

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

July 22, 2022

9:00 a.m.

300 Don Gaspar, Mabry Hall

Santa Fe, New Mexico

and

Via Zoom Webinar Video Teleconference

REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR #219

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1 APPEARANCES

2 COMMISSIONERS:

3 REBEKKA BURT, Chair

4 GLENNA VOIGT, Vice Chair

5 MELISSA ARMIJO, Secretary

6 STEVEN CARRILLO, Member

7 MICHAEL CHAVEZ, Member

8 GEORGINA DAVIS, Member

9 PATRICIA GIPSON, Member

10 KT MANIS, Member

11 DAVID ROBBINS, Member

12 MICHAEL TAYLOR, Member

13 PED STAFF:

14 CORINA CHAVEZ Director

15 Charter School/Options for

16 Parents and Families Division

17 BRIGETTE RUSSELL, Deputy Director, Options for

18 Parents and Families

19 MISSY BROWN Technical Assistance and Support and

20 Training Administrator

21 Charter School/Options for

22 Parents and Families Division

23 BEVERLY FRIEDMAN, Custodian of Record

24 Liaison to PEC

25 COUNSEL TO THE PEC:

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1 THE CHAIR: Good morning. It is

2 9:01 a.m., and I am going to call today's meeting to

3 order. If I could ask Secretary Armijo for roll

4 call.

5 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Good morning.

6 Roll call.

7 Commissioner Armijo is here.

8 Chair Burt.

9 THE CHAIR: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner

11 Carrillo.

12 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Here.

13 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez.

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Commissioner Davis.

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Here.

17 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson.

18 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Here.

19 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis.

20 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Here.

21 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner

22 Robbins.

23 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Here.

24 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

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5 Salute to the New Mexico Flag

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1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And Vice Chair

2 Voigt.

3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Here.

4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: We have a quorum of

5 eight.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you. If I could ask for

7 Commissioner Manis to lead us in the Pledge of

8 Allegiance, and Commissioner Carrillo in the Salute

9 to the New Mexico Flag.

10 Commissioner Manis, you're muted.

11 All right.

12 (The Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to

13 the New Mexico Flag conducted.)

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Item No. 2 is the

15 Approval of the Agenda. And I will move to approve

16 the agenda.

17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll second.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We have a motion

19 and a second. Any discussion?

20 (No response.)

21 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing none,

22 Secretary Armijo, if you can call roll.

23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes.

24 Chair Burt.

25 THE CHAIR: Yes.

6

1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner
 2 Carrillo.
 3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes.
 4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis.
 5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.
 6 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson.
 7 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes.
 8 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis.
 9 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes.
 10 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner
 11 Robbins.
 12 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.
 13 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor.
 14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
 15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Vice Chair Voigt.
 16 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.
 17 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, eight
 18 to zero -- wait -- yes. (Verbatim.)
 19 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: If I need to stop,
 20 I'll look at you and look at her, because she can't
 21 see me.
 22 THE CHAIR: All right. Next item is Open
 23 Forum. We do have two people signed up to speak.
 24 When I call your name, you can come up to
 25 the microphone -- actually, we have a microphone

7

1 here. Either one.
 2 If you'd like to sit, you can sit there,
 3 or there's a microphone by the stand you can stand
 4 at. And if you could limit your comments to two to
 5 three minutes, that would be appreciated.
 6 All right. The first is Angela Feathers.
 7 FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning. Good
 8 morning, Charter Directors. I am scared to death.
 9 I am here today to ask for help for
 10 La Tierra Montessori school. I never imagined that
 11 the last time that we were all together that I would
 12 be here in this -- in this setting. In the last
 13 month or so, our school has completely imploded. I
 14 feel like the more we speak out, the more
 15 retaliation we get.
 16 I'm worried about our children; I'm
 17 worried about the future of the school, and, most
 18 importantly, worried about my staff -- or not "my
 19 staff" anymore.
 20 As you know my contract was not renewed.
 21 I hear lots of things like, "Oh, Angela, you'll be
 22 fine. You'll get a job." I'm sure that's fine.
 23 But the future of Montessori in the
 24 Española Valley is in jeopardy. There are people
 25 that are scared to speak out right now. Anything

8

1 that we've tried to do to stop it has come with more
 2 retaliation, more bullying, more intimidation.
 3 Read our minutes. It's in the minutes.
 4 It's so obvious. And we continue to speak out --
 5 thank you. I'm so sorry. I really thought I was
 6 going to have it together this morning. I practiced
 7 this, I promise.
 8 We continue to speak out. We continue to
 9 whistle-blow. We continue to do whatever, and it
 10 just gets worse and worse. And I'm not really sure
 11 what else to do. So this is kind of our last-ditch
 12 effort.
 13 I know that you all are fair. I've been
 14 through enough of these meetings to see when other
 15 schools were in trouble, you were fair, you were
 16 precise. I have the utmost confidence that
 17 something can be done for our school, because I
 18 don't think it's going to last.
 19 So I appreciate you listening today. I
 20 know that there have been plenty of people that have
 21 sent information about it. It's almost like you're
 22 living in a nightmare or a movie. You can't even
 23 imagine what's going to happen next.
 24 I've been accused of horrible things.
 25 Those of you that know me know that I tattle on

9

1 myself. I call you guys and I tell you what's
 2 wrong. And I assure you that we did everything that
 3 we could to make that school amazing. And we had
 4 such a successful charter renewal. And to see
 5 what's going on now: Our children don't have
 6 lunches set up for the beginning of the year. There
 7 is no plan going on. Our teachers don't know what's
 8 going on.
 9 I have people saying, "I can't even drive
 10 up to the school because my stomach hurts so bad, I
 11 don't even want to go in."
 12 And that's not the place it was when we
 13 left it in June.
 14 And for what? For what? What is -- what
 15 is the reason?
 16 So I'm begging you, please, please help
 17 that school. Whether I'm there or not, please help
 18 that school. Thank you.
 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
 20 Our next speaker is Paul Krane.
 21 FROM THE FLOOR: Hello. Thank you,
 22 members of the Commission for hearing me. I'd just
 23 like to speak briefly to the effect that the
 24 board -- the board's actions have had on the staff
 25 of La Tierra Montessori. I know of -- I know of

10	<p>1 multiple people who are supposed to come in this</p> <p>2 year, wonderful talented people who plan to work at</p> <p>3 La Tierra this year who may not come at all because</p> <p>4 of the actions of this board.</p> <p>5 I know of several more people who may not</p> <p>6 stay past the current year with this board in place.</p> <p>7 I -- we are all very frightened. We do</p> <p>8 not feel that the board supports us. It feels at</p> <p>9 time- -- the board is actively hostile to the</p> <p>10 success of the school. And it's just -- it's really</p> <p>11 difficult to work here at this time.</p> <p>12 I -- I don't have much more to say other</p> <p>13 than that. We -- I -- I -- I am also scared to</p> <p>14 speak out today because of the retaliation that</p> <p>15 Angela Feathers just referenced.</p> <p>16 Please help us. Thanks.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>18 All right. That will move us to Item</p> <p>19 No. 4, which is the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>20 Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes. So having</p> <p>22 been online yesterday, it's difficult to hear. And</p> <p>23 I don't know if they can bump up the volume on those</p> <p>24 mics, because it's -- because they're directional.</p> <p>25 They're not omni-directional, because we have to,</p>	12	<p>1 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner</p> <p>5 Robbins.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo</p> <p>12 votes yes.</p> <p>13 And Chair Burt.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, nine to</p> <p>16 zero.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>18 All right. So that'll take us to Item</p> <p>19 No. 6, which is to meet new head administrators.</p> <p>20 And so I will pass that over to Director</p> <p>21 Chavez.</p> <p>22 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Good morning,</p> <p>23 Commissioners. Good morning, people who are tuned</p> <p>24 in to the meeting.</p> <p>25 I see two of the three head administrators</p>
11	<p>1 like, really -- but it was really difficult to hear</p> <p>2 yesterday when I was online.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Well, I can do</p> <p>5 this. But, still, I'm only hearing my voice. I</p> <p>6 don't feel like I'm hearing much more. But,</p> <p>7 anyway -- but when I was online at home, it was</p> <p>8 difficult. Just wanted you to know.</p> <p>9 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that.</p> <p>10 All right. Item No. 4 is the Consent</p> <p>11 Agenda. And I will move to approve the Consent</p> <p>12 Agenda.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Second.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion</p> <p>15 and a second.</p> <p>16 Any discussion?</p> <p>17 (No response.)</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: All right.</p> <p>19 Secretary Armijo, if you would call roll.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes.</p> <p>21 Chair Carrillo (verbatim).</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson.</p>	13	<p>1 listed for Item No. 6.</p> <p>2 We have Dr. Robert Jessen and Veronica</p> <p>3 Torres from The MASTERS Program and Tierra Adentro.</p> <p>4 I am not sure that Michael Brewer is in</p> <p>5 the audience. I don't see him. But, Michael, if</p> <p>6 you are, please raise your hand.</p> <p>7 And, meanwhile, we'll get started with the</p> <p>8 other two.</p> <p>9 So let's start with Veronica, who is</p> <p>10 actually one of the cofounders of Tierra Adentro.</p> <p>11 And she has served as a codirector and, recently,</p> <p>12 was named executive director.</p> <p>13 So Veronica, we are cheering you on, and</p> <p>14 say hello to the Commission. I will let you speak.</p> <p>15 MS. VERONICA TORRES: Good morning,</p> <p>16 Commissioners, and Charter School PED, members of</p> <p>17 the community. Thank you so much for having me</p> <p>18 today. I'm really excited for this new school year.</p> <p>19 I know many of you already. I have worked</p> <p>20 closely with many of you already. And a particular</p> <p>21 shout-out to Corina, because she was actually the</p> <p>22 one who helped us open Tierra Adentro back in 2010;</p> <p>23 so I feel like we've come full-circle.</p> <p>24 So I'm excited to be here. I'm excited to</p> <p>25 work with everybody and continue to work with</p>

14	<p>1 everyone. So thank you for having me today.</p> <p>2 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Awesome.</p> <p>3 And -- and so Dr. Robert Jessen is also in</p> <p>4 the audience. If he can be promoted to the panel,</p> <p>5 that would be great.</p> <p>6 And, again, if you're here, Michael</p> <p>7 Brewer, please raise your hand. I know that last</p> <p>8 week, we called all of the new head administrators.</p> <p>9 We let them know that they would be on the agenda,</p> <p>10 that the new -- that something that's kind of new</p> <p>11 and different is that we want, anytime that there is</p> <p>12 a new head administrator, to come to the PEC</p> <p>13 meeting. It's easy now because we have hybrid</p> <p>14 meetings. But just to come say hi.</p> <p>15 And folks know Veronica, and they also</p> <p>16 know Robert.</p> <p>17 So without further adieu, I'm going to</p> <p>18 turn it over to -- to Robert.</p> <p>19 DR. ROBERT JESSEN: Thank you very much,</p> <p>20 Commission. Hello, Commissioners of -- Corina.</p> <p>21 It's very exciting to be back in the saddle again</p> <p>22 after a year off and working with the State. The</p> <p>23 MASTERS Program is a very special school. When I</p> <p>24 attended the training conference at the end of last</p> <p>25 school year, I kept seeing panelists who were doing</p>	16	<p>1 today. We're really grateful for you to take the</p> <p>2 time to come say hi to us. And congratulations on</p> <p>3 your new positions, or your now lonely-at-the-top</p> <p>4 position, Ms. Torres.</p> <p>5 So thanks for taking on those roles.</p> <p>6 All right. That'll move us to Item</p> <p>7 No. 6 -- or, sorry -- item No. 7 which is Discussion</p> <p>8 and Possible Action on the Educational Program</p> <p>9 Change for McCurdy Charter School.</p> <p>10 Director Chavez.</p> <p>11 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yes. I see that</p> <p>12 Sarah Tario is in the audience. If she could be</p> <p>13 promoted to the panel as well.</p> <p>14 And I'm actually going to ask Deputy</p> <p>15 Director Dr. Russell to take this one.</p> <p>16 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Good morning,</p> <p>17 Chair Burt, Commissioners.</p> <p>18 McCurdy Charter School has submitted an</p> <p>19 amendment request to amend their educational</p> <p>20 program. They are removing the requirement for</p> <p>21 students to take financial literacy, but keeping the</p> <p>22 four math credits required, and they are changing</p> <p>23 the language in one section for a service learning</p> <p>24 course.</p> <p>25 The contract currently says "one hour,"</p>
15	<p>1 pilots at The MASTERS Program. So I'm very excited</p> <p>2 to be here, and I'm excited to work with the</p> <p>3 Commission.</p> <p>4 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Thank you,</p> <p>5 Dr. Jessen.</p> <p>6 Missy, has anybody raised their hand? I</p> <p>7 don't think Michael Brewer has made it to the</p> <p>8 meeting. And so we'll invite him again for the</p> <p>9 August meeting. He has been hired by the Raíces del</p> <p>10 Saber Xinachtli Community School as an interim head</p> <p>11 administrator.</p> <p>12 We sent out a letter, Commissioners, to</p> <p>13 all of the charter school head administrators and</p> <p>14 chairs of governing boards asking if they would let</p> <p>15 us know if there's a transition.</p> <p>16 This is a time, as we switch fiscal and</p> <p>17 school years, that contracts may change and new</p> <p>18 people -- people retire, people leave, and new</p> <p>19 people come in. And so I think there could</p> <p>20 potentially be some additional folks in August. But</p> <p>21 we'll just keep track of that and let you know and</p> <p>22 add to the agenda next month anybody that we learn</p> <p>23 of.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. All right. So</p> <p>25 thank you to our school leaders that joined us</p>	17	<p>1 and it should say "one credit." That's just cleanup</p> <p>2 language.</p> <p>3 They intended to -- to make this a</p> <p>4 one-credit-hour course, and the contract makes it</p> <p>5 look as though it's only a one-hour course.</p> <p>6 CSD recommends approving both changes.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>8 Yeah. Commissioner questions?</p> <p>9 Commissioner Voigt, and then Commissioner</p> <p>10 Carrillo, then Commissioner Robbins.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you,</p> <p>12 Madam Chair.</p> <p>13 I just have a question -- good morning,</p> <p>14 Sarah.</p> <p>15 What four math credits are going to be</p> <p>16 required? I know there's probably Algebra 1,</p> <p>17 Geometry, Algebra 2. What is that fourth one going</p> <p>18 to be?</p> <p>19 MS. SARAH TARIO: So the State of New</p> <p>20 Mexico requires four math credits. And the fourth</p> <p>21 one is really kind of an optional one. The one</p> <p>22 that's really stipulated by the State is Algebra 2,</p> <p>23 so that's obviously still required.</p> <p>24 Our high schoolers will take Algebra 1,</p> <p>25 Geometry, Algebra 2, and have an option on the</p>

18	<p>1 fourth credit to take a college credit, Financial 2 Lit. Most will take Financial Lit. They can take 3 Applied Math or a math lab. They have more options 4 this way, which is what the board really talked 5 about in their meeting and wanted to provide. 6 When we completed our negotiations, we had 7 included that Financial Lit, but they hadn't had 8 that full discussion yet. So once they had the 9 discussion, they just felt we wanted to make sure 10 not to limit students and give them the freedom to 11 choose that fourth math credit. 12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. I was 13 just curious. 14 With that, then, there's probably a 15 possibility for some dual credit. 16 MS. SARAH TARIO: Absolutely. Which is 17 what we want them to do. 18 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. Thank you so 19 much. 20 MS. SARAH TARIO: Of course. 21 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo. 22 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Hi, Ms. Tario. 23 It's nice to see you. 24 MS. SARAH TARIO: Nice to see you, too. 25 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: The -- so I</p>	20	<p>1 that. I'm glad you'll still offer Financial 2 Literacy. For those that are going on kind of a 3 math and engineering track, do you also have, as 4 part of your curriculum, available, like, 5 trigonometry or precal- -- calculus? 6 MS. SARAH TARIO: I wish I could say yes. 7 We would send a student to a college to take dual 8 credit for those courses if they were interested. 9 We did have it about three or four years ago. But 10 we have maybe five to six kids who are interested, 11 and we just don't have enough staff to cover that. 12 (Commissioner Chavez joins the meeting online.) 13 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I understand that. 14 The great thing is New Mexico -- the college there 15 is so close. 16 MS. SARAH TARIO: That is great, and 17 offers a lot of those options for us. 18 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: All-righty. Thank 19 you. 20 MS. SARAH TARIO: My pleasure. 21 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? 22 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, I am 23 personally concerned about eliminating from your 24 requirements the Financial Literacy. You know, it 25 was a unique kind of a leading-edge requirement that</p>
19	<p>1 remember -- and I don't know how it was resolved, 2 and probably somebody here at the table knows. 3 So the Legislature -- what was the action 4 that was taken regarding Financial Literacy or the 5 requirements for Algebra 2? I mean, is Algebra 2 6 now -- is it still a requirement as a math credit? 7 MS. SARAH TARIO: Yes. They haven't taken 8 action on that yet. They've talked about it. They 9 talked about making Financial Lit the requirement 10 instead of Algebra 2. They haven't made that 11 change. It's still Algebra 2 that's required. 12 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Thanks. That's 13 something that we should -- I don't know how others 14 feel, but that's something we should work with the 15 NMSBA on and all come together on that. 16 Because especially on the Financial 17 Literacy piece, all you've got to do is drive down 18 Riverside Drive and look at all the different title 19 loan places, all the different things where they're 20 giving money away, but people don't fully understand 21 what that compounded interest is going to end up 22 being, even in a month or -- so the Financial Lit -- 23 and I know you agree -- I want to look there, and I 24 want to look up there -- to agree on that. 25 So that -- thank you for letting me know</p>	21	<p>1 this school had. Taking it away while the 2 Legislature is considering making it a requirement, 3 I think is shortsighted, and I think it hurts 4 students, you know. 5 I took bookkeeping instead of financial 6 literacy. My father was a business owner when I was 7 in high school. So I learned about contracts and 8 all that type of stuff. 9 But most of our high school students, you 10 know, they don't get sufficient depth in math 11 education, you know. 12 Trig and calc, you know, I've heard 13 college professors say leave it to the college 14 professors to teach trig and calc, because at the 15 high school level these days, it is not in-depth 16 enough. And I've had reports that college 17 professors who had students that got A's and B's in 18 high school were flunking it in college because they 19 did not give them the basics. They just skirted the 20 top level. 21 But you know, financial literacy, I think 22 is so important. It's in the high -- a high-level 23 attention of the Legislature. It is something that 24 I think we realize when 70 percent -- roughly 25 70 percent -- of our students are on Free and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 Reduced lunches, those families are struggling. 2 You know, to me, it's doing a disservice 3 to the students. And it really kind of just puts 4 this school on par with any other school in terms of 5 their math. I really thought this school was kind 6 of pushing the envelope in requiring that. 7 And I'm sad. And, personally, I don't 8 agree with the removal of Financial Literacy. It's 9 just not a good move for the students. 10 Thank you. 11 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Manis? 12 COMMISSIONER MANIS: I would just like to 13 echo what Commissioner Robbins said. I think the 14 financial literacy piece is pretty important for all 15 of the reasons that he had mentioned. Thank you. 16 MS. SARAH TARIO: Can I just -- I'll just 17 say that I'm going to take those comments back to 18 the board. The financial literacy is something I 19 strongly believe our students need. I am highly 20 supportive of the Legislature changing that 21 requirement so that it's financial literacy instead 22 of Algebra 2. I think that meets the needs of 23 students better. 24 There might be an opportunity for us to 25 really think about another way to have financial</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 because anytime you're -- and you know this better 2 than anyone, Ms. Tario -- anytime you're making a 3 course mandatory, you're eliminating the chance for 4 an elective and something the kid might generally be 5 interested in and be relevant to what they might 6 want to pursue. 7 So, I mean, we'll see what happens with 8 the Legislature. And I really hope we can combine 9 forces with the NMSBA. Yeah. 10 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson. 11 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yeah. I think at 12 this point in time, it's -- I agree that financial 13 literacy is really important. But it's within the 14 school's autonomy to create the curriculum and abide 15 by State statute and PED rules. And they do. 16 So I don't really think we have the 17 ability -- the authority to say, "No, you can't do 18 that," at this moment in time, because they're not 19 violating any statute or PED rule. 20 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt. 21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you, 22 Madam Chair. 23 Yeah, I echo that. I feel this is the 24 school's decision. However, I do feel that 25 Algebra 2 is a gate-keeping course, and is not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 literacy be a requirement without making it be the 2 fourth math credit. I like that creative thinking, 3 so I will take those comments back to our board. 4 THE CHAIR: All right. If there's any 5 Commissioners -- I do see Commissioner Carrillo, but 6 I want to make sure, before we come back to you, if 7 there's anyone else who wants to speak for the first 8 time. 9 All right. Commissioner Carrillo. Oh. 10 And I do want to say I saw -- Commissioner Chavez 11 has joined. Good morning. 12 Commissioner Carrillo. 13 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: You know, it's 14 interesting, because I do agree with -- I feel like 15 I can't hear my -- I agree with Commissioner Manis 16 and Commissioner Robbins. 17 The challenge -- and you're still going to 18 offer financial literacy. It's just not going to 19 be -- so I would just say the children -- 20 children -- the high-schoolers, the kids, are 21 heavily encouraged to take that course because of 22 its importance. 23 And my challenge also sometimes -- and 24 this happens -- I feel like this about New Mexico 25 history, as well, being mandated in 4, 7, and 9,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 utilized, post-secondary even. Financial Literacy, 2 I see as a more useful course for everybody. But, 3 again, it is the -- it's the school's decision. 4 Thank you. 5 THE CHAIR: All right. I'll also say I 6 think Commissioner Gipson put it exactly correctly. 7 I think it's pretty clear-cut, you know. I do 8 see -- I think Commissioner Robbins' comment about 9 it maybe being a little shortsighted on the board 10 might be -- I'm glad to hear that you might take 11 that back to the board and just let them know that 12 it might be something -- if you pull it out this 13 year, you've got to put it right back in next year, 14 and maybe that's a little shortsighted. 15 But I, 100 percent, understand the 16 autonomy of the school, and I don't think this 17 impacts the mission of the school. And so it 18 doesn't seem within our purview to do anything but, 19 you know, allow the school to exercise its autonomy. 20 And so I'm happy to do that. 21 Commissioner Taylor? 22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you. Thank 23 you, Chair Burt. I just have a quick question. 24 Is it -- will it still be -- will 25 financial literacy still be a -- a math credit if</p>

26	<p>1 people -- if -- if the kids choose to take that</p> <p>2 class? So it'll still be --</p> <p>3 MS. SARAH TARIO: 100 percent, yes. And</p> <p>4 it's the preferred one -- you know, our staff is</p> <p>5 limited. We're a large charter, but still a small</p> <p>6 school. There's only two math teachers in the</p> <p>7 secondary level. So you really only get two choices</p> <p>8 of courses to take.</p> <p>9 And when you're a senior, Financial Lit is</p> <p>10 going to be the course that you would be assigned</p> <p>11 to, most likely, unless you're taking something at</p> <p>12 the college.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. SARAH TARIO: Yeah.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: All right.</p> <p>16 Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. If we're</p> <p>18 ready for a motion, I move that the Public Education</p> <p>19 Commission approve the educational program change</p> <p>20 for McCurdy Charter School.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Second.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion</p> <p>23 by Commissioner Voigt and a second by Commissioner</p> <p>24 Gipson.</p> <p>25 Any comment from Commissioners? Okay.</p>	28	<p>1 Chair Burt.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And Commissioner</p> <p>4 Carrillo.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, ten to</p> <p>7 zero.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>9 All right. The next item is --</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: See you,</p> <p>11 Ms. Tario.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: No. I was just</p> <p>14 saying, "See you, Ms. Tario."</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Thank you, Ms. Tario,</p> <p>16 for joining.</p> <p>17 All right. Item No. 8 is Discussion and</p> <p>18 Possible Action on Board of Finance Applications.</p> <p>19 And I will hand that over to Ms. Barnes.</p> <p>20 MS. JULIA BARNES: This is the two</p> <p>21 transitioning schools who are not Board of Finance</p> <p>22 at their -- at their district level, they are going</p> <p>23 to be a Board of Finance here. This will be rolled</p> <p>24 in, at a better timing level, next year with the new</p> <p>25 kind of transition-year process that will be put in</p>
27	<p>1 Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yeah. I'll make one.</p> <p>3 One last comment is I really hope that we can, as a</p> <p>4 whole, as a state, rethink that graduation</p> <p>5 requirement for Algebra 2.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing no other,</p> <p>7 Secretary Armijo, if you could call roll.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes.</p> <p>9 Commissioner Chavez.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner</p> <p>18 Robbins.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: A reluctant yes.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo</p> <p>25 votes yes.</p>	29	<p>1 place.</p> <p>2 Everything's there. Everything is ready.</p> <p>3 I see no problem with it.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: Director Chavez.</p> <p>5 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yeah. I just</p> <p>6 want to add that we do have Dr. Kim Hite-Pope in the</p> <p>7 audience, should the Commission want to promote her</p> <p>8 to the panel. But this is typically something</p> <p>9 that -- that State charter schools do in their</p> <p>10 Implementation Year is apply for a Board of Finance.</p> <p>11 If you are a local authorized charter school, you</p> <p>12 are a component unit of the district as the Board of</p> <p>13 Finance.</p> <p>14 So it's something new and different. So</p> <p>15 just so the Commissioners and the audience know that</p> <p>16 the team really has to recognize that when schools</p> <p>17 transition from being, like, locally authorized to</p> <p>18 being State-authorized, it's important that we guide</p> <p>19 them a lot more closely than what we did this year.</p> <p>20 So, next year, should you have some</p> <p>21 schools that renew with you from a district</p> <p>22 authorizer, you will have the Board of Finance</p> <p>23 before the change in the fiscal year. Thank you.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: All right.</p> <p>25 Questions from Commissioners first.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 Commissioner Robbins.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. I appreciate</p> <p>3 them going through this process and everything. One</p> <p>4 of the things that I think we all need to understand</p> <p>5 in that charter -- State charters need to</p> <p>6 understand, their audits become part of the PED</p> <p>7 audit.</p> <p>8 It's not right. I would like statute to</p> <p>9 be changed on that. But district charters are also</p> <p>10 part of the district audit.</p> <p>11 If -- if charters are going to be held</p> <p>12 fiscally responsible by their authorizer, there</p> <p>13 needs to be greater ability to provide financial</p> <p>14 oversight.</p> <p>15 PED has limited resources and staff to do</p> <p>16 that, and the PEC is greatly limited in its ability</p> <p>17 to do anything in terms of reviewing budgets and</p> <p>18 financial performance, other than if there is audit</p> <p>19 findings or malfeasance or fraud or things like</p> <p>20 that.</p> <p>21 So I would like statute to be changed to</p> <p>22 give the PEC greater authority, along with PED, to</p> <p>23 correct and require better financial performance</p> <p>24 when schools are not doing what they do.</p> <p>25 It's -- my comments have no reflection on</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 yeah, we are keeping track of those things.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Cool beans. Thank</p> <p>3 you.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing as there's</p> <p>5 no questions, I would entertain a motion on -- and</p> <p>6 we do need them one at a time.</p> <p>7 Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I move that the</p> <p>9 Public Education Commission approve the Board of</p> <p>10 Finance for Pecos Cyber Academy.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'll second.</p> <p>12 (The Chair consults with Counsel.)</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I'm sorry. What? I</p> <p>14 can't hear you.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Read the whole</p> <p>16 motion.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I don't have it up.</p> <p>18 I just made a motion. Sorry.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: I think there was a motion and</p> <p>20 a second. So if I could ask for that to be</p> <p>21 withdrawn?</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Sure. Someone's</p> <p>23 going to have to direct me to where the motions are.</p> <p>24 I don't see them.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: It's the top item of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 any current charter or on Pecos Connection Cyber</p> <p>2 Academy. It has nothing to do with what they've</p> <p>3 done in the past or will do in the future. I'm just</p> <p>4 putting it as a note that they become part of the</p> <p>5 PED audit. And it's incumbent upon every charter to</p> <p>6 make sure they're doing things correctly so it</p> <p>7 doesn't hurt the PED audit, and, as such, the</p> <p>8 State's audit.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: Any other questions from the</p> <p>11 Commission before I'll entertain a motion?</p> <p>12 All right. Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Thank you, David.</p> <p>14 And -- thank you, Commissioner Robbins.</p> <p>15 And what that does is it makes me think</p> <p>16 of -- do -- are we, as the PEC, or is there someone</p> <p>17 at CSD, that as we go through our meetings, we keep</p> <p>18 track of those things that become legislative</p> <p>19 priorities?</p> <p>20 Because, you know, we don't want these</p> <p>21 things to fall through the cracks when -- you know.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Yeah, Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>23 So Ms. Barnes and myself, we both write down and</p> <p>24 keep a list of things to add -- to maybe include in</p> <p>25 the MOU, to add to a legislative agenda. And so,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 meeting folder -- Commissioner Voigt does have it</p> <p>2 open right now.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I can make it.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Isn't --</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Sorry. It's not in</p> <p>6 the top of my folder. Sorry.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: Sorry. That's okay.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I'll remove the</p> <p>9 motion.</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner</p> <p>11 Gipson. Sorry about that.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'm keeping my</p> <p>13 second.</p> <p>14 I'm just kidding. Go on.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: There is no motion.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I move that the Pecos</p> <p>17 Connections Academy, Pecos Cyber Academy's governing</p> <p>18 board be approved as a Board of Finance, and that</p> <p>19 the Chair send a letter to the school indicating</p> <p>20 that the board is approved as a Board of Finance.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Second.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: All right. Thank</p> <p>23 you.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by</p> <p>25 Commissioner Voigt, a second by Chair Burt.</p>

34	<p>1 Any comments from the Commission? 2 (No response.) 3 THE CHAIR: All right. Hearing none, 4 Commissioner Armijo, if you can take roll. 5 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes. 6 Commissioner Davis. 7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. 8 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson. 9 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes. 10 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis. 11 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 13 Robbins. 14 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. 15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor. 16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Voigt. 18 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. 19 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo 20 votes yes. 21 Chair Burt. 22 THE CHAIR: Yes. 23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 24 Carrillo. 25 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes.</p>	36	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: All-righty. 2 Commissioner Gipson. 3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes. 4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis. 5 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 6 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 7 Robbins. 8 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. 9 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor. 10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Voigt. 12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. 13 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo 14 votes yes. 15 Chair Burt. 16 THE CHAIR: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 18 Carrillo. 19 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes. 20 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez. 21 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. 22 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And Commissioner 23 Davis. 24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. 25 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, ten to</p>
35	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez. 2 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. 3 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, ten to 4 zero. 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Secretary. 6 All right. And the next one for 7 Vista Grande High School. 8 Vice Chair Voigt. 9 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you, 10 Madam Chair. 11 I move that the Vista Grande High School's 12 governing board be approved as a Board of Finance, 13 and that the Chair send a letter to the school 14 indicating that the board is approved as a Board of 15 Finance. 16 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Second. 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion 18 by Commissioner Voigt and a second by Commissioner 19 Carrillo. 20 Any comments? 21 (No response.) 22 THE CHAIR: All right. Secretary Armijo. 23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Real quick, can you 24 tell me the name of the school again? 25 THE CHAIR: Vista Grande High School.</p>	37	<p>1 zero. 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 3 All right. That will move us to Item 4 No. 9. That's Discussion and Possible Action to 5 Place La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and 6 Sciences on the Intervention Ladder. 7 This agenda item is to identify if 8 La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and 9 Sciences is in compliance with legal requirements as 10 required by the contract, board assurances, and the 11 Organizational Performance Framework. 12 I want to remind PEC members that the PEC 13 does not play a role in any personnel issues, the 14 selection of a head administrator of a school, or in 15 the selection or retention of any board members. 16 Our role is to ensure that the school's 17 process for selection of a head administrator and/or 18 board members follows the requirements of law and 19 the school's bylaws. Unless there is an emergency 20 issue pending, if we vote to start the process today 21 related to the Intervention Ladder, we will provide 22 the school with written notice of the proposed 23 action, and the school will have the opportunity to 24 respond to this proposed action at the August PEC 25 meeting. The PEC can then take action at that</p>

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1 meeting in August.
 2 So this may be a multi-step process.
 3 I will now turn this item over to
 4 Ms. Barnes to identify the sections of the contract,
 5 law, and bylaws that may be relevant to the
 6 concerns, and then to Director Chavez to start the
 7 discussion.
 8 Ms. Barnes.
 9 MS. JULIA BARNES: So I wanted to start
 10 with the Intervention Ladder. The Intervention
 11 Ladder is still an attachment to the contract.
 12 We're working towards the Intervention Ladder being
 13 separate, but it's still -- so we're looking at
 14 La Tierra Montessori's new contract, because it's
 15 the new contract year.
 16 And this process, as Chair Burt just
 17 indicated, I don't see a way, unless there's an
 18 emergency, for it to be anything other than a
 19 two-step process.
 20 So the school has come today to give you
 21 all more information so that you can see what action
 22 you may want to take.
 23 And they have been notified that they
 24 would be on this agenda. But what's difficult for
 25 me to see how to do it in a one-step process is I'm

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1 not quite sure what concerns you'll have after this
 2 conversation. So we needed to have a conversation
 3 today.
 4 So the Director is going to bring forward
 5 information. The school is here ready to answer
 6 questions. And then you could do a motion.
 7 I'll just say the draft motion was drafted
 8 before we've heard this conversation, so I'm not
 9 sure where you want to go with it.
 10 There are two -- well, there are several
 11 levels to the Intervention Ladder, as you know.
 12 There is a Notice of Concern, which is the lowest
 13 level of the Intervention Ladder.
 14 And is -- and then there would be a Notice
 15 of an Intent to Issue a Notice of Concern, which you
 16 then might vote on in August, where you would
 17 establish expected outcomes and deadlines that must
 18 be met by the school. And the deadline established
 19 for correction must be -- shall be no less than ten
 20 days, including holidays and weekends, unless it's
 21 an emergency matter.
 22 So one opportunity is for you to put them
 23 on a Notice of Concern of -- I also think that even
 24 if things have been remedied, there could still be a
 25 Notice of Concern that you were concerned with the

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1 actions taken.
 2 The next level is Notice of Breach. And
 3 that moves towards a Corrective Action Plan in --
 4 probably, in the -- one of the Performance Framework
 5 sections. And that would detail the actions and
 6 timelines that the school will implement to correct
 7 the breach.
 8 Both of those notices, if they are
 9 corrected, the school is put back into good
 10 standing.
 11 Let me just go through a few things, and
 12 we can go back to them later on in the conversation.
 13 But I just went through the contract, and I went
 14 through their bylaws with things that might be
 15 relevant.
 16 The first one in the contract is Section
 17 2, Scope. "The charter school must maintain one or
 18 more charter representatives, including one charter
 19 representative who is a head administrator, and
 20 provide contract information to the Commission
 21 within 30 days of a change of a charter
 22 representative."
 23 We would be in that 30-day period now.
 24 The contract requires, under Governance,
 25 that the school "shall be governed by a governing

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1 body in a manner set forth with the school's
 2 bylaws."
 3 In that same action section on Governance,
 4 "The members of the governing board have a duty to
 5 comply with all provisions of this contract, all
 6 applicable laws without limitations, the Act, all
 7 regulations and reporting requirements," which would
 8 bring in the Open Meetings Act among other things.
 9 Continuing in that same section, "All
 10 members of the governing board shall sign a
 11 certificate...", which has happened in this case,
 12 "...certifying their compliance with all federal and
 13 state laws governing the organizational,
 14 programmatic, and financial requirements applicable
 15 to charter schools."
 16 Then they have agreed to an organizational
 17 framework and financial framework.
 18 So those -- those provisions, among
 19 others, lead you both to the Open Meetings Act,
 20 which could be discussed as well, and then to the
 21 bylaws.
 22 I just wanted to identify a few things in
 23 the bylaws that the school has agreed to. These are
 24 their amended bylaws.
 25 "Hire, discharge, and evaluate..."

<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>1 "The board must hire, discharge, and 2 evaluate the administrator. The administrator shall 3 be directly accountable to the governing council. 4 The day-to-day operations of the school will be the 5 responsibility of the administrator." 6 They delegate to the administrator "the 7 authority to implement the approved charter school 8 policies, procedures, facilities, plans, budget, and 9 other directives and policies adopted by the 10 governing council." Then, in bold, "The governing 11 council shall not be involved in the day-to-day 12 operations of the school." 13 The bylaws indicate that their governing 14 council shall be comprised of "no less than five, no 15 greater than nine voting members, which may 16 establish their quorum, based on the number that are 17 appointed at any given time." 18 And there's only a couple more. 19 The president -- "In the absence of the 20 president, the vice president shall serve as 21 chairperson of all meetings of the council." 22 The governing council members are -- 23 "...shall be up for election upon the completion of 24 their term..." during -- "...annually, during a 25 regularly scheduled governing council meeting --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">44</p> <p>1 introduce themselves. 2 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Would you like 3 them to introduce themselves right away? 4 THE CHAIR: I think so. 5 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: All right. Thank 6 you for being here, members of La Tierra Montessori. 7 I see that Chair Casados is here. If you could 8 introduce yourself and the folks that you brought 9 along with you. 10 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Good morning, Director 11 Chavez. Thank you so much, Chair. Thank you so 12 much, Commissioners. My name is Isaac Casados. I 13 am the new president of La Tierra Montessori School 14 as of the last week and a half. 15 We are pleased to be here today to kind of 16 speak about where La Tierra is, where we're moving 17 in a positive direction. 18 To my right is our new Head Learner. This 19 is Mr. Clifford Thompson, has a profound history 20 with the Española Public School system, has helped 21 Abiquiu Elementary School as well kind of prepare 22 for their next level of success. He kind of 23 encountered a similar situation where they had some 24 challenges there, and he was brought in and sent to 25 that school to help them in that process.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">43</p> <p>1 annual meeting." 2 And they shall -- "Election of officers 3 are held during the annual meeting, and the members 4 will serve appointments until the next annual 5 meeting." 6 They're allowed to -- to call a special 7 meeting. Under the Open Meetings Act, an agenda 8 will be made public and contain items of business 9 discussed. Public participation needs to be made 10 available. 11 They are allowed to do meetings by 12 telephone, but all participants -- all board members 13 and the public should be given notice of any 14 telephone meeting. 15 And a member's office may be revoked by a 16 majority of the council if the council determines 17 that the member is inadequately performing his or 18 her duties or overstepping the authority of the 19 office. The member is not removed from the 20 governing board. 21 And those may be any that sounded relevant 22 to information I have been told. I'm -- can turn it 23 over to Director Chavez. 24 THE CHAIR: All right. Director Chavez. 25 And then if you can also allow the school to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>1 Our vice president is Brenda Atencio. She 2 is from Ohkay Owingeh. She is one of our Native 3 American representatives from the tribe, being that 4 La Tierra sits on Ohkay Owingeh. And then Delisha 5 Gordon-Brown, who is our new secretary. We are 6 delighted to be here. Thank you. 7 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Thanks for the 8 introductions and welcome. 9 So, Commissioners, this is a really 10 difficult situation that my staff and I have been 11 addressing over the past several weeks as the school 12 was nearing the end of its fiscal year, and the head 13 administrator had not been offered a contract for 14 the next school year. 15 Similarly, the board has contacted my -- 16 my staff and asked for technical assistance and 17 support, as they were having a retreat and 18 questioning items that there were some disagreement 19 on the board about. 20 So I think that -- mostly, that there 21 is -- the tension related to disagreement on the 22 board caused a lot of action, several meetings, 23 several calls, several e-mails. 24 If you are looking in your materials, you 25 will see that Item No. 9 -- and it is posted to the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">46</p> <p>1 website -- has a recap of all of the motions in 2 chronological order that tell the story. There's 3 also links to the board's minutes and agendas, where 4 possible. The bylaws that Counselor Barnes led us 5 through are also linked for your information. So 6 you can see the current bylaws that the school has 7 in place.</p> <p>8 I know that the items that we are most 9 concerned about are whether or not the school has 10 violated the Open Meetings Act. And although there 11 has been some accusations of that for the way that 12 they hold meetings, we have -- we have asked them to 13 work very closely with their counsel to ensure that 14 they are meeting Open Meetings Act.</p> <p>15 One of the things that we can verify is 16 that there is no current annual Open Meetings Act 17 statement on the website. As you know, every year, 18 a board takes action, through a resolution, that 19 says when they will meet, at what time, where, and 20 how the public can gain access. There is one on the 21 website, but it's expired.</p> <p>22 So that, I can certainly verify.</p> <p>23 As to whether or not there were other 24 violations of Open Meetings Act, I wouldn't pinpoint 25 anything in particular. Maybe our counsel -- if you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">48</p> <p>1 questions around how do we process financial 2 payments and other school business. So that was 3 disruptive.</p> <p>4 However, early on in the fiscal year, I 5 would say -- let's see. We chronicled it here. On 6 July 8th, I held a meeting with the chair at the 7 time, Chair Williams, and Vice Chair Casados, and 8 some other staff members on my team, to let them 9 know how very concerned we were about the fact that 10 they were starting a new school year without a head 11 administrator in place, to let them know that they 12 would be asked to come before the Public Education 13 Commission, and to strongly recommend that they have 14 a head administrator in place by today, which they 15 have put in place.</p> <p>16 If you'll look at the notes, you'll see 17 that on the 18th, the board met as scheduled, and 18 they hired a head administrator who's here today.</p> <p>19 So that part of the concerns, the vote was 20 consistent with the school's bylaws. We know that 21 the board is the entity that selects the head 22 administrator. And so I don't see an issue there, 23 other than it was late, and it was disruptive to 24 staff, because there was not an identified head 25 administrator in place.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">47</p> <p>1 want to go down that road. But, actually, the 2 guidance to the school was they should work closely 3 with their counsel to make sure they're doing that. 4 And I would not say that prior to every meeting, I 5 was checking into their website to verify, you know, 6 the days that their agenda was posted, that sort of 7 thing. When we did, it seemed appropriate.</p> <p>8 I attended one of the meetings that they 9 held myself. And I know that there was genuine 10 effort to be concerned about and follow the 11 protocols that are required.</p> <p>12 The second item on your agenda talks about 13 the head administrator status for '22-'23, and to 14 ensure that there was a vote consistent with the 15 school bylaws.</p> <p>16 The school staff came to us because there 17 was no head administrator slated to be in place by 18 the beginning of the fiscal year. And this -- this 19 caused a lot of uncertainty. And there were other 20 feelings associated with it. And any time there's a 21 transition in staff, there are feelings. There's 22 confusion.</p> <p>23 The school was not timely in identifying a 24 head administrator at the beginning of the -- the 25 new fiscal year. And so that did cause some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">49</p> <p>1 Staff was uncertain how to act without the 2 head administrator. And when I asked what their 3 financial policies and procedures were, there was 4 still some uncertainty. So I think that that's an 5 area that -- I know at the meeting that was held on 6 the 18th, there was a discussion on the board to 7 talk about reviewing policies and procedures to make 8 sure that they were on the up and up, and, 9 hopefully, that there's a contingency plan should 10 the head administrator not be available to direct 11 staff, that there's a -- an alternate signatory on 12 the financial documents that need to be processed.</p> <p>13 Item 6 -- I mean C -- for this item talks 14 about notification to the PEC of governing board 15 member changes and confirming the status of training 16 requirements for members.</p> <p>17 We did an inventory of board member 18 training. There was a lot of transition on the 19 board. But we were able to document that there was 20 a trend of late submissions. Three board members 21 changed, and we did not get the information in a 22 timely way.</p> <p>23 There were incomplete submissions. And we 24 made several requests to the school for those 25 documents for each of those amendments. So I would</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">50</p> <p>1 say that there's a non-compliance trend that the 2 school has exhibited and that we have documented. 3 I won't go through all of the items, just 4 to say that, you know, my general takeaway is that 5 it felt rather chaotic, that there's disagreement. 6 I was not getting in the middle of the, you know, 7 the personnel issues, respecting the right of the 8 board to make the decision, and nor was I getting in 9 the middle of who should be chair, who should not be 10 chair. That is, again, the -- the actions of the 11 board. 12 But I do feel like with the last board 13 meeting that is listed here, on the 18th, that I 14 attended, it felt like there was a little bit 15 more -- a little bit more structure that would -- 16 that would be needed for the school to carry forth 17 in a way that it should, following its bylaws, the 18 charter, and -- and the actions that the board 19 should be making. 20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Director Chavez. I 21 do want to point out -- I'm going to come to you. I 22 would love to give you all the opportunity to talk. 23 I do want to also point out that we do have Willie 24 Williams online as well. So I'll make sure that 25 Willie is given the opportunity to speak as well. I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">52</p> <p>1 are able to succeed at every possible opportunity 2 that they can. 3 As far as the reason why our former Head 4 Learner was not offered a new contract -- and, yeah, 5 thankfully, it's -- it's something that we as a 6 board discussed within executive session -- there 7 were challenges. And we came to a decision that it 8 would best be -- be best for us to move in an 9 alternative direction. 10 We were in consultation with Missy. We 11 were in consultation with Dylan. We were in 12 consultation with Ms. Chavez, with the assistant 13 deputy director, with our attorney, to make sure 14 that we followed the appropriate measures to ensure 15 that we navigated in a more positive direction. 16 Our goal is to ensure that, as I said, 17 the -- the vision, that Prairie and Representative 18 Montoya first had when they first envisioned this 19 school is upheld to ensure that Montessori education 20 not only is advanced, but also opens up the door for 21 our students in ways that is -- is pretty 22 impressive. 23 The board that is now comprised has felt 24 that we had a limitation of information, 25 specifically in the development of our budget, in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">51</p> <p>1 think you can see me, Willie, and I can see that 2 your hand is up. And I will call on you shortly. 3 Okay. Mr. Casados, I will pass it over to 4 you. 5 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Well, good morning, 6 Madam Chair. Thank you, Commissioners. So I think 7 we heard an impassioned statement from our former 8 Head Learner previously, and kind of making 9 accusations that lunches were not being fulfilled, 10 that the board has taken an alternative course 11 beyond Montessori. That could be -- led to a former 12 Head Learner who's on her way out. 13 The board has always focused on the idea 14 of Prairie Boulmier and Representative Roger 15 Montoya's key mission of ensuring that there is a 16 Montessori school within the Greater Española Area 17 that provides opportunity to our students that 18 otherwise they can't get from the Española Public 19 school system. Even though that we are a public 20 school, this provides an opportunity for students 21 who are from marginalized communities. 22 Just as Commissioner Carrillo said, we 23 have a community that is marginally ethnic, 24 marginally in poverty-stricken conditions. And it 25 is our intentionality to ensure that those students</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">53</p> <p>1 the development of even our charter process. There 2 was not a lot of information that was being given 3 from the former chair to our board. 4 And in the development of our budget, we 5 have some key issues that we're having now to 6 address with the Mike Vigil Group, our financial 7 manager, to really figure out where were items being 8 spent, how were salaries being inflated to -- in 9 some instances, \$90,000. I don't know of any 10 teacher -- my mother was an educator for 37 years 11 and a principal, and had she ever made \$90-some 12 thousand dollars a year plus, we'd have some 13 questions. 14 So the question now is, is our new board 15 has really focused on the idea of how do we build 16 some sort of -- of calmness? How do we ensure that 17 we now give the reins to our new Head Learner, who 18 comes with a world of experience, and be able to 19 provide him the resources, both in bylaw, both in 20 our -- our governing policy, as well as budgetary 21 authority so that he has now the opportunity to 22 provide staff that can accommodate where our 23 students are? 24 This is a really exciting part is we have 25 now gone from 86 students with a potential of up to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">54</p> <p>1 115 students, a huge swell in increase in students 2 that are now interested in coming to La Tierra. 3 In addition, we've had a number of 4 minority teachers who have now begun to apply to 5 La Tierra because they feel that the environment is 6 now conducive for them to now enter into that 7 environment. 8 That was one of the areas that, when we 9 were beginning this conversation with Mr. Thompson, 10 I said, you know, "We are in a community that is 11 richly diverse in culture and tradition, that is 12 representative of both Hispanic, Native American, 13 African-American, Caucasian communities. And we 14 need to make sure our teaching staff looks just like 15 our students." 16 I went to Santa Fe Indian School, and had 17 I not had Native American teachers at the Santa Fe 18 Indian School when I was in high school, I probably 19 would have felt a little out of place. 20 And so we want to ensure that our school 21 community represents who our student body is. We 22 want to ensure that the curriculum that we are now 23 entrusting with Mr. Thompson through this new 24 instructional plan that was put forth is carried out 25 in a way that is not only sensitive to where</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">56</p> <p>1 not have the time to properly review documents to be 2 able to ask questions. And when we did ask 3 questions, we were hit with resistance immediately, 4 from the previous chair as well as the previous Head 5 Learner. 6 And as a board member, that was concerning 7 to me, because I was supposed to be making decisions 8 for the betterment of the school, but was not 9 allowed to truly review documents so that I could 10 come prepared and ask any questions that I may have. 11 And as the board we are now, our last two 12 meetings have been so productive. We have gotten 13 positive feedback from parents, just saying, "That 14 was the best meeting I have seen this board have in 15 the past several months." 16 And to me, that is so good to hear, 17 because our parents are finally seeing progress. 18 They're finally seeing a board that is willing to 19 work together and move forward together to create a 20 better environment for our students, as well as our 21 staff. 22 And we did discuss that in this last 23 meeting, that we would love to meet with our staff 24 to sit down and talk to our staff and truly 25 introduce ourselves, because we weren't allowed that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">55</p> <p>1 Yazzie/Martinez is today, but ensures that we 2 achieve those ultimate results, because they are in 3 a community of interest where Yazzie/Martinez 4 matters the most. 5 So with that, I will step back, and I will 6 allow the vice president to go ahead and speak about 7 where her feelings are. And then we can kind of go 8 from there. Thank you. If you would employ -- 9 okay, thanks. 10 THE CHAIR: Yes, please. 11 MS. BRENDA ATENCIO: Good morning. 12 (Native language spoken). My native language. 13 Thank you for having us here today. I am really 14 excited for the direction that we as a board are now 15 moving towards. 16 I know that Angela had mentioned about our 17 meeting minutes. If you would look at our meeting 18 minutes for the last several months, you would see 19 the chaos. You would see the chaos within our -- 20 our board, and just the fact that we were unable to 21 move forward in a positive way. 22 And a lot of it was not knowing what was 23 happening at the school, because we were not being 24 informed. We were being told, while in meeting, of 25 certain documents that required approval, and we did</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">57</p> <p>1 before. It almost seemed as if we were being told, 2 "Oh. By the way, we're having an event tonight. 3 Come if you can." 4 So a lot of our notices were so 5 last-minute that we really didn't have the 6 opportunity to truly engage. 7 And I feel the group that we are now, I 8 think we're ready for that. And I'm just thankful 9 for the opportunity to serve La Tierra, because it 10 is a beautiful school. And I know that we can make 11 this school the school that it once was with the 12 board that we currently have in place. 13 Thank you. 14 MS. DELISHA GORDON-BROWN: Good morning, 15 everybody. I am Delisha Gordon-Brown recently 16 elected to the Secretary position. I'm still a baby 17 member of the board. I was recruited in November 18 2011 before I even moved back to New Mexico. 19 So I joined in January, and, in the 20 process, was downsizing my home, moving back to 21 New Mexico from California. I was recruited for -- 22 I'm -- let me go a little back. 23 Ms. Williams is a family friend. I met 24 her through a family function -- or a function she 25 was holding. And so when I came to this board, I</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>1 had a little bit of a personal connection through my 2 experience in just the last six months. However, I 3 realize that personal is not the place to keep my 4 feelings in this board. It is very distracting. 5 And that was proven the first couple of months when 6 I realized I was almost being manipulated into 7 making decisions that were not my own. 8 I came onto this board actually against 9 the two of my cohorts next to me. And it was after 10 our retreat, when I was able to have a "Come to 11 Jesus" moment and let them know what I thought, that 12 we developed a better working and business 13 relationship. 14 And I realized that manipulation is true, 15 it is strong, and it was evident after seeing that 16 there was so much wrong being done. 17 I have a finance and accounting 18 background. I have worked in higher education and 19 nonprofit. And I am a very strict steward of public 20 money. I do not like seeing money being mistreated 21 when it's hard-paying -- hard-working taxpayers' 22 money, especially in the education world. And I 23 have questions. 24 And so with every intention of renewing 25 our former Head Learner's contract two, three months</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">60</p> <p>1 career, starting a brand new job, less than two 2 months ago, and I'm taking a day off to be here, and 3 while I'm pursuing my Master's. 4 So I am absolutely here for the students. 5 I am here for the school and for the community. 6 Because if this had existed -- if La Tierra had 7 existed 22 years ago, maybe I never left the Valley. 8 Thank you. 9 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Actually, before I 10 go to you as the Head Learner, I'm going to go to 11 Ms. Williams next. 12 Okay. Ms. Williams, the -- you -- the 13 floor is yours. 14 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Good morning, good 15 morning, good morning. I just want to thank you all 16 for having the opportunity to serve as the school 17 board president of La Tierra Montessori School of 18 the Arts and Sciences. 19 I came to La Tierra on a fluke. I was at 20 a community event, and Ms. -- the former president 21 asked me did I want to join a school board. I was 22 excited. So I did. 23 I took all -- all the training and 24 everything. And on the first night we were there, 25 this lady walked past me -- and I looked at her, and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">59</p> <p>1 ago, I became a mediator between almost, you know, 2 our board and our Head Learner. 3 I said, "Well, we need this audit. Can 4 we -- we need -- what were we doing?" 5 "Oh." 6 We needed her evaluation. I was met with 7 resistance. 8 I think it became evident at that point 9 that my expertise in finance was going to be a 10 hindrance on what our former Head Learner was trying 11 to accomplish, and red flags came up for me. 12 It was at that point that I made my own 13 decisions, you know, based on renewing the contract 14 for our Head Learner. 15 There have been allegations and 16 accusations about our Open Meetings Act being in 17 quorum outside. Because I truly believe in our 18 system, I can say with certainty that that is not 19 the case. I did not have these phone numbers until 20 recently, actually, the last couple of weeks, maybe. 21 And, yeah, I'm -- you know -- earlier today, you 22 heard Ms. Feathers say she was afraid the school was 23 going to no longer be in existence. 24 I have been in the process of moving, 25 transitioning to a new home, a second part of my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">61</p> <p>1 I said, "I wonder if she's going to be on the school 2 board." 3 And that night, the Head Learner quit, and 4 the board president quit. 5 The lady that walked in the room was 6 Angela Feathers. We came together. And through the 7 years -- through the years, we built a board. 8 And I'm very sorry to my board that you 9 all lost faith in me, that you all lost confidence 10 in me. And I was just wondering was it after the 11 K-12 grant? Was it after the pre-K that I begged 12 you all to come and sign to approve? Or was it 13 after the amendment to the charter that I had to beg 14 you all to do? 15 Or was it that you lost faith when I asked 16 you guys to come once a month to visit the schools? 17 Or was it when I asked you all to get -- work to get 18 information together? Or was it when you lost 19 confidence on the 27th of June when the three of you 20 all walked in there and -- what you all had done was 21 form the quorum outside? 22 The Open Meetings violation states if you 23 have a five-member board, if three members 24 communicate via e-mail and everything -- I gave you 25 all everything. You all never responded to e-mails.</p>

62	<p>1 You all never gave me answers.</p> <p>2 When you came in -- I brought almost all</p> <p>3 of you all in. Where is Mr. Riddick? You never</p> <p>4 include the two Black board members. What is that</p> <p>5 about? I need to know.</p> <p>6 I really need to know is this how it goes?</p> <p>7 Because I am a whistleblower. I was informed by the</p> <p>8 attorney to turn this in to PEC and PED. So</p> <p>9 everything I have, they have, from e-mails and</p> <p>10 everything.</p> <p>11 So -- and, furthermore, I never met the</p> <p>12 Head -- the new Head of Schools. I never was</p> <p>13 included. All I got was the e-mail that there was</p> <p>14 going to be a meeting with an interim. The next</p> <p>15 e-mail I got on Saturday was his resume. The next</p> <p>16 thing I know, we were voting him in. And as far as</p> <p>17 the parents, they had a petition to remove those</p> <p>18 three board members.</p> <p>19 I am so -- I am so -- I did the best that</p> <p>20 I could, and I tried, and I brought them on as a</p> <p>21 team. I don't know where it fell apart. I can't</p> <p>22 understand it.</p> <p>23 And if this is how education -- the</p> <p>24 children are suffering. The children want a</p> <p>25 continuum. We had set up a continuum. If they</p>	64	<p>1 you once again for allowing me to speak.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Williams.</p> <p>3 All right.</p> <p>4 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: I remember the day</p> <p>5 of July 11th.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Can you remind me? Can you</p> <p>7 introduce yourself again.</p> <p>8 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: Certainly.</p> <p>9 Clifford Thompson, recently retired from the public</p> <p>10 schools, having been a principal and advocate of</p> <p>11 New Mexico, and completed my paperwork and sent it</p> <p>12 to the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board, and</p> <p>13 headed east to Missouri to see my folks on July the</p> <p>14 11th, when I got a call, in Mora, from Mr. Casados</p> <p>15 to discuss the possibility of an interim -- becoming</p> <p>16 an Interim Head Learner at La Tierra Montessori.</p> <p>17 Well, people, that night, as I drove east</p> <p>18 into Clayton, the biggest thunderstorm you ever saw,</p> <p>19 lightning clear across the sky on both sides, sheet</p> <p>20 lightning, bolt lightning, the -- started pouring.</p> <p>21 And I spent the night there in Clayton. And when I</p> <p>22 woke up the next morning after the rain, it was a</p> <p>23 beautiful morning in Clayton, New Mexico.</p> <p>24 And sitting here thinking this morning, it</p> <p>25 seems like an apt metaphor for the experience I'm in</p>
63	<p>1 had've told me that that's what they were going to</p> <p>2 do June 30th, I would have understood.</p> <p>3 I had no idea. I was totally blindsided</p> <p>4 with no contingency plan. And then on July 1st, I</p> <p>5 go up to the school, according to the attorney, to</p> <p>6 get Ms. Feathers' keys. I called Mr. Casados to</p> <p>7 meet me there. He had strep throat.</p> <p>8 I have to go in here once again and deal</p> <p>9 with this school by myself.</p> <p>10 They say I was a Lone Ranger. No, I</p> <p>11 wasn't. I included them. They chose not to come.</p> <p>12 So whatever happens, I appreciated serving</p> <p>13 La Tierra for the five-year renewal -- the charter</p> <p>14 renewal contract that we had to work on. And my</p> <p>15 voice is loud. I am -- I am so glad that they now</p> <p>16 have a more structured meeting. And I have not</p> <p>17 talked to them since they removed me as board</p> <p>18 president.</p> <p>19 No one has talked to me. I've gotten</p> <p>20 e-mails. They went on into finances. They went --</p> <p>21 I told them, I told them, I told them. I told them</p> <p>22 that we would end up right here. What did they do?</p> <p>23 They removed me.</p> <p>24 Now, Isaac, you're the president. I wish</p> <p>25 you well. I wish the entire board well. And thank</p>	65	<p>1 now. Perhaps that was a precursor for me.</p> <p>2 I thought, in the days that followed July</p> <p>3 the 11th whether I wanted to wade into what I would</p> <p>4 be getting into. Been around the block a time or</p> <p>5 two. I know a storm when I see one.</p> <p>6 I sure have taken a fancy to that school,</p> <p>7 La Tierra Montessori, to the people there, our</p> <p>8 assistant, the teachers, the proud community. I'm</p> <p>9 very much going to enjoy my time as long as it is.</p> <p>10 As I said, I'm the Interim Head Learner.</p> <p>11 I believe in the board that hired me. I see them</p> <p>12 going through difficult times. I was here when the</p> <p>13 remarks were made earlier.</p> <p>14 I have faith in truth and justice. And I</p> <p>15 wouldn't be here today with the people I'm sitting</p> <p>16 next to today if I didn't know in my heart that</p> <p>17 we're on the right course. And as you make your</p> <p>18 determination this morning, know that we have peace</p> <p>19 and truth and moving forward with collegial intent.</p> <p>20 That's what we're doing.</p> <p>21 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.</p> <p>23 All right. We're going to go to</p> <p>24 Commissioner questions.</p> <p>25 I have Commissioner Voigt, then</p>

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1 Commissioner Armijo, and Commissioner Gipson.
 2 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Thank you,
 3 Madam Chair.
 4 So I have a few that have come up through
 5 my reading of the documents and just hearing from
 6 the parties here in front of us.
 7 But thanks a lot for being here. I know
 8 that chaos and change is difficult. Good things can
 9 come out of chaos, I do believe.
 10 So I have some questions about the
 11 Montessori status of your school.
 12 With an Interim Head Administrator, or a
 13 Head Learner coming on, Mr. Thompson, do you have a
 14 Montessori background or a licensure?
 15 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: I don't, Madam --
 16 Voigt. I do --
 17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Oh, there's a mic up
 18 there. It just steps in.
 19 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: I do have, hot off
 20 the presses, The Child Is The Teacher, a biography
 21 of Maria Montessori. Checked that out from the
 22 (incomprehensible) last night. I'm immersed in
 23 learning about her. I learned about her as an
 24 undergrad at the University of Missouri. I'm a
 25 believer in the vision of the school.

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1 And the answer to your question is no.
 2 I'm on the road to getting as many certified and
 3 qualified leaders with me to help.
 4 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. Thank you so
 5 much.
 6 So my follow-up question to the board
 7 would be, with Mr. Thompson as the interim, do you
 8 have plans for pursuing, or do you have an open
 9 position status for a permanent Head Learner?
 10 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: I think that is why we
 11 moved to not only allowing Mr. Thompson to have a
 12 one-year contract, but to begin the process of
 13 ensuring that we are able to find a qualified -- and
 14 it may very well be Mr. Thompson long-term.
 15 To speak to the Montessori perspective, I
 16 can't really go into the personnel side of things.
 17 But I can tell you we have had some key discussions
 18 with individuals in Montessori and a potential that
 19 the former cofounder of La Tierra, who has now
 20 returned back from China, will return to La Tierra
 21 as a Montessori figure within that school
 22 environment.
 23 She comes with over 35 years of Montessori
 24 passion, instruction. She has created schools in
 25 Africa and in China. She just recently finished a

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1 program in Austin, Texas.
 2 So we're excited to be able to allow
 3 Mr. Thompson to make that decision where he sees her
 4 fit and where we can continue to provide that key
 5 nugget of educational quality that La Tierra has
 6 been come to know.
 7 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. I'm really
 8 glad and appreciative to hear that you value your
 9 roots, which are in that Montessori learning. It's
 10 such a -- it's such a great curriculum. It's
 11 wonderful.
 12 I taught at a Montessori school myself in
 13 Tokyo. It's really a big thing in Asia, more in
 14 other countries than here. So I'm glad to see it in
 15 Española.
 16 Have you all completed all of your board
 17 training?
 18 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So I have the great
 19 fortune of working with Representative Roger
 20 Montoya. So me, personally, as a member, he's an
 21 adviser member of LESC. So we get to take a number
 22 of the key trainings that otherwise are required
 23 outside of -- through the legislative process.
 24 I am required, because of his chief of
 25 staff, to take all the necessary training that he

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1 would take, which is pretty much a requirement of
 2 every legislator, to ensure that we are in
 3 compliance not only with ethics, Open Meetings,
 4 education, just to ensure that there is a clarity of
 5 response so that when I'm positioned to make a
 6 determination, or I have to draft a letter, it's not
 7 outside of the compliance of what we need to do
 8 physically.
 9 Brenda was able to complete her training
 10 requirements. I believe there was a training the
 11 last week or week and a half prior to the end of
 12 the -- of the term. She did attend that, and they
 13 did provide her with that. And that was supposed to
 14 be updated. And Delisha?
 15 MS. DELISHA GORDON-BROWN: Being a board
 16 member, I completed my initial training in January,
 17 and I started a new job. And so I am actually out
 18 of compliance about three hours, I think. I have
 19 worked with Dylan. I have apologized. And I think,
 20 moving forward -- part of my calendar of events for
 21 the board moving forward is getting us all the
 22 training in advance, doing working sessions with our
 23 trainings, and even our retreat with our training,
 24 so we can knock them out as a board together and
 25 make sure we stay in compliance.

<p style="text-align: right;">70</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. Thank you. 2 And so, Mr. Casados, does your LESC 3 training transition as -- to governing board 4 training, for charter school governing board 5 training? 6 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: That's a question we 7 had for Missy. I sent pretty much all of the 8 trainings that -- 9 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Does his LESC 10 training transition to charter school governing 11 board training hours? 12 MS. MISSY BROWN: I'm still in the process 13 of reviewing all of those things. It's a busy time 14 of year. And I'd like to correct. Delisha has 15 completed nine of the required ten hours. So 16 she's -- she's that close. 17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Super. That's 18 awesome that you're working on that. 19 Ms. Williams, did you -- were you 20 responding to one of my questions? Or was your hand 21 still up? 22 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: No. I was 23 responding to my board. I was also -- because I 24 wasn't -- at one point, as I stated with the board, 25 I told them time and time again that we needed to do</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">72</p> <p>1 maybe would have one parent from the PTSO that would 2 attend. 3 Now we're averaging anywhere from five to 4 ten parents. And it's an exciting time period, 5 because -- it's an exciting time period for us, 6 because we really want to ensure that the parents 7 have an opportunity to participate. 8 We have gotten a number of e-mails and, 9 now, inquiries saying, "How can we become involved? 10 How can we potentially look at entering this board 11 so that we can add our expertise to this board?" 12 And it's something that is exciting for 13 us, because they felt prior that they weren't 14 involved as much as they needed to be, where 15 information similar to the board not necessarily 16 getting updates? It was almost similar to our 17 parents, where they were kind of stuck in limbo. 18 So the goal that we have kind of set out 19 is a board newsletter out to the parents so that 20 they can understand specific votes that we have 21 taken. They can understand budget issues that we 22 are -- we are resolving. Because, for me, 23 information is key. If you don't have constant 24 communication and information being absorbed by the 25 community, then we're doing a disservice to our</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">71</p> <p>1 our training. 2 I submitted -- I was -- I'm not sure if 3 Ms. Brown got all my hours when I went to the 4 New Mexico School Board Association conference, 5 where I attended at least three to four conference 6 sessions. So I don't know if my hours are complete 7 yet, or am I still included, because I just need to 8 know, because a lot of things, I'm not included in. 9 I just need to know. 10 MS. MELISSA BROWN: So I was able to 11 review the additional trainings that Ms. Williams 12 went to. Unfortunately, none of them fulfilled the 13 three hours of fiscal or the two hours of academic. 14 So, whereas, she completed seven hours total, most 15 of them were duplicating Open Governance Ethics and 16 Responsibilities and Equity. 17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Thank you. 18 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. 19 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thanks. 20 Approximately -- during this transition in 21 your governing board meetings, how many parents or 22 community members were able to attend your meetings? 23 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: That's a great 24 question. You know, prior to the new board taking 25 over, we had very little parent interaction. We</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">73</p> <p>1 community. 2 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Sure. I think 3 especially during a time of change, as much 4 transparency as you can lead with will be the best, 5 especially in times of uncertainty in going forward. 6 Your parents are your stakeholders, and, of course, 7 they want to be vested and have their voices heard. 8 So it would really behoove you to really 9 have that ear for them and then action to follow up 10 with, because words don't go very far if they're 11 just dropped off the cliff, you know. 12 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Correct. 13 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: So that's good to 14 hear. 15 In looking at your board minutes from 16 June 27th, there were, I think, 11 or 12 items on 17 that agenda. Five of them were tabled. So that, I 18 just want to affirm chaos, uncertainty, not knowing, 19 you know. And that was exemplified within those 20 board minutes. 21 On your June 30th board minutes, there was 22 a line that said that you -- that your board has 23 never voted to approve a financial report. I don't 24 know if that's true or not. I'm just saying -- but 25 you know what? Yeah, that's something that your</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">74</p> <p>1 board should always vote to approve and have that 2 roll call or, "All in favor of, say aye," type of 3 acknowledgment for your financial reports. That's a 4 hands down, you've got to do that -- okay? -- at 5 your board meetings. 6 And so it was stated in those minutes that 7 that had never been done. So that was kind of 8 alarming to read. 9 And then, also, of course -- of course, 10 you know that your staff -- the school staff would 11 never report to the board. That's what your -- 12 that's what Mr. Thompson's for. And you know that. 13 And, Mr. Thompson, you know that. Okay. 14 So there was mention of an instructional 15 plan. Could you, without going into minutiae, kind 16 of give me the highlights of that instructional plan 17 going forward? 18 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Actually, that has 19 never been shared with us. I learned about it 20 yesterday. 21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Who has it? 22 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Apparently, there was 23 an individual that Ms. Feathers had hired prior to 24 her departure on June 24th that had completed an 25 instructional plan. That was presented to PED. We,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">76</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Right. That transparency and 2 communication again. Okay. 3 Thank you. That's all I have for now. 4 Appreciate it. 5 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you so much. 6 THE CHAIR: Ms. Williams, would you like 7 to respond to one of those questions? 8 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Yes, I would. Yes, 9 I'm -- in discussion of the parental part. As you 10 all may or may not know, I have a very strong 11 background in parent involvement. I was -- the 12 parents were very much involved in all the things 13 that occurred last year. 14 Parts of the board were there. As far as 15 meetings, the reason why the parents are on the 16 meeting and the community, they want to know in what 17 direction their school is going. 18 We had -- as we worked -- I'd say the 19 board, because we were the governing council -- at 20 least I thought we were -- we were working for 21 enrollment in Montessori. That's what we worked 22 for. As you can see, as the school year is coming, 23 we have more students coming in. 24 That's from talking, I believe, in the 25 community, and I believe the parents. I would never</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">75</p> <p>1 as a board, never saw it. 2 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: So it's null and void 3 then. 4 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Well, it's been 5 approved by the PED. It's something that, as 6 Mr. Thompson and I were talking to Mr. Lange 7 yesterday, I said, "We need to be able to see that 8 report, because it's really the board" -- 9 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Most importantly, 10 Mr. Thompson should see that report. 11 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Correct. Correct. 12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: And Mr. Thompson 13 should share that with you, and, of course, share it 14 with your community and stakeholders. The answer to 15 my question is you don't have it? 16 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: We don't have that. 17 It was supposed to be pulled -- an e-mail was to go 18 out to Mr. Lange or to the director to pull that 19 information. But it is something, because we need 20 to be accountable. If we are being asked a 21 question, where there is a plan or an instructional 22 plan in place, and two stakeholders -- the former 23 Head Learner and her assistant, knew what that plan 24 was, but the board wasn't informed, then we have 25 some key issues.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">77</p> <p>1 mislead the parents. 2 And one of the things I did do while I was 3 in Nebraska was I formed a parent coalition, and we 4 had a parent forum with the United States Department 5 of Education. 6 So I am a liaison. And I don't understand 7 this. I see where this is going. But I don't 8 understand, when we have laws, how are people above 9 the law? How are people doing things -- stepping 10 into finances, stepping into personnel, stepping 11 into all this, and it's okay? But it's okay to get 12 rid of me when I made noise about it, or I get a 13 little loud because you're not listening, or you 14 don't adhere, that we would wind up here if we 15 didn't adhere. 16 So all I'm saying is that I did my best. 17 And all of these things, if you ask the parents, if 18 you stood these board members up together and ask 19 the parents who's who, allow them to speak, because 20 they are our major stakeholders. So that's all I 21 have to say. 22 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Can I go next? 23 THE CHAIR: Yes. Commissioner Armijo. 24 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thank you. I just 25 have a question -- I believe her name was Delisha,</p>

78	<p>1 the Secretary.</p> <p>2 MS. DELISHA GORDON-BROWN: You pronounced</p> <p>3 it correctly.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thanks. You said</p> <p>5 you joined the board in 2011.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER MANIS: No. I was</p> <p>7 essentially recruited when I met Ms. Williams in</p> <p>8 January 2011. I did not join until January of</p> <p>9 2022 -- January? February? I think it was January</p> <p>10 was my first meeting, and I joined in.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: So you hadn't been</p> <p>12 on the board until you joined. I was a little</p> <p>13 confused, because you said you were a baby board</p> <p>14 member. I heard that.</p> <p>15 Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>16 My second question is for the new</p> <p>17 president, Mr. Casados.</p> <p>18 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: I think I heard that</p> <p>20 you were astonished when you all heard that the Head</p> <p>21 Learner was making \$90,000 a year?</p> <p>22 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: The Head Learner was</p> <p>23 making about \$98,000 a year, with benefits and with</p> <p>24 retirement, we're looking somewhere in the</p> <p>25 neighborhood of about \$114,000 for 86 students.</p>	80	<p>1 Ms. Feathers.</p> <p>2 So these issues have been ongoing for</p> <p>3 quite some time. It's not as though Ms. Feathers</p> <p>4 was put in an environment where she was just</p> <p>5 ceremoniously removed. There was a prior board that</p> <p>6 had deep concerns and challenges.</p> <p>7 And when it came to fiduciary issues, we</p> <p>8 also have some contracts now that Mr. Thompson is</p> <p>9 having to review that stick a teacher's salary in</p> <p>10 the neighborhood of \$86,000 to almost \$90,000. And</p> <p>11 we can't figure out how that number was ever come</p> <p>12 to. It was just some random number that was kind of</p> <p>13 thrown out.</p> <p>14 So those are the things that he's done</p> <p>15 very, very well in the last couple of days, trying</p> <p>16 to mitigate that.</p> <p>17 But as stewards of public money, as</p> <p>18 individuals who are vested with this budget, it is</p> <p>19 our requirement to ensure that we are spending every</p> <p>20 dollar accurately, because we cannot have inflated</p> <p>21 salaries that are, in some instances, 1 to 2 percent</p> <p>22 higher than everybody else across the board.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And on an interim</p> <p>24 level, what are you paying Mr. Thompson?</p> <p>25 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Mr. Thompson has been</p>
79	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And how many</p> <p>2 students are at the school again? Remind me,</p> <p>3 please.</p> <p>4 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: And I believe that's</p> <p>5 where a lot of our contention really came into play</p> <p>6 was as fiduciary agents of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Correct.</p> <p>8 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: When we -- that's</p> <p>9 where the first breakdown really began. This was</p> <p>10 prior, when I first came onto the board, when</p> <p>11 Ms. Larsen was the president of the board, we were</p> <p>12 essentially put in a position to give the Head</p> <p>13 Learner a raise. And it was an \$8,000 raise. She</p> <p>14 was asking for a \$100,000 contract at that point,</p> <p>15 essentially putting the board in a position where,</p> <p>16 "Either you hire me, or I walk."</p> <p>17 And a lot of us were stuck in this</p> <p>18 position where we felt it was quite unproductive.</p> <p>19 The former board, with Amy and her group,</p> <p>20 was actually looking at removing Ms. Feathers at</p> <p>21 that point.</p> <p>22 So this was back in 2021. And it was</p> <p>23 myself, Brenda Atencio, Willie Williams, and Tara --</p> <p>24 not Tara -- what was the name? -- there was another</p> <p>25 board member who actually voted to retain</p>	81	<p>1 offered a contract at the same level we had already</p> <p>2 scheduled. So it was \$96,300. That would be</p> <p>3 commensurate with the potential of 115 students</p> <p>4 coming on board to La Tierra and would put him in</p> <p>5 that same level. Because we wanted to make a salary</p> <p>6 schedule, because he shares a lot of similar</p> <p>7 qualities as a superintendent. He's about \$30,000</p> <p>8 to \$25,000 less than what somebody at Española</p> <p>9 Public School System or Los Alamos or someone in</p> <p>10 other competing areas would be.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thank you for that.</p> <p>12 I think that's all I have. Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you so much,</p> <p>14 Commissioner.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: All right. Commissioner</p> <p>16 Gipson.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thanks. Some of my</p> <p>18 questions have already been answered. So I'm going</p> <p>19 to try to go through.</p> <p>20 In regards to OMA violations -- I'm just</p> <p>21 checking. I'm not getting into the (indicates)</p> <p>22 about all of it. But I'm just checking, because</p> <p>23 your bylaws do indicate that in order for a board</p> <p>24 officer to be removed from the office position,</p> <p>25 there has to be a vote for a dereliction of duty.</p>

82	<p>1 Did that vote take place?</p> <p>2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Yes, the vote took</p> <p>3 place last week.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: When did it take</p> <p>5 place?</p> <p>6 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: It took place on the</p> <p>7 14th of July.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Of July. Okay.</p> <p>9 Thanks.</p> <p>10 And I know Commissioner Voigt mentioned</p> <p>11 that, clearly, telling staff that they report to the</p> <p>12 board is inappropriate, you know. So --</p> <p>13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: And to speak to that,</p> <p>14 Commissioner, we have given Mr. Thompson that clear</p> <p>15 duty. There have been instances within the board</p> <p>16 where staff members have asked us, and we said,</p> <p>17 "That is not our purview. That will be left up to</p> <p>18 the future Head Learner."</p> <p>19 And now Mr. Thompson is the one who makes</p> <p>20 those decisions.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. Thanks.</p> <p>22 During this time, has the board at any</p> <p>23 time fallen below the five members?</p> <p>24 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Prior to 2021, yes, we</p> <p>25 were at four members. Mr. Riddick is now a member</p>	84	<p>1 If your bylaws say you're going to have</p> <p>2 nine, you run into trouble all the time.</p> <p>3 If you say, "We're going to have at least</p> <p>4 five," you can have as many as you want. But if you</p> <p>5 keep to that, "We're going to have nine," then</p> <p>6 you're violating your bylaws if you can't fill it.</p> <p>7 So it's like this double-edged sword. I</p> <p>8 appreciate the fact that you want to build out</p> <p>9 capacity on a board. But you want to be careful</p> <p>10 that you're not setting yourself up for failure, and</p> <p>11 you're going to -- someone resigns, and now you're</p> <p>12 violating your bylaws.</p> <p>13 So that's -- that's just that cautionary</p> <p>14 tale that we've seen with schools. So just -- it</p> <p>15 can be a slippery slope.</p> <p>16 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you for that. I</p> <p>17 appreciate that. That's one of the areas that I</p> <p>18 believe our board is really focused in on is really</p> <p>19 working sessions. We have reached out to Missy</p> <p>20 Brown, our attorney, to say, you know, "We need to</p> <p>21 comprise a number of meetings to ensure that our</p> <p>22 bylaws are not ambiguous. We need to also make sure</p> <p>23 that there's clarity in the bylaws."</p> <p>24 And that has been a discussion that we've</p> <p>25 also had with Missy, because she's looked at some of</p>
83	<p>1 of the board, so that puts us at five.</p> <p>2 Our goal is -- and this is one of my clear</p> <p>3 goals -- is to ensure that we are up to our nine or</p> <p>4 ten -- actually, our bylaws call for ten members of</p> <p>5 the board.</p> <p>6 And I think that is important to me to be</p> <p>7 able to bring on educators. That was one of the</p> <p>8 clear deficiencies that our board has had is that we</p> <p>9 do not have educators. I can't speak for my</p> <p>10 mother's knowledge and what she has. I can only</p> <p>11 speak to what I perceived or saw her deal with over</p> <p>12 35 years.</p> <p>13 And that has been a conversational piece,</p> <p>14 where we have two or three other individuals that</p> <p>15 have already expressed interest, plus parents</p> <p>16 already stepping forward saying, "Hey, we would love</p> <p>17 to be a part of this board because we want a</p> <p>18 participatory part moving forward."</p> <p>19 So our goal within the next two months is</p> <p>20 to have a full board of nine. So it'll be the first</p> <p>21 time, really, in our history, probably for the last</p> <p>22 two and a half years, three years, that we would</p> <p>23 have a full sitting board. That's our goal.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I'm just going to</p> <p>25 give you a personal perspective.</p>	85	<p>1 our bylaws that have said, "There are some of those</p> <p>2 things in here that are a little bit challenging."</p> <p>3 A lot of those were written before we came</p> <p>4 on. Our goal is really to refine them, to define</p> <p>5 them. Brenda comes with a background in law. So</p> <p>6 that helps us to be able to codify bylaws that are</p> <p>7 clearer, have clearer expectations, so that there is</p> <p>8 not any ambiguity when we are having to act on a</p> <p>9 specific issue.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yeah, I appreciate</p> <p>11 that. It's a work in progress, always.</p> <p>12 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I'd like the record to</p> <p>13 reflect that I am not the school's attorney. That</p> <p>14 would be Patty Matthews.</p> <p>15 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Patty Matthews, our</p> <p>16 attorney. Sorry.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson, before</p> <p>18 you go to the next question, Deputy Director Russell</p> <p>19 has a -- had had her hand up I think in response to</p> <p>20 something. So I want to --</p> <p>21 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Yes. Chair Burt</p> <p>22 and Commissioners, I just wanted to clarify that</p> <p>23 Ms. Williams was removed as board chair at the</p> <p>24 July 12th meeting, not July 14th. I was not present</p> <p>25 at that meeting, but I read the minutes. And from</p>

86	<p>1 my reading of the minutes, there was nothing about 2 dereliction of duty in -- in that discussion. 3 Ms. Williams was encouraged by at least 4 one other board member to remain on the board. And 5 she was removed as chair and Mr. Casados voted in. 6 But I saw nothing in the meetings indicating 7 dereliction of duty. 8 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: May I speak? 9 THE CHAIR: Is it in response to 10 Dr. Russell's comment? 11 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: The dereliction of 12 duty, yes. 13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I don't want a 14 discussion about was she -- I'm not looking at a 15 discussion on was she derelict in her duty. Thank 16 you. My tongue got tied. I don't want that. I 17 just want a discussion on was that the vote? That's 18 all. 19 THE CHAIR: So I think, Ms. Williams, that 20 we have that answer, that there was not. 21 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Thank you. 22 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Or at least it 23 wasn't captured in the minutes. 24 THE CHAIR: It wasn't captured in the 25 minutes. So if there is anything different, then</p>	88	<p>1 in that. 2 I just want an assertion that either the 3 vote was taken according to what the bylaws say an 4 officer can be removed for or not, that plain and 5 simple. I'm not looking in the details of what it 6 was. I just need an assertion that that's what it 7 was and that we should have minutes -- or do you 8 tape? Do you record? 9 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Yes. 10 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So we would have a 11 recording to show that. I just need that assertion. 12 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. 13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: We do. So under -- so 14 the removal section is Section 3.7 of our bylaws. 15 It actually states that a member can be removed with 16 two-thirds of the governing counsel vote. 17 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. All right. 18 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: I just have a 19 question. Is it supposed to be publicly -- is it 20 supposed to be noticed? That's all I ask. 21 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: It was noticed. 22 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: This was a special 23 meeting. 24 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Correct. It was on 25 our agenda.</p>
87	<p>1 there was not that. 2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: An issue -- so we had 3 called a special meeting. So there were two members 4 that had called a special meeting. I had been 5 contacted individually by both members. I drafted a 6 letter in order to ensure that we were not in 7 violation of the Open Meetings Act. I sent the 8 letter to them via DocuSign. 9 No discussion was had. They either had 10 the opportunity to sign onto the letter or not. 11 In that letter that we issued to 12 Ms. Williams, it did state key issues and key 13 findings. The first issue was that she was creating 14 a disruptive board environment. Our bylaws do state 15 that that provision can be -- that an individual can 16 be removed for creating a disruptive environment. 17 The second part of that was that there 18 were questionable purchase orders that were issued 19 to friends of hers outside the board -- 20 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So I'm sorry. I -- 21 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Please, if you could 22 clarify your question. 23 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: We're getting into 24 detail of what the der- -- that's not what I'm -- 25 honestly, no offense to anyone. I'm not interested</p>	89	<p>1 THE CHAIR: I'm going to go back to 2 Commissioner Gipson for your next question. 3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: My question pertains 4 to that now. According to the bylaws, can anyone 5 check who can call a special meeting? Can just a 6 member? 7 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Two board members or 8 the governing president. 9 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. All right. 10 Thanks on that. So thanks. 11 Then my -- so then I guess my follow-up -- 12 did you ever fall below five, the answer was yes. 13 Was that notice to CSD that you've -- because you 14 lose your Board of Finance when you fall below five. 15 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Correct. That would 16 have to be a question to Ms. Williams. She was the 17 president at that point. 18 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: And Missy should be 19 able to check that as well. 20 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Yes, we did. We 21 fell below five for a while. 22 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Was there notice to 23 us as a -- 24 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Dylan Wilson is the 25 one who keeps that record. And I know that we</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">90</p> <p>1 were -- we did not get the correct paperwork on all 2 the new board members in a timely manner.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So are all the 4 new -- are all the board members now, do they have 5 their Board of Finance documentation in?</p> <p>6 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Yes. That was sent -- 7 for the new board that has been comprised, we all 8 signed that document as of Monday. So Dylan does 9 have a copy of that. He made reference to that two 10 days ago that he received that copy.</p> <p>11 MS. MELISSA BROWN: And Dylan just 12 affirmed that with me.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: Can I ask a question? Who was 14 on the board as of June 1st, and who is on the board 15 now? Is it the same people?</p> <p>16 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: It is the same people 17 now, currently.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: So there has not been less 19 than five members on the board.</p> <p>20 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Since January of 2021, 21 correct.</p> <p>22 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: No, it was prior, 23 to --</p> <p>24 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: 2022. I'm sorry. 25 Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">92</p> <p>1 salary is not out of line. I mean, it's not. 2 Teacher's salary, that's a whole different story.</p> <p>3 I got confused, because at times we were 4 moving to teacher's salary, and there was a -- there 5 seemed to be a concern about the head admin's 6 salary.</p> <p>7 But my question is, has there been a Board 8 of Finance -- has there been a finance subcommittee 9 of the board? Have they met regularly, and have 10 they provided reports to the board that the board 11 has then voted to approve the Board of Finance 12 report?</p> <p>13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So the finance 14 committee meets at 4:30 prior to every major 15 governing council meeting. So all of our finance 16 meetings -- I've sat on that committee, as well as 17 Ms. Williams. We have Ryan Fox from the Vigil 18 Group. Angela Feathers was on, and then Maitai who 19 was our office manager. Those five comprised that 20 committee.</p> <p>21 One of the biggest challenges -- and I -- 22 I was the unruly person on that committee, because I 23 felt that there was information that was being 24 placed inside that budget, questionable purchase 25 orders, issues where the board was not involved in a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">91</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: So in the past -- since 2 June 1st to today, there have been five board 3 members, and they are the same five board members.</p> <p>4 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Charlie Riddick is our 5 newest board member. And he came on right before we 6 went into charter renewal.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. All right. 8 Thank you, Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>9 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Amy Larsen left right 10 around January.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: That's okay. For what we're 12 talking about today, that's -- I'm trying -- I was, 13 like --</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I know.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: So, Commissioner Gipson, back 16 to you. Sorry about that.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yeah, I know, 18 because I'm trying to navigate were there any 19 notices that were missing.</p> <p>20 So in regards to the development of the 21 budget, there was a statement that was made that 22 there was a lack of information being given to the 23 board. Salaries weren't disclosed.</p> <p>24 I'm just going to say -- not getting into 25 personnel issues. But the head administrator's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">93</p> <p>1 working session to develop the budget. 2 We received the budget, as a committee 3 member of that finance committee, three hours before 4 we are supposed to take a vote on it.</p> <p>5 That is deeply troubling to me, because it 6 doesn't give us a clear idea where we're moving 7 forward in the financial realm. We are tasked with 8 that goal. Not the head administrator, not the 9 Vigil Group. And that is one of the key questions 10 that we are having tomorrow with the Vigil Group is 11 why was that never done?</p> <p>12 Why were we never consulted in that 13 process? Because now we have issues where potential 14 personnel were brought on, which is in violation -- 15 potentially in violation of the New Mexico State 16 Finance -- School Finance Act. And we're now having 17 to go through that parameter of trying to figure 18 out, okay, was that ever a byline item within our 19 budget.</p> <p>20 The good news is Mr. Thompson has helped 21 to mitigate some of these challenges very quickly. 22 But I think, moving forward, our -- our main concern 23 is ensuring that if our budget is \$1.1 million, that 24 we are not paying someone \$120,000, \$130,000, 25 \$160,000, which, at one time, there was a specific</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">94</p> <p>1 contract that was issued potentially with a purchase 2 order that would have put one person at about 3 \$220,000, where the board really had key issues. 4 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So let me just ask 5 you on that. So your assertion on the violation on 6 the New Mexico Finance Act was because the salary 7 was out of line with -- 8 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: It was never 9 stipulated within the budget. 10 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. 11 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So what we're looking 12 at, a position was created. You're taking a 13 budgetary finance authorization from another area 14 trying to now move it up into operational. And with 15 our staffing, you can't do that. It needs to -- you 16 have to have a BAR that the board approves to be 17 able to move those finances within our budget. 18 And so that is one of the things that we 19 have expressed with Mr. Thompson is any future 20 positions that he intends -- we want to make sure 21 that we submit the BAR, that we place it within our 22 budget, so that we don't have any of these issues 23 moving forward. That's an important aspect. 24 And thank God we have Delisha, who comes 25 with a world of experience with the University of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">96</p> <p>1 idea where these are coming from. With the State 2 raises, the teachers' salaries were increased. 3 But if -- as you go, our budget was 4 fantastic. There was no problem. And I made 5 Ryan -- I asked Ryan to state that in the meeting. 6 So if you go to the minute meetings (verbatim), we 7 were (incomprehensible due to audio distortion) and 8 doing well. Thank you. 9 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thank you. 10 So along with the approval of the budget 11 process, charter schools and school districts are 12 required to have public meetings regarding the 13 budget, so that the public is aware of what that 14 budget is before the board or governance council 15 approves the budget. 16 Were those public meetings held? 17 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: No. So the budget, as 18 I said, was presented to the board through -- 19 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Yes, they were held. 20 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: No, they were not. 21 They were -- we received a budget that was compiled 22 by the former Head Learner and Ryan Fox and Mike 23 Vigil from the Vigil Group. And I think that's what 24 Ms. Williams is alluding to is, "Oh, well, it was 25 fine."</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">95</p> <p>1 California. That was her job. It was ensuring that 2 the budgets are accurate and are transparent, so 3 that if we are ever asked, why was this money spent, 4 we can now go back and say, with confidence, "We 5 gave authority to do that." 6 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. So -- 7 THE CHAIR: Commissioner, before you go to 8 your next question, Ms. Williams did raise her hand 9 about this one. 10 Ms. Williams? 11 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. 12 As part of the finance committee, Isaac and I, 13 Maitai and the Vigil Group and Ms. Feathers met 14 regularly before the meeting. If you go to the 15 meeting on the 27th, Vigil Group states there were 16 no problems with the budget. He informed us. Ryan 17 gave us an in-service, all you have to do is go to 18 the meeting minutes. 19 We were informed of the budget. We 20 approved the budget with salaries included. I'm not 21 here to dispute anything. I'm just here to 22 (incomprehensible due to audio distortion) on the 23 truth and honesty. 24 We approved all of that as the finance 25 committee and as the governing council. I have no</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">97</p> <p>1 Well, the part of this process is, is this 2 is a transparent process, where not only the board, 3 but the public must be involved, because these are 4 taxpayer dollars. And that has been one of the 5 statements I have made continually is when you have 6 someone that comes from a private school environment 7 where it is -- someone is paying for service, and 8 you go -- now go into the public school system, it 9 is a very different monster. We are now obligated 10 to ensure that every dollar and cent that taxpayer 11 dollars are being used are now being accounted for 12 in every single purpose. 13 So that was the challenge that we received 14 is there was no interaction from the Vigil Group and 15 Angela when they were developing their budget. That 16 should have never happened. We should have been 17 working on this two to three weeks prior, having an 18 actual meeting with the public, and then voting on 19 this. 20 But it was dropped on our laps about three 21 hours prior to the start, because it needed to get 22 to PED so that they could approve that budget. And 23 it was added to the agenda as an action item by 24 Ms. Williams the day of the meeting, which is a 25 violation of the Open Meetings Act.</p>

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1 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. I will --
 2 just one more question.
 3 You mentioned before that you had an
 4 instructional plan, and that the instructional plan
 5 had been approved by PED and that it had been
 6 submitted sometime in June. Are you referring to
 7 the ed plan that had to be submitted as part of the
 8 budget process? Is that the -- is that the
 9 instructional plan you're referring to?
 10 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: I talked to Mr. Lange
 11 yesterday. He talked about it being attached to the
 12 charter renewal process as an instructional plan.
 13 That's how he explained it to us yesterday.
 14 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: But if that was only
 15 submitted in June, that would not be appropriate.
 16 So I'm just wondering what that instructional plan
 17 is and where it went in PED and who approved it in
 18 PED. That, I'm not quite --
 19 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So he called it a DASH
 20 Plan as well.
 21 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Oh, okay.
 22 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: He referred to
 23 instructional/DASH.
 24 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: That's kind of more
 25 like an action plan for -- yeah. But that's --

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1 that's a whole different animal. So now we know.
 2 So now I got it clear. So -- because I was just,
 3 like, where did this go? What -- so, yeah. Okay.
 4 Got that. We're clear on that. So we know what
 5 that is.
 6 And that will actually ultimately help to
 7 inform us as to how the school is going, your
 8 process in that DASH Plan. So I think it's really
 9 great for the school. So I kind of look at it as
 10 punitive, but it can really help the school create
 11 targets, stay on track.
 12 So I would strongly recommend that the
 13 governing council look at that DASH Plan and know
 14 what it is so that you have questions of the Head
 15 Learner as you go through this school year as to
 16 where you -- you are with this and where are the
 17 successes on it, because that's going to help inform
 18 you.
 19 And it should help inform you with where
 20 you're spending your instructional dollars. So I
 21 think it's really important. And thanks for that.
 22 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you for that,
 23 Commissioner. I appreciate it.
 24 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. Thanks. I'm
 25 done for now. Thanks.

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1 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.
 2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Thank you. Thank
 3 you all for being here.
 4 So I'll just start by saying -- and I
 5 think you started by saying this as well,
 6 Mr. Casados. It's invaluable to have a Montessori
 7 in the Española Valley. To be able to have
 8 Montessori for free in this community, I think, is
 9 essential. And I think that you and Public
 10 Education Commission and all of us need to do
 11 everything within -- everything reasonable to make
 12 sure that nothing happens to that school.
 13 But even more importantly within that,
 14 that it remains a school with fidelity to
 15 Montessori. So I have a lot of concerns about that,
 16 given what's going on.
 17 I can say also that in December --
 18 December is renewal time; right? Is that when we
 19 did all that? Everything is a blur sometimes.
 20 I can say that if any of this -- if there
 21 was all this kind of mucky-muck in December, there
 22 is no way there would have been a renewal without
 23 conditions, okay? If we had seen all of this stuff
 24 on the horizon, this amazing discord among people
 25 and their ability to work together, just reading --

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1 the ability to work together, I would say that there
 2 would have definitely been conditions.
 3 First thing I want to address is something
 4 that Chair -- Vice Chair Voigt had commented on
 5 relative to the public and relative to transparency.
 6 So I've looked at your meeting minutes,
 7 and I've looked at your agendas. And, honestly,
 8 just from my experience on the Santa Fe Public
 9 Schools board -- and we won Board of the Year -- I
 10 mean, we were, like -- it was just amazing. It was
 11 an amazing experience because of the way we followed
 12 the letter of the law.
 13 And they would -- our attorney for the
 14 board -- separate, of course, from the attorney for
 15 the district -- made sure of it. There were never
 16 these issues or mistakes made, never issues relative
 17 to how or when an agenda was posted, never an issue
 18 as to who calls a special -- I mean, none of that.
 19 And we can say -- and the reason is we
 20 weren't special. We just really had -- we had Gino
 21 Zamora, who is probably one of the foremost experts
 22 on Open Meetings Act in the state. And he was --
 23 happened to be not only the district attorney for a
 24 time, but the board attorney. Education. Not just
 25 of the kids, but of you, to make sure you're doing

<p style="text-align: right;">102</p> <p>1 all these things correctly.</p> <p>2 So I don't blame past boards. I don't</p> <p>3 blame you. I would say that there are a lot of</p> <p>4 decisions that were made in June, and that if</p> <p>5 somebody really wanted to go to the mattresses, they</p> <p>6 could go to the AG, you might have all those</p> <p>7 decisions overturned because of the way these things</p> <p>8 were posted and the way they were voted on.</p> <p>9 And this is -- I'm getting this from the</p> <p>10 minutes. So I haven't seen a video of anything yet,</p> <p>11 which, as a side note, Brenda, I believe -- because</p> <p>12 you're the one that handles it? I would get access,</p> <p>13 YouTube or whatever you need to do, so that people</p> <p>14 have -- because you're not a transcriber. These</p> <p>15 minutes aren't transcribed. And that's super</p> <p>16 expensive. I'm not suggesting that, especially for</p> <p>17 a smaller charter.</p> <p>18 But having something -- having something</p> <p>19 from a meeting posted immediately, or within that</p> <p>20 ten days, I think is just essential. Because the</p> <p>21 minutes here don't give you a full sense of the</p> <p>22 dialogue, the back and forth.</p> <p>23 What I got a sense of looking at these</p> <p>24 minutes was the chaos and nobody really kind of</p> <p>25 really understanding honestly even how to set up an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">104</p> <p>1 in advance, just like the posting.</p> <p>2 The thing that I mentioned with Ms. Voigt,</p> <p>3 you have public -- this is just a little thing that</p> <p>4 you can fix like that. (Indicates.) Public comment</p> <p>5 should go at the beginning of an agenda, never at</p> <p>6 the end. People come to a meeting to comment on</p> <p>7 what's on the agenda.</p> <p>8 But now your meeting is over, and they</p> <p>9 don't know how long your meeting is going to last,</p> <p>10 so they don't know if they've got to be there, and</p> <p>11 then they've got to put dinner on the table.</p> <p>12 If you put public comment on first, I</p> <p>13 promise you, you'll have a lot more parents and even</p> <p>14 community members at your meetings, because they'll</p> <p>15 take an interest. They know they'll be heard,</p> <p>16 they'll be heard early, and they can comment.</p> <p>17 What is a good practice, I believe, is to</p> <p>18 not -- to allow them to comment on things that are</p> <p>19 not -- on things that are not only on the current</p> <p>20 agenda, maybe something that's coming up or whatever</p> <p>21 it might be. I personally think there -- the more</p> <p>22 public input, the better; the more transparency, the</p> <p>23 better. Right?</p> <p>24 And that goes to one of these -- I think</p> <p>25 it was the 27th or the 30th, there was a gentleman</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">103</p> <p>1 agenda.</p> <p>2 So I'm looking at the 27th, and I'm</p> <p>3 looking at the 30th. And I'm not proposing in any</p> <p>4 way to go backward. I'm proposing that everyone get</p> <p>5 the tools they need to do the best they can to make</p> <p>6 this school the best it can be.</p> <p>7 I don't like the idea of going to the AG</p> <p>8 and nullifying decisions. That's just going to make</p> <p>9 a bigger mess. And, really, that kind of punitive</p> <p>10 action, is it really necessary? And for me,</p> <p>11 personally, no, because there's nothing that's that</p> <p>12 egregious.</p> <p>13 The budget item that was discussed, you</p> <p>14 know, that stuff has to be -- everything you do --</p> <p>15 it's not a private school; right? You had mentioned</p> <p>16 that. Everything you do is public. That budget</p> <p>17 you're talking about voting on three days, that has</p> <p>18 to be posted, along with all of your meeting</p> <p>19 material, 72 hours in advance. You can't just</p> <p>20 spring these things on the public. And that way,</p> <p>21 they have a chance to look at it and say, "Whoa."</p> <p>22 You know, they're very concerned about something.</p> <p>23 So anything you've got on the agenda and</p> <p>24 you have meeting materials, those things have to be</p> <p>25 available to anyone that wants to have them 72 hours</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">105</p> <p>1 named "Forrest" who spoke, and -- as public comment.</p> <p>2 But then there was a back-and-forth and a</p> <p>3 back-and-forth and a back-and-forth.</p> <p>4 You can't do that, okay? Then it needs to</p> <p>5 be on the agenda as a discussion item for next time.</p> <p>6 And there's all this language -- and I'm sure that</p> <p>7 Patty's got it, or Sue Fox has it, that says, "You</p> <p>8 know, we're commenting on these things. Please be</p> <p>9 aware that the board cannot comment on issues raised</p> <p>10 in public comment, because, otherwise, they rise to</p> <p>11 the level of a discussion item. But we will</p> <p>12 consider putting it on the agenda another time."</p> <p>13 There's all of these practices that I</p> <p>14 promise you, if you start to honestly tune into a</p> <p>15 Santa Fe meeting and you just start to make them a</p> <p>16 part of your everyday meetings, it's just -- they go</p> <p>17 so darn smoothly, and you don't bicker -- you know,</p> <p>18 it's just -- it's great. If you disagree, you can</p> <p>19 do all that stuff. But they go really smoothly.</p> <p>20 So as I'm looking through these minutes,</p> <p>21 the 27th and the 30th, the thing that's glaring to</p> <p>22 me is this going in and out of executive session,</p> <p>23 whether a vote is taken to go in, whether the vote</p> <p>24 is taken to come out, the nonchalance with which you</p> <p>25 seem to just recess in executive section but not</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">106</p> <p>1 notifying to the public that you're recessing. 2 So all these things are just part of that 3 bigger issue about really training; right? Because 4 there's something here that says "Adjourned," but 5 then afterward, it says you're going into your 6 quorum, your executive session quorum. And it says 7 that after you've adjourned. 8 If I'm a member of the public, like, what 9 the heck, you know. And so just -- and things even 10 being on exec. You have something here that's on 11 exec and it says board communication. That's not 12 eligible for exec, okay? Just not. 13 When you -- and I -- I purposely brought 14 my Open Meetings Act to the meeting today. And I 15 would honestly just download it and all of you have 16 a copy, you as well. Are you a Cliff or Clifford? 17 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: Either way. 18 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Or do you want to 19 be Mr. Thompson. How about CT? 20 MR. CLIFFORD THOMPSON: That'll work, too. 21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: And, yeah, just 22 really thoroughly read this. Patty is brilliant. 23 Both of your counsel are amazing. So it's just 24 being what can even go on exec. I'm concerned. 25 It's past. But I'm concerned -- it's --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">108</p> <p>1 a Montessori head administrator. Right. 2 So that being the case, what steps are you 3 taking for all -- you mentioned making sure that the 4 staff at the school looks like the community it's 5 serving. That's super hard to do, just in general 6 in any circumstance. And so what are your plans 7 specifically in terms of on-boarding these new 8 people to make sure they're on the Montessori way 9 quickly? 10 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: I think in the next 11 couple of weeks, we will -- probably by next week, 12 we will have that solution solved. I can tell you 13 with certainty a former coauthor or cofounder who 14 has that instruction in Montessori education is 15 looking at coming to La Tierra. 16 I can't really get into it, because that's 17 going to be his call on where he sees her direct 18 role. But in the conversations that they have had, 19 the clear idea is for her to help the staff. 20 Because a majority of our staff are not certified in 21 Montessori education. They have to be taught those 22 specific ideologies. And she will help them, 23 onboard them, and make sure there's applicability in 24 that process, and make sure there's adherence to 25 what those principles are.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">107</p> <p>1 let me try that again. It's your board. It's your 2 board. You can -- if you want to be in the 3 mucky-muck, that's your decision. If you want to 4 get along, great, and be really transparent, that's 5 your decision. And our decision is to maybe help 6 you as best we can. I know Missy is a wonderful 7 resource for all of this. 8 I'm concerned about -- I kept hearing 9 "change of direction" of the school. Can you assure 10 me here today you are going to be -- you're going to 11 have super fidelity to the Montessori model? 12 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Commissioner, I can 13 tell you with 100 percent certainty, even beyond 14 that, that we will. And it is -- as I said, there's 15 a personnel opportunity that's coming down the 16 pipeline that will address all of these issues. 17 And when Mr. Thompson is officially 18 introduced to the board, I mean, to the board next 19 meeting, he will be able to speak about what that 20 new hire looks like and her role moving forward. 21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Okay. So what is 22 your plan on bringing on -- I know it's a small 23 staff. And so -- and so Mr. Thompson is not, right 24 now -- you're learning as much as you can as quickly 25 as you can, but you're not, we'll say, certified as</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">109</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Thank you. I was 2 under the impression that maybe a greater percentage 3 of your teachers were Montessori certified than I am 4 hearing right this minute. Pattie, do you have -- 5 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I was just going to 6 say. I thought at renewal, we had that discussion. 7 And I thought there was -- and I'm not meaning to 8 interrupt you -- but that there was, you know -- I 9 thought there was. 10 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: I believe they had 11 received training, but they were not certified in 12 Montessori. Correct. 13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. 14 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So that's 15 something, obviously, if you're having that specific 16 program, that we're going to want to look to. I'm 17 looking at my notes on the meetings on the 27th and 18 the 30th. 19 You know, you're going off into a board 20 retreat. What does that mean to the public? 21 Just -- you know, there's -- I'm not going to beat 22 this horse. Just learn it. There are so many 23 people that are experts at this. 24 And on the next -- you might want to -- 25 oh. In December, I think that NMSBA, that's when</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">110</p> <p>1 they have another conference down at the Embassy 2 Suites down in Albuquerque. Most likely because 3 they always do it, Tony and Gino Zamora will 4 probably be doing a session on the Open Meetings 5 Act. 6 I know that Joe -- I think there's some 7 reciprocity, where maybe you can attend something 8 down there. Maybe you can get credit for it; I 9 don't know. If you can go to any training by Tony 10 and Gino, you're there, because they are the 11 foremost experts in the state. 12 And even just, you know, Zoom in if you 13 have to, or attend a meeting. I wouldn't say 14 Albuquerque. Honestly, I would say Santa Fe, if you 15 want to look at an agenda and see how well it's run. 16 So that's it. My suggestion is probably 17 going to be, at the end of this, that there be -- 18 and it's not punitive. But that there be a Letter 19 of Concern to make sure that you're taking care of 20 the issues that are being raised. 21 And, you know -- and that'll be really 22 thorough. And then you'll have 30 days in which to 23 do this and 30 days in which to do that, and you'll 24 just want to see that progress, because I think all 25 of us were stunned where we are today, given where</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">112</p> <p>1 we couldn't necessarily move in that fashion. 2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So on that -- 3 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: May I just say 4 something, please? 5 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: If it's germane to 6 specifically what he was saying. 7 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo -- yes. 8 If it's germane to Commissioner Carrillo's 9 questions. 10 MS. WILLIE WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir, for 11 all you've done and listened. And I want to thank 12 the PED and the PEC for being there. 13 But I must resign from La Tierra 14 Montessori School's -- La Tierra Montessori School 15 of the Arts and Sciences board effective 16 immediately, because I cannot -- I stand on honesty, 17 integrity, and in truth. So thank you all for all 18 you've done. My resignation is effective 19 immediately. Thank you. 20 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: That leaves you 21 with five board members; is that correct? 22 Four. 23 I thought if there were five with her, and 24 then you had Charlie Riddick, I thought that meant 25 six. Okay. Well, now you have a challenge before</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">111</p> <p>1 we were in December when we renewed, because this is 2 just, like -- so I appreciate your all being here. 3 And that's all for now. 4 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you 5 Commissioner. And I think a lot of our key 6 challenges really focus down to the issue of 7 Robert's Rules of Order. If you don't know how to 8 function a specific meeting from start to finish, 9 that's where the ambiguity comes in. 10 And when you allow individuals to 11 interject, such as staff members or the public in 12 the middle of a board discussion, that's a key 13 issue, because then this moves a board meeting from 14 an hour to three and a half hours, four hours, five 15 hours. And now we're stuck in a position where 16 nothing has been done. Hot heads prevail during 17 those type of meetings; whereas, the public is given 18 an opportunity to speak, our teachers are given the 19 opportunity to speak. We do not comment. We do not 20 make a statement on that. 21 And if it's an issue that we bring to the 22 agenda for the following meeting, those are kind of 23 some of those key areas. 24 And we tried very hard to adhere to those 25 processes. But I wasn't the chair at that time. So</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">113</p> <p>1 you. 2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Which can be solved by 3 tomorrow -- or this afternoon. So -- 4 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'm sorry to hear 5 that. It is what it is. 6 So Robert's Rules of Order is a funny 7 thing. We've all heard of it. We've all heard, 8 "No, motion to this." "Table that." "You can't 9 talk now." "I call the question." But there is 10 a -- don't get so hung up on that, okay? 11 Because sometimes it's, like, if somebody 12 really wants to -- you know, "Point of order." "I 13 want to speak to that issue." It's just -- more 14 than anything, it's having a chair that controls the 15 meeting, so the public is super duper aware of their 16 dos and don'ts. And when it's a don't, it's a 17 don't, and they're done. 18 And once you start -- once people get used 19 to that, it's going to be really great. 20 And, you know, not interrupting each 21 other -- but there is a point of order -- or a point 22 of clarification. But sometimes people get so hung 23 up on the minutiae of Roberts Rules of Order that it 24 becomes a hindrance and will make your meetings 25 longer.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">114</p> <p>1 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you, 2 Commissioner. I appreciate that. 3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Anything I can do 4 to help you all. Seriously. 5 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins. 6 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Thank you. You 7 mentioned your bylaws say you're supposed to have 8 ten? Or five to ten? 9 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So up to -- we are 10 required to have five, up to ten. 11 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: So that's what your 12 bylaws say? 13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So our policies and 14 procedures say ten. Our bylaws say nine. So we're 15 going to have to -- that's why we're going to have 16 to go back and modify. 17 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Is it up to, or is 18 it a definitive number? 19 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Up to. 20 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. That's fine. 21 And that's minimum of five and up to whatever number 22 you feel is appropriate. That's great. 23 Who elects your general council members? 24 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Our general council? 25 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: The governing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">116</p> <p>1 make sure that it is open to the public, and we want 2 to be sure that there is some sort of democracy in 3 this process. 4 That has not happened in the past. It 5 cannot be a board of one. It needs to be a board of 6 the community. And that's been something that will 7 be placed on our August agenda to start that process 8 of developing that committee, so now we have a board 9 committee that looks at qualified applicants, not 10 only with individuals that are representative of the 11 board, but parents and an administrator and staff 12 that are on that, so that we now have a board that 13 is representative of everybody. 14 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Right. And -- you 15 know, and charters are a little bit different 16 animal, especially State charters, because the 17 parents of the students at the school don't elect 18 the governance board. But they do have a vote in 19 electing a school board. 20 So that's a very unique situation, which, 21 again, that's one of those things is should the 22 parents of the students at the school have a voice 23 in electing, or, approving, board members? 24 Just a question I raise, because when you 25 look at school boards versus governing councils. Or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">115</p> <p>1 board. 2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: The governing board. 3 So every single one of us was brought on by either a 4 former chair or a former president of the board. 5 And then the board determines applicability, whether 6 they would make a specific contribution to the 7 board. And then the board votes on that specific 8 individual. 9 So Brenda was on the board prior to me. I 10 was brought on by Amy Larsen, who was the former 11 president of the board. Willie Williams was brought 12 on, I believe, in a public meeting. Delisha was 13 brought on by Willie as the president of the board. 14 So -- and Charlie Riddick is now brought on as a 15 member by president -- or the former president, 16 Willie Williams. 17 So it's essentially -- we're going to go 18 beyond that. And this was a conversation we've had 19 with Missy, we've had with Patty, of comprising and 20 compiling an actual committee. Because it cannot be 21 this idea of one person saying, "Well, I need three 22 votes in order to make sure that my initiative is 23 moving forward." 24 We want to make sure that we have 25 qualified applicants that are coming. We want to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">117</p> <p>1 you can call them a board, a governance board. 2 You know, it would be like the Legislature 3 saying, "You know what? We've had three legislators 4 that don't want to be here; we're going to appoint 5 three legislators," and it never goes to the public. 6 And you become this insular thing 7 without -- I mean, you want to have that public 8 input. But you can become very, very blinded, not 9 because you're trying to push a certain agenda, 10 necessarily; but you can get blinded to what the 11 true needs of the community are. 12 If your board is -- probably a wrong 13 word -- but an elite group of individuals, and they 14 are not representative, just a word of caution. 15 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: To follow with that, 16 Commissioner -- maybe this would be to you, 17 Madam Chair -- are there any other charter schools 18 where that goes before the parent? Or would that 19 have to be an LESC change in legislation? 20 THE CHAIR: There's not -- there's no 21 requirement from statute to do it. So it would be 22 schools doing it. And so if Missy wants to -- 23 MS. MELISSA BROWN: There's only one 24 school in the state that I know of that has their 25 board elected by the parents. That is Jefferson</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">118</p> <p>1 Montessori down in Carlsbad's district-authorized. 2 I disagree with Commissioner Robbins that it's a 3 good idea. I think it's not a good idea. 4 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: And that's fine. I 5 appreciate that. 6 But, again, you could get people on the 7 board if it is open. Because I served on the APS 8 school board for four years. And when I ran, people 9 asked me, "Why do you want to be on the school 10 board? You don't have kids in the school. You 11 don't have grandkids in the school." 12 And I said, "I am a manager, and I hire 13 people who go to -- who went to APS. And I want 14 them to be able to read and write and do basic math, 15 things like that." 16 That's why -- and, eventually, yeah, now I 17 have grandkids. A couple of them are in school. 18 But, you know, you don't have to have children in 19 school to have the interest in making sure our 20 schools are good. So... 21 What are the AptaFunds, A-p-t-a-Funds, 22 that's referenced, that there was a question? 23 Mr. Vigil talked about the P.O. for that. 24 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: That's a good point. 25 So during the time that we did not have a Head</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">120</p> <p>1 Again, I'll just reiterate what 2 Commissioner Gipson said. A salary of the \$98,000, 3 \$100,000 is not out of line, even for a charter 4 school that's only 86 students. It's really not. 5 If it was \$150,000 to \$200,000, I would start 6 getting -- things. 7 But we have to understand. A Level 3 8 teacher that has maybe 20 years' experience is going 9 to make \$80,000 a year. And then you're saying if 10 you're a Level 3 teacher making \$80,000, and now we 11 go -- you want to promote someone to be the head 12 administrator, and you're going to say, "Well, we're 13 only going to pay you \$94,000, \$95,000, why take on 14 all those responsibilities, headaches, and 15 everything. 16 And I appreciate Mr. Thompson doing that. 17 But there is a responsibility. And your -- it's a 18 huge commitment in terms of time. It's not a 19 40-hour-a-week job. So I think that's something to 20 consider also. 21 And, you know, this is an old adage: You 22 get what you pay for. Not to dismiss Mr. Thompson's 23 credentials or anything. But if you're saying, 24 "Hey, we're only willing to pay \$90,000," your 25 client pool is going to be very different, and the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">119</p> <p>1 Learner, we did have an office manager. So our vote 2 was to allow the office manager, who is Maitai 3 Lopez, to actually fulfill that obligation, because 4 we had -- not only did we have contractors and 5 purchase orders, as well as employees, that needed 6 to be paid without that interim Head Learner, none 7 of those individuals would have been -- would have 8 been paid. 9 And so what we gave as the authorization 10 to Maitai Lopez to carry out those authorizations -- 11 in lieu of a Head Learner, so they needed somebody 12 to sign off on that document -- Maitai was able to 13 help us fulfill that obligation. Now that we have 14 Mr. Thompson in, he's now able to sign. 15 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I understand you 16 did that. But Mr. Vigil, who is your business 17 manager -- and he's very knowledgeable about school 18 finances -- said that there was an issue with that. 19 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: He referenced an 20 e-mail, but he didn't go beyond that. We are having 21 a conversation with him tomorrow. In addition, this 22 is the same individual who provided a budget to the 23 board three and a half hours prior without 24 consultation of this board. So I'll defer to that. 25 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. That's fine.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">121</p> <p>1 capabilities of the individuals may be very 2 different than if you're saying, "We're willing to 3 pay up to \$100,000." Just a word of caution in that 4 regard. 5 You talked about the huge amount of 6 parental support. You talked about the teachers and 7 things like that and how things are turning around. 8 Why is no one here except board members and 9 Mr. Thompson? Usually, when we've had schools come, 10 they've had the students here. 11 I mean, you know, it's summertime. We've 12 had students; we've had parents. We've had them 13 talk about the issues -- we had them -- I don't even 14 see them online. You're very eloquent in your 15 speaking. I really appreciate -- boy, it's, like, 16 wow, I wish I could be so eloquent in the way I 17 speak as you do. 18 But it rings a little hollow -- not to 19 dismiss the honesty of what you say. But it rings a 20 little hollow when I don't see anyone here. And I 21 don't see anyone online. 22 Where are the written petitions of people 23 supporting what the board has done? Where are the 24 parents and the students saying, "We like what the 25 direction that the governance board is going?" That</p>

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1 will be my final question.
 2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you,
 3 Commissioner, for that question. I think the idea
 4 is we have gone through a traditional -- or a
 5 transitional -- phase within the last week and a
 6 half. When we were informed about this meeting, an
 7 agenda was sent. It was asked that the Head Learner
 8 and the President only be here. So it wasn't a
 9 conversation piece that we invite the entire public
 10 of our student population to this meeting.
 11 Had we known that, we would have
 12 definitely made every effort to do that.
 13 I would invite you to join us on any one
 14 of our upcoming board meetings so that you can hear
 15 our parents. And I think that that's something that
 16 I would maybe even implore the Chair to do, is to
 17 have some of your Commission members attend some of
 18 these meetings, so that now, as we're going through
 19 this -- this Letter of Concern issue, you can now
 20 see that we are navigating towards a potential
 21 opportunity. You're going to be able to hear from
 22 the staff, and you'll be able to hear from the
 23 teachers.
 24 One of the biggest challenges we faced is
 25 that there was not a lot of communication with the

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1 board and the parents and the board and the staff.
 2 I didn't have that authority to make that decision
 3 at that point.
 4 One of the things that we have already set
 5 in place -- and we talked about this in our previous
 6 agenda in our last meeting on Monday -- is that we
 7 want to do town halls with the board and our
 8 parents. We want to be able to have a day of
 9 in-service with our new Head Learner, with the
 10 board, and with our staff, so that there's clear
 11 expectations of what our role is, what
 12 Mr. Thompson's role is, and what the staff's
 13 expectations are moving forward.
 14 Because that has not happened in the last
 15 four or five years, and there's been a chip-away of
 16 these challenges that are not just -- they may look
 17 like they've blown up in the last couple of weeks.
 18 No. They've been there for quite some time.
 19 And for me, I'm about transparency and
 20 ensuring that we have clarity in process, because
 21 that is one of the things -- working on Capitol
 22 Hill, I had to deal with this every single day, on
 23 both sides of the aisle. And when you do not have
 24 transparency and communication with your
 25 stakeholders, this is where things implode.

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1 So we are putting in place specific
 2 remedies to help address those key issues. But I'd
 3 love to invite you, Mr. Carrillo, Ms. Gipson, Ms.
 4 Voigt and Ms. Burt to join us at any time, because I
 5 think it's so important -- and the other
 6 Commissioners online -- so that we have the
 7 opportunity to be able to demonstrate our new path
 8 and how best we are bringing our parent community
 9 into this process.
 10 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Thank you.
 11 THE CHAIR: All right. I have several
 12 Commissioners who I have listed who have spoken
 13 before. So before I call on them and before I
 14 speak, I'd like to just make sure -- everyone
 15 else -- anyone else who hasn't yet will have had an
 16 opportunity.
 17 (Off-the-mic comment made.)
 18 THE CHAIR: Sure. All right.
 19 So before I speak, I'm going to --
 20 Ms. Barnes has some clarifications that she'd like
 21 to make. So before I go, I'm going to ask
 22 Ms. Barnes to go ahead and make her clarifications.
 23 MS. JULIA BARNES: Thank you. I just
 24 wanted -- we started with looking at the bylaws and
 25 the contract. I just want to go back to some of

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1 that so that we're consistent with that.
 2 Just a technical thing on the resignation
 3 or removal of an officer. The bylaws indicate that
 4 the council must determine the member is
 5 inadequately performing his or her duties and
 6 overstepping the authority of the office, just to
 7 get the precise language from their bylaws.
 8 And just to reiterate what we started with
 9 in terms of where you might be, this -- this meeting
 10 was to have the conversation you've been having,
 11 with -- any action taken today would be an intent to
 12 take action on a Notice of Concern or a -- or action
 13 on the Intervention Ladder next month.
 14 So you get clarification now. You're
 15 coming next -- so there wouldn't be that action
 16 taken today under the Intervention Ladder.
 17 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you.
 18 Okay. So, first, I would like to say I'm
 19 absolutely going to take you up on attending a
 20 general council meeting -- or one of your -- I think
 21 the "general council," I heard Mr. Robbins say; now
 22 I have it in here -- a governing board meeting
 23 because I am going to support seeing you again next
 24 month.
 25 I'm 100 percent going to want to see you,

<p style="text-align: right;">126</p> <p>1 because there has been some chaos. And I would just 2 like to follow up to ensure that doesn't continue. 3 I think it is -- you know, I think 4 transitions are -- tend to be messy. And so the 5 fact that it is messy, or was, I would like it to be 6 a "was"; right? And so that's where my mind is 7 going. So I am going to support seeing you next 8 month. 9 So I would like to come and see what a 10 governing board meeting looks like. 11 So I am -- and I do think -- I can imagine 12 Commissioner Carrillo being the Commissioner in the 13 district, maybe he'll join with me. 14 I do have concerns about -- and, once 15 again, I'm -- my -- I'm going to go on this 16 believing and hoping that these are all going to be 17 "was" statements, that these are things that did 18 happen, and that they don't continue to happen. 19 I am concerned with maybe some possible 20 violations of the Open Meetings Act and how agenda 21 items were taken up, how they're posted, things like 22 that. So that is something I do have a concern 23 about. And I know Commissioner Carrillo is, like, 24 you know, there are some great trainings coming up. 25 I think you should have a pretty big sense of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">128</p> <p>1 sure that's -- it's probably stressful on them just 2 to kind of hear what's been going on. And so I 3 think solving this and creating a path moving 4 forward, creating some stability for the school 5 should be the number one priority. 6 And any kind of interpersonal happenings 7 need to be put on the back side, because there are 8 students who are coming to you very soon for a 9 quality education. 10 And I do remember this school, in 11 particular, during renewal. And I really believe 12 that you could provide an amazing quality education 13 for students who would not have this opportunity if 14 it wasn't for this school. 15 So I hope that that's still going to be 16 your number-one priority is achieving that for these 17 students who need it the most. 18 So those are why my concerns are -- I 19 would say those are the big ones for me, is when I 20 looked at -- you know, reading through minutes, in 21 the chaos of minutes, it is what it is. I mean, I 22 think, like, the other Commissioners have said, it's 23 just about, you know -- you know, Robert's Rules of 24 Order is important. But I hope you don't take that 25 pendulum swing too far.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">127</p> <p>1 urgency about getting some intensive -- maybe one of 2 those experts that are in the state, having them 3 come to you next week -- right? -- and doing some 4 intensive training on what it looks like and really 5 giving you some support to make sure that you can 6 follow that moving forward. 7 I also am worried about the budget 8 procedures that happened during this transition 9 time. Once again, I don't know if there's -- I'm 10 sure it could have been done better. And so what 11 did happen, I am worried about -- I'm worried about 12 kind of the waterfall of how that ends up impacting 13 future findings, future audits because of what 14 actions have happened in the past month or so. 15 So I do know -- I heard you say you're 16 talking with your business manager tomorrow. And so 17 I would hope that -- that's going to be one of the 18 things I'm hoping that we can get a report on next 19 month is what did happen. And if there were any 20 errors that were created within the past several 21 weeks on those budget pieces, that they've been 22 corrected. 23 I don't -- you know, I -- I'm okay with 24 there's not a bunch of parents and students here 25 right now. I think that's a lot of turmoil. I'm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">129</p> <p>1 Because I think the way -- I don't 2 remember if it was -- oh, yeah, Commissioner 3 Carrillo -- stating if you go too far, then you're 4 so restrictive to, like, anyone doing things that -- 5 don't take the pendulum shift that far; right? If 6 it really was kind of chaotic, and you're trying to 7 bring it back to order, you can turn off a lot of 8 folks who are wanting to become involved or wanting 9 to be part of it. 10 So I'm sure -- I have some -- I have a 11 hunch that you have the capability to do that. 12 I think those are my main things. I 13 appreciate -- the one thing that I will say that I 14 really appreciate about today and the way we're 15 moving forward on this item, the way the Charter 16 School Division approached this, and -- I think 17 we're doing this the right way. And I really, 18 really appreciate that. 19 I like the idea that a school can go 20 through some stuff, go through -- go through it with 21 CSD -- I know that CSD tried to support in every way 22 they possibly could. And when it got to the point 23 where they could not any longer, that's when they 24 brought it towards the Executive -- I know 25 Commissioner Carrillo has been trying to do as much</p>

130	<p>1 as possible.</p> <p>2 And I think today, just gathering the</p> <p>3 information is an important step for us, so that</p> <p>4 we're taking the right steps moving forward and</p> <p>5 applying this situation to any other issues that</p> <p>6 come up with schools as well, that we're gathering</p> <p>7 information first, we're giving notice, and then</p> <p>8 next month you're going to have to respond to these</p> <p>9 concerns.</p> <p>10 And if we can't get it together by next</p> <p>11 month, then we issue that Letter of Concern, or we</p> <p>12 actually go through that next part.</p> <p>13 So that's all I have to say. I'm grateful</p> <p>14 that you all are here. I'm grateful for</p> <p>15 Ms. Williams to have attended today. And being able</p> <p>16 to hear all the different sides is really important.</p> <p>17 And so thank you for taking a day off of</p> <p>18 your work. I know that does -- it does make a</p> <p>19 difference. And so I think the commitment to being</p> <p>20 here is important to see.</p> <p>21 All right. So, now, I'm going to go -- I</p> <p>22 do have a list. I have Commissioner Voigt, then</p> <p>23 Commissioner Gipson, then Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>24 Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Thanks,</p>	132	<p>1 ten essential elements for governing a charter</p> <p>2 school.</p> <p>3 And this is very unique to other district</p> <p>4 school boards, because charter schools are unique</p> <p>5 and wonderful creatures. And so I would really hope</p> <p>6 that you could utilize something that's relevant to</p> <p>7 you.</p> <p>8 The School Board Association conference</p> <p>9 coming up, I know you can get hours for your</p> <p>10 training. But the School Law Conference put on by</p> <p>11 the SBA is probably the most informative.</p> <p>12 I myself am a governing board chair of</p> <p>13 Siembra Leadership High School, an APS-authorized</p> <p>14 school. And when I was the leader of Media Arts</p> <p>15 Collaborative School, we would recommend our board</p> <p>16 members go to the School Law conference, which is</p> <p>17 typically in the summer.</p> <p>18 But Brian Carpenter, he's really the guru</p> <p>19 behind charter school governance.</p> <p>20 I also wanted to find out -- oh, yeah.</p> <p>21 Like -- so, there was no petition required by</p> <p>22 parents to be here today. You know, I mean, it's --</p> <p>23 I think you have a grasp on what you need to do</p> <p>24 going forward. And with your philosophy of being</p> <p>25 fully transparent, I trust that that's what you're</p>
131	<p>1 Madam Chair. Just to offer some more insight and</p> <p>2 possibly a comment on some of the comments that have</p> <p>3 been made.</p> <p>4 There is a trainer in-state. I'm going to</p> <p>5 give you her name in a second.</p> <p>6 But the National Charter Institute</p> <p>7 utilizes the teachings of Brian Carpenter for</p> <p>8 governing board training.</p> <p>9 And most of the -- most of the</p> <p>10 state-authorized charter schools utilize his</p> <p>11 practices.</p> <p>12 And he's very relevant and targeted</p> <p>13 towards charter schools versus bigger districts,</p> <p>14 because they talk about the significance of a</p> <p>15 charter contract, the monitoring and evaluating</p> <p>16 performance piece that the boards do, understanding</p> <p>17 the power and the purpose of your bylaws, focusing</p> <p>18 meetings and your minutes, setting academic and</p> <p>19 financial goals, managing risks and internal</p> <p>20 controls -- that's huge -- facilities, insurance,</p> <p>21 safety, and creating a board development plan.</p> <p>22 So Brian Carpenter, from the National</p> <p>23 Charter Institute. If you just Google Brian</p> <p>24 Carpenter Governing Board, you'll find his book.</p> <p>25 It's called Governing For Greatness, and he lays out</p>	133	<p>1 going to do going forward. So it would have been</p> <p>2 too chaotic and too divisive, I think, to have</p> <p>3 parents here today.</p> <p>4 So the governing board trainer that I</p> <p>5 would recommend calling is Kelly Callahan. She also</p> <p>6 serves on the Siembra Leadership board with me. But</p> <p>7 she is a really good trainer. And also, of course,</p> <p>8 the CSD.</p> <p>9 But the sooner the better to get your</p> <p>10 training and just to get that specific relevant</p> <p>11 charter school board training, I think, would really</p> <p>12 benefit you.</p> <p>13 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Madam Vice Chair, is</p> <p>14 there a way you can give contact maybe to Missy or</p> <p>15 to the Director?</p> <p>16 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I have Kelly's and I</p> <p>17 have Dr. carpenter's; so...</p> <p>18 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Thank you so much.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: She's all about that.</p> <p>20 I just had one question. When is or was</p> <p>21 your first day of school?</p> <p>22 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: So our first day of</p> <p>23 school will be August 6th.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay. Super. That's</p> <p>25 all. Thank you.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">134</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thanks. So I'm 2 going to ask, with what Commissioner Voigt said, are 3 you a member of the Public Charter Schools? Do you 4 have membership in the Public Charter schools, 5 Matt -- Pahl's. 6 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: That's a good 7 question. I don't know. 8 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Public Charter 9 Schools of New Mexico? Because if you are, then 10 you've got access right there to Kelly and a whole 11 lot of -- so if you have membership -- and you 12 should have somewhere in your finances a record 13 of -- or, you could call them, and they could 14 certainly tell you. 15 And they are more than cooperative with 16 working out arrangements for membership levels to 17 get immediate support that won't break your budget 18 if -- you know. 19 So I would -- that's -- you know, that's 20 how you can contact -- you know. 21 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Can you give us that 22 name one more time? 23 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Matt Pahl, Public 24 Charter Schools. Is he online now? 25 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: He is not right</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">136</p> <p>1 Do they? That's just -- because we've had 2 other schools where that's become a little bit of a 3 hinky issue. I'm just questioning that. And if 4 someone could clarify that, I'd really appreciate 5 it. 6 I just also want to just publicly state 7 that Ms. Williams' resignation is not an official 8 resignation at this meeting, that she needs to go 9 through your process. 10 I get it. But all of that is certainly 11 proof of the pudding that there's chaos. And you, 12 you know, you need triage right now. 13 And I'm going to reflect back to what 14 Commissioner Carrillo said was the shock and awe. I 15 wasn't. Because a year and a half ago, we were in 16 this position with the board before Ms. Feathers was 17 brought on. So I'm only -- you know, it's, like, 18 when, oh, my God, there's a problem, it's like, 19 really? 20 I'm not shocked, you know, because it's 21 been endemic in this board and every -- you know, 22 all the other -- there wasn't a head administrator 23 for a long time. Then there were two, and it was a 24 mess. So there's a general concern that I have that 25 the board isn't taking care of the administration of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">135</p> <p>1 now. 2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: (Comment without 3 microphone.) 4 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: I'm almost certain, 5 because Ms. Matthews had stated that there are 6 specific opportunities that we can access. 7 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So you probably are. 8 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Tomorrow, when we have 9 her on with Mr. Vigil, I'll ask that question. 10 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thanks. I guess 11 part of my additional concern is the fact that there 12 wasn't anyone from the Vigil Group here today. 13 MS. MELISSA BROWN: They're online. 14 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Oh, okay. Without 15 digging in a lot -- so if we could bring them on. 16 And while we're doing that, you mentioned 17 before that you had given the authorization to your 18 business manager, with the lack of a head 19 administrator to sign. 20 I just have a question. Someone needs to 21 be -- I don't know who is going to answer this for 22 me. I don't know whether that's allowable, that -- 23 you know, I don't know if the board has the 24 authority to be able to do that. I'm questioning 25 it.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">137</p> <p>1 the school as they're supposed to with making sure 2 that there's, you know, the right fit for leadership 3 in that school. 4 That's -- you know, I'm not digging into 5 who it is. But it's obvious that the board is 6 having difficulties, so that even more so than the 7 OMA -- and I'm not dismissing OMA -- but the board 8 needs that training. And the Public Charter Schools 9 can also offer you that training in guiding you in 10 helping to create that better vision on who that fit 11 is going to be and how to go about it and how to 12 evaluate -- how to create an evaluation tool that'll 13 best fit the school to make sure that you're on the 14 right track, because that's all we're looking for. 15 So I -- you know, I guess I'm also looking 16 at, you know, how can -- how can we help? Because 17 we want to right this -- we want to make sure this 18 ship is right. And I'm hoping you're on the right 19 track. 20 But, you know, anything that we can do to 21 help, you know, man the lifeboats, that's -- that's 22 what we're here for, more than the hammer, you know. 23 So that's -- but if Mike is on? 24 THE CHAIR: Yes, Mr. Vigil is on, yes. 25 Go ahead, Commissioner Gipson. Restate</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">138</p> <p>1 your question, because he's transitioning over. 2 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I have two 3 questions -- thanks. 4 I haven't seen you in a while. I have two 5 questions. 6 In the summaries of the board minutes, 7 there were concerns that were apparently raised at 8 the public meeting that your group had concerns. 9 And they weren't identified. And it's -- so I guess 10 I have a question of what are the general areas 11 where those concerns are? 12 And then my second question related to a 13 comment that was made that, with the absence of a 14 head administrator, the business manager was given 15 the authority by the board to sign the checks so 16 that payments could be made. 17 And, in addition to that, I don't think it 18 was really answered, the question that Commissioner 19 Robbins had, what were AptaFunds. I don't think 20 that was answered what those funds are. 21 So my question is does the -- can the 22 board turn that authority over to the business 23 manager for those signatures? And I'm not sure. 24 MR. MIKE VIGIL II: Thank you, 25 Commissioner Gipson, Madam Chair, members of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">140</p> <p>1 concerns, and definitely not publicly. 2 What I was sent from the office manager, 3 who was given the authority eventually to authorize 4 payment for payroll and vendors and things of that 5 nature, the office manager was asking if the 6 governing council could have access to -- again, 7 this is going to your next question, which is 8 AptaFund. AptaFund is not "AptaFunds." It's a 9 software provided by Harris Corporation. It's the 10 financial -- basically, the system that I think 11 probably 90, 95 percent of charter schools use. 12 But, essentially, the question was raised 13 could the governing council have access to be the 14 approver on that system? 15 So with our internal controls being that 16 we're third-party, we're not allowed to approve 17 anything. We can process. We can check budget 18 authority, check coding, all those good things. But 19 at the end of the day, we need to have someone at 20 the school to be able to approve. 21 That person was the head admin. 22 Obviously, they didn't have one in place at the 23 time. So that question was raised, can a governing 24 council member provide that service. And my simple 25 answer was that it was irregular, and, probably, you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">139</p> <p>1 board. There's a lot of clarification on this. 2 So the first issue -- I'll try to remember 3 the three that you brought up, the first being it 4 was not the business manager that is signing 5 anything. The lack of the head administrator 6 resulted in an issue of approval on what I'll go 7 into on the next one, which will be on the financial 8 system of purchase orders and the approval of 9 payment vouchers. 10 Signatory lies at the bank. That cannot 11 be changed on a whim. You have to go through the 12 governing council policy and then go to the bank and 13 actually make that change. But signing authority 14 still was at the level where I believe there was 15 there were still two signers that were on the 16 council. 17 So nothing changes as far as signing. The 18 only thing that changed was that in their interim 19 controls and processes, the head administrator 20 formerly would approve of payment vouchers and of 21 payroll itself. With that lack, we were, you know, 22 kind of stuck in the mud about who's going to 23 approve that. 24 That can actually lead to the second 25 question as far as the concerns. We never raised</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">141</p> <p>1 know, not advisable for a governing council to have 2 access to the financial system. 3 Within most governing council bylaws, 4 you're probably going to have something in there 5 that says, "Governing council is just for that, 6 governing, not for operating." 7 So the day to day -- it was our 8 recommendation from me directly that the governing 9 council should not be involved in day-to-day 10 operations. It was quickly resolved. They didn't 11 push on that. We didn't raise concern in a public 12 manner whatever. 13 So unless that e-mail got out somehow, 14 which is fine with me because it was very blunt and 15 to the point -- but it was really resolved real fast 16 and the authority given to the office manager, not 17 the business manager, the office manager being an 18 employee of the school, which is Ms. Maitai Garcia 19 (verbatim), just for the simple matter of processing 20 on the system itself. 21 So once we verified budgetary availability 22 and also the coding, the amounts, and things of that 23 nature, Maitai would then go on the system where the 24 head administrator would go into AptaFund formerly 25 and approve. That kind of hits on all three of</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">142</p> <p>1 those, and I stand for any follow-up questions.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So at this point in</p> <p>3 time, you're reasonably confident in saying there's</p> <p>4 no financial concerns with the school.</p> <p>5 MR. MIKE VIGIL II: Yes, ma'am. I'm</p> <p>6 actually more than confident in that matter. The</p> <p>7 school actually is taking carryover that they have</p> <p>8 not had in the past, and they also have a budget</p> <p>9 that was, you know, built around the annual SEG,</p> <p>10 which involved a lot of increases to those teacher</p> <p>11 raises. And they were able to manage to meet that</p> <p>12 budget, provided that, you know, the hires that they</p> <p>13 do have remain within the budgeted FTEs.</p> <p>14 So at this point, it's July 22nd. We'll</p> <p>15 see when they start on-boarding actual employees and</p> <p>16 actually get students coming in to see how budget</p> <p>17 goes. But that's a normal process, and we'll deal</p> <p>18 with that as we go.</p> <p>19 But at this point in time, I have no</p> <p>20 concerns. Budgetarily, financially, none</p> <p>21 whatsoever.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 I appreciate it.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: All right. We have</p> <p>25 Commissioner Carrillo.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">144</p> <p>1 If you are interested in making a motion</p> <p>2 or would like to have something included -- like,</p> <p>3 you're feeling strongly about something to be</p> <p>4 included in the motion, I'd like Commissioners to</p> <p>5 come talk to Julia so she can work on drafting a</p> <p>6 complete motion, ensuring that process is being</p> <p>7 followed. If you are online, and you would like to</p> <p>8 have something, you can send Julia a text message.</p> <p>9 If you don't have your -- if you don't have her</p> <p>10 phone number, text me.</p> <p>11 I know you all have my phone number. So</p> <p>12 text me or e-mail me real quick, and I can give you</p> <p>13 her phone number. So you can text her or you can</p> <p>14 give me a phone call, and I'll make sure you can</p> <p>15 talk to Julia. And then we'll come back and</p> <p>16 entertain a motion. Mr. Casados?</p> <p>17 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Madam Chair, I do want</p> <p>18 to make a clarification to Ms. Gipson. So our first</p> <p>19 day for teachers is August 1st. So first day for</p> <p>20 teachers is August 1st. We have -- JumpStart for</p> <p>21 our seventh- and eighth-graders is actually</p> <p>22 August 10th. Our K through third is August 11th.</p> <p>23 And our JumpStart for fourth and sixth is</p> <p>24 August 12th. So we are on-boarding them based upon</p> <p>25 their specific time periods at different time</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">143</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'm not on any of</p> <p>2 those topics. But commenting on what Commissioner</p> <p>3 Robbins had said around board and board selection,</p> <p>4 just -- I think it's a great idea to have parents</p> <p>5 involved, parents of students involved in helping</p> <p>6 select board members.</p> <p>7 Just the whole notion that, you know, four</p> <p>8 people can just say, "Hey, we want this guy" -- and,</p> <p>9 I mean, it's, like, you're stacking the court.</p> <p>10 You're just finding people that agree with you.</p> <p>11 And alternative points of view are great.</p> <p>12 We don't always agree on everything here. But,</p> <p>13 oftentimes, we make arguments to one another, and we</p> <p>14 open each others' minds, and we come to -- honestly,</p> <p>15 consensus, in most cases, in the way we vote.</p> <p>16 So I just -- I -- I would consider that.</p> <p>17 I think -- I know Missy said she hated the idea.</p> <p>18 Maybe didn't use the word "hated." But I don't</p> <p>19 know. I love the idea of having the parent</p> <p>20 community involved in this crucial decision, the</p> <p>21 leadership of their school.</p> <p>22 That's the rest for me.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: All right. So, at this time,</p> <p>24 I don't have anyone else on my list for questions,</p> <p>25 but I would like to take a short break.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">145</p> <p>1 periods. So I did misspeak. I'm sorry. I did want</p> <p>2 to clear that. And we are members of the Public</p> <p>3 Charters of New Mexico. All right?</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: Great. So you utilize them?</p> <p>5 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Yes, we will.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: And listen to your attorney.</p> <p>7 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Sounds good.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Listen to Missy.</p> <p>9 All right. We're going to just a short</p> <p>10 break for folks to come talk to Julia, if you would</p> <p>11 like to.</p> <p>12 Let's do -- let's do 12:00 for right now.</p> <p>13 Could be extended, but at least till 12:00.</p> <p>14 (Recess taken, 11:51 a.m. to 12:02 p.m.)</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: All right. we're going to go</p> <p>16 ahead and come back.</p> <p>17 Do you all want me to wait on Mr. Casados,</p> <p>18 or just move on without him? Okay.</p> <p>19 All right. I have a quorum of six, it</p> <p>20 looks, like right now. Okay. Seven. Those of you</p> <p>21 online? I just want to make sure. Thank you.</p> <p>22 Eight. We have eight.</p> <p>23 Okay. All right. Thank you all for that.</p> <p>24 I am going to pass over to Commissioner</p> <p>25 Carrillo for a motion.</p>

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147	<p>1 reports to CSD in a responsive manner. 2 And, possible violations of the Open 3 Meetings Act. 4 I further move that the La Tierra 5 Montessori School for the Arts and Sciences be 6 placed on the August agenda for the purpose of 7 hearing a response from the school on these issues 8 and then considering action under the Intervention 9 Ladder. 10 And I further move that La Tierra 11 Montessori School for the Arts and Sciences obtain 12 advice from legal counsel and the business manager 13 to review recent actions and correct any errors or 14 deficiencies and report back to the Public Education 15 Commission in August on action taken, including 16 confirmation that the school is in compliance with 17 the Montessori licensure to be a Montessori school 18 with staff presently hired at the school, 19 confirmation of compliance with the Open Meetings 20 Act in the fast 60 days, confirmation that 21 appropriate fiscal processes are in place, and/or 22 followed, budget, financial -- budget, financial 23 reports, education plans, where appropriately 24 created and approval of the appropriate documents by 25 the board took place, and confirm that documents</p>	149	<p>1 Ruidoso, we'll be there in August. 2 MR. ISAAC CASADOS: Only if it's at the 3 Inn of the Mountain Gods. 4 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: It's not, but we're 5 staying there. 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that, 7 Commissioner Gipson. A little bit further of a 8 drive to come see us in person. 9 Okay. Seeing as there's none, 10 Commissioner -- or Secretary Armijo, if you could 11 take roll. 12 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thank you. 13 Commissioner Manis. 14 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 16 Robbins. 17 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. 18 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor. 19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 20 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Vice Chair Voigt. 21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. 22 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo 23 votes yes. 24 Chair Burt. 25 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p>

150	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 2 Carrillo. 3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes. 4 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez. 5 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. 6 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis. 7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. 8 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And Commissioner 9 Gipson. 10 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That passes, ten to 12 zero. Thank you. 13 THE CHAIR: We're going to go ahead and 14 take a 30-minute lunch break, and we'll come back at 15 12:40. Thank you. 16 (A recess was taken at 12:08 p.m., and 17 reconvened at 12:44 p.m., as follows:) 18 THE CHAIR: All right, folks. We're going 19 to go ahead and get started. 20 We are on Item No. 10, which is Discussion 21 and Possible Action on Status of PEC Policies During 22 Policy Review. 23 Ms. Barnes, can you just give us a 24 summary? And then I think, ultimately, we're just 25 going to kind of be giving some direction, so that</p>	152	<p>1 THE CHAIR: Before I go to questions, 2 which I will, Director Chavez, would you like to 3 have any kind of input and clarification right now 4 on maybe your preference or, yeah, what would be 5 best for you? 6 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yeah. I think 7 that having discretion is the most generous thing 8 the Commission could do. And I am sure that in 9 working with the schools, we can figure out -- we 10 can certainly share what this Commission has 11 discussed about the change in the forms and look at 12 the other ones and do what best meets the needs of 13 the school and providing you all with information 14 that I think would -- would lead to some good 15 decision-making. So I appreciate the discretion 16 option. 17 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you, 18 Commissioner Gipson. And then any other 19 Commissioner questions right now? 20 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So I think my 21 preference would be to give the guidance to the 22 schools that, you know, "The Commission is most 23 likely voting on these, and this is what's going to 24 be used. So use this form during this time period." 25 But, at the meeting, we vote on the forms before we</p>
151	<p>1 Director Chavez doesn't have to move throughout the 2 next month guessing what we would like her to do, 3 and being able to give some clear direction on that. 4 Ms. Barnes. 5 MS. JULIA BARNES: And maybe Director 6 Chavez wants to jump in here. I -- I think that 7 it's possible, since the board is going to -- you 8 know, they have those three different sections of 9 the new forms, there is the school changes and 10 facility changes that are bigger kind of more 11 important. You guys worked a lot on those forms. 12 And the other ones are notification forms. 13 I think it would be possible, if there are 14 schools that need to change school-related things, 15 for the PEC, which is going to vote on those next 16 month, to vote early on in the agenda, and then a 17 school could come forward with a new form, might be 18 a clean and easy way to do that. 19 Otherwise, if -- you know, my thought, and 20 what I was discussing yesterday, is that you all 21 give her discretion to -- to use the form so that 22 schools aren't -- aren't kind of frozen. I'd prefer 23 the work that you've done on the new forms. But, 24 you know, I'm just looking for a practical way that 25 CSD gets through the next month.</p>	153	<p>1 approve anything from the schools, so that it's -- 2 it's clear. That's the only -- that's the only 3 thing I have to say. 4 THE CHAIR: Any other Commissioner 5 questions? 6 Commissioner Robbins. 7 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Well, just for 8 clarification, Commissioner Gipson, are you saying 9 that we vote on the forms that were used, and that 10 we actually take a vote to approve the form used if 11 it was a prior form? Or that we -- we transfer the 12 data to the new form and then approve it? 13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Okay. I'll try to 14 answer that. 15 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I'm just a little 16 confused. 17 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: I'm saying that the 18 Director is going to give the advisement to the 19 schools that, "These are the new forms that the 20 Commission is going to be voting on, so use the new 21 forms." 22 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Oh. 23 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: But that we approve 24 the new forms in our meeting prior to our approving 25 any of the possible amendments from schools on those</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">154</p> <p>1 new forms.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I've got it. I'm</p> <p>3 clear now. Thank you. I think that's reasonable.</p> <p>4 Thank you.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Thanks.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: All right. The only -- I</p> <p>7 think I'm inclined to want to be okay with that.</p> <p>8 But I, also, where my head is at is if I'm going to</p> <p>9 send out an e-mail to charter directors with these</p> <p>10 new forms and say, "Hey, we're going to be</p> <p>11 considering these new forms, please give us your</p> <p>12 comment by the next meeting," I don't want to come</p> <p>13 off as disingenuous that their comments don't</p> <p>14 actually matter because we're going to allow folks</p> <p>15 to just use the new forms, and we're going to</p> <p>16 approve them, and they're going to use them at the</p> <p>17 end of that same meeting.</p> <p>18 So, to me, that's my concern. And it's</p> <p>19 coming from that lens of I want input from them.</p> <p>20 And so I also want to allow that input to be able to</p> <p>21 change the form. If it -- if there's a leader who</p> <p>22 has something on the form that's, like, "This</p> <p>23 doesn't make sense," and we're, like, "You know</p> <p>24 what? It doesn't, right," but then there's a school</p> <p>25 that's using that form proactively and is ready to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">156</p> <p>1 careful.</p> <p>2 If we've changed policy and we haven't</p> <p>3 changed the form, they either wait to use the new</p> <p>4 form or they don't submit. They just have to wait.</p> <p>5 Because I think it's very important that they be</p> <p>6 required to use forms that conform to current policy</p> <p>7 and statute.</p> <p>8 I mean -- and sometimes we get the cart</p> <p>9 before the horse. I understand maybe we did that in</p> <p>10 this case. But I just have a real concern about</p> <p>11 deferring that and using old forms that may not</p> <p>12 conform completely to current policy.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioner Gipson?</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So the only thing --</p> <p>15 and I hear what you're saying. The only thing is --</p> <p>16 excuse me -- one, those -- none of those items that</p> <p>17 are associated with an amendment are appealable. If</p> <p>18 a school gets denied, they don't have any statutory</p> <p>19 right to appeal that. So that's less of a concern.</p> <p>20 I'm going to play devil's advocate and</p> <p>21 say, you know, the Commission didn't pay any</p> <p>22 attention to the forms before. Not me. But the</p> <p>23 Commission didn't. So I don't understand why using</p> <p>24 the old forms really matters, because the Commission</p> <p>25 chose not to pay attention to those forms before.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">155</p> <p>1 submit their amendment and is expecting us to vote</p> <p>2 and then have their amendment heard, but we actually</p> <p>3 do need to change it, you know, and we need to be</p> <p>4 able to be pliable -- so that's my hesitancy on it.</p> <p>5 So I would say what I'm more comfortable</p> <p>6 with is if there is an urgency to where a school has</p> <p>7 to submit something by August, then they should use</p> <p>8 the old form. And, otherwise, if they do not have</p> <p>9 to submit it by August, I think they should wait to</p> <p>10 submit in September with the new form. That would</p> <p>11 be my recommendation.</p> <p>12 I see your hand up. I want to make sure</p> <p>13 anyone else who hasn't spoken -- I'll give you one</p> <p>14 second to raise your little hand.</p> <p>15 Yeah. Commissioner Robbins.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yeah. The only --</p> <p>17 with the motion -- proposed motion in here on the</p> <p>18 second one, Part B -- and I -- I believe giving some</p> <p>19 discretion is good. The problem of using an old</p> <p>20 form that doesn't conform to current policy is we</p> <p>21 set precedent. And then, later on, we have an</p> <p>22 issue, and they go to court, and they say, "Well,</p> <p>23 you didn't follow policy there. We don't think that</p> <p>24 was very important, so we're going to overrule you</p> <p>25 on something else," I think we have to be very</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">157</p> <p>1 So I -- I fully believe that we should</p> <p>2 have complied with those forms. But the majority of</p> <p>3 the Commission didn't.</p> <p>4 So why use the old forms? Because they</p> <p>5 haven't mattered lately.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Ms. Brown?</p> <p>7 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Wouldn't any forms</p> <p>8 coming before the PEC in August have already been</p> <p>9 submitted?</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: I think there are some that</p> <p>11 have only a 14-day or -- I think there are some that</p> <p>12 are closer to the meeting date that can be</p> <p>13 submitted. So I think this does -- this is an</p> <p>14 issue -- or could probably be an issue. But that's</p> <p>15 what -- I just don't -- I think if there is some</p> <p>16 kind of urgency where they have to have it in</p> <p>17 August, use the old form.</p> <p>18 Like, if -- if not, if it's something that</p> <p>19 they can go into August, and it's not going to</p> <p>20 create some kind of financial burden or some kind of</p> <p>21 hindrance to them operating, I would direct the CSD</p> <p>22 to just say, "Thank -- thanks for submitting an</p> <p>23 amendment. Can you wait until September? Can you</p> <p>24 submit this in September? We're not -- we're just</p> <p>25 not going to accept amendments in August unless it's</p>

158	<p>1 urgent."</p> <p>2 Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: By and large, the</p> <p>4 amendments for notice for change of head</p> <p>5 administrator, those haven't really changed, so --</p> <p>6 you know. Because staying in compliance with notice</p> <p>7 of governance council and things like that, those</p> <p>8 are important.</p> <p>9 But, yeah, the -- and I fully agree. If</p> <p>10 it's an enrollment cap, anything like that, unless</p> <p>11 it is -- you know, you're going to lose something,</p> <p>12 then they should wait.</p> <p>13 And they have time to wait, because most</p> <p>14 of those amendments don't apply until the following</p> <p>15 school year. So what is the urgency, you know?</p> <p>16 So -- but if they could look at the new</p> <p>17 form and use it as a guide for what is -- what could</p> <p>18 be the potential discussion, if they could just look</p> <p>19 at it, submit it on the old form, but please be</p> <p>20 aware that the Commission is -- will most likely be</p> <p>21 looking at this, in addition, I think it's -- it's</p> <p>22 informative for the school to be advised that so</p> <p>23 they're not going to say, "I don't know why you</p> <p>24 asked me about that because it wasn't on the form."</p> <p>25 So I think they need to be aware of those</p>	160	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Do you want me to</p> <p>2 say it again?</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: If you would like to make the</p> <p>4 motion.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Provided the</p> <p>6 amendment -- provided -- failure -- or provided the</p> <p>7 timing of the amendment or the lack of approval --</p> <p>8 right? -- waiting for the form, however we want to</p> <p>9 word that -- provided the timing of the request is</p> <p>10 urgent and waiting for the new form could cause</p> <p>11 significant or material loss to the school.</p> <p>12 Maybe "loss" is the wrong term. Maybe a</p> <p>13 "significant or material impact." Because "loss"</p> <p>14 could imply some sort of financial thing, and it may</p> <p>15 not be a financial issue. Yeah. But just "material</p> <p>16 impact to the school." Does that sound right,</p> <p>17 Ms. Barnes?</p> <p>18 MS. JULIA BARNES: Working on it.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. I'm watching</p> <p>20 you type. So it's really fun to watch that, you</p> <p>21 know.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo, are you</p> <p>23 seeing the typing this time?</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: (Inaudible due to</p> <p>25 non-use of microphone.)</p>
159	<p>1 avenues of potential questions, but that they're</p> <p>2 certainly not going to be asked at this moment in</p> <p>3 time to have a community input hearing on this, you</p> <p>4 know, because it's kind of late.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins?</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Is it possible,</p> <p>7 under B, giving the discretion to bring forward</p> <p>8 school contract amendments under existing forms in</p> <p>9 the near future that may not follow existing policy</p> <p>10 precisely and identify what portion of existing</p> <p>11 policy are not being followed, "provided the school</p> <p>12 would suffer material loss or other significant</p> <p>13 impact by not having it acted upon earlier."</p> <p>14 I think that gives a little more</p> <p>15 direction. And rather than just saying, "Oh, we</p> <p>16 just don't want to wait," I think that maybe gives a</p> <p>17 little more direction, and it gives me more comfort</p> <p>18 that a challenge -- possible challenge later on</p> <p>19 would not hold up.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Ms. Barnes was saying</p> <p>21 she doesn't think we actually need a motion on this,</p> <p>22 that our conversation is -- could be enough to just</p> <p>23 give that kind of direction to CSD.</p> <p>24 If anyone would like to make a motion,</p> <p>25 yeah, we would need that language included; so...</p>	161	<p>1 THE CHAIR: All right. Any other</p> <p>2 questions for CSD or for Ms. Barnes?</p> <p>3 And, like I said, we can entertain a</p> <p>4 motion. Ms. Barnes also thinks we don't have to</p> <p>5 have a motion. But if you feel more comfortable</p> <p>6 doing a motion just clarifying this, then I think</p> <p>7 that's also fine.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I would just ask</p> <p>9 Director Chavez if she feels a motion would be</p> <p>10 better, or if she is clear that only if there's</p> <p>11 material or significant impact to the school would</p> <p>12 be sufficient guidance. It still gives you enough</p> <p>13 discretion.</p> <p>14 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: I think that</p> <p>15 would be sufficient. Thank you.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Okay. So I don't</p> <p>17 think a motion is necessary with her concurrence.</p> <p>18 Thank you.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: Great. So I think our consent</p> <p>20 agenda next month is going to be very short is what</p> <p>21 that sounds like, or maybe nothing on our consent</p> <p>22 agenda next month.</p> <p>23 MS. JULIA BARNES: Could I just clarify?</p> <p>24 I actually think, on the notifications, there's</p> <p>25 minor changes to the form.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">162</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: So go ahead and use those.</p> <p>2 MS. JULIA BARNES: It's more the school</p> <p>3 section that amends the contract itself. But there</p> <p>4 may be one or two of those. I actually want to say</p> <p>5 I think that you do need to know about those things</p> <p>6 in a timely way, and they've been doing it every</p> <p>7 month; so...</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Okay.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: So I will modify my</p> <p>10 guidance to, "or if the old forms had minor</p> <p>11 changes." So if it's like we changed verbiage or we</p> <p>12 moved something. Does that make sense?</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: If we consolidated them into</p> <p>14 one form, still use the both forms.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Does that makes</p> <p>16 sense?</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Use the old forms if there is</p> <p>18 only minor changes to the new ones.</p> <p>19 Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Because we directed</p> <p>21 the one school that we needed the notification. So</p> <p>22 it's really important to say, "Well, we couldn't</p> <p>23 submit it, because you wouldn't take it."</p> <p>24 MS. JULIA BARNES: I want that</p> <p>25 notification so you guys know what's going on. And</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">164</p> <p>1 the authorizing world is, as we speak, talking about</p> <p>2 ways of looking at charter schools differently.</p> <p>3 And so I really appreciate the subgroup --</p> <p>4 we don't call ourselves a subgroup -- the -- thank</p> <p>5 you, yeah -- the project team that has been coming</p> <p>6 together to discuss and dig into the indicators.</p> <p>7 Nonetheless, there were three possible</p> <p>8 vendors that could help us continue this work,</p> <p>9 because we are not going to work with the</p> <p>10 facilitator that had been serving us.</p> <p>11 And so this was both discussed as part of</p> <p>12 the project team meeting, but also in the budget</p> <p>13 subcommittee meeting. And it sounds like the -- the</p> <p>14 Commission has recommended that we work with the</p> <p>15 vendor whose contract proposal is uploaded -- yeah.</p> <p>16 And this is the National Charter</p> <p>17 Institute. So they were instrumental in helping</p> <p>18 NACSA to develop their next framework, and they've</p> <p>19 been thinking a lot about how performance frameworks</p> <p>20 make most sense for all schools.</p> <p>21 So I guess the question is, is there</p> <p>22 additional information that the Commission would</p> <p>23 like?</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: All right. Any questions from</p> <p>25 Commissioners?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">163</p> <p>1 that's been happening month after month. This has</p> <p>2 been true for many months.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: All right. Great. Thank you,</p> <p>4 and thanks for bringing this up, Director Chavez,</p> <p>5 because I know it's one of those things where I</p> <p>6 think you've been kind of saying and asking us about</p> <p>7 it for a little while. Thanks for being patient</p> <p>8 with us and letting us all talk about it together.</p> <p>9 All right. The next item is Discussion</p> <p>10 and Possible Action Regarding Facilitator for</p> <p>11 Performance Framework Working Group.</p> <p>12 And I think, Director Chavez, I'll pass it</p> <p>13 over to you to give us a summary.</p> <p>14 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Thank you. So I</p> <p>15 know we talked about this at the Work Session</p> <p>16 yesterday. But as the Commission knows, we have</p> <p>17 been in the process of revising the existing</p> <p>18 Performance Framework, updating it, and really</p> <p>19 asking the question about what are some -- what are</p> <p>20 the things that matter when we are making decisions</p> <p>21 authorizing recommendations and decisions around</p> <p>22 charter schools, what kind of information should the</p> <p>23 Commission be considering.</p> <p>24 And the current Performance Framework is</p> <p>25 outdated, and it's heavily compliance-oriented. And</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">165</p> <p>1 Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So pricewise it</p> <p>3 looks like there's about a \$7,000 difference,</p> <p>4 something like that? Because I can't put them both</p> <p>5 up at the same time. The contrast between</p> <p>6 SCHOOLWORKS® and --</p> <p>7 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yeah. So the</p> <p>8 National Charter Institute's bid says \$17,600;</p> <p>9 right? And then SCHOOLWORKS® has submitted a bid</p> <p>10 for \$23,800.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yeah. So, you</p> <p>12 know -- so I guess what I'm thinking more -- not</p> <p>13 about the money or anything -- do we really need a</p> <p>14 facilitator?</p> <p>15 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yes, we really</p> <p>16 need a facilitator. I do, if you want me to</p> <p>17 participate. And I -- I think what I appreciate</p> <p>18 about this Commission is that you guys recognize</p> <p>19 that I am a participant in your work, that we work</p> <p>20 hand in hand. And so you make the decisions, but I</p> <p>21 want to make really strong recommendations.</p> <p>22 And I think sometimes you -- you listen to</p> <p>23 my recommendations, and I'd like to be able to do</p> <p>24 that with the Performance Framework as well. And if</p> <p>25 I am managing the meeting, making sure that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">166</p> <p>1 everybody has an opportunity to speak, that notes 2 are being taken, that it is all -- 3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: (Inaudible due to 4 simultaneous speaking) lose you from the -- 5 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: -- I think -- 6 then I don't get to participate. 7 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Okay. 8 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson. 9 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: And I'm going to say 10 for me, as far as I understand the facilitation of 11 the meetings are important so that Corina can be 12 more present -- but, for me, the facilitation goes 13 far beyond that, because it's the work -- when they 14 come back -- because they're taking all of our 15 input, and then they're saying, "Here, this is how 16 we've drafted this, you know, based on your input," 17 Corina, to ask Corina to then do that, there's no 18 capacity there to be able to do that kind of work. 19 I know she can do it, but she doesn't have 20 capacity right now to do it, because it's just way 21 too much. There's a lot of work that goes into 22 taking all of what we've said and then putting it 23 into all those little boxes and doing -- they do 24 research as to say what's -- you know, nationally 25 what's recognized on some of these things. So it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">168</p> <p>1 So definitely an outside facilitator. 2 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins? 3 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: You know, between 4 the two, the dollars aren't significantly different. 5 But, generally, when you're doing a contract, you 6 take the low bid. I mean, is there -- I mean, 7 because I'm looking at it from the standpoint of 8 Procurement Code and things like that. If we've 9 solicited these two, and these are the two offers we 10 have, and we feel that both are valid facilitator 11 options, then I think we're obliged to take the 12 lower cost option, unless there is some material 13 difference as to picking the other one. 14 Because, you know, if we requested this -- 15 unless they're -- if they're both on State Price 16 Agreement, then there's no problem. You can pick 17 the one you want. But if they're not, then I think 18 Procurement Code says you pick the lower cost of the 19 two, if you feel that they will meet the -- the 20 minimums of what is needed. 21 THE CHAIR: Before I go back around to 22 people who haven't spoken, I will say I think we got 23 lucky that the group that we felt like actually is 24 better is the cheaper option. So I think we got 25 lucky in that, because I do think there was a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">167</p> <p>1 really is -- goes far and beyond. 2 And we want Corina, on a weekly basis, to 3 be present at the meeting. But if -- it was just 4 that, we could probably find someone just to do 5 that. 6 But it goes well beyond just the 7 facilitation of our regular Tuesday meetings. It's 8 the -- it's the final end project that's going -- 9 that they're going to be able to help do a whole 10 lot. Even when we did this five years ago, or four 11 years ago, we had -- we had a group that did it for 12 us, you know. 13 So it's -- it's paramount for me. 14 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt. 15 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. You know, I -- 16 we definitely need an outside facilitator. You 17 know, expertise is in many different realms. And I 18 think the benefit of having an outside facilitator 19 is that not only do they help us with our thinking, 20 but they help us rethink about different aspects. 21 And I think we all know each other so 22 well, and, you know, it's really easy to become 23 entrenched. And someone from the outside can help 24 us with being more responsive to what our ultimate 25 end game is going to be.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">169</p> <p>1 difference. 2 When I was looking at it, I do think there 3 was a difference in quality, and also even -- the 4 one thing about SCHOOLWORKS® is they had some 5 variable pricing in theirs to where it could go up 6 more; whereas, the National Charter Institute one 7 was more inclusive and more flat-rate, which I liked 8 as well. 9 The other thing that I did -- I was 10 concerned about, and I feel relieved by and feel 11 more comfortable with, is the one thing I was 12 worried about was getting a facilitator who had 13 their own agenda to do things a certain way they are 14 programmed to do. 15 And I'm, like, well, we want to do things 16 our way; right? And maybe we can be influenced or 17 we can get some more learning or get understanding. 18 But at the end of the day, it should be the PEC's 19 document in conjunction with the Charter Schools 20 Division in New Mexico. It shouldn't be a different 21 entity's way of doing business. 22 And so that was one of my questions to 23 this vendor, in particular, because they do have a 24 specific academic kind of profile that they employ 25 across their organization.</p>

170	<p>1 And they were very responsive, number one, 2 which I was grateful for. But also, number two, 3 they were willing to not impose their -- their 4 values, their framework onto us, that we can tell 5 them what we want, and they were open to that. 6 So that was something that I cared about 7 and felt comfortable that this group has a national 8 purview out, which is something I like, but also 9 they'll listen to us locally at the same time. 10 So -- and, once again, I like that they 11 were the cheaper option. And I actually was -- at 12 first, I was -- I did not want their -- and based 13 off their responsiveness and how they responded, I 14 have become more -- way more of a fan of this group 15 than the other one. 16 Commissioner Carrillo, and then 17 Commissioner Voigt. 18 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I don't remember 19 why I waved my hand. 20 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt, then 21 Commissioner Robbins. 22 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Oh. I'm ready to 23 make a motion, if we are at that point. 24 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I was going to do a 25 motion, too.</p>	172	<p>1 THE CHAIR: All right. Any other comments 2 from Commissioners? 3 Commissioner Carrillo. 4 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So I'm looking at 5 this -- it's an observation. And it's like, 6 ¡Hijole! It's every Tuesday through September, 7 October. So I've got to -- I'll do my very best, 8 but I've got to tell you, tomorrow morning at 7:00, 9 I'm leaving on a three- to four-week road trip. And 10 I don't know when or -- it's just very loose. My 11 plan is to try to be back for the opening of THRIVE 12 on August 17th and to be in Ruidoso. But I'm going 13 to miss those first three. 14 THE CHAIR: We can talk about it in our 15 project group. 16 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: In your project 17 team. 18 THE CHAIR: We'll talk about it together. 19 All right. Seeing no other hands up, 20 Secretary Armijo, if you could call roll. 21 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner 22 Robbins. 23 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. 24 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor. 25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p>
171	<p>1 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Super. I'll do it. 2 I move that the Director of the Charter 3 School Division, Ms. Chavez, move forward to obtain 4 the services of the National Charter Institute for 5 facilitation of the Performance Framework project 6 team. 7 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I'll second. But I 8 think it needs to be amended to the "National 9 Charter Schools Institute." 10 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: No. The name of 11 their organization is the National Charter 12 Institute. 13 THE CHAIR: No. Look. 14 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: It says "Charter 15 School Institute." 16 THE CHAIR: "Schools." 17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: National Charter 18 Schools Institute. 19 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I'll second. 20 THE CHAIR: All right. There's a motion 21 by Commissioner Voigt, a second by Commissioner 22 Robbins. 23 We didn't want to give this contract to 24 not a real company, okay? 25 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: (Indicates.)</p>	173	<p>1 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo 2 votes yes. 3 Chair Voigt. I mean Chair Burt. 4 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. 5 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Sorry. Chair Burt. 6 THE CHAIR: Yes. 7 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thank you. 8 Commissioner Carrillo. 9 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes. 10 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez. 11 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis. 13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. 14 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson. 15 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes. 16 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: And Commissioner 17 Manis. 18 (No response.) 19 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Okay. That's nine 20 out of ten. 21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Did you get me? 22 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes. I said you 23 first. Okay. Thank you. 24 THE CHAIR: All right. That passes. 25 Item No. 12, Report from Charter Schools</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">174</p> <p>1 Division.</p> <p>2 Director Chavez.</p> <p>3 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: All right. Thank</p> <p>4 you, Commissioners. They're giving me a hard time.</p> <p>5 I first want to give a staffing update.</p> <p>6 And because our meetings are so hard to plan in</p> <p>7 terms of when this is, Felicia and William, who are</p> <p>8 two new team members, and I were trying to gauge</p> <p>9 when my report would be. So they may step down from</p> <p>10 upstairs on the third floor, wherever they are</p> <p>11 working, to come say hi to you.</p> <p>12 But I am happy that Felicia has joined as</p> <p>13 a business operations staff, and she has -- is going</p> <p>14 to take over all aspects of Commission travel</p> <p>15 reimbursements.</p> <p>16 So next month, we'll go into greater</p> <p>17 detail about systems to support you. If there's</p> <p>18 anything that you want to let me know between now</p> <p>19 and two weeks before our August meeting about the</p> <p>20 Commissioner reimbursements, please feel free to</p> <p>21 reach out to me or Deputy Director Brigitte Russell</p> <p>22 to share what -- what suggestions you might have.</p> <p>23 I'm hoping that with Felicia at the helm</p> <p>24 and it being just one person that is managing the</p> <p>25 entire packet, if you will, of reimbursements, that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">176</p> <p>1 And then Ms. Maricela Rincon, who is the</p> <p>2 Ed Admin aide that I hired from Las Cruces, a former</p> <p>3 principal from that area of the state, has also</p> <p>4 decided to move on. So we also wish her well.</p> <p>5 We're going to miss her a ton. And we understand</p> <p>6 that, you know, she has other ideas in mind and</p> <p>7 maybe misses being in the school setting. So we</p> <p>8 understand. This is the time that transitions</p> <p>9 occur. And so we have to say good-bye to Mari.</p> <p>10 But one of the people that I hired -- and</p> <p>11 I mentioned, I think it was at the last meeting --</p> <p>12 and who joined us in D.C., and who everybody who</p> <p>13 found out that he joined the team in D.C., said</p> <p>14 "Woo-hoo, you really scored with Louie Torre." "</p> <p>15 So Louie is the Director of the Charter</p> <p>16 Schools Program Grant, the federal grant that we</p> <p>17 have that Brigitte used to run.</p> <p>18 So he -- he took that position, and he</p> <p>19 will be doing other things in the Division as well,</p> <p>20 so much more already. He's added value to his</p> <p>21 position.</p> <p>22 But I know that, Commissioners, you often</p> <p>23 ask about details around the Charter Schools Program</p> <p>24 Grant. You want to know numbers, you want</p> <p>25 specifics. And sometimes I say, "I don't have that.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">175</p> <p>1 there is better tracking, that there's more</p> <p>2 timeliness, that next May, we are not processing</p> <p>3 travel from September or October. We are going to</p> <p>4 be on you guys to make sure that you've done your</p> <p>5 parts, and my aim is that you get reimbursed very</p> <p>6 quickly.</p> <p>7 So that's -- that's my goal. And Felicia</p> <p>8 is really going to help with that. I know she will.</p> <p>9 So stay tuned for that.</p> <p>10 And then William has been hired as my</p> <p>11 assistant. So he's sitting up there outside my</p> <p>12 office and going to help with scheduling and all</p> <p>13 kinds of things. Stay tuned with that.</p> <p>14 He's a real sweetie, and he'll probably</p> <p>15 come down to say hi in a minute. He's working on an</p> <p>16 IRIS ticket for Commissioner Gipson as we speak. So</p> <p>17 it's that sort of support that they will be able to</p> <p>18 offer to you all, and to me, in running this</p> <p>19 incredible division.</p> <p>20 I also am really sad to say that this</p> <p>21 month we had two letters of resignation, one for</p> <p>22 Ms. Val Cordova, who has been working on the Charter</p> <p>23 Schools Program Grant as a business operations staff</p> <p>24 person. She's decided to move on. And so we wish</p> <p>25 her well, and we'll certainly miss Val.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">177</p> <p>1 Give me a minute."</p> <p>2 Right now, I'm going to say that Louie has</p> <p>3 that.</p> <p>4 So I'd like to turn over my report to</p> <p>5 Louie, so he can give you an update on the Charter</p> <p>6 Schools Program Grant.</p> <p>7 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: Does it make sense for</p> <p>8 me to leave my Zoom camera off and just use this</p> <p>9 one? Because if I see myself up there, it's going</p> <p>10 to be weird.</p> <p>11 I still see myself.</p> <p>12 Okay. Okay. No, don't leave -- or did</p> <p>13 I -- okay. Share.</p> <p>14 Are we good? Yeah. Let me do this. Will</p> <p>15 it let me? Okay. Cool.</p> <p>16 Good afternoon, Chairman Burt, fellow</p> <p>17 Commissioners. It's an honor to -- to sit before</p> <p>18 you to present the Charter School Grant update.</p> <p>19 It's exciting to come in and to be asked</p> <p>20 to spend money. That's -- that's always -- for my</p> <p>21 opinion, that's always a fun thing to do.</p> <p>22 I mentioned last month -- and I'm not sure</p> <p>23 if everybody was there -- there's people on the --</p> <p>24 on the meeting today that didn't hear, because I was</p> <p>25 introduced last month. I'm coming from the Title I</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">178</p> <p>1 and then ESSER positions here at PED. Before that, 2 I was eight years at Walatowa High Charter School. 3 So I started Walatowa in 2004, left in May of 2012 4 on a Friday, got to see my GEAR UP students 5 graduate. And then on Monday, I started with Sam 6 Ornelas and the Title I team.</p> <p>7 And almost to the day -- so my first day 8 at Title I was May 21, 2012. My first day at 9 Charter Schools was May 16, 2022. So it's been -- 10 it's been a great ride. In fact, I talked to Sam 11 Ornelas earlier. You saw me step out to take a 12 call. So it's still good to connect with 13 Mr. Ornelas for those of you who know him.</p> <p>14 I'm going to take you through a few 15 slides. I apologize if it looks like it's a large 16 dump. I tried to give it sort of an overview feel. 17 There are a couple of slides that seem a little full 18 with information. And my commitment to you is that 19 next month, at the August session, I will have 20 everything I'm showing you down to the penny. Right 21 now, I have an asterisk on -- on this slide right 22 off the bat. The numbers I'm going to be showing 23 you do need some reconciliations; and not so much 24 from other departments at PED. It's just some 25 numbers I need to make sure.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">180</p> <p>1 So a little bit more of the background 2 with some numbers that I just sort of gave you a 3 minute ago.</p> <p>4 The State award originally was 5 \$22,500,000. It was reduced in 2021 -- probably not 6 news to anyone in this group -- by almost 7 \$4 million. So, currently, we are working with a 8 budget of \$18,500,000 and change.</p> <p>9 The rules of this grant are that a minimum 10 of 90 percent needs to be pushed out to the charter 11 schools. The remaining 10 percent stays at the 12 State. 7 percent is a minimum for technical 13 assistance. And on the administrative piece, we 14 cannot go above 3. So we can go above 90. We can 15 go above 7. We cannot go above 3.</p> <p>16 If I were to break down how those 17 subgrants have been pushed out, new schools receive 18 just over \$7 million. Expansion schools received 19 over 3. There was one State charter that received a 20 replication grant of just over a million. And then 21 there was a specific additional distance learning 22 initiative that was about \$4 and a half million.</p> <p>23 So if you're trying to add up those 24 numbers, I'm switching the slides on you. I've done 25 that math for you on this slide.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">179</p> <p>1 I want things to be to the penny. I mean, 2 when you're dealing with millions of dollars, even 3 in those instances, you want things to match up.</p> <p>4 And so right now I have a couple of small 5 questions. You'll probably even see them. As I 6 show you the numbers if you have a calculator out 7 and are trying to make the numbers match, I tell you 8 they will not match to the penny today.</p> <p>9 So I'll give you a little bit of 10 background on the CSP Grant, and then I'll walk you 11 through where charter schools are, what options they 12 had as the end ever the fiscal year came down on 13 June 30, also where we stand with our part of those 14 funds, and then a projection on a couple of 15 possibilities moving forward into our No Cost 16 Extension year.</p> <p>17 So the CSP grant was applied for in 2017 18 by Katie Poulos, who I believe was the charter 19 director at that time. Our state was awarded just 20 over \$22 million. And, at this point, we are just 21 in our sixth year, because the grant was supposed to 22 end this September 30th, 2022. But there was a 23 request for an extension, which was granted.</p> <p>24 And so we are currently in a No Cost 25 Extension year.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">181</p> <p>1 The current balances for the charter 2 schools -- and I've added GY23. And on the last 3 bullet of this slide, that \$872,000 is reflected in 4 the \$16 million in the first bullet.</p> <p>5 So we will have pushed out \$16 million to 6 the schools, which is at about 90 percent. I think 7 we're, like, just a hair over 90.</p> <p>8 As of June 30, there was just under \$2 9 million still in the charters' hands.</p> <p>10 THRIVE, RioGAFA, and Explore, they 11 received their \$872,000 on July 1, because it was an 12 FY23 portion of their allocation. They received 13 part of it in '21-'22 as a planning portion. And 14 now they're receiving the remainder in their 15 implementation portion.</p> <p>16 They had two -- those charters that had 17 some remaining balance of just under \$2 million. 18 They had two options as June 30 approached. They 19 could say, "I'll just wait for my remaining balance 20 when carryover is calculated and given to me," which 21 is around November through March, as you might have 22 heard your constituents tell you that sometimes 23 carryover takes a long time at PED.</p> <p>24 Or the other option -- and it's really -- 25 it doesn't have to be an either/or. They could have</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">182</p> <p>1 done both, and there are some that have done. They 2 took an option of an unliquidated obligation. That 3 typically is not available, but because back in, 4 like, February/April, PED did not know whether we 5 were going to receive a No Cost Extension. They put 6 this particular fund in the realm of it's expiring. 7 And the way you handle it's expiring is we give you 8 your remaining balance, like, right away in July so 9 you can finish by September 30. 10 So that option was put out there to them. 11 I did a session at the -- at the Charter School 12 Division charter conference, I think it was, like, 13 June 9 or June 10. 14 And I took the time to explain those 15 options to them, because the unliquidated obligation 16 is a unique animal, because what you need to do is 17 to make sure you encumber any funds that you're 18 planning to spend on that first quarter of the next 19 fiscal year before June 30 and take a snapshot of 20 your expenditure report or your encumbrance report 21 and use that as documentation and actually submit to 22 PED a specific form that ASD has created and said, 23 "These are the items you want to spend in the first 24 quarter. These are the lines that they're going to 25 be in."</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">184</p> <p>1 staff, the students, the parents, the community. 2 There were others that were excited about 3 their specific program, their niche. Whether it was 4 health science or whether it was technology, they 5 were excited about that option. So it sort of 6 started the meeting off on a good foot. 7 I also asked them -- and I won't take our 8 time here -- I asked them, "What are you doing to 9 relax?" You know, two years of COVID, what are you 10 doing to stay sane? There were some cool 11 suggestions. One person said, "I go garden my 12 tomatoes. That's my way." 13 And there was a lot of other good 14 suggestions, also, which I personally benefited 15 from. 16 So I don't want to -- I might be coming 17 across as a machine gun, so let me pause here. I 18 think I've already shown you a couple of slides with 19 a lot of information. Anything so far? Would you 20 like for me to continue? 21 (No response.) 22 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: Continue? 23 Okay. Very good. 24 So now we're going to look at -- and I 25 know I'm calling this slide "State Budget." But</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">183</p> <p>1 And I want to say there's four or five 2 charters that chose that option. The largest is 3 THRIVE, who had a large balance coming up to 4 June 30, but now has full budget authority for that 5 huge balance. And they say that they can spend 6 roughly that \$400K in these next roughly 70 days to 7 finish their school layout. 8 So that was exciting to see. 9 In Title I, I didn't have unliquidated 10 obligations, so that was a new animal for me as 11 well. 12 What was sort of fun about the session, it 13 was my first time to get to meet charters. I know 14 it was virtually, but I asked them -- and maybe one 15 of you attended that session, I'm not sure. We had 16 about 30 participants who actually signed in on the 17 chat. I think there was actually more probably in 18 the session. 19 And I asked them what they thought was 20 really cool about their school. And it was -- it 21 was exciting to see how many people are excited 22 about their schools. 23 I would say probably a third of those who 24 responded, if not 50 percent, said they're excited 25 about the people that are part of their school, the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">185</p> <p>1 just remember this is just the 10 percent. 2 90 percent went to the schools. That's what that 3 \$60 million number was about. 4 Now we're going to look at the 10 percent, 5 which is roughly just under \$2 million. 6 That first bullet that talks about G5. It 7 haven't mentioned that till right now. G5 is the 8 federal holding place for our monies. So they might 9 award you \$20 million or \$500 million, but they 10 don't give you those funds until you actually spend 11 the funds. They don't -- and, again, I'm trying to 12 not go into details about all federal funds. But 13 that's the way the system works. There's 14 \$50 million sitting out there. You draw down money 15 as you spend it. 16 So we still, as of -- I think this was 17 July the 2nd -- we had a balance in G5 of just over 18 5 of the 18,5 we were talking about. 19 So if you're a numbers person, you're 20 saying, "Well, Louie, this \$2 million overall 21 budget, 1.778, and the 16 and change you shared, why 22 do we have \$5 million sitting at the Fed's bank?" 23 Because, as you might imagine, we pay the 24 districts that we need to get paid. And that 25 process can literally show gaps of weeks to months.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">186</p> <p>1 So that's my general explanation of why 2 the G5 is not much lower is because the State does 3 its drawdowns on a certain basis. And we don't 4 really tell them when to do the drawdown. But I 5 know those funds will be drawn down soon and bring 6 that balance even lower.</p> <p>7 So now to get into details of the 8 10 percent.</p> <p>9 The numbers in the Budget line column, the 10 2, 3, 4, and 7, those are the numbers that are used 11 in Share. I gave you the names in general terms of 12 what those categories are: Salaries, Contracts, 13 Other, and Indirect. You'll see that -- and this is 14 for the full five-year picture. I'm not going by 15 each award letter we received.</p> <p>16 Again, maybe too many details. But there 17 was four award letters our state received of that 18 \$18 million. We didn't get one \$18 million letter 19 five years ago; we've been getting it in chunks. 20 What I'm showing you today is the big chunk.</p> <p>21 I can show you by individual GANs at our 22 next meeting, if you'd like to see that view. But 23 about \$900K was for salaries. We've spent just over 24 half of that. You can see the balances.</p> <p>25 If you were to take the Budget column</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">188</p> <p>1 continue.</p> <p>2 And there is a question slide at the end, 3 so you can save your questions for the end.</p> <p>4 So here's the -- sort of potential '23 5 view of funds that are remaining.</p> <p>6 Explore-Rio Rancho, using numbers that 7 they provided in their application, could reach up 8 to 878. It could be less; it could be more. But 9 just to give you a ballpark of what that number 10 could look for them.</p> <p>11 And 21st Century, which maybe is new 12 information to this group, that you didn't know they 13 were looking for an expansion grant. But we can 14 talk about that a little bit as well.</p> <p>15 But their estimate would be about \$100K. 16 And then the rest of the funds for personnel and 17 contracts, like the previous slide.</p> <p>18 And then what I'd like to sort of end with 19 is that last bullet, Leadership Roundtable.</p> <p>20 At the session I had with the Charter 21 Schools back in June, I brought this topic up, 22 because that was actually written into the grant 23 application originally. And I understand that sort 24 of ebbed and flowed over the five years.</p> <p>25 And I think Director Chavez wants me to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">187</p> <p>1 minus the Expense column, I'll guarantee you, you 2 will not come up to the remaining. And the reason 3 is, is because I have left out the Encumbrance and 4 Pre-Encumbrance columns. Those are where monies 5 have been promised or been saved. And I want to get 6 a full -- there's -- just to be quite honest, 7 there's a few things I need to disencumber. And 8 then that will change our balances, and that's going 9 to take me the time between now and August to get 10 that true picture.</p> <p>11 But you can see the beginning budget. You 12 can see the remaining balance.</p> <p>13 Most of those balances will go up. Maybe 14 one item number that catches your attention is that 15 negative. No one ever wants to see negatives in any 16 spreadsheet. That will be resolved by one single 17 disencumbrance.</p> <p>18 There's a quarter-million-dollar 19 requisition that I need to have taken out. And when 20 that happens, the remaining balance will go back up 21 to, like, a \$200,000 balance, rather than a negative 22 \$66,000. So, again, a big chunk of information.</p> <p>23 Any questions? 24 (No response.) 25 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: Okay. So I'll</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">189</p> <p>1 make this my first priority, you know, keep track of 2 the money, but make this Leadership Table thing 3 work.</p> <p>4 So that will be -- I plan -- I don't see 5 why I can't meet this obligation -- I want to commit 6 to give you a plan of that Leadership Roundtable at 7 the next PEC session.</p> <p>8 But I asked a group in June, you know, who 9 do you think should be part of this table? How 10 often should they happen? How long should they be? 11 What should we be looking at?</p> <p>12 And I got some information that day. One 13 that I remember is that we want to know, those of us 14 that are small charters, you know, how can we manage 15 our multiple funding sources? How can we, you know, 16 generate other funds?</p> <p>17 And, you know, that's familiar to me. At 18 Walatowa, that wasn't my title, but I was writing 19 grants all the time. That's what charters do.</p> <p>20 And so we're looking at that.</p> <p>21 One other sort of big-picture idea that 22 I'll just put out there for you to think about and 23 germinate, and that is innovation. So here's -- in 24 my mind, all of this, great things that state and 25 local charters are doing, and in all these years,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">190</p> <p>1 maybe we haven't done our best to let the rest of 2 the state know what's working and what maybe -- you 3 know, you don't have to go to Michigan or 4 California. You have people doing some awesome 5 stuff here. And I think that could be a roundtable. 6 And I have some ideas of how to really 7 hook people and make that a large, not a 50-person 8 attendance, but, like, a 500-person attendance, to 9 put that out there. 10 I don't think that'll be the only focus 11 cushion of the Leadership Roundtable, but that could 12 be one session. 13 There's other ideas. One other idea that 14 I think has some traction is, "Yeah, we can all come 15 to Albuquerque. But why don't you come to Cruces? 16 Or why don't you come to Taos?" 17 I can take this on the road. And, again, 18 I think you get different participation when you do 19 those kind of things. 20 I know that sometimes when I would have 21 conferences in other towns, they would say, "Well, 22 Louie, why did you bring it to Clovis? I want to go 23 to Albuquerque. I want to do my shopping or my 24 eating or whatever." 25 You're not going to please everybody. But</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">192</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Make sure I did that first. 2 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Maybe the Director 3 needs to tell everyone. 4 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Correct. So, 5 first of all, I just want to call to your attention 6 that the two staff members that I mentioned earlier 7 are in the back of the room. So Felicia and 8 William, say hi to the Commission. Commissioners, 9 say hi to Felicia and William. 10 And also, I wanted to let the 11 Commissioners know that although it is true Felicia 12 is taking over all aspects of your travel, we do 13 have a challenge right now with DocuSign. And it's 14 being assigned to Felicia. So I would ask you to 15 hold off on submitting your DocuSigns until next 16 week. And when an e-mail comes out from me that 17 this has been resolved. Okay. Don't wait till 18 December, Commissioner Carrillo. 19 But I think that by next week, I'm hoping 20 that we can have it resolved. 21 So that's the announcements that I wanted 22 to make. And I don't know if there's any questions 23 that people have for Louie. I want to say thank you 24 to Louie for putting that together. That's a lot of 25 detail and a lot of great information.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">191</p> <p>1 I do think there was other people at those meetings 2 that said, "Thank you, because I would have never 3 attended," especially staff. You know, 4 administration can go to Albuquerque for a day or 5 two. But the people in the trenches, you know, they 6 can't, you know, because of their own family 7 obligations or other obligations. So let's bring it 8 to them and maybe only have them have to drive 9 100 miles than 300 miles. 10 And, you know, if you're coming from 11 Hobbs, it's about 400 miles. So it's, like, another 12 place over there. And there's great people down 13 there. And so don't have a lot of charters down 14 there, but -- you know, who's to say we couldn't 15 look at that as well? So I digress. Sorry about 16 that. 17 So, quick, maybe too quick, maybe too 18 much, maybe not enough. But that's what the 19 question time can be for. 20 THE CHAIR: All right. I know, 21 Commissioner Gipson, I saw your hand up earlier. I 22 don't know if it's about CSP. Maybe it was about 23 something else in the report? 24 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yeah. It was about 25 reimbursement, and I got it answered. So...</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">193</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: There are questions. Don't go 2 anywhere, Louie, okay? 3 Commissioner Voigt. 4 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. Thanks, 5 Louie, for that really in-depth CSP presentation. 6 I wanted to talk about, you know, the 7 roundtables that you're going to be taking over. I 8 think it's a great idea for charter leaders to get 9 together. Just before COVID, I reached out to some 10 charter schools in my district. And we all had 11 breakfast together. And it was really a great 12 thing. And we were going to start doing that 13 monthly, those face to face over food. And then 14 COVID came, and so we didn't do that. 15 But then we, in -- maybe it was March -- 16 we all met at the Albuquerque School of Excellence. 17 And charter leaders have expressed that those school 18 site visits and sharing information and doing a tour 19 and just a real -- the school would host, and then 20 they would share their practices, you know, 21 whatever, their org chart, their salary schedule, 22 their bell schedule, whatever, that that kind of 23 information was really helpful. 24 And then there was just open questions. 25 But I love your idea, because, you know,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">194</p> <p>1 charter leaders never spend enough time -- or they 2 don't prioritize the time to get together with 3 another charter leader to develop, like, critical 4 friends groups, especially friends that have similar 5 demographics or similar missions, because amongst 6 all the 90 charter schools in the state, it seems 7 like -- it could be State charters and district 8 charters -- that can cross that bridge and come 9 together to share their best practices or what's 10 working for them around, you know, what does your 11 bell schedule look like? Are you starting at 8:30? 12 Are you starting at 10:00? We have younger kids. 13 They like to start earlier. We have older kids. 14 They like to start later. That type of thing, to 15 divide them up into those types of buckets of either 16 demographics or mission or place. 17 I think that charter leaders would really 18 get a lot out of that, specifically, especially if 19 there were little CFGs built within those places. 20 And I so agree with you that we have so 21 much strength and innovation and purpose in our 22 communities in New Mexico, and it's about time we 23 stopped bringing in those out-of-states to tell us 24 what to do when we have the assets here. And I so 25 agree with you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">196</p> <p>1 gained a lot of notoriety, especially in the medical 2 field. But it's trying to break into the 3 educational sector; so ... 4 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: I am familiar with ECHO 5 from the ESSER experience. I know we funded some 6 work with ECHO with ESSER funds. But so -- that's 7 about the length of my experience with them. I am 8 aware of them, and I know we have worked with them 9 before. Right at the beginning of COVID, I don't 10 know what we did with them. But they did something 11 with us. 12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I know what he was 13 doing with UNM ECHO. He was working Future Focused 14 Ed. Their communities of practice are around their 15 graduation profile, and their graduation capstones. 16 That's what he was doing. 17 But I'll put you in touch with Michael -- 18 with Dr. Stanton. Thank you. 19 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: Thank you. 20 THE CHAIR: All right. My question is 21 what are we doing to replenish that fund? 22 MR. LOUIE TORREZ: So probably sooner than 23 I should have, but I asked Director Chavez within 24 the first five days, "So are we going for another 25 one?"</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">195</p> <p>1 I was going to ask you if you've heard of 2 UNM ECHO. UNM ECHO is a international online 3 professional development platform that has received 4 huge funding -- we're talking Bill and Melinda Gates 5 we're talking about a lot of millions of dollars -- 6 to share best practices. And it's free. 7 And Michael Stanton -- do you know Michael 8 Stanton? I will -- I will e-mail you his contact 9 info. He heads up an education branch of UNM ECHO. 10 Because UNM ECHO was founded in the medical -- UNM 11 medical field. But there is an education branch. 12 And Michael Stanton heads that up. 13 And he asks for presentations. And I 14 presented a few years ago about some -- maybe it was 15 project-based learning. I don't know what it was. 16 But to bring more educators into that realm, too, 17 because it's non-intrusive. It takes little time, 18 it's free, and it has a wide net, and they can reach 19 a lot of people. 20 So I will make a note to myself to give 21 you Michael Stanton's contact, because he's always 22 looking for people to participate. And there's 23 great things going on. We need to share it. And 24 UNM ECHO is a great platform for that. 25 And it's -- it's really big, and it's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">197</p> <p>1 I think even before I got the job, I asked 2 that, because that's just my mentality. 3 And however it happened, I batted a 4 thousand when I was a charter. We got grants. We 5 got Gates money. We got BP Petroleum money. I went 6 for everything that was out there. And if we have 7 the story, you get the money. 8 And I think we have a great story. And 9 that's part of what you have to do is you have to 10 believe in what you're doing. And I believed in 11 Walatowa. And I believe in the charter movement in 12 this state. 13 So I -- I have already spoken with the 14 program officer. I know we could not participate in 15 this current round, because if you have funds, you 16 can't have another set. 17 So I'm already asking, "So when is the 18 next round?" 19 And we'll -- because we're wrapping things 20 up on September 30th, 2023, will those timelines 21 mesh? 22 So, yes, I'm pursuing that. 23 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Can you put your 24 contact information back up? 25 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: May I add that</p>

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199	<p>1 wants to see, or if there's things you didn't see 2 today that you'd like to see or things you saw today 3 that you don't want to see. 4 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Robbins. 5 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: This was great. I 6 appreciate it. And I checked. The numbers do tie 7 out. Thank you. 8 THE CHAIR: Yeah. I would say this is 9 great. I love that it was what has happened. 10 You're already looking at what's coming ahead, where 11 it's at. I thought it was comprehensive. I really 12 liked it, and I think it's a great starting point 13 moving forward. 14 All right. All right. Next is Item 15 No. 13, which is Report from PEC Liaisons. 16 LESC did not meet since I last saw you. 17 They're meeting next week in Alamogordo. So I'll be 18 able to tell you about that in August. 19 LFC is meeting as we speak right now. 20 They may be done for the day. They just were 21 meeting while we're meeting this week. 22 Next -- Dr. Russell? 23 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Yes. Chair Burt, 24 Director Chavez's new administrative assistant has 25 joined us, if the committee would like to meet him.</p>	201	<p>1 ticket, I can do that for you. 2 I look forward to working with everybody 3 as often as necessary as you guys need, whatever you 4 guys need, and looking forward to being part of the 5 team and making it work as efficiently as possible. 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, William. It's so 7 nice to meet you. 8 MR. WILLIAM SPOTTS: Thank you. 9 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt. 10 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I think it would be 11 okay for Ms. Chavez to have a personal and 12 administrative assistant, schedule those massages 13 for her, you know. 14 THE CHAIR: She has so much time for that. 15 All right. Thank you, William. 16 Felicia, come -- it's good to see you in 17 person. 18 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Hi, Commissioners. 19 My name is Felicia. I have been with the agency 20 for, I think, about four weeks now. And going 21 forward, I definitely think your travel 22 reimbursements are going to be processed within two 23 weeks. And so I am working on a really clean, 24 streamlined process to get those within the 25 deadline. And so we're definitely going to go ahead</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">202</p> <p>1 and present that to you guys in August. And I'm 2 super excited.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Thank you. That's exciting 4 that you're excited about process. That makes me 5 happy.</p> <p>6 Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I just want to thank 8 you so much for all the work that you've already 9 done on getting reimbursements processed, and I 10 always look forward to getting e-mails from you.</p> <p>11 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Thank you.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I have receipts for 13 you if you want to take those today. Thanks.</p> <p>14 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Yes, definitely.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Welcome and 17 everything. What I will do, before you and God and 18 everyone today, I won't wait a year. I won't put 19 everything in at one time, because I realize what a 20 burden that was for Bev and for you. And I 21 apologize. And I will be much more timely in my 22 filings.</p> <p>23 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Thank you.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Of course.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: All right. Well, thanks. It</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">204</p> <p>1 this month's meeting, because it was this week, on 2 July 19th. And it was an all-day meeting. It was 3 the Indian Education Advisory Council Tribal Leaders 4 Caucus and Dinner. So it was an all-day meeting. 5 And I had to work on Wednesday. And then they also 6 had their Indian Education Government-to-Government 7 meeting yesterday all day, and their Indian Ed 8 Summit that was going on today all day.</p> <p>9 So because of our meetings, I wasn't able 10 to attend those.</p> <p>11 But what I -- I'm excited about learning 12 about what they, you know, discussed and put in 13 place or what recommendations they are going to 14 bring to PED in regards to the Martinez/Yazzie case, 15 and I will bring you that next month.</p> <p>16 Thank you so much.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>18 Item c. is the New Mexico Coalition of 19 Educational Leaders. Vice Chair Voigt.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yeah. Nothing to 21 report. They have -- I'll just say they have not 22 been very inviting or welcoming. And I've reached 23 out numerous times, asked for locations and dates. 24 And nada. So there you have it. Yeah.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: Continuation of my experience</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">203</p> <p>1 definitely sounds like -- like my heart connects 2 with yours. If you like process, I like process. 3 So we'll support you in any way we can as well. So 4 if you need Commissioners to get whipped into shape, 5 you let us know.</p> <p>6 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Okay. Definitely.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: You tell us, too. Thanks, 8 Felicia. Welcome.</p> <p>9 MS. FELICIA GONZALES: Thank you.</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: All right. We're back to 11 Item 13.</p> <p>12 So item 13.b. is the New Mexico Indian 13 Education Advisory Council. Secretary Armijo.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Thank you, 15 Chair Burt. So, unfortunately, I wasn't able to 16 attend -- well, let me go back.</p> <p>17 The last meeting I attended was in June. 18 And at that meeting, what we talked about was -- the 19 biggest thing we talked about was the Discussion 20 Draft and Action Plan Decisions about the 21 Martinez/Yazzie case and the recommendations that 22 the IEAC was going to bring to the -- to the PED.</p> <p>23 There was much discussion about that and 24 how that would play out. So we discussed that.</p> <p>25 And then what I wasn't able to attend was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">205</p> <p>1 last year. Yeah.</p> <p>2 All right. Item d., someone who I know 3 will always have something, the New Mexico Public 4 School Capital Outlay Council. Commissioner 5 Robbins.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Thank you. Sorry. 7 I do have good report. I mentioned to Commissioner 8 Voigt and Commissioner Gipson yesterday, PSCOC is in 9 a position, depending on the situation of a school, 10 to grant waivers for a district when they're 11 building schools.</p> <p>12 And the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy, 13 for years, had been trying to find the funding to 14 find a permanent facility. They're actually in two 15 or three facilities now in Downtown Albuquerque. 16 The main campus is right off Lomas and, I think, 17 Seventh Street. Very cramped. All of their 18 facilities are very cramped and everything, serving 19 about 135 students right now.</p> <p>20 I'm going to cry again, because the 21 Council approved a -- excuse me -- a \$21 million 22 waiver.</p> <p>23 (Applause.)</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: They have also 25 secured a \$3 million loan. So that's \$24 million</p>

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1 they will have available to move forward.
 2 Their current cap, I believe, is
 3 200 students. They're looking at possibly a
 4 300-student cap, which they would easily be able to
 5 serve and recruit that many students in the
 6 Albuquerque and surrounding areas because of their
 7 program.
 8 I was -- I was actually crying at the
 9 meeting earlier this week, and so thankful that the
 10 PSCOC agreed and finally said, "Yeah, this is a
 11 unique school. It serves a unique community, and
 12 we're going to grant a \$21 million waiver," which,
 13 otherwise, because they're in the Albuquerque
 14 district, they could have been required to come up
 15 with on their own.
 16 So that's great news. And it just goes to
 17 show charters that you have a program, you have a
 18 unique program, you can get capital funding. The
 19 PSCOC, I think, has had their eyes opened about
 20 charters. Joe Guillen actually made the comment
 21 that this Albuquerque Sign Language was such a
 22 unique charter, and that many charters are serving
 23 our at-risk students, and they need the support that
 24 the Council can provide.
 25 That was a great -- a great statement

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1 coming from the Executive Director of New Mexico
 2 School Boards Association.
 3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: May I interrupt
 4 you for one second? Joe Guillen said that you, you,
 5 Commissioner Robbins, were instrumental in making
 6 all this happen. Because I met with him, and I'll
 7 give that on my report. He thinks none of this
 8 would have gone through or carried through without
 9 you.
 10 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Thank you.
 11 The PSFA is working on teacherages.
 12 If you want to know what a teacherage is,
 13 it's teacher housing. There are about 300 or
 14 400 teacher housing units in some school districts
 15 who offer them to other employees. Many of them are
 16 old. Some school districts need them or need to
 17 either do new or replacement or upgrade.
 18 So those guidelines will be approved, and
 19 applications be taken quickly.
 20 So I'll be working with the chair of the
 21 PSCOC and with Mariana Padilla from the Governor's
 22 Office to finalize those -- the steps for
 23 prioritizing applications. Because right now, it's
 24 a \$10 million amount. And in these remote areas,
 25 these teacherages, they're hopefully duplexes or

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1 triplexes, you know. But they can still cost
 2 \$300,000 for each unit. And they're about a
 3 thousand to 1,300 square feet. They're not huge.
 4 They're not going to be elaborate.
 5 But in order to get plumbing in, streets,
 6 curbs, gutters, it's a fairly expensive thing. And
 7 getting contractors to go into some of these more
 8 remote areas, they have to pay their employees.
 9 They have to have housing for themselves, staying in
 10 hotels and things like that while they're working
 11 there. So it can be a very expensive thing.
 12 \$10 million can probably, and likely,
 13 provide no more than 30 or 40 units. That's --
 14 that's the difference we're looking at. But it is a
 15 start.
 16 The last thing I wanted to report on in --
 17 and, again, if you have contacts in the Legislature
 18 and the Governor's Office, it's important. If you
 19 remember, a year and a half ago, the Legislature
 20 approved the Office of Broadband right in the middle
 21 of the pandemic and everything, realizing that there
 22 was broadband access issues at schools, and
 23 especially at student and staff homes. There's
 24 difficulty throughout the state.
 25 The Legislature created the Office of

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1 Broadband, but they also directed the Public School
 2 Capital Outlay Council to come up with guidelines.
 3 PSFA has done that. We have funding.
 4 E-Rate helps provide for equipment and things like
 5 that in schools. But it can also be used -- any
 6 remaining funds can be used to help build out a
 7 network. They're under contract negotiations with
 8 Lumen trying to get those finalized.
 9 But the nodes -- and to make -- long story
 10 short, the Internet is a very complex thing. Your
 11 Internet, whether it's here or at home, connects by
 12 wire, you know, or Wi-Fi. But there's a wire
 13 somewhere that connects to a hub, a node. That node
 14 is then connected to the backbone of the Internet,
 15 which allows you to then go to an Internet provider,
 16 even overseas, okay?
 17 There are roughly nine nodes that we
 18 identified in New Mexico. Most of these nodes are
 19 on college campuses, because colleges have built out
 20 broadband for their use. But we're trying to work
 21 with Higher Ed. Because while they're allowing
 22 additional equipment to be in there to certain
 23 public schools, some of these things will need
 24 upgrades for air conditioning because computers
 25 generate a lot of heat, and/or power, because

<p style="text-align: right;">210</p> <p>1 computers and servers use power. 2 So that's a stumbling block. Because it 3 is a Higher Ed facility, we don't really have the 4 authorization to pay for that. But Higher Ed 5 supposedly has \$5.3 million. We're trying to get 6 movement there. 7 But we're also trying to get coordination 8 and support from the Office of Broadband. They have 9 two contract workers. They have no permanent 10 employees. A year and a half later, they still 11 don't. We're trying to get pressure placed on the 12 Governor's Office to make this a priority, because 13 there have been statements made that access, 14 broadband access for our students in schools is 15 important. But after a year and a half, not seeing 16 action at the Office of Broadband and getting 17 support, it is very frustrating. 18 And the Public School Facility Authority 19 has limited capacity to serve all the schools and 20 their Internet needs. And the Department of 21 Information Technology, where the Office of 22 Broadband is housed, also does not have capacity 23 unless that office is staffed. 24 So that's my report, but also the 25 solicitation for any pressure or nudging that you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">212</p> <p>1 interactions, and, like, a mandate to be working 2 together on all sorts of different things on a 3 regular basis. 4 And he hasn't seen that happening. He 5 didn't see that happening with the person he thinks 6 that preceded me, and certainly not in his tenure, 7 that we've just never tried to do that. 8 I told him very frankly that that first 9 meeting that I attended, and having been on a school 10 board for nine years, I thought I would have had a 11 little bit of respect. I told him that 50 percent 12 of the people who Zoomed in on the meeting turned 13 off the minute I gave my report. Then he kept me 14 waiting for two hours. 15 And he said, "We can really work on that." 16 He said, "We can make sure that perhaps 17 these reports are given more at the top of the 18 meeting, so we don't have to keep people waiting." 19 I said, "That would be great. I'm happy 20 to come to Albuquerque. I'm happy to -- whatever. 21 If you have a quarterly thing up in Taos, I'll go up 22 there." 23 It was really great to meet with him, and 24 also, face-to-face, to be able to meet with him. 25 So we talked about this coming -- they</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">211</p> <p>1 could make to try to get things moving along to help 2 our students in schools. Thank you. 3 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you for 4 your advocating on behalf of the PEC and in behalf 5 of charter schools on that. I mean, that's exactly 6 what those positions are there for; right? That's 7 why our -- our liaison positions are so vitally 8 important. And so you being such a great advocate 9 on it, I am -- I see the pride and happiness on your 10 face, and it's well deserved. 11 Next is NMPSIA. 12 Commissioner Manis? 13 Oh, never mind. He is -- he's not on 14 right now. 15 So we will go to NMSBA. Commissioner 16 Carrillo. 17 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Believe it or not, 18 I have something to contribute today. 19 I met with Joe Guillen on Monday. That's 20 where, of course, he -- just saying his accolades 21 for everything that's happened with you, 22 Commissioner. 23 The -- he agreed also that -- he actually 24 pointed back -- pointed to when PEC was created, 25 that we were supposed to have regular kind of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">213</p> <p>1 start putting together -- they have a call for 2 proposals, I think it's in September or October, for 3 their December meeting. And this is to put on -- 4 put things on the agenda for both days. 5 The day when they have their -- what's it 6 called? -- a general meeting? -- you know, the 7 convention, where everyone is actually in the same 8 room together, that. And they also -- so we could 9 be on the agenda there if we have something that we 10 want to present. Or if we are speaking on behalf of 11 legislation that we're working on together, which he 12 suggested, absolutely. 13 And not just school funding, because 14 that's always something. But it's all of these 15 smaller things that really affect both of us in big 16 ways. Because we're all public schools. And so the 17 good thing is, philosophically, I think Joe is right 18 on board with that. 19 These are all our kids. Doesn't matter if 20 they're in a charter with the district or with the 21 State. 22 So he also -- because I told him about 23 our -- the -- the working group. I just said that 24 to get your ire. The project team. I told him 25 about our project team and the Performance Framework</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">214</p> <p>1 and things that we're doing, and that because we're 2 charters, we're able to be really nimble, and we're 3 able to try things, and we're able to -- you know, 4 to pilot programs, see if they work, fine-tune them, 5 and take them out and see if they can work anywhere 6 else.</p> <p>7 And so he suggested -- and I agreed -- 8 that we might even want to, at their December 9 meeting or their February meeting, which is up here, 10 have a session that is a -- that we present a 11 session on our successes, things that we're doing in 12 our individual charters that have proven successful, 13 and that -- and I would encourage not just board 14 members to attend that one, but superintendents, to 15 attend that sort of a meeting.</p> <p>16 Talk about failures, also, you know, where 17 needed.</p> <p>18 But the thing that I talked to him also 19 about, which I thought was heard receptively, was, 20 for instance, our project team working on the 21 Performance Framework. Think about it for a minute.</p> <p>22 Smaller districts, they can't do this 23 work. You know, the superintendents are really busy 24 just the way our charter leaders are busy. But once 25 we have our Performance Framework done, you know,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">216</p> <p>1 best schools in New Mexico are smaller, and they're 2 charters. They're smaller schools, but the thing is 3 when you're small, you have the ability to adapt and 4 be nimble. And I think there's no reason why -- I 5 don't understand why Santa Fe still hasn't done 6 this. There's no reason why they can't have another 7 ATC, essentially. Or at least in some of their high 8 schools has programs that ATC has. Why? Because it 9 works. They're, like, No. 2 every year, like, in 10 the state.</p> <p>11 And something we talked about also was 12 where we're not in competition with one another. We 13 just had that discussion. Like, that thing -- not a 14 rant, I wouldn't say. But the thing I said at the 15 meeting at the community thing. These are not your 16 dollars. These are not your kids. They're all our 17 kids, so let's try to work together.</p> <p>18 So it was, I think, very productive. And 19 I loved his idea of having a session that we present 20 at the NMSBA in December and maybe again at the end 21 of February.</p> <p>22 So I'm sorry. I brought -- I have all 23 these yellow pads, and I didn't bring the yellow pad 24 from that meeting with more notes on it. But I 25 think it's a good beginning to reestablish that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">215</p> <p>1 next couple of weeks -- yeah. That's, like, where 2 is KT, where his eyes lit up when they said it was 3 going to be March for our Mabry?</p> <p>4 No. But, seriously, it's a tool that 5 these smaller districts can utilize to really hold 6 their school and school leaders accountable. 7 Because even at Santa Fe, which is -- you know, it's 8 a small district, too. It's only now -- holy smokes. 9 It's down to, like, 12,000 -- 1,200 -- kids. They 10 don't have to recreate the wheel.</p> <p>11 We can give them the wheel and say, "Look, 12 you can use this framework for all of your 13 individual schools"; right? And you can hold them 14 accountable for all of this stuff.</p> <p>15 And I just think that would be something 16 really great that we can pass on to them, where we 17 spend all the money, hundreds and hundreds of hours 18 doing the work, and they can really benefit from 19 that.</p> <p>20 That's just one example. You know, look 21 at -- isn't it, like, the top five schools in this 22 state are all charters? Is that it? I think it's, 23 like, the top five. But are they the top five? 24 Because I know that we have, like -- yeah. 25 But, anyway, suffice it to say many of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">217</p> <p>1 relationship.</p> <p>2 So another thing we talked about, which is 3 kind of cool. I didn't know this. And I don't even 4 know -- Pattie, you may not even know this.</p> <p>5 When the PEC was created -- let's go back. 6 Floyd was -- the Floyd district, and, more recently, 7 Los Lunas, in the past, it's been Questa, you know, 8 is PED basically taking over or suspending the 9 activities of the board. PED can't fire everybody. 10 These are only elected people. They can only be 11 recalled. But they can suspend a board's 12 activities, right?</p> <p>13 Technically -- I didn't know this. 14 Technically, when we were created, they were looking 15 for things to give us to do. One of the things 16 they're supposed to do is anytime they want to 17 suspend a board, they have to come to the PEC. Do 18 they? Because I just don't remember ever --</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: (Inaudible due to 20 nonuse of microphone.)</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I found that very 22 fascinating. What? Maybe that was -- I had a quick 23 dozey at that point.</p> <p>24 I found that really fascinating that we 25 have to be consulted about anytime they're going to</p>

218	<p>1 want to suspend a district.</p> <p>2 So that's all for now. I just look</p> <p>3 forward to a productive future with NMSBA and the</p> <p>4 districts.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: That's great. Thanks.</p> <p>6 All right. And, last, we have the</p> <p>7 New Mexico State Library Commission.</p> <p>8 Commissioner Taylor?</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you. I have</p> <p>10 no report. I have reached out -- as Commissioner</p> <p>11 Voigt was saying earlier, I've reached out on</p> <p>12 several occasions, and I haven't received any -- any</p> <p>13 information as far as meetings or anything like</p> <p>14 that.</p> <p>15 I was hoping maybe -- in fact, if -- go to</p> <p>16 the website for the New Mexico State Library</p> <p>17 Association and look at the current Commissioners on</p> <p>18 that -- on that council. All of them -- all of</p> <p>19 their terms have expired the end of June, except for</p> <p>20 Commissioner Armijo, who is no longer on the</p> <p>21 Commission.</p> <p>22 So I was hoping that maybe she could give</p> <p>23 me some insight into that. And I'll contact her</p> <p>24 about that in the future.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: (Indicates.)</p>	220	<p>1 terms, the TGA will have a five-year contract. And</p> <p>2 there is no -- there is no 60 or 68 percent.</p> <p>3 Neither of those are in the conditions. So there is</p> <p>4 no financial condition that requires a certain</p> <p>5 amount to administration versus to the classroom.</p> <p>6 So that's just removed by the PED completely.</p> <p>7 All right. I know there could be</p> <p>8 questions. And I will ask Ms. Barnes to help out</p> <p>9 with some of these questions as well, if necessary.</p> <p>10 Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So I just saw this</p> <p>12 coming. I mean, I just, like -- I have a -- and I</p> <p>13 know the work that everyone does in the PED.</p> <p>14 Everyone -- most people work very, very hard, and</p> <p>15 they're all about the kids. But I just had --</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Okay. I want to -- just --</p> <p>17 because Ms. Barnes says we have to make sure because</p> <p>18 of where we're at in the agenda just to make sure</p> <p>19 you just ask a question, no -- not as much</p> <p>20 conversation. Just go straight to a question.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: What was the</p> <p>22 reasoning for not having the 68 percent and the 60?</p> <p>23 Okay. What was their incredible ignorance about not</p> <p>24 having the 68 percent and the 60?</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Ms. Barnes, could you</p>
219	<p>1 THE CHAIR: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>2 All right. Item No. 14, Report From the</p> <p>3 Chair.</p> <p>4 Report on new or updated Public Education</p> <p>5 Commission or school issues.</p> <p>6 We definitely do have them.</p> <p>7 The first one I will let you know about is</p> <p>8 there is an update on The GREAT Academy. There was</p> <p>9 a decision and order that was put out by the PED.</p> <p>10 That is in -- if you look in your Google Drive in</p> <p>11 your Folder No. 6, and then you go into The GREAT</p> <p>12 Academy folder, there is a -- there is a folder</p> <p>13 called 2022 Contract -- is it Impasse? Impasse.</p> <p>14 And the No. 5 is the Decision and Order.</p> <p>15 This Decision and Order does not require</p> <p>16 any action on the PEC. And, in fact, Ms. Barnes has</p> <p>17 advised me that we -- we won't be signing the</p> <p>18 contract on it.</p> <p>19 So the contract is -- it is -- what's it</p> <p>20 called? -- it's valid. It's a valid contract now.</p> <p>21 But we will not be signing it. I won't be signing</p> <p>22 it, and it'll just reflect the Decision and Order</p> <p>23 from the PED.</p> <p>24 And I will let people ask questions, yeah.</p> <p>25 There -- in very general, very succinct</p>	221	<p>1 recap that?</p> <p>2 MS. JULIA BARNES: So, essentially, well,</p> <p>3 Vickie Bannerman's ruling kind of outlines it. And</p> <p>4 it's not very long. It's No. 7 and, I think, No. 6.</p> <p>5 I think she was concerned not to have one</p> <p>6 charter school have a requirement that isn't for</p> <p>7 other schools.</p> <p>8 And on the -- so she didn't want to put in</p> <p>9 that 68 percent, in part, because the House Bill --</p> <p>10 the House Bill 2 section that's several years old</p> <p>11 that put in a 68 percent requirement for charter</p> <p>12 schools has not been instituted in law in any other</p> <p>13 way.</p> <p>14 The other, on paragraph 7, about the</p> <p>15 60 percent, is I think that the ruling is that she</p> <p>16 was concerned that -- that that might not ever take</p> <p>17 effect. It was only going to take effect if certain</p> <p>18 things happened.</p> <p>19 So she has left it. I will tell you,</p> <p>20 though, that at the end, she says, "The PEC</p> <p>21 continues to be able to revisit the options for</p> <p>22 addressing the concerns with The GREAT Academy's</p> <p>23 fiscal practices. It is the intent of this Decision</p> <p>24 and Order that the contract shall be..." -- oh,</p> <p>25 that's "...the contract considered a finalized</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">222</p> <p>1 contract."</p> <p>2 So that's both at the District Court level</p> <p>3 and here in several places, that you have an ability</p> <p>4 to continue to look at the fiscal practices of The</p> <p>5 GREAT Academy and, expressly in the contract, you'll</p> <p>6 recall, both parties reserve any rights if we get</p> <p>7 information back from any of the people that we've</p> <p>8 sent letters to. And we already know that there is</p> <p>9 a special audit in process. So if something comes</p> <p>10 back from the special audit, even though it was the</p> <p>11 last term of the contract, you still have an ability</p> <p>12 to move forward on that. So that's what she said.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So in the form of</p> <p>14 a question, doesn't this -- a decision of this</p> <p>15 nature basically say to the PEC, "What you do with</p> <p>16 one, you have to do with all. So you can't do</p> <p>17 anything..." -- or let's just say -- I know you're</p> <p>18 shaking your head over there.</p> <p>19 Let's just say we have a -- something --</p> <p>20 oh. Somebody's on some sort of an Intervention</p> <p>21 Ladder. We're requiring a school to do something.</p> <p>22 I mean, based on her reasoning, because we're not</p> <p>23 really requiring that of another school, we can't</p> <p>24 require it of this school.</p> <p>25 I think it's incredibly flawed reasoning.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">224</p> <p>1 opportunity, giving a school an opportunity to</p> <p>2 respond, talking to a school about their concerns,</p> <p>3 that, in my view, is in your -- that's what you do.</p> <p>4 And much of what happened previously with The GREAT</p> <p>5 Academy came down to process.</p> <p>6 So I think that if it is well-grounded,</p> <p>7 that's my goal is that you can do whatever it is</p> <p>8 that you want to do in a well-grounded way.</p> <p>9 You can -- and anything that's appealed,</p> <p>10 that's what the appellate process is, is it allows</p> <p>11 somebody else to kind of Monday-morning quarterback</p> <p>12 what you've done. So I can't quite say.</p> <p>13 The last thing I will say is the condition</p> <p>14 allowed you to put a condition on finances that</p> <p>15 doesn't appear in this order.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So correct me if</p> <p>17 I'm wrong. What I just heard you say -- or correct</p> <p>18 me if I'm wrong was the question part -- what I just</p> <p>19 heard you say is that we can put a condition</p> <p>20 relative to finances on -- and even if it's not</p> <p>21 TGA -- on a school?</p> <p>22 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yes.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: And not</p> <p>24 necessarily have to put that condition on a bunch of</p> <p>25 schools.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">223</p> <p>1 But that's how -- when I hear that, am I correct</p> <p>2 in -- there is my question part -- am I correct in</p> <p>3 that kind of observation with this decision?</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: I'm going to say --</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: In which case, why</p> <p>6 is there even a PEC?</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: I don't like that question.</p> <p>8 But I agree. I think that's -- I do not like the</p> <p>9 reasoning at all.</p> <p>10 But, I mean, that is actually what a</p> <p>11 condition is, is we're doing something separate and</p> <p>12 different for a particular school.</p> <p>13 So, I mean -- is it -- I guess --</p> <p>14 Commissioner Carrillo, if this could elaborate on</p> <p>15 what you're asking, maybe Ms. Barnes can answer</p> <p>16 this.</p> <p>17 Does this set precedent for us -- for us</p> <p>18 asking something specific of the school this morning</p> <p>19 that we did not ask of every school just now? Does</p> <p>20 this set any kind of precedent that we need to be</p> <p>21 concerned about moving forward?</p> <p>22 MS. JULIA BARNES: I don't -- I don't know</p> <p>23 how a court or a Secretary will rule on future</p> <p>24 things. I do know that improving your -- or doing</p> <p>25 something like you did today, giving a school an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">225</p> <p>1 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yes.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Okay. So --</p> <p>3 MS. JULIA BARNES: She said this</p> <p>4 condition. She didn't allow you to do this</p> <p>5 condition as drafted this way.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yeah. Her</p> <p>7 reasoning -- bless her heart. I've never met her.</p> <p>8 So, so remarkably flawed. I really see an arbitrary</p> <p>9 and capricious charge coming our way by the end of</p> <p>10 the year for any decision we make.</p> <p>11 That'll be all for now.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So not to diminish</p> <p>14 the role of this individual, who I have met, but is</p> <p>15 this decision less -- should we look at it less</p> <p>16 forcefully because it came from a Deputy Secretary</p> <p>17 as opposed to a court?</p> <p>18 I understand we have to follow it. I get</p> <p>19 that. But, you know, maybe it's just in my mind,</p> <p>20 you know. It's -- not that courts are often well</p> <p>21 informed on educational -- what's best</p> <p>22 educationally.</p> <p>23 But, yeah, I agree there's -- there's a</p> <p>24 lot of flawed reasoning here. But I'm not -- I'm</p> <p>25 not really boo-hoo'ing this. I'm not. I think</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">226</p> <p>1 it's -- I don't agree with it. But that's just 2 my -- 3 THE CHAIR: All right. So if you -- if 4 you do review that, and you have any questions, feel 5 free to e-mail Ms. Barnes. Or anything? Give her a 6 call. 7 The next -- 8 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'm sorry I've got 9 to do that. 10 THE CHAIR: I don't mind that you do that. 11 But I don't know if we should go back to that topic. 12 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: We're not going 13 back. And I think it's because -- 14 THE CHAIR: I still have more of my 15 report. 16 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I know that. 17 THE CHAIR: Okay. 18 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I've slotted till 19 5:00 for your report. So is this where I would make 20 that suggestion that it be on New Business later? 21 Remember, we talked about -- 22 THE CHAIR: I think you were going to do 23 PEC Comment for that. 24 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Okay. Got it. 25 THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. So the next</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">228</p> <p>1 this, but I'm going to talk to her a little more 2 about what it could look like -- I think it follows 3 along with the principles of the things we're doing 4 as a Commission on a lot of our forms, our contract, 5 our documents. And it's to create the MOU more 6 generally and then have attachments that are the 7 specifics that get changed more often. 8 So right now, our MOU is very specific. 9 It has really detailed pieces in it, which is also 10 okay. But the idea would be that we take -- so, for 11 example, we have in there that we would like to have 12 a PEC liaison. And then we put in there some job 13 requirements that we would like the Public Education 14 Commission liaison to have. 15 For an example of what the transition 16 would be is, in the MOU, that it would say that the 17 PEC works collaboratively with PED on all staffing 18 for CSD; right? And that's what the MOU says. It's 19 general about staffing. 20 And then we create a staffing attachment 21 that's the specifics. And that way, it can be 22 reviewed with CSD annually. We can change that 23 staffing report. We can change the staffing 24 recommendation without reopening the MOU every 25 single year and going through the MOU process.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">227</p> <p>1 thing I want to tell you all about is I was able to 2 meet with Dr. Angelo Gonzales on Tuesday to do 3 our -- to introduce him to the MOU from the PEC 4 perspective. 5 So Corina had already provided him the MOU 6 as we drafted it, our redline version, to show the 7 kind of differences. We went over the changes from 8 last year to this year. 9 I think we really focused on what we want 10 end results to be as a Commission and what -- where 11 we can come together on those end results. And then 12 figuring out the "how" is really what the MOU is 13 about. 14 His major takeaway -- so, basically, what 15 we started is now, he's going to take the MOU, start 16 working with the internal team, start working with 17 his legal team, start working with the procurement, 18 the budget folks, like -- like, all the people on 19 these different items, and start doing their review, 20 and, ideally, come back to us with their responses 21 to our proposal. 22 One thing that he did propose immediate -- 23 like right away on Tuesday -- that I do want to 24 discuss with you all next month -- and I'm going to 25 talk to -- I already talked to Ms. Barnes about</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">229</p> <p>1 So creating the MOU more generally and 2 then creating those specific process pieces 3 separately. And that way, we can keep that MOU once 4 again for five, ten years, and, ideally, it doesn't 5 get touched and reopened based off of who's around. 6 But those pieces that we are expecting to 7 review annually, those are specific. But they're 8 attachments to the MOU. 9 So I feel like we can be open to that, and 10 I think that's something I'll present -- I'll work 11 with Ms. Barnes on what that could look like from 12 our perspective. Take all of our recommendations, 13 take all of your stuff and kind of separate them out 14 and see what that looks like, and give that to you 15 all next month. 16 All right. The next thing I wanted to 17 start -- I already talked about it yesterday, but I 18 just wanted to put it again today -- is that we do 19 have the NACSA conference coming up in October. 20 So, Commissioners, please consider, 21 it's -- I should have had the dates up. I think 22 it's October 24th through the 27th, 23rd through the 23 27th, somewhere around there. It's in Minneapolis. 24 And we know airline -- the flights are expensive. 25 Things are more expensive right now.</p>

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1 So if we can start providing to CSD that
 2 you're interested in going to that, we would like to
 3 start getting those processes going so that we can
 4 try to be as financially responsible as possible,
 5 knowing that the longer we wait, the more expensive
 6 things get.
 7 Yeah. Commissioner Carrillo.
 8 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: How best would you
 9 like us to let CSD know?
 10 THE CHAIR: That's a great question. I
 11 think -- do you want me -- Corina, do you want us to
 12 just send you an e-mail if we're interested in going
 13 to the NACSA conference? Or do you want to send an
 14 e-mail and us respond to it?
 15 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: I'll send an
 16 e-mail, and you respond to it.
 17 THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. So be on the
 18 lookout for that e-mail. And all you have to do is
 19 respond and say, "I want to go," and they'll
 20 start -- there's an out-of-state travel packet that
 21 has to be created that's a little tedious for them
 22 up front. So that'll help them get those packets
 23 started, which will then allow you to book an
 24 airplane, start booking your hotel.
 25 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: (Inaudible,

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1 off-the-mic comment.)
 2 THE CHAIR: Okay. And then -- yes.
 3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Just one quick
 4 question. Are there dates for the Austin
 5 conference?
 6 THE CHAIR: There are. It was, like -- I
 7 think it was, like, 364 days from our last day. So
 8 it's, like, that second -- it's going to be that
 9 second or third week in June next year. Yes.
 10 So that's -- that's the National Alliance
 11 of Charter Schools -- Charter School Conference,
 12 that'll be in Austin, Texas, next June, and
 13 absolutely.
 14 Okay. Trying to think if there was
 15 anything else I missed.
 16 I did have -- I know Commissioner Carrillo
 17 is going to talk about this a little bit more. But
 18 I did have a conversation with him about a process
 19 of introducing items at meetings to be put onto the
 20 agenda, in addition to our current process. I think
 21 it's in practice with a lot of places, where there's
 22 an item that's New Business, and Commissioners are
 23 able to just kind of put New Business out there at
 24 the time.
 25 And right now, we don't have that as a

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1 space. So I know he'll talk about that during --
 2 he'll make a comment. But it's something to think
 3 about as well.
 4 Okay. The next one -- I'm on Item b. now,
 5 which is Report from Public Charter Schools of
 6 New Mexico.
 7 Oh, great. Missy, you are just on top of
 8 it all the time. I'm so appreciative of you. Thank
 9 you.
 10 All right. Mr. Pahl, hello. Welcome.
 11 Thank you for joining us today. I want to say
 12 first, thank you for hosting the New Mexico
 13 delegation meeting at the Charter Schools conference
 14 in D.C. That was one of the highlights, I think,
 15 for many of us who talked about it. That was one of
 16 the highlights was getting together on that Tuesday
 17 evening at that reception and being able to see all
 18 the New Mexico people in one room. So thank you for
 19 your organization for hosting that and having us all
 20 together there.
 21 But other than that, please give us your
 22 report.
 23 MR. MATT PAHL: Yeah. Pretty quick from
 24 me.
 25 Thanks to everybody who came to the

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1 national conference. We had a contingent of about
 2 45 folks who were -- who were from New Mexico at the
 3 national conference. That actually was more than
 4 both Arizona and Colorado.
 5 So given the size of our charter movement,
 6 we had really good representation there. And I
 7 think, you know, we've been semi-open from, you
 8 know, pandemic-related stuff. But I think everybody
 9 appreciated some -- some in-person, face-to-face
 10 time in a different place. So that was really
 11 great.
 12 The summer for Public Charter Schools of
 13 New Mexico, for PCSNM, in June and July, June is
 14 really focused on governing board training. And we
 15 had many hundreds of governing board -- 200 to
 16 300 governing board members complete training
 17 through us. And we've been really fortunate to work
 18 with Missy Brown at Charter Schools Division to just
 19 make that process really streamlined. So want to
 20 just shout-out Missy for her collaboration and just
 21 allowing us to work fluently -- or fluidly and
 22 smoothly so it's easy for governing board members to
 23 get through the process, to get to training, get --
 24 learn what they can learn, and bring it back to
 25 their boards.

234	<p>1 So we're excited about that and just want 2 to thank her.</p> <p>3 And July, normally for us, is a time for 4 planning the upcoming school year.</p> <p>5 The last two summers haven't really looked 6 like that. And I really think -- I don't know if 7 you all are feeling it. But this summer feels 8 something closer to a normal summer. People are 9 getting some time off. I know that folks aren't 10 wondering too much about what COVID protocols are 11 for next school year. And I'm really hopeful that 12 that really means something good for our kids this 13 fall, walking into a school year that provides more 14 adult-to-student engagement.</p> <p>15 So with our interim planning that we are 16 able to work on this month, you'll see some new 17 professional development opportunities both for 18 school leaders and for charter school teachers. And 19 we are working hard on our legislative platform.</p> <p>20 One thing that is happening with the 21 Legislature right now, or at least a conversation 22 that I wanted to highlight for everybody, is 23 changing the multiplying units on base -- base units 24 in the funding formula.</p> <p>25 Those were last reset 20, 30 years ago --</p>	236	<p>1 of Van that you can show us from your phone?</p> <p>2 MR. MATT PAHL: I sure do.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: So Van is, like, 4 seven, eight months right now?</p> <p>5 MR. MATT PAHL: He is 11 months as of 6 today. Let's see.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: I think, honestly, Mr. Pahl, 8 if you're not here in person, you should have that 9 baby with you.</p> <p>10 MR. MATT PAHL: There he is. He's getting 11 chunky. It's fun.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: That's great. 13 Thank you.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: If he's not in person, he 15 should have his child to where we can see him. I'm 16 just saying.</p> <p>17 MR. MATT PAHL: I'll deliver on either 18 being in person or having Van with me.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: That's your option from now 20 on.</p> <p>21 All right. Thank you.</p> <p>22 MR. MATT PAHL: Thanks, everyone.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: All right. We didn't see 24 anyone from the Charter School Advisory Committee, 25 so that'll take us to PEC Comments.</p>
235	<p>1 actually, I think 34 years ago -- and -- and 2 education has changed a lot there. The standards of 3 what we need to do for every single kid have 4 increased, and the amount that we compensate school 5 districts and charter schools for doing that work 6 should change as well.</p> <p>7 So I highlight that just because I think 8 that's an ongoing conversation this summer. I'm 9 happy to answer questions about that. But, 10 otherwise, you'll see our legislative platform in 11 September.</p> <p>12 I'd love to tell you more about it in 13 August, as we're working on development. So thanks 14 for the opportunity to come here today, and thanks 15 for all your work.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: All right. I think -- I guess 17 your report is comprehensive enough, and I don't see 18 any questions. So thank you.</p> <p>19 All right.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I have a 21 question --</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Oh, no. He's back. All 23 right. You got him just in time. Commissioner 24 Carrillo.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Is there a picture</p>	237	<p>1 Any Commissioners with a comment?</p> <p>2 All right. First is Commissioner Voigt.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Just wanted to give a 4 shout-out on RioGAFA. Attended their ribbon-cutting 5 ceremony last week. They are quite the crowd. The 6 kids cut the ribbon. It was so sweet.</p> <p>7 They got so lucky with that facility. I 8 mean, they hardly had to do any prep, maybe a little 9 bit of painting.</p> <p>10 But I noticed in the City of Albuquerque's 11 summer program offerings, RioGAFA is also there. 12 They are right there offering classes to kids this 13 summer. So what a great recruitment strategy and 14 getting their name out.</p> <p>15 But they're going to be such a sweet 16 school.</p> <p>17 Commissioner Carrillo was there as well. 18 And it was really celebratory, and it was a great 19 day.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson. 21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Commissioner Armijo 22 was there as well.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: So I just wanted to 24 mention that I had the opportunity to attend part of 25 the Government-to-Government conference. And it was</p>

238	<p>1 quite interesting, and also, I think, informative</p> <p>2 for the Performance Framework group, because I think</p> <p>3 there's a lot of information that's already going to</p> <p>4 PED that we're simply going to be able to glean.</p> <p>5 But reflecting back to Commissioner</p> <p>6 Carrillo when he was talking about elected</p> <p>7 governance council members, there was a question to</p> <p>8 the Cabinet Secretary by tribal entities that, in</p> <p>9 light of Yazzie/Martinez and trying to make</p> <p>10 assurances that boards are following the equity</p> <p>11 ideas behind the decision, could there be the</p> <p>12 suspension of boards, not just for financial</p> <p>13 reasons, but for not following those guidelines?</p> <p>14 And the Cabinet Secretary's response was,</p> <p>15 "Well, you know, in New Mexico, the first line of</p> <p>16 defense is the voter. You don't vote that board</p> <p>17 back in. And then, that's the last thing you try to</p> <p>18 do is to suspend the board."</p> <p>19 Unfortunately, we don't have elected</p> <p>20 governance councils, and that's always the challenge</p> <p>21 when they're not -- they're not acting</p> <p>22 appropriately. There's fewer recourses. And now</p> <p>23 it's been taken out, the rule that the Cabinet</p> <p>24 Secretary can even suspend a governance council. So</p> <p>25 there's even less that can be done.</p>	240	<p>1 agenda, it should be in lieu of, not in addition to.</p> <p>2 You shouldn't have to do both.</p> <p>3 And I still like the idea of there being</p> <p>4 two people. And so there would be a second, like if</p> <p>5 I wanted something on the meeting for August.</p> <p>6 So, I mean, there's no discussion or</p> <p>7 action taken at this time. But I can say that I am</p> <p>8 going to want something on the meeting for August.</p> <p>9 I wouldn't do that now. I'd do this through the old</p> <p>10 way; right?</p> <p>11 And then, in, August, we would put on --</p> <p>12 is that procedurally what would happen? We have a</p> <p>13 New Business thing in August for the future? But</p> <p>14 for what I want to put on in August, can I do that</p> <p>15 now with Mike Taylor, since he was my guy?</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: There's no discussion right</p> <p>17 now.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I'm asking a</p> <p>19 question. I'm not discussing.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: I can't.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: I will fill out</p> <p>22 the little form. But something to consider, having</p> <p>23 a New Business thing -- I'll have that on the agenda</p> <p>24 also. I'll put -- is that the -- all right.</p> <p>25 No other comment.</p>
239	<p>1 So it's -- I just wanted to mention that.</p> <p>2 So thanks.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioner</p> <p>4 Carrillo.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Thanks for that</p> <p>6 new information. And I'll echo what Commissioner</p> <p>7 Voigt -- I'm sorry -- I'm sorry I missed you,</p> <p>8 Commissioner Armijo. I left -- I must have just</p> <p>9 missed you at RioGAFA.</p> <p>10 I got to tell you -- if you have a chance,</p> <p>11 you've got to see this school. It was just -- it</p> <p>12 was like it was built for them. It's just amazing,</p> <p>13 even this tile work and all this stuff that's all</p> <p>14 over the place.</p> <p>15 They were so wonderful. Both Michelle and</p> <p>16 Jordan were wonderful hosts. And the kids -- you</p> <p>17 know, anything with kids, these kids were great.</p> <p>18 Okay. So I believe that we should have</p> <p>19 something on our agenda regularly that's New</p> <p>20 Business, so that we, as Commissioners, can put</p> <p>21 something on an agenda for the following month.</p> <p>22 And right now, we only have this form that</p> <p>23 we fill out, and it's got to be ten days in advance.</p> <p>24 And, you know, I just -- my sense is that if there's</p> <p>25 a New Business thing, and you want something on the</p>	241	<p>1 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing no other</p> <p>2 hands, I will move to adjourn.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Second.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: Thank you. A motion by</p> <p>5 Chair Burt and a second by Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>6 Secretary Armijo, if you could call roll.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Yes. Sorry. Lost</p> <p>8 my place. Okay.</p> <p>9 Vice Chair Voigt.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Armijo</p> <p>12 votes yes.</p> <p>13 Chair Burt.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner</p> <p>16 Carrillo.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER CARRILLO: Yes.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Chavez.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Davis.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: (No response.)</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: She's already gone.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Manis.</p>

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1 COMMISSIONER MANIS: (No response.)
 2 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner
 3 Robbins.
 4 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.
 5 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: Commissioner Taylor.
 6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
 7 COMMISSIONER ARMIJO: That is approved,
 8 eight to zero.
 9 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you. Thank
 10 you, everybody, and we will see you all next month
 11 in Ruidoso.
 12 (Meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.)

1 RECEIPT
 2 JOB NUMBER: 6330N CC Date: 7/22/22
 3 PROCEEDINGS: PUBLIC MEETING
 4 CASE CAPTION: In re: Public Meeting of the Public
 5 Education Commission
 6 *****
 7 ATTORNEY: MS. BEVERLY FRIEDMAN - PED
 8 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other ____
 9 DATE DELIVERED: _____ DEL'D BY: _____
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 11 *****
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1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
 2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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 6
 7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 8 I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified
 9 Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby
 10 certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true
 11 transcript of proceedings had before the said
 12 NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the
 13 State of New Mexico, in the matter therein stated.
 14 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
 15 hand on August 4, 2022.
 16
 17
 18 _____
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 20 New Mexico Certified Reporter #219
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on August 4, 2022.

Cynthia Chapman

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