# BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION <br> STATE OF NEW MEXICO 

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME FIVE
December 13, 2019
8:07 a.m.
Jerry Apodaca Education Building - Mabry Hall
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | APPEARANCES | 1 | THE CHAIR: Let me bring out of recess |
| 2 | COMMISSIONERS: | 2 | this meeting of the Public Education Commission. It |
| 3 | MS. PATRICIA GIPSON, Chair <br> MS KARYL ANN ARMBRUSTER Secretary | 3 | is Friday, the 13th, and it is 8:07 a.m. |
| 4 | MR. R. CARLOS CABALLERO, Member | 4 | Commissioner Armbruster, will you do roll |
|  | MR. MICHAEL CHAVEZ, Member |  |  |
| 5 | MR. TIM CRONE, Member | 5 | call, please? |
|  | MS. GEORGINA DAVIS, Member | 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 6 | MS. SONIA RAFTERY, Member | 7 | Robbins? |
|  | MR. DAVID ROBBINS, Member | 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Present. |
| 8 | PED STAFF: | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 9 | MR. ALAN BRAUER Acting Director Options for Parents and Families | 10 | Voigt? |
| 10 |  | 11 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Here. |
|  | MS. KAREN WOERNER Deputy Director | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 11 | Options for Parents and Families | 13 | Armbruster is here. |
| 12 | MS. BEVERLY FRIEDMAN PED Custodian of Record and Liaison to the PEC | 14 | Commissioner Davis? |
| 13 |  | 15 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Here. |
|  | PEC COUNSEL: | 16 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 14 | MS. AMI JAEGER | 17 | Chavez? |
| 15 | MR. MARK CHAIKEN | 18 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Present. |
| 16 |  | 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 18 |  | 20 | Gipson? |
| 19 |  | 21 | THE CHAIR: Here. |
| 20 |  | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 22 |  | 23 | Raftery? |
| 23 |  | 24 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Here. |
| 25 |  | 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
|  | Page 910 |  | Page 912 |
| 1 | INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS, Continued | 1 | Crone is not yet here. |
| 2 | PAGE | 2 | Commissioner Ruiz is not here. |
| 3 | 5 Discussion and Action on Charter School Renewal Applications, Continued | 3 | Commissioner Caballero is not yet here. |
| 4 | Q Tierra Adentro of New Mexico 912 | 4 | So we have eight at the moment. |
| 5 | (Albuquerque) | 5 | [Verbatim.] |
|  | R Aldo Leopold Charter School 975 | 6 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Good morning. |
| 6 | (Silver City) | 7 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning. |
| 7 | S Taos Integrated School for the Arts 1060 | 8 | THE CHAIR: Thanks for coming up -- |
|  | (Taos) | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Seven. |
| 8 | 6 Report From Options for Parents and 1118 | 10 | THE CHAIR: -- and appearing with us this |
| 9 | The Charter School Division - Discussion | 11 | morning as we get ourselves situated. We appreciate |
| 10 |  | 12 | all the time and effort that you've put into this |
|  | 7 Report from the Chair 1150 | 13 | because we understand it takes quite a bit of time |
| 11 |  | 14 | and also patience with the somewhat difficult issue |
|  | 8 PEC Comments 1165 | 15 | we were in with not all the data available now. |
| 13 | REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 1173 | 16 | Hopefully, everyone is in a comfortable |
| 14 | ATTACHMENTS: | 17 | place with that, and we can -- we'll be okay. But I |
| 15 | 1 Visitors' and Public Comment Sign-In Sheets | 18 | do have a standard statement that I make about that |
| 16 |  | 19 | before each school. |
| 18 |  | 20 | So I'll do that -- oh. Before I do that, |
| 19 |  | 21 | if there is anyone that wishes to speak in regards |
| 20 |  | 22 | to the school, there's a sign-up sheet right there |
| 22 |  | 23 | by Ms. Friedman. So if you would sign there, we'd |
| 23 |  | 24 | appreciate it. |
| 24 |  | 25 | Renewal of Charters with Conditions. |


|  | Page 913 |  | Page 915 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | PED has not provided a report or review of | 1 | before, that I wasn't affiliated -- a school that I |
| 2 | data for the School Year '18-'19 Accountability. It | 2 | was not affiliated with or friends with up to this |
| 3 | is important for schools to have the complete | 3 | point. |
| 4 | academic data as part of its renewal information for | 4 | And it just so happens that it's about a |
| 5 | this renewal and also for future years. | 5 | block-and-a-half from where I live in Old Town. And |
| 6 | The PEC needs complete State | 6 | so I've gone by their school, at least since they've |
| 7 | Accountability Reports to make the best decision on | 7 | moved in, probably 300 or 400 times with my dog. |
| 8 | school renewal applications. | 8 | And when I first went in there, I was just |
| 9 | The PEC will review financial and | 9 | really amazed to learn more about what was going on |
| 10 | operational performance because the data is complete | 10 | inside that building and how unique and innovative |
| 11 | at this meeting in December 2019. | 11 | it is. |
| 12 | If the PEC decides to issue a renewal with | 12 | And so I just wanted to share that story |
| 13 | conditions, the PEC will clearly state what | 13 | and that appreciation of -- you know, when you look |
| 14 | Accountability information it will review from the | 14 | at an old post office building, you never know |
| 15 | PED Accountability Report. | 15 | what's going to be inside and the beauty that really |
| 16 | When the Accountability data is prepared | 16 | is happening in there and the work and magic that |
| 17 | by PED and the school has had an opportunity to | 17 | you're doing with your students. |
| 18 | review the data -- no less than ten days -- the PEC | 18 | The second story I wanted to share is at |
| 19 | will review the data and remove the conditions or | 19 | the time when Interim Secretary Bobroff was -- was |
| 20 | take other action, such as a Corrective Action Plan, | 20 | the Acting, we had -- I had a chance to go with her |
| 21 | or possibly non-renew the charter. | 21 | to Tierra Adentro for an open house at the beginning |
| 22 | At the future meeting, January or February | 22 | of the year. And to see the energy with the |
| 23 | 2020, the PEC will only consider the issues related | 23 | families and the students -- you know. And I know |
| 24 | to the reason for the conditions and will not | 24 | that the school is known for, you know, their |
| 25 | consider any other issues related to renewal. | 25 | performing arts program. |
|  | Page 914 |  | Page 916 |
| 1 | So we will close out, 100 percent, finance | 1 | But to see the -- the focus in on rigor of |
| 2 | and operational today. And that's not open for | 2 | academics, along with the performance rigor and the |
| 3 | discussion when we're back in January or February | 3 | engagement with families, was something that was |
| 4 | with this. | 4 | truly moving to me and to Deputy Secretary Bobroff. |
| 5 | And we close out 95 percent of the | 5 | So I wanted to share that, that this is a |
| 6 | academic; so that the only areas that will be | 6 | school that I know I have learned a lot from at this |
| 7 | considered for talking points are those areas that | 7 | point. And I think it's a great model, similar to |
| 8 | are not available right now. And that's it. | 8 | what has been mentioned with some of our other |
| 9 | So, hopefully, that's -- and, hopefully, | 9 | schools. As we really think about innovations and |
| 10 | we'll be good. And if everything -- if the motion | 10 | we think about how we would be supporting our |
| 11 | indicates that -- as long as the school hasn't had a | 11 | students' holistic interests, I think this is a |
| 12 | significant downward trend, the school will then | 12 | school that has really accomplished that. |
| 13 | just be on the Consent Agenda, okay? | 13 | So with that, I'm going to pass the mic |
| 14 | So thanks. So we will start with CSD. | 14 | over to Karen. |
| 15 | Then you folks will have your 15 minutes, if there's | 15 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Thank you. Good |
| 16 | anyone that wishes to speak. And then we'll do | 16 | morning, Madam Chair, Commissioners, school |
| 17 | Commission questions. So thanks. | 17 | representatives. |
| 18 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Madam Chair, | 18 | So Tierra Adentro of New Mexico serves |
| 19 | members of the Commission, members of the school. | 19 | students in Grades 6 through 12, approximate |
| 20 | I had two comments before I hand the mic | 20 | enrollment of 273, with a focus on academics, art, |
| 21 | over to Deputy Director Woerner to provide the CSD | 21 | artisanship, and the study of cultures. |
| 22 | report. | 22 | I do want to point out that if you are |
| 23 | As you all know, I started my role as the | 23 | looking at the printed materials, we had a |
| 24 | Director in March of 2019. Tierra Adentro was the | 24 | correction on the sheet. The electronic version has |
| 25 | first school that I visited -- that I never visited | 25 | it. But we've omitted -- and my apologies to |

1 Ms. Archuleta -- we had omitted Theresa's name. 2 They are co-directors, Veronica and Theresa. So on 3 the printed materials, it should have both names, in math, you will see that they've improved over
years. In the first year of the contract term, they were significantly lower than expected growth. And and my apologies.

Moving on, the Part A of the school's data does show that there was a slight increase in the reading, but then a drop in the last assessment. Similarly with the math, there was a decline over the years.

Science proficiency rate was at 28 percent for the school. You remember the State average is 35.

The higher performing students growth indices are showing that the students in the high performing group, in both reading and math, are around the as-expected growth; in the lowest performing students, similarly, showing right there at the zero mark across the subgroups in terms of expected growth.

You will note that, particularly in math, though that is an area where I just mentioned they had some decline, in the lowest performing students in math, you will see that they've improved over the

The school did have a "B", then "C," and
" B " in the term of the contract. And you can see that their current standing in their lowest performing students' scores, those still had a "D" at the last report, but had increased from an "F".

Regarding the ratings chart that I just mentioned, the organizational performance framework, there were five indicators where the school had a repeat Workings to Meet or a Falls Far Below, and those were listed on Page 3.

Students with special needs, there was some concerns about some overdue IEPs and evaluations, and the school has been working to resolve that and has a plan in place.

Recurrent enrollment was below the goal of 85 percent, but it was at 81 percent. So as we mentioned with other schools, in the new contracts, you set the expectation at 75 percent. The school was at 81 percent recurrent enrollment.

The financial compliance and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles scores were around the audit findings.

And the facilities requirement was regarding missed drills, the emergency drills. They've resolved that problem, and we have a new

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over the years, it's become closer to as-expected growth for the lowest performing students in math.

Your subgroup proficiency rates sort of mimic the overall proficiency rates we just spoke about, where there was some decline in the last year with that last assessment.

Graduation rate is at 84 percent.
Mission goals, the school -- appears that there was some struggle either with the evidence or the results in 2017. But the school has exceeded both goals in 2018 and 2019.

Their membership chart is showing an upward trend with increase in membership over the course of the contract term. And their retention for students within the school year has been between 85 and 92 percent during the term of the contract, and, between school years, has been between 78 and 83 percent.

Their audit findings this last year were two, one of which was considered a material weakness. That is the reason for the one red indicator on their ratings chart.

So going back to the report, all areas were at Demonstrates or Meets the Standard in each of the areas rated for their progress report.
schedule of required drills that the school is aware of and is following.

So 100 percent of their employees signed the petition; 77 percent of their households signed the petition. And 11.94 percent was their New Mexico Condition Index Score, well below the average. And, remember, lower is better.

And with that, I conclude the report on the school.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Good morning once again. And if you would, just identify yourselves and anyone else who's going to speak for the school during this time for the record.

MS. VERONICA TORRES: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Veronica Torres, and I am co-director of Tierra Adentro Charter School.

MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, my name is Theresa Archuleta. I am also co-director of Tierra Adentro Charter School. And coming up at the end of our presentation, within our 15 minutes, is Dr. Diego Gallegos. He is our foundation president.

THE CHAIR: Thanks. So whenever you're ready.

MS. VERONICA TORRES: So good morning, members of the Commission, Madam Chair. I will be speaking about our finance programming.

Since 2016, or since our last renewal, therefore, we have added what's called our "focus classes." So that means once students are in tenth through twelfth grade, they choose a focus in either visual art, artesanía, music, or dance, where they have an intense study of those art forms. So they will attend their academics and their dual-credit classes in the morning, eat lunch.

And then in the afternoon, from anywhere from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half hours, they are studying their art form with master teachers from the school that are professional artists in the community.

What has not changed is our sixth- through ninth-graders still have the arts, all four art forms, integrated into their academic schedule during the day.

Our dance focus students, our tenththrough twelfth-graders are now taking 200- and 300-level dance classes through the dual-credit program at the University of New Mexico, where they are taught by guest artists from Spain that UNM has

The other thing that we do offer, we begin recruiting at ninth grade, is students for dual credit. And we're very proud of that dual credit, and we'll talk about that in a little bit in our presentation.

But what we do offer is we have approximately 35 students enrolled either at CNM or UNM, and they are taking academic classes, such as their English, math, science, health classes. And Veronica mentioned the dance classes as well at UNM, because it fits within our mission.

That is something that we have really strived -- we want to make sure that our community knows that while the arts are embedded within our curriculum, academics are our number-one focus for our students, because our ultimate goal is graduation for each and every one of our kids.

What else we did during the last five years when we were renewed in 2014, is we created a block schedule within our instructional day. And that was aligned to support, also, the college pathway.

So we now have 85 -minute blocks, Monday through Thursday. And then we have sort of what's called a "Fast Friday," so that all teachers can

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brought in to work with the students.
Also, members of our dance focus student body have performed in UNM faculty dance concerts, which are their most elite concerts with their dance students.

Since 2016, we also added an artesanía focus, where students are not only studying woodworking and craftsmanship, but they are studying production sides of things; so they are now our backstage hands and are learning how to build flamenco floors and running sound and lighting for our production.

Also this year, current, we just added a percussion class, where students are able to study different types of percussion, from Cuban to African drumming, to flamenco drumming as well.

MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, we also focus highly on the academics. That is very important to us. And so one of the things we believe in is offering choice within our own mission.

So of that choice, we created an online evening program for either credit recovery or to get ahead in our program. And so that is through the e2020 curriculum.
also meet with the students so that they can catch them up on whatever they may have missed during the week.

Another important factor we know is that relationship with students. And we knew that it was really hard for English teachers, math teachers, dance teachers, to build that into their daily instruction.

So we created an advisory period. So we have advisory every Monday through Thursday for 35 minutes, where they review their -- their grades. They can go and meet with teachers. They may be struggling and need some support.

And so that has really made a huge difference. And what's really exciting to us as we build in the arts, we had a Camino Real Trunk Show November 24th, a lot of the dance teachers and the music teachers collaborated, and they had their rehearsal that advisory period as well, so as not to interrupt academic instruction. So we feel that has made a huge difference for the students.

The other thing that we learned is really important for the academics and for teachers to be better teachers is teachers need to collaborate with one another, within the duty day; not on their lunch

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| 1 | breaks, not after school, not on their own time. |  | with the bragging rights, which is evidence and |
| 2 | So we built that into our calendar with | 2 | data. |
| 3 | this block schedule. So we have weekly | 3 | So in 2019, 100 percent graduated with a |
| 4 | collaboration on-site. And what we're building | 4 | plan to continue their education, either training or |
| 5 | in -- I don't know if you're familiar with "Lesson | 5 | work. 84 percent were admitted into UNM, New Mexico |
| 6 | Study." The teachers are now becoming researchers | 6 | Highlands, and CNM. 63 percent took one or more |
| 7 | in terms of how kids learn. | 7 | dual-credit courses. |
| 8 | And so this year, it's been our push for | 8 | One student earned 39 credits. Another |
| 9 | creating Lesson Study teams to go in and observe and | 9 | student earned 24 credits. Two students earned 21 |
| 10 | to collaborate with one another on a professional | 10 | credits |
| 11 | level to be better teachers. And that has seemed to | 11 | One student was admitted to UNM's American |
| 12 | really help our school as well. | 12 | Indian Summer Bridge Program, a four-week program, |
| 13 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: And since our last | 13 | including eight college credits, plus room and |
| 14 | renewal, we have 69 percent of our students that | 14 | board, all paid for by the University of New Mexico. |
| 15 | qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. And so we are a | 15 | The highest individual scholarship earned, plus |
| 16 | Title I school. And so we saw a need at our school, | 16 | financial aid, was $\$ 86,846$ for over four years. |
| 17 | because many of our students are coming to us, as | 17 | Total amount of scholarships that were |
| 18 | Ms. Woerner was saying, very low in math and | 18 | awarded that year, \$370,000 to 36 graduating |
| 19 | reading; and for us to get that growth, it's very | 19 | students. |
| 20 | trying. | 20 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: And now as your |
| 21 | So because of that need of our school, we | 21 | class of 2020 is getting ready for their second |
| 22 | now have hired a full-time social worker. And | 22 | semester, as of December 3rd of this year, |
| 23 | because of our dual-credit numbers and the increase | 23 | 68 percent have completed the FAFSA. 67 percent of |
| 24 | in our student body that is now applying to | 24 | seniors have taken one or more dual-credit courses. |
| 25 | colleges, which is great, we have hired a full-time | 25 | And 23 out of our 37 seniors this year have been |
|  | Page 926 |  | Page 928 |
| 1 | college-and-career counselor. | 1 | admitted to UNM's fall semester, and now to, also, |
| 2 | And that brings me to our bragging rights | 2 | NMSU. |
| 3 | with that. So we've had many members of our dance | 3 | Our current tenth- through |
| 4 | and music alumni students have gone on to become | 4 | twelfth-graders, 39 students are taking dual-credit |
| 5 | members of the professional company, Yjastros, which | 5 | classes at UNM and CNM; so that's 42 percent of |
| 6 | is the premier flamenco dance company here in | 6 | those students. |
| 7 | New Mexico. | 7 | We also added an after-school arts |
| 8 | Other student alumni. We had one of our | 8 | programming. We contract with the National |
| 9 | student alumni just now, in fall 2019, she went and | 9 | Institute of Flamenco to intensively train dancers |
| 10 | competed at the Flamenco Certamen USA in New York, | 10 | and musicians in their dance and music ensembles. |
| 11 | and she won. So we're very proud of that student. | 11 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Of course, the |
| 12 | She was also valedictorian last school year. | 12 | backbone of every school is our families. So |
| 13 | Members of our dance focus have performed | 13 | without them, we're nothing. |
| 14 | at Tablao Flamenco in Albuquerque, which is the | 14 | So what we try to do to incorporate their |
| 15 | premier tablao place to perform in Albuquerque. So | 15 | busy lives and knowing that they have lots of |
| 16 | many of them are now performing with guest artists | 16 | hardship, maybe, because our population is |
| 17 | from Spain and members of Yjastros as well. | 17 | 69 percent Free and Reduced, we want to respect what |
| 18 | Since 2015, we have performed at Carnegie | 18 | they come with and what they can bring. |
| 19 | Hall in New York City, in Phoenix, Tucson, and | 19 | We have moved away from a parent advisory |
| 20 | Atlanta's Music in the Park with professional | 20 | council, because our attendance was always low and |
| 21 | musicians, where we've also collaborated with | 21 | we tried to do many different things to increase |
| 22 | Westlake High School where their drum corps played | 22 | that attendance. |
| 23 | for our dancers, and we did a flamenco fusion piece | 23 | So our social worker and one of our |
| 24 | with them at Atlanta's Music in the Park. | 24 | teachers who had background in family engagement |
| 25 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: So we'll continue | 25 | created workshops for our families that we -- we |


|  | Page 929 |  | Page 931 |
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|  | give. And we -- we surveyed our families and asked |  | his -- his pushing and his outreach to, nationally |
| 2 | what is it that they would like support with. | 2 | and internationally, what professional and |
| 3 | So upon that, we have built in workshops | 3 | successful artists implement. And so he tries to |
| 4 | during the school day, in the evenings, very -- all | 4 | match that. And we have to kind of put the reins on |
| 5 | different ways to accommodate our busy -- our | 5 | him every now and then. |
| 6 | family's busy lives. So that is one thing that we | 6 | And, of course, we have our wonderful |
| 7 | have seen. | 7 | business manager, Michael Vigil, and Amber Peña, |
| 8 | And we sent out a family newsletter now. | 8 | because they tell us, "You can do that," or, "You |
| 9 | We're finding we probably have to look at ways of | 9 | can't do that." And then we tell him, "Make it |
| 10 | technology to implement in order to communicate with | 10 | happen." |
| 11 | families, because families may not be able to | 11 | But at this time, we're really excited. |
| 12 | attend, but they will be present in their children's | 12 | We have some news that we'd like to -- it's not |
| 13 | lives, and we want to honor and respect that. | 13 | official. But we have our foundation president, |
| 14 | The other thing we are working on is the | 14 | Dr. Diego Gallegos, who would like to share a little |
| 15 | academic advisory council and the teacher focus | 15 | bit about our facility process. So we're going to |
| 16 | teams. Again, that was reconfigured through our | 16 | ask him to come up. |
| 17 | weekly collaboration with our staff. And we feel | 17 | DR. DIEGO GALLEGOS: Good morning, |
| 18 | very fortunate that we have that time built in to | 18 | Madam Chair, Commissioners. It's always good to be |
| 19 | our duty day. | 19 | here. It's been over 20 years since I sat in that |
| 20 | We also continue to have our parent | 20 | seat during my term as assistant -- as State |
| 21 | orientation and open house, which Alan mentioned | 21 | Director of Special Education and Assistant |
| 22 | that he was able to attend with Dr. Bobroff. | 22 | Superintendent for Learning Services. So I had an |
| 23 | And then the other thing is we have a | 23 | opportunity to speak before -- |
| 24 | teacher retention rate of -- four of our teachers -- | 24 | THE CHAIR: I think you'll have to slow |
| 25 | we're such a small staff. We have 25 teachers | 25 | down just a little bit. |
|  | Page 930 |  | Page 932 |
| 1 | total. Four last year were on maternity leave. | 1 | DR. DIEGO GALLEGOS: So I had the |
| 2 | So don't drink the water at our school. | 2 | opportunity to sit down before your predecessors, |
| 3 | But we have several people here in the | 3 | the State Board of Education. So it's always good |
| 4 | audience today. And we are very fortunate that we | 4 | to come back. |
| 5 | have such a strong team. We have four members out | 5 | When my stepdaughter, Madison, started at |
| 6 | of six from our governance council board. We have | 6 | Tierra Adentro in sixth grade, it became very clear |
| 7 | our president, Sandy Martinez. | 7 | right away that the building that they were in was |
| 8 | We have our vice president, the Honorable | 8 | just not the kind of facility you want your child to |
| 9 | Judge Ted Baca. | 9 | go to school in. |
| 10 | We have Professor Donna Jewell, who | 10 | And so I came to the governing council at |
| 11 | represents the arts on our board, from the | 11 | that point and said, "Let me help. Let me do |
| 12 | University of New Mexico. | 12 | whatever I can to help." |
| 13 | And we also have former Representative Dan | 13 | So we've been working on trying to get -- |
| 14 | Silva. | 14 | to get financing for a facility since then. Madison |
| 15 | So we have a pretty diverse group of | 15 | just is finishing her freshman year at UNM; so from |
| 16 | people that support us. | 16 | sixth grade to now, and we still do not have a |
| 17 | We also have really key staff that are | 17 | building. |
| 18 | here as well that you'll get to meet, as well we | 18 | However -- oh. And by the way, Madison is |
| 19 | have Joaquin Encinias who is our curriculum director | 19 | also that young lady that Theresa talked about who |
| 20 | who was one of the founders of the school and | 20 | just won this international competition and is, as I |
| 21 | continues -- he kind of has the mind of someone that | 21 | said, a freshman at the University of New Mexico. |
| 22 | is always -- how do we improve, and how do we get | 22 | And because of the dual credit that they |
| 23 | better? | 23 | afforded her, she now is really a second-semester |
| 24 | And a lot of -- a lot of the arts that | 24 | sophomore in her first semester of school. So |
| 25 | have evolved through the school have been because of | 25 | school is good for her at this time. |


|  | Page 933 |  | Page 935 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | We've been working with a number of | 1 | obvious. And so for me, at that moment, I was a |
| 2 | financial institutions over these years trying to | 2 | breath of fresh air, because this had been already |
| 3 | come up with financing for the school. Yesterday I | 3 | seven years of work, and we wanted this to work |
| 4 | spoke to the gentleman who represents Clearinghouse | 4 | really well. |
| 5 | CDFI here in New Mexico. He is in L.A. today. He | 5 | And so it has done that. I've seen an |
| 6 | expects today to get our final approval for our | 6 | incredible, just, dynamic shift in our children. |
| 7 | financing. | 7 | And that's from the lowest performing to the highest |
| 8 | Our -- so they will finance 80 percent of | 8 | performing children. That is across the board; more |
| 9 | the building, and the Charter School Development | 9 | engagement, more love for the community, more love |
| 10 | Corporation that you may have worked with in the | 10 | for the arts and the academic process. And so we |
| 11 | past will do the rest. | 11 | feel good about that. |
| 12 | So we are that close. As soon as we get | 12 | They've told you a little bit about all of |
| 13 | signed on the bottom line, you will hear a scream | 13 | the things that these wonderful children have |
| 14 | come from all of us, a scream of happiness. So we | 14 | accomplished through those focuses and through those |
| 15 | are finally there. | 15 | after-school programs. I only see those getting |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Congratulations. | 16 | better. |
| 17 | DR. DIEGO GALLEGOS: Thank you very much. | 17 | As they noted, that I have the |
| 18 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: And that concludes | 18 | opportunity, thankfully, because of my background, I |
| 19 | our 15-minute presentation. Thank you, | 19 | get to teach around the country quite often. I'm |
| 20 | Commissioners. | 20 | out for a day or two once every six weeks or so, and |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. And now | 21 | I do teach in Atlanta quite a bit. |
| 22 | that you've told us that sometimes Joaquin has to be | 22 | And, right away, I sort of noticed this |
| 23 | reined in, Joaquin is first on the list for Public | 23 | wonderful thing happening in the South. They have a |
| 24 | Comment. | 24 | wonderful drum line and marching band tradition in |
| 25 | FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you Madam Chair, | 25 | the South of this country that is wonderful for the |
|  | Page 934 |  | Page 936 |
| 1 | members of the Commission. It's an honor to be here | 1 | high school programs, but also very culturally |
| 2 | this morning. | 2 | based, very much a part of the culture, not |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Could you just state your name | 3 | necessarily separated from the culture but really |
| 4 | for the record? | 4 | part of the culture. |
| 5 | MR. JOAQUIN ENCINIAS: My name is Joaquin | 5 | And so I was really engaged by that three |
| 6 | Encinias, and I direct the arts curriculum at the | 6 | or four years ago, and so I started to implement |
| 7 | school. And I have the wonderful opportunity and | 7 | that. And that has become our percussion focus for |
| 8 | job to work with young folks and try to figure out | 8 | the last two or three years that we are starting to |
| 9 | how to enhance their lives and their education | 9 | evolve. |
| 10 | through the infusion of arts and artisanship. | 10 | This year, we have three children in the |
| 11 | And so I just want to briefly speak a | 11 | pilot program just starting to figure out is this |
| 12 | little bit about I think was a paradigm shift for | 12 | going to actually work, because one of the dangers |
| 13 | our school was three years ago when we went to the | 13 | of starting new programs in a school is taking away |
| 14 | block schedule, and we actually started doing the | 14 | from existing ones. And our guitar program was |
| 15 | focus programs for the tenth- through | 15 | doing really well. Our music program was doing |
| 16 | twelfth-graders. | 16 | really well, and I didn't want to pull from those |
| 17 | What we did at that moment, which is | 17 | kids and start something and tear that program down. |
| 18 | pivotal for us, was take children who are wonderful | 18 | So we're piloting that this year. But it |
| 19 | at trying to sort of scheme the system and have them | 19 | looks like it's going to take off in a wonderful |
| 20 | really, for a year, say, "Look. I'm going to do | 20 | way. That's, again, just sort of outlining what my |
| 21 | nothing but dance this year and not be able to move | 21 | job looks like. |
| 22 | from one focus to another, but stick to it through | 22 | I teach in the school. I teach |
| 23 | the year." | 23 | artisanship for three blocks. And I also teach a |
| 24 | It really created a sense of culture and | 24 | percussion focus class for one block. But that's |
| 25 | tenacity in our students. It was just very, very | 25 | where we are right now. |


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| 1 | Another thing that we're looking at doing | 1 | artistic output and how they engage in the |
| 2 | here in February is I'm going to begin to go to | 2 | community, but when you talk directly with them as |
| 3 | Mexico and engage in Guadalajara and the community | 3 | individuals. |
| 4 | there, the flamenco community, and try to create | 4 | I'm -- I'm one of the professors on the |
| 5 | some collaboration with some of our students from | 5 | panel, the adjudication panel for the dance audition |
| 6 | our charter school in the areas of Guadalajara and | 6 | to become a dance major at the University of New |
| 7 | Mexico City. | 7 | Mexico. And I can share with you that the students |
| 8 | We have a wonderful tradition in Mexico. | 8 | from TANM, when they audition, are not only far and |
| 9 | We do wonderful things with flamenco, but also | 9 | above the typical level of performing arts students |
| 10 | what's called Escuela Bolera, which is 18th and 19th | 10 | from other schools in Albuquerque, as performers, |
| 11 | Century classical dance, as well as jota, which is a | 11 | but we also individually interview them. |
| 12 | form of Basque dancing from northern Spain. | 12 | And that level of maturity and |
| 13 | People in Mexico, when they see what we do | 13 | accountability and their ability to talk about |
| 14 | here in Albuquerque and New Mexico, they respect the | 14 | themselves and what they want to do in their career, |
| 15 | product so much that they want us to begin to come | 15 | both as a scholar or as -- and/or as a performer, is |
| 16 | down to the south and share what we do here with | 16 | far above the level of the other students that |
| 17 | some of their people there. | 17 | audition for the University of New Mexico. It's |
| 18 | So that's kind of some of the things that | 18 | very -- it's very impressive. |
| 19 | we're going to be looking at down the road. | 19 | I think in this era of screen life, where |
| 20 | I just want to say these two directors are | 20 | young people, and all of us, really, spend a lot of |
| 21 | incredible people, incredible directors, our board | 21 | time interacting with the world through a media |
| 22 | here as well, our governing council. Without that | 22 | screen, this school provides priceless face-to-face |
| 23 | type of support, I don't believe the arts would be | 23 | interactions with other humans in realtime that |
| 24 | able to go as deeply into the community as it has in | 24 | teaches them accountability, empathy, and |
| 25 | the last ten years, and I only see it doing more | 25 | self-reliance. |
|  | Page 938 |  | Page 940 |
| 1 | through this type of support. | 1 | Thank you for allowing me to speak. |
| 2 | So I appreciate your time, and thank you | 2 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. So thanks once |
| 3 | for letting me speak with you this morning. | 3 | again. As I said this morning, we should have had |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. And last is Donna | 4 | them come last and celebrate the end of this week |
| 5 | Jewell. | 5 | and have a presentation by their students. That |
| 6 | MS. DONNA JEWELL: Thanks. Good morning. | 6 | would have been the perfect way to end the week, |
| 7 | And thank you for giving me the opportunity to | 7 | because many of us have had the incredible |
| 8 | speak. My name is Donna Jewell. I'm a professor of | 8 | opportunity to see the school perform. And it's -- |
| 9 | dance at the University of New Mexico, and I'm | 9 | it's more than inspiring to see the students, and |
| 10 | currently the chair of the Department of Theater and | 10 | also to see that it's not just what you perceive as |
| 11 | Dance. | 11 | the typical high performing. There are special |
| 12 | I'm here to share with you, the commitment | 12 | needs students with multiple exceptions that are out |
| 13 | and attention to detail of the directors of the | 13 | there doing incredible dancing. |
| 14 | school is exemplary. | 14 | So it's a testament to what the school |
| 15 | I've been on the governing council for six | 15 | truly does, that you're not just focusing on those |
| 16 | years. And they also have the knowledge and | 16 | that have innate talent; you are tapping into that |
| 17 | awareness of who their students are, collectively | 17 | everyone -- everyone can shine in some form. And |
| 18 | and as individuals. In addition, the expertise and | 18 | that's -- that's the celebration of the human |
| 19 | dedication of the faculty providing an understanding | 19 | spirit. |
| 20 | of true rigor in the classroom is clearly evident | 20 | So we appreciate that time and time again. |
| 21 | when you see the work and engagement of the | 21 | So let's -- what's your timeline now, if |
| 22 | students. | 22 | things go well today? Because I know the one |
| 23 | In addition, creating good citizens with a | 23 | expression that came out from students and parents, |
| 24 | sense of responsibility to the community and to each | 24 | the only negative, was, "We don't have enough room," |
| 25 | other can be seen, not only in their level of | 25 | you know. |


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| 1 | So celebrate that. But we all know that | 1 | for the online portion. So we really try to |
| 2 | you haven't had enough room, and, yeah, you got off | 2 | accommodate the students and really try -- we really |
| 3 | of Central, where it was life-threatening to be | 3 | believe in building individualized plans for every |
| 4 | there; so it was a good move. But it still -- it | 4 | kid at our school so that we don't lose them. We |
| 5 | wasn't ideal. So what's your -- what's your time | 5 | want to keep them engaged. |
| 6 | frame look like? | 6 | That's what we're always trying -- like |
| 7 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Madam Chair, | 7 | Joaquin mentioned, we're always trying to keep up |
| 8 | members of the Commission, March will be the | 8 | with the changing society and their needs. |
| 9 | ground-breaking day. | 9 | THE CHAIR: I remember when you came to |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Wow. | 10 | talk about starting that program, talked about that |
| 11 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: And what our | 11 | hybrid. Have you had any students that started |
| 12 | developers and our architects have told us, it will | 12 | there and transitioned into the full-time day? Has |
| 13 | be a year after that for the construction to occur. | 13 | that happened at all? Or have -- do you know? |
| 14 | We already have the site chosen. We are near the | 14 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: It's been more of |
| 15 | National Institute of Flamenco. They have their new | 15 | the other way around. There are students that had a |
| 16 | building that was just opened now in September. And | 16 | need to move out of their homes and work during the |
| 17 | so if you go to the Sawmill area, there is a big | 17 | day, support themselves. So like Ms. Archuleta was |
| 18 | mound of dirt. That is ours waiting for us. | 18 | saying, it's the hybrid the other way, where they go |
| 19 | So we're hoping in the next year and a | 19 | focus into night school. |
| 20 | half that we would be -- I mean, and sooner than | 20 | But out of our full-time night-school |
| 21 | that we'll be before you again asking for support | 21 | students, we're going to have our first graduate |
| 22 | and following and working with Public Ed Department | 22 | this year from that program. A student very much in |
| 23 | for the correct protocol for acquiring our new | 23 | crisis that came to us wanting to graduate is now |
| 24 | facility. | 24 | going to accomplish his goal. So we're very proud |
| 25 | And one thing I would like to say is one | 25 | of that. |
|  | Page 942 |  | Page 944 |
| 1 | thing we've noticed is that our students definitely | 1 | THE CHAIR: You also mentioned that |
| 2 | deserve this new facility. We all know that kids | 2 | there's a fast track with that? So how does that -- |
| 3 | deserve the best environment they can possibly have. | 3 | how is that working? |
| 4 | So with the effort of everyone that has | 4 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: So the students that |
| 5 | supported us through this, our business manager, our | 5 | are on a fast track -- actually, it's -- one of my |
| 6 | foundation, our governance council, our families | 6 | family members just did it. I have four cousins |
| 7 | that have been super-patient with moving to a | 7 | that go to the school. So he was doing his junior |
| 8 | mediocre facility, as opposed to a horrible facility | 8 | classes during the normal day program, taking his |
| 9 | that you mentioned -- but, yeah, they deserve this. | 9 | regular eleventh-grade classes. And he's in the |
| 10 | And we feel that this will make a huge difference in | 10 | artesanía focus with Joaquin in the afternoon. |
| 11 | our students' lives. | 11 | But he wanted to get ahead. So he would |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. So how many | 12 | either stay for the night school, or just go online |
| 13 | students do you have in the reengagement program, | 13 | on his own, because we could trust him to do it at |
| 14 | recovery program, in the evening? About how many | 14 | his own home. And he, during his junior year, not |
| 15 | students do you have, the after-hours program, | 15 | only completed his junior year classes, but also his |
| 16 | whatever we want to -- | 16 | twelfth-grade classes as well. |
| 17 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: So, Madam Chair, | 17 | Now, he's choosing to stay on for twelfth |
| 18 | members of the Commission, we probably have about | 18 | grade, but he only comes for focus, because he's |
| 19 | 12 students full-time in that program. And then | 19 | completely done with his academics. But he's going |
| 20 | what we also offer is sort of a hybrid, where some | 20 | to enter the electrician program in spring at CNM |
| 21 | students want to be part of our focus, either in | 21 | and got accepted into the mechanics program in |
| 22 | dance, music. And then what they'll do is they'll | 22 | Phoenix, Arizona, for fall of 2020. So he's an |
| 23 | come for that part of it. | 23 | example of how that fast track could work for a |
| 24 | Because of our block scheduling, we're | 24 | student to their benefit. |
| 25 | able to accommodate them, and then they just stay | 25 | THE CHAIR: Great. Because I think that's |


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| 1 | something that not a lot of schools actually think | 1 | MR. MICHAEL VIGIL: -- 2014. The school |
| 2 | about. So it's an interesting concept to be able | 2 | was actually in a deficit at that point. We have |
| 3 | to, I think, share out to other schools that do, for | 3 | now built up. They have qualified for financing. |
| 4 | whatever reasons, have those students as well that | 4 | They are carrying cash balances. Everything is |
| 5 | maybe need to get out earlier for -- they need to | 5 | being paid on time and such. |
| 6 | get to work early or whatever. | 6 | So there are no issues. And I think when |
| 7 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Madam Chair, | 7 | you see this year's audit, it's a big improvement |
| 8 | members of the Commission, if I may also -- and one | 8 | over last year's. |
| 9 | of the things we know. A lot of our students, we | 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. Thanks. So I |
| 10 | don't really want them in college too early, right, | 10 | hope, as the build-out comes, maybe this will help |
| 11 | because then they could fail. So what we like to do | 11 | to generate conversations and opportunities with |
| 12 | is have them take dual-credit classes while we can | 12 | your equity council to involve the neighborhood and |
| 13 | sort -- under our umbrella, and we can support them | 13 | truly help -- because I'm sure, in some cases, it's |
| 14 | and walk them through that. | 14 | also, for families, a reengagement of the culture as |
| 15 | Then we feel we have a much better success | 15 | well. So that's -- you know, we're looking forward |
| 16 | rate for those students. Because once you're in | 16 | to see what happens. |
| 17 | that college world, you're on your own. And we feel | 17 | And I guess my last thing is a curiosity. |
| 18 | if you want to get ahead, fine; but stay with us so | 18 | How do you afford all these trips? You know, |
| 19 | we can support you in your dual credit. So that's | 19 | that's -- you know, when we -- so -- you know, I've |
| 20 | the other option as well. | 20 | got an overarching -- you know, what are the |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. So I guess my next | 21 | financial struggles? You're still relatively small. |
| 22 | question is more to Mike; because the -- the | 22 | So, you know, what are those struggles? |
| 23 | performance framework chart looks pretty good, | 23 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: So every school |
| 24 | except there's that consistent, across-the-board | 24 | year, Madam Chair, members of the Commission, we |
| 25 | Falls Far Below with the financial issues; so... | 25 | perform around 49 times around the community. And |
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| 1 | MR. MICHAEL VIGIL: Madam Chair, members | 1 | when we're at those performances, many of them |
| 2 | of the Commission, I'll report to you on the 2018 | 2 | either donate or pay us to be there. So that |
| 3 | audit, which has been released. 2019 is going to | 3 | definitely helps the students pay for their trips. |
| 4 | look better. | 4 | And we usually send the students that are |
| 5 | There was one material weakness on the | 5 | going to be traveling that year -- they're the ones |
| 6 | 2018 audit. It was related to the classification of | 6 | performing, so the money can go directly back to |
| 7 | assets. We had listed -- the expenditure for the | 7 | them. |
| 8 | planning of the new facility is listed as an | 8 | Obviously, our foundation does a lot of |
| 9 | expenditure. It's really the auditors' -- and we | 9 | fundraising on their own as well. We'll host |
| 10 | discussed it with them -- they wanted to list it as | 10 | community events for our students to perform at, |
| 11 | an asset and capitalize it when the building was | 11 | again, to raise money and have donors in the |
| 12 | going to be built. | 12 | audience that will donate to the students to help |
| 13 | Under the new standards, the accounting | 13 | them take those trips. |
| 14 | standards, that discussion becomes a finding. | 14 | And then we have our annual, what's our |
| 15 | So that was the finding. That was the | 15 | form of a jog-a-thon; it's called a flamenco-a-thon |
| 16 | material weakness. | 16 | every April, where our students perform for the |
| 17 | The other two findings were compliance | 17 | Sawmill community. We have tents -- you're all |
| 18 | issues, the cash receipts. We talked about it, the | 18 | invited -- and we perform throughout the day for |
| 19 | 24 -hour rule. We have put in processes to try to | 19 | hours upon hours, hence the "a-thon"; and we raise |
| 20 | date-stamp and time-stamp every one of those cash | 20 | money and ask for donations, too. And each kid has |
| 21 | receipts. The second was a purchase order issued | 21 | their envelope asking for, "Hey, I'm going to do a |
| 22 | after the invoice was -- was incurred. | 22 | quarter for every hour I dance, " or however we do |
| 23 | So -- but other than that, the school | 23 | it, and we've changed it over the years. |
| 24 | has -- you know, we took it over -- we came in -- | 24 | And each student, if they raise between 50 |
| 25 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: 2014. | 25 | to 100 bucks, we can make 10 to 20 grand in any one |


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| 1 | flamenco-a-thon. The most we've made is 10 ; the | 1 | Commissioner Voigt? |
| 2 | lowest we've made is 5 . So that goes to the student | 2 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you, |
| 3 | traveling as well. | 3 | Madam Chair. First of all, it's really great to see |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: What about through the school | 4 | a school so rooted in the arts, but emphasizing the |
| 5 | funding formula? What challenges have you had with | 5 | academics and bridging that and balancing that so |
| 6 | the school? | 6 | successfully. So congratulations on that. |
| 7 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Madam Chair, | 7 | It's also great to see both of you in this |
| 8 | members of the Commission, are you saying the | 8 | capacity being so creative and living this dream. |
| 9 | current funding formula? | 9 | I've had the privilege of seeing |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 10 | Mr. Encinias perform, and Ms. Torres. And so these |
| 11 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: This coming year? | 11 | students are learning from some of the best as far |
| 12 | Well, this year was much better than years previous. | 12 | as their craft. |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 13 | And I'm curious about the -- the |
| 14 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: So my background, | 14 | percussion program. Is that going to be more in the |
| 15 | I've had -- I worked with Albuquerque Public Schools | 15 | genre of the artisanship that is being taught at |
| 16 | for 23 years before coming to -- so I have worked | 16 | Tierra Adentro -- I'm sure it is -- versus the |
| 17 | with Michael Vigil when he was Chief Financial | 17 | southern style. |
| 18 | Officer. So we had pretty good management training | 18 | MR. JOAQUIN ENCINIAS: Members of the |
| 19 | at Albuquerque Public Schools. | 19 | Commission, Madam Chair. That is actually the |
| 20 | So what we do is we really prioritize with | 20 | challenge, right? Because you want to figure out |
| 21 | our staff and with our governance council, and we | 21 | how do you hold onto what you have and how do you |
| 22 | just have to look at what the need is. | 22 | grow into something that is going to engage the kids |
| 23 | And so when I first came on board 2014, | 23 | to what's next? |
| 24 | the community and the staff felt it was the building | 24 | They start with a Peruvian instrument we |
| 25 | that was our priority. So that is why we have | 25 | play in flamenco. It's called the "cajon." They |
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| 1 | saved -- we have cash savings right now to go toward | 1 | learn basically hand skills; those are hand |
| 2 | our facility, because that is our number one. | 2 | percussion skills. They then incorporate congas |
| 3 | Now, our foundation has worked very | 3 | from -- obviously, Afro Cuban, Cuban music, |
| 4 | closely and very hard at just looking at facilities. | 4 | Caribbean music. And those are slightly different |
| 5 | But now we're pushing them to start working on | 5 | techniques that they use with their wrists. |
| 6 | fundraising, because we do need more for support and | 6 | And the nice thing about that is those two |
| 7 | the after-school. I think we never look at budget | 7 | instruments -- a cajon now, if you look on -- on |
| 8 | as a deficit, because we don't own it. We work with | 8 | YouTube or a lot of music groups, they're in many |
| 9 | what we have. | 9 | pop bands now. The cajon. They play them almost |
| 10 | And so we have -- like Joaquin mentioned, | 10 | like a drum set. |
| 11 | several of our staff are professional artists; so | 11 | The conga is a different technique and |
| 12 | the fact that they know how to make something from | 12 | brings something to light that incorporates |
| 13 | nothing. So we are very good. And I know all of | 13 | Afro-Cuban music and can be played with Mexican folk |
| 14 | the folks in the audience here that are educators, | 14 | music, can be played with pop music, can be played |
| 15 | we're good at that. That is just something -- we | 15 | with all of that. |
| 16 | don't have time to complain and worry. | 16 | And, finally, the last instrument that we |
| 17 | And so that question was a little -- it | 17 | begin to incorporate is the snare and marching |
| 18 | stumped me a little bit. Because I don't think that | 18 | drums. The idea eventually will be to create sort |
| 19 | we've -- our staff has complained about not having | 19 | of our own hybrid type of drum line experience and |
| 20 | the money. We look at what we have, and we do | 20 | percussion ensemble that would have cultural roots |
| 21 | something with it. Would we want more? All the | 21 | that explore cultural music, whether it be Northern |
| 22 | time. All the time. If we can find a million | 22 | Mexican music or music from here in New Mexico, |
| 23 | dollars towards our building, we'll take it. | 23 | flamenco music from Spain, but then also allow the |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 24 | children to have a sort of outlet to identify with |
| 25 | Commissioners? | 25 | their sort of pop music roots -- I don't know if |


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| 1 | you're familiar with drum lines. But there's big | 1 | ensure that the funds are being not only properly |
| 2 | bass drums, there's tom drums; there's other -- so | 2 | spent, but properly accounted for. And, you know, |
| 3 | it allows them that capability to sort of move off | 3 | charters have tended to have some issues in that |
| 4 | into other genres. | 4 | area. |
| 5 | The other thing it brings is in music | 5 | With your current enrollment, about |
| 6 | notation and reading music, which I truly believe | 6 | 270-280 students -- but your cap is 550 -- what are |
| 7 | in. It's a wonderful skill for young minds to | 7 | the plans? I mean, do you have a wait list in given |
| 8 | engage in. And so through the snare drum, we begin | 8 | grades? Or what are the plans for growth and |
| 9 | reading rhythmic notation as a way for them to begin | 9 | expansion? |
| 10 | to engage in that whole world of literature. | 10 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Commissioner |
| 11 | I see -- so I don't know if that -- might | 11 | Robbins, members of the Commission. So we've had |
| 12 | not have answered your question. | 12 | that conversation. We started this, as Dr. Diego |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: No, it did. | 13 | Gallegos mentioned, earlier about, what, eight, nine |
| 14 | MR. JOAQUIN ENCINIAS: It's rooted in some | 14 | years ago, this journey. So we thought we needed to |
| 15 | sort of cultural drumming that moves -- not that | 15 | have a larger building with a larger number of kids |
| 16 | drum lines aren't cultural. They're very cultural; | 16 | to be able to sustain the financing. |
| 17 | that's what drew me to them. It engages to a little | 17 | So since then, what we have learned is we |
| 18 | bit more of the popular culture as well. How we do | 18 | are actually going to move toward -- and we've had |
| 19 | that and balance it is kind of what my study is. | 19 | this discussion with our board. And the board |
| 20 | But I see it really going to be able to | 20 | members have urged us, because we're able to give |
| 21 | take root. | 21 | such individual support to all the students, we're |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Beautiful. I look | 22 | going to move to bring down that cap. |
| 23 | forward to seeing that new level of energy added to | 23 | And so we haven't -- we need -- we're |
| 24 | student performances, which are nothing short of | 24 | moving towards 350. Now, our financers understand |
| 25 | professional. I've had many opportunities to see | 25 | that. And they're going with those numbers in terms |
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| 1 | the students from Tierra Adentro perform in many | 1 | of giving us financing. So we haven't done anything |
| 2 | different venues. They're just exceptional and | 2 | official. |
| 3 | professional, and congratulations on all those great | 3 | This isn't an official request or anything |
| 4 | awards that you've received. Just phenomenal work. | 4 | like that. We know we have to go through the |
| 5 | Thank you. | 5 | amendment process. But that is the conversation |
| 6 | MR. JOAQUIN ENCINIAS: Thank you. | 6 | that we've been having is that we're not moving to |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. | 7 | have -- we don't want to be a large school, per se. |
| 8 | Commissioner Robbins? | 8 | We want to keep it, because that's how we're able to |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, I want to | 9 | give that individualized attention. |
| 10 | thank you, and also congratulate you, on the success | 10 | And so, yes, we definitely -- we're |
| 11 | of your program and the success of your students, | 11 | working with the National Institute of Flamenco. We |
| 12 | and also the governance council. You have a very, I | 12 | had our board meeting last night. Our board is |
| 13 | think, engaged governance council. And the fact | 13 | pushing us to maybe hire someone to market our |
| 14 | that they're all up to date on their training and | 14 | school, you know, because none of us are in |
| 15 | everything is an indication of their dedication, | 15 | marketing; we're in education. So we need to |
| 16 | because, you know, we -- many councils, they do | 16 | probably hire an outside consultant to help us, how |
| 17 | struggle with maintaining that training. And I | 17 | do we market. |
| 18 | think that's very important. | 18 | We don't want to grow too big. Do we want |
| 19 | With regard to Mr. Vigil's reference on | 19 | a wait list? Of course. It would be great to have |
| 20 | the audit finding, I think, as you get into this | 20 | a wait list. |
| 21 | building and you start doing that, I think it's | 21 | So that's what we're working towards. |
| 22 | going to be very important to track that and work | 22 | Right now, we don't have a wait list. |
| 23 | with your auditors and Mr. Vigil to make sure that | 23 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. And related |
| 24 | everything is accounted for properly. Because at | 24 | to the size, the Legislature, this last session, did |
| 25 | the end of the day, basically, the State needs to | 25 | put in place a cut -- a phased cut in reduction in |


|  | elimination of the Small School size. How is that | 1 | our school. It's just recognizing where our |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | impacting you, and how do you think that's going to | 2 | students are. |
| 3 | impact you going forward? Is it going to force you | 3 | We have a pretty high mobility rate as |
| 4 | to put more of your SEG toward lease assistance and | 4 | well. So within the year, anywhere from -- just |
| 5 | things like that? | 5 | yesterday, we received a new lottery for sixth |
| 6 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Commissioner | 6 | grade. And I'm sure you see it just statewide, the |
| 7 | Robbins, members of the Commission, most definitely, | 7 | mobility. |
| 8 | yes. Because we are pretty -- wanting to stay at a | 8 | Now that there's choice in our state, you |
| 9 | small number. And it'll definitely hurt us without | 9 | know, there's more movement, right? So that's -- |
| 10 | the Small School Size Adjustment, for sure. | 10 | and that's an interesting -- and that's what we're |
| 11 | We're working with the Coalition and -- | 11 | studying as well. Why are these families moving? |
| 12 | excuse me -- Matt Pahl -- excuse me, I don't know | 12 | So we work a lot with -- Dr. Diego |
| 13 | the new name of the Coalition. | 13 | Gallegos is the CEO of YDI. So he's in the business |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Matt's back there. | 14 | of supporting families. We work with one of the |
| 15 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: I saw him. That's | 15 | programs through YDI to support our families as |
| 16 | why I said that. But, definitely, we're working | 16 | well, because we know they come -- you can't just |
| 17 | with him as well and with the organization, with our | 17 | support the student; you have to support the family. |
| 18 | colleagues in the other charter schools, because | 18 | So, I mean, it makes it really difficult, |
| 19 | we'll work with -- we'll continue to work with our | 19 | the truancy rate, right? It's -- it's a whole |
| 20 | legislators. | 20 | education of the family. It's not always the |
| 21 | We don't want the Small School Size to go | 21 | student's fault why the students are -- are late or |
| 22 | away, clearly. But we know that we'll do what we | 22 | truant. And a lot of the truancy is they're mostly |
| 23 | can. Again, as Commissioner Gipson asked us the | 23 | late. They're there, but they come maybe second |
| 24 | question, "What will we do?" That would be one we | 24 | period, or they come half-an-hour late. So that's |
| 25 | don't want to lose and that we would fight for as | 25 | why it tends to add up. |
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| 1 | well. But it may be not within our -- our purview, | 1 | It's not that they don't come or they're |
| 2 | and we'll do what we need to do to sustain the | 2 | not there. We have maybe 2 or 3 percent that we |
| 3 | program that we've started. | 3 | have a -- the ones that are truly truant, and we |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Good. The last | 4 | follow the truancy regulation. But the one -- they |
| 5 | thing -- and you talked about how the students are | 5 | always come. They just come late. So that's why |
| 6 | engaged and things like that. But I noted in the | 6 | our truancy rate looks like that as well, too. |
| 7 | report that we have a very high truancy rate | 7 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, you know, |
| 8 | comparable to APS, which, okay, that's fine. But | 8 | just to end the idea of cutting back on funding and |
| 9 | engaged students tend to have lower truancy. | 9 | restricting funding Small School size, lease |
| 10 | So I'm curious as to why it's so high and | 10 | assistance, things like that, it hurts the small |
| 11 | what are the steps that the school is taking to try | 11 | schools, and small charter schools, especially. And |
| 12 | to reduce that. | 12 | I think, you know, that -- that's the wrong |
| 13 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: So, Commissioner | 13 | direction that the Legislature has taken, especially |
| 14 | Robbins, members of the Commission. When you create | 14 | in response to the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit. We're |
| 15 | other venues for students to learn, as in the online | 15 | kind of going in the wrong direction there. |
| 16 | program and the dual credit, those students are | 16 | And salaries are nice. But that's not |
| 17 | truly committed, right? | 17 | going to address your other fundamental issues that |
| 18 | So the students that are still within our | 18 | you have with funding in support of the students. |
| 19 | regular program, those are the students that are | 19 | So thank you very much. |
| 20 | more in crisis. So that's also why our data also | 20 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioners, |
| 21 | dipped for math and for reading as well. | 21 | anyone else? |
| 22 | And it's not -- and so what we do is we're | 22 | Commissioner Chavez? |
| 23 | working -- those kids are more in crisis. So that | 23 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Thank you, |
| 24 | was what Ms. Torres had talked about adding a | 24 | Madam Chair. Gosh. I think -- I had several |
| 25 | full-time social worker; because that was big for | 25 | questions. But I think some of them were already |


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| 1 | answered by questions from other Commissioners. | 1 | have to take the ACT, the SAT. |
| 2 | But I just want to say -- and you may have | 2 | We're really glad that the State is moving |
| 3 | already touched on this. But I was looking at your | 3 | toward a proficiency being something that is |
| 4 | scores, your proficiency scores. And believe me, I | 4 | meaningful to a student. SAT is something that will |
| 5 | know that proficiency doesn't always tell the story | 5 | be meaningful for our students. So we do work hard |
| 6 | of the success of the school. And so I'm aware of | 6 | at making sure. |
| 7 | that. | 7 | One of the things you do have to know, |
| 8 | And I'm a huge proponent of the arts or | 8 | though, the reason -- another reason why our scores |
| 9 | CTE and that sort of thing, because I believe that | 9 | are low, is our dual-credit students do not take the |
| 10 | that provides motivation for kids and relevancy in | 10 | PARCC. We -- they're not able to, only because |
| 11 | many ways. Because a lot of times kids go to | 11 | they're taking classes at the university already. |
| 12 | school, and, you know, how many times do you hear | 12 | So we do not want those classes to be interrupted. |
| 13 | kids say, "Why do we need to know this? There's no | 13 | So our highest performing students are not |
| 14 | relevancy tied to that." | 14 | reflected in that data you're looking at. So -- |
| 15 | And so, however, on the other side of | 15 | which is okay. And so we're willing to take the |
| 16 | that, we do have an accountability measure that we | 16 | ding for the academics so that we don't want to hold |
| 17 | have to live up to. And so looking at your scores | 17 | back any students from furthering their college |
| 18 | since 2016, both in reading and math, they've been | 18 | experience and their college academic career or |
| 19 | stagnant; they've leveled off. And do you attribute | 19 | pathway. |
| 20 | that to some of the things that you've already | 20 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: I just want to touch |
| 21 | mentioned, such as your mobility rate and some of | 21 | on something that you said that I think -- I don't |
| 22 | the social-emotional issues that are going on with | 22 | know that a lot of people are truly aware of. But I |
| 23 | your kids? | 23 | think any secondary school faces the same kind of |
| 24 | MS. VERONICA TORRES: Yes. Commissioner | 24 | challenges that you just mentioned when you first |
| 25 | Chavez, members of the Commission, we obviously use | 25 | started talking as far as receiving kids that maybe |
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| 1 | the NWEA MAPs for baseline at the beginning of the | 1 | are not at grade level and are far below, making it |
| 2 | year. They take it three times a year. This year | 2 | really, really difficult for a secondary school |
| 3 | alone, our sixth-graders are coming in low -- as low | 3 | to -- to cut that gap, that achievement gap. |
| 4 | as preschool and first-grade-level readers. | 4 | And I would think that for a charter |
| 5 | So those proficiency rates, yes, they're | 5 | school, a secondary charter school, it's even that |
| 6 | going to be low. | 6 | much more difficult, because you're receiving |
| 7 | And then we're asking these students to | 7 | kids -- you have no control over the kids that |
| 8 | take, you know, annual exams, such as the "new | 8 | you're receiving as far as where they're coming from |
| 9 | PARCC," we call it, that are not geared towards the | 9 | academically. |
| 10 | culture of our state and our students. So, | 10 | And so that's something that I think more |
| 11 | therefore, those scores are going to look the way | 11 | attention needs to be given to. |
| 12 | they look. | 12 | But if I could just share just a personal |
| 13 | However, when you look at our NWEA MAPs | 13 | story, because my son was very musically inclined. |
| 14 | growth scores, we're in one of the highest | 14 | And I've got to say that this is the kind of school |
| 15 | percentiles. Ms. Archuleta can speak more to this. | 15 | that I think he would have just done really well. |
| 16 | But we're in the 90th percentile for growth. | 16 | I have a son and a daughter. And my |
| 17 | We're showing a trend. If students can | 17 | daughter did really well in traditional school, but |
| 18 | stay with us from sixth through twelfth grade, we | 18 | my son was very much driven musically and in the |
| 19 | can get them proficient by twelfth grade. | 19 | arts. |
| 20 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Commissioner | 20 | And so one year, he came, and he mentioned |
| 21 | Chavez, members of the Commission, she hit the nail | 21 | the cajon. And he came to us, and he said, "You |
| 22 | on the head. And we do want you to know that we're | 22 | know, I really -- I've seen this box, you know. I |
| 23 | not -- we're not happy with those proficiency rates, | 23 | think it's called a 'cajun' [ph]. And I'd really |
| 24 | either. Because the other thing is in their | 24 | like a 'cajun' [ph] for Christmas." |
| 25 | lifetime, they will take tests, no matter what. You | 25 | I thought, "What the heck is a 'cajun' |


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| 1 | [ph]?" I looked. "You mean a cajon." Okay. | 1 | times, they just don't want to pay. |
| 2 | And to this day, it's beautiful. We | 2 | And this is becoming -- I'm not speaking |
| 3 | bought him a beautiful beechwood cajon that he still | 3 | just to you guys. This is a general address. |
| 4 | uses today -- this is, like, 12 years ago -- that he | 4 | I know the other 89 school districts and |
| 5 | still uses today. I needed to share that. | 5 | the other 99 charters aren't here. But this is a |
| 6 | MR. JOAQUIN ENCINIAS: Is it possible for | 6 | problem that we really need to take very seriously. |
| 7 | me to comment on that real quick? Is that okay for | 7 | Because, in the end, it's the protection of the |
| 8 | me to comment? | 8 | kids. And, you know, not only do we not want our |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I've certainly | 9 | children to be shot at and killed in the schools, we |
| 10 | contributed to the truancy rate at PEC. But I have | 10 | also don't want them to be sexually molested. |
| 11 | a good excuse. I apologize for being late. I have | 11 | (Commissioner Caballero enters meeting.) |
| 12 | vision problems, and I don't like to drive into the | 12 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: So there is a |
| 13 | sun. | 13 | question here. How are you dealing with your |
| 14 | And on the flamenco issue, I kept hearing | 14 | back- -- let me say one other thing before I |
| 15 | "capron." So I'm glad to hear that it's "cajon" and | 15 | continue. |
| 16 | not "capron." | 16 | The background check primarily is with the |
| 17 | I taught at Northern New Mexico College | 17 | FBI. But this young man had never been charged with |
| 18 | for many years. We once had a thriving flamenco | 18 | anything. So he would have -- he would not have |
| 19 | program. Unfortunately, that's gone. Vicente | 19 | shown up in the data. |
| 20 | Griego was a student at Northern. I know Vicente. | 20 | There's a case that started in Utah and |
| 21 | La Emi was a student of mine at Northern. And I'm | 21 | went to Santa Fe and came to my town, Española, |
| 22 | young enough to have witnessed Maria Benitez | 22 | where there was a person who just kept moving |
| 23 | perform. That's all the good news. | 23 | through the system and successively victimized young |
| 24 | Now, unfortunately, I have to become Timmy | 24 | women, young females, in the schools. |
| 25 | Downer. Another student I had in 2016, the fall of | 25 | And so NMPSIA is working on a plan to do |
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| 1 | 2016, was on the front page of the newspapers with | 1 | deeper training and to come up with some legislation |
| 2 | his mug shot and his inmate number. He was, I | 2 | whereby more extensive background checks will be |
| 3 | believe, on a temporary certificate. | 3 | executed. |
| 4 | He was pursuing -- he's a sexual predator. | 4 | So I'm just wondering how you have -- |
| 5 | He was pursuing some of your students at | 5 | since you've taken over the responsibility for |
| 6 | Tierra Adentro. I learned the other day from | 6 | background checks, how are you dealing with that? |
| 7 | Dr. Woerner that a lot of the responsibility for | 7 | MS. THERESA ARCHULETA: Commissioner |
| 8 | background checks is now on the schools. So I know | 8 | Crone, members of the Commission, most definitely, |
| 9 | that you weren't directly involved with that | 9 | that is the number one focus of our governing |
| 10 | situation. | 10 | council, our staff, our families, that our kids are |
| 11 | Another role that I have in the State of | 11 | 100 percent safe with every adult in the building at |
| 12 | New Mexico is I'm on the NMPSIA board as the AFT, | 12 | our school. |
| 13 | New Mexico representative. As you well know, a | 13 | That being said, actually, at our |
| 14 | problem that we used to not have very much, or at | 14 | governing council meeting yesterday, as reflected -- |
| 15 | least we weren't as aware of as we are now, are | 15 | what will be reflected in our minutes -- is we did |
| 16 | sexual predators like this person. | 16 | talk about a clear policy on what clear -- since we |
| 17 | We, currently, NMPSIA and Poms \& | 17 | are now responsible for clearing all background |
| 18 | Associates and CCMSI are in the process and in a lot | 18 | checks that come into our school, that is something |
| 19 | of litigation and paying out a lot of dollars, which | 19 | that our governance council is taking very |
| 20 | results in us -- we're sort of an insurance broker, | 20 | seriously. |
| 21 | I suppose you'd say. So we're in a lot of | 21 | And we are making sure and going to put |
| 22 | discussions with what they call "extra carriers." | 22 | into policy what that means and make sure that we |
| 23 | So we have a certain liability with our | 23 | communicate that. |
| 24 | insurance. And then if -- excess carriers. I'm | 24 | One of the things that we do set up in our |
| 25 | sorry, if it goes over that. And then a lot of | 25 | building, though, is that we have our building set |


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| 1 | up in a collegiate manner, which means that the | 1 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by |
| 2 | classes are owned by the students and not by the | 2 | Commissioner Voigt and a second by Commissioner |
| 3 | teachers or by the staff. | 3 | Robbins. Any further discussion? |
| 4 | So that means that there is really no | 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | teacher ever alone with a group of students. | 5 | THE CHAIR: And will the record reflect |
| 6 | There's always another adult in the classroom. And | 6 | that Commissioner Caballero has stepped in? |
| 7 | that's for the safety not only of students, but for | 7 | THE REPORTER: (Indicates.) |
| 8 | the safety of the staff as well. | 8 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Roll call? |
| 9 | So we feel that that extra added | 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 10 | monitoring and vigilance has made a huge difference. | 10 | Crone? |
| 11 | I can tell you since I've been at | 11 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 12 | Tierra Adentro that we have not had any reports of | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 13 | misconduct by anybody on staff or by substitutes | 13 | Robbins? |
| 14 | that come to our school. So that is one thing that | 14 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
| 15 | we take very seriously is making sure that the | 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 16 | adults -- of course, the first check is the | 16 | Gipson? |
| 17 | background check. | 17 | THE CHAIR: Did you say "high school |
| 18 | And then afterward is the behavior of the | 18 | graduation rate"? |
| 19 | adults in the building. So, yeah, we very much | 19 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: You know what? I did |
| 20 | respect that. | 20 | not. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yeah. This could add | 21 | MS. AMI JAEGER: You need to amend your |
| 22 | an extra burden to an already overburdened | 22 | motion. |
| 23 | workforce. But social media is a way to detect some | 23 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll amend my motion. |
| 24 | of these things. And I believe that this | 24 | Here's the amended motion. |
| 25 | individual, his means of -- sexting was essentially | 25 | I move the Public Education Commission |
|  | Page 970 |  | Page 972 |
| 1 | what he was doing. | 1 | amend the charter for Tierra Adentro of New Mexico |
| 2 | And so we just have to become more careful | 2 | for five years, that the New Mexico System of School |
| 3 | and more diligent. And within -- even though I'm a | 3 | Support and Accountability Report prepared by PED |
| 4 | higher ed teacher -- within our own profession, we | 4 | shows a similar performance for School Year |
| 5 | need to be more -- we need to become whistleblowers, | 5 | 2018-2019 in the student growth, highest quartile; |
| 6 | quite frankly. And I need to apologize to | 6 | student growth, middle quartile; student growth, |
| 7 | Representative Silva. I heard "Foley." So I deeply | 7 | lowest quartile; English Learner progress; chronic |
| 8 | apologize to you. Dan Foley. That's -- | 8 | absenteeism; college-and-career readiness; |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Make the motion? | 9 | educational climate, and growth in four-year |
| 10 | Commissioner Voigt? | 10 | graduation rate, with no statistically significant |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Madam Chair, thank | 11 | decrease in performance. |
| 12 | you. | 12 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Second. |
| 13 | I would like to move that the Public | 13 | THE CHAIR: An amended motion by |
| 14 | Education Commission renew the charter for | 14 | Commissioner Voigt and a second by Commissioner |
| 15 | Tierra Adentro of New Mexico for five years, with | 15 | Robbins. |
| 16 | the conditions that the New Mexico System of School | 16 | Roll call, please. |
| 17 | Support and Accountability Report prepared by PED | 17 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. Starting |
| 18 | shows similar performance for School Year 2018-2019 | 18 | over again. |
| 19 | in the student growth, highest quartile; student | 19 | Commissioner Robbins? |
| 20 | growth, middle quartile; student growth, lowest | 20 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
| 21 | quartile; English learner progress; chronic | 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 22 | absenteeism; college-and-career readiness; education | 22 | Crone? |
| 23 | climate; and with no statistically significant | 23 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 24 | decrease in performance. | 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Second. | 25 | Commissioner Gipson? |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 1 | well. |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 2 | THE CHAIR: Good morning. |
| 3 | Voigt? | 3 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 4 | THE CHAIR: Thanks for traveling up and |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 5 | putting up with us this morning so far. We |
| 6 | Armbruster votes "Yes." | 6 | appreciate it. |
| 7 | Commissioner Davis? | 7 | I will remind anyone who has recently come |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 8 | in that if anyone wishes to speak in regards to the |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 9 | school, there is a sign-up sheet here by |
| 10 | Chavez? | 10 | Ms. Friedman. So please make sure that you sign up |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 11 | if you wish to speak. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 12 | So, once again, if you were here earlier, |
| 13 | Caballero? | 13 | I have a stock statement that I make before each |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 14 | school in regards to the lack of the complete data |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 15 | that's available right now; so the renewing of the |
| 16 | Raftery? | 16 | charters with conditions. |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. | 17 | The PED has not provided a report or a |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: That is a -- | 18 | review of data for the School Year '18-'19 |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Nine-zero? | 19 | Accountability. |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Want to make | 20 | It is important for schools to have the |
| 21 | sure I got everybody. Yes. | 21 | complete academic data as part of its renewal |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: Motion passes, nine-zero. | 22 | information for this renewal and also for future |
| 23 | Congratulations. | 23 | years. |
| 24 | (Applause.) | 24 | The PEC needs complete State |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Commissioners, let's take a | 25 | Accountability Reports to make the best decision on |
|  | Page 974 |  | Page 976 |
| 1 | short break, please. | 1 | school renewal applications. |
| 2 | (Recess taken, 9:20 a.m. to 9:39 a.m.) | 2 | The PEC will review financial and |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Before we start, I'm going to | 3 | operational performance because the data is complete |
| 4 | recognize Commissioner Crone. | 4 | at this meeting in December 2019. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I would like the | 5 | If the PEC decides to issue a renewal with |
| 6 | minutes to reflect that I made a profound mistake. | 6 | conditions, the PEC will clearly state what |
| 7 | The school -- the person I was talking about was | 7 | Accountability information it will review from the |
| 8 | Tierra Encantada, not Tierra Adentro. So I | 8 | PED Accountability Report. |
| 9 | apologize profusely to everyone from the school that | 9 | When the Accountability data is prepared |
| 10 | I interacted with. | 10 | by PED and the school has had an opportunity to |
| 11 | No excuses. But I got my -- I had | 11 | review the data -- no less than ten days -- the PEC |
| 12 | forgotten which school this was. So I went back to | 12 | will review the data and remove the condition or |
| 13 | the archive in the Santa Fe New Mexican, and it | 13 | take other actions, such as a Corrective Action |
| 14 | clearly said Tierra Adentro; so I apologize for that | 14 | Plan, or possibly non-renew the charter. |
| 15 | in the record. | 15 | At the future meeting, January or February |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: You said | 16 | of 2020, the PEC will only consider the issues |
| 17 | "Tierra Adentro." | 17 | related to the reason for the conditions and will |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yeah. Tierra | 18 | not consider any other issues related to renewal. |
| 19 | Encantada, not Tierra Adentro. Let me be clear. | 19 | So, once again, we will close out, |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: I'd like to publicly | 20 | 100 percent, all operational and financial concerns |
| 21 | congratulate the school for professionally just | 21 | and 95 percent of the academic concerns. So that if |
| 22 | handling that, and, you know, going with the flow. | 22 | the school gets the conditional renewal, that |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: If you want to see | 23 | renewal with conditions, that you just have to show |
| 24 | flamenco and Vicente Griego, he performs at El Farol | 24 | there's no downward dip, then you'd be on the |
| 25 | on Canyon Road. And La Emi performs in this area as | 25 | Consent Agenda. So thank you. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So we will, once again, start with CSD. | 1 | first three years and then a jump, even by subgroups |
| 2 | You folks will then have your 15 minutes. And then | 2 | in reading, in both sets of subgroups. |
| 3 | there's the eight minutes of the Public Comment. | 3 | Economically disadvantaged, students with |
| 4 | Thanks. | 4 | disabilities and English Learners also showing a |
| 5 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Madam Chair, | 5 | jump in their reading proficiency over the last |
| 6 | Commissioners, school representatives. | 6 | year. The subgroups in math reflect what you saw in |
| 7 | Before you, Aldo Leopold Charter School, | 7 | the overall chart as well, with a dip this last |
| 8 | serving Grades 6 through 12 in Silver City, with a | 8 | year, a slight decline in their performance in math. |
| 9 | current enrollment of approximately 172 students. | 9 | Graduation rate was at 67 percent in the |
| 10 | The school's mission emphasizes direct | 10 | last available data. |
| 11 | experience, inquiry learning, stimulation of the | 11 | And the mission goals, for the last couple |
| 12 | creative process, and stewardship of our community | 12 | of years, the school has Met or Exceeded all four of |
| 13 | and natural environment. | 13 | their goals. They did have some, in 2017, where it |
| 14 | And I know the school brought some | 14 | was rated as Falls Far Below or Does Not Meet. In |
| 15 | pictures that displayed those key topics of their | 15 | '18-'19, they have Exceeded or Met all four. |
| 16 | mission. May not be available for you now here on | 16 | The membership has had a slight increase |
| 17 | the floor; we couldn't find a place to put it. But | 17 | over the years of the contract term. |
| 18 | it will be available in the back of the room after | 18 | And the retention within the school year |
| 19 | the meeting if you want to take a break after the | 19 | has been between 89 and 92 percent. It has declined |
| 20 | school and want to look at it more closely. You | 20 | a little; but 89 to 92 is pretty high. |
| 21 | know, it's not really easy to provide you a place | 21 | And then in the -- between the school |
| 22 | for you to see it. | 22 | years, that has improved from 83 up to 91 percent. |
| 23 | So going to the report, the proficiency | 23 | Teacher retention rate is high, 85 to |
| 24 | data is where I'd like to start, Part A. | 24 | 94 percent over the course of the contract term. |
| 25 | On the math and reading proficiency, as | 25 | And in the audit findings, this last year |
|  | Page 978 |  | Page 980 |
| 1 | you can see, the reading proficiency took quite a | 1 | that we have data for, there were four findings, two |
| 2 | jump, increased. The math, on the other hand, took | 2 | of which were repeat findings. And one of those |
| 3 | a bit of a dip from the prior year. | 3 | repeat findings was a material weakness. And that, |
| 4 | Again, though, I do want to point out that | 4 | Commissioners, is the reason for the Failing to |
| 5 | the -- despite the dip, it is still just slightly | 5 | Demonstrate Progress that was rated on the report |
| 6 | above the State average of 20 percent proficiency in | 6 | and the red mark that you see on their chart for the |
| 7 | math. | 7 | last year. |
| 8 | Their science proficiency rate is | 8 | Going back to the report itself regarding |
| 9 | extremely high at 76 percent. As you know, the | 9 | the progress report, or Part B ratings, the school |
| 10 | State average is 35 percent. | 10 | has demonstrated or met standards in all areas other |
| 11 | Their growth indices are all showing close | 11 | than the one I just mentioned. |
| 12 | to, with their lowest -- with their higher | 12 | And the area under the organizational |
| 13 | performing students in both reading and math, pretty | 13 | performance framework where the school had to |
| 14 | close to the as-expected or the zero mark on those | 14 | provide a response due to repeat Workings to Meet or |
| 15 | charts with a slight -- and I can't really tell here | 15 | Falls Far Below were both in the financial areas, |
| 16 | which group -- but a slight -- one group that's | 16 | the financial compliance and Generally Accepted |
| 17 | slightly up, going greater than expected. | 17 | Accounting Principles, because those are the areas |
| 18 | The indices in the -- the growth indices | 18 | where we rate the audit. So you see it again there. |
| 19 | for the subgroups in reading, again, appear to be a | 19 | Affidavits. 100 percent of the employees |
| 20 | little bit below the line, but, again, not over | 20 | signed the petition for the school's renewal. |
| 21 | negative .55, which is, again, within the expected | 21 | 80 percent of the households signed the petition. |
| 22 | growth range. Same with the subgroups for math. | 22 | And the index letter provided showed a |
| 23 | The proficiencies, of course, reflect what | 23 | score of 28.53, which is slightly above the |
| 24 | you saw in the chart for the overall proficiency for | 24 | 23.07 percent. And, remember, lower is better; so |
| 25 | the school, where there was sort of a decline the | 25 | that's not quite where we'd like it to be for a |


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| 1 | facility. | 1 | At Aldo Leopold, again, we focus on the |
| 2 | And I think that takes into effect the one | 2 | outdoors. So the kids took their tents, and they |
| 3 | facility -- as you know, the school has come before | 3 | camped. |
| 4 | you. They also have students on the campus of | 4 | And it was quite an experience for the |
| 5 | Western New Mexico. And I don't think that's | 5 | kids, because they woke up, and all their tents |
| 6 | reflected in this index. | 6 | were, like, covered in ice. They're up at 6:00 in |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Right. | 7 | the morning to go watch the birds. What an |
| 8 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: And with that, I | 8 | experience. You can't get that from a textbook. |
| 9 | conclude my report. | 9 | So our students have to be present. When |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. And good morning | 10 | they come to our school, they are out in the |
| 11 | once again. | 11 | outdoors experiencing these opportunities. |
| 12 | If you would just introduce yourselves and | 12 | So excuse me for using my phone. I |
| 13 | everyone from the school that's going to speak on | 13 | actually put my notes on my phone; so -- |
| 14 | the record right now. Thanks. | 14 | So some of the things we've done in the |
| 15 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Okay. Thank you, | 15 | last five years, we now have added lunch, hot lunch, |
| 16 | Madam Chair, Commissioners. My name is Wayne | 16 | hot meals for all of our students. We are now at |
| 17 | Sherwood. I'm the director of Aldo Leopold Charter | 17 | 60 percent Free and Reduced Lunch. |
| 18 | School. I was going to let all of our speakers | 18 | We also have moved our high school to the |
| 19 | introduce themselves, but I will introduce them now. | 19 | WNMU campus, and we are looking forward to our |
| 20 | This is Catalina Claussen, Jennifer | 20 | middle school moving to WNMU campus next year, which |
| 21 | Lepisko, Harry Browne, Fiona Bailey, and A.J. | 21 | I will go through the proper -- get that done |
| 22 | Sandoval. And I will let them explain what part | 22 | correctly this time. |
| 23 | they are going to be speaking. | 23 | So we are really excited about that. That |
| 24 | So I just want to give you a little bit of | 24 | has increased our dual enrollment also. We're about |
| 25 | history -- or not really history, but just where | 25 | 30 percent dual enrollment with our high school. |
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| 1 | we're located, because we are the only school in | 1 | And I actually anticipate a little bump in our |
| 2 | Grant County, which is a small county of about | 2 | student growth next year at our high school, just |
| 3 | 30,000 people, in a town of about 10,000 people. | 3 | because of our location on the WNMU campus. It has |
| 4 | And as most of you know, traveling up here | 4 | been very nice for the students be able to just walk |
| 5 | to Santa Fe, it can be -- it's a long drive. It | 5 | to the classes. |
| 6 | took us, like, six hours yesterday, and some of us | 6 | It has eliminated a lot of the |
| 7 | are pretty tired. I know you guys are doing the | 7 | transportation problems. The reasons kids couldn't |
| 8 | same thing coming from all over the state. And I | 8 | take dual enrollment is because we were off -- too |
| 9 | appreciate you guys doing your job all week long for | 9 | far away from the campus, and if they didn't have a |
| 10 | all of the schools. | 10 | vehicle, they had to provide their own |
| 11 | So Aldo Leopold is a small charter school. | 11 | transportation. And now they can just walk to |
| 12 | And what we focus on is experiential education in | 12 | school. So that is really beneficial. |
| 13 | the outdoors. | 13 | We also are working on career-technical |
| 14 | And I just wanted to give you one example | 14 | education. And we're working with WNMU also in |
| 15 | of what we did just this week. | 15 | their outdoor education program. And we're going to |
| 16 | Our junior class is studying birds in | 16 | continue to build our program and WNMU's program in |
| 17 | their science class. And we don't live along the | 17 | that way and start offering CTE classes for our |
| 18 | Rio Grande Corridor. So we don't really have a lot | 18 | students. |
| 19 | of large migratory birds or a large group of | 19 | So at this time, I'd like to turn it over |
| 20 | migratory birds. | 20 | to Harry Browne, our business manager. |
| 21 | So they planned a trip to Bosque del | 21 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: As Wayne mentioned, I |
| 22 | Apache. And as all of you know that have been to | 22 | am the business manager. I've also been a teacher, |
| 23 | Bosque del Apache, there's tens of thousands of | 23 | primarily of math, but also of economics, |
| 24 | Canadian snow geese there. There's Sandhill cranes | 24 | government, business, and, briefly, Spanish. |
| 25 | and many, many other birds. | 25 | And my job is to talk a little bit about |


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| 1 | our history and, very briefly, our fiscal condition. | 1 | teachers had been taught we were supposed to do, |
| 2 | Aldo Leopold opened its doors in August of | 2 | which was teach to the whole child. We believe |
| 3 | 2005 with 41 ninth- and tenth-graders, who, like | 3 | we're able to do that. The fact that we meet |
| 4 | those of us who founded the school, were willing to | 4 | academic standards is crucial. The rest is a bonus, |
| 5 | take a risk in order to experience a new way to | 5 | I guess. But we believe we're teaching to the whole |
| 6 | teach and learn. | 6 | child. |
| 7 | 2005 was also the year that Richard Louv | 7 | All of this does cost some extra money. |
| 8 | published his groundbreaking book called "Last Child | 8 | But, fortunately, we have a very frugal staff and a |
| 9 | in the Woods, Saving Our Children From | 9 | highly dedicated staff, and we're able to make it |
| 10 | Nature-Deficit Disorder." | 10 | work. |
| 11 | Aldo Leopold's founders believed, along | 11 | Our fiscal condition has been sound since |
| 12 | with Mr. Louv, that all humans need contact with | 12 | our first two years. We were scraping the bottom of |
| 13 | nature, but especially children as they develop. | 13 | the barrel at the end of the first two years. But |
| 14 | Mr. Louv wrote that, quote, "The future | 14 | since then, we've maintained a very healthy fiscal |
| 15 | will belong to the nature-smart, those individuals, | 15 | position. |
| 16 | families, businesses, and political leaders who | 16 | We've had at least a month and a half of |
| 17 | develop a deeper understanding of the transformative | 17 | cash carryover every year since those first two |
| 18 | power of nature and who balance the virtual with the | 18 | years, and sometimes even more than that. We're |
| 19 | real. The more high-tech we become," he wrote, "the | 19 | very cautious with spending. |
| 20 | more nature we need." | 20 | And I anticipate more questions about the |
| 21 | That very much informed our creation of | 21 | audit. I look forward to those. But as far as |
| 22 | the school. | 22 | budgeting and managing our money, I think we've done |
| 23 | Back in the day, charter applications were | 23 | an excellent job. |
| 24 | enormous. I don't know how many of you were around | 24 | Thank you. |
| 25 | back then, but ours was no exception. It was | 25 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Hello, Commissioners. |
|  | Page 986 |  | Page 988 |
| 1 | 786 pages. Contained therein were curricula that | 1 | Thank you for having us here. I'm Fiona Bailey, and |
| 2 | shared a theme. They all connected our students and | 2 | I am the Title I instructor and the assistant |
| 3 | what they studied with the place where they were | 3 | principal. I spend most of my time at the middle |
| 4 | growing up. We very much believed in place-based | 4 | school. And the best part about my job is it gets |
| 5 | education. | 5 | me into the classrooms a lot. So I get to see, both |
| 6 | That meant two things: First, connecting | 6 | from an administrative point of view and as an |
| 7 | them with the natural environment. You may know | 7 | educational support point of view, what our -- what |
| 8 | Silver City is the gateway community to the Gila | 8 | our teachers are up to. |
| 9 | Forest and the nation's first wilderness area, the | 9 | And I tell you, we are just so thrilled |
| 10 | Gila Wilderness Area, which was created by | 10 | with -- we love our curriculum, and our staff is so |
| 11 | Aldo Leopold, our name sake. It was created by his | 11 | amazing at integrating all the different subject |
| 12 | efforts. Of course, it was created by Congress; but | 12 | areas, getting hands-on activities to the kids, |
| 13 | he was the one who pushed. | 13 | whether it is in the classroom or out in the field. |
| 14 | Second, connecting the students to the | 14 | So a lot of times we call our Fridays our |
| 15 | human communities in which they live, Silver City, | 15 | experiential ed day. But believe me, experiential |
| 16 | the mining district and rural surroundings. We set | 16 | ed is going on every day of the week at our school, |
| 17 | aside Fridays for exploring those environments, as | 17 | as teachers are bringing the real world into the |
| 18 | you'll hear more from Ms. Claussen. | 18 | classroom, bringing hands-on activities to the |
| 19 | And we set one week a year aside to take | 19 | students. |
| 20 | students out. They go on four-day backpacks. We've | 20 | And all of that inquiry and experiential |
| 21 | done this from the beginning. It's an amazing | 21 | learning kind of comes to -- to fruition each year |
| 22 | transformative experience for them. It's the one | 22 | in the high school as the students create their own |
| 23 | thing we most often hear about when students give | 23 | research project. They create it. They conduct the |
| 24 | their graduation speeches. | 24 | research, or the program that they are wanting to |
| 25 | Our goal was to do what we -- all of us | 25 | present. And then at the end, they present their |


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| 1 | very self-directed project, which they've worked on | 1 | appreciate the opportunity to talk about our school. |
| 2 | for a full semester under the mentorship of the high | 2 | I teach eighth-grade language arts and |
| 3 | school teachers. | 3 | social studies. What I'm going to focus on and talk |
| 4 | So each year, through high school, they do | 4 | to you about is our Friday program; that's our |
| 5 | that project. | 5 | designated day when we take the kids out. As I'm |
| 6 | How do we prepare them for such a | 6 | talking to you, 75 kids are out in our community. |
| 7 | self-directed program? | 7 | And they went out in two different groups. |
| 8 | Well, starting in sixth grade, we really | 8 | One group walked down to look at the art |
| 9 | show our students that we have -- are holding them | 9 | show. So we have an excellent art teacher in the |
| 10 | to a high academic standard. We consider a passing | 10 | high school and the middle school. And those kids |
| 11 | grade a "C"; a 70 percent or above is passing. We | 11 | have been working really hard to create a beautiful |
| 12 | do not give "D"s at all. So we really, you know, | 12 | show that's put up at the coffee shop every year -- |
| 13 | hold them to that standard right from the beginning. | 13 | twice a year, actually. So the kids will go through |
| 14 | And we provide lots of homework help; we | 14 | that. |
| 15 | provide lots of academic support in lots of | 15 | Once they're done with that, they're going |
| 16 | different ways. | 16 | to go across the street, and they're going to work |
| 17 | We have an amazing continuum of education | 17 | with this man that's come from Brazil; he's an |
| 18 | through -- especially in our sciences, I think. As | 18 | Artist In Residence. He's got this big project that |
| 19 | the test scores really show, that continuum from | 19 | he's working on. And that includes making all these |
| 20 | sixth grade through high school is really amazing. | 20 | little figurines. So the kids are each going to |
| 21 | But even in an area where we really feel like we | 21 | make a clay figurine that's going to be part of this |
| 22 | excel, we're looking to add a capstone senior | 22 | big huge art installation. |
| 23 | science class. And we think that would really kind | 23 | And each one of the students is going to |
| 24 | of heighten our program even more. | 24 | get a chance to make their figurine. |
| 25 | We do recognize that math is an area that | 25 | They also make cards for the senior |
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| 1 | we do need to show some growth. And ways that we've | 1 | citizens in the senior residence in our town. |
| 2 | been doing that, as we have recognized | 2 | And then the other group is over at the |
| 3 | middle-schoolers coming in with a lot of holes, a | 3 | high school campus at the University and they're |
| 4 | lot of deficiencies in some of the basic skills, | 4 | going to be working on creating a whole new garden |
| 5 | we've implemented 15 minutes a week of what we call | 5 | in a space that was once a garden that has now been |
| 6 | our RTI program, our Response to Intervention, where | 6 | fallow, and they're going to design with the YCC |
| 7 | we group students and really hone in on those | 7 | Garden Group Program, working on creating and |
| 8 | missing skills as they continue to work on | 8 | designing and implementing that. |
| 9 | curriculum. | 9 | And it's right in town. And so many of |
| 10 | We're also looking to add a math club for | 10 | their neighbors, when I mentioned it to one of their |
| 11 | those with huge math anxiety. And that's something | 11 | neighbors, "That is so awesome, so excited that that |
| 12 | that I hope to start next semester. | 12 | land is going to be used and we're going to have a |
| 13 | Meanwhile, we also are very proud of our | 13 | garden close by." So that's what's happening right |
| 14 | elective courses. We offer PE and health. They | 14 | now. |
| 15 | have three semesters of each of those throughout | 15 | I did also want to tell you, I asked my |
| 16 | their time with us. | 16 | eighth-graders, "What do you think about the Friday |
| 17 | But then we also offer drama, music, | 17 | programs?" Most of them have been through this for |
| 18 | culinary arts, Spanish, primitive skills, creative | 18 | three years. |
| 19 | writing, journalism, keyboarding -- and the list | 19 | I said, "What do you think that the |
| 20 | goes on. And we really pull from the community to | 20 | Commissioners should know about that?" |
| 21 | help supplement those programs. | 21 | And what most of them said was it allows |
| 22 | So now I'm going to pass it on to | 22 | them to connect to one another, and it allows them |
| 23 | Jennifer, one of our middle-school teachers. | 23 | to connect to their community. And in the |
| 24 | MS. JENNIFER LEPISKO: Good morning. | 24 | connecting to one another, is we mix sixth, seventh, |
| 25 | Thank you all for having us here. I really | 25 | and eighth-graders in groups every time we go out. |


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| 1 | So I don't have my same group of kids every time. | 1 | where students are exposed to various opportunities |
| 2 | I'm with a whole different group of kids. So I get | 2 | in our community. And then -- or internship |
| 3 | to know them; they get to know me. And for these | 3 | opportunities in our community. |
| 4 | students, they all said it helps to create a safe | 4 | And then for tenth through twelfth grade, |
| 5 | community for them. | 5 | our students have six semesters of internship in our |
| 6 | Several of them said, "If I'm having a bad | 6 | community. They have a choice between Youth |
| 7 | day, or if I look down, or people know that | 7 | Conservation Corps placements in archeology, murals |
| 8 | something is going on for me, then I know somebody | 8 | crew, eco-monitoring crew, gardening crew -- so |
| 9 | is going to say, 'Hey, are you okay today? What's | 9 | sorry. And then -- or they can be placed in the |
| 10 | going on?'" | 10 | community with -- we have a wide variety of business |
| 11 | They feel cared about. | 11 | partners that we work with. |
| 12 | And when that comes into the classroom, | 12 | Thank you for your time. |
| 13 | which is my other question to them: "How do the | 13 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. While Beverly is |
| 14 | Friday experiences -- how do you bring that into the | 14 | doing this, I just have a piece of housekeeping. |
| 15 | classroom? Where do you see us using that Monday | 15 | Wayne, is your legal name Gary? |
| 16 | through Thursday?" | 16 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Gary Wayne |
| 17 | They say, "Because I feel cared about. | 17 | Sherwood, yes. |
| 18 | I'm part of a community. That makes my learning a | 18 | THE CHAIR: Because it says "Gary" here, |
| 19 | lot easier. I'm working with people. I'm more | 19 | and I'm, "What? Gary?" |
| 20 | comfortable working with other people. I know I can | 20 | And there are three people that have |
| 21 | go to any teacher and ask for help. I know that I | 21 | signed up for Public Comment. And the first one is |
| 22 | can go to other students for help." | 22 | Ava -- |
| 23 | They also said it gives them social | 23 | FROM THE FLOOR: Bjornstad. |
| 24 | skills. A couple of them said they really | 24 | THE CHAIR: Bjornstad? |
| 25 | appreciate learning how to communicate with other | 25 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning, |
|  | Page 994 |  | Page 996 |
| 1 | adults in their community, and they really | 1 | Commissioners. My name is Ava Bjornstad. I'm a |
| 2 | appreciate -- one kid said -- he said, "How to be a | 2 | high school senior at Aldo. And I have been going |
| 3 | well-behaved person in important places." | 3 | to Aldo since I was in seventh grade. |
| 4 | And then another -- another one said -- | 4 | And when I first started attending Aldo, I |
| 5 | which I thought was really great. And they do. | 5 | was terrified to stand up in front of my own |
| 6 | It's -- we hear from community members -- the | 6 | classmates and speak. And now, thanks to Aldo, I |
| 7 | Aldo -- thank you. | 7 | have the confidence and the ability to stand in |
| 8 | We hear from the Aldo members that they -- | 8 | front of you and stand in front of my own school and |
| 9 | community members -- that Aldo students represent | 9 | speak. |
| 10 | themselves well out in the community, and they | 10 | And I have learned how to push myself |
| 11 | really appreciate whenever we come by. | 11 | academically, and I have learned how to push myself |
| 12 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: Good morning, | 12 | in my internship program. |
| 13 | Madam Chair and Commissioners. My name is Catalina | 13 | As a junior, I worked to plan our |
| 14 | Claussen. I'm the co-founder of Aldo Leopold | 14 | San Diego trip that our whole junior class takes and |
| 15 | Charter School. I'm also a former teacher of | 15 | with several of my other classmates. And that's |
| 16 | English, history, and physical education, and | 16 | because I was given the tools, starting in seventh |
| 17 | currently serve as the internship coordinator in our | 17 | grade. I was given the tools to learn how to plan |
| 18 | school. | 18 | those trips, and I was given the leadership skills |
| 19 | So as you can tell from the very lively | 19 | to do that. |
| 20 | Fridays that we have out in the community for our | 20 | And I also took on an internship junior |
| 21 | middle-schoolers, those experiences are built upon | 21 | year planning my own Grand Canyon trip. It didn't |
| 22 | in the high school with a program that is headed by | 22 | end up working out, but I learned so much from doing |
| 23 | my colleague, Pete Rankin. He runs what we call | 23 | something like that. This internship program made |
| 24 | "Community Orientation." | 24 | it so that I was able to go into something that I |
| 25 | And Community Orientation is a program | 25 | was really interested in. |


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| 1 | I'm interested in being on the | 1 | THE CHAIR: Thank you so much. Finally, |
| 2 | Grand Canyon. And so I was able to dive into that, | 2 | Katrina Estrada. |
| 3 | and I was able to learn a lot more about that | 3 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning, Chairman |
| 4 | because of our internship program and because of the | 4 | and the council. I am Katrina Estrada. I am the |
| 5 | skills that Aldo has given me. | 5 | student body president of Aldo Leopold Charter |
| 6 | And I've been able to take on other roles | 6 | School. |
| 7 | in my community. Whether that be in school and | 7 | I got into Aldo my sixth-grade year. I |
| 8 | outside of school, I've been able to take on other | 8 | was only eleven years old. I am now 18 years old |
| 9 | roles. I was able to go to Washington, D.C., and | 9 | and a senior in high school. |
| 10 | speak about protecting the Gila River, which is | 10 | I can confidently say Aldo Leopold Charter |
| 11 | something close to home for all of us. And that's | 11 | School changed my life for the better. I grew up |
| 12 | only because I was able to attend Aldo, and I was | 12 | with low -- low and close to failing grades, and now |
| 13 | able to learn about the importance of community and | 13 | I am thriving through my educational success. I |
| 14 | working together. | 14 | cannot be more happy to be where I am today in my |
| 15 | And so I am so grateful that Aldo exists, | 15 | life because of this school. |
| 16 | and I'm so grateful that I've had the opportunity to | 16 | From the plant identification in the Gila |
| 17 | attend, and I hope that other students in the future | 17 | Wilderness at the beginning of every year to the AP |
| 18 | also have the opportunity to attend such an | 18 | exams at the end of the year, I am now the best |
| 19 | incredible school like Aldo Leopold Charter School. | 19 | version of myself that I could ever be. |
| 20 | Thank you. | 20 | My education at Aldo Leopold Charter |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: Thank you so much. Well said. | 21 | School has transcended upon more than just good |
| 22 | Next speaker is Ajalaa Claussen. | 22 | grades and high scores. I have gained social |
| 23 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning, Chairman | 23 | skills, public speaking skills, experience in |
| 24 | and Commissioners. My name is Ajalaa Claussen. I'm | 24 | activism and so much more. |
| 25 | a senior at Aldo Leopold Charter School. | 25 | Aldo Leopold Charter School shows today's |
|  | Page 998 |  | Page 1000 |
| 1 | Aldo Leopold Charter School is an experiential | 1 | youth that they can accomplish their wildest dreams. |
| 2 | educational program that is vital for our rural | 2 | It shows students to sustain determination through |
| 3 | community. Through the internship program and YCC, | 3 | their educational career. |
| 4 | I have been able -- | 4 | Aldo Leopold Charter School is one small |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: You just need to slow down | 5 | part of New Mexico, but it creates powerful impacts |
| 6 | just a little bit so she can keep up with you. | 6 | on New Mexico students. |
| 7 | FROM THE FLOOR: I have been able to | 7 | Aldo Leopold Charter School is part of |
| 8 | tailor my curriculum to pursue career paths that I | 8 | what makes New Mexico so great, and this is why I |
| 9 | am interested in. | 9 | ask for us to keep our Aldo Leopold Charter School |
| 10 | I was able to work with professionals in | 10 | charter and have it be renewed this year. |
| 11 | photography, entrepreneurship, and to help beautify | 11 | Thank you. |
| 12 | my community by installing murals and building | 12 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thanks once again. |
| 13 | trails. | 13 | Just as a personal note, this was actually |
| 14 | Aldo Leopold Charter School extends above | 14 | the first school I did contract negotiations with. |
| 15 | and beyond resume building, experiential education, | 15 | We were down in J. Paul Taylor right after our term |
| 16 | and traditional classroom education. It has given | 16 | started. So it was an interesting experience for |
| 17 | us incredible, unforgettable life experiences. | 17 | me, because it was the first one; but also |
| 18 | Last year, our class organized a trip to | 18 | fascinating because, also personally, I backpacked |
| 19 | San Diego. We studied different cultures, American | 19 | the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. So I |
| 20 | history, and marine biology. However, the most | 20 | certainly understand. And backpacked most of the |
| 21 | memorable moment I had was witnessing three of our | 21 | East Coast throughout my years and did a lot of time |
| 22 | classmates see the ocean for the very first time in | 22 | training with the National Audubon Society. |
| 23 | their lives. See, Aldo isn't just a place we go to | 23 | So it was a concept that, certainly, I |
| 24 | school. It's four walls we call home and students | 24 | embraced. And also the service learning that is |
| 25 | we call family and teachers we call mentors. | 25 | embedded in the school and the projects that they go |


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| 1 | out on Fridays with. I guess I also admired anyone | 1 | THE CHAIR: I'll be honest. I did read |
| 2 | that will take middle-school kids out into the | 2 | through it. |
| 3 | woods, because, as you all know, I probably would be | 3 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: So let me explain. You |
| 4 | very apt to leave quite a few of them behind. | 4 | probably also can see that our previous audits had |
| 5 | So it's -- I was quite impressed that | 5 | been zero and one findings, and that had been our |
| 6 | someone's willing to take that risk. But it -- | 6 | history at least before that. |
| 7 | without a doubt, this is just another one of those | 7 |  |
| 8 | schools -- we've had a lot of schools that embrace | 8 | Hill came from Texas. They were used as the |
| 9 | arts that have come before us this week in | 9 | subcontractors to audit our school. They actually |
| 10 | particular. | 10 | missed \$35,000 worth of payroll in Fiscal Year '17. |
| 11 | But this entire expeditionary and | 11 | I caught that. But I caught that very close to the |
| 12 | exploring model and how it helps to encourage | 12 | deadline for them to file. So it was my bad for not |
| 13 | self-reliance, team building, without a doubt. So I | 13 | catching it sooner. |
| 14 | truly do appreciate that you -- in a community that | 14 | Anyway, they were not able to incorporate |
| 15 | is a struggling community. I mean, Silver City is | 15 | my comments into their audit. And that threw the |
| 16 | small and really doesn't have much in the near | 16 | books way off. \$35,000 -- actually, there was a |
| 17 | future that looks like it's going to have it expand. | 17 | second error that made it a slightly different |
| 18 | So a school that can maintain any student | 18 | number. |
| 19 | population really is a testament to those folks that | 19 | The large material weakness that is quite |
| 20 | want to go to the school; because it's -- you know, | 20 | embarrassing to me stems from that issue, that our |
| 21 | I'm sure Silver is having declining enrollment. | 21 | General Ledger was thrown off compared to what the |
| 22 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yes. | 22 | auditors had. |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: And the struggles that the | 23 | There are some other findings that I think |
| 24 | school has had for years with the facility. So the | 24 | are not as important. One of them that some of you |
| 25 | fact that they're able to land in a really good | 25 | may have picked up had to do with our bank |
|  | Page 1002 |  | Page 1004 |
| 1 | place and create that great partnership is exciting, | 1 | reconciliations, where, again, the General Ledger |
| 2 | and, hopefully -- because the one student said they | 2 | had an issue. The reconciliations come up perfect |
| 3 | wanted a football field or a soccer field; so, | 3 | every month; but the General Ledger had these swings |
| 4 | hopefully, there will be space. You know, that was | 4 | that the auditors didn't understand and frankly I |
| 5 | the one negative: "We want a field." So, | 5 | didn't understand until quite recently, when I |
| 6 | hopefully, you'll have that space as well. | 6 | figured out that the bank reconciliation report that |
| 7 | So I appreciate that. And the fact that | 7 | they were looking at was only current fiscal year |
| 8 | the -- you know, the evaluation of the performance | 8 | transactions. It did not include previous fiscal |
| 9 | framework over the years also shows that there's | 9 | year transactions. |
| 10 | that constant communication between the governance | 10 | When those were incorporated into the |
| 11 | council and the school and that it's a really good | 11 | General Ledger portion of the bank reconciliation, |
| 12 | and hard-working partnership that you have. And you | 12 | everything is perfect, and everything matches to the |
| 13 | have those -- and I'm sure -- really tough | 13 | dime. |
| 14 | conversations at times. | 14 | So I've fortunately finally figured that |
| 15 | I'll just let Harry address the one, | 15 | out. I realize we are not allowed to talk about the |
| 16 | because it's unusual for someone to go from | 16 | current year audit. I hope I am able to give a |
| 17 | exceeding to now you're Falling Far Below on the | 17 | subjective prediction, based on excellent knowledge, |
| 18 | audit finding. | 18 | that there will not be any material weaknesses in |
| 19 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: So I do believe you | 19 | the current year audit. Thank you for allowing me |
| 20 | have written management's response; is that correct? | 20 | to say that. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Uh-huh. | 21 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. And, Wayne, I know |
| 22 | THE CHAIR: We do and -- | 22 | you did address in the narrative the fact that your |
| 23 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: I'm happy to talk about | 23 | graduation rate is perhaps off because of that "C," |
| 24 | it and to answer specific questions as well. I'm | 24 | the requirement for the "C," in order to get a |
| 25 | also happy to throw the auditors under the bus. | 25 | passing. |


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| 1 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yes, that is | 1 | some job opportunities and internship opportunities |
| 2 | correct. So a lot of our students at Aldo -- and I | 2 | for the kids. So that's -- that's hopefully |
| 3 | shouldn't say "a lot." But there are several | 3 | exciting to see what happens there. |
| 4 | students that it takes them five years to graduate. | 4 | Commissioner Robbins? |
| 5 | We're okay with that, because sometimes | 5 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, you probably |
| 6 | kids aren't ready to graduate in four years. Maybe | 6 | know I'm going to talk about the audit. But I do |
| 7 | they're not ready to leave the house. And we see | 7 | appreciate -- I do appreciate your explanation. |
| 8 | that a lot. In today's day and time, I mean, some | 8 | How many years has this auditor worked |
| 9 | kids need that extra nurturing at home. They need | 9 | with you? Was this the first year that they had -- |
| 10 | that extra support at home. They're not ready to go | 10 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: That was the first year |
| 11 | off to college or the military or start a year on | 11 | they worked for us, Pattillo, Brown \& Hill. They |
| 12 | their own. | 12 | only worked for us for two years. We don't work |
| 13 | And, yeah, they fail a couple of classes, | 13 | with them now. They were subcontractors. Not the |
| 14 | and they stay at Aldo an extra year. And I think | 14 | normal three-year cycle. So we're currently with |
| 15 | once they get out of there after five years, they | 15 | CLA, Clifton, Larson \& Associates. [Verbatim.] |
| 16 | are more prepared and ready to go. | 16 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. That can be |
| 17 | But the State gigs [verbatim] us on that. | 17 | an issue. When you have a new auditor, sometimes |
| 18 | So we do take a hit on that. | 18 | they don't understand. I was at the New Mexico |
| 19 | Most of our students graduate. Even the | 19 | Department of Workforce Solutions. They had 26 |
| 20 | ones that do leave our school, which, as you saw -- | 20 | federal grants. We had about five different sources |
| 21 | the students that come to our school stay at our | 21 | of State funding and five fund balances that were |
| 22 | school. There's very few that do leave our school. | 22 | non-reverting. |
| 23 | But the ones that leave the community -- and that's | 23 | For the typical state government auditor, |
| 24 | mainly the students that we lose in high school, not | 24 | it was difficult for them to understand, because |
| 25 | necessarily middle school. Middle school kids are | 25 | many states, they have one fund. They have a |
|  | Page 1006 |  | Page 1008 |
| 1 | still testing the waters, and they like to go to the | 1 | general fund, and that's it. They may have one |
| 2 | other middle school or, they'll go somewhere else. | 2 | small grant. When I was at Tax \& Rev, you had |
| 3 | But the high school kids pretty much stay | 3 | General Fund. Motor Vehicle had a small amount, and |
| 4 | at our school or they leave the community | 4 | then you had a small CDL grant, basically, from the |
| 5 | altogether. As you mentioned, Grant County is a -- | 5 | federal government, Commercial Driver's License, to |
| 6 | it's not really a very stable population. It's | 6 | handle those types of things. |
| 7 | actually declining a little bit. And if it's not | 7 | So, you know, 95 percent of their funding |
| 8 | declining in numbers, it's declining in parents | 8 | was General Fund, so it was fairly simple; whereas, |
| 9 | moving into the community with school-age children. | 9 | with that one, it was, you know, 75 percent of it |
| 10 | So it's becoming more a retirement community. So we | 10 | was these federal grants, which didn't all follow |
| 11 | don't have those kids coming into the community. | 11 | the federal fiscal year, which even if they did, is |
| 12 | So Silver Schools and Cobre Schools are -- | 12 | different from the state fiscal year, so it always |
| 13 | within ten miles of our school, are both losing | 13 | caused problems and people's heads were always |
| 14 | students, and 50 to 100 students a year. And | 14 | exploding when they came in. |
| 15 | Aldo Leopold has stayed stable throughout those | 15 | And, you know, when you changed auditors, |
| 16 | years. | 16 | it's like you had to educate them on the way things |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Right. Thanks. And, | 17 | are done. So I do appreciate that and your |
| 18 | hopefully, maybe the new Office of Outdoor | 18 | explanation. |
| 19 | Reclamation, I think it's being referred to -- and I | 19 | And I think your explanation, in the |
| 20 | saw where they just put in place for the first time | 20 | notes, it's not wrong to challenge what the auditor |
| 21 | in eight or nine years a Director of Natural | 21 | says, and especially when an auditor is not |
| 22 | Resources. | 22 | familiar. And I appreciate that. So that's fine. |
| 23 | So that, hopefully, with those offices | 23 | I'm a math person. I enjoy science. I'm |
| 24 | building out and up, that'll also -- I mean, that | 24 | not a scientist. I have an older brother who is. |
| 25 | area is just a great area for exploration and maybe | 25 | So I see a disconnect between high reading |


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| 1 | proficiency, high science and very low math scores. | 1 | that same low -- you know, low -- I think it was -- |
| 2 | And I'm like, that, to me, just doesn't seem to -- | 2 | I can't find the number right now -- but it was, |
| 3 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Yeah, it is. And I -- | 3 | like, 20 percent to begin with. And we're getting |
| 4 | my -- the majority of my educational career, which | 4 | them up to 68, almost 70 percent. All of our |
| 5 | is coming up to 30 years now, has been in | 5 | students show really good growth through the math. |
| 6 | elementary. And I have seen a trend that is very | 6 | And -- but it just -- we really are |
| 7 | worrisome to me, where the scope of math that is | 7 | turning to, and our middle school just adopted, a |
| 8 | being taught in the elementary schools is so broad | 8 | real hands-on math program, a real inquiry-based and |
| 9 | that it doesn't ever go deep enough, so that every | 9 | hands-on math program. So, hopefully, we'll |
| 10 | year in elementary school, it feels as if students | 10 | continue to see some growth. |
| 11 | are learning anew. They're never -- they're never | 11 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: I just wanted to |
| 12 | concrete in any one skill. | 12 | address the disconnect, because I found it |
| 13 | Those who have a natural aptitude towards | 13 | fascinating also. And I think it's really because |
| 14 | math, you know, they -- they get through that, and | 14 | what's tested in science isn't math for the most |
| 15 | they come out looking really good. But we have more | 15 | part. There is a math component, and that math |
| 16 | and more students who -- and in our location, in | 16 | component is really a strong math program. It's |
| 17 | particular -- who just -- they have true math | 17 | data analysis. That's the part of math that fits |
| 18 | phobia. | 18 | into the science curriculum. |
| 19 | And it's because they have had a little | 19 | And the rest of the science testing is |
| 20 | bit of this, a little bit of that, a little bit of | 20 | about process and critical thinking, and those are |
| 21 | this, a little bit of that, all -- every year. And | 21 | areas we're very strong in. So I think that |
| 22 | they never fully immerse in any skill. | 22 | explains the disconnect. |
| 23 | So by the time we get to middle school, | 23 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: And I understand |
| 24 | and they don't -- they're not competent with adding | 24 | that. One thing I've said -- and I've heard this |
| 25 | and subtracting double-digit numbers. They're not | 25 | from educators also -- that most elementary |
|  | Page 1010 |  | Page 1012 |
| 1 | confident with their multiplication facts. | 1 | schoolteachers are not comfortable with math |
| 2 | And so when you're trying to make up those | 2 | themselves. And that's going to transfer into their |
| 3 | skills and learn the huge breadth of math that is | 3 | teaching, because in most elementary students, you |
| 4 | being tested at the middle and high school, it's | 4 | have one teacher, and they teach all the subjects |
| 5 | really, really challenging. | 5 | all the way up through fifth grade. |
| 6 | But some -- we use -- and I heard the | 6 | If you're not comfortable in the subject, |
| 7 | previous school say the same thing. We use the MAPs | 7 | you're probably not going to teach it well. And |
| 8 | to help us keep track of our students throughout the | 8 | like you said, they're not going in depth. |
| 9 | year, and from year to year. | 9 | When I was on the APS School Board, I had |
| 10 | So when we look at our MAPs data, our | 10 | some charter school principals come to me. One of |
| 11 | current eighth-graders, when they were in sixth | 11 | their husbands worked at Sandia and collaborated |
| 12 | grade, just -- they had a -- we had a very small | 12 | with people at MIT. |
| 13 | percentage that were competent in -- in math. It | 13 | And they said, "I wish high schools would |
| 14 | was -- I -- I'm sorry. I put it on a different | 14 | stop teaching trig and calc, because I get people |
| 15 | sheet of paper. | 15 | who were getting 'A's in trig and calc coming to me, |
| 16 | It was just -- just a handful of students, | 16 | and they get 'C's and 'D's because they weren't |
| 17 | like two or three. And now they're at -- like, | 17 | taught the depth. They were taught surface levels |
| 18 | 64 percent of them are -- are proficient and above, | 18 | of things." |
| 19 | according to the MAPs data. | 19 | And I think that's -- part of the thing of |
| 20 | And so I think that -- the good thing | 20 | what our Legislature has done by requiring so many |
| 21 | about that test, as opposed to just the State test, | 21 | years of math, we don't get into the depth. We give |
| 22 | is they take it three times through the year. | 22 | them many years of surface, and we don't get them |
| 23 | Our current eleventh -- our current | 23 | into the depth of really understanding. And I would |
| 24 | eleventh- and twelfth-graders, we have 68 percent | 24 | rather have fewer years and more depth. |
| 25 | advanced in math. And so that's starting at about | 25 | So -- especially with the basics. If you |


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| 1 | cannot add, subtract and multiplication and | 1 | understanding math. |
| 2 | division, those are the fundamentals of going on to | 2 | And I think that's a very important -- you |
| 3 | anything else in math. You know, I was a | 3 | know, if they get into higher levels of science -- |
| 4 | statistician. I loved quantitative analysis and | 4 | we have some wonderful scientific facilities here. |
| 5 | differential calculus. I loved those things. | 5 | When you get into nuclear science, you get into some |
| 6 | However, you have to know the | 6 | of the things that they're doing, and engineering |
| 7 | fundamentals. That's so -- it's even important for | 7 | and things like that, that does require basic |
| 8 | someone going into accounting. I had accountants | 8 | fundamental math that is so essential. And we want |
| 9 | that couldn't add and subtract, literally, without a | 9 | to push that. |
| 10 | calculator. They could not do it in their head. | 10 | People want to become, you know, aerospace |
| 11 | And I would sit and look at, you know, | 11 | scientists and engineers. And it's, like, "Well, if |
| 12 | million dollar numbers and look at it and just say, | 12 | you're going to be a physicist, guess what? You're |
| 13 | "These numbers are wrong. I'm not going to take the | 13 | going to have to know a lot of math, because a lot |
| 14 | time to add it up. Go back and add it up." | 14 | of computer programming when you get into some of |
| 15 | "What do you mean it's wrong?" | 15 | those areas, it's basically just math." |
| 16 | "It's wrong. I'm not going to take the | 16 | So thank you very much. And I encourage |
| 17 | time." | 17 | you to continue with those efforts in improving the |
| 18 | They'd come back and say, "You're right." | 18 | math. I understand the disconnect of what you're |
| 19 | It was wrong. They didn't see conceptually that it | 19 | saying, that they're coming into the school with |
| 20 | was off. | 20 | very low levels of math skills; but I think it's |
| 21 | The enrollment, obviously, I would imagine | 21 | something that, statewide, we need to work on. |
| 22 | you can't have any wait list or anything like that | 22 | And I challenged some individuals and even |
| 23 | at your school. But maybe by certain grades, you | 23 | schools, saying, "You need to maybe get a teacher, |
| 24 | do? | 24 | an elementary teacher, to float -- who really likes |
| 25 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Well, we actually | 25 | math -- to float and teach the math in the schools |
|  | Page 1014 |  | Page 1016 |
| 1 | do have a wait list in sixth grade. | 1 | rather than having someone who's not comfortable |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. | 2 | teaching it." |
| 3 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: This year, | 3 | It would be like someone who doesn't like |
| 4 | since -- it wasn't last-minute. We weren't sure the | 4 | music trying to teach music to your students, and, |
| 5 | Western facility was going to be finished at the | 5 | you know, either -- even if they can't sing. But if |
| 6 | beginning of the school year. And we were able to | 6 | they don't like music, they're not going to teach |
| 7 | get it finished in the second or third week of | 7 | music well. |
| 8 | August. | 8 | And music and math kind of go together a |
| 9 | And we had about 24 kids on a wait list in | 9 | little bit. My father was a dual major in math and |
| 10 | sixth grade. But we only have one sixth-grade | 10 | music. So I appreciate that. Thank you. |
| 11 | class. So next year, we will have more space. We | 11 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? |
| 12 | are looking at bringing in another sixth-grade | 12 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. I know |
| 13 | teacher and adding another sixth grade to our -- but | 13 | some people even hate singing "Happy Birthday." |
| 14 | we don't have a waiting list in any of the other | 14 | So I just wanted to commend the school on |
| 15 | grades. | 15 | the student choice and voice that you provide with |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: One of the things | 16 | the student presentations of learning, and their |
| 17 | to follow up on the math, your idea of the math | 17 | choice in being able to choose their research topic. |
| 18 | club, a lot of students may still be, "What is that | 18 | That's like master-level work, right, being able to |
| 19 | supposed to be?" | 19 | choose a research topic, do the research and stand |
| 20 | But if you make it fun, math games, you | 20 | up and present, like, the thesis or the defense of |
| 21 | focus it more on math games and teaching math | 21 | their research. |
| 22 | through fun games and everything, that will really | 22 | Is that done within a public venue in |
| 23 | engage the students, I think. And it will get them | 23 | front of judges? |
| 24 | to understand, you know, this building wasn't built | 24 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yeah. |
| 25 | by just people; it was built and designed by people | 25 | Commissioner Voigt. Thank you. Yes, it is. We |


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| 1 | actually go to what's called the GRC, which is the | 1 | We did have shining examples of students |
| 2 | Global Resource Center, on Western, which is a big | 2 | able to be freed up and pursue their passion. We |
| 3 | auditorium. And the students present, and the | 3 | also struggled with kids becoming engaged. That's |
| 4 | parents get to come, and we do open that up to the | 4 | something we're going to have to look at for the |
| 5 | public so they can present to everybody. | 5 | future. If they don't know what they want to do, |
| 6 | And last year was amazing. We had little | 6 | how do they take care of that? So that's |
| 7 | short video clips. We had some of the students | 7 | something -- that's a way we can grow. |
| 8 | wrote their own music and sang their own songs. | 8 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: If I may, I'd like to |
| 9 | Some did research out on the river. This one was on | 9 | tell one student story. We have one student -- I |
| 10 | feral cattle on the Gila River, which is just | 10 | think last year, he was a sophomore. And he is |
| 11 | amazing. He set up a little one of those little | 11 | about as ADHD as they come; I mean, just all over |
| 12 | cameras to track the cattle, which he didn't really | 12 | the place, really, really struggles with focusing |
| 13 | get any pictures of them. But there was a lot of | 13 | and getting homework done, really tough family life, |
| 14 | cow poop all over the place; so it was pretty | 14 | that kind of thing, where he chose -- well, he was |
| 15 | obvious there was cows in the area. | 15 | passionate about wolves. And he chose wolves as his |
| 16 | So, yeah. The students get to choose | 16 | project. |
| 17 | their own project, and it's great to see them excel | 17 | And, I mean, every time I saw him in the |
| 18 | when they do that. | 18 | hall, he had new data, new information that he'd |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: That's awesome. I | 19 | learned, new things that -- and I, unfortunately, |
| 20 | think as far as the thing of academic culture, | 20 | didn't get to see his end project. But he was just |
| 21 | that's huge, wouldn't you say? I imagine, since the | 21 | over the moon about it the whole time he was working |
| 22 | school has been open, you didn't have those type of | 22 | on it. |
| 23 | presentations of learning in place in year one, did | 23 | And I think that's where -- you know, it's |
| 24 | you? | 24 | so important to really pull kids in in that way. |
| 25 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: Well, yeah. Do you | 25 | So -- |
|  | Page 1018 |  | Page 1020 |
| 1 | want to talk about it, Catalina? Catalina was | 1 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: That's very cool. |
| 2 | another founder. | 2 | I'm a firm believer in student presentations of |
| 3 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: I was a teacher | 3 | learning, because they demonstrate so much more what |
| 4 | from the very beginning. And we had presentations | 4 | a student knows and is able to do, right, than |
| 5 | that -- these presentations that we have this | 5 | simply taking a standardized test. So I'm all about |
| 6 | year -- or we just started it last year -- are | 6 | presentations of learning. |
| 7 | passion-driven presentations. And before, we had | 7 | I have a question about the capstone |
| 8 | created themes for each grade level, and students | 8 | project that you're going to be bringing in for |
| 9 | did a project around those themes. | 9 | seniors. Is that going to be kind of a graduation |
| 10 | So in ninth grade, for example, they | 10 | requirement? |
| 11 | did -- their focus was on environmental science | 11 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: We're still talking |
| 12 | topics. And then in tenth grade, they did something | 12 | about it. |
| 13 | about -- connected to world history and | 13 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: That's in the |
| 14 | understand--- like, they would represent particular | 14 | works right now. And, really, that's a |
| 15 | cultures. And then they would talk about global | 15 | student-driven class that the students would like to |
| 16 | resources and how they were going to manage global | 16 | see to have a senior capstone project and take a |
| 17 | resources. | 17 | senior capstone trip. |
| 18 | And then year after year, kids would start | 18 | Right now, we still -- we do offer a |
| 19 | to go, "Oh, I just don't -- I don't want to do | 19 | senior trip. So just let me go back a little bit. |
| 20 | projects, and I don't" -- so then we said, "Okay. | 20 | Starting in ninth grade, they -- all the |
| 21 | We're just going to get really brave here and just | 21 | ninth-graders -- they all go backpacking, all ninth |
| 22 | try out passion-driven projects." | 22 | through twelfth. But the ninth-graders will have |
| 23 | And we were -- some of us were, like, what | 23 | their own trip with just the ninth-graders, the |
| 24 | if kiddos don't have a particular passion? That can | 24 | tenth-graders, just the tenth-graders, eleventh -- |
| 25 | be a downside. That can be a struggle. | 25 | and so on, and the twelfth-graders. |


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| 1 | And the twelfth-graders do have two trips. | 1 | have to keep the kids at the focus of everything |
| 2 | We've tried to get all of our twelfth-graders into | 2 | that we do. And, you know, sometimes I get a little |
| 3 | New Mexico history. So when they teach New Mexico | 3 | bit of backlash from that, because adults don't |
| 4 | history, it's not just like one semester of teaching | 4 | always take that right. But that's where it |
| 5 | it out of the textbook. | 5 | belongs. So having three wonderful examples of what |
| 6 | We actually take seven days -- or five to | 6 | goes on at your school is just amazing. |
| 7 | seven days -- and we tour all of New Mexico, and | 7 | I also commend you on your partnership |
| 8 | they get to see some amazing. I'm born and raised | 8 | with WNMU and being there on campus to be able to do |
| 9 | in Silver City. And some of the places I've got to | 9 | more dual-credit classes and just have that |
| 10 | go to on these trips is just amazing. I've never | 10 | partnership; I think it's great, and to have your |
| 11 | been there. And I've been a lot of places. | 11 | middle school with plans to come onto the campus for |
| 12 | So the students want a senior capstone | 12 | next year or in future years, whenever that happens. |
| 13 | trip. And some of the things that have been talked | 13 | And so congratulations to you in |
| 14 | about is this school in the past has gone to Mexico | 14 | everything that you guys are doing. |
| 15 | and gone down to San Carlos, and maybe putting that | 15 | And I echo a lot of the comments that have |
| 16 | as the senior capstone trip. | 16 | already been made. I -- again -- and I said this at |
| 17 | They've gone to Costa Rica. | 17 | the previous presentation -- you know, proficiency |
| 18 | These are the kind of ideas that are -- | 18 | doesn't always say the whole story. But, again, we |
| 19 | we're still working on. | 19 | do have an Accountability system that we have to |
| 20 | And, of course, there is that financial | 20 | live up to. |
| 21 | aspect to all of this, too. Right now, we -- Harry | 21 | And so as I was looking through your data, |
| 22 | was mentioning earlier, we work on a shoestring | 22 | some of the things -- there was a couple of things |
| 23 | budget. Our kids, when we go out somewhere, we buy | 23 | that really stood out for me. One is the |
| 24 | the food upfront. We cook our own food on the | 24 | achievement gap between your -- your white students |
| 25 | trips. We camp either in campgrounds, state parks, | 25 | and Hispanic students. And so it's a significant |
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| 1 | wherever. So it's very, very minimal cost to the | 1 | achievement gap. That's the first thing that stood |
| 2 | students. And we never ever let a student not go on | 2 | out; that's in reading and in math. |
| 3 | a trip because of financial needs, also. | 3 | So then the next thing I did is I looked |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Great. I mean, | 4 | over to see subgroup data. And I was noticing that |
| 5 | charter schools are notorious for doing so much with | 5 | you don't have any English Learners that are |
| 6 | so little, you know, and doing more with less than | 6 | reported on that. |
| 7 | traditional schools. | 7 | And so being somebody that was born and |
| 8 | I want to give kudos out to you for having | 8 | raised in Luna County and has family members in |
| 9 | that garden in the middle of the city. I mean, talk | 9 | Grant County and Hidalgo County, I'm quite aware of |
| 10 | about high visibility and marketing and promoting | 10 | the Hispanic community in all three of those |
| 11 | your school and showing off, you know, the great | 11 | counties. And I'm always amazed when -- when we |
| 12 | things that the kids are doing. | 12 | have -- you know -- and Grant County is very unique |
| 13 | And I also want to give kudos to the | 13 | in many ways. There seems to be a divide between |
| 14 | students who spoke so articulately about their | 14 | Hurley and Bayard and Silver City itself and some of |
| 15 | school. That's just a definite reflection of those | 15 | the differences that go on demographically there. |
| 16 | presentations and being able to manage yourselves in | 16 | However, there is a large Hispanic |
| 17 | a professional manner. Very well done. Thank you | 17 | population in that county. And so I started to just |
| 18 | so much. | 18 | think about, well, what does that look like when we |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Chavez? | 19 | look at comparisons in enrollment? |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Thank you. I only | 20 | So as I was looking at your data for that |
| 21 | have two charter schools in my district, and Aldo | 21 | and comparing it to Silver City Consolidated |
| 22 | being one them. So it's -- it's always good to hear | 22 | Schools, it's -- it's almost the flip. Your |
| 23 | all the wonderful things that are going on. | 23 | demographics are almost the exact opposite of |
| 24 | And, you know, this year has been -- for | 24 | Silver City Public Schools. And so -- to the point |
| 25 | me, has been a year of reminding the adults that we | 25 | of Aldo has a 68 percent white population and a |


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| 1 | 27 percent Hispanic; whereas, Silver City Public | 1 | But that is -- that's also an untrue |
| 2 | Schools has a 33 percent white population and | 2 | statement. We're actually looking at -- right now, |
| 3 | 63 percent Hispanic. | 3 | we're in the process of developing -- I probably |
| 4 | And so I'm just wondering, why is there | 4 | shouldn't even say this, so I won't. We are working |
| 5 | such a disparity and such an opposite of -- you | 5 | with the State Game and Fish developing a project |
| 6 | know, from the Silver City Public Schools to Aldo, | 6 | that we can collaborate with them. I can just say |
| 7 | and what's going on with that? | 7 | that much, okay? |
| 8 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Okay. Thank you, | 8 | THE CHAIR: I have a good friend on the |
| 9 | Commissioner Chavez. | 9 | Game and Fish Commission. |
| 10 | Yes, we've looked at this, too. And we've | 10 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Okay. Great. We |
| 11 | noticed this. And I-- I asked around. I asked | 11 | want to develop that relationship with them. And we |
| 12 | some of my teachers, what did they think? Why is | 12 | want to get these students out there that look more |
| 13 | this -- why is this disparity there? | 13 | like the actual persons that live in Grant County. |
| 14 | And there are several answers that came | 14 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: May I also add to |
| 15 | up. But I'm not sure that they are the whole | 15 | that -- that disparity as well? |
| 16 | answer. | 16 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yeah. |
| 17 | But one of the things, Aldo being a | 17 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: So in our early |
| 18 | charter school, is some people in the community | 18 | years, we were just a high school. So we didn't |
| 19 | still don't realize that we are a public school, and | 19 | have the middle-school part. And so we used to ask |
| 20 | they think they have to pay to come to our school. | 20 | the Silver High School administration if we could |
| 21 | And I think that is one of the things that | 21 | come in and speak about what it is that our school |
| 22 | we've worked on. We have -- when we do advertise -- | 22 | does so that we could speak directly to students so |
| 23 | which we don't advertise much. But when we do | 23 | that they understood the education choices that they |
| 24 | advertise, we advertise as public schools. | 24 | had before them before they went up into the high |
| 25 | And I think that's something the Charter | 25 | school. |
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| 1 | School Division is trying to work on is saying that | 1 | And then, over time, there was, you know, |
| 2 | these are -- these are public schools first. Put | 2 | a perception that, you know, we're stealing students |
| 3 | that word "public" out there first, because it's | 3 | and things like that that go on between public and |
| 4 | limiting the students who are wanting, or could | 4 | charter schools. And we became disallowed to go |
| 5 | attend, from coming to our school, because the | 5 | into the schools to be able to speak directly with |
| 6 | parents believe that it's a private school. | 6 | students and to help answer questions, especially |
| 7 | And I catch that all the time. I even | 7 | that huge question as to whether or not we are a |
| 8 | caught one of our new representatives in our | 8 | public school. |
| 9 | community was saying, "Well, the private school" -- | 9 | And now that we are a middle school and a |
| 10 | it's, like, no, we're not a private school; we're a | 10 | high school, we still haven't had that opportunity |
| 11 | public school. And we need to be public first, and | 11 | to go into elementary schools and have that |
| 12 | people need to understand that. | 12 | conversation so that students themselves get to know |
| 13 | But for some reason, that's not being | 13 | who we are and what their choices are in the |
| 14 | conveyed. And we're not doing a good enough job | 14 | community. |
| 15 | conveying that in our community also. | 15 | And I'm not sure how we can move forward |
| 16 | There's also another reason that came up. | 16 | to be able to have that direct conversation with |
| 17 | And when Aldo started, it was considered the "hippie | 17 | students and to help them understand that they do |
| 18 | school." And so we had this image of being this | 18 | have choices and that they can talk about those |
| 19 | "hippie school." So people didn't want to send | 19 | choices with their parents. I think that's been a |
| 20 | their kids to this "hippie school." | 20 | big wall for us. |
| 21 | If you're familiar with Grant County, it's | 21 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Do you currently |
| 22 | a very strong hunting -- there's a lot of hunters | 22 | have students from the Bayard area and the Hurley |
| 23 | that are outdoors people. But they're not the same | 23 | area? |
| 24 | type of outdoors people that were being attracted to | 24 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: Yes, we do. |
| 25 | Aldo. | 25 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yes. And as far |


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| 1 | as Mimbres. | 1 | If your charter is depending on you coming |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: I would just like to | 2 | to equity in the population of the students in the |
| 3 | see something that's more reflective of the | 3 | area, I'm sure you would hustle it. You have to do |
| 4 | community and the demographics of that community; | 4 | more -- there's a difference between when people do |
| 5 | because as you guys know, the whole Yazzie-Martinez | 5 | outright things to do this, and when things -- say, |
| 6 | lawsuit and the whole equity, when you see | 6 | "Well, they're just -- this is just a fact, de |
| 7 | achievement gaps like this, and then you see the | 7 | facto, de facto breakdown. This is just the way it |
| 8 | demographics of your school, it sends up a red flag | 8 | breaks down. But we follow the rules. We have open |
| 9 | in many ways. | 9 | enrollments and all this stuff." |
| 10 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: I think something | 10 | But there's got to be more -- if -- from |
| 11 | also, to add to it, is that our school has a higher | 11 | the very beginning, you started out with a high |
| 12 | special education population than our neighboring | 12 | population of -- of White Anglo, and you failed to |
| 13 | schools as well. And so the word seems to be | 13 | do more to educate parents. |
| 14 | getting out to students who have special needs, | 14 | And the Hispanic parents are hard to |
| 15 | because we -- we can create smaller and more | 15 | educate. And you have to hustle it. It's not going |
| 16 | personalized education, like, in that smaller | 16 | to happen at the schools; it's not going to happen |
| 17 | environment. | 17 | at the high schools. You've got to go to the |
| 18 | But we still have to -- I agree with you, | 18 | communities. You've got to -- and if you don't know |
| 19 | Commissioner, that we still need to bridge that gap | 19 | how to penetrate the community, you look for help, |
| 20 | and let people know more about the opportunities in | 20 | people that are very into the community. |
| 21 | our community. | 21 | All you have to do is explain to parents |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Madam Chair? | 22 | what is it that you do. And you get them. You just |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Caballero? | 23 | have -- all parents, especially immigration -- |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Commissioner | 24 | immigrant parents, they came to this country for the |
| 25 | Chavez, thank you for the questions. They were my | 25 | education of their children. And all you have to do |
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| 1 | questions. But you represent that area, and I'm | 1 | is give them that message. |
| 2 | glad you brought it up. I will second him. | 2 | And so, also, if you're not doing enough |
| 3 | I -- I -- I don't accept the -- these | 3 | to help out the -- the -- those students that are in |
| 4 | glaring -- to me, they're glaring differences. I | 4 | your -- in your school to thrive and to succeed, and |
| 5 | don't suppose you just have these differences this | 5 | your scores show it, then they're going to abandon |
| 6 | year; you've had them for quite some time. And | 6 | you. They're going to say, "Well, there was no |
| 7 | if -- what's your breakdown in the entering students | 7 | difference there." |
| 8 | that come in? It's sixth grade? | 8 | Talk to their neighbors, "No, there's no |
| 9 | MS. CATALINA CLAUSSEN: Yes, sixth grade. | 9 | difference there. Might as well leave him where |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: What's your | 10 | he's at. He eats better. His friends are there." |
| 11 | breakdown? The same breakdown that you have here? | 11 | and it goes on and on and on. |
| 12 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: I'm not sure what | 12 | And I would hate to see this beautiful |
| 13 | the current sixth-grade class is as far as | 13 | program not being taken advantage with a higher |
| 14 | ethnicity, what the breakdown is there. But I would | 14 | percentage of Hispanics; because they really need |
| 15 | say it's very close to what the stats are that you | 15 | it. They need this stuff. And to be -- and not to |
| 16 | have. | 16 | have that opportunity because their parents didn't |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And so I bring it | 17 | learn about it, because somebody couldn't speak to |
| 18 | up because if that's your breakdown of your entering | 18 | them in English when they answered the phone -- I |
| 19 | students, that's going to continue your breakdown. | 19 | don't know what it is. |
| 20 | And if you don't do -- by high school, it's very | 20 | But you've got to look at everything, |
| 21 | hard to bring in. | 21 | because this is -- this is glaring. This is |
| 22 | And I will tell you, you would have to | 22 | embarrassing in the community of Silver. And I've |
| 23 | talk to parents; and not at the schools, because -- | 23 | been there a lot of times, and I talk to folks from |
| 24 | and what I heard was a lot of theories and a lot of | 24 | there. And they're super-excited about their |
| 25 | excuses. | 25 | community. |


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| 1 | But this is not right. This is public | 1 | Commissioner Caballero, I appreciate your comments |
| 2 | money. And you've got to have a passion to | 2 | on this issue. I was born and raised in Silver |
| 3 | diversify your -- your student population a lot | 3 | City. |
| 4 | more. And it helps them. Because if you have -- if | 4 | THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. Could you just |
| 5 | you're bringing in all the -- all the Anglo White to | 5 | identify yourself? |
| 6 | your school, and all that's staying at the other | 6 | MR. A.J. SANDOVAL: Yes. I am the |
| 7 | schools are Hispanic, that doesn't help your | 7 | governing council chair for Aldo Leopold Charter |
| 8 | students, nor the students that are staying behind. | 8 | School. A.J. Sandoval. I missed my introduction in |
| 9 | And I can tell you, I grew as a person | 9 | our 15 minutes. |
| 10 | much more when I left El Paso to graduate school and | 10 | But growing up and seeing this school |
| 11 | became friends with other folks that were other than | 11 | develop, I did believe that it was a school that |
| 12 | Hispanic. I grew. And it's a beautiful thing. | 12 | served White privileged students in our area. It |
| 13 | But you cannot have this in a class. I | 13 | wasn't until I got to work alongside the students at |
| 14 | don't accept it. My colleague is very cordial and | 14 | Aldo Leopold Charter School that I saw the great |
| 15 | so forth. But I'm rougher when I look at glaring | 15 | power the school has to educate all students that |
| 16 | disparities. And I went after a school that had a | 16 | are willing to attend our school. |
| 17 | 10 percent differential. | 17 | There's a great cultural divide, like |
| 18 | But look at yours. What is it? 20? 30? | 18 | Wayne mentioned, between the ranching community and |
| 19 | No, 41 percent. Holy cow. In Silver? | 19 | the hunting community and the Anglo and the Hispanic |
| 20 | And it's going to get more glaring now | 20 | community. Our school is often used in political |
| 21 | that you're at the university; because now Hispanic, | 21 | campaigns as something negatively associated with |
| 22 | low-income families -- and I have a harder time | 22 | our school. People running for office and have run |
| 23 | getting out there. And so I don't know. I don't | 23 | for office associated with our school have been |
| 24 | know how -- I don't know what the answer is. | 24 | attacked for having an association with our school. |
| 25 | If I were there, if I was from that area, | 25 | The issue of the protecting the Gila |
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| 1 | and I grew up in that area, I could probably help. | 1 | River, our school's name comes up as "that hippie |
| 2 | But I'm just looking at the statistics. | 2 | school, those kids that are advocating for that |
| 3 | And my position is, no, no. You've got to -- I'm | 3 | river and don't understand our ranching heritage." |
| 4 | going to be here for a while. I've got to see some | 4 | So the history and the heritage that goes |
| 5 | changes, some movement here. | 5 | behind this divide is very, very deep. It goes |
| 6 | And I can tell you. There's a lot of | 6 | beyond more than just marketing our school. |
| 7 | whispering at the Legislature about the nature of | 7 | It's -- my family has lived in the area |
| 8 | the private school for charter schools, that that's | 8 | for at least eight generations. And this divide has |
| 9 | all it is. Charter schools are private schools | 9 | existed from the history of the area. So it's |
| 10 | financed by public money. | 10 | something that we will continue to work on, and we |
| 11 | And we have -- and that's also my job, to | 11 | have worked on for hundreds of years in this |
| 12 | prevent that little talk that happens there. I want | 12 | community. |
| 13 | to brag about charter schools and say, "No, it's | 13 | But I do appreciate your concern. As a |
| 14 | not. Look at the diversity of..." -- yeah, | 14 | Hispanic man, I am proud to serve on this school |
| 15 | sometimes schools have more of this and less of | 15 | board and advocate for our school, especially to |
| 16 | that, but not glaring. | 16 | those in the mining district, Hurley and Bayard and |
| 17 | And, guys, eeho. And I know why my | 17 | Santa Clara, as Mr. Chavez expressed his concerns of |
| 18 | colleague, Mr. Chavez, that's his personality, and | 18 | those areas. It's also harder for those students to |
| 19 | he's got to live there. I don't. I'm not going to | 19 | find transportation to get to all the activities and |
| 20 | live in Silver, guys. But I feel for my Chicanitos | 20 | just get to school. |
| 21 | in that area. There's a lot of poverty. My God, | 21 | Those students in those -- in what we call |
| 22 | there's a lot of poverty. | 22 | "the mining district" do have higher levels of |
| 23 | Thank you, Madam Chair. | 23 | poverty, and there are issues we need to address. I |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 24 | appreciate the concerns. But I will -- I take -- I |
| 25 | MR. A.J. SANDOVAL: Commissioner Chavez, | 25 | would say I do need to step up as well, as a |


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| 1 | governing council member, to address those issues. | 1 | students who come to our school, they're fairly new |
| 2 | Thank you. | 2 | people to our community, I will say. We have |
| 3 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 3 | someone from Socorro in the Silver -- not in the |
| 4 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Commissioners, would it | 4 | Silver -- in the senior class. And we just have |
| 5 | be okay if Katrina spoke to the issue? The | 5 | students from all over. We have students from |
| 6 | question? | 6 | Colorado and some from California. It's just very |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Sure. | 7 | diverse. |
| 8 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Yeah? | 8 | And that -- what my point is, is just that |
| 9 | FROM THE FLOOR: Hello once again. I'm | 9 | the majority of people that live in our community |
| 10 | Katrina Estrada. I'm the student body president of | 10 | are primarily Hispanic and Latino. And they went to |
| 11 | Aldo Leopold Charter School. | 11 | certain schools, and they grew up in this community. |
| 12 | I completely understand the frustration of | 12 | And they have no contact with Aldo Leopold Charter |
| 13 | the topics and the issue. But I will say that this | 13 | School. |
| 14 | whole issue goes so much more than beyond just | 14 | They never did, not even growing up. And |
| 15 | Aldo Leopold as a school. It -- this whole issue | 15 | it is because our school is fairly new to our |
| 16 | contributes to Silver City's community, just because | 16 | community. |
| 17 | the Silver City community and Grant County | 17 | And I would just like to say that |
| 18 | community, we are mostly Hispanic and Latino. | 18 | contributes to why that -- that gap is there and why |
| 19 | But for our Anglo and White population in | 19 | that predicament and that issue is there. |
| 20 | Silver City, New Mexico, there is a separation | 20 | Thank you. |
| 21 | between the two ethnicities, and that shows | 21 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Just real fast, |
| 22 | throughout both Silver Consolidated Schools and | 22 | Madam Chair. And I get it. I was told. I was told |
| 23 | definitely our school. | 23 | in Silver about all of that, because I had those |
| 24 | And I just wanted to address that to show | 24 | questions. Politically, I went -- I've gone there |
| 25 | that the separation between Mexican students and | 25 | for political events and -- and legislative |
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| 1 | Anglo students is -- how do I say? -- is contributed | 1 | hearings. |
| 2 | towards the amount of separation that is created | 2 | And I know some people in Silver. |
| 3 | through our own community. | 3 | Dr. Ortego, who taught at the University, was my |
| 4 | And coming from the perspective of a | 4 | professor at UTEP and became a lifelong friend. And |
| 5 | second generation -- generation American, I will say | 5 | so we had those discussions. And I understand that. |
| 6 | that people who grew up in Silver City, they went to | 6 | But if I were to ask what have you done |
| 7 | Silver High. And because of that, they -- they have | 7 | specifically to -- to bring in parents and talk to |
| 8 | this idea in their mind that they have to put their | 8 | parents, it's going to be very difficult for you to |
| 9 | children through the same course and cycle. | 9 | tell me what program or approach you've taken, other |
| 10 | And since Aldo Leopold Charter School | 10 | than, "Well, we did the -- we published -- we have a |
| 11 | barely came into play as an educational area where | 11 | web site, and we" -- the digital world is not going |
| 12 | people could come and learn about ecology and | 12 | to work in the Hispanic community. |
| 13 | science and so much more than what Silver | 13 | You've got to do the old-style approach. |
| 14 | Consolidated Schools provide, and considering that | 14 | If you're not talking to parents and talking to them |
| 15 | it's a much newer school than the more public basic | 15 | and bringing them in, and if you can't go to the |
| 16 | schools that are provided within our community, | 16 | schools, then have an open house way in advance to |
| 17 | the -- the separation between White people and | 17 | show what you have. |
| 18 | Mexican people within our community definitely | 18 | And my point, why, even though generations |
| 19 | shows. | 19 | have been separate, and everybody -- "If the Anglos |
| 20 | I will -- since the majority of our | 20 | are there, we're going to be here"; and so the point |
| 21 | community is Mexican, and since those people went | 21 | is they've had generations of going to the same |
| 22 | through that cycle of going through Silver High and | 22 | school, and the kids want to continue that, well, it |
| 23 | other schools in the community, they send their | 23 | goes for both -- both ethnic groups. |
| 24 | children to those schools. | 24 | And so the final point, Madam Chair -- and |
| 25 | And a lot of the people who -- and | 25 | Aldo Leopold -- is that if we don't break those |


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| 1 | continued disparities of generations, being separate | 1 | children who are Hispanic is going to be having the |
| 2 | and apart, and, "I'm better, and you're not -- | 2 | staff that they can identify with. |
| 3 | you're not good"; or maybe that's not the idea. | 3 | And so we are -- I know that that's the |
| 4 | But, "I want to be over here because you guys are | 4 | solution. That's my priority. |
| 5 | over there," and -- that has to get broken. | 5 | We were also able to hire an instructional |
| 6 | And the school, when you -- when you make | 6 | assistant today -- this year -- who's also Hispanic. |
| 7 | an effort to have a mixed ethnic group population, | 7 | And so growing our staff, increasing the numbers of |
| 8 | that breaks down. My son, I took him from a | 8 | Hispanic staff, I think, is going to be a solution |
| 9 | 99 percent Hispanic to Grants. And my house was | 9 | there. |
| 10 | filled with all types of people. And his friends | 10 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |
| 11 | are diverse. And he still has those same friends. | 11 | Commissioner Raftery? |
| 12 | And he's -- he told me, "Dad, we don't | 12 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Thank you. You |
| 13 | look at -- at ethnicity anymore. You may have, but | 13 | know, when you're trying to bring people in and you |
| 14 | we don't. We don't see skin color." | 14 | have to have people in that are in, bring them. So, |
| 15 | And I thought, "Man, that is -- that is a | 15 | you know, you have a lot of ambassadors already, |
| 16 | gorgeous thing to grow up in." | 16 | your students. You know, they -- they're the ones |
| 17 | And so I'm -- my effort is to give | 17 | that can bring those other kids in. |
| 18 | Hispanic students the same opportunity, but also | 18 | I'll tell you, if you have ambassadors |
| 19 | everybody should work together and live together and | 19 | going out there and talking to kids about your |
| 20 | understand that, and break that -- that generational | 20 | school, inviting them to come in, and the pressure |
| 21 | thing that's there, if it's there. | 21 | is put on them, everybody's going to want to come to |
| 22 | I'm not from the community, so I don | 22 | that school. |
| 23 | know. I'm just throwing it out there. I would -- I | 23 | So, you know, maybe perhaps starting -- or |
| 24 | would stand corrected if I'm wrong. But that's all | 24 | thinking about an ambassadorship program with your |
| 25 | I'm trying to say. | 25 | students to be the people who go out there and talk |
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| 1 | But, again, it's public money. You have | 1 | to the other students, that might help a little bit. |
| 2 | to make a move on it. I'm not going to tell you how | 2 | I know that in Southeastern New Mexico, we |
| 3 | to do it. But you guys are very, very capable, | 3 | have a lot of oppression as well. So a lot of our |
| 4 | because you made something from nothing. And you're | 4 | workers, they don't go to "that" school, because |
| 5 | getting it better and better. And I'm sure you can | 5 | they don't belong in "that" school, or they |
| 6 | address this problem. | 6 | shouldn't go to "that" church, because nobody goes |
| 7 | It's a problem that needs to be addressed | 7 | to "that" church except these other people. |
| 8 | critically. Because Caballero is going to be around | 8 | You know, there's oppression everywhere. |
| 9 | for a long time. | 9 | And the only way to break it, I think, is having |
| 10 | Thank you, Madam Chair. | 10 | inclusion and having these ambassadors and having |
| 11 | FROM THE FLOOR: Commissioner Caballero | 11 | these people talk to other people and say, "It's |
| 12 | and members of the Commission, I'm Siah Correa | 12 | okay. We're just like you. We're not any |
| 13 | Hemphill, and I am the special ed director. I'm the | 13 | different." |
| 14 | school psychologist, and I'm also a parent at Aldo | 14 | But, you know, you have that power right |
| 15 | Leopold. | 15 | now. You just have to develop it. |
| 16 | And I'm from the mining district. And | 16 | Thank you. |
| 17 | what I see as being the solution is recruiting more | 17 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |
| 18 | teachers and staff from the mining district, which | 18 | Commissioner Armbruster? |
| 19 | we were able to accomplish this year. | 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I'm on a |
| 20 | We were in need of a special ed teacher at | 20 | different subject, a little bit. |
| 21 | the high school, and I spoke with a special ed | 21 | So I think that I heard this, but I've |
| 22 | teacher that I knew from the mining district, and we | 22 | heard so much, my brain is full. I think you said |
| 23 | were able to hire her. | 23 | that you're moving -- and I know via amendment -- to |
| 24 | She's been there just a few weeks. But I | 24 | a new facility, and you're looking at an additional |
| 25 | think the key is attracting children -- more | 25 | sixth-grade class. Did I hear that correctly? |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: That is correct. | 1 | outstanding, I mean, just stellar, but not in math |
| 2 | If we do move the middle school up to Western, we | 2 | and reading. And they would go on these trips. And |
| 3 | are hoping to add an additional sixth-grade class. | 3 | they were the best -- the best, bar none. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So eventually, | 4 | Our kids in California, we -- I don't |
| 5 | you'll be adding seventh. | 5 | think they do this anymore. But we took them to |
| 6 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: We only have one | 6 | Toyon Bay, which is on Catalina Island. And they |
| 7 | sixth grade, but we have two seventh and two | 7 | went there for three days. They had bunkbeds; they |
| 8 | eighth-grade. | 8 | weren't tenting. |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So you do have | 9 | But they were -- Toyon Bay was kind of |
| 10 | an opportunity here. Just wanted to clarify in my | 10 | like the Los Alamos Ranch School that was taken over |
| 11 | mind what you're saying. | 11 | by the Army during the war. So then some people who |
| 12 | I had a number of things I just wanted to | 12 | were biologists took it over, and they took the kids |
| 13 | say to you. | 13 | on hiking and snorkeling and different laboratories |
| 14 | I'm really happy to hear that you have a | 14 | and things. |
| 15 | "C" grade as the lowest grade that you can get. I | 15 | And the kids -- there was no separation. |
| 16 | just happen to have been with the president of | 16 | Everybody did a great thing. And it's one of the |
| 17 | Northern last evening, and I said to him, "So you've | 17 | things that I've always told my kids. "Everyone is |
| 18 | been getting a number of kids from...," in this case | 18 | not good at everything." So I really liked that |
| 19 | charter schools, because that's all I know about | 19 | part of the program. |
| 20 | here. | 20 | I wonder if, just -- you may not actually |
| 21 | And I said, "They're having such low | 21 | know this number. But on your special ed, which is |
| 22 | proficiencies. Tell me how they're making it at | 22 | like -- here, I said 20 percent? Sounds about right |
| 23 | Northern." And they're doing programs like plumbing | 23 | to you? |
| 24 | and IT and those kinds of things. | 24 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Yes. |
| 25 | I said, "But, still, you have to know how | 25 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Are they a |
|  | Page 1046 |  | Page 1048 |
| 1 | to read and do math." | 1 | majority Hispanic? |
| 2 | And he said, "Because we have remedial | 2 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Do you know that |
| 3 | programs for them." | 3 | answer? I don't know. |
| 4 | So I'm hoping -- and not that I think that | 4 | MS. SIAH CORREA HEMPHILL: I'm not sure. |
| 5 | your kids would probably go to Northern -- that | 5 | I haven't looked at that data. |
| 6 | would help that -- them in college, because now | 6 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It's not |
| 7 | you're paying for college, and you're taking high | 7 | glaring. |
| 8 | school classes. | 8 | MS. SIAH CORREA HEMPHILL: It's not |
| 9 | So that's one of the reasons the kids drop | 9 | glaring. |
| 10 | out, as we all know. | 10 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So it's probably |
| 11 | Second of all, I wanted to say -- I don't | 11 | not. That's good. That's a really positive |
| 12 | know. Maybe you-all know this. But I did teach | 12 | comment. |
| 13 | special education in middle school. I just forgot | 13 | And on your lowest quartile, I was |
| 14 | my crown today; but -- for 39 years. | 14 | hearing, I think, about you having 50 minutes on a |
| 15 | So I do want to talk about a couple of | 15 | transition, sort of an RTI thing, on Fridays? |
| 16 | comments. One is I wrote down your comment about | 16 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: No. That's through the |
| 17 | the "behavior in important places." I'm going to | 17 | week. |
| 18 | actually make a little T-shirt of that, because | 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It's every day. |
| 19 | that's exactly right. | 19 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: It's 25 minutes twice a |
| 20 | But I will say that I taught 22 years in | 20 | week, where our middle school are grouped by what |
| 21 | California and 17 years in Los Alamos at the middle | 21 | skills that they need for math interventions. |
| 22 | school. And what you were saying is exactly right, | 22 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: So it's only |
| 23 | which is why I love to see kids going places and | 23 | math and not reading then. |
| 24 | doing things. | 24 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Right. So as the Title |
| 25 | Because we would have children who were | 25 | I reading instructor, I have some small groups that |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I work with who are showing signs of dyslexia, | 1 | so... |
| 2 | whether they've been diagnosed or not, and really | 2 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Sounds like we |
| 3 | work hard with the multi-sensory, | 3 | need to go there. |
| 4 | Orton-Gillingham-based reading program with them. | 4 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yeah. It was in the |
| 5 | And then I also push into the classroom, | 5 | Carson. He hadn't written A Sand County Almanac |
| 6 | when it's necessary for assistance within the | 6 | yet. but it's where he killed the wolf, the famous |
| 7 | classroom, for reading strategies and -- and work | 7 | line, "a fierce green fire dying in her eyes." And |
| 8 | there. | 8 | it was that experience that motivated him to become |
| 9 | So -- so, yes, our RTI is just in math. | 9 | an American hero and a fierce ecologist and write A |
| 10 | And we decided that's what the focus needed to be | 10 | Sand County Almanac, if there's anyone in here |
| 11 | for that time in our schedule. | 11 | well-versed about Aldo Leopold. I encourage you to |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Are the special | 12 | do that. He's a wonderful man. |
| 13 | ed-identified students getting the advantage of that | 13 | Also I learned something, that there's |
| 14 | as well? | 14 | actually an Aldo Leopold Wilderness within the Gila |
| 15 | MS. FIONA BAILEY: Correct, yeah. So our | 15 | Wilderness. |
| 16 | special ed teacher has some student -- some of our | 16 | MR. HARRY BROWNE: It's within the Gila |
| 17 | students with math IEPs go to her during that time. | 17 | Forest. |
| 18 | Others, if their needs aren't as great, coming -- | 18 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: The Gila Forest. |
| 19 | come to either me or -- you know, depending on what | 19 | Okay. |
| 20 | their needs are. | 20 | My parents retired to Reserve. So I spent |
| 21 | So we look at -- we look at special ed and | 21 | a quite of bit of time in that area. And my wife |
| 22 | general ed across the board based on skills and | 22 | attended Western back in the '70s. And so for both |
| 23 | skill deficits. | 23 | of us, my wife and I, our two favorite cities in |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And my last | 24 | New Mexico are Santa Fe and Silver City. |
| 25 | comment is -- it's kind of relating to the young | 25 | And so every time we're even anywhere near |
|  | Page 1050 |  | Page 1052 |
| 1 | lady's talk. Well, I know that we have two, like, | 1 | there, when we spend the night -- and we do come to |
| 2 | famous in our State, people who I do believe went to | 2 | the little blues festival in June -- or May. I'll |
| 3 | Silver City High School: Lieutenant Governor Howie | 3 | yield my time to Ava. I think I said to her, "Save |
| 4 | Morales and Stephanie Garcia Richard, our first | 4 | the Gila." |
| 5 | woman and Hispanic Land Commissioner. So they -- so | 5 | But I heard someone else -- before I go |
| 6 | that's a big thing to break. They made it. Just | 6 | there, though, I heard the two of you use the term |
| 7 | saying. | 7 | "hippie." I represent that remark. And my wife is |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Don't forget | 8 | Hispanic. All of her best friends in Silver were |
| 9 | Harrison Schmidt. | 9 | hippies; so -- so, anyway, would you come up, Ava? |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: And Jeff Bingaman. | 10 | FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning. I -- when |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I happen to know | 11 | it comes to the Gila Wild and Scenic designation, me |
| 12 | these two. | 12 | and, actually, Commissioner Browne and Jamie |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: He's got another | 13 | Crockett, who's also here, we traveled to |
| 14 | one. | 14 | Washington, D.C., about a month ago to represent our |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Madam Chair? | 15 | community with the "Wild and Scenic." |
| 16 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Crone? | 16 | And I was chosen to do that, not because I |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I promise to do my | 17 | necessarily go to the hippie school that, you know, |
| 18 | very best to not represent you incorrectly. And in | 18 | fully supports that. Not everyone at the school -- |
| 19 | your case, it's all good news. | 19 | we are open to everyone's perspective and beliefs |
| 20 | So you mentioned that you've traveled all | 20 | about that. |
| 21 | around the state. Have you been to the Aldo Leopold | 21 | But I was able to do that because of my |
| 22 | cabin in Tres Piedras? | 22 | internship that I do. And my internship this |
| 23 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: No, I have not | 23 | semester was with the director of Western's Outdoor |
| 24 | been there. | 24 | Program. And the New Mexico Wild and Scenic |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Well, you're close, | 25 | Wilderness -- New Mexico Wild and Wilderness |


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| 1 | Alliance approached the director of the Outdoor | 1 | But I do know that there -- is designating |
| 2 | Program and asked if she had any students that would | 2 | the Gila as "Wild and Scenic" would not affect -- it |
| 3 | be interested in going to Washington, D.C., with | 3 | would not affect the way that we get to use the |
| 4 | them to talk to our senators and one of our | 4 | Gila. It simply protects it for future generations. |
| 5 | representatives about the "Wild and Scenic" | 5 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Thank you very much, |
| 6 | designation. | 6 | Ava. |
| 7 | And she suggested me, because I have a | 7 | THE CHAIR: They were looking to dam it, |
| 8 | connection with both Western and Aldo Leopold. And | 8 | yeah. |
| 9 | I strongly agree with protecting the Gila, because | 9 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Madam Chair? |
| 10 | it's a place that has so much significance for me | 10 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I just -- let me -- |
| 11 | personally -- I grew up along the Gila River -- and | 11 | THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. |
| 12 | also because it has also been such a big part of my | 12 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I think it's |
| 13 | education. It's the reason I know what I want to do | 13 | appropriate that the attempt to reintroduce wolves |
| 14 | after I graduate high school. | 14 | to New Mexico is centered in your area. So thank |
| 15 | And part of that is because of the | 15 | you. |
| 16 | experiences I've had in the Gila with Aldo on our | 16 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Just to add on |
| 17 | backpacking trips, you know. My freshman senior | 17 | the damming in the water, there is a lot of |
| 18 | backpacking trip was a really big introduction with | 18 | discussion by the feds and the State Legislature and |
| 19 | me with Aldo. It really -- it kind of caused my | 19 | people in the area, because there's -- there's a |
| 20 | "ah-ha" moment. | 20 | position by downstream, southern New Mexico, that |
| 21 | I realized why I was at Aldo was when I | 21 | the water is theirs. |
| 22 | was on my freshman senior backpacking trip my | 22 | And folks in the north said, "No, we -- |
| 23 | freshman year, and we were sitting near the campfire | 23 | we -- we -- we are -- this is some of our water, and |
| 24 | next to the river. And it was one of those moments | 24 | we've got to keep that water." |
| 25 | that I realized how lucky I am, that not only do I | 25 | And as we started getting less and less |
|  | Page 1054 |  | Page 1056 |
| 1 | live in a place where I am so close to such an | 1 | water, then the northern part, Silver area, all that |
| 2 | incredible resource; but I was there on a school | 2 | area, started demanding their portion. |
| 3 | trip, and I was getting school credit to learn about | 3 | So there's going to be -- and so the fight |
| 4 | this incredible place. | 4 | is over how much damming and where and how and who |
| 5 | So I really support the "Wild and Scenic" | 5 | pays for it. And downstream, they still demand that |
| 6 | designation. That's not just because of the | 6 | it's their water, because they helped build the dam. |
| 7 | education I've received; but it's also because of my | 7 | Don't tell me how that translates. But |
| 8 | background before then. | 8 | there is a lot of give-and-take. |
| 9 | And so that's something that I was able to | 9 | And maybe the students can get into that |
| 10 | do because of Aldo. And I am so grateful for that | 10 | discussion; also, the discussion of saving the |
| 11 | opportunity. It opened my eyes up so much. I was | 11 | Spotted Owl versus cutting more -- more of the |
| 12 | able to kind of see, you know, politics happening | 12 | forests down. |
| 13 | right in front of me walking around Washington, | 13 | I mean, I spent three days listening to |
| 14 | D.C., and that was all because of Aldo. And so I | 14 | testimony that it was just too much for me. I'm |
| 15 | owe so much to them, and I am so grateful for that | 15 | sure it's a goldmine for students to get into. |
| 16 | opportunity. | 16 | But it -- Commissioner, it's a lot of |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Weren't there some | 17 | stuff. And I hope they don't put a lot of the area |
| 18 | attempts to dam the Gila? | 18 | under water. |
| 19 | FROM THE FLOOR: Yes. There were several | 19 | But those folks in that area have got to |
| 20 | attempts. I can't speak a lot to them. I don't | 20 | save their water that's theirs and save that |
| 21 | know all of the details about that. But the "Wild | 21 | environment. Because it cannot exist without enough |
| 22 | and Scenic" designation doesn't have a huge effect | 22 | water. |
| 23 | on that. And I don't know that that's up for | 23 | Thank you, Madam Chair. |
| 24 | discussion as much anymore. I really can't speak to | 24 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioners? |
| 25 | that. | 25 | No other questions? |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | (No response.) | 1 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Okay. | 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 3 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: Madam Chair, real | 3 | Robbins? |
| 4 | quickly. | 4 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: Oh, sorry. | 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 6 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: I failed to | 6 | Crone? |
| 7 | introduce some very, very important people to | 7 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. |
| 8 | Aldo Leopold Charter School. And that is our -- two | 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 9 | of our other governing council members that came | 9 | Armbruster votes "Yes." |
| 10 | along, too. And that is Jamie Crockett there and | 10 | Commissioner Voigt? |
| 11 | Hannah Wecks. She also came. And also some of our | 11 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. |
| 12 | middle-school students, they have been sitting | 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 13 | there, very well-behaved. | 13 | Davis? |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: They know how to behave in | 14 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. |
| 15 | public places. | 15 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 16 | MR. G. WAYNE SHERWOOD: There you go. | 16 | Gipson? |
| 17 | That's what we teach them. So thank you for giving | 17 | THE CHAIR: Yes. |
| 18 | me that time. | 18 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you all | 19 | Chavez? |
| 20 | for coming. | 20 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Madam Chair, I will | 21 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: That is it. |
| 22 | add, one of the students was asleep. And so we | 22 | Nine-zero. |
| 23 | have -- so we have continued to entertain our | 23 | THE CHAIR: The motion passes, nine-zero. |
| 24 | audience. | 24 | Congratulations. |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. I move that the | 25 | Thank you all for everything you do every |
|  | Page 1058 |  | Page 1060 |
| 1 | Public Education Commission renew the charter for | 1 | day. And thank you all for your time. |
| 2 | Aldo Leopold Charter School for five years, with the | 2 | (Applause.) |
| 3 | conditions that the New Mexico System of School | 3 | THE CHAIR: So here's the question. Do |
| 4 | Support and Accountability Report prepared by PED | 4 | you want a lunch break? If you want a lunch break, |
| 5 | shows similar performance for School Year 2018-2019 | 5 | then we should do it now, because it makes no sense |
| 6 | in the student growth, highest quartile; student | 6 | to do it after the next school, because it will be |
| 7 | growth, middle quartile; student growth, lowest | 7 | 1:30, and -- we're going to break for lunch for -- |
| 8 | quartile; English Learner progress; chronic | 8 | we're going to break for lunch for 40 minutes. |
| 9 | absenteeism; college-and-career readiness; education | 9 | (A recess was taken at 11:24 a.m., and |
| 10 | climate; and growth in four-year graduation rate | 10 | reconvened at 12:25 p.m., as follows:) |
| 11 | with no statistically significant decrease in | 11 | (Commissioners Davis and Caballero |
| 12 | performance. | 12 | not present.) |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Second. | 13 | THE CHAIR: So thank you for coming up. |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: So motion by Commissioner | 14 | And thank you for being our last school. So |
| 15 | Gipson, a second by Commissioner Voigt. | 15 | there's -- many causes for celebration here. And |
| 16 | Roll, please. | 16 | just so the Commissioners are reminded, this is Taos |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 17 | Integrated School of the Arts. So thank you. |
| 18 | Raftery? | 18 | And as I know you've been hearing, I've |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Is that me? | 19 | got my stock little statement that I have to make |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: It wasn't that | 20 | about renewals with conditions. And it's the last |
| 21 | bad. | 21 | time. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: I didn't understand | 22 | PED has not provided a report or review of |
| 23 | what she said. Yes. | 23 | data from for the School Year '18-19 |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 24 | Accountability. |
| 25 | Caballero? | 25 | It is important for schools to have the |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | complete academic data as part of its renewal | 1 | It's not -- it's not in your packet. |
| 2 | information for this renewal and also for future | 2 | The school's mission is based on an arts |
| 3 | years. | 3 | innovative curriculum that is multicultural and |
| 4 | The PEC needs complete State | 4 | meets all Common Core State standards, with their |
| 5 | Accountability Reports to make the best decision on | 5 | students becoming artistically minded, lifelong |
| 6 | school renewal applications. | 6 | learners. |
| 7 | The PEC will review financial and | 7 | From your packet, you have -- I always |
| 8 | operational performance because the data is complete | 8 | like to start with the Part A data. And if you turn |
| 9 | at this meeting in December of 2019. | 9 | to your reading and proficiency chart, you will see |
| 10 | If the PEC decides to issue a renewal with | 10 | that the school has shown a steady increase in its |
| 11 | conditions, the PEC will clearly state what | 11 | math proficiency rate, reaching just over 31 percent |
| 12 | Accountability information it will review from the | 12 | in the last reported year. |
| 13 | PED Accountability Report. | 13 | You will see that they also had, overall, |
| 14 | When the Accountability data is prepared | 14 | a good trend in their reading scores with that dip |
| 15 | by PED and the school has had an opportunity to | 15 | in the last year. Again, I remind you the school |
| 16 | review the data -- no less than ten days -- the PEC | 16 | serves K through 8. Therefore, the dip is likely, |
| 17 | will review the data and remove the condition or | 17 | in part at least, attributable to their K-to-2 |
| 18 | take other action, such as a Corrective Action Plan | 18 | Istation scores. |
| 19 | or possibly non-renew the charter. | 19 | Remember the -- we mentioned this with the |
| 20 | At the future meeting, January or | 20 | other schools, that the K-to-2 scores, to score |
| 21 | February 2020, the PEC will only consider the issue | 21 | proficiency in the '18-'19 school year was much more |
| 22 | related to the reason for the conditions and will | 22 | stringent than the '17-'18 school year. And the |
| 23 | not consider any other issues related to renewal. | 23 | Accountability Bureau reports that three-quarters of |
| 24 | So we'll close out operational and | 24 | the students who scored proficient in '17-'18, would |
| 25 | financial today, and the only academic areas that | 25 | not, with that same score, be considered proficient |
|  | Page 1062 |  | Page 1064 |
| 1 | will be up for discussion are any that we do not | 1 | in the following year. So that does account for why |
| 2 | have the information for right now. | 2 | that reading dip is in the chart. |
| 3 | So, once again, if you have any concerns | 3 | If you look at their science proficiency |
| 4 | or questions, please don't hesitate to ask so that | 4 | rate, they were at 67 percent, significantly higher |
| 5 | everyone's as comfortable as we can be with this. | 5 | than the State average of 35. |
| 6 | So thank you. | 6 | Also their current standing and school |
| 7 | And, once again, I'm guessing there isn't | 7 | improvement points are worth mentioning as well, |
| 8 | anyone. But in case there is someone that -- oh, | 8 | because those both show an upward trend, pretty |
| 9 | did you sign up? | 9 | drastic over the last few years. |
| 10 | Okay. | 10 | On their high performing students in |
| 11 | I figured there was a reason you moved a | 11 | reading, they are at or significantly above the |
| 12 | little closer. So -- I don't think there's anyone | 12 | expected growth, as you see in your -- by subgroup, |
| 13 | else. | 13 | on Page 11 of 66. |
| 14 | But we do have the sign-up sheet there. | 14 | Higher performing students in math in |
| 15 | So we'll do the CSD report; you'll have your | 15 | nearly all subgroups, ethnicity groups, were up |
| 16 | 15 minutes; and then Ms. Matthews will have eight | 16 | greater than expected. |
| 17 | minutes. | 17 | Lowest performing students in reading were |
| 18 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Madam Chair, | 18 | pretty level at the zero, which means as expected. |
| 19 | Commissioners, school representatives, happy to give | 19 | Lowest performing students in math show significant |
| 20 | the report for our last school for the week. | 20 | amount above the zero, in the last year, meaning |
| 21 | So Taos Integrated School for the Arts, | 21 | that they're growing better than expected. |
| 22 | serving Grades K through 8. It's in Taos. There is | 22 | (Commissioners Caballero and Davis |
| 23 | a blank in both your electronic and printed | 23 | enter meeting.) |
| 24 | versions. So my apologies. But the current | 24 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: On the proficiency |
| 25 | enrollment, as of 40th day, was 173. | 25 | charts, again, I remind you that the -- the subgroup |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | proficiencies are also influenced by the K-to-2 dip |  | reviewed; I was not actually there -- but the team |
| 2 | in that last year. However, on the math scores, you | 2 | reviewed -- were complete and thorough in all the EL |
| 3 | can see that -- pretty steady incline, or increase, | 3 | documents being filed appropriately. |
| 4 | in the course of the contract term. | 4 | The financial compliance was around the |
| 5 | As for mission goals, they've had varied | 5 | audit finding as well as some concerns about |
| 6 | success in the three goals; two were in reading, one | 6 | official transcripts and verifications of |
| 7 | in math. In the last year, they met two of them and | 7 | employment, which are important, because those drive |
| 8 | did not meet one of them. | 8 | the salary schedules and confirmation of those. |
| 9 | Membership took a dip in the 2017 year, | 9 | The school has resolved all of those |
| 10 | but seems to be inclining since that time. And | 10 | concerns as well. |
| 11 | retaining students within the school year has been | 11 | Facilities requirements was around |
| 12 | very high, 97 to 98 percent; and then between school | 12 | emergency drills, which the school demonstrated they |
| 13 | years, 87 to 95 percent, both showing great | 13 | have followed the -- not only followed the drill |
| 14 | retention of students. | 14 | procedure, but it did change this year, so they are |
| 15 | Their teacher retention rate has | 15 | following the new procedures, as evidenced at the |
| 16 | drastically increased over the course of the last | 16 | renewal site visit, at least thus far this year. |
| 17 | few years from 54 all the way to 93 percent. | 17 | And the health-and-safety requirements was |
| 18 | There was one audit finding in the last | 18 | around a master log that they were developing, but |
| 19 | year that we have data. It was an other | 19 | wasn't ready in the -- during the '18-'19 school |
| 20 | non-compliance issue, but it is a reason for a | 20 | visit. But at the last visit, that was available |
| 21 | mention of the financial compliance concern in the | 21 | and complete as it -- requested. |
| 22 | progress report ratings. | 22 | The school, I think, earns the prize for |
| 23 | So going back to those, the school has | 23 | petitions, since they got 100 percent of employees |
| 24 | Demonstrated or Met standard in all of the areas. | 24 | and 100 percent of households to sign the petition. |
| 25 | You can see in their school grade, it went from "D" | 25 | So kudos to the school on that. |
|  | Page 1066 |  | Page 1068 |
| 1 | to "B" to "A." | 1 | And then the facilities index didn't quite |
| 2 | Their lowest performing students scores | 2 | get the prize, because we had a zero. |
| 3 | were an "F" in -- in School Year '16, a "D" in '17, | 3 | But 1.4 percent, significantly below the |
| 4 | and now are above " C " or above in all areas. | 4 | NMCI score, 1.4 percent significantly below the |
| 5 | So great improvement in their school -- | 5 | 23 percent State average, meaning that the facility |
| 6 | what was the school grade. | 6 | is in good shape. So lower is better. |
| 7 | Of course on the organizational | 7 | And with that, I conclude the report on |
| 8 | performance framework, as you know, the school is | 8 | this school. |
| 9 | required to respond when there are two repeat | 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. And welcome |
| 10 | Workings to Meet or any Falls Far Below. And those | 10 | once again. |
| 11 | are on Page 3 of 66, that show that the -- there | 11 | And if you would, please just identify |
| 12 | were five indicators listed there. And I want to | 12 | yourself and everyone who's going to be speaking at |
| 13 | speak to those. | 13 | this time for the school. |
| 14 | The Applicable Education Requirements had | 14 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: My name is Rich |
| 15 | to do, if you recall, perhaps they were short in | 15 | Greywolf. I'm the director. This is Julee LaMure. |
| 16 | hours in their kindergarten -- they exceeded hours | 16 | She is the president of the governing council. We |
| 17 | in all their Grades 1 through 8; but they were short | 17 | have Linda Seto, who's also a governing council |
| 18 | some hours in their kindergarten, which they did | 18 | member and founder. We have Pam Harris, who is our |
| 19 | resolve with a calendar change. | 19 | vice president of the governing council. We have |
| 20 | Their English Language Learners, they have | 20 | Andrea Nicholson, who is also on the governing |
| 21 | similar struggles with their identification, as | 21 | council. And to my right, we have Nicole Abeyta, |
| 22 | other schools have had, also with reporting and | 22 | and we have Dr. Kinney, who is our special ed |
| 23 | serving and some of the documents in the file. But | 23 | coordinator. |
| 24 | at the renewal site visit, I am happy to report that | 24 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |
| 25 | all the files that we reviewed -- or the team | 25 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: So I just wanted to |


|  | Page 1069 |  | Page 1071 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | say, just about the school itself, is that it's -- | 1 | We knew we had to redouble our efforts in order to |
| 2 | our motto has been "Continual improvement," that | 2 | do things. |
| 3 | that's really what we've tried to strive for is | 3 | In that year, I do want to note we were |
| 4 | looking at, hey, what are the issues that we have, | 4 | working out of somebody's -- it was partially |
| 5 | how do we address those as best we can. | 5 | somebody's house, and the other one was a -- was |
| 6 | This school was my first school as an | 6 | the -- it was an industrial park that we would have |
| 7 | administrator. I was here when they came for the | 7 | to move out of the next year, because they were |
| 8 | renewal, and you were here for that. And it was -- | 8 | moving in a marijuana distribution plant next door. |
| 9 | there was a lot of -- it was a big learning curve. | 9 | So that was -- that was -- that was |
| 10 | My first year there, I noticed that the | 10 | difficult. |
| 11 | school did not have Common Core math, as they didn't | 11 | So we came before you to go ahead and move |
| 12 | have a math program. They didn't have a reading | 12 | our facility. We actually had to move it into |
| 13 | program -- well, we had a math, but it wasn't | 13 | another industrial park outside of a plumbing |
| 14 | aligned to Everyday Math; it wasn't aligned to | 14 | facility, to go ahead and move. And we moved our -- |
| 15 | Common Core. | 15 | our other school into a crowded one -- or sort of -- |
| 16 | And then we also had -- there were some | 16 | I believe there was like three room -- or four rooms |
| 17 | difficulties with -- as far as they didn't have -- | 17 | for four classes, and they were truly rooms. |
| 18 | they didn't have lunches or breakfast, and we didn't | 18 | We -- during that year, we made sure that |
| 19 | have transportation. | 19 | we were implementing our alignment to Common Core |
| 20 | And we have a -- we're a Title I school. | 20 | standards, both for reading -- we used the |
| 21 | You know, my philosophy is, is with working with | 21 | Lucy Calkins approach for reading/writing. We went |
| 22 | students that are at-risk -- and I've done that for | 22 | and made sure that Common Core in the Everyday Math |
| 23 | 25 years I've been in education -- is that one of | 23 | was being aligned and that teachers had training |
| 24 | the mitigating factors, what makes students that are | 24 |  |
| 25 | coming from low income, is the ability to have | 25 | We had -- like I said, we changed our |
|  | Page 1070 |  | Page 1072 |
| 1 | things outside of school. | 1 | grade system. Originally, the grade system was |
| 2 | So many parents will go ahead and take | 2 | more -- it was less stringent, and they did not have |
| 3 | their kids to tae kwon do; they'll take them to a | 3 | an A-B-C-D-F for grades. And so we went there -- I |
| 4 | library; they take them to a zoo; they take them to | 4 | changed the grades so that they had the A-B-C-D-F |
| 5 | these things. And not having these opportunities | 5 | system, so the parents were able to be aware of, |
| 6 | for those kids is really one of the contributing | 6 | hey, how's the child progressing. And it was a |
| 7 | factors of what happens. | 7 | letter-grade system that I do like -- it's sad to |
| 8 | The second thing that we addressed is -- | 8 | see it go for the schools. |
| 9 | is aftercare. So one of the things, when I first | 9 | But it was something that was easily |
| 10 | came there, is that you have parents that are | 10 | understood. We moved to -- we made it more |
| 11 | working some two or three jobs. We offer free | 11 | stringent. So instead of a 10-point scale, we moved |
| 12 | aftercare for our parents so that they're able to go | 12 | to a 7-point scale. |
| 13 | till at least 5:00 before they come pick up our | 13 | We also made sure that we had added clubs. |
| 14 | students. That's been a help. | 14 | So students have opportunities after school three |
| 15 | We also have tutoring at our school after | 15 | days a week to go to clubs. And those varied, |
| 16 | school. And one of the things we do with tutoring | 16 | everything from Running Club, Chess Club, Arts and |
| 17 | is that we do a rotation. And one of the reasons is | 17 | Crafts -- |
| 18 | because those students are in a classroom with that | 18 | FROM THE FLOOR: Stilt Walking. |
| 19 | teacher. We don't have a variety of different | 19 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Stilt Walking, |
| 20 | second grades or places to go through. So we wanted | 20 | Spanish. And it was an opportunity for those kids |
| 21 | to make sure that those students had opportunities | 21 | to kind of have those extra learning activities that |
| 22 | to see other teachers and how they approach those -- | 22 | they wouldn't normally have in, particularly, a |
| 23 | those issues. | 23 | schoolday that perhaps parents would bring them to |
| 24 | Now, our first year that I was there, that | 24 | that don't have that opportunity. |
| 25 | was the year the school went from a "C" to a "D." | 25 | We also added, during that time, a |


|  | Page 1073 |  | Page 1075 |
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| 1 | breakfast and lunch program that we work with | 1 | Tagtool. And that Tagtool is where you do light |
| 2 | Farmhouse Cafe that provides organic lunches and | 2 | graffiti. They used light graffiti to express both |
| 3 | breakfasts to the students. We offer that every day | 3 | stories -- Native American stories and their ideas |
| 4 | of our school year. We started breakfast this year. | 4 | about science, as well as western science, and tying |
| 5 | We also purchased a bus for the first | 5 | those two things together and then brought those |
| 6 | time, which is nice, because we're no longer having | 6 | into Taos Pueblo and taught students how to use the |
| 7 | to pay the money for the single bus service that | 7 | Tagtool so that they could do it on their own. |
| 8 | they have in Española to come up to Taos, which | 8 | And that's just a couple of the things |
| 9 | cut -- they charge us for the drive up and the drive | 9 | that we've done. |
| 10 | back. | 10 | Anything you'd like to add? |
| 11 | So we -- like I said, we've tried to, in a | 11 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: That was outstanding. |
| 12 | way, really focus on just continual progress in all | 12 | Excuse me. Madame Commissioner, members |
| 13 | areas, whether it be our students with ELL or our | 13 | of the Commission, thank you so much for your time. |
| 14 | regular students. | 14 | I can't even imagine having to go through |
| 15 | We do offer other things, too, during our | 15 | this all week. So I appreciate the applause that |
| 16 | time. We've moved our campus onto a piece of land | 16 | we're the last one. I'll try not to take it |
| 17 | we own. We have a -- we have a -- with facilities | 17 | personal. I'm Julee LaMure, governing council |
| 18 | that are on that campus now. It was originally -- | 18 | president. This is a late addendum to your packet. |
| 19 | there was an acequia that was running through there | 19 | And I apologize for getting it to you late, but it's |
| 20 | that had not been -- had not been run for over | 20 | pretty concise. |
| 21 | 50 years. | 21 | And I appreciate Commissioner Caballero |
| 22 | And we got together with Taos Land Trust | 22 | talking about the demographics and the performance |
| 23 | and with Mayordomo Miguel Santistevan, who helped | 23 | gaps and the demographic gaps, and, also, |
| 24 | us -- who came to the kids, taught them about what | 24 | Commissioner Chavez as well. |
| 25 | it meant to be a "parciante" and helped them move | 25 | And all of you, I've heard it in here a |
|  | Page 1074 |  | Page 1076 |
| 1 | the trash and make that acequia once again flowing. | 1 | number of times. And this is where the solution |
| 2 | So the acequia that hadn't been there for | 2 | happens, because we have to shine a light on this, |
| 3 | 50 years is now flowing through our property and is | 3 | and it has to be talked about. And you have to hold |
| 4 | being used down the way by the Taos Land Trust where | 4 | us accountable. |
| 5 | they are able to use it for some of the activities | 5 | And that's why we have to -- that's why |
| 6 | they do there. | 6 | we're expected to take steps to remedy these |
| 7 | We do outreach into the Pueblo. We do | 7 | problems, you know, boots on the ground. That's |
| 8 | outreach by getting local artists coming in to come | 8 | what we have to do, and that's what you have to see |
| 9 | into our facilities. We've worked with Agnes | 9 | to it that we do. |
| 10 | Chavez, who is a local artist who hooked the | 10 | So, anyway, we just wanted to demonstrate |
| 11 | students up with both the Paseo event, which is a | 11 | to you with our graphic that there has been |
| 12 | new event we have in Taos for artists from all over | 12 | improvements. And we worked with that. That's a |
| 13 | the world, as well as meeting up with them at the | 13 | constant goal of ours. |
| 14 | CERN. | 14 | I don't think any charter schools are |
| 15 | And CERN -- the CERN, the Large Hadron | 15 | doing ourselves any favors nationwide when our |
| 16 | Collider, where students got to talk to physicists | 16 | demographics don't mirror the demographics of our |
| 17 | from the CERN. And they actually wrote poetry from | 17 | community. And so that is our goal and has been |
| 18 | everything about the idea of quarks to what is dark | 18 | since the day that I started. |
| 19 | matter and their ideas about dark matter. | 19 | So we have seen growth in the Hispanic |
| 20 | We then worked with a -- at the time, a | 20 | population of our school. We've also seen growth in |
| 21 | Lakota who had been a part of the water rights | 21 | the Native population of our school as well. |
| 22 | issues. And he came in, taught students how to | 22 | We now have representation on our |
| 23 | create a teepee. | 23 | governing council from a Latina, yes, and also a |
| 24 | They went ahead and learned from an | 24 | gentleman from the Pueblo, Jeremy Lujan, who |
| 25 | individual from South America who had designed a | 25 | couldn't be with us today. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So we're moving in a direction. We're | 1 | from that museum, so we are able to do that. |
| 2 | moving in a positive direction. Lots of ground | 2 | You know, we take advantage of a lot of |
| 3 | needs to be gained. But we did want to at least | 3 | those kinds of things, as well as coming down to |
| 4 | demonstrate to you-all that we are making efforts | 4 | Santa Fe. I brought my class down to Santa Fe to |
| 5 | and gaining some ground slowly. | 5 | the International Folk Art Museum last week, and we |
| 6 | MS. LINDA SETO: So my name is Linda Seto. | 6 | were able to do that sort of thing. So we do |
| 7 | Good afternoon to Chairwoman and all members of the | 7 | partner. We do environmental education. I heard |
| 8 | Commission. | 8 | that come up with some other schools. |
| 9 | I am one of the founding members of this | 9 | I do camp with my kids twice a year; in |
| 10 | school. My idea with founding it was that we would | 10 | fourth-grade camps, once a year. So we do like to |
| 11 | integrate the arts to teach the Common Core or | 11 | get out and get the kids out as much as possible. |
| 12 | common academics. | 12 | Thank you. |
| 13 | I am also a teacher, a seasoned teacher of | 13 | THE CHAIR: So there -- |
| 14 | many years. I teach fifth grade. I also teach | 14 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Did you want to say |
| 15 | fourth and fifth math. And I will have to say our | 15 | something? |
| 16 | school, all of our elementary teachers know how to | 16 | MS. PAMELA HARRIS: My name is Pamela |
| 17 | teach math very well, and it's one of my favorite | 17 | Tennant-Harris. And I was a -- I'm a retired school |
| 18 | subjects to teach. | 18 | psychologist from the state of Washington. And then |
| 19 | And I do find that the curriculum that | 19 | I came down here and worked another eight -- was it |
| 20 | we're using goes deeply -- what it does is it | 20 | nine years? -- first at Chama School District and |
| 21 | spirals around. So if you do -- for example, in | 21 | then at Questa School District. |
| 22 | fifth grade, if you've done fractions, and now they | 22 | And I ended up going to a lot of the |
| 23 | connect that to decimals and decimal fractions, how | 23 | villages in Northern New Mexico, which I really |
| 24 | those are related, and then they get into all the | 24 | enjoyed learning about and -- and working in. |
| 25 | operations with them, they will come back around to | 25 | And one of the things that brought me to |
|  | Page 1078 |  | Page 1080 |
| 1 | deeper learning of fractions, bringing in the | 1 | being interested in this board is that it's a very |
| 2 | operations and various things, real-world problems | 2 | diverse board. The -- the school is diverse. I |
| 3 | and that kind of stuff. | 3 | mean, the staff is diverse. I'm not looking at you. |
| 4 | So, anyway, I feel like we have found a | 4 | Anyway, it's -- |
| 5 | really good math program that addresses the needs of | 5 | MS. LINDA SETO: I'm diverse. |
| 6 | kids at the moment, and we're always looking to | 6 | MS. PAMELA HARRIS: So am I. Anyway, it |
| 7 | improve that. | 7 | brings a lot to the community. Because my |
| 8 | Since we are an integrated arts school, I | 8 | granddaughter, Olivia, was going to have to move to |
| 9 | do -- our staff does bring in the arts. That would | 9 | Wayne, Pennsylvania. And so she had grown up here, |
| 10 | be drama, music, visual arts, and dance into their | 10 | you know. |
| 11 | classrooms, as well as we have a program where we | 11 | And so I talked to her about cultural |
| 12 | bring in art specialists once a week to each class. | 12 | differences. And we went all through them. But I |
| 13 | So they also get those. | 13 | also mentioned to her cultural differences aren't |
| 14 | We are partners -- so part of the original | 14 | just cultural; it's also financial, you know, that |
| 15 | mission of the school, and my thought, was that we | 15 | there's a -- the higher you get in -- the higher you |
| 16 | would be in a downtown location so we would take | 16 | get in money, the more different it is, too. |
| 17 | advantage of the many resources that are in Taos. | 17 | She went to Wayne. And that's a 1 percent |
| 18 | As you know, there are a lot of artists; there are a | 18 | town. It's a very wealthy town. And she called me |
| 19 | lot of all kinds of wonderful things there. | 19 | a month after she was there, and she said, "Grandma, |
| 20 | So we've been able to do that. The | 20 | remember when you talked about cultural |
| 21 | Harwood Museum is one place that has a grant, and | 21 | differences?" |
| 22 | we've been participating in their program for I | 22 | And I said, "Yeah." |
| 23 | don't know how many years here, almost ten years. | 23 | She says, "It's not just cultural |
| 24 | And so we are at a location where we're able to | 24 | differences; it's cultural extreme." |
| 25 | walk -- we're about a mile -- we're about a mile | 25 | And I had to laugh, because she finally |


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| 1 | caught on that you -- and I said, "Just stand back | 1 | "Founding Member." So got you. So then I've got |
| 2 | and see where you have some similarities," because | 2 | Patty Kinney. |
| 3 | we can learn from every single culture. | 3 | DR. PATSY KINNEY: Yes. I'm Patsy Kinney. |
| 4 | And to --I just believe that racism is | 4 | THE CHAIR: Patsy. Sorry. |
| 5 | out of hand anymore. And so it's important that our | 5 | DR. PATSY KINNEY: And I'm the special ed |
| 6 | kids have a staff like this that's diverse, that | 6 | coordinator, and I also work with the teacher |
| 7 | understands, you know, the differences -- | 7 | observation program, the NMTEACH in the school. |
| 8 | appreciates the differences and honors those | 8 | I also mentor some of our new teachers. I |
| 9 | differences. | 9 | used to be a college professor and a teacher of |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. That forboding | 10 | education in special education. So my whole job now |
| 11 | sound was the 15 minutes are up. | 11 | at TISA has taken all these things that I've done, |
| 12 | MS. PAMELA HARRIS: Okay. | 12 | and they've all come together in one place. |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: Beverly's changed the sound | 13 | So I feel very lucky to be there. We |
| 14 | from -- it was a pleasant sound at the beginning of | 14 | really try to promote inclusion in our school. And |
| 15 | the week. It was the wind chimes. Now, it's -- | 15 | we just found this consulting group that was |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: And it's getting | 16 | recommended -- we were recommended to them by the |
| 17 | louder and louder. | 17 | State. And it's called the Autism Project. I don't |
| 18 | THE CHAIR: So thank you. So there were | 18 | know if you've heard about it before. |
| 19 | three governing board members that signed up here. | 19 | But what they're going to be doing with us |
| 20 | Two -- I believe two have already spoken. So which | 20 | is going into the classrooms, coaching -- coaching |
| 21 | is the one that has -- | 21 | teachers, not only children on the spectrum, but |
| 22 | MS. LINDA SETO: Andrea. | 22 | also children who might have behavior issues, and |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: Okay. So you haven't. So | 23 | they'll be coaching and consulting with us. I'm |
| 24 | that gives me one, two, three, four, five people | 24 | real excited about that, to get this level of |
| 25 | that have signed up for Public Comment. So about -- | 25 | expertise. |
|  | Page 1082 |  | Page 1084 |
| 1 | what -- a minute and a half apiece. | 1 | And that's all I have to say. |
| 2 | FROM THE FLOOR: Let me count my words. | 2 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Nicole Abeyta. |
| 3 | That wouldn't count against me. Do you want me to | 3 | FROM THE FLOOR: Hello. Good afternoon. |
| 4 | go ahead -- I'll just stand up here. | 4 | My name is Nicole Abeyta. I've been with TISA for |
| 5 | Good afternoon. Thank you for giving us | 5 | nine years. I started as the office manager and |
| 6 | this opportunity to speak up. | 6 | moved my way up to the assistant business manager. |
| 7 | My name is Andrea Nicholson. I am a | 7 | This is my first year as full business manager |
| 8 | Taos -- well, I'm from South America originally. I | 8 | compliance officer. |
| 9 | live in Taos. I'm a teacher. I'm a special ed | 9 | I am also a parent of two students |
| 10 | teacher. | 10 | enrolled at the school. I am very happy with the |
| 11 | And TISA has been the place I found -- | 11 | school. I have to admit when I first applied for |
| 12 | even though I work in the district, my son goes to | 12 | the job, I was scared because I was the only |
| 13 | TISA, and this is the place that is home for him. | 13 | Hispanic in the school. And I did have my kids in |
| 14 | It's the place where things happen. He's learning; | 14 | the district, because I felt like they were not |
| 15 | he's engaged; he's getting the support he needs. | 15 | going to be happy or succeed at our school. |
| 16 | And that is the difference. Thank you. | 16 | And it wasn't until two years ago that I |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 17 | had seen a drastic change. Actually, I've been |
| 18 | Next is Linda Seto. | 18 | through three different directors. And Richard |
| 19 | MS. LINDA SETO: That was me. | 19 | Greywolf, he is our third director. And it wasn't |
| 20 | THE CHAIR: Oh, sorry. Okay. So am I | 20 | until Mr. Greywolf came in that I actually saw a |
| 21 | missing Julee LaMure? | 21 | change in the school as a whole for the better, for |
| 22 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: That was me. We're | 22 | the staff, for the students, and for the parents. |
| 23 | trying to keep it brief for you guys; so -- | 23 | And we've jumped through a lot of hoops |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: And we already heard -- okay, | 24 | throughout the years. Like I mentioned, we've had |
| 25 | because Linda didn't list as governing board. Said | 25 | three different campuses. We've dealt with |


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| 1 | different landlords. We've had to deal with loss of | 1 | Some Commissioners may have other |
| 2 | budget and still have to make ends meet for the | 2 | questions about that. But I am going to ask, do you |
| 3 | students. And I feel like we've done a really good | 3 | think that, at least with the addition of your own |
| 4 | job with that. | 4 | bus, is -- will that help to maybe bring in students |
| 5 | Our diversity has grown, and I think it | 5 | from other areas? |
| 6 | shows in the reports. And I'm happy to say that my | 6 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: So we're not using the |
| 7 | kids love TISA. And we've added the breakfast and | 7 | bus as transportation. |
| 8 | lunch program, and that has been a really huge | 8 | THE CHAIR: Oh. you're using it for, |
| 9 | blessing for our community, for the students that | 9 | like, trips. |
| 10 | are hands-on learners through arts integration. And | 10 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: It's an activity bus. |
| 11 | I feel like we still have a lot to learn; but we | 11 | It does -- we're offering things that other schools |
| 12 | also have a lot of things planned for the future. | 12 | are offering. |
| 13 | And I just want to be able to implement | 13 | I mean, one of the problems that you have |
| 14 | that, not only for my kids, but for the rest of the | 14 | is many of the charter schools don't have to offer |
| 15 | kids in our community. | 15 | bus service. They don't have to offer breakfast or |
| 16 | Thank you. | 16 | lunch. And they don't have the services for that. |
| 17 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. And, finally, | 17 | Many people in our community, they rely on |
| 18 | Ms. Matthews. | 18 | breakfast and lunch. They do rely on it from the |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I want to really | 19 | school. So offering those services is one more |
| 20 | pay attention. | 20 | thing that we're able to offer the community. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I wonder what she'll | 21 | The other thing that we do that's helped |
| 22 | say. | 22 | us, I believe, is offering free aftercare. That's |
| 23 | MS. PATRICIA MATTHEWS: Madam Chair and | 23 | been a huge -- a huge push. |
| 24 | members of the Commission, Patricia Matthews on | 24 | The other thing that's been a push is just |
| 25 | behalf of TISA. | 25 | being able to have our own bus, is that we can go to |
|  | Page 1086 |  | Page 1088 |
| 1 | Just, for the record, the school objects | 1 | some of these places that, you know, the regular |
| 2 | to any bifurcation or extension of the charter | 2 | schools go to that they have because they have those |
| 3 | renewal process that is intended to, or would result | 3 | services. |
| 4 | in, the PEC's decision not being a final decision | 4 | So it's just looking at it as, hey, how |
| 5 | until after the statutory requirement in law -- and | 5 | are we going to bring individuals over to our school |
| 6 | that would be January 1st, 2020 -- and reserves all | 6 | and make sure that they know, hey, you're getting -- |
| 7 | of its rights to appeal under the New Mexico -- | 7 | you're getting better than what you're getting over |
| 8 | under New Mexico law. | 8 | at the regular school. |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 9 | Hey -- if they say, "Hey, well, I don't |
| 10 | MS. PATRICIA MATTHEWS: I should be able | 10 | want to go to that school because my kid needs |
| 11 | to read it perfectly, have it memorized. But I did | 11 | breakfast," we don't just offer breakfast. We offer |
| 12 | not. | 12 | an organic breakfast and they're farmed from local |
| 13 | THE CHAIR: So thank you once again. And | 13 | communities. I mean, we actually -- the place we |
| 14 | thanks for hanging in there with us and being our | 14 | use, Farmhouse Cafe, actually brings in the farming |
| 15 | last. That can't be easy on your end, either. So | 15 | land from the communities within a 20 -mile radius. |
| 16 | we appreciate -- we appreciate that as well. | 16 | So that's a huge boost. |
| 17 | And, you know, every -- I think almost | 17 | And we do do a lot of outreach to make |
| 18 | every school that comes up, you say, "And here's yet | 18 | sure that we're talking, and we're saying, "Hey, |
| 19 | one more shining example of how you integrate arts, | 19 | what are the things -- what do we need to do" -- |
| 20 | you are connecting with your community, and this is | 20 | asking people, "What are the things we need to do to |
| 21 | what charter schools are all about." | 21 | bring you over to this school? What do we need to |
| 22 | I mean, it is obvious that you still have | 22 | do to provide the services that you feel you might |
| 23 | some pretty glaring differences between Taos Public | 23 | not be getting from either other charters or that |
| 24 | and yourself. And I appreciate you addressing some | 24 | you're not getting from the regular public school |
| 25 | part of that. | 25 | that you might be getting from us?" |


|  | Page 1089 |  | Page 1091 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | THE CHAIR: Absolutely. One of my notes | 1 | that you have highlighted in your packet are |
| 2 | was, "Great appreciation for the hot breakfast and | 2 | beautiful, especially the running with llamas. |
| 3 | lunch." I mean, that is, that's absolutely huge. | 3 | Looks kind of risky, but it looks like fun. |
| 4 | And it does -- it does help, without a doubt, with | 4 | THE CHAIR: Better than bulls. |
| 5 | those families that food is an issue. | 5 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I know. Right. |
| 6 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: And I think -- | 6 | Exactly. |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: So I certainly do appreciate | 7 | The fact that you're doing |
| 8 | that. And I do want to say kudos, because I think | 8 | cross-curricular art with your core subjects is |
| 9 | there were a number of comments when they asked | 9 | truly commendable. I appreciate that. I think it's |
| 10 | students, "What do we need to do for the school," | 10 | one of the best ways to engage kids in the standard |
| 11 | it's like, "You need to keep Mr. Greywolf. Whatever | 11 | content, and especially math. |
| 12 | you do, he needs to stay here." | 12 | You know, you can teach, drill-and-kill |
| 13 | So that's a testament to the changes that | 13 | subjects, but that's not going to invite or engage |
| 14 | you've helped to implement and the strength of this | 14 | or excite students. But if you're able to integrate |
| 15 | governance council that is here to speak for the | 15 | something that's going to hook them, like art or |
| 16 | school as well, that you, obviously, did some deep | 16 | media or outdoors or projects, you know, that's -- |
| 17 | soul-searching to see what changes needed to be | 17 | that's wonderful that you're doing that. |
| 18 | made. You brought on board someone that was able | 18 | Are you finding that that's a little more |
| 19 | to, and took a risk with someone who's never been | 19 | motivating for students? |
| 20 | there before, but maybe a good thing, because he's | 20 | MS. LINDA SETO: Oh, totally. |
| 21 | willing to try a lot of things as well, you know? | 21 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Find it very |
| 22 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Yeah, I sing Happy | 22 | motivating, and we owe all of that to Linda. And |
| 23 | Birthday to the kids and serve lunch and breakfast. | 23 | giving her -- one of the things, too, is that I was |
| 24 | So I'm the lunch guy with the beard that sings. So | 24 | able to do that perhaps previous administrations |
| 25 | it's helpful. | 25 | didn't do, was giving individuals that have those |
|  | Page 1090 |  | Page 1092 |
| 1 | THE CHAIR: And also the rating of -- the | 1 | skills, those high skills, to work with our staff. |
| 2 | performance framework is truly an indication of | 2 | And Linda gets that opportunity, and we -- |
| 3 | those good conversations that are going on. | 3 | I defer many times to her when I feel that, "Hey, |
| 4 | So I appreciate that as well and say thank | 4 | are we following along with the charter in the |
| 5 | you. | 5 | things that you -- that was your original vision. |
| 6 | Commissioners? | 6 | And what do you want to see differently, and what do |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: You can start | 7 | we do to go ahead and continue that?" |
| 8 | over there, Madam Chair. | 8 | And it's been a real blessing to go ahead |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? | 9 | and have someone on our staff who was a founder; |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. Thank | 10 | SO... |
| 11 | you. I just wrote down some pieces to -- to commend | 11 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Cool. Also, when |
| 12 | you on. | 12 | you're integrating those types of arts and you're |
| 13 | I was really impressed that a student was | 13 | doing projects or thematic units, you don't have to |
| 14 | doing a Pecha Kucha presentation. And that is | 14 | just teach so narrowly to the standards, and you can |
| 15 | awesome. And that's such a great presentation | 15 | create your project and integrate your arts. Then |
| 16 | format. | 16 | you can go back to your standards and say, "Did |
| 17 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: It wasn't just one. | 17 | that. Did that. Did that. Did that." |
| 18 | There was five that were talking that worked with | 18 | That's something I find so disappointing |
| 19 | that, yeah. And part of the Taos Poetry Dragons, as | 19 | with a lot of schools is they just look at the |
| 20 | well as talking about "Agua es vida." So -- | 20 | Common Core standards, and they choose those |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. That's | 21 | standards and that's what they teach, instead of |
| 22 | awesome. And I just recently discovered that, as I | 22 | doing something more big-picture. So great job on |
| 23 | was reading about innovative ways to do | 23 | that. |
| 24 | presentations and really highlight with art and | 24 | And then the student portfolios that |
| 25 | photos. And speaking of photos, the -- the photos | 25 | you're using, Google Portfolio, are those being |


|  | Page 1093 |  | Page 1095 |
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| 1 | presented at the end of the school year? | 1 | is limited to K through 5. And aftercare, |
| 2 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: That's our -- that's | 2 | typically, the EAs run aftercare. They read books. |
| 3 | our next goal, our next thing that we want to be | 3 | It's an opportunity for homework help during that |
| 4 | able to do. I mean, right now has been the -- it's | 4 | time. |
| 5 | a hard transition to -- to do -- you know, making | 5 | When we have our Tuesday -- but Monday -- |
| 6 | sure -- teaching students how to use Google Docs, | 6 | Mondays is really an opportunity for just that. We |
| 7 | making sure that everything is secure, having them | 7 | also have our staff meeting on Monday after school. |
| 8 | use Google Drive. We -- you know, making sure that | 8 | But then Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, |
| 9 | they have good pictures of uploading their | 9 | staff members are asked to give a day of tutoring, |
| 10 | documents. | 10 | and then they give a day of clubs. |
| 11 | So we really have -- right now what we've | 11 | So students can say, "Hey, you know what? |
| 12 | done, been able to do -- and as well as the | 12 | I want to go to" -- last year, Ms. Kinney and |
| 13 | transition from year to year. So our hope is that | 13 | Ms. Linda and myself had done a science club. So |
| 14 | next year, we have that as a presentation. | 14 | one of the things that the kids wanted to do, one of |
| 15 | But what's the -- what I find is really | 15 | the activities I did was dissecting a cow heart and |
| 16 | rewarding is we're able to look at a kid with their | 16 | teaching kids about dissection. And they could go |
| 17 | writing, their art, the tests that they think as | 17 | from that and go, "No, I don't want to go ahead and |
| 18 | exemplars, from kindergarten all the way to eighth | 18 | do what they're doing in that. I'm going to go to |
| 19 | grade. | 19 | art." |
| 20 | So what's -- it's great for conversation | 20 | And Ms. Linda has done lots of different |
| 21 | for -- piece for if a parent has difficulty saying, | 21 | things, everything from crocheting to painting and |
| 22 | "Hey, I don't think my kid is learning anything from | 22 | cooking, all sorts of things. |
| 23 | your class this year," a teacher is able to go to | 23 | Then they say, "I really don't want to do |
| 24 | that portfolio and go, "Well, let's look at what | 24 | that this week." And then they can go to -- like, |
| 25 | their writing was like last year and what their | 25 | what we have, running club, where they can go ahead |
|  | Page 1094 |  | Page 1096 |
| 1 | writing is like today." | 1 | and -- we have three different sets, where kids can |
| 2 | And it's a great way to communicate with | 2 | go ahead and either run, they can jog, or walk for |
| 3 | parents, of saying, "Hey, can you see the | 3 | their time. |
| 4 | difference? Hey, they're -- perhaps they were -- | 4 | Oh. And then we have, that we started |
| 5 | your child never used a period in anything. And | 5 | this past year, is Travel Club. So we've worked now |
| 6 | they -- they were sans a period. Now they're able | 6 | with EF Tours, which is a company. And students are |
| 7 | to use punctuation." | 7 | raising funds to go to Europe. And those are kids |
| 8 | We're able to understand the communication | 8 | fifth through eighth grade. And we're helping |
| 9 | in a very -- way. | 9 | them -- teaching them very basic things like, "Hey, |
| 10 | So but that is our next step and utilizing | 10 | this is how you go ahead and blog. This is what you |
| 11 | people on the governing council to go ahead and do | 11 | do to communicate to your family. This is how |
| 12 | that for next year. | 12 | you're going to use social media in order to |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Awesome. That not | 13 | communicate to those people that you haven't talked |
| 14 | only informs your student growth, but also it's | 14 | to and let them know that those things are going so |
| 15 | going to give you a really good picture of your | 15 | that you're able to raise the funds." |
| 16 | graduate profile. | 16 | Because they have to raise close to |
| 17 | So this aftercare that you were talking | 17 | \$4,000. So -- and it's open to all the students. |
| 18 | about, you mentioned that you had aftercare till | 18 | We currently have 30 kids that are going to Europe |
| 19 | $5: 00$. But then you also went on to say you have all | 19 | next year. |
| 20 | these great clubs and some tutoring. | 20 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Are they going to |
| 21 | So I presume of the students that are | 21 | Pamplona? |
| 22 | staying till 5:00, they're not just sleeping, but | 22 | Just kidding. |
| 23 | they're probably engaged in a club or doing | 23 | So that's awesome that you're dipping the |
| 24 | something. | 24 | kids into lots of different experiences. That's |
| 25 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: The thing is aftercare | 25 | great. |


|  | Page 1097 |  | Page 1099 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: It's something that I | 1 | Fourth grade was because, unfortunately, we had a |
| 2 | really truly believe that just -- that's one of the | 2 | teacher leave us the day before school started, |
| 3 | big differences that you see among students that | 3 | which was difficult to find another teacher. |
| 4 | come from wealthier backgrounds. And we see some of | 4 | And we found somebody that was a former |
| 5 | this disparity that goes on, is because those kids | 5 | Waldorf teacher, also taught in Santa Fe, is working |
| 6 | don't have that opportunity. | 6 | out. But that took some of the confidence from |
| 7 | And it's not because parents don't want to | 7 | parents. Parents want to make sure they have a |
| 8 | give it to their kids. How do you have the time | 8 | stable teacher. We do have one now. |
| 9 | when you're working two jobs? How do you have the | 9 | And that's our hope is to grow. But, |
| 10 | opportunity to go, "Okay, I'm going to do this," | 10 | again, I did not want to go to the Commission when, |
| 11 | when, for many of them, when they're picking their | 11 | it currently says in the rules that if you have a |
| 12 | kid up, it's, "Okay, I've got to go ahead and feed | 12 | "D" within the three years that you have been |
| 13 | them, and then I've got to take them home, and I've | 13 | working, that they wouldn't consider. |
| 14 | got to go to my second job." | 14 | So my hope is is that those things go on |
| 15 | So we've taken it on as our passion, our | 15 | and we're able to do that and come before you. |
| 16 | need to go ahead and make that for the community. | 16 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. And I |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: That's wonderful. | 17 | appreciate the fact that many schools, charter |
| 18 | Thank you very much. | 18 | schools, operate on a shoestring budget and that |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? | 19 | staff sometime sacrifices themselves and their own |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Seems like today | 20 | finances to help the schools and everything. And |
| 21 | I'm following Commissioner Voigt on my comments and | 21 | the parents; the parents and the community are |
| 22 | everything. | 22 | supporting. And I admire that. |
| 23 | The one audit finding, the primary one | 23 | In addition to the international trips, |
| 24 | from last year, dealt with not submitting | 24 | you're talking about going to Pamplona or something |
| 25 | reimbursements, \$221,000. | 25 | like that. A couple of years ago -- I have a |
|  | Page 1098 |  | Page 1100 |
| 1 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Correct. | 1 | disabled son. We took him -- he's in a wheelchair. |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: That's pretty | 2 | But we took him to Yellowstone. People kind of |
| 3 | significant. | 3 | looked at me and said, "You and your wife took your |
| 4 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: It is. So that | 4 | adult son to Yellowstone?" |
| 5 | individual is no longer working for us. | 5 | And I said, "Yeah. Last time I was there, |
| 6 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: Period. | 6 | I was 13 years old." |
| 7 | So that is why we have -- | 7 | It's changed a little bit, a couple of |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: You don't have to | 8 | fires and things like that. One of the things he |
| 9 | say anything more on that. Attention to that is | 9 | really enjoyed is driving around and seeing all the |
| 10 | very, very important and everything, especially -- | 10 | scenery. You go from -- literally, it was |
| 11 | and this is the thing I'm getting into. You're a | 11 | 75 degrees in one area to literally where it's snow. |
| 12 | small school. Small School Size is going away. Two | 12 | And this was the first week of June. They had just |
| 13 | questions: | 13 | had snow the week before. |
| 14 | How is it going to impact you? And what | 14 | If you do have the ability -- and it's a |
| 15 | plans are you putting in place in order to address | 15 | lot less expensive than going to Spain. But, I |
| 16 | it? | 16 | mean, there's so many things in this country that |
| 17 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Well, not here at this | 17 | you can go to and really exhibit and get back to |
| 18 | meeting. But my hope is that if -- my hope was is | 18 | nature. I mean, one of the things people talk about |
| 19 | that the PED was going to give us our grades earlier | 19 | is getting back to nature and experiencing those |
| 20 | so that we would be able to go before the Commission | 20 | things and everything. |
| 21 | and say, "Hey, we would like to go ahead and grow | 21 | And I know the community in Taos is very |
| 22 | our school." | 22 | sensitive to that. You know, Yellowstone was the |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. | 23 | first National Park. And it's a fascinating thing, |
| 24 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: We do have waiting | 24 | the diversity of vegetation, the diversity of animal |
| 25 | lists in all grades except for fourth and eighth. | 25 | life there, the diversity of the geography. |


|  | Page 1101 |  | Page 1103 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I mean, you have small Grand Canyons | 1 | for homework. And I was very fortunate to have |
| 2 | there. You just want to be careful, because when I | 2 | older brothers. And my parents would say, "Go to |
| 3 | was 13, I got in a tree. And if I had fallen, I | 3 | your brother," because they couldn't help. |
| 4 | would have fallen into Yellowstone Falls. It | 4 | And so homework was a big -- and if |
| 5 | freaked my mother out. | 5 | they -- they had homework themselves, I had to |
| 6 | This time I was much further away and got | 6 | manage by myself. And it -- many times I was there, |
| 7 | some nice pictures of it. But you want to be | 7 | but not all the time. And so what you're doing in |
| 8 | careful with students there. It is a fascinating | 8 | terms of the tutoring, the after-school, all of |
| 9 | place. | 9 | that, is fantastic support. |
| 10 | I think my son's most exciting thing of | 10 | The fact that you have food and all of |
| 11 | that was when we had to stop the vehicle and watch a | 11 | that, and you have a bus. |
| 12 | herd of buffalo walking up the road as they were | 12 | And I can tell you, you put it to work to |
| 13 | coming by. | 13 | bring in a little bit more students, those hard to |
| 14 | And he saw these little baby calves | 14 | bring in, just have to reach out to parents and |
| 15 | buffalo calves, that were probably hours or maybe | 15 | network to students and let them know what you have. |
| 16 | only a day or two old. They were wet. The other | 16 | Hispanic parents want their kids to be |
| 17 | ones weren't. So that's why I figure that these | 17 | better than where they're at. And what you have is |
| 18 | were probably newborns, because they'll start | 18 | a goldmine. And I'm sure they're going to |
| 19 | walking within an hour or two of being born. | 19 | realize -- they may be a little hesitant. They may |
| 20 | He was just amazed at these animals, these | 20 | just send their kids to see what would happen. |
| 21 | huge, huge animals walking by. | 21 | But I can tell you, those -- those |
| 22 | And, you know, a lot of -- a lot of our | 22 | children are going to thrive. All you have to do is |
| 23 | children don't get to experience that. They go to a | 23 | bring them in. |
| 24 | zoo, and it's one thing. But when you see these | 24 | And I know that you can get comfortable |
| 25 | animals and things in their natural state, it is | 25 | with what you have. There's a lot to do. You're |
|  | Page 1102 |  | Page 1104 |
| 1 | much more fascinating. | 1 | doing a lot of things. You're moving a lot of -- a |
| 2 | But I applaud the school, applaud the | 2 | lot of elements in the school that needed to be |
| 3 | success that you've had and the growth that I've | 3 | moved at the same time. |
| 4 | seen in the students, and continue to hope that you | 4 | And it is not easy to have a charter |
| 5 | will have that and continue that in the future. | 5 | school. Those that were founders and, early on, big |
| 6 | Thank you. | 6 | dreams, and they thought it was -- oh, this is going |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Caballero? | 7 | to be a cinch, you know. I can do whatever. It is |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Thank you, | 8 | a devil. It is tough. |
| 9 | Madam Chair. I -- I really applaud that you're | 9 | I didn't know, as a Commissioner. I |
| 10 | doing all -- a lot of the stuff that would support | 10 | taught for many years. But doing a charter school? |
| 11 | low-income and Hispanic students. But you need to | 11 | I don't think I would attempt it, knowing what I |
| 12 | bring up your percentage. It's fantastic to see the | 12 | know, because it is hard. And you've got to have |
| 13 | progression through the years. But there's a lot | 13 | good people around you in order to succeed. |
| 14 | more work to be done. | 14 | And you're there. All you need to do is |
| 15 | And it takes -- takes a lot of challenge | 15 | bring some more folks in. And Taos kids need you. |
| 16 | to -- to do the outreach and teach parents, and all | 16 | They really do. And the 24 percent there -- out |
| 17 | that stuff. I know it's not easy. I know it's not | 17 | there in the community that -- they don't even know |
| 18 | easy. | 18 | you exist. Or if they know you exist, they really |
| 19 | But 24 percent differential is -- is quite | 19 | don't know what that means or what you -- "What is |
| 20 | a bit. Even though when we think about, okay, we're | 20 | at Taos something-or-other?" |
| 21 | even, pretty much. But I can tell you, with what | 21 | And you need to let them know and bring |
| 22 | you have in support, one that I can think of for -- | 22 | them in. |
| 23 | the number one is your support after school. | 23 | Sometimes, in political campaigns, I do |
| 24 | A lot of the families, the kids go home, | 24 | radio -- Hispanic radio. And I've done many |
| 25 | Hispanic students go home, and there is no support | 25 | different things in campaigns, community organizing. |


|  | Page 1105 |  | Page 1107 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | But, hell, that was decades ago. | 1 | for the amendments for schools so that they can then |
| 2 | You need to -- and there's folks in the | 2 | be more successful in diversifying their school, I |
| 3 | community that are connected. You need to find a | 3 | think that also helps in compliance with |
| 4 | hook, either a person or persons or organization, | 4 | Yazzie-Martinez as well, so that they're more |
| 5 | and bring them in. | 5 | representative of the community. |
| 6 | I know that my first inclination was | 6 | So I think that's something we need to put |
| 7 | organizations in church, the -- the religious folks | 7 | on our agenda for January for the Work Session is to |
| 8 | and, they're really good at bringing them in. I | 8 | look at that so that we can free that up. That was |
| 9 | used -- in one particular neighborhood, I used the | 9 | part of the conversation with Gallup-McKinley Early |
| 10 | gangs to bring in some youth. And it worked out. | 10 | College High School, because the district -- when |
| 11 | And I even used the gang leaders to -- and it was an | 11 | they were district-authorized, they were upset that |
| 12 | anti-drug campaign. | 12 | they weren't that diverse. Yet they would never |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Leave your guns at | 13 | grant them an enrollment cap increase, so they never |
| 14 | home? | 14 | could become diverse. And we're kind of in that |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yeah. They were | 15 | situation right now. |
| 16 | against the hard drugs. And they were okay with -- | 16 | So it's -- this is a great time to have |
| 17 | with pot. But they were trying to get rid of the -- | 17 | this conversation. So I think it's something we |
| 18 | the new arrivals, the new pushers. They didn't know | 18 | have to look at and allow the schools to be able to |
| 19 | what to do. So I managed to organize that. | 19 | grow that can grow like that. |
| 20 | But you will find ways. Just be creative. | 20 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: I agree with you, |
| 21 | Use people. Ask for help. You know, I just throw | 21 | Commissioner Gipson. Because one of the things that |
| 22 | it out there. I don't have the answers. But I can | 22 | perpetuates some of these things that go in the |
| 23 | tell you. I love the school. But more Hispanic | 23 | community that, "Hey, this is an exclusive school," |
| 24 | students need to be in there also. They need you. | 24 | is when we do have children of diversity come to our |
| 25 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: I can tell you, | 25 | school. And we say, "Sorry, can't take you in |
|  | Page 1106 |  | Page 1108 |
| 1 | Commissioner Caballero, I agree with you | 1 | because we're full." |
| 2 | 100 percent. And that's what we're going to do. | 2 | And they don't understand -- it's hard for |
| 3 | And I want to say that I don't look at | 3 | them to understand. They go, "Well, wait a second. |
| 4 | this as my job, you know. This is not a job; this | 4 | You're a public school. I want to come to this |
| 5 | is a vocation. And there is a difference between | 5 | school." |
| 6 | that, that's -- that that's my calling. And so | 6 | And you go, "Yeah, I know, but I'm not |
| 7 | that's why I do the things that I do. | 7 | allowed to bring you in, because I'm only allowed to |
| 8 | And we're -- we will. No, this is not -- | 8 | have 20 students." |
| 9 | this is not what we're saying. "Hey, look how great | 9 | I am sure that you would see this change |
| 10 | we are." We're saying, "We still have a ways to go. | 10 | if we were able to have that kind of opportunity, |
| 11 | But we're moving in the direction that we need to go | 11 | because I know that we turn away kids all the time |
| 12 | ahead and do, and we still need to do more." | 12 | that it saddens me having to do that. But I don't |
| 13 | And I appreciate you and the comments. | 13 | know -- you know, what do you do? |
| 14 | Thank you. | 14 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: And some folks may take |
| 15 | THE CHAIR: And I'm going to say that we | 15 | that personally, because they may not understand the |
| 16 | have to, I think, take ownership of some of this and | 16 | rules around that. And so then we get to have this |
| 17 | help the school out, simply because right now, they | 17 | reputation of turning people away. And that is |
| 18 | only have nine students they can add before they hit | 18 | not -- that is not okay. |
| 19 | their cap. So that to ask them to -- | 19 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. And I absolutely agree. |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Increase. | 20 | And then it gets out into the community. "We tried, |
| 21 | THE CHAIR: -- become more diverse is very | 21 | and they wouldn't take our kids," you know. It |
| 22 | hard without kicking out some kids and saying, | 22 | becomes a personal thing. So absolutely. So I -- |
| 23 | "Sorry, you have to go." | 23 | that's absolutely something we need to -- to look at |
| 24 | So I think that's something we have to | 24 | and work on. So, hopefully -- hopefully, there's |
| 25 | look at. If we do have to modify those requirements | 25 | a -- we can be part of the solution. |


|  | Page 1109 |  | Page 1111 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: Thank you so much. | 1 | land, and said, "Hey, I got this land here. Would |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I think part of | 2 | you guys be interested in buying it?" |
| 3 | that issue is going to be you can't say, "We're only | 3 | So it's -- it was great to be able to be |
| 4 | going to take 15 Hispanic children, because it's a | 4 | there. It's as center you could possibly get as far |
| 5 | lottery." And -- | 5 | as activity; so... |
| 6 | THE CHAIR: Correct. That's not the rule. | 6 | THE CHAIR: Were you looking at pre-K? |
| 7 | But right now, they can't take anyone, because -- | 7 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: You know, it's just |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Right. But it | 8 | about -- right now, it's about finances. I'm not |
| 9 | will increase the way you want -- that you -- | 9 | sure -- the thing that stops me from pre-K is I go, |
| 10 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: I agree. What the | 10 | "Okay, that sounds great that you guys are all |
| 11 | problem is, is you know how it is in a small | 11 | excited about it. Can you tell me how much money |
| 12 | community. You have a small community of | 12 | you're going to give me so that I know we're able |
| 13 | individuals. And a person says, "Well, hey, my kid | 13 | to -- that we're not going to put ourselves into |
| 14 | got into TISA." | 14 | debt?" |
| 15 | And they say, "Hey, you should go ahead | 15 | Because as of right now, we have -- a lot |
| 16 | and bring your kid in." | 16 | of our expenses go to the rent-to-own our buildings. |
| 17 | They bring their kid in, and they say, | 17 | THE CHAIR: Right. Right. |
| 18 | "Oh, yeah. Well, they turned us away. It must be | 18 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: But, I mean, yeah, |
| 19 | because we're diverse. We" -- and it's not true. | 19 | we're -- I'm open to everything. Like I said is |
| 20 | Like I said, we constantly have to say, "We have a | 20 | that I am not a person that shirks away work. I do |
| 21 | cap. It's right here in this contract we signed, | 21 | the -- I am trying to get -- everybody is trying to |
| 22 | and we can't go over that." | 22 | stop me. But I'm trying to get my bus license. I |
| 23 | THE CHAIR: So remind me. What can your | 23 | have a -- I'm the lunch lady. I go ahead and do |
| 24 | building hold? Because I don't know. | 24 | breakfast and lunch. I go ahead and change out all |
| 25 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: As many as we can put | 25 | the air filters for all the HVAC we have at the |
|  | Page 1110 |  | Page 1112 |
| 1 | in there. Is that an appropriate -- I don't know. | 1 | school. I do the plumbing. I did the gardening. |
| 2 | Right now, we have 20 students in there. | 2 | I mean, so there's -- as far as work is |
| 3 | I'm sure that we can go ahead and put four more | 3 | concerned, I'm not afraid of it. I'm not afraid of |
| 4 | students in each classroom. | 4 | going into a class and tutoring if I have to. |
| 5 | MS. JULEE LaMURE: We've also had requests | 5 | I offer all our athletes that go to the |
| 6 | from community members that we expand into the high | 6 | middle school, the kids that -- because we don't |
| 7 | school grades as well. And that's something that we | 7 | have school on Friday. I tell them, "If you don't |
| 8 | have in our strategic plan. | 8 | do well in your -- in the thing, I'll make a deal |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: But if you did that, do -- you | 9 | with you. You're going to have to be tutored by me |
| 10 | don't have the physical capacity to do that, do you? | 10 | on Friday." And I come in on Fridays for those |
| 11 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: We have five acres of | 11 | students that are not there. |
| 12 | land; so, basically, what we would do if we had to | 12 | So, like I said, this is not my -- this is |
| 13 | was a lease-to-own on a portable of some kind or go | 13 | not my job; this is my vocation; this is my calling. |
| 14 | with a portable that's already done. | 14 | And so that's what I'm -- what we're trying to do in |
| 15 | That's what we currently have. We have | 15 | trying to make the community better, because I |
| 16 | two portables that house just single grades. But, I | 16 | really do believe that this is the way to make our |
| 17 | mean, we have five acres to expand. We | 17 | future better is by working with those kids. |
| 18 | purposefully -- we were really lucky what we found. | 18 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. I |
| 19 | We found five acres of land in the middle of Taos | 19 | appreciate it. |
| 20 | and found it for -- I think it was a little bit | 20 | Commissioners, are we ready? |
| 21 | under \$300,000 that we were able to buy it. | 21 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yeah, I can do that. |
| 22 | And at that time, it was \$100,000 an acre. | 22 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? Oh, I'm |
| 23 | And it just happened to be our -- the guy who took | 23 | sorry. |
| 24 | over our -- that was our landlord was also a Google | 24 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Wait. I'm not -- I |
| 25 | executive or a Google programmer that owned the | 25 | thought Karyl Ann would ask -- |


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| 1 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: No, that's fine. | 1 | they love that. And they find out about the |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: -- a bunch. | 2 | Coelophysis and where they found it there and |
| 3 | Good afternoon. So I was wondering what | 3 | geology. |
| 4 | your current enrollment was. But I heard -- | 4 | And they really enjoy themselves. That's |
| 5 | THE CHAIR: 174. | 5 | a nice thing to do at the end of the year to really |
| 6 | MS. LINDA SETO: 173. | 6 | build their community and help them to really be a |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: We're getting there. | 7 | cohesive group that way. Yeah. |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: 173. What effect | 8 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Which mountain did |
| 9 | does the day school at the Pueblo have on your | 9 | you say? |
| 10 | school? | 10 | MS. LINDA SETO: Llama. |
| 11 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: It varies. I mean, | 11 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: So north of town? |
| 12 | the thing is, is that the day school has had a -- is | 12 | MS. LINDA SETO: Yeah, north towards |
| 13 | slowly moving kids out, and kids are moving into -- | 13 | Questa. |
| 14 | into schools like ourselves. | 14 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Okay. I'll wrap up |
| 15 | I mean, we are trying to -- we do try to | 15 | with my Yellowstone story. So my family is there. |
| 16 | push into the Pueblo community to go and let them | 16 | This was in the mid '50s -- late '50s. So we were |
| 17 | know that we're here. We've worked with them | 17 | at Yellowstone Falls. And so I have two brothers. |
| 18 | before. | 18 | And my father and I went into the men's room and did |
| 19 | But, unfortunately for them, they have -- | 19 | our business and came out. And we were looking at |
| 20 | their enrollment is going down. And so that means | 20 | the Falls. |
| 21 | our enrollment is up. | 21 | And all of a sudden, all these women |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Well, you know, that | 22 | coming running out of the women's room. And we |
| 23 | would help with diversity. But what you guys just | 23 | said, "What? What's going on?" |
| 24 | discussed is not room. So was it -- who was the | 24 | They said, "There's a bear in there." |
| 25 | camper person? | 25 | And my mom comes strolling out. |
|  | Page 1114 |  | Page 1116 |
| 1 | MS. LINDA SETO: Oh, I'm the camper. | 1 | And we said, "Didn't you see the bear?" |
| 2 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Linda. | 2 | "What bear?" |
| 3 | MS. LINDA SETO: I enjoy it. Actually, | 3 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt? |
| 4 | what I find camping with kids is so much better than | 4 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Are we ready for a |
| 5 | being in a closed classroom with them. So I love to | 5 | motion? |
| 6 | do that. | 6 | THE CHAIR: We are. |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Where do you go? | 7 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Thank you. |
| 8 | MS. LINDA SETO: We have a wonderful | 8 | Yeah, we need a motion. |
| 9 | retired doctor up in Taos. He has a beautiful | 9 | THE CHAIR: Okay. |
| 10 | property up on Llama Mountain. And he is | 10 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I move that the |
| 11 | philanthropic, and he has built I don't know how | 11 | Public Education Commission renew the charter for |
| 12 | many -- six to eight cabins with bunk beds, and he | 12 | the Taos Integrated School for the Arts for five |
| 13 | lets schools go up there for free. | 13 | years, with conditions that the New Mexico System of |
| 14 | Not a lot of schools go, but I take | 14 | School Support and Accountability Report prepared by |
| 15 | advantage of it every year. In the fall, I teach a | 15 | PED shows a similar performance for School |
| 16 | project that has to do with botany. So it feeds | 16 | Year 2018-2019 in the student growth, highest |
| 17 | right into my integrated arts approach. And so I go | 17 | quartile; student growth, middle quartile; student |
| 18 | up there for two days and a night with | 18 | growth, lowest quartile; English Learner progress; |
| 19 | fifth-graders, and we hike. We -- I find that it | 19 | chronic absenteeism; college-and-career readiness; |
| 20 | really bonds the kids together. It really builds | 20 | and education climate, with no statistically |
| 21 | the community at the beginning of the year. So we | 21 | significant decrease in performance. |
| 22 | go in the middle of September up there. | 22 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: I'll second. |
| 23 | And then in the spring, we do tent | 23 | THE CHAIR: There's a motion by |
| 24 | camping. In the last couple of years, what I've | 24 | Commissioner Voigt. |
| 25 | done is I go to Ghost Ranch and Abiquiu Lake. And | 25 | And I'm sorry. Who did the second? |


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| 1 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Commissioner Crone. | 1 | collection of the data, the updating of the data, |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Crone. Thank | 2 | putting it all onto SharePoint. There's just so |
| 3 | you. | 3 | much that goes into getting us to here that I want |
| 4 | Roll call, please. | 4 | to say thank you to everyone for getting us to here. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 5 | And, once again, thank everyone else, |
| 6 | Voigt? | 6 | because it really was -- it was a good week. It |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. | 7 | was. And we walked out of here -- I think this is |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 8 | the most positive we're walking out of a week of |
| 9 | Chavez? | 9 | renewals. |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. | 10 | So that's -- that's important to |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 11 | acknowledge as well, that we were able to spend, |
| 12 | Davis? | 12 | with almost every school, just a great celebration |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. | 13 | of the good things that they do. And that is |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 14 | certainly better than those unfortunate times when |
| 15 | Robbins? | 15 | we haven't been able to do that. And it's sad and |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. | 16 | distressing and takes a toll on you as well as |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 17 | you're digging through these weeks. |
| 18 | Caballero? | 18 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Madam Chair, just to |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. | 19 | segue from that, too, I think the PEC, it seems like |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 20 | we're moving from more of a merely transactional |
| 21 | Crone? | 21 | process to hopefully a more relational process as |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. | 22 | well. Just want to throw that out there. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner | 23 | THE CHAIR: Yes. And I appreciate that. |
| 24 | Armbruster votes "Yes." | 24 | And I'm going to say that some of that was only |
| 25 | Commissioner Gipson? | 25 | because that was not as possible with what -- you |
|  | Page 1118 |  | Page 1120 |
| 1 | THE CHAIR: Yes. | 1 | know, the relationship. So that the relationship |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Okay. We have | 2 | with CSD -- so it all helps to have that happen. |
| 3 | eight-to-zero. | 3 | So thank everyone, just in case I forget |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: The motion passes, eight-zero. | 4 | later on in my comments. |
| 5 | Congratulations, and thank you today and every day | 5 | So segueing to Item No. 6, we're on to |
| 6 | for what you do. Thank you. | 6 | Report from Options for Parents. |
| 7 | MR. RICH GREYWOLF: Thank you very much. | 7 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Good afternoon, |
| 8 | (Commissioner Raftery has departed.) | 8 | Madam Chair, members of the Commission. I know |
| 9 | (Recess taken, 1:36 p.m. to 1:48 p.m.) | 9 | we've had a really long week. I will keep my |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: So after four-and-a-half days, | 10 | comments to an hour at minimum. Commissioner |
| 11 | we're on to Item No. 6 on the agenda. We've just | 11 | Chavez, I was only kidding about that. |
| 12 | been moving through this agenda so well. | 12 | COMMISSIONER CRONE: Revoke the charter. |
| 13 | All right. | 13 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: I also want to |
| 14 | And before we start off, and in case I | 14 | express, in a similar fashion as Chairwoman Gipson |
| 15 | forget, because I don't want to in my comments, but | 15 | just did, the gratitude to all the PEC members for |
| 16 | after closing out this last school, I just want to | 16 | the work that you-all did. It's such an |
| 17 | thank everyone for hanging in there this week, the | 17 | extraordinary amount of work to support our schools |
| 18 | thoughtful questions, everyone, in terms of your | 18 | through this process. And it's an extraordinary |
| 19 | preparation. | 19 | amount of work for you all to be prepared, to ask, |
| 20 | And I'm sure everyone is aware that it | 20 | like, really important questions related to our |
| 21 | takes an army to get us to today. And there isn't | 21 | schools, to celebrate our schools. |
| 22 | an army; there's only a small troop that does the | 22 | You-all did all of that. You captured all |
| 23 | work. So there's no doubt about the fact that there | 23 | of that throughout this process, and I just wanted |
| 24 | are just countless hours between the training for | 24 | to express my gratitude to you-all for all of the |
| 25 | the renewals, the site visits for the renewals, the | 25 | work that you've done this week. |


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| 1 | Equally, I want to express extreme | 1 | MS. VALERIE CORDOVA: Hi, guys. |
| 2 | gratitude towards the Public Education Commission | 2 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: She's going to |
| 3 | CSD team, which I think we have most of them in the | 3 | help us on our team, support around business |
| 4 | room, maybe one or two folks that are not here. | 4 | operations, taking care of the requests for |
| 5 | It really was a team effort. And they are | 5 | reimbursements that go along with the grant, and |
| 6 | the -- they are the army that put this together, and | 6 | also supporting -- and site visits -- I believe they |
| 7 | there are countless hours of time that go into this | 7 | went to a site visit today, to really start to |
| 8 | process. And I just really share the gratitude to | 8 | strengthen relationships with our CSD awardees. |
| 9 | them as well. | 9 | Melissa Sanchez has also joined us. She's |
| 10 | And then, finally, I wanted to express the | 10 | the Director of Data and Finance. And so she's |
| 11 | gratitude to the schools. They are the important | 11 | coming from the Department of Finance and |
| 12 | element of this whole process. And I do think that | 12 | Administration. So she had to walk about 50 feet |
| 13 | in the pre-work, in the prep for this -- for these | 13 | across the divide between our two buildings to join |
| 14 | five days, there was a lot of back-and-forth between | 14 | us. |
| 15 | the schools. | 15 | We've been working on this for about five |
| 16 | And there is -- you know, some schools, I | 16 | months to have her go through our process. And, |
| 17 | will share, were a little bit more defensive at | 17 | thankfully, she has a lot of perseverance and |
| 18 | first. And I plugged in a little bit more with some | 18 | persistence, and I'm really thankful that she's able |
| 19 | and not as much for others. | 19 | to join us. |
| 20 | But I think that our CSD team did a really | 20 | She's going to support us with our data |
| 21 | awesome job in building partnerships with our | 21 | analysis, with our financial analysis. One of the |
| 22 | schools. And when there was an area where maybe we | 22 | first projects that she's going to take on that's |
| 23 | don't get to "yes" for everyone involved, we | 23 | really tangible is to review the financial |
| 24 | provided them an opportunity to share and express | 24 | performance framework that -- the work has already |
| 25 | that difference. | 25 | started over the last few years. |
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| 1 | And I really do think that, you know, | 1 | But she is committed to reengaging |
| 2 | the -- the three-circle Venn diagram that we're all | 2 | business managers from across our charter world to |
| 3 | in, the PEC, the charter schools, and the Charter | 3 | really solidify what a financial framework could |
| 4 | School Division, I felt today -- and this week has | 4 | really look like in a New Mexico-centered way. |
| 5 | been a great example -- of how there is more overlap | 5 | That's been the -- I think the -- the thorn in our |
| 6 | in those three circles of groups than I have seen in | 6 | side, that we've tried to create a few from external |
| 7 | my short time here with you-all. And so I just | 7 | parties that have been contracted with us. |
| 8 | wanted to thank you all and thank the CSD team for | 8 | And there is some good work that came out |
| 9 | all the work there that went into this. | 9 | of there. But there still was always that |
| 10 | I want to start out with some really | 10 | disconnect of how charters are financed here in this |
| 11 | important staffing updates from our team. We are | 11 | state, New Mexico compared to other states. And so |
| 12 | getting closer and closer to being fully staffed, | 12 | I'm really thankful for Melissa to take that project |
| 13 | which is such an important aspect of the work that | 13 | and really run with it. |
| 14 | we continue to do, and to follow up on our | 14 | I also wanted to share that tomorrow I'm |
| 15 | commitment to providing you with authorizing support | 15 | going to go to a PED Rapid Hire experience down at |
| 16 | as well as the technical assistance that all of our | 16 | the EXPO New Mexico. And so we have, right now, |
| 17 | schools are really hungry for. | 17 | just one position that is open. It's a charter |
| 18 | And so we have two additions. I know I | 18 | school program position. It's an administrative |
| 19 | mentioned this at the last meeting in November. But | 19 | coordinator position. |
| 20 | we have two new staff members. | 20 | And so we're hoping to really meet some |
| 21 | Valerie Cordova has joined us. She's | 21 | really great people tomorrow. And I still need to |
| 22 | going to be supporting the charter school program | 22 | know, quite frankly, if I can make an official hire |
| 23 | grant that's currently managed by Leslie Kelly. | 23 | tomorrow, or if we need to go through another |
| 24 | Valerie, if you don't mind standing up and giving us | 24 | process. But, nevertheless, we're going to meet |
| 25 | a good wave? | 25 | some really great people and hopefully find somebody |


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| 1 | who finds us to be their new home to join us. | 1 | I wanted to also share, since I'm on the |
| 2 | We are in the final throes of the | 2 | CSP point, our award letters for all of our awarded |
| 3 | interview process for our other authorizing | 3 | schools should be going out next week. And so they |
| 4 | practices administrator who will join Megan Maestas. | 4 | will have their official award letter coming from us |
| 5 | We've gone through multiple interview processes | 5 | next week, barring any -- any issue that we might |
| 6 | since -- during my tenure here. | 6 | experience from here. So we really are excited |
| 7 | So we are -- we are -- I'm hoping, knock | 7 | about that. |
| 8 | on wood -- in January to introduce you to the next | 8 | There is -- for the first time, a mix of |
| 9 | authorizing practices administrator. | 9 | PEC-authorized schools and local LEA, or district, |
| 10 | THE CHAIR: We've heard that before. | 10 | authorized schools. And it wasn't really feasible |
| 11 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: I am very aware | 11 | before this year, after we made some amendments, |
| 12 | of that, Chairwoman. But I'm hoping. | 12 | that we could include district school partners in |
| 13 | The last position I wanted to share, next | 13 | this process. |
| 14 | week we are interviewing for Megan's former | 14 | So we're excited to have -- to have that |
| 15 | position, the specialist role. And we're really | 15 | in the works, and that, you know, we always want to |
| 16 | hopeful that we're going to find some really great | 16 | have more schools than what we have currently right |
| 17 | people in that process and do our due diligence to | 17 | now. And Leslie and I have worked -- with some |
| 18 | get that paperwork flowing through our processes and | 18 | schools who did apply who may not be receiving an |
| 19 | hoping to be able to announce more good news on that | 19 | award this time around, we're going to open up the |
| 20 | position. | 20 | process again and have them apply, provide technical |
| 21 | So once that happens, we are going to be | 21 | assistance and really focused feedback, so that they |
| 22 | fully -- fully staffed at that point with -- with | 22 | can put their best foot forward and we can continue |
| 23 | one exception, which brings me to the -- my final | 23 | to ensure that the funding is going to be expanded |
| 24 | comment around staffing. | 24 | across the state. |
| 25 | Leslie -- I think many of you may have | 25 | The -- the next thing I wanted to share |
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| 1 | been on the call last Thursday with the charter | 1 | is -- and this is great; I'm really excited about |
| 2 | school leaders. We are both super-happy for Leslie | 2 | this -- the annual charter school conference. We |
| 3 | and also, you know, heavy-hearted, that she has | 3 | have worked to set a tentative/official date for |
| 4 | applied to and was accepted to lead the efforts for | 4 | this, barring any changes that might happen between |
| 5 | the Public Education Department and the Safe and | 5 | now and six months from now. |
| 6 | Healthy Schools Bureau to become a key director | 6 | But our date from that -- and we'll make |
| 7 | around behavior health for all students across | 7 | sure that we're working with Bev and you-all on |
| 8 | New Mexico. | 8 | this -- it's going to be Thursday, June 18th, |
| 9 | And so she's going to be -- and if you | 9 | through Friday, June 19th, 2020. It will be at the |
| 10 | don't know this about Leslie, that's her -- that's | 10 | Berna Facio complex, or Professional Development |
| 11 | what she's done for most of her career as a | 11 | Center, in APS. |
| 12 | counselor and as a -- as an administrator at APS. | 12 | And one of the reasons why we really |
| 13 | And so we couldn't be happier for her to find this | 13 | wanted to select a place outside of a hotel is so we |
| 14 | role. And it's a new role, and we know she's going | 14 | can have a little more autonomy with the |
| 15 | to be just an awesome leader to take on this charge | 15 | programming, with the food, and really make this an |
| 16 | for sure. | 16 | opportunity for us to lift up student leadership in |
| 17 | That does come with the need for us to | 17 | all ways, shapes, and forms. |
| 18 | have another transition person on our team. But we | 18 | I think we did that this last year, for |
| 19 | have measures in place and staff to pick up the | 19 | those of you who joined. We saw a lot of |
| 20 | areas that need to happen. And I think Leslie won't | 20 | performances and students really leaning into their |
| 21 | fully, you know, exclude us from her life, and | 21 | leadership throughout. This year we would love to |
| 22 | she'll continue to support us in the CSP grant | 22 | have our amazing schools that have a CTE program, |
| 23 | within reason. | 23 | especially culinary arts programs, to contract with |
| 24 | But we will be needing to fill that | 24 | us to provide the food. |
| 25 | position at some point; so -- all right. | 25 | We also want to see students facilitate |


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| 1 | sessions and, really, you know, show their | 1 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Sure. I'm aware |
| 2 | leadership in multiple ways, and not just being | 2 | of where that is, Ami. I felt like we should also |
| 3 | leaders in the performing arts, but in other ways as | 3 | provide that, and that did not happen. And this |
| 4 | well. So we're really excited about that. | 4 | year, we did provide that by the deadline. It's |
| 5 | One other element that I'm looking forward | 5 | currently with the Governor's Office right now, and |
| 6 | to is to use this conference as an opportunity to -- | 6 | we're hoping to be able to provide that to the LESC |
| 7 | to break down the barriers of exclusiveness between | 7 | and the LFC shortly. |
| 8 | charters and traditional public schools, so we | 8 | I did want to share that this was a |
| 9 | are -- you know, I don't have all the details in | 9 | collaborative process. I have a -- an informal |
| 10 | place here. | 10 | advisory group of head administrators across the |
| 11 | But we want to open it up to traditional | 11 | state. The statute does share that each district or |
| 12 | public schools as well to join us, so that we can | 12 | authorizer should send the Charter School Division |
| 13 | really put our money where our mouth is when we | 13 | information for this report. |
| 14 | speak about bridging that divide or that abyss | 14 | And one thing that I did, starting in |
| 15 | between our schools across the state. | 15 | June, was to bring together different school leaders |
| 16 | I think the only way that we can do that | 16 | from across the state to get their thoughts around |
| 17 | is to start with breaking bread with schools and to | 17 | what we should include. Many of the leaders who |
| 18 | have space together, where we can -- we can share | 18 | supported the process of developing this report, we |
| 19 | how our students are really leading throughout the | 19 | actually heard from this week. South Valley Prep |
| 20 | state and share best practices, you know, in our | 20 | and Charlotte helped us. Amy Biehl and Frank |
| 21 | curricula. | 21 | McCulloch supported the efforts. Albuquerque Sign |
| 22 | And so we're really excited about that, | 22 | Language Academy and Rafe Martinez. Louella Poblano |
| 23 | and I think that's going to be a really positive | 23 | from DEAP Charter School. Aldo Leopold and Wayne |
| 24 | aspect of this upcoming conference. | 24 | Sherwood also contributed. And then Corinna Chavez, |
| 25 | I will say that when I first came in, I | 25 | who also works with NACA Inspired Schools, who was |
|  | Page 1130 |  | Page 1132 |
| 1 | don't think we had a date in March when I came in | 1 | here with DEAP this week, also supported. Walatowa, |
| 2 | last year. So I am super-excited to have ample time | 2 | J. Paul Taylor, and School of Dreams were part of |
| 3 | to plan and to get your-all's feedback, too, around | 3 | that small group that helped us solidify some best |
| 4 | how can we continue to make it better, how can we | 4 | practices. |
| 5 | just really make sure that we are doing right by all | 5 | I will absolutely send a copy of what we |
| 6 | of our constituents. | 6 | sent to you all once I get notification. I can do |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER DAVIS: A date and a | 7 | that. But I wanted to give a few points of what we |
| 8 | location. | 8 | provided in terms of successes and opportunities and |
| 9 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Yes. Absolutely, | 9 | plans for the future. |
| 10 | Commissioner Davis. | 10 | So a couple of the successes, we wanted to |
| 11 | The -- for now, I want to share just one | 11 | lift up, you know, the process that we train |
| 12 | final comment. And then I'm going to pass the mic | 12 | governing boards. That's something that when I |
| 13 | over to Deputy Director Woerner for a minute. | 13 | first took this role, that probably is one of the |
| 14 | We -- per statute, the Charter School | 14 | top three things that people came to me about |
| 15 | Division is tasked to provide the Governor's Office, | 15 | needing to change. |
| 16 | the LESC, and the LFC, an annual report. | 16 | And so with the support of Missy Brown and |
| 17 | To my knowledge, that hasn't been done for | 17 | the Technical Assistance Team, we provided an update |
| 18 | about four years in a row. | 18 | and a success story on how we are providing |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: We did one last year. | 19 | additional opportunities for folks to be trained. |
| 20 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Got you. I -- to | 20 | I think that is something that -- we even |
| 21 | be -- to be clear, the Charter School Division is | 21 | got feedback today from multiple board members that |
| 22 | supposed to do that, and it has not done it -- | 22 | that's something they really appreciate. There's |
| 23 | MS. AMI JAEGER: There's a provision in | 23 | always more that we can do, but we feel that's |
| 24 | the statute that says "authorizers to contribute." | 24 | something that we started to build some momentum |
| 25 | It's just in a different part of the statute. | 25 | behind. |


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| 1 | We also believe that the Charter School | 1 | I think we've seen a lot of growth, but |
| 2 | Program Grant is a success. In being able to amend | 2 | really making sure that, in this moment especially, |
| 3 | that after we went through our ESSA amendment | 3 | when belts are being tightened, supporting schools |
| 4 | process, Leslie Kelly and I worked with our USDE | 4 | and maintaining the quality of their programming, |
| 5 | colleagues to provide amendments to the grant | 5 | even when funding may not be as -- as helpful as it |
| 6 | itself. | 6 | has been in the past. |
| 7 | And once the PEC shifted some of their | 7 | This also I think involves ensuring that |
| 8 | application processes, we wanted to make sure that | 8 | authorizers across the state and support staff like |
| 9 | the charter school grant was in alignment to that. | 9 | myself who support authorizers, that we are finding |
| 10 | And so, as a result, we had 13 applications this | 10 | that balance between technical assistance and |
| 11 | year, which were much more than we've had in the | 11 | compliance and accountability and making sure that |
| 12 | past. And we were able, as I said earlier, to | 12 | we are doing that in a most effective way. |
| 13 | provide more awards at this point. | 13 | Defining what replication and expansion |
| 14 | And opportunities that we included in | 14 | is. I think this is something that we have talked |
| 15 | here, into our report, the implementation of | 15 | about quite a bit. And I don't think we have a |
| 16 | Yazzie-Martinez and the four areas -- the four | 16 | solidified answer yet in statute. And that's |
| 17 | strategies that the PED has put effort in to take | 17 | something that we feel like we really want to make |
| 18 | root. I think we heard this week, many of our | 18 | sure there is a statewide solution to that. And so |
| 19 | schools are the frontline folks who are doing some | 19 | that's something else that I did make mention to in |
| 20 | really amazing things around equity and | 20 | this report. |
| 21 | inclusiveness and the work that it takes to create | 21 | And then, finally, one of the other |
| 22 | frameworks that are really going to embody what each | 22 | things -- and this is something that came up from |
| 23 | of our schools should be held account to. | 23 | our processes in our new applications, as well as |
| 24 | And so I think that this week is just a | 24 | potentially within the renewal cycle -- thinking |
| 25 | beautiful example of how many of our schools are | 25 | about community impact and district -- and impact on |
|  | Page 1134 |  | Page 1136 |
| 1 | taking that lead. And, on the converse, many of our | 1 | districts when new schools open. |
| 2 | schools, I think, can learn from our other schools | 2 | And so, really, this -- I think this is an |
| 3 | in how to get better faster, so that all of our | 3 | opportunity for us to think about how do we want to |
| 4 | students are receiving an equitable and responsive | 4 | involve, you know, community input in the processes, |
| 5 | education. | 5 | not just during the first stage of opening a new |
| 6 | I mentioned this before. But one of the | 6 | school, but also -- also throughout. |
| 7 | efforts that the Secretary has shared with you-all, | 7 | And so I -- through the support of the |
| 8 | and that I think I've voiced to you-all and you-all | 8 | folks who supported me in developing the final |
| 9 | have voiced back to us, is nurturing the | 9 | report, that's something else that we were thinking |
| 10 | collaboration and practice sharing between charters | 10 | about that I think there's energy around and could |
| 11 | and traditional public schools. That's a | 11 | really support the -- support all of our schools. |
| 12 | recommendation, an opportunity that we wanted to | 12 | And then finally the last part, the report |
| 13 | make sure that was in our report and that we heard | 13 | was about 24 pages, not including the table of |
| 14 | from across the state from everyone, including | 14 | contents and some of the -- the initial pages. |
| 15 | you-all. | 15 | And then there's a 59-page appendix, which |
| 16 | And so I'm committed to that. I know that | 16 | was the charter school report that came from CREDO, |
| 17 | you-all are committed to that, and I think this is | 17 | the Stanford study that came out over the summer. |
| 18 | something we can really latch on to as a collective. | 18 | And so I included that within this report as well, |
| 19 | Areas for improvement and challenges. | 19 | that you-all have it as well. |
| 20 | Facilities, really creating a short-term | 20 | And then, finally, the last part that |
| 21 | and long-term plan for charter school facilities. | 21 | you'll get a chance to see is the comparison data |
| 22 | That is something that we need to -- to really take | 22 | between state charter schools, district-chartered |
| 23 | stock in and to work on together as a -- as a | 23 | schools, and then all other traditional public |
| 24 | collective. | 24 | schools in the state. |
| 25 | Strengthening existing schools. | 25 | On a short, small comment, I really wish |


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| 1 | we did not have to set up the data that way, because | 1 | that is adjacent to their current facility. And if |
| 2 | I think that not only does make it hard to bridge -- | 2 | they are able to do that, they will separate the |
| 3 | bridge the divide that we sometimes see when we're | 3 | middle and high school grades. And the school may |
| 4 | always in a comparison of our different schools to | 4 | also want to seek an enrollment cap increase in |
| 5 | one another. But that is -- that's in statute, and | 5 | order to serve more students, in the event that |
| 6 | that's one of the requirements of the annual report | 6 | they're able to add that additional building. |
| 7 | that we need to send in. | 7 | So, again, those will be before you in an |
| 8 | And so once I get confirmation that I can | 8 | upcoming agenda. Just wanted to share that with you |
| 9 | provide this publicly, I will absolutely share that | 9 | at this time. |
| 10 | with you-all, and it will be on our website as well. | 10 | Letter C under our report is about a |
| 11 | And with that, I'm going to pass the mic | 11 | project to support charter schools with eRate |
| 12 | over to Karen and then speak with you all in a few | 12 | funding for technology. I want to be sure that the |
| 13 | minutes here. | 13 | Commission is aware that the Charter School Division |
| 14 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Thank you, Alan, | 14 | has been working with the PSFA, via the Broadband |
| 15 | Madam Chair, Commissioners. I first want to thank | 15 | Deficiencies Correction Program, and the Department |
| 16 | you for your comments, Chairwoman Gipson, and | 16 | of IT, DOIT, and the New Mexico PED IT Department, |
| 17 | appreciate and underscore what Alan said -- or | 17 | to support charter schools in the area of |
| 18 | Director Brauer said about the PEC. I think the | 18 | technology, specifically leveraging eRate funding |
| 19 | work you do is amazing, and that you have to read | 19 | and matching State funds to obtain higher bandwidth |
| 20 | all that stuff that we prepare for you and come here | 20 | at reduced costs. |
| 21 | with such great questions. | 21 | Schools across the state have been paying |
| 22 | I also want to acknowledge that I have | 22 | way too much for way too slow connections, and that |
| 23 | never worked with such a hard-working team as the | 23 | that is changing across the state through the work |
| 24 | Charter School Division team and really appreciate | 24 | through the Broadband Deficiencies Correction |
| 25 | the small and growing group that we have. So thank | 25 | Program. |
|  | Page 1138 |  | Page 1140 |
| 1 | you very much. | 1 | And our goal is to increase the number of |
| 2 | I would just -- letter B in the report is | 2 | charter schools, both local and State-authorized, |
| 3 | about Albuquerque School of Excellence and Explore | 3 | that participate in the eRate program. And I'm not |
| 4 | Academy plans. And what this was is the CSD team | 4 | sure if the Commissioners are all familiar with that |
| 5 | was asked to share and advise the entire Commission | 5 | program. But it's a commonly used name for the |
| 6 | that these two schools have contacted the division | 6 | School and Libraries Program of the Universal |
| 7 | regarding amendment requests to add an additional | 7 | Service Fund funded by USAC and the FCC. |
| 8 | building on-site, which we anticipate will be on an | 8 | The program provides discounts on |
| 9 | upcoming agenda. | 9 | broadband internet access, telecommunications, and |
| 10 | Albuquerque School of Excellence did share | 10 | other services and equipment that are needed to |
| 11 | some of those details with you that were here during | 11 | connect the classroom with the world. |
| 12 | their renewal hearing this week. And you may recall | 12 | The discount ranges from 20 to 90 percent, |
| 13 | the school is working on constructing a second | 13 | with higher discounts for areas of high poverty or |
| 14 | building on their existing land so that they can | 14 | the more rural schools. |
| 15 | separate their elementary and secondary grades. | 15 | So it really is a huge opportunity. I'm |
| 16 | This school has mentioned that they hope | 16 | very familiar with it. In my prior work in the IT |
| 17 | to add kindergarten. They are authorized by you for | 17 | Department -- I was an IT director for a traditional |
| 18 | K to 12 , but are currently only serving Grade 1 | 18 | school district. And I will tell you that we were |
| 19 | through 12. They hope to add kindergarten when they | 19 | able to secure 13 -- we paid 13 cents on the dollar |
| 20 | add this additional building. | 20 | in that district for technology upgrades in the area |
| 21 | As you know, they were recently before you | 21 | of network infrastructure. |
| 22 | with an increased enrollment cap in anticipation of | 22 | Many charter schools have not |
| 23 | this additional space. | 23 | participated. Some have, but many have not for |
| 24 | Similarly, Explore Academy has shared an | 24 | several reasons. And I think the two main reasons |
| 25 | opportunity that they have to acquire a building | 25 | are a lack of technology expertise in-house at the |


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| 1 | charter schools and the complicated process and | 1 | check on that. I was not involved in the RFP |
| 2 | application process and procurement process to | 2 | process. They were the -- |
| 3 | comply with those requirements. | 3 | MR. MATT PAHL: In-state. |
| 4 | The PSFA has funded a contracted person. | 4 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Matt says it's |
| 5 | Solix is the company that won that RFP. And so not | 5 | in-state. |
| 6 | only are they getting the support of the staff in | 6 | MR. MATT PAHL: They do have someone here. |
| 7 | those departments I mentioned, or agencies, but they | 7 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: They do have local |
| 8 | are also getting a contracted person to actually | 8 | reps. It was through a formal RFP process that they |
| 9 | help and do the eRate application and assess their | 9 | were selected. |
| 10 | needs. | 10 | THE CHAIR: I just have a question, |
| 11 | As of this time, meetings have been held | 11 | because you said Las Montañas was on there. And |
| 12 | with, as far as State-chartered schools, Albuquerque | 12 | they get their services through the school district. |
| 13 | Collegiate, Estancia Valley Classical Academy, Hózhó | 13 | So even if that's the case -- because I'm |
| 14 | Academy, La Tierra Montessori, Las Montañas, Monte | 14 | wondering, if schools aren't sure because they get |
| 15 | del Sol, and Turquoise Trail. More are being | 15 | their services through the district, can they |
| 16 | scheduled. | 16 | participate? |
| 17 | And if schools have not taken advantage | 17 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Madam Chair, thank you |
| 18 | despite our repeated e-mails and nagging, they | 18 | for the question. |
| 19 | should contact us at CSD or e-mail Ruth Bingham at | 19 | Yes. Even if they are receiving their |
| 20 | PSFA to join in this project, and they can get this | 20 | services through the district, there are needs |
| 21 | free support to actually apply and get funding. | 21 | within the school that can be funded through |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. I just have a | 22 | Category 2 of eRate, which is the equipment |
| 23 | question. With the eRate -- because I'm somewhat | 23 | necessary to take advantage of the connections |
| 24 | familiar with it, if it hasn't changed much in the | 24 | available. |
| 25 | last five years. | 25 | So, yes, any school -- really, I would |
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| 1 | But the schools that don't have a really | 1 | encourage all schools to participate and take |
| 2 | strong IT person, it's going to be harder for them | 2 | advantage of this opportunity, because there |
| 3 | to lift that up. But is Xfinity -- there's an | 3 | certainly is some discounted availability. |
| 4 | Xfinity rep locally, I think, that would work with | 4 | And, in the past, it hasn't been worth the |
| 5 | that, since they're the monopoly for most broadband. | 5 | schools' efforts, because they don't have to pay |
| 6 | I think there is an Xfinity rep that can be looped | 6 | those experts to do the work for the amount of |
| 7 | into that process statewide. | 7 | reimbursement they might get; where, in this case, |
| 8 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: I would like to get | 8 | with it being free to them, then -- with the State |
| 9 | that information and share that with the team, | 9 | support, then we can really help boost up their |
| 10 | Commissioner Voigt. Thank you. I know we typically | 10 | infrastructure as well as their connections, if |
| 11 | don't involve vendors in these conversations because | 11 | necessary. |
| 12 | they need to do the RFP process, and we have to be | 12 | THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 13 | careful about procurement law. | 13 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Madam Chair, the |
| 14 | But, certainly, I'm sure there's a way to | 14 | other thing with the eRate is with many schools in |
| 15 | loop them into some parts of it. I'm just thrilled | 15 | leased facilities, obviously, they can buy equipment |
| 16 | because the folks from DOIT and PSFA are providing | 16 | that they can move. |
| 17 | technical review of what's existing there and | 17 | But any permanent installations they won't |
| 18 | providing advice in terms of what's available and | 18 | use that eRate money, they'll have to get the |
| 19 | what they should be seeking. | 19 | landlord to fund that. So that's one of the other |
| 20 | And then the Solix contractor is adding to | 20 | caveats. |
| 21 | that and then helping them with the actual process. | 21 | But if they're in owned, you know, |
| 22 | So there really is a lot of support for the schools. | 22 | permanent buildings, things like that, that's where |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Is that contractor | 23 | they can go ahead and use these funds, or, you know, |
| 24 | in-state or out of the state? Solix. | 24 | facilities. But if they're paying a lease rate, |
| 25 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: I'm going to have to | 25 | then they can't use the funds. |


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| 1 | And that's one of the limiting factors | 1 | Implementation Year training and submissions. We |
| 2 | also that some of the smaller schools, they're | 2 | have one school, ACES Technical High School. |
| 3 | leasing facilities, so they can't really make -- | 3 | Dr. Campbell has been very, very proactive on |
| 4 | avail themselves of the eRate and the funding that's | 4 | getting in information to us. He made the deadline |
| 5 | available. Some of it goes unused from year to | 5 | on all the information that was expected, November |
| 6 | year. | 6 | the 15th. |
| 7 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. | 7 | Our team, Megan, especially, has reviewed |
| 8 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Madam Chair, | 8 | and provided feedback to Dr. Campbell earlier this |
| 9 | mention of the Commission, I -- I wanted to share -- | 9 | week. And so I just wanted to share that. |
| 10 | just to put a little pin in the eRate. In my | 10 | That's -- I'm really pleased to share that he's been |
| 11 | previous job with NACA Inspired Schools, this was a | 11 | on track, and I think that he probably would -- |
| 12 | game-changer. | 12 | THE CHAIR: I'm not surprised. |
| 13 | The reason you don't hear any of the NACA | 13 | MR. ALAN BRAUER: -- he probably would |
| 14 | schools on there is we started a consortium with | 14 | complete the entire Implementation Year Checklists |
| 15 | eRate a couple of years ago, where it was -- I got | 15 | before the holiday break if he could. We appreciate |
| 16 | my education about how much it costs to put fiber | 16 | that. We appreciate his efforts, for sure. |
| 17 | optics into the ground and to get a school off the | 17 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: I just want to add a |
| 18 | ground. | 18 | couple of things. One is he submits it quickly and |
| 19 | And it saved -- DEAP Charter School is a | 19 | wants us to renew it. But we are so short-staffed |
| 20 | great example. It went from thousands of dollars a | 20 | that we have to say -- we have to schedule a time |
| 21 | month for service to hundreds of dollars a month for | 21 | when we can do that. |
| 22 | service. | 22 | He did have it in early and wanted us to |
| 23 | And a lot of the communities where our | 23 | review it as early as possible. I also wanted to |
| 24 | charters are, there are the public schools that have | 24 | acknowledge that Missy Brown did help Megan Maestas |
| 25 | a certain type of fiber optics or style of -- of | 25 | read some of the review, too. |
|  | Page 1146 |  | Page 1148 |
| 1 | internet connectivity, and then when you bring in | 1 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. |
| 2 | new buildings, especially our schools who are doing | 2 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: Thank you for |
| 3 | new builds, you can't just plug in on that. | 3 | that. Sorry to give you short shift there, Missy. |
| 4 | And so there is inequity in the same | 4 | And with that, governing board concerns, I |
| 5 | community, where I'll use -- in my other current job | 5 | think that we cleared here -- |
| 6 | with working with -- with the Indigenous Education | 6 | THE CHAIR: We cleared Tierra Adentro. |
| 7 | Initiative, there's some communities across the | 7 | ACTING DIRECTOR BRAUER: They're in |
| 8 | state, especially on tribal lands, where the | 8 | compliance with that. That's all we got. Thank you |
| 9 | inequity is even stronger. Tohatchi, New Mexico in | 9 | very much. |
| 10 | Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Tohatchi has an | 10 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. So, very quickly, |
| 11 | elementary, middle, and high school. | 11 | just as we're talking about Implementation Year, |
| 12 | They -- GMCS has eRate, and they pay about | 12 | has -- there has been the reach-out to the new and |
| 13 | \$2,000 a month per school for internet service. | 13 | newer schools, because, January work session, |
| 14 | Chuska Community School, which is a Bureau of Indian | 14 | looking at what, if any, changes we need to make on |
| 15 | Education school that's a mile away -- they're a | 15 | the new application. |
| 16 | completely different set of wires and tubes -- | 16 | And Dr. Campbell, in particular, expressed |
| 17 | \$20,000 a month is what they pay. | 17 | some frustration with some of the wording and |
| 18 | And so that is at a very extreme version | 18 | requirements in the new application. So we invited |
| 19 | of inequity. But this is, to Karen's point, it | 19 | him, plus several of the newer applicants to have a |
| 20 | really is such a great opportunity, and it's worth | 20 | conversation with us to see how -- what we might |
| 21 | the paperwork and the work that needs to go into | 21 | need to do to make the change. So that's on the |
| 22 | this effort; because it really does make a | 22 | January work session. |
| 23 | difference, especially at this moment where we are | 23 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Confusion to some |
| 24 | with every dollar counting for our charters. | 24 | parts? |
| 25 | I wanted to give a quick update on | 25 | THE CHAIR: Yeah. Yeah. |


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| 1 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Okay. | 1 | speaking. |
| 2 | THE CHAIR: Because you know what it was? | 2 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Fast. |
| 3 | If you remember the Community Input hearing we had, | 3 | THE CHAIR: Fast and -- but I will tell |
| 4 | and a number of us expressed that the school that | 4 | you, the one thing I really got out was they don't |
| 5 | presented themselves to us was not the school that | 5 | like the food, so -- because that was universal with |
| 6 | we read, and what can we do to make sure that | 6 | everyone. |
| 7 | there's not that disconnect, that is there some | 7 | But besides that -- and you did see in |
| 8 | confusion in what we're asking. And, therefore, he | 8 | your Consent Agenda that there was the resignation |
| 9 | provided information that really didn't show the | 9 | by the head administrator. So that's not |
| 10 | story that they absolutely showed us when they came | 10 | coincidental. |
| 11 | to the Community Input. | 11 | So that being said, I also had an |
| 12 | So what can we do to make sure that the | 12 | opportunity to go to a meeting that was between |
| 13 | process -- and he expressed frustration in answering | 13 | governance council members of Dolores Huerta and |
| 14 | when he filled out the application. | 14 | Las Montañas. So it was an interesting -- it was an |
| 15 | So what might we do to make that whole | 15 | interesting meeting, and I appreciate always having |
| 16 | process easier and clearer? | 16 | the opportunity to meet folks from those schools. |
| 17 | So that's -- hopefully, they'll be able | 17 | So that's all I'm going to say about that right now. |
| 18 | to -- some will be able to come. | 18 | This past Tuesday, I did have the |
| 19 | MS. KAREN WOERNER: Madam Chair, yes. The | 19 | opportunity -- an invite was extended by the Cabinet |
| 20 | invitations did go out to all that applied last | 20 | Secretary to speak about the budget. So that's |
| 21 | year, per your instructions. And Dr. Campbell | 21 | where I went Tuesday morning when I left. |
| 22 | responded very quickly he plans to attend. And | 22 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Our budget? |
| 23 | Dr. Cata expressed an interest in attending. But I | 23 | THE CHAIR: Our budget. So we had, I |
| 24 | have not heard from any of the others. | 24 | think, a pretty decent conversation. I'm still |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Interesting. | 25 | cau- -- very cautious. But the lines of |
|  | Page 1150 |  | Page 1152 |
| 1 | And I'll leave it at that. | 1 | communication are open, and I want to thank the |
| 2 | So I'm going to make this as quick as I | 2 | Director for helping to enable those lines of |
| 3 | can, so I'll probably forget things. But that's | 3 | communication. |
| 4 | okay. | 4 | We had an opportunity to talk a little bit |
| 5 | We had a lot of conversations this past | 5 | about -- related to the budget -- about what we |
| 6 | month to get us to today, simply because of the -- | 6 | would like to be able to do as a support system as |
| 7 | the concern over the data not being available. | 7 | the Commission. |
| 8 | So I spent a lot of time on the phone with | 8 | So I appreciate that. And I think we |
| 9 | Ami, with Alan, texting Executive Committee, to get | 9 | anticipate that the conversation is going to |
| 10 | us to this place. And I think it was the best thing | 10 | continue. |
| 11 | that we could do for what we had. | 11 | He had a couple of questions about the |
| 12 | So -- and I don't think, after a few early | 12 | budget that I answered and provided him additional |
| 13 | conversations, and we did have a conversation with | 13 | answers for. So we'll see where that goes from -- |
| 14 | Matthews Fox, because they did represent the largest | 14 | from there. |
| 15 | number of schools. What was it? 15 of the 19, I | 15 | We're engaged in conversations over -- |
| 16 | think. So to get us hopefully to this good place. | 16 | Explore Academy has applied to Albuquerque Public |
| 17 | So -- and I -- we were at least at a halfway decent | 17 | Schools for renewal. And you'll recall that we |
| 18 | place. So I appreciate everyone's time and effort | 18 | renewed their contract last year. So they're |
| 19 | with that. | 19 | currently under contract. So there's a -- there's a |
| 20 | I had an opportunity to go to a meeting | 20 | concern that's been raised. So there's a |
| 21 | that was asked by parent -- concerned parents at | 21 | conversation going on regarding that. |
| 22 | Dolores Huerta. And it was an interesting meeting, | 22 | So I'll keep you updated on that as that |
| 23 | also interesting because it was entirely in Spanish. | 23 | goes along. And I think -- |
| 24 | So I have to tell you my head hurt at the end of the | 24 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And that's a |
| 25 | meeting, because it was many different people | 25 | definite, the -- |


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| 1 | THE CHAIR: The application went in in | 1 | There were some redemptive stories: Las Montañas, |
| 2 | October, because it has to. Statute for renewals is | 2 | Albuquerque Bilingual Academy. |
| 3 | October. So, yeah. Yeah, that's a definite. | 3 | Those are good stories. And having |
| 4 | So I guess we're on to the Update from the | 4 | watched those for six, seven years and kind of |
| 5 | Coalition, or that other organization, Matt Pahl's | 5 | watched them at the ashes stage, and now I feel like |
| 6 | other organization. | 6 | they're rising out from that -- there's a feeling |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I think we | 7 | that there's a couple of other schools that are in |
| 8 | should keep "Coalition, " even though it's not its | 8 | their trough period, and we'll be able to celebrate |
| 9 | real name. | 9 | them much like we did, those couple of schools as |
| 10 | MR. MATT PAHL: Madam Chair, members of | 10 | well. |
| 11 | the Commission. | 11 | And that has to do with a lot of people, |
| 12 | THE CHAIR: We're also at fault, because | 12 | including yourselves, in setting the bar high for |
| 13 | it continues on the agenda as "the Coalition," not | 13 | those schools and those schools responding to it. |
| 14 | Public Charters of New Mexico. So we are guilty of | 14 | I think a thank-you to the Commission is |
| 15 | that as well. I apologize. | 15 | appropriate, and of course, Staff. It's a lot of |
| 16 | MR. MATT PAHL: I was just going to make | 16 | work. I think it was well-managed. |
| 17 | that request, actually, in our, you know, medium | 17 | You know, I don't see too many daggers in |
| 18 | term effort to fully change over to the new name. | 18 | your eyes. And I'm the last person between you and |
| 19 | We did have a presentation earlier today that even | 19 | your car. So I think most of the -- you guys manged |
| 20 | just that fight for knowing that charter schools are | 20 | your time well. |
| 21 | public, that's part of the reason why the name is | 21 | THE CHAIR: Joe Guillen actually is. |
| 22 | changing. It's to just make sure it's always | 22 | MR. MATT PAHL: Joe is being very gracious |
| 23 | associated with that. So it is important. But I am | 23 | in allowing you to go. But, no, it was |
| 24 | not -- | 24 | well-managed. And I gave the Chairwoman a call |
| 25 | THE CHAIR: Offended? | 25 | midweek just to note that I felt a lot of the |
|  | Page 1154 |  | Page 1156 |
| 1 | MR. MATT PAHL: Not offended and not -- I | 1 | conversation was focused on the performance |
| 2 | probably should be more rigid on this on making sure | 2 | framework. |
| 3 | people call us that. But that's not my style. | 3 | And there were years that that wasn't |
| 4 | THE CHAIR: May I just add in just a half | 4 | true, you know. There were years where we were |
| 5 | a second? Because when we're looking at so many of | 5 | talking about rumor. We were -- the foundation for |
| 6 | the parents and other supportive people that came up | 6 | what we're talking about is really rooted in the |
| 7 | to speak -- | 7 | contracts you have signed with our charter schools. |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Long, long week. | 8 | And the more we stick to that, the better clarity |
| 9 | THE CHAIR: -- to speak, so often, or | 9 | and management of our schools we have. |
| 10 | almost all the time, said, "My child went to the | 10 | So I just want to thank everybody. |
| 11 | public school, but now they're going here." | 11 | Because everybody is involved in that. So I really |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: And I corrected | 12 | appreciate all the work everybody has put in that. |
| 13 | them once, and then I -- | 13 | Madam Chair, you mentioned that you were |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: And it's like -- you know, | 14 | speaking with the Secretary about the budget. We -- |
| 15 | that's -- so when you said that, that's -- I -- it | 15 | I left for much of Tuesday morning to go see the |
| 16 | reminded me I wanted to say something about that. | 16 | budget presentation from PED. And that budget that |
| 17 | Yeah. | 17 | was proposed was -- it was a good presentation. |
| 18 | MR. MATT PAHL: Yeah. And it's | 18 | However, it leaves some space for -- for |
| 19 | interesting to hear the parents just say what their | 19 | new funding in it. It includes a 5.5 percent |
| 20 | perceptions of the schools were before they were | 20 | increase in above-the-line funding. But over half |
| 21 | able to engage. And so there's a lot of work to do | 21 | of that is taken by salary increases. |
| 22 | even after 20 years of being charters. | 22 | So we're looking at an SEG increase of |
| 23 | The one thing that was real noticeable | 23 | about 2.3 percent. For our schools that are losing |
| 24 | this week was just -- you know, I think everybody is | 24 | Small School Size Adjustment, that is going to be a |
| 25 | upping their game. You can see it in the schools. | 25 | major cut in funding next year. 2.3, 2.4 percent |


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| 1 | will not help those schools, and certainly won't | 1 | have cash that they can keep their programming |
| 2 | increase robust at-risk student funding the way it's | 2 | going. So next year is really the first year where |
| 3 | intended to. | 3 | people will really feel the hurt on this and have to |
| 4 | And so that will be something we'll be | 4 | change program for, for the fact that that decision |
| 5 | highlighting throughout the Legislative Session. | 5 | was made and the bill was signed. |
| 6 | We'll also be asking, you know, for any | 6 | So we will be looking at that very |
| 7 | salary increase for our educators, which is very | 7 | closely, and we will be both advocating for |
| 8 | appropriate. We really want to make sure that | 8 | additional above-the-line funds. We know that the |
| 9 | they're fully funded. Because if we have to take | 9 | LESC has proposed a budget that is a little closer |
| 10 | some of those at-risk funds to pay for salary | 10 | to 10 percent in new above-the-line funding. We |
| 11 | increases again, that 2.3 percent increase turns | 11 | like that. We think that allows our administrators |
| 12 | into $1.9,1.7$, whatever it may be. | 12 | to make decisions to actually implement the |
| 13 | And so we have to get into the | 13 | necessary steps to fulfill the Yazzie-Martinez |
| 14 | nitty-gritty there, because that has to do with how | 14 | decisions. Without that, it will be very difficult. |
| 15 | they estimate the amount of money needed to make a | 15 | Another thing we'll be looking at, funds |
| 16 | salary increase that way. | 16 | for facilities. We've been on this for a while. |
| 17 | From what I understand, in years past, a | 17 | I've liked the conversations in the interim. I |
| 18 | percentage increase is a little easier to estimate | 18 | think we have a shot at really making some long-term |
| 19 | than increasing the minimums for licensure levels. | 19 | changes in that to allow for more opportunities to |
| 20 | I think we've been closer to the mark, and everybody | 20 | receive long-term funding for facilities. |
| 21 | this year, LFC, LESC, and PED, are talking about | 21 | One thing that has been interesting in the |
| 22 | percentage increases and not increasing the minimum | 22 | public narrative around Yazzie-Martinez is there's a |
| 23 | licensure level salaries. | 23 | group that doesn't get mentioned as much as some of |
| 24 | That bodes well for the accuracy of the | 24 | the others. And that's students with disabilities. |
| 25 | estimates of the funds. So, hopefully, that funding | 25 | And it's been surprising that we haven't been |
|  | Page 1158 |  | Page 1160 |
| 1 | that is set aside outside of salaries is actually | 1 | talking about additional funding for our special |
| 2 | money that can be used for operations and for | 2 | education units in the funding formula. |
| 3 | programmatic choices at the school level. | 3 | It's also been illuminative for us that |
| 4 | We are finalizing our legislative | 4 | some charter schools that are locally authorized by |
| 5 | platform. I'm actually running up to Taos after | 5 | their district aren't receiving their full IDEA B |
| 6 | this to host a regional meeting with them. We have | 6 | funds. |
| 7 | the schools come together and provide feedback to | 7 | So when we talk about some of the |
| 8 | us. | 8 | practices of flowing through funds -- funds through |
| 9 | I want to highlight some of the things | 9 | a district, sometimes those practices mean that |
| 10 | we're hearing, because we will present on this next | 10 | schools are only getting 80 to 85 percent of the |
| 11 | week at LESC. And I'll be sure to send our | 11 | funds they would otherwise generate if they were |
| 12 | legislative platform to Bev and to Alan so that can | 12 | with the State. |
| 13 | be distributed to you-all when it's done. | 13 | That's a problem. Those -- those dollars |
| 14 | But I just note -- I noted a little bit | 14 | are meant for students, and students who were named |
| 15 | already. | 15 | in this lawsuit in which we found we weren't |
| 16 | Small School Size Adjustment going away. | 16 | providing services for. Special education funding |
| 17 | Year one, our schools could manage. They were able | 17 | is something that we'd like to shine a light on as |
| 18 | to reach into their cash reserves. 20 percent of | 18 | we move forward here, just to make sure we're |
| 19 | Small School Size Adjustment going away was | 19 | covering all the parties in the lawsuit. |
| 20 | something they could deal with. | 20 | The other thing I'll just note, the |
| 21 | This next year, it will be 40 percent of | 21 | restrictions we've seen in charters in the past we |
| 22 | that will be gone -- or -- sorry, 50 percent. We're | 22 | have no interest in following through on, whether |
| 23 | on a five-year phase-out. But Year Five is zero. | 23 | it's moratorium or statewide enrollment cap. |
| 24 | We're at 25 percent each year. So 50 percent of | 24 | There's a lot of creativity about how to restrict |
| 25 | Small School Size, I don't know how many people just | 25 | charters and how they operate. |


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| 1 | If you are not convinced that the system | 1 | into play. So kudos to the State for making that |
| 2 | can work as it is, I don't know where you were last | 2 | happen. That had been -- the conversations around |
| 3 | week. Our schools have really been improving. Our | 3 | that have been going on for years. I have been |
| 4 | authorizers have been improving. And I think the | 4 | asked to do it at one point in my current role. I |
| 5 | system is proving itself as one that is a good | 5 | didn't have time to learn that process and provide |
| 6 | add-on to public education in New Mexico and really | 6 | that service. |
| 7 | providing valuable services. | 7 | So it just makes sense to have a |
| 8 | I think every day had more than a handful | 8 | contractor that this is what they do is provide that |
| 9 | of stories about how schools are impacting students. | 9 | support. And, hopefully, we'll get more schools |
| 10 | And I'm just -- I can't get Tierra Adentro out of my | 10 | doing that work. |
| 11 | head here today, when they noted when they dive into | 11 | But the Realtime Data Pilot is |
| 12 | their data, "If a student sticks with us from sixth | 12 | something -- and I keep calling it a "pilot." The |
| 13 | grade to twelfth grade, we get them to where they're | 13 | proposal is that it's not a pilot, and this is the |
| 14 | supposed to be." | 14 | standard operating procedure moving forward here. |
| 15 | That's how long this takes. That's how | 15 | But it stands that we could save a lot of |
| 16 | far behind our students are. | 16 | administrative time that purely is administrative. |
| 17 | So restrictions like enrollment caps, like | 17 | And I think that would bode well for our charter |
| 18 | moratoriums, we're not in favor of, and we will | 18 | leaders' capacity and their leadership teams as they |
| 19 | subversively work against those during the session. | 19 | move into spaces where they're talking about growing |
| 20 | I noted fully funded salary increases | 20 | for the first time in 15 years, spaces where they're |
| 21 | earlier. The last one I'll note -- and this is | 21 | talking about how to work their budgets in a way |
| 22 | directly in line with the PED ask on this is the | 22 | that they haven't been in some time. |
| 23 | Realtime Data Pilot and making that a realtime data | 23 | I think additional administrative capacity |
| 24 | system. Four years ago, Kristi Martin was hired by | 24 | could really serve them well. So you'll receive a |
| 25 | the Thornburg Foundation to do an audit on our data | 25 | formulized document on what our legislative platform |
|  | Page 1162 |  | Page 1164 |
| 1 | systems. | 1 | looks like. But those are some of the things we're |
| 2 | Doesn't matter whether you're a school or | 2 | hearing so far. |
| 3 | here at PED, the 40th, 80th, and 120th days are | 3 | We have one more meeting in Taos and one |
| 4 | taking so much administrative time from people that | 4 | more in Albuquerque. So we'll get some feedback |
| 5 | have other work to do. It takes time away from our | 5 | there, and we'll move on and walk into the |
| 6 | schools, and it takes time away from staff here at | 6 | Legislative Session with a nice prioritized list. |
| 7 | PED. | 7 | We've really liked what we've got from our schools. |
| 8 | The idea behind this is to get rid of | 8 | So thank you, Madam Chair. |
| 9 | those milestones in which we do those massive | 9 | THE CHAIR: Thanks. And before you go, I |
| 10 | reviews and make the system live, so when changes | 10 | want to publicly thank you for the conference, |
| 11 | are made, they're validated in a 45 -second process | 11 | because, I know. It seems like -- |
| 12 | instead of all of those piling together to be a | 12 | MR. MATT PAHL: It seems like years ago. |
| 13 | many-hour process. | 13 | THE CHAIR: Didn't we have a meeting in |
| 14 | We think there's a lot of value in that | 14 | between then? But I don't think we have. You know, |
| 15 | for administrators of our charter schools that just | 15 | it's just like -- |
| 16 | have a lot going on. And eRate is a really good | 16 | MR. MATT PAHL: Madam Chair, if you -- if |
| 17 | example of it. Alan brought up some really good | 17 | I can, thank you to the PED. You guys showed up at |
| 18 | examples of how big eRate can be, that funding. | 18 | our conference and were some of the best-attended |
| 19 | Oftentimes it's not that big. And our | 19 | sessions. You were open. People really liked them. |
| 20 | charter school leaders are like the kings and queens | 20 | Thank you to the PEC. Thank all of you for being |
| 21 | of cost-benefit analysis. And when they think, | 21 | part of the conference. I had forgotten. That |
| 22 | "I've got to learn a new federal form to get 8,000 | 22 | really feels like many months ago; so... |
| 23 | bucks, I don't know." | 23 | THE CHAIR: It does, yeah. |
| 24 | There's always been just one missing | 24 | MR. MATT PAHL: But thank you. Really |
| 25 | capacity piece there. And that's where Solix comes | 25 | appreciate it. |

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. have a good feeling that they're making a positive move, because PEC has made a positive move with moving around from -- from "Gotcha," punishment phase, to, you know, things that are more transparent. They know what they need to accomplish. It's out in the open. We're willing to make changes if there's -- if they are confused, which was very hard to accomplish in the past. And it was a lot of frustration.

I am glad we have the staff that we have now, Madam Chair. And I hear stuff that they're proposing, and I get excited. That's what I can tell you today. I'm excited. Thank you, Alan. Some of this stuff is just awesome.

THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you.
Commissioner Armbruster?
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: There are six very quick, quick things. First of all, I want to remind people to put your -- any paper in this box, not in the blue bin, because a school wants it. So -- okay. So that's a quicky.

And I want to thank, as well, CSD again. And, Dylan, thank you for my parking, as always. And this is really -- Tim wanted to know, but I

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actually don't know. Somebody gave us a blue box of candy.
(A discussion was held off the record.)
COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Maybe you should
have placed the red candy from -- also, I don't know
where I got this notepad from. But it was truly
handy. This is not it, but it's somewhere. It was really handy. Do you have one of these? The little notepads?

So, anyway, it was really -- whoever gave it to me, thank you. Because it's always nice when you just want to have a sticky really quickly.

And, also, Alan, I believe, gave us all a card. Thank you. And I have Trish's, and I'm going to mail it to her.

And that's all I have to say.
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Commissioner Crone?
COMMISSIONER CRONE: There's still cake in
the conference room, a few pieces. So I don't want
to see any squabbling over what's left.
THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins?
COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Just to let you all know that final -- REMAC [ph] changes will be finalized next Thursday on the 19th. I'll be back

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up here next Tuesday for a PSCOC meeting. So I'm back again my last time before the holidays.

And on that note, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and it's been a pleasure serving with all the new members this year. I hope your first year was as beneficial and educational as it was for me last year. So thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Commissioner Voigt?
COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Directly following the Public Charter School of New Mexico's conference, I was fortunate enough to attend the Independent Charter School Symposium, thanks to the Public Education Department for picking up my registration for that.

That -- that group is a really important group of educational leaders in the charter field sector in the country. It was really awesome that Albuquerque could hold that national conference here. And the whole focus was about social justice and democracy in education. What a concept.

And this group was kind of a regurgitation of the former group called the Coalition of Essential Schools. And some of the original

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| 1 | thinkers behind community and small schools, like | 1 | And, you know, going back to your comments |
| 2 | Deborah Meier, was here in Albuquerque. | 2 | about, you know, "Hope we learned a lot in the first |
| 3 | So it was really an honor for Albuquerque | 3 | year," I'm always impressed when Patti says, "You |
| 4 | to host this. Plus, it was great to see a lot of | 4 | know, they were the first school that we |
| 5 | our charter schools facilitating panels, performing | 5 | authorized." |
| 6 | at the breakouts, being keynote speakers. | 6 | And I'm, like, "I don't even know -- I |
| 7 | So the involvement from our charter | 7 | don't even know these schools yet." |
| 8 | schools really was a bright spot for the country to | 8 | I'm always turning to Glenna, saying, |
| 9 | be part of that conference. | 9 | "Hey, where is this school from?" |
| 10 | On January 10th, Future Focus Education is | 10 | I couldn't even think back to where was |
| 11 | hosting a one-day conference. It's called "Educator | 11 | the first school we dealt with. But I'm glad you |
| 12 | Uprising." If anyone can make that, it's going to | 12 | do, because we need people to be able to keep |
| 13 | be a really -- it's going to be around policy and | 13 | things -- I'm just trying to get through this by the |
| 14 | assessment, but it's also going to really talk about | 14 | seat of my pants many times. |
| 15 | what do we want a graduate in New Mexico to look | 15 | But thank you for all of you and |
| 16 | like, but also what types of alternative assessments | 16 | everything that you do and -- because, again -- I |
| 17 | can these graduates utilize to demonstrate | 17 | said this earlier -- you know, I've been on this |
| 18 | proficiency. | 18 | kick to remind the adults that we've got to keep the |
| 19 | So I am going to be attending that. And | 19 | kids at the center of everything that we do. |
| 20 | it's January 10th. It's in Albuquerque. It's | 20 | And so thank you, all of you, for what you |
| 21 | called Educator Uprising, and it's Future-Focused | 21 | guys do. Thank you. |
| 22 | Education that's putting that on. | 22 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. Before everyone |
| 23 | And Happy Holidays. | 23 | takes off, Mark and Ami want to say something. |
| 24 | THE CHAIR: Commissioner Chavez? | 24 | MR. MARK CHAIKEN: Well, we just wanted to |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: I just want to echo | 25 | thank the Commission for the opportunity to continue |
|  | Page 1170 |  | Page 1172 |
| 1 | some of the things that have already been said. But | 1 | to serve you and wish you all a very Merry |
| 2 | thank you, Cindy and Trish, for the candy. I'm | 2 | Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a happy, healthy New |
| 3 | going to enjoy it on the way back home. | 3 | Year. |
| 4 | And I haven't opened my card. But whoever | 4 | THE CHAIR: Happy Holidays, everyone. |
| 5 | was responsible for the cards, thank you also. | 5 | Safe travels. |
| 6 | And I just want to say how impressed I was | 6 | Do I have a motion to adjourn? |
| 7 | with the schools. And I guess I need to say I | 7 | COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I move. |
| 8 | apologize I wasn't here for the whole week like some | 8 | COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Second. |
| 9 | of you guys were. But I really enjoyed the time I | 9 | THE CHAIR: All in favor? |
| 10 | was here, the three days that I was here, and | 10 | (Commissioners so indicate.) |
| 11 | listening to just the exciting things that are going | 11 | THE CHAIR: Safe travels. |
| 12 | on in our schools. | 12 | (Proceedings concluded at 2:56 p.m.) |
| 13 | And, you know, we -- we have, for a long | 13 |  |
| 14 | time, talked about, you know, proficiency and that | 14 |  |
| 15 | sort of thing. And it's important. And I still | 15 |  |
| 16 | believe in that. However, that's not the whole | 16 |  |
| 17 | picture. And I think a lot of our charter schools | 17 |  |
| 18 | are demonstrating success in other ways that we can | 18 |  |
| 19 | assess, you know, how successful they're being. | 19 |  |
| 20 | And so good -- those are good highlights | 20 |  |
| 21 | that I think that story needs to be told more, | 21 |  |
| 22 | especially as we continue to move forward; not just | 22 |  |
| 23 | for charter schools, but for traditional schools as | 23 |  |
| 24 | well. | 24 |  |
| 25 | And so thank you to everybody. | 25 |  |



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