some point in |
| 18 | different interims? | 18 | the near future, and we can get that clarifying |
| 19 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: We're working with | 19 | information so that we can have an appropriate |
| 20 | Simone to create -- well, we put a hold on it | 20 | benchmark for -- for the July meeting. |
| 21 | because we wanted to see where the CAP was going -- | 21 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Madam Chair, one |
| 22 | where we were going to be working on so that we | 22 | last clarifying question. |
| 23 | could -- we're working with Las Montañas to -- like, | 23 | Will you all be using Illuminate in |
| 24 | vertical alignment. | 24 | English and in Spanish, or just in English? |
| 25 | And they're going to help us -- they've | 25 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Currently, we are |


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|  | using Illuminate in English. And we chose that just |  | they're receiving services, then I have to give them |
| 2 | because when the students take the PARCC assessment | 2 | an assessment in Spanish. |
| 3 | we were trying to use it to give us a better | 3 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: That's up to the |
| 4 | indication of how the kids would score. They take | 4 | school to decide. And the direction has always been |
| 5 | the assessment in English. And that was the -- that | 5 | in what language will the student be most successful |
| 6 | was the reasoning behind the decision to just | 6 | in. But if you're dual-language, you should be |
| 7 | purchase the English. | 7 | monitoring both languages to make sure that -- if |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: This is a | 8 | you're back on the trajectory for biliteracy, then |
| 9 | dual-language school; correct? | 9 | you should be tracking both languages, and, you |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Yeah, it is. | 10 | know, making sure you're on track for the kids to |
| 11 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Yes, it is. | 11 | become biliterate. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: So how are you | 12 | That doesn't mean you have to offer both |
| 13 | monitoring the Spanish component? | 13 | tests in the same tool; but you have to have some |
| 14 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: The Spanish | 14 | type of monitoring. So if it's in Spanish, then you |
| 15 | component, we monitor their WIDA scores. And also | 15 | should be monitoring in English somehow. It doesn't |
| 16 | we worked with the bilingual director and the EL | 16 | have to be the same tool. It could be a different |
| 17 | teacher to monitor the students. | 17 | tool. And vice versa, if you're assessing them in |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. The WIDA | 18 | English, then you should have another assessment |
| 19 | scores are in English. My question is how are you | 19 | that's also tracking their Spanish development. |
| 20 | monitoring Spanish? | 20 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you so much. |
| 21 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: I'm sorry. It would | 21 | Oh, I'm sorry. |
| 22 | be the IPT then. I'm sorry. I always get those | 22 | MS. JENNY DUMAS: May I say just one quick |
| 23 | confused. | 23 | thing? I'm Jenny Dumas. I'm the attorney for the |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: So the WIDA ACCESS | 24 | school. I just wanted to clarify around process. |
| 25 | for ELLs, and IPT Spanish are both language | 25 | I'm hearing that there is going to be some more fact |
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| 1 | assessments. What about your content assessment in | 1 | development with regard to the capability of the |
| 2 | Spanish? | 2 | Illuminate program. |
| 3 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Well, those, we use | 3 | But my question is, is there going to be |
| 4 | the teacher-made assessments. And they also -- let | 4 | another ongoing coordination with the school and the |
| 5 | me clarify. So the assessment is in English; but we | 5 | Department and the subcommittee to reach an |
| 6 | do have the need to create and use the Common Core | 6 | agreement as to the terms of the CAP? |
| 7 | standards so that the teachers can create their own, | 7 | THE CHAIR: I said that, that we would, |
| 8 | and that also can be given in Spanish. | 8 |  |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: But it's not currently. | 9 | MS. JENNY DUMAS: Okay. I just wanted to |
| 10 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Just the benchmark | 10 | make sure of that. |
| 11 | assessments are given in English. | 11 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: Okay. | 12 | MS. JENNY DUMAS: Okay. |
| 13 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: But we do have the | 13 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Are we good? |
| 14 | ability to pull from Illuminate to generate the | 14 | Thank you so much. I appreciate the time. |
| 15 | assessments in both English and Spanish; just not | 15 | And thank you for traveling up. |
| 16 | the benchmarks right now. We're using just the | 16 | MR. ROBERT PALACIOS: Thank you. |
| 17 | English. But we can -- I mean, we can have that | 17 | MS. MELISSA MIRANDA: Thank you. |
| 18 | discussion to look at purchasing the Spanish | 18 | THE CHAIR: Thank you, little box. Voices |
| 19 | component. | 19 | come out of the table, and it's, like -- does anyone |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ruiz? | 20 | need a quick break? |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Madam Commissioner, | 21 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. |
| 22 | the -- my understanding -- and I assist as a test | 22 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: A lunch break? |
| 23 | coordinator -- is that if a student is receiving | 23 | THE CHAIR: No, no. |
| 24 | services, I've never understood that I had an option | 24 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: No coffee. Don't |
| 25 | to test them in English. My understanding was if | 25 | take 15 minutes to go get coffee. |

COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Eight minutes. THE CHAIR: Because there's very little left.
(Recess held, 12:40 p.m to 12:59 p.m.)
THE CHAIR: Okay. So we are on to Item
No. 10, Discussion and Possible Action on the Commencement of Operations. So that's always one of our happy notes.

And the first school that is up is Raíces del Saber Xinachtli. So, yes? Yes.

MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, I have a -- just a few -- a few comments that I'll share. But I wanted to direct you to Section 10. And within your -- within your folders, you'll find two different items for both schools -- I'll just share for both schools; they're similar.

You will find a peer review one-pager on a peer review process that we did for both schools with external reviewers. And then you will find the Implementation Year Checklist for both schools in Section 10.

THE CHAIR: My computer lost power; so... COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'm sorry. Where was that?
include meeting all conditions within the Commencement of Operation Indicator C Section, Pages
5 to 7 of the school's Implementation Year Checklist.

Raíces has provided a signed lease agreement and insurance documentation for its facility.

The facility Raíces plans to operate is currently under construction; however, the school has provided a timeline indicating the construction is projected to be complete by the beginning of August 2019.

Raíces anticipates receiving E-Occupancy certification by the third week of July. To date, Raíces has not hired any of its licensed teaching staff; although I wanted to share that the team may have updates for today.

Raíces provided a staff timeline indicating they plan to hire three licensed teachers by mid-June and two licensed education assistants by July. The school has met its projected kindergarten enrollment and 65 percent of its projected enrollment for first grade.

And they might have, again, other updates from today, given that, you know, they may have new

MS. VOIGT: Section 10.
THE CHAIR: It's the pink tab? See Tab 10 and go to the pink page. And it's right after the pink page is the Implementation Year Checklist. COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It's over here.
THE CHAIR: And as people are finding them, we, of course, have received updates as the information has been dropped throughout the year.

MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair and Commissioners, that's right. In regard to Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School, I have a few comments from the Charter School Division regarding their process and their Implementation Year Checklist.

Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School submitted an application to the Public Education Commission to become an authorized charter school, which was approved with conditions on August 23rd, 2019. Raíces attended ten meeting trainings throughout this year provided by the Charter School Division, beginning in September 2018 through April 2019.

Raíces has successfully submitted all documentation and submissions, when applicable, provided in the Implementation Year Checklist, to
enrollment numbers today.
THE CHAIR: Okay. The school is certainly welcome to come up now, if you can all fit. And you certainly are welcome to take more of these chairs that are up front here.

So good afternoon. Thank you all for traveling up. And if you would identify yourselves for the record.

MS. ANGELA STOCK: Good afternoon. My name is Angela Stock. I will be the principal for Raíces.

MS. EMMA ARMENDARIZ: I am Emma Armendariz. I'm the president of the governing board.

MR. CARLOS ACEVES: Carlos Aceves, one of the founders.

MR. FRED MOBLEY: Fred Mobley, CFO for IMA Asset Managers, the property manager for FYI, who owns the facility.

MS. LUCÍA CARMONA: Good afternoon. Lucía Carmona, co-founder, and starting July 1st, Director of Operations and Community Engagement.

THE CHAIR: So you're welcome to offer any and all updates that you might have.

MS. ANGELA STOCK: Okay. Well, first I

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | want to say that I am so excited to be on this | 1 | 27 parents, 15 have to step back, because we're not |
| 2 | venture with this amazing board and the founders | 2 | providing transportation this year. That is a great |
| 3 | that is Raíces del Saber Xinachtli. I -- this is a | 3 | big threat for us, in terms of -- so we would have |
| 4 | wonderful opportunity for students of Las Cruces. | 4 | more, maybe open another class if we can. |
| 5 | Some of the updates that Alan was talking | 5 | People are really excited receiving |
| 6 | about, we have scheduled, for next week, staff -- | 6 | this -- this -- this new model. We have -- out of |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Professional development? | 7 | those that are already enrolled, I have -- we have, |
| 8 | MS. ANGELA STOCK: Staff interviews. | 8 | like, 20 parents, more or less -- 20 parents that |
| 9 | Sorry. I have so much information in my head. | 9 | are monolingual English, and they really want their |
| 10 | Staff interviews. | 10 | children to become bilingual in Spanish and in |
| 11 | So we're going to go ahead and interview | 11 | English. |
| 12 | our office managers, our teacher assistants, and our | 12 | And then, actually, they're asking, "We'd |
| 13 | teachers. I have some strong leads on some special | 13 | like to receive support as parents to learn Spanish |
| 14 | education teachers. | 14 | as well"; of course, how they can help their child. |
| 15 | We are providing a part-time, halftime | 15 | Also we have right now, I can say, seven |
| 16 | special education teacher to be working with us. | 16 | parents that ask us, "Please, please consider have |
| 17 | And I have a -- a teacher who is very interested. | 17 | us secure for next year because we're involved in |
| 18 | That is one of the -- hiring a special education | 18 | Pre-K this year. And they want to be sure that the |
| 19 | bilingual teacher is one of the biggest hurdles, not | 19 | next year, things don't turn around for next year. |
| 20 | only for us, but also for LCPS, which is a big | 20 | That is the kind of response we have. |
| 21 | public school. So I'm really excited on this one | 21 | THE CHAIR: Okay. |
| 22 | teacher. | 22 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Madam Chair? |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Great. And we're as confident | 23 | So the school, I read that it's a 90/10 |
| 24 | as we can be that the building is going to be -- | 24 | model. And so it'll be a two-way model then; |
| 25 | they're laughing. | 25 | correct? |
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| 1 | MR. FRED MOBLEY: Yes, ma'am. We met with | 1 | MS. ANGELA STOCK: Yes, it will. |
| 2 | our contractor yesterday, and he felt very confident | 2 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Great. Perfect. |
| 3 | that we can finish up the building the last week in | 3 | THE CHAIR: Any other -- Commissioner |
| 4 | July. And so we -- he's been working on the | 4 | Armbruster? |
| 5 | building for about a month now. We've got our | 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. I'm |
| 6 | permit -- permit, and he's continuing on. So things | 6 | extremely conflicted. I think I've expressed that |
| 7 | are progressing right along. | 7 | since the beginning. Not against you; it's not that |
| 8 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. And you'll keep | 8 | I don't think a bilingual school is phenomenal. I |
| 9 | us posted if something comes up. | 9 | think a new way of learning is phenomenal. My issue |
| 10 | MS. ANGELA STOCK: Absolutely. | 10 | runs around capacity and the ability to run a very |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: Commissioners, are there any | 11 | good school. That's why we do all of this. |
| 12 | questions? | 12 | At the beginning, I'm actually -- to be |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Questions. | 13 | honest, I was shocked that with a 68 percent that |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Sure. | 14 | you even applied; because our goal was -- threshold, |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: How do the | 15 | I guess, was 95 percent. And so even after six |
| 16 | parents and the children break down as to your | 16 | months, when you remediated the issues of Did Not |
| 17 | community so far? And are you satisfied with your | 17 | Meet and brought some of the approaches up to Meets, |
| 18 | results and your target -- original target? | 18 | they still didn't go all the way up to Meets and |
| 19 | MS. LUCÍA CARMONA: Yes. At this point, | 19 | still didn't even hit that particular threshold that |
| 20 | we have a pool of 76 contracted parents coming. Out | 20 | we had set, which is lower now, by the way, but |
| 21 | of those $76-$-- I've got my numbers here -- 63. | 21 | then. |
| 22 | 37 kindergartens, 26 that wants to be in the first | 22 | And so even in the Implementation Year |
| 23 | grade. But really we just have a -- for just 20 | 23 | One, which I went through again, last night, it's |
| 24 | spots. | 24 | great that I see the growth. I admire you for |
| 25 | So -- but then, actually -- besides these | 25 | saying, "Hey, I didn't get that right. Let me do it |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | again." I think that's really an admirable quality | 1 | forward, we should be moving forward, because it |
| 2 | that many people do not have. They say, "No, I'm | 2 | doesn't help anything by keeping that in the back of |
| 3 | right." You were not that way and I really like | 3 | our mind. Because when they come in for anything, |
| 4 | that. | 4 | we're going to be laden with that. Or the |
| 5 | But of those -- and I may have miscounted; | 5 | perception on their side is that we are already |
| 6 | so let me say that -- there were 40 indicators, I | 6 | preconceived them as not being able to -- to -- to |
| 7 | guess is the word I want to use, where you had to | 7 | do it. |
| 8 | redo them; whereas, other schools may be doing 10 or | 8 | It's a new method. It's all Hispanic. It |
| 9 | 15 of them. So it concerns me that that shows | 9 | is bilingual. I still believe that learning both |
| 10 | capacity or doesn't show capacity to be able to run | 10 | languages is an advantage. It has been an advantage |
| 11 | this school well. | 11 | to my Anglo cohort students, the guys that I grew |
| 12 | On the other hand -- and I'm speaking out | 12 | up. They are now very successful because they |
| 13 | of both sides of my mouth -- is that I think that | 13 | learned both English and Spanish along with the rest |
| 14 | you have a strong principal. I think you have | 14 | of us. And to this point, they don't regret. |
| 15 | experience in doing this. It would concern me a | 15 | And even the African-American guys that I |
| 16 | little bit that we don't have teachers in place | 16 | went to school with, one of them is a counselor, and |
| 17 | already. Good that you've got a special ed teacher, | 17 | he works primarily in Hispanic schools. And he does |
| 18 | because that's the hard one; technically, a | 18 | very well, because he knows both languages. And he |
| 19 | bilingual one. | 19 | grew up in the barrio; he knows all the stuff that |
| 20 | So those are concerns that I have in terms | 20 | he needs to be able to help Chicanitos. |
| 21 | of timing, getting things in on time, getting them | 21 | And so I think that we need to move |
| 22 | done in a way that would lead you forward. Those | 22 | forward. The only question I have of the school is |
| 23 | are all concerns that I still have; because it's -- | 23 | a little definition of what -- the last word, which |
| 24 | it just didn't -- there was something missing, and I | 24 | is Nahuatl. What does that mean, and how do we pick |
| 25 | can't put my finger on it. | 25 | up the concept that you're trying to share with -- |
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| 1 | But as you know, when someone at the PEC | 1 | with the world? |
| 2 | chose to go back and check out your approaches and | 2 | MR. CARLOS ACEVES: I think that's a |
| 3 | to make them Meets, remember that. That was a | 3 | harder question than the Commissioner -- |
| 4 | totally different person, who, interestingly, after | 4 | Ms. Armbruster asked. |
| 5 | six months, still didn't find all of them to Meet, | 5 | Well, first of all, thank you for voicing |
| 6 | which is what our other applicants have had in the | 6 | your concerns. What -- we realized from the |
| 7 | past. | 7 | beginning that this project was not going to be an |
| 8 | So those are my concerns. And I'm just | 8 | easy one. And our goals were really -- you know, |
| 9 | expressing them, because I feel I should be honest. | 9 | talk about us setting a high standard. And then to |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Madam Chair? The | 10 | top it off, we're introducing a concept that's not |
| 11 | only thing I have to say with the summary is that we | 11 | readily known. |
| 12 | all have problems with how the procedure was | 12 | Xinachtli, that moment in time when a seed |
| 13 | initially. We all had problems. And the | 13 | bursts and is not yet a seed and not yet a plant, |
| 14 | Commissioner forgets that, keeps going back to those | 14 | either, it's a moment of infinite possibilities. |
| 15 | problems. | 15 | And as human beings, especially in this society, we |
| 16 | And I don't think we're at the point of | 16 | don't like to talk about infinite possibilities. We |
| 17 | rehashing problems. If -- if you need to tell a | 17 | want to be certain; we want to be concrete. We want |
| 18 | school, a prospective school, that you expect them | 18 | to see -- especially all of you -- we want to see |
| 19 | to stay on top of procedure, just say that. But to | 19 | data. And I understand that. I understand that. |
| 20 | discuss stuff that was totally wrong, and then it | 20 | But there's things happening in the |
| 21 | comes across laden with other stuff that I don't | 21 | educational world that are really something to note. |
| 22 | want to have to get into -- but I think we need to | 22 | And maybe when you go back, you could Google these |
| 23 | stop. We need to reflect on what happened in the | 23 | things. |
| 24 | past and leave it in the past. | 24 | About, you know, maybe just under ten |
| 25 | And if the school is already moving | 25 | years ago, in states across the United States, they |


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| 1 | started introducing a new training for teachers. I |  | original purpose of charter schools is to take |
| 2 | know that in Texas, this training was started two | 2 | chances with new things in education, to get the |
| 3 | years ago; in California, it was started five years | 3 | entire public education system moving along and not |
| 4 | ago. In other states. It's simply referred to as | 4 | stay stagnated on one procedure. So [Native |
| 5 | "circle training." | 5 | language spoken]. Thank you. |
| 6 | And what "circle training" is about is | 6 | MS. ANGELA STOCK: I'd also like to say |
| 7 | training teachers to engage students while they all | 7 | something if I could. Thank you for recognizing |
| 8 | sit in a circle, including the teacher, and how to | 8 | that I do have the experience to run a school. And |
| 9 | use that circle format to enhance academic projects, | 9 | that is exactly what I am going to be there for. |
| 10 | how, especially, it's used a lot for the emotive | 10 | As Mr. Aceves has said, the data piece, |
| 11 | side of child development. | 11 | that is something that I'm really -- that's my |
| 12 | Last -- just this year, I went to a | 12 | forte. And so I know that we can integrate all of |
| 13 | training at Region 19, a service agency provided by | 13 | these things together. |
| 14 | the Texas Education Association, to get my | 14 | And the uniqueness of the school was very |
| 15 | certification in first aid response to emotional | 15 | dear to my heart; because my roots -- and it's no |
| 16 | trauma in the classroom, which is now mandated by | 16 | coincidence that the school is called "Raíces" -- |
| 17 | the State of Texas. | 17 | also run deep within this culture. And having |
| 18 | And one-third of that training was this | 18 | worked for the public school districts for 25 |
| 19 | lady from California who specifically trained us on | 19 | years-plus, I have that experience to make it |
| 20 | circle interaction. And circle interaction is | 20 | possible. Thank you. |
| 21 | something that the Xinachtli project has been doing | 21 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 22 | for 25 years. | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Apparently, I |
| 23 | When I entered the classroom 25 years, | 23 | didn't say that very clearly. So I just want to |
| 24 | that's one of the first things I did. I didn't know | 24 | clarify what my concerns were. It was never about |
| 25 | that they would later call it "circle training." | 25 | what you were going to do or even how you were going |
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| 1 | But the idea of sitting in a circle and interacting | 1 | to do it. It wasn't about dual language. In fact, |
| 2 | in a circle and ways to use that interaction to | 2 | I was just having a conversation with Commissioner |
| 3 | enhance human development, academic development, | 3 | Chavez, like, I wish I had learned these things. |
| 4 | it's not ten years old; it's thousands of years old. | 4 | So it isn't about that. My concern came |
| 5 | It's part of the heritage of this state being a | 5 | from the performance and the data that was having to |
| 6 | state with an indigenous population. It is part of | 6 | be turned in from when you learned from the CSD what |
| 7 | indigenous culture. | 7 | was going on. It had nothing to do with the |
| 8 | All indigenous cultures, all indigenous | 8 | bilingual program. |
| 9 | societies, whether you go to the Hopi or Zuni Pueblo | 9 | And I really want to make that clear, |
| 10 | here, or to the Lakota, or to any nation in Mexico, | 10 | because those are two totally separate things for |
| 11 | when they traditionally sit down to make decisions | 11 | me. My concerns came from the quality of work that |
| 12 | for their community, they don't sit like we're | 12 | was coming in, not from what you were going to do. |
| 13 | sitting, where the authorities are on one side and | 13 | And I did Google it, and I did read about |
| 14 | the presenters on another. | 14 | it before. So that was never an issue for me. And |
| 15 | They sit in a circle. It's sacred. | 15 | I just wanted to clarify that, because I didn't want |
| 16 | Sacred, not because it's religious or spiritual. | 16 | you to think that I didn't think what you were going |
| 17 | Sacred because it's the way we humans best interact, | 17 | to do or your plans weren't good. I just wanted to |
| 18 | when we're all in a circle and feel that we're all | 18 | make that clear. |
| 19 | at the same level. And when you take that to | 19 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of |
| 20 | children, believe me, you know, it's something | 20 | the Commission, Raíces team, I believe, in my -- |
| 21 | natural to them. | 21 | from the Planning Year Checklist, I believe the |
| 22 | So I hope I've answered your question, and | 22 | E-Occupancy is going to be by the third week in |
| 23 | I hope that -- I want to thank you and the rest of | 23 | July? And I just wanted to see if that is -- if |
| 24 | you for taking a chance; because this is a chance on | 24 | that's squaring up right now in terms of the |
| 25 | something that's really innovative, which is the | 25 | construction. Because I think you may have said it |


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| 1 | might not have been ready by that time. I just | 1 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. |
| 2 | wanted to clarify that timeline before we move on. | 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 3 | MR. FRED MOBLEY: That is correct. The | 3 | Crone? |
| 4 | E-Occupancy, the Certificate of Occupancy for the | 4 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: No. |
| 5 | building will be given once the construction is | 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 6 | complete. And so we anticipate that we'll actually | 6 | Raftery? |
| 7 | have that within a couple of days of finishing up | 7 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. |
| 8 | the last inspection. | 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: And, of course, our motion | 9 | Chavez? |
| 10 | will reflect pending the E-Occupancy being sent. So | 10 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. |
| 11 | that's -- you know, that will just be the format | 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 12 | that when you do get it, that you forward a copy of | 12 | Gipson? |
| 13 | that to CSD so that we -- so that we have that. | 13 | THE CHAIR: Yes. |
| 14 | Are there any other questions? | 14 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 15 | (No response.) | 15 | Armbruster votes "No." |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: I'll entertain a motion. | 16 | It passes. |
| 17 | MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair? | 17 | THE CHAIR: Motion passes eight-to-two. |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? | 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes. |
| 19 | MS. VOIGT: I'd like to move that the | 19 | THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. |
| 20 | Public Education Commission approve the Commencement | 20 | Congratulations. |
| 21 | of Operations for Raíces -- for -- I'm not going to | 21 | And, secondly, Solare. |
| 22 | say the whole name -- but for Raíces. | 22 | (A discussion was held off the record.) |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Second. | 23 | THE CHAIR: You're just cruising around |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: I think the motion needs to | 24 | your old stomping grounds. |
| 25 | reflect the full legal name of the school. Sorry. | 25 | DEP. SEC. AGUILAR: Madam Chair, good |
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| 1 | MS. VOIGT: Okay. That's okay. Raíces | 1 | morning. |
| 2 | del Saber Xinachtli Community School. | 2 | THE CHAIR: Welcome. |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Pending -- | 3 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of |
| 4 | MS. VOIGT: Pending E-Occupancy. Yes. | 4 | the Commission, in similar parallel structure, |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Second. | 5 | you'll find the Implementation Year Checklist, as |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by | 6 | well as the peer review one-pager in your |
| 7 | Commissioner Voigt, a second by Commissioner | 7 | information packets. |
| 8 | Caballero. | 8 | I have a few comments on Solare as well |
| 9 | Any further discussion? | 9 | from the Charter School Division. |
| 10 | (No response.) | 10 | Solare Collegiate Charter School submitted |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: If not, roll call, please. | 11 | an application to the PEC to become a |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 12 | State-authorized charter school that was approved on |
| 13 | Robbins? | 13 | the 24th of August, 2018. The Solare's leadership |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 14 | team attended ten monthly trainings provided by the |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 15 | Charter School Division beginning in September of |
| 16 | Caballero? | 16 | 2018 through April 2019, so has successfully |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 17 | submitted all documentation and resubmissions, when |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 18 | applicable, required within the Implementation Year |
| 19 | Voigt? | 19 | Checklist, to include meeting all conditions within |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 20 | the Commencement of Operations, Section C indicator, |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 21 | Pages 5 to 7 of the school's Implementation Year |
| 22 | Ruiz? | 22 | Checklist. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. | 23 | Solare has provided a signed lease |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 24 | agreement, insurance documentation, and E-Occupancy |
| 25 | Davis? | 25 | certification for the temporary location the school |


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| 1 | will operate at until it is able to move into its | 1 | difficulties. So at least we're sure that you can |
| 2 | permanent facility tentatively scheduled for January | 2 | open when the first day of school starts. So |
| 3 | 2020. | 3 | that's -- that's exciting. It truly is. |
| 4 | As of June 10th, the school is fully | 4 | So, Commissioners, any questions? If |
| 5 | staffed with all licensed and non-licensed | 5 | not -- |
| 6 | personnel, and has met over 90 percent of its | 6 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I just forget |
| 7 | projected enrollment target. And they may have | 7 | where are they going to set up the school. |
| 8 | additional -- similar to Raíces, they may have | 8 | THE CHAIR: Well, temporarily, they're |
| 9 | additional updates as well based on their | 9 | going to be in the old SAHQ school that we closed, |
| 10 | [inaudible]. | 10 | unfortunately, last July. And then they're in the |
| 11 | THE CHAIR: And if you would all just | 11 | South Valley. |
| 12 | identify yourself for the record. | 12 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: We got our official |
| 13 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: My name is Rachael | 13 | address yesterday. |
| 14 | Sewards, lead founder and head of school for Solare | 14 | THE CHAIR: Oh, did you? |
| 15 | Collegiate. | 15 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: So, yes, that was |
| 16 | MR. DAN HILL: Madam Chair, members of the | 16 | assigned to us. We're on Gibson just east of 98th. |
| 17 | Commission, I'm Dan Hill, counsel for Solare. | 17 | Do you know where the Walgreens is located there? |
| 18 | MR. PETER LORENZ: Peter Lorenz, vice | 18 | Barbados is a side street that goes into a little |
| 19 | chair of the governing board. | 19 | community. We're right there on the corner. |
| 20 | MS. CAMILLE VASQUEZ: Hello. My name is | 20 | THE CHAIR: You're building on how many |
| 21 | Camille Vasquez, governing board secretary, part of | 21 | portables? It's not portables; it's manufactured. |
| 22 | the finance and academic committee. | 22 | Is manufactured better or what? |
| 23 | MR. SUBRAMANIAN IYER: I'm Subramanian | 23 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: Because of all the |
| 24 | Iyer. I'm the treasurer and the chairman of the | 24 | City requirements for buildings, facades and |
| 25 | finance committee. | 25 | whatnot, we were actually able to transition to |
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| 1 | (A discussion was held off the record.) | 1 | doing a site-built building, keeping on the same |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: And I just want to say, just | 2 | timeline and the same budget. So we're having a |
| 3 | as an aside, it was never a good thing when the | 3 | site-built building. It'll be -- right now the plan |
| 4 | former General Counsel and the former Deputy | 4 | is three separate buildings with connected walkways. |
| 5 | Secretary were sitting in this room at the same | 5 | We may transition to doing two buildings. |
| 6 | time. It was never a good omen for us. So this is, | 6 | THE CHAIR: Okay. That's great. And I |
| 7 | you know, different times. | 7 | know -- there were -- could you just clarify, for |
| 8 | So welcome. Thank you. | 8 | our own curiosity, what that impact study was that |
| 9 | So anything that you want to add? If not, | 9 | the City -- because it's something we haven't really |
| 10 | we'll open it up for questions. Okay? | 10 | faced before, and we don't know what its potential |
| 11 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: Just very briefly, | 11 | is to other schools as we're moving forward. |
| 12 | we are fully staffed. We are very excited, in that | 12 | MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: Yeah. So the City |
| 13 | we have two special ed teachers hired because of our | 13 | of Albuquerque redid their zoning requirements. |
| 14 | high special ed population. And we have a part-time | 14 | They recoded all the zone -- the different zone |
| 15 | PE teacher who also has SpEd credentials who said | 15 | areas for the City. And in addition to that, as |
| 16 | she'll come on full-time if the need shows itself. | 16 | part of the building requirements, they added |
| 17 | We're at 93 percent of enrollment, 144 students out | 17 | something called a "Neighborhood Impact Study," |
| 18 | of our anticipated 156. And we're getting a lot of | 18 | which is a series of just collecting data about |
| 19 | family referrals coming in each week. | 19 | the -- the current number of cars, vehicles that are |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: And I just want to say thank | 20 | in a specific area, and anticipating what the impact |
| 21 | you for the contingency plan. I think things, you | 21 | would be of a new building; or new school, in |
| 22 | know, were constantly changing in terms of that. | 22 | particular. |
| 23 | And it's -- once again, as we talked before, it's | 23 | It's a requirement that is -- for a couple |
| 24 | the challenges of not being able to find public | 24 | of different types of buildings; but educational |
| 25 | buildings. And that's where we're all facing those | 25 | institutions would be one of those requirements. |

THE CHAIR: And I would assume there was a cost factor to that. Yes?

MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: As far as for us? Yes.

THE CHAIR: You had to conduct the impact study; so there was a cost to that.

MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: Yes. Uh-huh.
THE CHAIR: Around about what was it?
MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: $\$ 14,000$.
THE CHAIR: Yeah. So when you're talking of start-up schools, and that gets thrown in when it wasn't certainly in the budget because no one knew, it's -- yeah.

So I think that's -- you know, something that at least we can inform other schools going forward that they're probably going to have to face the same. So it's -- it's just useful information for us.

Sorry you had to go through it; but it's good for us going forward to know it.

So if there's nothing else, I'll entertain a motion.

MS. VOIGT: I'll make the motion.
THE CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Voigt?
COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yeah. I'd like to

THE CHAIR: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Raftery?

COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Armbruster votes "Yes."

Commissioner Robbins?
COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner
Crone?
COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Caballero?

COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Ruiz?

COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ten-to-zero
vote. The motion passes.
THE CHAIR: Motion passes, ten-zero.
Thank you very much. You already had the E-Occupancy for that building; so that's -- we're good, then.

MS. RACHAEL SEWARDS: If any of the Commissioners are available in Albuquerque on

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move that the Public Education Commission approve the Commencement of Operations for Solare Collegiate Charter School.

COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Second. Being in my district.

THE CHAIR: There's a --
COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: They'll be in my district.

THE CHAIR: There's a motion by Commissioner Voigt; there's a second by Commissioner Caballero.

Any further discussion?
(No response.)
THE CHAIR: Roll call, please.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Chavez?

COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Voigt?

COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Davis?

COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner Gipson?

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Tuesday at 11:00, we're doing a ground-breaking ceremony, and you're all welcome to attend.

THE CHAIR: Thanks. So, Commissioners, we bulked all of the contracts into one motion; right? So that what I'm going to propose is that there's just one vote with all the contracts, unless, through what any Commissioners have read, if they wish to speak about something in particular with a school. Otherwise, we'll just go with this one motion.

But all of the schools, just to be aware, all of the schools have to be identified individually in the motion; so it's not just "all the schools."

And as we do this, I want to thank the schools that are here present and all the schools that are here present for fitting into our really tight schedule. Because of what happened during the Legislative Session and trying to get it all done for lease reimbursement, it really was difficult, and we appreciate all the time -- the conversation.

Because, for me, that's always the great thing about doing those contract negotiations is you do get to see the schools individually and have a conversation about them, and you learn sometimes

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | things you don't want to know; but most of the time | 1 | Robbins? |
| 2 | things that you do want to know about the school. | 2 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
| 3 | So it's -- it's always very interesting | 3 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 4 | for me to do that. And I want to thank, once again, | 4 | Caballero? |
| 5 | all of the Commissioners that took the time out to | 5 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. |
| 6 | travel all around and be part of the contract | 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 7 | negotiations. | 7 | Voigt? |
| 8 | So is there any discussion? | 8 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. |
| 9 | (No response.) | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: If not, I'll entertain a | 10 | Ruiz? |
| 11 | motion. | 11 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. |
| 12 | MS. VOIGT: Madam Chair? | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: Sure. | 13 | Armbruster votes "Yes." |
| 14 | MS. VOIGT: I'll make the motion. | 14 | Commissioner Crone? |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Oh, sure. | 15 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 16 | MS. VOIGT: I move that the Public | 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 17 | Education Commission approve the 2019 charter | 17 | Davis? |
| 18 | contracts and performance frameworks, including | 18 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. |
| 19 | mission-specific goals, for the following schools | 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 20 | and their contract terms: | 20 | Gipson? |
| 21 | Alma d'Arte, 2019 to 2022. | 21 | THE CHAIR: Yes. |
| 22 | Cesar Chavez, 2019 to 2024. | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 23 | Explore Academy, 2019 to 2024. | 23 | Chavez? |
| 24 | La Academia Dolores Huerta, 2019 to 2021. | 24 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. |
| 25 | Middle College High School, 2019 to 2024. | 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ten-to-zero |
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| 1 | New Mexico School for the Arts, 2019 to | 1 | vote. Motion passes. |
| 2 | 2024. | 2 | THE CHAIR: Motion passes, ten-zero. |
| 3 | School of Dreams Academy, 2019 to 2024. | 3 | Congratulations to all, and thank you once again. |
| 4 | Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics and | 4 | We appreciate all the work you do every day. |
| 5 | Science Academy, 2019 to 2024. | 5 | (Applause.) |
| 6 | Southwest Preparatory Learning Center, | 6 | THE CHAIR: We are on to Item No. 12, |
| 7 | 2019 to 2024. | 7 | which is Discussion and Possible Action on Revisions |
| 8 | Southwest Secondary Learning Center, 2019 | 8 | to the Renewal Application and Amendment Request |
| 9 | to 2024. | 9 | Forms with reference to A-to-F. Yesterday, we went |
| 10 | Taos Academy, 2019 to 2024. | 10 | through, and hopefully purged out, any vestiges to |
| 11 | And our new schools: We have Raíces del | 11 | the A-to-F. As the Deputy Director said this |
| 12 | Saber Xinachtli Community School and Solare | 12 | morning, we'll probably come across the line where |
| 13 | Collegiate Charter School. | 13 | A-to-F still exists." |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: I second. | 14 | But we did some good work there yesterday |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I second. | 15 | and hopefully make it a little bit clearer going |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: We're now fighting over this. | 16 | forward as for these forms. |
| 17 | There's a motion by Commissioner Voigt, a second by | 17 | So if there's no discussion -- is there |
| 18 | Commissioner Raftery. | 18 | discussion on this? Because most of us were there |
| 19 | Any further discussion? | 19 | yesterday. |
| 20 | (No response.) | 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: We didn't |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: If not, roll call, please. | 21 | substantially change things. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 22 | THE CHAIR: We didn't change anything |
| 23 | Raftery? | 23 | other than placing language that would be more |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 24 | appropriate to the current accountability system and |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 25 | removing out the references to A-to-F. But, |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | otherwise, the forms and the renewal application, | 1 | ten-zero. |
| 2 | there were no changes to the intent of those forms | 2 | We're on to Item No. 13. We had really a |
| 3 | or the processes; it was simply any identification | 3 | very robust conversation yesterday about |
| 4 | of the A-to-F grading system, which no longer | 4 | reengagement. Once again, we're not in a place |
| 5 | exists. So we had to place in what the new language | 5 | where I hoped we could be with that. We really got |
| 6 | that was appropriate to the new accountability | 6 | a lot of work done, and I think the discussion was |
| 7 | system. So... | 7 | more than valuable. And we have a clearer sense of |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Madam Chair, I move | 8 | I think where we need to go with this. |
| 9 | that the Public Education Commission adopt the | 9 | So we're on the move to finalizing this |
| 10 | revisions to the PEC renewal application and | 10 | maybe -- maybe in October? Maybe? You, know, |
| 11 | amendment request forms referencing to A-to-F school | 11 | 'Cause we might have a short work session in August. |
| 12 | grades. | 12 | But it depends on the number of schools with the new |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Second. | 13 | applicants. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Second. | 14 | So the schedule is a little in flux until |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by | 15 | we know exactly how many schools that we have to |
| 16 | Commissioner Robbins; there's a second by | 16 | hear for the new applications. So if we can |
| 17 | Commissioner Chavez. | 17 | continue that work in August, that would be great. |
| 18 | Seeing no further discussion -- because | 18 | But then it would be October. |
| 19 | you can't see discussion... | 19 | So that was just that -- you know, that |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So on renewal, | 20 | little update. So there's no vote to be taken at |
| 21 | Commissioner Armbruster votes "Yes." | 21 | this point in time. Just for those that couldn't |
| 22 | Commissioner Robbins? | 22 | make it yesterday, it really was a very valuable |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 23 | discussion. And I appreciate Tani from Cesar Chavez |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 24 | coming up and all the work that she does, not only |
| 25 | Caballero? | 25 | what they do at the school, but truly in the |
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| 1 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 1 | research and promoting and moving forward, the |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 2 | discussion about reengagement schools. She helps |
| 3 | Voigt? | 3 | keep it out there when sometimes we kind of forget; |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 4 | because it is -- you know, it's not that many of our |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 5 | schools. And you don't want to say, "Oh, well, it |
| 6 | Chavez? | 6 | doesn't matter." And it does. So we need to get |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 7 | this -- this work done. |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 8 | So that's just my little update there. |
| 9 | Davis. | 9 | The discussion and possible action on the |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 10 | memorandum of understanding. |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 11 | For those of you that haven't been around, |
| 12 | Raftery? | 12 | there is actually a memorandum of understanding |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 13 | between us and the CSD. It is old, and, really, all |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 14 | it does is reiterate statute in the language of the |
| 15 | Gipson? | 15 | MOU. So it really isn't an effective working |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 16 | relationship; it doesn't establish that. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 17 | So we had a preliminary discussion. |
| 18 | Ruiz? | 18 | Myself, legal counsel, Deputy Secretary Bobroff and |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. | 19 | the Director had a preliminary discussion -- I think |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 20 | it was April? And our legal counsel gave a "Let's |
| 21 | Crone? | 21 | start the conversation here" document. And they are |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. | 22 | scheduled to meet -- June 22nd? |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ten-to-zero | 23 | MR. CHAIKEN: 25 th. |
| 24 | vote. Passes. | 24 | THE CHAIR: So there will be further |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Motion passed | 25 | discussion about this, our legal counsel, PED's |


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| 1 | legal counsel and the Director will be there to | 1 | ducks in a row. But then the first day of school |
| 2 | further this conversation. And hopefully, it would | 2 | comes, and it's, "What do I do?" And, "I didn't |
| 3 | be really nice if we could have that MOU in place | 3 | know that this was going to happen." |
| 4 | for the August meeting. | 4 | There's just -- you know, anything can |
| 5 | It would be great if it could be available | 5 | happen, as you all know. |
| 6 | for the July meeting. But, you know, we weren't | 6 | So what I am proposing is that we set up |
| 7 | originally targeting to have a July meeting. But it | 7 | a -- and I've referred to this publicly, but it's |
| 8 | really would be great if it could be available for | 8 | probably not a politically correct term -- to set up |
| 9 | us to agree to in July; but, absolutely, for August. | 9 | a "SWAT" team. |
| 10 | So I think it's really going to -- to help move | 10 | MS. VOIGT: "SWOT," meaning S-W-O-T; |
| 11 | things forward and clarify a lot. | 11 | right? O-T, not A-T. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And, Madam Chair, | 12 | THE CHAIR: So that we have more people |
| 13 | is the MOU between PED and us, or -- | 13 | that can come in, whenever there's an identified |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: It is. | 14 | issue in a school, throughout the school year, to |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: -- or the | 15 | say, "Hey, we've got these people here that can come |
| 16 | Division and us? | 16 | in and can spend a day." |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Well, CSD is part of the | 17 | And I know the Director and I have spoken. |
| 18 | Division. So the formal agreement is between us and | 18 | And that's in the budget. But I think we need to |
| 19 | PED. | 19 | amp it up a little bit for the first week of school, |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And we mention | 20 | minimally, for the new schools that are opening, and |
| 21 | the Division? | 21 | say, "Here you go. Here's your guy," or "Here's |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: Absolutely, yes. Yeah. So it | 22 | your gal. And they're yours for the week." |
| 23 | does help to sort of codify, solidify the | 23 | This is a no-questions -- no-judgment |
| 24 | relationships. And certainly, it'll be in the | 24 | zone. Thank you. Not a no-question zone. A |
| 25 | packet for your perusal before the meeting. Okay? | 25 | no-judgment zone. So this isn't they're going to |
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| 1 | All right. Wow, we're moving on here. | 1 | rat back, unless there is a health-and-safety |
| 2 | Discussion and Possible Action for Contract for | 2 | concern. Then there has to be a call-out. |
| 3 | Support -- oh, yes, that's mine as well. | 3 | But this is a person who's going to be |
| 4 | So we've been talking about this for a | 4 | there to offer whatever help and support that |
| 5 | long time. We identify that there are particular | 5 | individual needs to make sure that that school |
| 6 | needs that a new head administrator has when they're | 6 | starts off on a good foot. |
| 7 | coming into a charter school. | 7 | MS. VOIGT: You know, having lived that |
| 8 | And those are two -- and there's actually | 8 | that you just spoke of, I think, also -- I think the |
| 9 | two different avenues there. Someone who's | 9 | first week of school is not a good time for that; |
| 10 | experienced as a head administrator from a | 10 | number one, because the principal is going to be |
| 11 | traditional public school, so that they've got at | 11 | buried, literally, with lifting off that first |
| 12 | least the strong administrative background going | 12 | school year. But I think a good time frame might be |
| 13 | into what an administrator does, they still need | 13 | within the first 90 days, you know, depending on |
| 14 | help in being a mini-superintendent. So that's one | 14 | what is in place already; because every new charter |
| 15 | need, not as intense as the need when someone hasn't | 15 | school principal is building the ship while they're |
| 16 | been a head administrator anywhere and now is a head | 16 | sailing it, really. So -- and a lot of |
| 17 | administrator at a charter school; because it's a | 17 | administrators don't know what they don't know in |
| 18 | double whammy. | 18 | that regards. |
| 19 | "I'm not sure, you know, really, what I'm | 19 | But I think the first week of school would |
| 20 | doing here as a head administrator, but I also need | 20 | not be the most opportune time, having been through |
| 21 | to conduct myself in many ways as a superintendent," | 21 | that, I think; but within the first 90 days for |
| 22 | so that there's -- it is a stressful situation. And | 22 | sure. And then an as-needed, on-call basis to |
| 23 | if you put that burden additionally on opening up a | 23 | whatever the liaison or the mentor is going to |
| 24 | brand new school, that's just one more layer to the | 24 | provide would be good, just having that open door or |
| 25 | concern, because you can think you've got all your | 25 | open-phone-call piece. But I think just that first |


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| 1 | week, it's pretty compacted. | 1 | for the school to figure that out. |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: And that's part of my concern. | 2 | But it is -- they are just as that, you |
| 3 | And I also have a concern, especially with new | 3 | know, little guardian angel to say, "We're here to |
| 4 | schools, that if something really goes south and we | 4 | help." |
| 5 | don't know it, there has to be someone there. | 5 | MS. VOIGT: I just really think it's |
| 6 | MS. VOIGT: I think also we don't want to | 6 | hovering. |
| 7 | micromanage. If we're hovering over this new | 7 | THE CHAIR: I think it's up to us to |
| 8 | administrator who's really trying to set the culture | 8 | establish that criteria for whoever does it so that |
| 9 | for his or her school and really trying to be the | 9 | they're clear that they're not hovering. |
| 10 | one, that's a really crucial time for a new | 10 | But I have -- based on especially the |
| 11 | principal. And I think someone there, you know, in | 11 | openings this year, I have -- I have serious |
| 12 | that capacity might be -- it might be a little -- | 12 | concerns with not being around. |
| 13 | not necessarily a threat; but I think it's something | 13 | MS. VOIGT: Uh-huh. You know, I think the |
| 14 | that might not be fully appreciated or -- it might | 14 | administrators that are choosing to open charter |
| 15 | not have the intention -- the intention might not be | 15 | schools -- and I know in New Mexico, there's pretty |
| 16 | taken as it's intended. Do you know what I mean? I | 16 | strong administrators, because at least 98.9 percent |
| 17 | just think that first week is not a good time. | 17 | of them are coming from previous administrative |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: They might not | 18 | experiences with traditional public schools. |
| 19 | know what they don't know. | 19 | But -- and the community of charter |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: I'm going to reflect back to | 20 | schools in New Mexico is really strong, and there is |
| 21 | someone I spoke to and had several conversations | 21 | a lot of collaboration, thanks to the Charter School |
| 22 | with that actually sat -- I don't know if they sat | 22 | Division and the Public Charter Schools of |
| 23 | as the charter school director; but they worked for | 23 | New Mexico, in bringing these folks together to |
| 24 | the Charter School Division back when there were no | 24 | share, you know, as either in a critical friends |
| 25 | State-authorized charters; it was only APS charters. | 25 | group or best practice sessions, and then Luncheon |
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| 1 | So -- but there was a Charter School Division. | 1 | Learns. |
| 2 | And -- and a number of other people -- | 2 | But I think coming from an authorizer, |
| 3 | MS. VOIGT: There's only a Charter School | 3 | okay -- maybe if it's passed off to the Charter |
| 4 | Division that came with the State-chartered schools. | 4 | School Division as a support model; but coming from |
| 5 | That's when the Charter School Division was created. | 5 | an authorizer, it's going to look like hovering. |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: They worked for PED, and they | 6 | And I speak to this as a former charter school |
| 7 | did the support for charter schools. And it was | 7 | founder -- the first State charter school in |
| 8 | APS. This is where the conversation actually | 8 | New Mexico, having paved the way for a lot of these |
| 9 | started. | 9 | schools to come through. That's how I would see it. |
| 10 | But I'm going to say that from all the new | 10 | THE CHAIR: But I'm going to say they're |
| 11 | administrators that I have spoken to, they thought | 11 | the compliance component. We're not. |
| 12 | it was -- it would have been a value. Because I | 12 | MS. VOIGT: Right. Right. |
| 13 | want to make it clear we're not looking to | 13 | THE CHAIR: So you put the Charter School |
| 14 | micromanage. | 14 | Division in. Now it's a compliance issue. |
| 15 | MS. VOIGT: Okay. Yeah. | 15 | COMMISIONER VOIGT: And that's why it's |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: This is not a -- this is not | 16 | [incomprehensible] micro-managing, because it's |
| 17 | an evaluation. | 17 | compliance. |
| 18 | MS. VOIGT: Right. | 18 | THE CHAIR: But you said you'd prefer to |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: We are not there to say, "This | 19 | have the Charter School Division -- |
| 20 | is what you should do." | 20 | MS. VOIGT: That's my schtick, and I'm |
| 21 | This person is going to be there just to | 21 | going to stay with it, because I think the first |
| 22 | say -- just so someone can say, "What should I do?" | 22 | week is hectic as you-know-what. |
| 23 | They're not there to say -- unless it's, | 23 | THE CHAIR: That's exactly why I'm saying |
| 24 | once again, a health-and-safety issue, they're not | 24 | the support needs to be there. |
| 25 | there to say, "Don't do it that way." Because it's | 25 | MS. VOIGT: It shouldn't be there. You |


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| 1 | have to give the administrator freedom and liberty | 1 | in the building the first week, further stressing |
| 2 | to run their school, and learn by doing so is | 2 | out the principal that's trying to get the school |
| 3 | important. Learning by doing is really important. | 3 | off the ground. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Madam Chair, I | 4 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ruiz? |
| 5 | think it's a good concept, that I support the idea | 5 | MS. VOIGT: And that's all I'm going to |
| 6 | that it should be done. I know I gave to some new | 6 | say. |
| 7 | directors during the conferences, "Just make sure | 7 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: And I have to say that |
| 8 | this is what needs to happen. This is what needs to | 8 | I tend to agree with you. I'll tell you why. |
| 9 | happen. This is what we look at." | 9 | Because I work still in the traditional public |
| 10 | Some of them knew, and some of them were | 10 | school. And I'm just saying that for three weeks, |
| 11 | surprised, like, "Oh, shit." | 11 | you -- it's just, like -- like, literally, you see a |
| 12 | (A discussion was held off the record.) | 12 | flash, a bolt, and that's me. And the principal is |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And so my take is | 13 | the other flash going the other way. |
| 14 | that we provide it somehow -- I'm sorry -- that we | 14 | It is really, really hectic at the |
| 15 | have something that -- that says, "I'm a new | 15 | beginning. |
| 16 | administrator, upcoming administrator." So this is | 16 | Maybe an alternative -- and Karyl Ann -- |
| 17 | prior to the first week of opening. Then after the | 17 | Commissioner Armbruster and I were just discussing |
| 18 | first week of opening, within the first 90 days is | 18 | that. Perhaps an alternative to that might be -- |
| 19 | how -- "Now, how do I administer this new school?" | 19 | because I do think new principals and new charter |
| 20 | Because there's a bunch of stuff that you need to do | 20 | schools leaders do need some kind of guidance. I |
| 21 | to open a school. | 21 | don't know how they would take to that because, |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: Uh-huh. | 22 | honestly, I know how busy it is. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: That's not the | 23 | But perhaps there might be a way that |
| 24 | same as when you already started it. | 24 | prior to the opening of that school, you know, or of |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 25 | the school year, it's like, "Okay, you know what? |
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| 1 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Once you started | 1 | In one of the trainings that we're doing..." -- |
| 2 | it, there's -- make mistakes and learn. But we | 2 | whatever, however you all determine that --"...we're |
| 3 | could minimize the mistakes, because mistakes are | 3 | going to spend, you know, three hours. And these |
| 4 | very costly to the school and children, and have | 4 | three hours, we're going to go over, you know, these |
| 5 | that available to them, which is -- and taking what | 5 | are best practices and things that would help you |
| 6 | you're saying as not hovering and not punitive and | 6 | with the opening of your new charter, your new |
| 7 | not, "Okay, I know what they're doing wrong," and | 7 | school year." |
| 8 | just give that support somehow. | 8 | But I have to tell you, I'm -- I tend to |
| 9 | And so the concept that I'm talking about | 9 | agree with you. I do not think it would be a good |
| 10 | is -- I think it's a -- it's a worthwhile concept to | 10 | thing to put somebody right there, because I think |
| 11 | continue. | 11 | it is -- I'm telling you. Even when I've had like |
| 12 | MS. VOIGT: I think before the doors open, | 12 | people interning under me, whew, and they start that |
| 13 | an administrator has to have so much in place, okay? | 13 | day one as just an intern under you, and they're |
| 14 | That could be happening before the doors open. Once | 14 | shadowing you, it's great; but it's so hectic. |
| 15 | those doors open, you have all kinds of organic | 15 | And -- |
| 16 | matter running around, you know. And I think it -- | 16 | THE CHAIR: We could say within the first |
| 17 | to be at a school site within the first week is not | 17 | 90 days; and -- because we don't know when we're |
| 18 | a good idea. It's not a good idea. And I'm not | 18 | going to get this executed. We don't know what. |
| 19 | going to say do it and let's see what happens; | 19 | Or we could say within the first 90 days |
| 20 | because -- and I told you so. But I just know it's | 20 | and/or up to that head administrator. |
| 21 | not going to be a good time. | 21 | MS. VOIGT: As needed. |
| 22 | But if we have a lot of things in place | 22 | THE CHAIR: They might want to say, "I |
| 23 | that we think are good practices for that first week | 23 | want someone here tomorrow. I want someone here |
| 24 | and be proactive with the administrators that way, I | 24 | this week because I'm not sure." |
| 25 | think it would be a lot better received than being | 25 | And someone else might say, "Hey, you know |


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| 1 | what? I think we're better off as a | 1 | MS. VOIGT: Sure. Yeah. |
| 2 | trial-and-error." | 2 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: If we don't have those |
| 3 | MS. VOIGT: I think it's better to leave | 3 | systems in place to react to that, we will never |
| 4 | it flexible like that. Because if you're running -- | 4 | have those systems in place. |
| 5 | I don't know if there's a boot camp that's going to | 5 | MS. VOIGT: You know what, Alan? I'd love |
| 6 | be run for new charter school principals or | 6 | to work with you on that. Let me know how we can |
| 7 | whatever. But I think a boot camp is kind of a good | 7 | work together. Because having, you know, done that, |
| 8 | thing, too, to be proactive and operating ahead of | 8 | and during a time in 2007, when there were many |
| 9 | time, to just say, "Double-check yourself. Are all | 9 | State charter schools being opened during that time, |
| 10 | these things in a row," you know? | 10 | and us forming a dynamic critical friends group |
| 11 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of | 11 | amongst each other and going through those scenarios |
| 12 | the Commission, I appreciate this conversation, for | 12 | together within our first school years was really |
| 13 | sure. I think that at this -- the heart and | 13 | meaningful. I can share with you some of the things |
| 14 | spirit -- I think I don't hear any arguments around | 14 | we constructed. |
| 15 | how do we support new administrators and new schools | 15 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Absolutely. |
| 16 | to start off as fine as they possibly can. | 16 | Madam Chair, Commissioners, I don't know -- I know |
| 17 | I think the devil is in the details, for | 17 | we're a week away from this conference. On Saturday |
| 18 | sure, as we think about what are the different needs | 18 | of the conference, we have an 11:30-to-1:00 longer |
| 19 | of different leaders. And I think that has to be a | 19 | extended period of time for folks to do a |
| 20 | relational act with them to kind of figure out that. | 20 | Professional Learning Community/Critical Friends |
| 21 | I'm on board with the -- with -- I don't | 21 | Group opportunity. I'm going to set that up during |
| 22 | know if the SWAT -- I'm okay with the SWAT. We | 22 | lunch so that at tables, folks can share certain |
| 23 | could talk about it like an executive -- executive | 23 | problems and practice, or get feedback peer-to-peer |
| 24 | coach, executive mentor, we could call it. | 24 | from governing council members and head |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: We can nuance the name. | 25 | administrators and teachers and so forth. |
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| 1 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: We could nuance it and | 1 | I wonder if we could figure out a way to |
| 2 | make it sound like what it is so that they see that | 2 | know who are the newbies coming in. I know we know |
| 3 | this is truly putting their learning and the | 3 | two of them, Solare and Raíces. We could jump on |
| 4 | school's success at the heart. | 4 | that next week, potentially, and just be smart to |
| 5 | So I think that there is probably some | 5 | bring some folks together. |
| 6 | type of sweet spot that we can find between -- | 6 | MS. VOIGT: You know what might really be |
| 7 | before the school year starts. Because as we all | 7 | a great format for that -- I haven't looked at the |
| 8 | know, if you don't have the systems in place and you | 8 | agenda for the conference. But if you have that |
| 9 | don't have somebody who both, like, can do it from | 9 | time block set aside already for small PLC sharing, |
| 10 | the support and compliance that the Charter School | 10 | if you have a tables and you put the topic, and then |
| 11 | Division does, as well as the authorizing body does, | 11 | whoever wants to go to that table, and they just sit |
| 12 | having a separate person as a peer, as an executive | 12 | there and share or whatever, something like that |
| 13 | leader, that's another area that could put -- could | 13 | would be great. Then you could get it all done real |
| 14 | support and put pressure on ensuring that the school | 14 | quickly, and people self-determine where they want |
| 15 | is open. | 15 | to do their stuff. |
| 16 | And so that could very well happen maybe a | 16 | And if you'd like, I would be willing to |
| 17 | week before school starts. You just sit down. I'm | 17 | facilitate one of those. |
| 18 | envisioning an executive leader sitting down with me | 18 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Great. Thank you. |
| 19 | and just kind of going through, "What are all the | 19 | THE CHAIR: Because I think -- I think |
| 20 | systems you have?" "What's your -- what's going to | 20 | there's also a possibility, where if we can get |
| 21 | happen when you have your first fire alarm pulled | 21 | these regional teams together so that, you know, |
| 22 | that first day," or, "What are you going to do | 22 | they don't necessarily always have to be there, but |
| 23 | with" -- you know, "How are you going to react," and | 23 | they're at least on call -- but we'll also have to |
| 24 | kind of go through some of the hypothetical things | 24 | set some kind of guidelines as to how much time |
| 25 | that we all know happens. | 25 | schools can actually -- you know, you're not 24/7; |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | because there's only a finite amount of money that | 1 | slight tag-on. When we're having the Special Ed |
| 2 | we're going to pay these folks. | 2 | Division talk to Alma, which we had set up, right, |
| 3 | So that schools need to know that, you | 3 | that they're going to go and look and -- |
| 4 | know. You can't just keep calling these people and | 4 | THE CHAIR: We said if they felt it |
| 5 | they're at your disposal whenever, that we'll have | 5 | appropriate. |
| 6 | to place those parameters around what that looks | 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: If they're going |
| 7 | like, and probably less time as the year goes on, | 7 | to Las Cruces, I think that a lot of people in |
| 8 | you know. So we can work that out. | 8 | Las Cruces, including Las Cruces Public Schools |
| 9 | Commissioner Armbruster? | 9 | possibly would be -- it would be advantageous to |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yeah. I think | 10 | share those resources. One school needs to have |
| 11 | that's a terrific idea. I am not volunteering | 11 | them, real particular things. But honestly, some of |
| 12 | because I don't know anything about administration. | 12 | the things they were talking about, I had never even |
| 13 | So let me just get myself out of there and throw | 13 | heard about. |
| 14 | some more on them. | 14 | So I'm not sure that everybody's even |
| 15 | But I think, you know, I remember having | 15 | doing that. But once we send a group down or to |
| 16 | Harry Wong's First Day of School. I thought, "Oh, | 16 | Albuquerque, or wherever we're sending them, maybe |
| 17 | my God, thank goodness," because I would never have | 17 | we can expand it so that more than one school or two |
| 18 | thought, "Greet each child." I just wouldn't think | 18 | schools are getting that information; because I |
| 19 | about that. | 19 | don't think that you can ever have too much |
| 20 | So I think if there were a first day of | 20 | information. |
| 21 | school for administrators, whether that's a new | 21 | THE CHAIR: I think we're talking two |
| 22 | administrator who's never been at a charter | 22 | different things. |
| 23 | school -- they are different in different ways, | 23 | COMMISSIOENR CABALLERO: Are you talking |
| 24 | because you have more responsibilities -- or just | 24 | about the -- |
| 25 | a -- or a brand new school person doing that. | 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'm talking |
|  | Page 207 |  | Page 209 |
| 1 | I can say that in parts of our state, that | 1 | about the mentor. |
| 2 | probably would have been quite helpful. And rather | 2 | THE CHAIR: But that's not necessarily |
| 3 | than new administrators struggling, they would have | 3 | the -- that's not necessarily coming out of the |
| 4 | had nowhere to go; because in the end, you know | 4 | bureaus that are here. |
| 5 | what? It's our time that's taken up, but not | 5 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I think we need |
| 6 | helping them on the front end. So I would like to | 6 | to stay on point. |
| 7 | see that. | 7 | THE CHAIR: That's not what we're |
| 8 | Another thing I had written down was -- | 8 | talking -- we're talking about -- |
| 9 | again, I don't know whether it's the CSD's | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Right. But |
| 10 | responsibility or someone -- Pattie, maybe you have | 10 | outsiders. They could be outsiders, but they could |
| 11 | someone in mind who could tag onto the end of the | 11 | be attached to something. Because one of the things |
| 12 | last CSD learning, you know, a training that they | 12 | Glenna, I thought, was saying -- thank you for |
| 13 | have. So assuming that they would all make it, just | 13 | saying -- is that sometimes the first day -- and |
| 14 | to say, "Hey. Here's something much like the Harry | 14 | Trish was saying the same thing -- is like unh-unh, |
| 15 | Wong thing, pass it out. These are things that you | 15 | you can't do that. |
| 16 | might want to think about. Or pass on to the person | 16 | If it was the Harry Wong type of thing |
| 17 | you are wanting to hire. | 17 | that was attached to something, no matter who said |
| 18 | Because then you are kind of doing what | 18 | it -- it doesn't have to be CSD; it should be |
| 19 | Pattie was talking about, Commissioner Voigt, except | 19 | someone who really knows about administering charter |
| 20 | not micromanaging, because that person wouldn't be | 20 | schools -- that that could be attached to that so |
| 21 | there. But at least you have some idea what to do. | 21 | they would have that little heads-up. I'm sorry. |
| 22 | Because I think that some of these people | 22 | THE CHAIR: I'm lost. I'm sorry. I'm |
| 23 | that we've been talking about don't have any idea | 23 | lost. |
| 24 | what to do; and I can understand why they wouldn't. | 24 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: I agree that |
| 25 | This is not a condemnation in any sense, just a | 25 | there's a lot of information. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | THE CHAIR: I'm just owning it. I'm just | 1 | charter school principals. |
| 2 | owning it. | 2 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: There is a lot of | 3 | Commissioners, one -- I don't want to belabor this |
| 4 | information in the area of special ed. And, | 4 | any more than we need to. You just jarred something |
| 5 | certainly, new -- new directors of charter schools | 5 | for me, Commissioner Voigt. I do think that there |
| 6 | should be aware or have a checklist, if nothing | 6 | is the -- there is the mentorship between a |
| 7 | else. | 7 | school -- a new school leader and the mentor. And |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I would think | 8 | then there's an opportunity potentially for us to |
| 9 | so. | 9 | think about how do we create our own in-shop kind of |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: If I were a new | 10 | Principals Pursuing Excellence model that we could |
| 11 | administrator, I certainly would have missed half | 11 | use, as you just mentioned. |
| 12 | the requirements. It's a lot. It's a lot. | 12 | There should be an opportunity to make |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: And I think part of that core | 13 | this relational, too, so that it's not just mentor |
| 14 | of the teams that are created, that that's part of | 14 | to school leader, but also bringing the mentors and |
| 15 | the skill set, that you need someone who can go in | 15 | the school leaders together over the course of time. |
| 16 | and offer that help for special ed if that's what it | 16 | And, again, this is in the vacuum of budgeting and |
| 17 | is, someone who can help with finances, someone who | 17 | that sort of thing. |
| 18 | can help with just general operational | 18 | But if we want to think about that, I |
| 19 | administrative issues, so that there's -- you know, | 19 | wonder if maybe we have like a smaller step back |
| 20 | there's a core of people that can be sent out, | 20 | throughout the year, periodically, maybe three times |
| 21 | depending on what the need is. | 21 | a year with the new school leaders; because I think |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Right. | 22 | what I'm hearing is that we want to do something |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Or just a call; so that it's | 23 | different than what we have done before, is there |
| 24 | not a call to an official phone number. It's a call | 24 | hasn't really been, like, a protocol. So now let's |
| 25 | to, you know, someone's private number, that -- you | 25 | create that. |
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| 1 | know, so that there's that less onus that's on | 1 | And we can bring -- we can do a -- we can |
| 2 | there. | 2 | do the individual elbow-to-elbow work at schools |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Or at least, "We | 3 | with the leader and the mentor, and then we could |
| 4 | set up our systems. Can you come out to see if I'm | 4 | also bring more formalized kind of training, you |
| 5 | in compliance?" I mean, that's -- that's half the | 5 | know, maybe beginning-of-the-year, midyear, |
| 6 | battle. | 6 | end-of-the-year kind of way to bring people |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: There's a lot of people out | 7 | together. |
| 8 | there that have exited out of Principals Pursuing | 8 | Anyway, I think we have a lot of different |
| 9 | Excellence, retired financial people, that there's | 9 | opportunities we can build that kind of thing. |
| 10 | just this -- there's a wealth of support and help | 10 | THE CHAIR: So it's going to be a simple |
| 11 | and knowledge out there. And they may not want to | 11 | motion; because I think it can be fluid enough that |
| 12 | work full-time. | 12 | we can figure out what it's going to look like, but |
| 13 | MS. VOIGT: So in 2009, I think it was, | 13 | that we need to move forward on getting some |
| 14 | Dr. Linda Paul created this great group called | 14 | contract work done. And the particulars of exactly |
| 15 | Charter Leaders something-or-other. And many of the | 15 | how it's going to look like, that can be figured out |
| 16 | charter school principals that are here now, and | 16 | once we have the folks that we can contract with. |
| 17 | myself, we were in this group. It was great | 17 | MS. VOIGT: Okay. I'll make that motion |
| 18 | learning. It was better than my master's degree. | 18 | if we're ready. |
| 19 | It was all shared work by charter school leaders. | 19 | THE CHAIR: Sure. |
| 20 | If there's something that we can do to | 20 | MS. VOIGT: I move that the Public |
| 21 | bring in experience and local wisdom from what we | 21 | Education Commission direct its staff at Charter |
| 22 | have in our communities to help with these -- with | 22 | School Division to contract with an entity or |
| 23 | our new charter administrators, I think that would | 23 | entities to mentor or provide support to new schools |
| 24 | be one of the best practices we could do is utilize | 24 | and new head administrators in compliance with the |
| 25 | our local wisdom that we already have with our State | 25 | New Mexico Procurement Code. |


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| 1 | THE CHAIR: I'll second it. | 1 | But the next LESC is in Santa Teresa. So |
| 2 | There's a motion by Commissioner Voigt, a | 2 | how fortuitous. So it's -- it's nice that once |
| 3 | second by Commissioner Gipson. | 3 | again, it's close to home. So I will be there. |
| 4 | No further discussion? | 4 | We -- I'm trying to think -- we're all |
| 5 | (No response.) | 5 | going, or many of us will be there next week. I |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Roll call, please. | 6 | don't think we had any other events in between. |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 7 | No, no. |
| 8 | Voigt? | 8 | I want to -- I guess I'll extend a |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 9 | thank-you to the School Boards Association for the |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 10 | invitation to the Law Conference; but, |
| 11 | Ruiz? | 11 | unfortunately, it's going on now, so we are |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. | 12 | obviously unable to attend. |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 13 | So we thank them. And I guess he's not |
| 14 | Davis? | 14 | here; so -- anyway, next up is -- actually, Matt, |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 15 | you didn't get put on the agenda. |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 16 | MR. MATT PAHL: 16-B. |
| 17 | Raftery? | 17 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Yeah, 16-B. |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 18 | THE CHAIR: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm looking at |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 19 | my motions; I'm not looking at the agenda. We're |
| 20 | Crone? | 20 | not approving anything. I don't see Matt there. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. | 21 | MR. MATT PAHL: I hope that's not wishful |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 22 | thinking, Madam Chair. |
| 23 | Chavez? | 23 | Just a quick update from us; I always try |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 24 | and keep them quick. July 1st through the 3rd is |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 25 | the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools |
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| 1 | Robbins? | 1 | conference in Las Vegas. There's still time to |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 2 | register. Las Vegas is a quick flight. I had |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 3 | mentioned that the last couple of times. I'm sure |
| 4 | Armbruster votes "Yes." | 4 | you've gotten some notices; but -- |
| 5 | Commissioner Gipson? | 5 | THE CHAIR: I think it's probably |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 6 | unfortunately too late for us to make those |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 7 | travel -- we wouldn't be able to get the |
| 8 | Caballero? | 8 | reimbursement. |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 9 | And it was unfortunate, because they had a |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Ten-to-zero | 10 | great strand, and I didn't know it until too late, |
| 11 | vote. | 11 | on governance, I thought. So it would have been, |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: Motion passes, ten-zero. | 12 | you know -- yeah. |
| 13 | Thank you. | 13 | MR. MATT PAHL: Yeah. Sorry it's coming |
| 14 | I'll make myself short. Besides just a | 14 | from us late. But -- but, yeah. I'm sure -- I |
| 15 | ton of phone calls, I appreciate all the work that | 15 | don't know. There's a lot of e-mails going out |
| 16 | the Director has been doing in terms of trying to | 16 | around this; so -- the other thing I just want to |
| 17 | get us straight with Illuminate. And that's a | 17 | spend a little bit of time on is around facilities. |
| 18 | conversation that will continue to move forward. | 18 | First is a thank-you to the Commission, |
| 19 | I did not attend the last -- the | 19 | because I just see there's an understanding from you |
| 20 | first-of-the-year LESC. I had anticipated going, | 20 | all that this thing -- it just doesn't work out. |
| 21 | particularly because it was -- Senator Pinto's | 21 | There's no way to systematize this, because every |
| 22 | services were that day as well. So I was sorry I | 22 | property is different. There are steps we all can |
| 23 | missed that. But my HVAC system decided that it's | 23 | take to maybe make it a little more systematized. |
| 24 | not doing well. So I had to do some triage; so I | 24 | But I hear that from the Commission when |
| 25 | couldn't make it. | 25 | these things pop up. I heard it today at the Altura |


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| 1 | hearing. I heard it yesterday from the work session | 1 | Through the conversations we've had, we've |
| 2 | when we talked about this additional thing in | 2 | also run into some other issues that I want to |
| 3 | Albuquerque, that now most schools, if they're | 3 | highlight for you. |
| 4 | building, are going to have to go through. | 4 | One is a -- nothing that has been decided |
| 5 | So I appreciate that. And I wanted to | 5 | yet, but there seems to be a direction of not |
| 6 | alert you of something that could be happening as | 6 | allowing for land leases to be covered by lease |
| 7 | early as July, which is the new lease assistance | 7 | assistance. |
| 8 | decision from PSCOC. They have been true to their | 8 | THE CHAIR: Right. We've actually got |
| 9 | word. They have been going to charter schools for | 9 | that communication, that it won't be. Yeah. |
| 10 | the last year -- I think they did two rounds -- to | 10 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: If I could modify |
| 11 | measure square feet. | 11 | that, that was a vote that was taken back in May to |
| 12 | They are choosing to take a very | 12 | not allow land leases. However, because of feedback |
| 13 | conservative read on the legal language that | 13 | and things, the subcommittee -- I forget what the |
| 14 | instructional space is all that they will fund. | 14 | initials for the other subcommittee is, Finance or |
| 15 | Instructional space, to them, is only classrooms; | 15 | something like that -- they've agreed to revisit it |
| 16 | not hallways, not bathrooms, not office space. And | 16 | to come up with what's reasonable. And when we were |
| 17 | so we will find that most of our charter schools | 17 | looking at it in May, there was one school that had |
| 18 | will experience a cut under that scenario. | 18 | something like 30 or 40 acres that they were |
| 19 | There is a chance that something called | 19 | leasing -- |
| 20 | "tare" can be added onto this. And that, to us, is | 20 | THE CHAIR: Right. |
| 21 | very important. I believe that it is up to us -- | 21 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: -- which seemed |
| 22 | our bill this last year on facilities, it didn't get | 22 | prohibitive, which, you know, the largest high |
| 23 | too far but was well-received -- did change that | 23 | schools are only about 60 acres; that's with 2,000, |
| 24 | language. So we're not talking just about | 24 | 2,500 students. |
| 25 | instructional; but tare provides for an additional | 25 | So to be leasing that many acres when you |
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| 1 | percentage of square footage on top of what they | 1 | don't have these big sports complexes and things |
| 2 | would measure for just instructional. | 2 | like that and athletic fields and things like that |
| 3 | It's really important to our schools that | 3 | seemed to be excessive. And that was causing the |
| 4 | we get tare that's commensurate with the standards | 4 | average cap to bump up by almost 70 percent. If you |
| 5 | that are applied to all other public schools. I | 5 | took that one out, it was causing the cap to go up |
| 6 | know they're working on that now; but I think the | 6 | very high on what they would allow. |
| 7 | tare rate they're considering is anywhere between 20 | 7 | They are going to go back, the |
| 8 | and 30 percent. | 8 | subcommittee, and look at what is reasonable in |
| 9 | So if a school gets 30,000 square feet, | 9 | terms of land leases and bring that back to the |
| 10 | whatever it is -- I'm making up that number; I don't | 10 | PSCOC so that it won't necessarily be totally |
| 11 | know if that's real -- we would expect to see | 11 | eliminated. |
| 12 | 20 percent on top of that. We're entering fair | 12 | MR. MATT PAHL: Yeah. And, Commissioner |
| 13 | territory there, where schools can actually, you | 13 | Robbins and Madam Chair, a lot of that -- you |
| 14 | know, maybe have that money used to pay for their -- | 14 | present an example that I think would not be |
| 15 | their lease. | 15 | reasonable. A -- an issue -- and this is not a PEC |
| 16 | So I see that as a heads-up. I know that | 16 | school, so I'll mention it by name. It's Mosaic |
| 17 | Commissioner Robbins is the -- the guy for the PEC | 17 | Academy up in Aztec. They just happened to have a |
| 18 | on PSCOC, and I know that he's well aware of these | 18 | land lease, and they leased with somebody else for |
| 19 | issues. I'm just not sure, you know, if the whole | 19 | their portables. They were going to -- under the |
| 20 | Commission knows. So just wanted to make sure | 20 | previous agreed-upon rule -- or decision from the |
| 21 | that's there. | 21 | PSCOC, they wouldn't get any lease assistance just |
| 22 | Obviously, significant budget pressure as | 22 | for the land that their portables are sitting on. |
| 23 | a result of these cuts. And to be clear, not every | 23 | This is the kind of thing that I think the |
| 24 | school gets cuts. Some are actually going to see | 24 | PSCOC is interested in fixing. Portables cannot |
| 25 | some increases. | 25 | float in the air and have students attend classes in |


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| 1 | them; so that -- that's the thing that we're looking | 1 | family. But many others, we'll want to share with |
| 2 | at right now. And I think it highlights the fact | 2 | you all. Of course if you have ideas for some |
| 3 | that even though the PSFA has been going into | 3 | questions that we can add to that survey that would |
| 4 | charter schools quite a bit over the last year, | 4 | be useful to you all, bring those up either now, or |
| 5 | there's still more to learn. And these facility | 5 | always e-mail me or call me; or through Alan, I'd be |
| 6 | issues are really big, and they're compounded by the | 6 | happy to consider those and potentially add that in. |
| 7 | fact that 20 percent of small school size is going | 7 | It's a good opportunity to survey the |
| 8 | away. | 8 | majority of the charter schools in the state. |
| 9 | We've also had discussions with PSFA and a | 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 10 | couple of the PSCOC members regarding portable | 10 | MR. MATT PAHL: Thank you. |
| 11 | transport. That's the item that's prohibited right | 11 | THE CHAIR: I need to go back a little |
| 12 | now. We can find a portable. Not every school has | 12 | bit; because I didn't mention the NACSA conference, |
| 13 | the $\$ 40,000$ to $\$ 60,000$ to transport, hook it up, all | 13 | that Bev mailed out the information so that the |
| 14 | of that. They've been open to annual solutions | 14 | decision needs to be made, like, yesterday, you |
| 15 | there. So we're hoping in the next couple of months | 15 | know, if you're interested in going to St. Louis. |
| 16 | they'll be able to figure that out. | 16 | It's posthaste. |
| 17 | So there's a lot of pieces there. I just | 17 | MS. VOIGT: I am. |
| 18 | want to note that the tare thing, I believe, is | 18 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: If no one else is, |
| 19 | pretty up-in-the-air, whether it's offered at all | 19 | I went last year to Florida. I would be willing to |
| 20 | and, if so, at what rate. So I would hope that as | 20 | go again if you want to have more than one person |
| 21 | you are able to connect with folks that have | 21 | go. But I don't have to go. |
| 22 | interests with the PSCOC, that you can advocate for | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: What are the |
| 23 | schools to be able to get some additional overhead | 23 | parameters of that in terms of how many people can |
| 24 | on top of the square footage that they will be | 24 | go or not go or are paid or whatever? |
| 25 | approved for. | 25 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Basically, it's up to the |
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| 1 | The other thing I'll just note on the | 1 | Chair. And if you'd like to go, you can go. They |
| 2 | facilities piece is we will -- this is just a | 2 | always seem to find money. |
| 3 | heads-up; it's not for a while. But we will present | 3 | THE CHAIR: I'm going to go. So I'm going |
| 4 | that bill again this next session. I think we did | 4 | to say yes. |
| 5 | get out of the Senate at committee unanimously. I | 5 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay. |
| 6 | think it just wasn't the top-of-the-heap | 6 | THE CHAIR: And if I -- I'll know sooner |
| 7 | priority-wise in a session where we passed | 7 | than later if I can't make those dates. |
| 8 | 150 bills. | 8 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Let me just mention to you. |
| 9 | So we're hoping this session, we're able | 9 | Those of you who have traveled before, I have been |
| 10 | to get more traction. We liked the fact that it was | 10 | able to get a PCard, where your hotel and your |
| 11 | a bipartisan bill, that people had agreed on what we | 11 | flights are paid for ahead of time. |
| 12 | had put on there. So I may -- if it suits the | 12 | We can no longer do that. I tried to get |
| 13 | Commission, I'd love to go over the bill point by | 13 | that for David last year. And even though he was a |
| 14 | point sometime in the fall so you all know what's in | 14 | State employee, they still would not give me the |
| 15 | there, and, of course, take feedback on any ways to | 15 | PCard for his travel. So you'll have to pay for |
| 16 | improve it. | 16 | your travel, your airline, ahead of time, and your |
| 17 | But we'd love to have that stamp of | 17 | hotel. |
| 18 | approval from the PEC as well when we bring that | 18 | I will pay for the registration. And if |
| 19 | around. We think it does solve some short- and | 19 | you'll save receipts, we'll try to get that turned |
| 20 | long-term problems for facilities. But in the | 20 | around as soon as we can. |
| 21 | immediate term, it's all about lease assistance. | 21 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: The dates are the |
| 22 | We're real concerned about that. | 22 | 21 st to the 24th of October. So basically, you fly |
| 23 | Lastly, we will be conducting our annual | 23 | out for the 20th if you want to be there for the |
| 24 | survey of members this summer. Some of those | 24 | full three-and-a-half days. |
| 25 | questions, we'll want to kind of keep amongst the | 25 | MS. FRIEDMAN: And I would say one of the |


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| 1 | advantages of doing without the PCard is that you | 1 | that's flying day. The actual conference starts on |
| 2 | can get tickets now while sometimes they go on sale; | 2 | Monday, and it runs through noon on Thursday. So |
| 3 | and.. | 3 | it's three-and-a-half days. |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: And you get the mileage. | 4 | THE CHAIR: Most people -- there's very |
| 5 | MR. FRIEDMAN: And you get the mileage in | 5 | few people that are left there on Thursday, because |
| 6 | your own account. | 6 | people start -- you know, the only people that are |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: \$650 on Southwest, | 7 | there is because their flight leaves late, you know. |
| 8 | and if you do Travelocity, it's about \$400. | 8 | That's the bottom line; because they usually have |
| 9 | MS. FRIEDMAN: The main thing is making | 9 | almost nothing really scheduled; little, "Oh, let's |
| 10 | the reservation in the hotel where everything is | 10 | do this," you know. |
| 11 | going to be happening. And so that would be one of | 11 | Because people -- and the same thing. |
| 12 | your first considerations. | 12 | Some people don't come in until Monday, you know. |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 13 | It just depends on where they're coming from. Some |
| 14 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes, ma'am. | 14 | people drive. And so it's -- |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: When I looked at the | 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Well, I tried to |
| 16 | link -- because I will be going; it will be my first | 16 | find the sessions, because you can say, "I don't |
| 17 | one -- I thought it said you had to be registered. | 17 | care about this one," so you can come in later. |
| 18 | I may be wrong. I think it said you had to be | 18 | THE CHAIR: But your flying in is usually |
| 19 | registered first, because then you get the code for | 19 | either Sunday or -- if you're not there by early |
| 20 | the hotel; so... | 20 | Monday, you're going to miss all of Monday. |
| 21 | MS. FRIEDMAN: As soon as I find out who | 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Right. |
| 22 | would like to go, I will get all of that information | 22 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Madam Chair, if I could |
| 23 | for you, and I will register. | 23 | mention, those of you who are going to the Charter |
| 24 | This is something else, also. The end of | 24 | School Conference next week, someone from Charter |
| 25 | the fiscal year is June 28th or 30th, whatever. So | 25 | Schools will be picking up your travel, because -- |
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| 1 | this will be in next year's money. So what I will | 1 | your travel documents, if you want to be reimbursed. |
| 2 | do is as soon as we get into next year's money, I'll | 2 | THE CHAIR: Oh, I thought they were paying |
| 3 | start that. | 3 | for us. When you said they were picking up our |
| 4 | One of the first things is to pay our dues | 4 | travel, I thought they were paying for us. |
| 5 | to NACSA, and then the second thing is to register | 5 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Just the form. |
| 6 | those people who were going to go at the lower rate. | 6 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Oh, no. They'll be picking |
| 7 | And I'll get all that information, and we'll get | 7 | up your travel to give to me for reimbursement. |
| 8 | that done. | 8 | They'll give that to me the following week. And if |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. Appreciate | 9 | you're going to LESC or LC or anyplace like that in |
| 10 | that. | 10 | the next two weeks -- next week and the next week -- |
| 11 | So -- | 11 | in the next two weeks, I need all of that no later |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So do you want | 12 | than the 28th. |
| 13 | to confirm now? Or by Monday morning? Or what do | 13 | THE CHAIR: The LESC ends on the 26th. |
| 14 | you want? | 14 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay. If you can send it |
| 15 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Let me know in the next | 15 | to me as soon as possible. |
| 16 | week if you would like to go. And the information | 16 | THE CHAIR: I can put it in the mail that |
| 17 | is on the website. If you need more information, I | 17 | afternoon. |
| 18 | can talk to you about it. Basically, you can pick | 18 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay. If you have any |
| 19 | your air flights. The hotel is a very large hotel | 19 | other expenses, I need that by the 28th, to be paid, |
| 20 | on the river, probably closer to the hotel now. | 20 | and in a timely manner. And as soon as we get that |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Maybe you know | 21 | done, then we'll send it out to you, and then send |
| 22 | this, because I did go on the website. Sometimes | 22 | it back to me as soon as you can. |
| 23 | they say it starts on the 20th; but it really | 23 | THE CHAIR: Okay. |
| 24 | doesn't. You know what I mean? Like -- | 24 | MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: The 20th is Sunday; | 25 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |


|  | Page 230 |  | Page 232 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So PEC Comments. | 1 | there, they were doing student-led conferences, |
| 2 | Commissioner Raftery? | 2 | which I had never heard of before. So it's like a |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: I just want to | 3 | parent-teacher conference, but the student is in |
| 4 | comment on Raíces school. When I was in Lybrook -- | 4 | charge. And so we went through that. And they were |
| 5 | or Jemez Mountain -- about 2000, in the year 2000, | 5 | just spectacular students. |
| 6 | one of the schools up there in Lybrook had the -- | 6 | And then we saw their achievement, their |
| 7 | the circle teaching thing. And what they did was | 7 | academic achievement. They have Grades 6 through |
| 8 | they taught by modalities, and they taught by, I | 8 | 10. And the first person I saw was -- this was her |
| 9 | guess, their culture, because it was Native | 9 | first year there. She arrived at below grade level, |
| 10 | American. | 10 | and now she was above grade level. And it's only |
| 11 | And at the very beginning, it kind of | 11 | because of the commitment of the teachers in that |
| 12 | scared me to death, because I thought, "Now I'm in | 12 | school. |
| 13 | charge of these people, trying to get test scores | 13 | So -- but it was. They incorporated all |
| 14 | and all of that." | 14 | their culture into their academics and so forth; so |
| 15 | But I was there for three years. It was | 15 | they were learning everything. And that school |
| 16 | part of their culture, and they really learned a | 16 | would like to increase to Grade 11, but money is an |
| 17 | lot. And that's how they learned at home. So the | 17 | issue. And... |
| 18 | teachers who were Native American just brought it | 18 | THE CHAIR: They've always been our Little |
| 19 | into the school. | 19 | School That Can, you know. And it's -- the size of |
| 20 | The way the room was set up wasn't even a | 20 | the school has been a constant challenge. |
| 21 | regular classroom. They had the desk, you know, in | 21 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. Recruiting and |
| 22 | a different place. Kids learned thematic units -- | 22 | retaining teachers is an issue. They had 39 |
| 23 | well, thematically. That's not the way they do it | 23 | students. |
| 24 | anymore. It was like a medicine wheel or a wheel, | 24 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. And I forget how many |
| 25 | and they just kind of went around it. And as they | 25 | times we had to -- they had to stretch out where |
|  | Page 231 |  | Page 233 |
| 1 | taught the concepts, they would bring in their | 1 | they were going to be; because they had so many |
| 2 | culture and all the concepts so that the kids could | 2 | issues with, "Yeah, we could use this building"; |
| 3 | have that. | 3 | "No, now we can't use that building." |
| 4 | So when he was speaking -- or when they | 4 | And it was really -- it was questionable |
| 5 | were speaking, I kind of envisioned that model. And | 5 | whether they were going to get up and running |
| 6 | it was -- it was really quite successful, and I | 6 | because of that. So it's really -- when we look at |
| 7 | really enjoyed the three years that I observed it. | 7 | small schools, it's -- it is hard to maintain a |
| 8 | So, you know, it was scary. And I was | 8 | school with that few kids. |
| 9 | scared, because I didn't know how I was going to | 9 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. And it's so |
| 10 | evaluate it. But it was really a success. And I | 10 | remote. |
| 11 | don't know if they're still doing it. But it was | 11 | THE CHAIR: Exactly. So that adds all |
| 12 | really a success. And I don't know if they're still | 12 | those extra challenges to it. But I'm excited you |
| 13 | doing it. I don't think they are. But that's my | 13 | got to see them because they've come up often before |
| 14 | comment. | 14 | us. And it's -- you know, it's always one of those |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. | 15 | little heart-wrenching things when we know they're |
| 16 | Commissioner Davis? | 16 | struggling to be able to just literally stay alive. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Well, I have | 17 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. So I was told |
| 18 | something similar to say. | 18 | they weren't sure they would apply for renewal. |
| 19 | So I was invited to do a -- to observe a | 19 | THE CHAIR: Oh, no. |
| 20 | school year-end activity at little Navajo, | 20 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. And it's |
| 21 | New Mexico. And the school acronym is DEAP. And | 21 | because, I think, of the money. |
| 22 | the "D" stands for some word I could never say. | 22 | THE CHAIR: Oh, okay. Huh. Wow. |
| 23 | So they did something similar. They had | 23 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: That would be really |
| 24 | six cultural values that they incorporated into | 24 | sad. |
| 25 | their academic learning. And the -- when I was | 25 | THE CHAIR: That would be. That would be. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Commissioner Caballero? | 1 | updates with NMPSIA. New Mexico Highland, we |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: You know, the | 2 | approved the agreement for them to join the risk |
| 3 | returning about the circle. And I had asked | 3 | program; so they're now with NMPSIA. |
| 4 | Mr. Aceves at one time to describe what he was | 4 | And then we talked about looking at |
| 5 | trying to do. Like, I think I was catching it, but | 5 | increasing coverage. It's going to be called |
| 6 | not completely. | 6 | "excess coverage," because they've had a higher -- I |
| 7 | And I had asked the ladies, and they said | 7 | guess a higher rate of hailstorms and all, the rain |
| 8 | "No, it's Carlos." And he started to. We got | 8 | and all that, and so it's causing damage. And so |
| 9 | interrupted, and he never really explained anything. | 9 | because of that, we're looking at increasing those |
| 10 | And I remain curious as to what -- what he was | 10 | limits, which is going to actually make an increase |
| 11 | doing. | 11 | for all of those members. |
| 12 | And, of course, all his team was very, | 12 | And then we talked about Sandy Hook. And |
| 13 | very excited with what they were doing. It ran from | 13 | we've been talking about it for a while. We had |
| 14 | him to the organizing team to parents. And I wanted | 14 | tried the STOPit program a couple of years ago. We |
| 15 | to know why. | 15 | didn't get a lot of buy-in; I think Rio Rancho and |
| 16 | But, anyway, when I went from teaching in | 16 | Clovis. And they're actually still doing it. |
| 17 | the schools to junior college and university, I used | 17 | But you have to pay for that program. So |
| 18 | the Socratic Method. And it was not received by my | 18 | because the insurance pool is asking us to prove |
| 19 | department, the Political Science department, very | 19 | that we are doing everything we can to ensure |
| 20 | well. And so after many years of teaching, I -- I | 20 | student safety -- so next July 1st, I'm sure you'll |
| 21 | asked why I hadn't been evaluated. And the director | 21 | hear about this, because I know that they were going |
| 22 | says, "You've been evaluated almost every semester. | 22 | to make a presentation at the law conference -- |
| 23 | And I said, "You've never been to my | 23 | we're going to give the school districts till July 1 |
| 24 | classroom." | 24 | to either get in with the Sandy Hook Promise Program |
| 25 | And some of the -- somebody else walked up | 25 | or something similar to that. And if they choose |
|  | Page 235 |  | Page 237 |
| 1 | to me and said, "He stands out in the hallway | 1 | not to, if the school district chooses not to do |
| 2 | listening to" -- and it wasn't a lecture -- | 2 | that, there's going to be more than likely a |
| 3 | "listening in." And it was all question-and-answer, | 3 | 10 percent -- |
| 4 | critical thinking. And for junior college students, | 4 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Surcharge? |
| 5 | that was the hardest thing to get acquainted with, | 5 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: You'll get charged |
| 6 | critical thinking. | 6 | 10 percent for not having that; because the insurers |
| 7 | And -- but once they got it, they all | 7 | are wanting us to prove we're doing everything we |
| 8 | excel, very, very much, and they all learn the | 8 | can to ensure student safety. |
| 9 | political science or government -- the -- what most | 9 | But we did also talk about if, like, |
| 10 | of my colleagues were just regurgitating to them | 10 | Clovis is doing it and also Rio Rancho, I think |
| 11 | from the pulpit. | 11 | there's a couple of districts that are doing their |
| 12 | And so I get it that when you start | 12 | own or something similar. We're going to see how we |
| 13 | something new, it's very hard to be received. But | 13 | can align that, as long as it's using the same |
| 14 | you have to just continue with it. | 14 | criteria. |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Right. I know a number of the | 15 | They wanted to do it effective August 1. |
| 16 | people on their governance council. That's how they | 16 | And I was like, "Unh-unh, you cannot do that." So |
| 17 | started their first meetings. They were in a | 17 | we moved it to July 1st of next year; so... |
| 18 | circle. And they were -- it's, like, "What are you | 18 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |
| 19 | doing," you know? And it was -- they really | 19 | Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 20 | hesitated; but they embraced that from the | 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I am fine. |
| 21 | beginning. And so that the -- you know, the | 21 | THE CHAIR: Great. |
| 22 | governance council is very versed in what the school | 22 | Commissioner Crone? |
| 23 | truly means. | 23 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: So two of our |
| 24 | Commissioner Ruiz? | 24 | Commissioners were flooded out recently; so I hope |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I just have a few | 25 | you have a home. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Do you have a home? | 1 | Congress. And it's also the date -- June 14 is the |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Me? | 2 | day that's recognized as the founding of the |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yeah. | 3 | United States Army. So it's very important that we |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes, I have a home. | 4 | understand that, I think. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Didn't they open the | 5 | And when we pledge allegiance to the |
| 6 | dam at Navajo? | 6 | flag -- and I understand we had a member last year |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. So there's a | 7 | that stopped wanting to say the Pledge of Allegiance |
| 8 | lot of water in the river, and the river looks | 8 | to the flag. |
| 9 | really good. I live up on top of the hill. | 9 | We aren't pledging to a person. We aren't |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: And thanks for the | 10 | pledging to an administration. We are pledging to |
| 11 | parking space today. I actually -- | 11 | an ideal. And that ideal is put forth in the |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? | 12 | preamble to the Constitution. And the Constitution |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, without going | 13 | was issued because the confederacy wasn't working. |
| 14 | into the Socratic Method, I do want to point out a | 14 | And it says "We, the People of the |
| 15 | couple of things besides what we shared with Matt | 15 | United States, in order to form a more perfect |
| 16 | Pahl in terms of the space and the minimum -- the | 16 | union...," and it goes on. It doesn't say, "to form |
| 17 | space tare considerations. | 17 | a perfect union." It says, "to form a more perfect |
| 18 | One thing that they did do is they looked | 18 | union." |
| 19 | at, for public schools, the minimum space | 19 | And I will be the first to admit that this |
| 20 | calculations; because very small schools and very | 20 | country is not perfect. But I think it's the best |
| 21 | large schools were basically being shortchanged | 21 | thing that's around right now. So God Bless |
| 22 | based upon the number of students, and that, you | 22 | America, and God Bless each and every one of you. |
| 23 | know, they were -- the old calculation was basically | 23 | Thank you. |
| 24 | just the number of students. If they have | 24 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? |
| 25 | 10 students, this is the size school you need. | 25 | MS. VOIGT: Thank you, Commissioner |
|  | Page 239 |  | Page 241 |
| 1 | They weren't taking into account that you | 1 | Robbins. And you're so full of little tidbits, I |
| 2 | have to have administrators, counselors, things like | 2 | mean, the football huddle and -- you've got to get |
| 3 | that. They readjusted that, and that was approved | 3 | on Jeopardy. |
| 4 | by PSCOC. Those are minimum space standards. | 4 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: You know -- but my |
| 5 | They're not really what schools should have; but | 5 | kids gave me -- years ago, they gave me an |
| 6 | it's the minimum that they should at least be | 6 | electronic game that was 1001 useless facts. |
| 7 | designing to, and preferably above that for program | 7 | Hopefully, these aren't. |
| 8 | purposes. | 8 | MS. VOIGT: No. Thank you for that. |
| 9 | And the land leases, as I mentioned, | 9 | So this week, it was an honor to finish up |
| 10 | they're going to be reevaluating that, because in | 10 | the work with the Assessment -- Student Success Task |
| 11 | cases where, you know, you have to -- you have a | 11 | Force. |
| 12 | building, it's a portable building but you have to | 12 | THE CHAIR: You're done? |
| 13 | have a place to put it, land leases do make it | 13 | MS. VOIGT: Yes, we're done. It was such |
| 14 | appropriate. And you have to have space for parking | 14 | a great working group. And we really dug in to look |
| 15 | and -- you know, a reasonable amount. So they're | 15 | at equity and cultural relevance behind our |
| 16 | going to look at it from the standpoint of what's | 16 | assessments. But I think the bigger picture, and |
| 17 | reasonable. | 17 | what the PED is really supporting, is a more |
| 18 | But the last thing I wanted to say, really | 18 | balanced approach to assessment, where summative has |
| 19 | has nothing to do with us today except for how we | 19 | always been way down here, right, if you're looking |
| 20 | started and how we start each and every convention | 20 | at a teeter-totter. |
| 21 | meeting. And that's with the Pledge of Allegiance | 21 | And so they're bringing the bar a little |
| 22 | to the Flag. Today is Flag Day. A lot of people | 22 | more level so we have summative, but we have a big |
| 23 | may not know it's Flag Day, June 14th. | 23 | block for interim assessments, and we have a big |
| 24 | It was the date that the flag of the | 24 | block for formative assessments, which we really |
| 25 | United States was adopted by the Second Continental | 25 | know is where our instruction improves. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And what was really, really re-inspiring | 1 | challenges to our charter schools. |
| 2 | was to see the support for performance assessments, | 2 | And I was just wondering if there has been |
| 3 | which is exhibitions, portfolios, presentations; | 3 | some type of convening of charter schools to just |
| 4 | because we know that when students can defend what | 4 | kind of discuss what is the impact, what's been the |
| 5 | they know and why what they know is important to | 5 | financial impact of all the decisions that have been |
| 6 | know, then they become masters in their learning. | 6 | made. And just to kind of get an idea. And if |
| 7 | So that was a really great experience. | 7 | that -- and if there has been, if that information |
| 8 | On Tuesday, I attended the Innovations | 8 | can be shared to this Commission. |
| 9 | symposium sponsored by Future Focused Education. | 9 | THE CHAIR: We -- we've tried that. |
| 10 | And the Public Education Department, I believe, were | 10 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: They're having a |
| 11 | in on that. And that was also reinvigorating to see | 11 | conference next week. |
| 12 | the different models that are out there that are | 12 | THE CHAIR: We were shot down; so I'll |
| 13 | supporting performance assessment, and hearing from | 13 | leave it at that. |
| 14 | students and teachers about what they value in | 14 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. It's just -- |
| 15 | education. | 15 | THE CHAIR: I know. I know. I agree. |
| 16 | Because that's really our stakeholders, | 16 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. |
| 17 | right, is our kids and our parents and our teachers? | 17 | THE CHAIR: On that note... |
| 18 | So when those voices can come forward, especially | 18 | COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Motion to adjourn. |
| 19 | the students', that's when we know we're doing | 19 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Second. |
| 20 | something right when they can validate us. So it | 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Aye. |
| 21 | was a great week. | 21 | THE CHAIR: Any opposed? Safe travels. |
| 22 | I had to get up early four days this week; | 22 | (Proceedings concluded at 2:49 p.m.) |
| 23 | but it was worth it. | 23 |  |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. | 24 |  |
| 25 | MS. VOIGT: It was good to get up and go | 25 |  |
|  | Page 243 |  | Page 245 |
| 1 | to work. | 1 | BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Chavez? | 2 | STATE OF NEW MEXICO |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Well, I, too, | 3 |  |
| 4 | attended on Tuesday. And it didn't start till 9:00. | 4 |  |
| 5 | So I'm wondering, "early"? You had to get up early? | 5 |  |
| 6 | MS. VOIGT: I'm always up; but I'm like | 6 |  |
| 7 | putzing around the house. I'm up. | 8 | I, Cynthia C Chapman, RMR, CCR \#219, Certified |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: I just want to just | 9 | Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby |
| 9 | share, hearing from Commissioner Davis about the | 10 | certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true |
| 10 | school that may not reapply and what Matt Pahl | 11 | transcript of proceedings had before the said |
| 11 | shared as far as the impact on funding on our | 12 | NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the |
| 12 | schools. And then I heard earlier this week that | 13 | State of New Mexico, County of Santa Fe, in the |
| 13 | the district charter school in Deming is looking to | 14 | matter therein stated. |
| 14 | close down as well. | 15 | In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: Really? | 16 | hand on June 28, 2019. |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yeah. And so I'm | 17 |  |
| 17 | just wondering about -- I mean, it seems like our | 18 |  |
| 18 | charter schools took a big -- had a big target, you | 19 |  |
| 19 | know, on them. And I'm just wondering -- I'm just | 20 | Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR \#219 BEAN \& ASSOCIATES, INC |
| 20 | wondering the changes that have been made and the | 2 | 201 Third Street NW, Suite 1630 |
| 21 | impact that it's having on our charter schools, | 21 | Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 |
| 22 | and -- because I know, like, the Small School Size | 22 | Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 |
| 23 | Funding factor and At-Risk being at the district | 23 |  |
| 24 | level not necessarily -- there's just all these | 24 |  |
| 25 | things that I think are presenting some big | 25 | Job No.: 2358 N (CC) |


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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 RECEIPT |  |
| Job NUMBER: 2358 N CC Date: 6/14/19 |  |
| PROCEEDINGS: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING |  |
| CASE CAPTION: In re: Public Meeting of the Public |  |
| 5 Education Commission |  |
| 6 ************************ |  |
| ATTORNEY: MS. BEVERLY FRIEDMAN - PED |  |
| 8 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other |  |
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