

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

April 25, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Jerry Apodaca Education Building, Mabry Hall

300 Don Gaspar Avenue

Santa Fe, New Mexico

-AND-

Via Zoom Webinar

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

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JOB NO.: 336P (CC)

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<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: All right. It is 9:01 a.m.</p> <p>2 I'm going to call this meeting to order.</p> <p>3 Secretary Carrillo, if you could do roll</p> <p>4 call.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. Commissioner</p> <p>6 Brauer.</p> <p>7 (No response.)</p> <p>8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. Do you want to</p> <p>9 check in later?</p> <p>10 Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Here.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: There you go,</p> <p>13 Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>14 And then Chair Burt.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Here.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Secretary</p> <p>17 Carrillo is here. And Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER BECK: Here.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner --</p> <p>20 welcome back to the United States, Commissioner</p> <p>21 Ingham.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Here.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: Commissioner</p> <p>24 Clahchischilliage.</p> <p>25 (No response.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 nice to have you. Commissioner Brauer.</p> <p>2 (No response.)</p> <p>3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: All right. We're</p> <p>4 good for now.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER BECK: We've got a bunch.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: All right. We have a quorum</p> <p>7 of eight as of now.</p> <p>8 Can I ask everyone to join us in the</p> <p>9 Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico</p> <p>10 Flag?</p> <p>11 (Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the</p> <p>12 New Mexico Flag conducted.)</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Next we'll ask for</p> <p>14 approval of the agenda.</p> <p>15 Any changes?</p> <p>16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Move to approve.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: A second?</p> <p>18 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: All right. There's a motion</p> <p>20 and a second.</p> <p>21 Seeing no comment, if you could take roll,</p> <p>22 Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>24 Obenshain.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson. 2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 4 THE CHAIR: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary Carrillo 6 votes yes. 7 And Commissioner Beck. 8 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 10 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 12 Clahchischilliaage. 13 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor. 15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 16 THE CHAIR: All right. That passes 17 eight-zero. 18 All right. That'll move us to Public 19 Comment. 20 Ms. Brown, thank you. 21 MS. MELISSA BROWN: We have three people 22 online and one person in the room who would like to 23 make public comment. 24 THE CHAIR: Let's go ahead and do the 25 person in the room, and then we'll go to online.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 and they are treated very differently than charter 2 schools are. So I just wanted to put that on the 3 record because I feel strongly about it. And, 4 again, in the other states we work in, where we are 5 able to choose our own auditor, the relationship, 6 the work together, the collaboration is 7 significantly different than what we experience 8 here. 9 That's it. Thank you. 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 11 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Okay. Next, we have 12 Jana Holguin. 13 FROM THE PUBLIC: Good morning. My name 14 is Jana Holguin. J-a-n-a. Last name, Holguin, 15 H-o-l-g-u-i-n. 16 Once again, Alma submitted required 17 documentation by -- 18 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. One second. We 19 did ask that people start putting their cameras on 20 when making public comment. 21 So give us one second, Ms. Holguin, 22 because we are following this process. So we 23 changed in our instruction. So if you could go 24 ahead and turn on your camera and -- 25 FROM THE PUBLIC: (Inaudible.)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 MS. MELISSA BROWN: It's Katie Rarick. 2 MS. KATIE RARICK: Okay. Great. Good 3 morning, Commissioners. My name is Katie Rarick, 4 K-a-t-i-e R-a-r-i-c-k. I just want to say two quick 5 things. 6 First, my organization, we work with 7 schools in other states. And one of the states 8 we're in, I went to their commission hearing last 9 week. And it is a very different atmosphere. 10 So I wanted to thank you all for always 11 bringing schools here and always listening to us, 12 and helping us work together to get to where we need 13 to. Because the one I was in last week, the 14 Commissioners had made up their minds before the 15 meeting even started. Testimony was a bit 16 superfluous, and the schools were not heard. 17 So, first, I wanted to thank you for that, 18 because that's really important and something I 19 value about the PEC. 20 Second, I want to talk about audits. I 21 know it's a hot topic right now. And one of the 22 things I wanted to flag is that until charters can 23 choose their own auditor, you're not going to be 24 able to compare a charter audit to a district audit. 25 Districts can choose their own auditors</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry, Ms. Holguin. Can 2 you say that again? 3 FROM THE PUBLIC: There's not -- I don't 4 have the camera button to turn on the camera. It's 5 not something that's permitted, I guess, on my end. 6 I only have the audio right now that had to be 7 allowed. 8 MS. MELISSA BROWN: There's no permissions 9 on our end that would keep anybody from using their 10 camera. 11 THE CHAIR: Can you try one more time, 12 Ms. Holguin, now? 13 FROM THE PUBLIC: I don't even have the 14 button. Let me see. 15 Settings. I don't even see settings. I 16 have the audio one, but there's not the camera 17 button. 18 Speaker. Audio settings. 19 Yeah, I don't -- I don't know if that's on 20 your end, but I don't have it disallowed on my end 21 from -- and I don't even have a settings button. 22 THE CHAIR: Are you on your phone? 23 FROM THE PUBLIC: No, I'm on a computer. 24 THE CHAIR: Does your computer have a 25 camera attached to it?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 FROM THE PUBLIC: Yes. But I don't have a 2 camera button. 3 THE CHAIR: Can I ask you, Missy, maybe 4 have her -- Ms. Holguin, thank you for doing this. 5 Exit her out and put her back in and see if maybe -- 6 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I don't have to add 7 people to the panel. I can allow them to speak. 8 It's easier to do. But I can try allowing her. 9 THE CHAIR: Yes, please add people to the 10 panel. 11 MS. MELISSA BROWN: She's been added to 12 the panel. 13 THE CHAIR: Okay. There she is. 14 MS. MELISSA BROWN: It was that. I'm 15 sorry. 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you so much, 17 Ms. Holguin. Now you can -- your two minutes will 18 start here. And you're muted. 19 FROM THE PUBLIC: Okay. Sorry. Do I say 20 my name again? 21 THE CHAIR: We'll just start from the 22 beginning. 23 FROM THE PUBLIC: My name is Jana Holguin. 24 First name, J-a-n-a; last name, H-o-l-g-u-i-n. 25 Once again, Alma submitted required</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 A false narrative is now being pushed that 2 students are being bullied and harassed by parents 3 at meetings. This is patently false. No students 4 have attended GC meetings since April of 2024. 5 Check the sign-in sheets and video recordings. 6 There is proof of it there. 7 The rhetoric is not only misleading; it is 8 a legitimate attempt to silence legitimate community 9 concerns. 10 The board and administration continue to 11 deflect accountability, blaming community members 12 for this, quote, nonsense, and the school's drastic 13 enrollment decline, while taking no ownership for 14 the conditions they created. 15 Some board members have been in place for 16 at least four years. 17 It was said that the administrator has 18 been calm and kind with all students and all the 19 parents. That is simply not true. Many students, 20 parents, staff, and community members have come 21 forward to share different experiences. And many 22 more are afraid to speak out because they've seen 23 the consequences. 24 Regarding special education CAPs, it was 25 said that all items have been resolved. What wasn't</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 documentation late and, again, there will be no 2 consequence. The meeting materials confirm the 3 proposed cap was submitted past the deadline and 4 remains incomplete with blank sections and 5 implementation dates from January and March now 6 conveniently moved to the end of June. 7 It was claimed that the grievances have 8 been filed -- that grievances haven't been filed. 9 That's false. I, along with others, have submitted 10 formal grievances. The few responses we have 11 received are filed with outright lies, such as 12 claiming the school is and always has been in 13 compliance with the OMA. 14 That is clearly untrue. Violations 15 continue, including at this month's meeting. We 16 were told we were, quote, invited to come and talk. 17 Another lie. A group of us attempted to speak with 18 the board when a meeting was canceled due to a lack 19 of a quorum. Instead of engagement, we were told 20 they wouldn't speak with us, and then the lights 21 were shut off on us. No meeting was ever scheduled, 22 and no dialogue has occurred. 23 We are told public comment is an opportune 24 time for communicating concerns; yet our concerns 25 are consistently ignored and dismissed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 said is that many of these cases were closed, only 2 because the students in question did not return to 3 Alma or transferred out. The issues were not 4 addressed. Students left, and the cases was closed 5 by default. 6 Let me be clear. Just because the PEC is 7 tired of hearing from us does not mean the problems 8 no longer exist. The PEC's position appears to be 9 that issues at a publicly funded charter school only 10 matter when raised by current parents. That is 11 unacceptable. Students are still at Alma watching, 12 and they're afraid to speak out. 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 14 FROM THE PUBLIC: Thank you. 15 THE CHAIR: And thank you, again, 16 Ms. Holguin, for bearing with us on this -- trying 17 to get the camera situation fixed this morning. 18 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Next, we have 19 Dr. Jeron Campbell. I'm promoting him to the panel. 20 DR. JERON CAMPBELL: Good morning. 21 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Good morning, 22 Dr. Campbell. If you could please spell your name 23 for the court reporter, and then I'll start the 24 timer. 25 DR. JERON CAMPBELL: Sure. Jeron,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 J-e-r-o-n. Campbell, C-a-m-p-b-e-l-l.</p> <p>2 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Did you want to make</p> <p>3 public comment, Dr. Campbell?</p> <p>4 DR. JERON CAMPBELL: Yes, I did. And I'd</p> <p>5 also like to ask for four minutes. It'll be under</p> <p>6 four, but I'd like to have four if I can get it.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: We're going to keep it to two</p> <p>8 minutes, Dr. Campbell.</p> <p>9 DR. JERON CAMPBELL: Okay. All right.</p> <p>10 That's fine. Let me know when I can start.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: You can start.</p> <p>12 DR. JERON CAMPBELL: Thank you. Good</p> <p>13 morning, Honorable Commissioners. It's always great</p> <p>14 to present to this body. As you know, ACES Tech was</p> <p>15 provided with a letter that espouses many of the</p> <p>16 views of the Charter School Division. There were</p> <p>17 many false comments, easily disproved with factual</p> <p>18 data, the very first statement saying that we are</p> <p>19 not complying with IDEA, which is definitely not</p> <p>20 true.</p> <p>21 There are multiple items in the letter</p> <p>22 that I'm hearing or seeing for the first time. And</p> <p>23 when I called my NMPED rep, they were unaware of</p> <p>24 them as well. So I'll just talk about two brief</p> <p>25 things in the limited time.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 But I will be sending a written response to the</p> <p>2 complaint.</p> <p>3 Other than that, have a great weekend. We</p> <p>4 have ten volunteer health care professionals coming</p> <p>5 here to ACES Tech today. We have ten teams going to</p> <p>6 the regional robotics competition tomorrow. We're</p> <p>7 doing great work here at ACES Tech. Despite the</p> <p>8 challenges, we'll continue to fight for better</p> <p>9 educational outcomes for our students.</p> <p>10 All right. Thank you.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Next we have Janet van</p> <p>13 Coblign.</p> <p>14 Janet, if you could raise your digital</p> <p>15 hand so I can see which one you are.</p> <p>16 There you are, Janet. Janet, if you can</p> <p>17 accept -- oh, there you go.</p> <p>18 FROM THE PUBLIC: Good morning, everyone.</p> <p>19 Sorry. Janet van Coblign, v-a-n, space,</p> <p>20 C-o-b-l-i-j-n.</p> <p>21 It's been a year since some of us appeared</p> <p>22 there to talk about the ongoing concerns at Alma,</p> <p>23 which had started almost a year before that,</p> <p>24 regarding the current situation. Unfortunately,</p> <p>25 Alma has a legacy of trauma, or drama, as it may be.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 In terms of special education, we had a</p> <p>2 group of six or seven people that came from PED four</p> <p>3 weeks ago. They were able to go to every classroom.</p> <p>4 I didn't prep the teachers or anything. They looked</p> <p>5 at all the IEPs. They found no error.</p> <p>6 So we are doing very well with special</p> <p>7 education. We are not violating any laws. All of</p> <p>8 our students are getting their services. And we are</p> <p>9 a full inclusion school, which is very rare in</p> <p>10 New Mexico.</p> <p>11 In terms of ELL, the reason that ELL is</p> <p>12 noted on the letter is due to approach. The letter</p> <p>13 refers to a cookie-cutter approach for all students</p> <p>14 to receive the State-required minimum of 45 minutes</p> <p>15 of (inaudible) instruction. However, NMAC 6.29.5.13</p> <p>16 states that, "Students are individuals. Their</p> <p>17 proficiency levels vary greatly by age, and</p> <p>18 consideration should be made for each individual</p> <p>19 student."</p> <p>20 And despite that in writing, the Language</p> <p>21 and Culture Bureau refused to accept our plan for</p> <p>22 serving our ELLs the way we have been in our school.</p> <p>23 That's why they're in that letter.</p> <p>24 So these are just a couple of things. I</p> <p>25 would make comments about entering in data as well.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 But it was really disheartening last month</p> <p>2 to listen to the comments by the PEC and the</p> <p>3 continued lack of accountability by PED and the PEC</p> <p>4 about the many concerns that have been lodged and</p> <p>5 documented about the current administration and the</p> <p>6 goings-on at Alma.</p> <p>7 Despite the fact that you hear from what</p> <p>8 are now two non-parents, whether willingly or</p> <p>9 unwillingly, we're representing -- all along, we've</p> <p>10 represented students, teachers, staff, and parents</p> <p>11 and community members, artists, and educators who</p> <p>12 were afraid to speak out or couldn't speak out for</p> <p>13 fear of retaliation and retribution.</p> <p>14 And a lot of those people either have had</p> <p>15 to move on because it was their livelihood, their</p> <p>16 employment, their education and so on.</p> <p>17 So in indulging the current leadership,</p> <p>18 whether it's the governance council or the</p> <p>19 administration, and succumbing to the --</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Your time is up. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Time is up.</p> <p>22 FROM THE PUBIC: All right. Thank you.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Ms. van</p> <p>24 Coblign.</p> <p>25 All right. So we're going on to Item</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 No. 4, Highlights and Spotlight. 2 Commissioner Beck. 3 COMMISSIONER BECK: I just wanted to 4 mention, Northpoint Charter School went through the 5 Cognia review this year and received an 6 accreditation. The key strength the reviewers 7 identified was the supportive culture they built, 8 including a sponsor teacher system that provides an 9 adult advocate for each student, staff 10 collaboration, and relationships with families. 11 I have seen that. I've been there twice 12 in the last few months, and I've seen that 13 firsthand. 14 I also will be remote next month because 15 I'm going to be attending their graduation on 16 Friday, May 16th, at 2:00. 17 The other thing is Commissioner Carrillo, 18 Commissioner Brauer, and myself attended the beam 19 signing -- Commissioner Carrillo can help me on 20 this -- for the new facility and new place on Edith, 21 north of Osuna, that Albuquerque Sign Language 22 Academy is going to go into -- I believe -- it's 23 fall of 2027. 24 It's going to be an awesome facility. 25 The -- the beam signing was amazing. Secretary</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: -- yes, I know who 2 you are -- Beck said. 3 It was a great event. And one, just -- 4 the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy and what 5 they've done over the years and the contribution 6 they make is just phenomenal. And this new 7 facility, there were the drawings there and 8 everything else. It was very well attended. Not as 9 much shade -- I don't care, I just, like, bask out 10 there, as a lot of people would have liked. But 11 they've come so far and with such a dedicated staff. 12 So hats off to them. 13 Let's see. The -- San Diego Riverside, 14 Camilla [ph] Smith, she's a fourth-grader. She was 15 competing against third- to eighth-graders. And she 16 was able to remember and recite -- and won an award 17 for this on Pi Day -- by going up to 40 digits after 18 the decimal. And I'm looking at all the digits, 19 like, holy smokes. 20 And I don't know. It's just really 21 phenomenal. Maybe she has an amazing future in 22 front of her. That's happening over at San Diego 23 Riverside. I want to thank the head of school, Joe 24 Dan Lovato, for sending that in. 25 Jim Smith and I were able to talk</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 Padilla was there. We had a lot of people there. 2 My forehead got fried from the sun, unfortunately. 3 But it was a great event. And it was certainly well 4 attended. Go, Honey Badgers. 5 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson. 6 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So AOL did a list of 7 the top 30 high schools in New Mexico. And we had a 8 number of charter schools that were on the list: 9 Cottonwood Classical, New Mexico School 10 for the Arts, Mission Achievement and Success, The 11 ASK Academy, the Albuquerque School of Excellence, 12 The MASTERS Program, and Albuquerque Institute of 13 Math and Science. 14 So congratulations to all of them. 15 I also wanted to just recognize -- former 16 Senator Bill O'Neill passed away recently. And he 17 served for many years on the MAS school board. So 18 he was a charter supporter and fighter for many 19 years. So I just wanted to recognize his service to 20 the charter community at this time. 21 I'm done. Thanks. 22 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo. 23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Just to build on what 24 Commissioner -- 25 COMMISSIONER BECK: Beck.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 yesterday. I was up in Taos seeing some schools. 2 It was really nice to see at Vista Grande and see 3 the work that he's doing. They're going to have a 4 greenhouse in, probably ready for next year. It's 5 going to be huge. They're going to start growing 6 their own food and everything else, which is great. 7 What he said is, first, he wanted to thank 8 UNM-Taos, the partnership with UNM-Taos up there in 9 terms of dual language and also internships. He 10 said without them, so many schools would just have 11 that deficit, if you will. 12 So right now, the school has 66 kids right 13 now. But he has 29 that are in two dual language 14 courses or more and 54 doing work study and 15 internships. So Vista Grande is a school that's 16 come a really long way. 17 We're going to support Joe Dan any way we 18 can so they can reach their goals. 19 And the last thing I have, which segues 20 into something else, is Monte del Sol Charter School 21 is celebrating their 25th anniversary. So hurray 22 for Monte. 23 And just the vision that the people had in 24 the beginning, the vision that the head of school, 25 Zoe Nelsen, has now and everyone that contributes to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 the success of the kids, looking forward to 25 more 2 great years.</p> <p>3 And I'm also on athletics, you guys are 4 really starting to excel. I've always loved high 5 school athletics. And you're the Dragons; right? 6 TISA is also the Dragons up in Taos. That's a 7 perfect segue into -- right.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Okay. Any other 9 Commissioners? Okay.</p> <p>10 All right. So we're going to go ahead 11 and -- I'm going to rearrange the agenda just for a 12 moment. We're going -- before we go to Item 5, 13 we're going to do item 8.a., and then we'll go back 14 to our regularly scheduled agenda.</p> <p>15 So Presentations by Schools of Actions 16 Taken as a Result of State Charter Audit Results, 17 Discussion and Possible Action, to take action under 18 the Intervention Ladder for Monte del Sol Charter 19 School.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: We're bringing them 21 up because they have to get back to their school. I 22 wanted to say that. It's a big deal.</p> <p>23 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Good morning, Chair 24 Burt and Commissioners. The Charter Schools 25 Division has a memo in PEC documents regarding the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 you could just first just introduce yourselves. And 2 if your last name needs spelling, go ahead and spell 3 that for our -- Cindy, who's online this morning.</p> <p>4 ANNE MOSES: I'm Anne Moses, M-o-s-e-s. 5 I'm the treasurer on the board for Monte del Sol.</p> <p>6 ZOE NELSEN: Zoe Nelsen, N-e-l-s-e-n, Head 7 Learner.</p> <p>8 KIMBERLY GONZALES: Kimberly Gonzales, 9 G-o-n-z-a-l-e-s, Axiom Analytics.</p> <p>10 MS. KATIE RARICK: Hi, everyone. My name 11 is Katie Rarick, R-a-r-i-c-k. And I am one of the 12 business managers who works with the school.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: Go ahead and kind of walk us 14 through what those -- what the audit findings were 15 and your plan.</p> <p>16 MS. KATIE RARICK: So did you all receive 17 the documentation that we -- that we sent out? Is 18 there any way we can project that so we can walk 19 through it together? And I think while we're 20 getting that, Zoe, do you want to --</p> <p>21 ZOE NELSEN: I had prepared a short 22 statement also.</p> <p>23 Chair Burt, and members of the Commission, 24 I just want to take a couple of moments to 25 acknowledge my disappointment and responsibility for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 Monte del Sol response to the audit.</p> <p>2 The school had begun working to correct 3 errors in the FY24 audit as far back as the CSD 4 renewal visit in fall 2024 and discussed them with 5 the team at the time.</p> <p>6 For Audit Findings No. 1 and 4, CSD 7 recommends no action beyond reviewing the 2025 audit 8 to see if the finding is repeated.</p> <p>9 For Findings 2, 3, 5, and 6, CSD 10 recommends providing, as documentation, a process 11 document showing how the business manager, head 12 administrator, and governing council finance 13 committees do the following:</p> <p>14 Review the budget versus actuals to 15 determine when budget requests need to be submitted.</p> <p>16 Tests for internal controls to identify 17 errors in recording revenue and expenditures.</p> <p>18 Review the trial balance alongside the 19 bank reconciliation.</p> <p>20 And ensure documentation of all cash 21 receipts.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell. 23 All right. We'll go ahead and ask the 24 Monte del Sol folks to go ahead and come up. 25 Good morning. And as you all sit down, if</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 the circumstances that led us here today. Our 2 disclaimed audit is unacceptable. And we're 3 committed to doing better, and I know we're 4 positioned to do that.</p> <p>5 In December, at our hearing, at our 6 renewal hearing, I started to, you know, outline or 7 give an overview of some of the circumstances that 8 contributed to this situation. And some of them, I 9 inherited; and others, I didn't move quick enough to 10 make -- make the shifts that were needed.</p> <p>11 In the fall of 2023, it became really 12 apparent that we needed to make a shift in our 13 business office, in our business management. And 14 then the governing council and I started 15 negotiations or talking with Axiom Analytics.</p> <p>16 And at that time, we made a partial 17 transition in the '23-'24 school year. I think in 18 hindsight, we would have just made a full 19 transition, and I think we would have been in a 20 different situation.</p> <p>21 It would have been also, you know, a 22 tricky transition. But -- but I know that it -- I 23 think we would have been in a different position, 24 anyways.</p> <p>25 And so I just want to, again, just put it</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 on the record that Monte del Sol -- like, we're 2 making and have made the changes culturally, but 3 then, also, just following oversight of policies and 4 practices and internal controls in order to rebuild 5 the trust from -- with the PEC and the public. 6 And I know that we're moving and are in 7 that direction. So I want to turn it over to Katie 8 Rarick and Kimberly. 9 MS. KATIE RARICK: Good morning, everyone. 10 Okay. So we -- what would the Commission 11 like? Would you all like us to go finding by 12 finding, kind of talk through it? Would that be 13 helpful? Okay. 14 So when we look at our -- the first one 15 here -- and unable to first get the support, 16 essentially what that they needed, for the audit, 17 whether it's accounts payable or it's compensated 18 absences. So this, again, was part of the 19 transition issue. 20 Currently, Axiom now has all the 21 documentation and is tracking all of these things 22 internally. And we will be doing the audit, so we 23 should have everything ready to go for the audit for 24 this one. 25 Again, the budget authority and the funds.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 and included everything in the audit, it did not 2 capture everything from the previous year. 3 So the financial statements, the good news 4 is for those is that we have submitted every 5 quarterly report, every financial compliance piece 6 to PED on time this year. So there are no more late 7 financial statements. 8 The board and the finance committee get 9 their statements appropriately, also, and they are 10 voted on at the correct board meetings. 11 And we also plan to give -- now that we 12 have everything and we control everything, it will 13 be much easier to get everything to the auditor in a 14 timely manner this year. 15 As far as the deposits go, again, that was 16 something that was kept at the school by the prior 17 business manager. And we worked with her to the 18 best of our ability to get some of that 19 documentation. 20 We now have a seamless system to get that 21 information. We have a Box account, which is an 22 online cloud-sharing file system. Every month the 23 office manager uploads everything. Our accounting 24 team checks everything off to make sure we have 25 everything. We will not close the month until we</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 So this was an issue with -- again, the 2 transition. Most of these are to do the transition. 3 The current business manager at the time, 4 we were doing our best to work with, but we weren't 5 always given all the information. So when we did 6 the final financials, some of this information was 7 excluded from the data we had. 8 And so, then, when we gave the auditor the 9 data from the old system and the data system, some 10 of these findings occurred. Right now, it all lives 11 in one system. And every month, the board does get 12 a reconciliation by fund and function to see where 13 we are to budget. And we highlight any areas that 14 maybe we're over or significantly under, and we need 15 to make sure we're spending down, or we need to make 16 a journal entry to correct that budget authority 17 line. 18 Sorry. The revenue misstatements, again, 19 when you learn a school, it takes a good year to 20 learn the school to understand all the revenue that 21 the school could potentially have, including cash 22 carryover from the year before. 23 So that was part of the issue is the fund 24 balances were not booked appropriately by the prior 25 business manager. And so then when we inherited it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 have all the proper documentation. 2 That is working very well, and there are 3 no uncategorized expenses or revenue in the GL at 4 this time for Monte del Sol. Bank reconciliations 5 are done in a timely manner. Instead of one person 6 doing everything, we are departmentalized so our 7 accounting team has a close schedule, and they close 8 schools at the appropriate time so they can do the 9 financials. Sorry, ya'll. I am on No. 6. We're 10 on 6. 11 And so our accounting team makes sure that 12 the bank reconciliations are correct, matches with 13 cash, and they are in the board packet in a timely 14 manner so the board can review and the financial 15 committee can review and ask questions before the 16 actual meeting. 17 No. 7. So cash disbursements. There were 18 five disbursements totaling \$25,000. That -- what 19 is that one? Other cash disbursements. Oh. And 20 then also mileage reimbursement. Two things here. 21 First is the \$25,000 in disbursements. 22 What that means is we just didn't get the proper 23 documentation to prove what those disbursements were 24 to the auditor. 25 Again, because these were kept in file</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 folders at the school versus now they're all kept in 2 our cloud-sharing system, we just didn't have access 3 to it or couldn't find them at the time.</p> <p>4 The -- the mileage reimbursement is -- and 5 I think this was actually a finding you will see 6 across the board in schools this year. The mileage 7 rate changed midyear, and so it did confuse us on 8 which rate we should use. And so the auditor has 9 made it clear we should always use the rate as of 10 January 1st, even if it changes during the year. So 11 that has been established, and that is what we are 12 doing this year.</p> <p>13 Procurement. So the CPO is at Monte del 14 Sol. But we work closely with that CPO. I have my 15 CPO license; Kimberly has her CPO license. And so 16 while we cannot be the CPO for the school, we do 17 know procurement rules. And so we work closely with 18 the school to make sure that all procurement is 19 followed this year.</p> <p>20 And as -- if we see a purchase order come 21 in that is over the procurement thresholds, we 22 always flag it for the school, and we ask for the 23 documentation so we can connect it to the PO.</p> <p>24 ERB forms. So ERB retirement health 25 forms, this is -- and the 941.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 this year about this one, just to get more guidance 2 and get more clarification so that when we book it 3 in FY25, it is done correctly or to their standards. 4 Let's put it that way.</p> <p>5 And then journal entries. So we did have 6 to book several journal entries in order to do our 7 best to clean up the data we were given. I will say 8 I don't know how successful I was at doing that, 9 'cause the first six months, we inherited that 10 amount, that GL. We did our best to clean it up 11 with the guidance of the former business manager.</p> <p>12 The good news is this year, it all lives 13 in our system. Everything reconciles to the penny. 14 In fact, we just submitted their quarter three cash 15 report yesterday, and everything ties for 16 liabilities, revenue, expenditures, fund balances, 17 and assets.</p> <p>18 And so everything is nice and clean, with 19 a bow, this year, and is living all in the same 20 system with very minimal journal entries, done 21 mostly just between funds, so we can draw down those 22 funds through RFRs.</p> <p>23 If you want to go through -- so Kimberly 24 is going to talk a little bit in a holistic view, 25 not just by the individual findings and what we're</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 For the first six months, this was done at 2 the school through Visions through the in-house 3 business manager. And, again, some of the 4 documentation, we couldn't find.</p> <p>5 Since December -- since January 1st of 6 2024, Axiom has taken this over, and it is -- lives 7 in our payroll system. Our payroll company files 8 all 941s, and they are all on time. We have all the 9 backup documentation. If you would like to see any 10 of it, we're happy to supply that.</p> <p>11 As far as ERB retirement health, we also 12 submit those reports, too. And they are submitted 13 monthly, and the payments are submitted monthly and 14 on time.</p> <p>15 And so capital assets. So this is one 16 that I know Sue Fox, our legal counsel, and us, we 17 are still talking to the auditors about to actually 18 understand why the school received this finding.</p> <p>19 The school does have an LPA. But we felt 20 like we did categorize it correctly and -- huh? -- 21 oh, it was a transfer. Never mind.</p> <p>22 But we still feel like they should not 23 have received this finding because of it being on 24 the foundation's books versus the school's books.</p> <p>25 We're going to reconnect with the auditors</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 doing to fix them, but as a holistic view of what 2 we're doing at our school.</p> <p>3 KIMBERLY GONZALES: Good morning, 4 Madam Chair and Commissioners. Thank you for the 5 opportunity to speak with you today. I'm here on 6 behalf of Monte del Sol to provide an update on the 7 steps that we've addressed for the audit based in 8 our most recent financial review.</p> <p>9 First and foremost, I want to acknowledge 10 the seriousness of the issues noted and affirm our 11 commitment to ensuring full compliance and financial 12 operational requirements moving forward.</p> <p>13 Since the conclusion of the audit, we've 14 implemented a number of corrective actions aimed at 15 strengthening our internal controls at Axiom and 16 ensuring accountability across financial processes 17 with the Monte del Sol business office.</p> <p>18 One of the most important pieces that 19 we've implemented is coming on as the business 20 manager for Monte del Sol. But we've also hired new 21 office management staff. And that staff has strong 22 background in finance and compliance.</p> <p>23 We work very closely together with the 24 head administrator and with other partners to make 25 sure -- within PED -- to make sure that our business</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">38</p> <p>1 office is running smoothly and that everything is 2 getting submitted timely and correctly. 3 We've revised internal processes for the 4 school. We've thoroughly reviewed and updated what 5 was going on and what needs to be corrected. 6 This includes implementing clear protocols 7 for payroll adjustments, leave tracking, purchase 8 order approvals, bank reconciliations, and timely 9 financial reporting. These updates are designated 10 to represent the recurrence of past issues. 11 We also have regular monitoring and 12 training. We've established routine internal 13 controls and reviews, reconciliations, checkpoints, 14 and are conducting staff trainings regularly to 15 ensure that everyone involved in financial operation 16 understands their responsibilities and follows 17 proper procedures. 18 We've worked closely with our external -- 19 with Axiom and Monte del Sol to make sure that 20 everything is getting submitted correctly and on 21 time to PED and to CSD in terms of the documentation 22 needed for this meeting. 23 As far as the memo that was discussed 24 earlier by Dr. Russell, I do not have record of that 25 memo, and I do not know if the school received a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">40</p> <p>1 it wasn't getting done appropriately. 2 So I appreciate the level of detail that's 3 here for what -- you know, what you want to do 4 moving forward. And I do have a lot more confidence 5 that the financial concerns moving forward are going 6 to be cleared out. 7 I did -- so I'll ask a -- it is a question 8 about that memo, just in terms of -- yeah. 9 So, Brigitte, if you could, I should have 10 asked it when you were up here. And I just -- 11 THE CHAIR: I think that's what we'll 12 probably do, where people present, and then -- yeah, 13 Dr. Russell is available for questioning. 14 Ms. Barnes is also available, if you have any legal 15 questions. 16 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair 17 Burt, Vice Chair Gipson, and Commissioners. All the 18 CSD -- 19 THE CHAIR: If you want to -- hold on. 20 Let her ask the question first. 21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. So I'm fine 22 with the substance of it. I just had a question 23 about the timing. Like, when you asked for that -- 24 I forget what you called it. I'll have to pull the 25 memo up again. Sorry.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">39</p> <p>1 memo -- or a document of that. But once we receive 2 it, we will definitely take a look and respond 3 accordingly. 4 But we want to thank you for your time and 5 your support of the school, and our school's efforts 6 to build a strong and sustainable operation. And 7 I'm happy to answer any questions if you have any. 8 THE CHAIR: All right. Commissioners, 9 questions? 10 Commissioner Gipson. Commissioner 11 Obenshain. 12 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So just to clarify, 13 that was a memo to us making a recommendation for 14 what we might want to do. That's why you would not 15 have received it. It was just for guidance -- CSD's 16 guidance to us. 17 MS. KATIE RARICK: Got it. Okay. That 18 makes sense. 19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: And I want to thank 20 you for all of that. I was here five years ago for 21 the renewal. And you're right. You've inherited a 22 lot of this. At the time of renewal, there was a 23 business manager that left abruptly, I think, 24 because there were issues. And then a new one came 25 on, and it was a lot to try to fix. And, obviously,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">41</p> <p>1 This is 8; right? 2 No. 3 So, anyway, the memo, when you're asking 4 for some guidelines for when they're going to -- let 5 me find the memo. 6 THE CHAIR: Want me to -- 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I don't know. I 8 wasn't looking up there. I don't have it -- I do 9 have it now. Oops, it's gone. Thanks. 10 So you're asking for providing a 11 documentation process document showing how the 12 business manager...and so on...will do the 13 reviews...and so on. 14 What's the timing of that? That's the 15 only thing I'm asking for. So that if we do put 16 that into a motion, what would your 17 recommendation -- can we talk about what that would 18 look like in terms of when you would expect them to 19 provide that? 20 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Chair Burt, 21 Vice Chair Gipson, first, all CSD memos are in 22 meeting materials, which were publicly posted on 23 Monday. So schools have had access to them since 24 the meeting materials were posted. Nothing is in 25 any CSD document that was not on the website.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>1 PED did have a website issue this week, 2 and we had to -- so our pages were not where they 3 were supposed to be, and we had to put new links up. 4 But in terms of timing -- so this was a 5 recommendation for how the Commission might want to 6 craft the Corrective Action Plan. There was 7 absolutely no expectation that the school provide 8 anything in a -- in the memo to -- to PEC -- at this 9 meeting. 10 When the school should submit it is at the 11 discretion of PEC, of course. But I would say, you 12 know, that the school should have at least a month, 13 if not -- if not longer, from the meeting motion. 14 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Okay. All right. 15 Thanks. 16 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain. 17 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. Thank you 18 so much for presenting. I have some recollections 19 of audits that I've been through. And I remember 20 most of the audits were the biggest learning 21 experiences for me as a director. So I always take 22 that concept of an audit is that, one, they're going 23 to try and find something. That's their job. But, 24 two, that our responses to it and what we learn from 25 it are the most important thing. So I really</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">44</p> <p>1 So that's when we came in. I'm going to 2 attribute the majority of these to us trying to 3 understand the systems that were in place, also 4 figuring out some of them were adequate, working 5 very closely with Zoe to try to change the direction 6 of the Titanic quickly. And we couldn't change it 7 quickly enough. 8 And they were in Visions. And so when we 9 downloaded that general ledger, it was a bit of a 10 mess. And so trying to just essentially clean up 11 six months-plus of financials in a short period of 12 time is -- is, honestly, what led to most of these. 13 And even some of the misses, like -- that's why I 14 need to -- you know, we are meeting with the 15 auditors regularly, whether they like it or not, and 16 ask them questions. 17 Like, "We got this finding this year. Now 18 that it's public, I can ask this question," and -- 19 so that we can try to fix these things. And we can 20 understand where they were coming from. Because, 21 actually, the auditors had more experience with 22 Monte del Sol than we did at the time of the last 23 audit. 24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Thank you. The 25 other thing, looking forward, is you listed out a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">43</p> <p>1 appreciate your approach to that. 2 I want to just look backwards real quick 3 and then look forward. 4 So to what would you attribute the number 5 of findings? I heard personnel change was one. Was 6 there lack of training? What do you feel like was 7 the -- kind of the overall reason that you got to 8 this point? 9 Personnel could be one. But are there 10 other indicators that you saw that you're, like, 11 "Okay, that's something that we need to beef up 12 moving forward"? 13 MS. KATIE RARICK: Yes. Thank you for 14 that question. So feel free to chime in if I get 15 something wrong. 16 I think one of the -- the main thing was 17 the transition. So the business managers that they 18 had in place did have a mentor for two years. And 19 when we came on, that mentor had decided to retire. 20 So she was on her own. The current 21 business manager -- or the previous business manager 22 was somewhat on her own for a few months. Things 23 were not being turned in on time. Things were not 24 being reconciled. Things were not being given to 25 the board on time.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>1 number of things that you're implementing: 2 trainings, reconciliations. But as a school leader 3 and as a GC, what are the indicators that you will 4 be looking for to determine, "Yes, we are indeed 5 moving toward full compliance, and it's going in 6 the -- you know, the appropriate timeline"? 7 What are those kind of things that you all 8 will be looking at to say, "Yeah, we're on track." 9 Do you have a sense of that yet? 10 ZOE NELSEN: I would say our monthly 11 finance committee reports and having -- like, 12 rebuilding that trust from the governing council and 13 them all feeling as if they have the information 14 that they need, and when questions come up, they 15 have adequate answers to those questions. So that's 16 directly something that I'm looking for in 17 relationship with the school board -- or the 18 governing council. 19 And then with staff, also kind of building 20 trust with staff, recognizing that, you know, things 21 will move quickly and efficiently through the 22 business office so that they have the materials they 23 need, and so there's a -- increased sense of 24 confidence, as well as an increased accountability 25 of staff following the procedures that they need to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">46</p> <p>1 follow.</p> <p>2 And I feel like, in this year, the</p> <p>3 efficiencies, there is that boost of confidence.</p> <p>4 You know, again, it took a couple of months as we</p> <p>5 started this school year. But I would say now, you</p> <p>6 know, staff know the procedures and also feel like</p> <p>7 their needs are being met. I think it's a</p> <p>8 reciprocal relationship.</p> <p>9 ANNE MOSES: Yes, I'd like to respond as</p> <p>10 far as the governing council. Earlier this month,</p> <p>11 we held a board retreat. And most of that retreat</p> <p>12 was focused on the audit and how the governing</p> <p>13 council can help Monte del Sol eliminate all of</p> <p>14 those findings in the coming year.</p> <p>15 And part of our to-do list is to do some</p> <p>16 spot audits, just ask some questions to our business</p> <p>17 managers and financial managers so that we can be</p> <p>18 assured that all of the internal controls that we</p> <p>19 have adopted are, in fact, being played out.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Thank you.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Okay. My question is also</p> <p>22 going to be about timing. And I think because of</p> <p>23 the uniqueness of you -- you're in the last year of</p> <p>24 your contract. You're about to start a new</p> <p>25 contract, which I know that -- so I think this is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">48</p> <p>1 only have two months left of this contract, but,</p> <p>2 really, it's the next school year that I'm even more</p> <p>3 interested in having some maybe -- and I think we</p> <p>4 tried to talk about, like, the financial monitoring,</p> <p>5 Dr. Russell, about doing quarterly -- nothing crazy</p> <p>6 but maybe, like, quarterly updates, just to make</p> <p>7 sure they are on track with what you think you're</p> <p>8 doing.</p> <p>9 So, Ms. Barnes, how would that look?</p> <p>10 MS. JULIA BARNES: So let me start with</p> <p>11 how it looks right at this moment.</p> <p>12 This issue, as the school has described</p> <p>13 and as you all have seen, has been ongoing for a</p> <p>14 while. So during the renewal, you renewed this</p> <p>15 school with conditions. One of them was financial.</p> <p>16 So the language that was in the renewal is</p> <p>17 that the school demonstrate it is improving its</p> <p>18 fiscal processes with a goal towards reducing audit</p> <p>19 findings and repeat audit findings.</p> <p>20 So that already is something that you</p> <p>21 voted on. And the contract documents, of which this</p> <p>22 school is one that you're going to look at today,</p> <p>23 they -- the team that negotiated with the school</p> <p>24 negotiated a condition compliance form.</p> <p>25 And on the finance section, you have --</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">47</p> <p>1 going to be mostly for Ms. Barnes -- about what</p> <p>2 exactly it looks like.</p> <p>3 So I will say thank you. I'm grateful for</p> <p>4 this presentation because of the clarity of it, of</p> <p>5 all the work you're already doing. Gives me a lot</p> <p>6 of trust that this school is going to turn</p> <p>7 everything around. You're going to get some clean</p> <p>8 audits in the coming years.</p> <p>9 I think I'm in the "Trust but verify"</p> <p>10 position, that there is a disclaimed audit and a lot</p> <p>11 of findings. I feel very good with the plan you're</p> <p>12 developing, the actions you've taken. I feel good</p> <p>13 about it.</p> <p>14 I think just because of the seriousness of</p> <p>15 it, I still would -- I would say I would like the</p> <p>16 school go onto a financial CAP, have some additional</p> <p>17 monitoring over the course of the next -- not this</p> <p>18 year, but the next school year, to where we can just</p> <p>19 make sure -- just that little bit of additional</p> <p>20 oversight -- make sure that the processes that</p> <p>21 you're planning on and have already started, that</p> <p>22 they stick, they become part of the culture, the</p> <p>23 ball doesn't get dropped.</p> <p>24 So my question is going to be for</p> <p>25 Ms. Barnes. What does that look like? Knowing we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">49</p> <p>1 the negotiating team has proposed that you drop in</p> <p>2 that condition that was developed successfully by</p> <p>3 McCurdy and is being utilized now.</p> <p>4 So first, that -- a form of the financial</p> <p>5 document is in two places. One, it's in the motion</p> <p>6 folder, so you can open it quickly and see it. The</p> <p>7 second place is it's in the Monte del Sol documents.</p> <p>8 They're exactly the same.</p> <p>9 I was just trying, just this second, to go</p> <p>10 back and confirm that all of the suggestions by CSD</p> <p>11 are in that year -- next year's condition document.</p> <p>12 I think it is. I still think it is.</p> <p>13 And you remember, that condition document,</p> <p>14 you're going to look at it every year, and you're</p> <p>15 going to decide if it continues on, or you deem it</p> <p>16 satisfied. So that -- nothing that I just said is</p> <p>17 going to change by any action you take right now.</p> <p>18 So that's where you are.</p> <p>19 I think you have been hearing this and the</p> <p>20 school's been reporting it and you've been working</p> <p>21 on it. So there's just consistency. There's not a</p> <p>22 "Oh, gosh, we missed that." I think that everyone</p> <p>23 has been seeing that. So that's where you are.</p> <p>24 What can you do right now?</p> <p>25 The only thing -- in No. 8 of the agenda</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">50</p> <p>1 that you can do right now is a CAP for June 30. 2 There's the new contract and everything. So I'm 3 just going to -- so that's already in place. 4 By June 30, if you felt like you wanted 5 them to provide something else, ask for that 6 something else in addition. I still think maybe 7 you're already covered. I still think that the 8 system has worked in the way that it was happening. 9 So let me tell you what I think -- and 10 this is true. There's five schools that are coming 11 forward in Item 8. This applies to all of them. 12 And, actually, this is in -- the motion 13 document at the top describes what I think your 14 options are. 15 One, if you -- let's just take this school 16 from now to June 30th. You're like, "You know what? 17 I'm feeling okay. You're going to have a new 18 condition July 1." 19 Then you just take no action. You say, 20 "Thank you for your presentation," and you just move 21 forward. That's true for each of these five 22 schools. 23 The second thing you can do for any of 24 these five schools is ask them next month -- so this 25 school would only be under this CAP for, like, six</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">52</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Okay. I think -- yeah -- 2 because I would say if there wasn't this kind of 3 overlap in contract years, I feel like this, I would 4 be okay with. 5 The disclaimed audit is what I feel 6 like -- I just have this, like, sense of wanting to 7 document that, that when you have a disclaimed 8 audit, that's a whole other level. 9 And so I'm thinking of as more like just 10 documentation of, like, having some kind of 11 additional oversight because of that. Because I 12 would say for future years as well, for all the 13 schools, if you have a disclaimed audit, probably, 14 it would be very hard-pressed for me not to want to 15 put a score on a CAP for next year. Kind of, like, 16 disclaimed audit: CAP. That's it. 17 I am having a conflict in my head of, 18 like, is there a way to document that? That is 19 something we're looking at. That way, once again, 20 it's four or five years down the road, it's part of 21 the record of performance that there was a 22 disclaimed audit. The PEC is taking some sort of 23 action on it. 24 But it's also correct I do think this 25 school has created a plan over the course of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">51</p> <p>1 weeks; other schools would be longer. But you could 2 have them do a -- I want to call it a shortened CAP. 3 An example of this in your meeting 4 materials, a school you asked to do this last 5 month -- is 9.b.1., a short, sweet, defining, 6 "Here's what you're going to do what by when." 7 The third thing you can do, which you've 8 already done for this school, is say, "I want to put 9 you on that financial -- that yearlong detailed 10 financial thing." 11 So, to me, it's kind of your level of 12 comfort with the school. 13 "We're okay. Keep going. You're doing a 14 good job." 15 No. 2: I want to call it that "Trust but 16 verify." 17 "On your audit itself, I want you to do a 18 short, sweet thing. Who's going to do what by 19 when?" 20 And then, "You know what? I want you to 21 focus this year on a much more detailed document." 22 You can do 1, 2, or 3. 23 Finally, in the motion, it's highlighted 24 that you should -- if you're going to do a motion, 25 you should choose which action you want them to do.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">53</p> <p>1 next year. There's a compliance part. So I feel 2 comfortable with that moving forward. 3 I'm trying to -- like, how can we document 4 that there was a disclaimed audit and that we took 5 some sort of communicative action on it, knowing 6 that the actions that are already happening are 7 going to cover that is where my mind is going to. 8 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So what I -- sorry. 9 What I had recommended, what if we had -- based on 10 Brigitte's memo, which is kind of based off the 11 disclaimed audit -- that we had the school make a 12 response next month with that, so we had that 13 record. 14 And then we had a memo from CSD comparing 15 that response with the Corrective Action Plan and 16 making sure that everything -- yeah -- the 17 condition, sorry -- and that the Corrective Action 18 Plan that goes with the condition compliance 19 document, that everything that's in that condition 20 compliance document jibes with what their response 21 had to be to see if there's something else that we 22 might have to just add and say, "In addition -- 23 everything is great. But because of that disclaimed 24 audit, we also feel you need to be responding to 25 this as well."</p>

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1 It may very well be all covered. But,
2 honestly, I didn't compare at this point in time.

3 But I think that would allow for the
4 record -- for the disclaimed audit that they've made
5 a response to that and their specific actions there.
6 And then we can -- and make sure that it's in the
7 condition compliance reporting.

8 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.

9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So thank you for
10 the -- for your presentation, and thank you,
11 Ms. Nelsen, for just sitting there and owning
12 everything. It's very respectable when anyone does
13 that.

14 So, Ms. Barnes, I want to share with you
15 directly correctly. Essentially, a lot of the
16 things that are going to be addressed -- that we're
17 addressing may be addressed in the next contract;
18 okay?

19 So, initially, when I was hearing all of
20 this, I was thinking we don't need to do anything.
21 I mean, we really don't. It's all covered in the
22 next contract. And I don't want you belaboring
23 something or labor hours or whatever else might be
24 coming up. I understand what Pattie is saying, that
25 if that came up in a motion, I would support it.

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1 But, mostly, I'm just thinking we're
2 covered. You're covered. I feel comfortable with
3 your presentation and with what you're doing, being
4 very thorough in this.

5 MS. JULIA BARNES: Commissioner Carrillo,
6 if I could respond with a little bit more
7 information about what I think your choices are
8 based on your comment.

9 In Item A, you're looking at the CAP for
10 the school right now. I think you could do a Notice
11 of Concern regarding a disclaimed audit in the audit
12 findings. And then I'm not sure the "and" what.

13 The second thing that is possible is they
14 are scheduled to have you review their contract and
15 contract documents this month. You can just not
16 take that action today, and then that gives you next
17 month to compare if you want to add anything to any
18 of their contract documents next month.

19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: You don't want it in
20 the condition compliance report? That's what we're
21 voting on today.

22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: How, then, would --
23 if we do a Letter of Concern, what would we need to
24 see and by when for it to be satisfied? I don't
25 want this to be kind of hanging over the school for

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1 months on end.

2 MS. JULIA BARNES: I think there's a lot
3 of choices. But one of them --

4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'm sorry. I can't
5 hear you.

6 MS. JULIA BARNES: I think you have this
7 school term that's -- this school charter contract
8 that's going to end on June 30. So there's not --
9 this record of performance doesn't carry over to
10 next year, the next record of performance.

11 So you could ask them -- for example, you
12 could issue a Notice of Concern regarding a
13 disclaimed audit in the audit findings and ask the
14 school to review the condition compliance form.

15 You're not changing your condition.
16 You've already voted on that. You're not -- you
17 already -- you've already identified a problem.
18 They know there's a problem.

19 The only piece of news is that an auditor
20 also said there's a disclaimed audit. But that's
21 super consistent with what they've been saying,
22 you've been saying, you've been hearing.

23 So take it into next term. The next
24 charter contract, you would just delay the vote on
25 their contract, and you'd ask them to see if they

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1 need to add any more items to that condition
2 compliance form.

3 I think that's the easiest way to do that.
4 I'm happy to take a break and see if you guys want
5 to do it a different way.

6 But right now, you're talking about this
7 contract term. Once you approve their contract
8 documents, that's for the next charter term.

9 MS. KATIE RARICK: And if I may, real
10 quickly?

11 THE CHAIR: Sure.

12 MS. KATIE RARICK: I will say all of those
13 documents that Dr. Russell highlighted, we have them
14 all. We just did quarterly reporting. So we can
15 get them to you by May 6th at the latest.

16 It will be very easy. So if that is
17 something you want to do just to make sure we're on
18 the right path, that is totally fine.

19 THE CHAIR: Yeah. I also -- I think -- I
20 appreciate this. This helps a lot with the overlap.
21 But I do think -- yeah, I think the condition, the
22 contract, that should just move forward. That's
23 independent of this in my mind. That just goes.

24 I think what I would support today is
25 doing a Letter of Concern about the disclaimed audit

<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>1 and audit findings and asking, once again, that the 2 school goes back, take a look at this audit finding, 3 take look at your condition compliance form, see if 4 there's anything that isn't on the condition 5 compliance. 6 And we don't need to change the contract. 7 We don't need to change that. It just gets added to 8 it, as if it was already approved. I don't think we 9 need to go back and change or delay the contract at 10 all. I think this just gets added to that 11 compliance form for the condition. 12 I don't think it needs to be -- I think 13 it's two separate, like, parallel things. I don't 14 think one needs to be held up by the other. If it 15 wasn't this exact timing, that's what we would be 16 doing. 17 If we had this meeting July 15th, that's 18 what we would do; right? You'd have your condition 19 compliance form. We'd ask you, "Can you go look at 20 that," and we would add to it if we need to. 21 That's what I feel more comfortable with, 22 keeping them separate and not combining them right 23 now, just because of the timing -- I do want it to 24 be separate. That's what I would say I would 25 support now.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">60</p> <p>1 sense. Yeah. Provide any additional proposed 2 additions -- 3 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Let's just pretend 4 she's not here. 5 MS. JULIA BARNES: A little bird whispered 6 in my ear that looked a lot like their attorney. 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So I move that the 8 Chair issue a Notice of Concern to Monte del Sol 9 Charter School regarding the disclaimed audit and 10 audit findings in the FY2024 charter school audit, 11 and that the school provide any proposed additions 12 to the -- to the new contract condition compliance 13 form as an amendment to the charter contract. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'll second. 15 THE CHAIR: Okay. There's a motion and a 16 second. 17 Any discussion on the motion? 18 (No response.) 19 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing none, 20 Commissioner Carrillo. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: All-righty. 22 Commissioner Ingham. 23 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Beck. 25 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">59</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I was going to ask. 2 If it wasn't this moment and it was September, and a 3 new issue came up, you know, as a result of 4 whatever -- you know, Budget notifies us or 5 whatever -- we would simply, in all likelihood, just 6 add something to -- through a motion add to the 7 condition compliance form in saying, "We already 8 have this. You're already doing this. But now 9 there's this new issue. We're just going to add 10 this on to your reporting." 11 So I think that's -- I think we can do 12 what we've set out to do today. And if there's a 13 need -- because it may very well be that that 14 condition compliance reporting does cover it all. 15 It's very likely. 16 But in case it doesn't, we can simply 17 just, in a motion, add that to it if it's not 18 covered. 19 But I think we can move forward today with 20 the -- with the vote on the contract without having 21 to do any changes, and then do the Letter of Concern 22 as a separate entity. 23 Yeah. I think it's right there. 24 MS. JULIA BARNES: May I just see? I just 25 heard from the school's attorney that that makes</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">61</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary votes yes. 2 Commissioner Obenshain. 3 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson. 5 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 6 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 7 THE CHAIR: Yes. 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 9 Clahchischilliage. 10 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 12 Taylor. 13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Oh. And I see 15 Commissioner Manis has joined. Nice to have you, 16 Commissioner Manis. 17 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Great. All right. 19 Nine-zero. Yeah. 20 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Congratulations 21 again on your celebration today of 25 years. 22 All right. That's going to take us back 23 to -- back to our regularly scheduled agenda. And 24 we're on Item 5, the Consent Agenda. And I'll move 25 to approve the Consent Agenda.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">62</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Second.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second</p> <p>3 by Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>4 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner</p> <p>5 Obenshain.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson</p> <p>8 votes yes.</p> <p>9 Commissioner Burt.</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Yes.</p> <p>13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes.</p> <p>15 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes.</p> <p>17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p> <p>19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner</p> <p>20 Clahchischilliage.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes.</p> <p>22 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Commissioner Manis.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes.</p> <p>24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Motion passes,</p> <p>25 nine-zero.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">64</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: All right. I move to accept</p> <p>2 the governing body member change notification form</p> <p>3 from Roots & Wings Community School.</p> <p>4 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: A motion and a second. Any</p> <p>6 discussion on the motion?</p> <p>7 (No response.)</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, Commissioner</p> <p>9 Carrillo.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: All-righty.</p> <p>11 Commissioner Manis.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>16 Obenshain.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>21 Clahchischilliage.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes.</p> <p>23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes.</p> <p>25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Beck.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">63</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Next item is Item No. 6. If</p> <p>2 we could have Director Chavez present -- Director</p> <p>3 Chavez, we'll need you to do Item 6 now.</p> <p>4 MS. MELISSA BROWN: She's asked me to</p> <p>5 present it.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Oh. Where is Dan</p> <p>7 Ivey-Soto? He'll be so excited.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: All right. Ms. Brown.</p> <p>9 MS. MELISSA BROWN: So in -- find my</p> <p>10 notes.</p> <p>11 So the last -- the Roots & Wings school</p> <p>12 had a board resignation on February 1st that took</p> <p>13 them below five. We are still waiting on the</p> <p>14 document. But Director Orris has reached out and</p> <p>15 said that they have a fifth member. They're just in</p> <p>16 the process of filling out all of the paperwork.</p> <p>17 And he is here, if you have any questions for him.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any questions?</p> <p>19 (No response.)</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Okay.</p> <p>21 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Director Orris is</p> <p>22 online. He didn't drive down.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: All right.</p> <p>24 MS. JULIA BARNES: You would accept, then,</p> <p>25 that document.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">65</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Chair Burt.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary votes yes.</p> <p>5 That carries, nine to zero.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>7 All right. This brings us to Item 7,</p> <p>8 Discussion and Possible Action to Support</p> <p>9 Improvements to State Charter Audit Results,</p> <p>10 Management Responses, and Resulting School Actions.</p> <p>11 This was done at the request of</p> <p>12 Commissioner Gipson. So if you want to -- you want</p> <p>13 to start us out and give us a little bit of the why,</p> <p>14 and then we'll go to Dr. Russell to lead us in the</p> <p>15 conversation.</p> <p>16 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Sure. So when I was</p> <p>17 looking at the audits, and I -- I'm going to say</p> <p>18 that there was probably -- there were very few</p> <p>19 schools -- easier for me to categorize it that</p> <p>20 way -- there were very few schools that had audit</p> <p>21 responses that weren't labeled insufficient. All of</p> <p>22 them, "That's an insufficient response," "That's an</p> <p>23 insufficient response."</p> <p>24 And it's, like, why is this happening?</p> <p>25 So -- and I know there's the -- there's a</p>

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1 disconnect between auditor and the schools because
2 of the nature of how our State charters have to do
3 their audits. And that's through a PED contract, so
4 that it's not -- it's not a relationship that they
5 build with the auditors. It's not a choice.

6 And if you look at the audits of our State
7 charter schools compared to audits of district
8 charters and districts, it's very different. It
9 absolutely is. And there's an inherent problem.

10 But I was just trying to figure out if
11 there's -- if there was something that we could do
12 to help schools in limiting those insufficient
13 responses. It's, like, what's going on that the
14 responses are always -- or most often, by the
15 auditor, they're saying it's insufficient?

16 And I don't know -- I do know -- I think
17 there's -- for this conversation, and after the
18 policy committee met yesterday, I was kind of
19 thinking, should we delay this conversation?
20 Because I think we could fix the -- we may be able
21 to fix the chunk of it and then deal with how else
22 we could do it when schools have, maybe, a different
23 avenue.

24 So I'm open to that as well.

25 THE CHAIR: I do think -- I mean, we do

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1 have -- well, I know, Ms. -- we do have business
2 managers here. I do think if there's anything we
3 can glean, just information to help us move forward,
4 it would be helpful. But I see what you're saying.

5 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah.

6 THE CHAIR: Dr. Russell?

7 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Chair Burt and
8 Commissioners, CSD consultant Betty Seeley is the
9 one who did the analysis of sufficiency that is in
10 the PEC materials. And Ms. Seeley is present today
11 if you would like to hear from her in regards to
12 general patterns that she saw across State charter
13 audit responses.

14 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain.

15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. I guess
16 the bigger question for me is that if a response is
17 deemed insufficient, what is the remedy of a -- of
18 an insufficient response? So what would that --

19 THE CHAIR: Ms. Seeley, if you could
20 answer that when you get to it.

21 MS. BETTY SEELEY: Hi. Good morning. For
22 the record, Betty Seeley. B-e-t-t-y S-e-e-l-e-y.

23 And when I'm looking at the responses on
24 the audit findings, the main thing I was looking at
25 on insufficient was the lack of detail, on "What are

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1 we going to do to fix this?"

2 It's kind of, like, "Yeah, we're looking
3 at it, yeah, we did wrong, yeah, we're going to fix
4 it," is almost, like, the general tenor of the audit
5 findings. And when it says timeline, by June 30th,
6 it just means by the end of the year, we'll get it
7 done.

8 And when they get their audits in
9 September or October, it just seems to me that's the
10 starting date that they should begin fixing their
11 audit findings. And they should have them fixed
12 relatively soon. It's almost like June 30th, "We're
13 going to kick the can down the road, and we'll have
14 it done by the end of the year."

15 I just -- for me, that's really not a good
16 plan, that they should put a plan in place, such as,
17 "The RFRs haven't been done. Well, when are you
18 going to fix that?"

19 It's not the end of the year. You should
20 start now, so that your RFRs are done monthly or
21 quarterly. And it'll be, "We'll put that plan in
22 place by, say, December 30th."

23 But everybody's just kind of, like, "Yeah,
24 we're going to get it done, and we're going to get
25 it done by the next audit."

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1 I think there should be more
2 clarification, more -- and more imperative on the
3 schools' part to get things done.

4 So that's what I was mostly looking at
5 when I was kind of giving insufficient ratings. And
6 it's kind of like a broad general, without going
7 through all the audits one by one at this meeting.

8 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain.

9 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: So then if --
10 when a school sees an insufficient response, that is
11 from the auditor saying, "It's insufficient," or
12 that's from your analysis?

13 MS. BETTY SEELEY: That was from my
14 analysis, what I was asked to do.

15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: In terms of
16 your -- what your assessment criteria are, that you
17 would say specificity, more -- a clearer timeline,
18 or a more --

19 MS. BETTY SEELEY: More active timeline.

20 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: And then if they
21 don't provide that, but then meet the expectation by
22 June 30th, and they do implement whatever specific
23 action that they're going to take, is there a
24 difference in what would be seen by an auditor the
25 following year? Or they'd, "No. They got it done.

<p style="text-align: right;">70</p> <p>1 We're all good"?</p> <p>2 MS. BETTY SEELEY: Well, depending on what</p> <p>3 the auditor looks at, I mean, if they don't get a</p> <p>4 repeat finding, then that's -- you know, that's</p> <p>5 going to go away.</p> <p>6 But as far as work processes and clearing</p> <p>7 your audit findings, there should be a plan of</p> <p>8 action instead of just a general statement.</p> <p>9 And that's -- you know, that's what I was</p> <p>10 looking at. Because when I was a business manager,</p> <p>11 that's what I did. It was, like, "Okay. Yeah, you</p> <p>12 know, how am I going to fix this? When am I going</p> <p>13 to fix this?"</p> <p>14 And that's what my board was looking at</p> <p>15 when they looked at the findings. And by the time</p> <p>16 they get it, it's, like, "Okay. What have you been</p> <p>17 doing to clear the finding? You knew about it in</p> <p>18 September. We know about it in March."</p> <p>19 There's that time gap and the whole</p> <p>20 accountability.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson, then</p> <p>22 Dr. Russell, if you have a clarification.</p> <p>23 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I guess I have a</p> <p>24 question. And I know its more -- Kim's still here</p> <p>25 and Mike is still here -- a question. Because I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">72</p> <p>1 conflicting information about what we have -- how we</p> <p>2 have to respond to the auditor. And then now this</p> <p>3 other party is looking at it, and saying, "Oh, that</p> <p>4 was insufficient."</p> <p>5 But I don't know if the audit -- you know,</p> <p>6 so I guess my question is what is the level of</p> <p>7 detail that the expectation is to the auditor? And</p> <p>8 should we be looking at those responses and say,</p> <p>9 "That's an insufficient response"? "You have to do</p> <p>10 better"?</p> <p>11 I'm not sure.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: Do you want to --</p> <p>13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: If Mike and Kim can</p> <p>14 kind of answer, they're the ones that have to</p> <p>15 respond.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Mr. Ahner?</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Are you asking</p> <p>18 about the idea that the consultant is providing</p> <p>19 technical assistance to support them in meeting that</p> <p>20 deficiency?</p> <p>21 Right. Not so much whether or not they've</p> <p>22 provided a response to the auditor. I mean, I could</p> <p>23 see, cut and paste, "We're going to do this," cut</p> <p>24 and paste. But now, as a technical assistance</p> <p>25 person saying that's not sufficient. But it might</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">71</p> <p>1 think I hear sometimes the response to the auditor</p> <p>2 is more of a less is more, that the level of</p> <p>3 detail -- I don't know if the auditors are expecting</p> <p>4 that level of detail.</p> <p>5 So I don't know if we have a disconnect</p> <p>6 with trying -- you know, you're trying to manage the</p> <p>7 auditors' response and make that. But then someone</p> <p>8 else is looking at that response and saying, "That's</p> <p>9 insufficient."</p> <p>10 But maybe it -- I don't know if it</p> <p>11 wasn't -- if it was or wasn't insufficient for the</p> <p>12 auditor, so that you're answering to the auditor.</p> <p>13 "And I've got to make this response, and there's a</p> <p>14 way to manage that response." And then some -- so</p> <p>15 now -- and we've got a third party that's coming in</p> <p>16 and saying, "That response wasn't sufficient."</p> <p>17 But I don't know if the -- if the</p> <p>18 insufficiency is because you're trying to respond to</p> <p>19 the auditor in the way that you feel is appropriate</p> <p>20 for your client. And I don't know.</p> <p>21 Because this is -- this is my second</p> <p>22 language -- or fifteenth language. I don't speak</p> <p>23 this language well at all. And I try to figure it</p> <p>24 out -- I speak it better than I did when I started.</p> <p>25 But I get some -- sometimes I feel like I'm getting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">73</p> <p>1 have nothing to do with compliance to the audit.</p> <p>2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Right. Right. Yeah.</p> <p>3 So that we're looking at something that -- and</p> <p>4 we're -- our expecta- -- so I'm thinking that what</p> <p>5 we should be asking is not look at the audit</p> <p>6 response, but look at the audit and say, "What are</p> <p>7 you doing to fix X, Y, and Z," and not look at,</p> <p>8 "These were all insufficiencies because of how</p> <p>9 you're supposed to respond to the audit," and say,</p> <p>10 well, let's not look and say, "Oh, your response was</p> <p>11 insufficient."</p> <p>12 Let's just drill down to what were the</p> <p>13 audit issues and not look at the response at all.</p> <p>14 Because the response was made through the technical</p> <p>15 assistance of the consultants based on how you're</p> <p>16 supposed to respond to the audits, and maybe the</p> <p>17 level of detail. I'm probably confused and mucked</p> <p>18 this up.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: I actually think it's very</p> <p>20 clear. So can you come up and talk to us?</p> <p>21 Ms. Rarick, if you all can come up?</p> <p>22 Because I do see what you're saying.</p> <p>23 Like, the management responses serve a purpose.</p> <p>24 We're also using them for a second purpose.</p> <p>25 And are they the same purpose? No. And</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">74</p> <p>1 so like how would those impact? I think you made 2 that very clear. You did a great job, Commissioner 3 Gipson. Yeah.</p> <p>4 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Thank you.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: Introduce yourself and give us 6 your thoughts, please.</p> <p>7 ERIC AHNER: My name is Eric Ahner, 8 A-h-n-e-r, the current director of J. Paul Taylor 9 Academy.</p> <p>10 Madam Chair, members of the Commission and 11 Commissioner Gipson, to that very question, I now 12 have done fourteen audits as the executive director, 13 and I never once have received feedback on manager's 14 responses on the audit. So we have operated, I 15 think, that less is more.</p> <p>16 To Ms. Seeley's point, what we do is 17 absolutely important. But by listing less and doing 18 more on our side, I think, is the due diligence 19 part, and sometimes it changes.</p> <p>20 Also, the timeline from the time we 21 receive the audit findings and we're supposed to 22 submit those, which is late and exhausting, in that 23 process is a very short window. So a lot of time 24 we're scrambling from the time we have the findings 25 to that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">76</p> <p>1 For example, you may get a finding for 2 \$1.20 because of mileage, well, when we have paid 3 \$10,000 in travel, and what percentage of that is 4 actually of the money you have spent on travel. I 5 would like to start to do that in the future so 6 people can actually understand the larger picture, 7 what these findings actually mean for the school.</p> <p>8 And my last point is I have put some 9 fairly direct information into the findings. And I 10 get pushback from the auditors that if I -- if my 11 language is too severe or I point my fingers at the 12 auditors or I say, "This was not an issue in the 13 past, but the auditors have made a mistake," I am 14 told that they are going to respond to it, and then 15 it will go to the State Auditor and get flagged.</p> <p>16 That is another reason we water it down. 17 I've only done it once for one school, because I 18 felt so strongly about it. But you have to get the 19 auditor to get to agree to it. You have to get the 20 school leader to agree to it. And no one wants to 21 get flagged at the State Auditor.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: While we have them there, 23 stay. Any other questions? Really quick.</p> <p>24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I think I've 25 transitioned. Because I think we focus on the audit</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">75</p> <p>1 A personal point of frustration that I've 2 experienced with auditors is I don't have ample time 3 to know that there's potential findings to do my own 4 research with my finance folks so that when I do the 5 manager's response, or my business manager does, 6 it's more thoughtful. It's a very short window to 7 say, "Here are your findings. Let's close out."</p> <p>8 In this last audit cycle, I pushed back 9 and said, "We're not ready. We're seeing these 10 findings for the first time and you want to close in 11 four days."</p> <p>12 And to me, that's not acceptable. We 13 should have been notified along the way that there's 14 potential concerns, where we could have had an 15 opportunity to respond and provided more 16 documentation that could have prevented findings.</p> <p>17 MS. KATIE RARICK: Katie Rarick, business 18 manager for several charter schools.</p> <p>19 And so I agree with what Eric just said, 20 that the timeline is usually very short between the 21 time when the audit is over when we're given the 22 findings and when we have to respond to them.</p> <p>23 In addition to that, I do want to use the 24 management response going forward to actually talk 25 about the severity or not severity of the finding.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">77</p> <p>1 and hear from the schools about -- and we get that 2 clarity as to what those audit findings were.</p> <p>3 And I think I was alarmed when I saw the 4 chart, and, oh, my God, all these insufficient 5 responses. But I think I've gotten that clarity 6 now, that we don't even need to look at that. But 7 we're doing our due diligence by looking at the 8 audits and asking the schools to respond to the 9 audits and hearing about the findings and then 10 making a determination as to whether that finding 11 raises to a level of our having to flag it as a 12 response and not -- I'm going to kind of ignore the 13 management response.</p> <p>14 It's a lesson learned, you know? I 15 haven't been doing it for fourteen years, but -- so 16 thank you. I appreciate this conversation, 'cause 17 I -- I learn something new every time I have the 18 conversation. And -- yeah. Because what -- looking 19 at that paper is like, holy crap.</p> <p>20 But, yeah, I'm good, I think. Thank you. 21 I appreciate it.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Dr. Russell, do you want to 23 wrap this item out with anything? And you two are 24 fine. Thank you for being the students who 25 volunteered for the class. It's always nice. It's</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">78</p> <p>1 always nice.</p> <p>2 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: What I had intended</p> <p>3 to say was just to reiterate and clarify what was in</p> <p>4 the CSD memo in the meeting materials regarding</p> <p>5 management responses to audit findings, indicating</p> <p>6 that this was an analysis that our consultant did of</p> <p>7 the responses provided to the auditor last fall,</p> <p>8 2024, and was not declaring that the school had made</p> <p>9 an insufficient response in their proposed materials</p> <p>10 for this meeting.</p> <p>11 So our individual school-specific memos</p> <p>12 address the school responses, not any deficiencies</p> <p>13 in management responses made last fall.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that</p> <p>15 clarification. All right. Awesome.</p> <p>16 That'll take us back to Item 8.b. now.</p> <p>17 So, actually, Mr. Ahner, you're going to</p> <p>18 be coming back up soon. So, Dr. Russell, if you can</p> <p>19 start us off.</p> <p>20 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>21 Burt and Commissioners.</p> <p>22 J. Paul Taylor Academy has had an internal</p> <p>23 action plan in place since before the CSD annual</p> <p>24 visit in January 2024. And the head administrator</p> <p>25 advised CSD at the time, this past January, that the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">80</p> <p>1 expense is being captured on the trial balance, if</p> <p>2 the school could address that today.</p> <p>3 CSD recommends providing as documentation</p> <p>4 a process document showing how the business manager</p> <p>5 consultant, head administrator consultant, and</p> <p>6 finance committee review the budget versus actuals,</p> <p>7 test internal controls to identify errors in</p> <p>8 recording revenue and expenditures, including</p> <p>9 miscoding errors, and review the trial balance</p> <p>10 alongside the bank reconciliation.</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell.</p> <p>13 Mr. Ahner?</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: And would you like Ms. Brown</p> <p>15 to put your presentation up on the screen as well?</p> <p>16 MR. ERIC AHNER: (Off mic.)</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: I guess it's mostly your</p> <p>18 letter. Do you want that up or -- you're just going</p> <p>19 to walk this through?</p> <p>20 (Responses off-mic.)</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Then, yeah. I don't think we</p> <p>22 need to share anything.</p> <p>23 MS. MELISSA BROWN: He didn't have his</p> <p>24 microphone on, but he will turn his microphone on</p> <p>25 now.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">79</p> <p>1 school was working with a consultant to improve</p> <p>2 fiscal processes, as well as with a new business</p> <p>3 manager who was phased in over the course of two</p> <p>4 months to ensure consistency.</p> <p>5 The school has identified and corrected</p> <p>6 internal coding misaligned to the Uniform Chart of</p> <p>7 Accounts, which resulted in at least one finding.</p> <p>8 And the new business manager continues to review</p> <p>9 FY25 revenues and expenditures to ensure alignment.</p> <p>10 For Finding No. 1, two issues from the</p> <p>11 finding were not addressed in the management</p> <p>12 response: The exclusion of one project from</p> <p>13 capitalization; and the maintenance of the trial</p> <p>14 balance on a cash basis with accrual entries</p> <p>15 provided as part of the audit, which Mr. Ahner can</p> <p>16 address today.</p> <p>17 For Finding 2, the management response did</p> <p>18 not -- and I reference the management response,</p> <p>19 because it was not also included in the school</p> <p>20 submission, because the school submission referenced</p> <p>21 management responses.</p> <p>22 And J. Paul Taylor Academy's management</p> <p>23 responses actually were more robust and detailed</p> <p>24 than most schools last fall.</p> <p>25 But from Finding 2, the salary liabilities</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">81</p> <p>1 MR. ERIC AHNER: All right. Madam Chair,</p> <p>2 members of the Commission, I appreciate the</p> <p>3 opportunity to be in front of you again, granted,</p> <p>4 not necessarily under the circumstances that I would</p> <p>5 like to be in front of you.</p> <p>6 I was in front of you not too long ago.</p> <p>7 And it feels -- well, I did. I withheld information</p> <p>8 because the audit that had been released was still</p> <p>9 embargoed. So I sat here speaking about our FY23</p> <p>10 audit, knowing full well that our FY24 audit was</p> <p>11 marginally better to best with one less finding,</p> <p>12 which was very uncomfortable, knowing that we were</p> <p>13 in a third audit that has been less than what it</p> <p>14 needs to be for our financial practices.</p> <p>15 I'm going to address some causality and</p> <p>16 some general steps that we've taken. Then I'll try</p> <p>17 to go into more detail, partly based on what the</p> <p>18 Commission feels is appropriate.</p> <p>19 Three areas of causalities that I believe</p> <p>20 exist is we've had six business managers since 2021,</p> <p>21 three within one year. So part -- when we had those</p> <p>22 three business managers was the feeling we just need</p> <p>23 stability. We need one business manager.</p> <p>24 And then, in fact, we did have some</p> <p>25 changes after that. And then having the right</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">82</p> <p>1 person on the bus is equally important to the 2 consistency.</p> <p>3 And I also think there's been an increase 4 in the technicality of being a financial person. 5 And, certainly, Mr. Vigil can speak to that. It's 6 changed some, and it's not getting easier across the 7 board in education.</p> <p>8 I think that there are kind of two general 9 directions that you can go with business management 10 practices. I do think you can have an individual be 11 your business manager. I think it's beneficial if 12 they're on site, and if they're highly experienced, 13 and they've had an opportunity to train.</p> <p>14 I think you could be a pretty experienced 15 business manager coming from another sector and step 16 into school practices in New Mexico -- I can't speak 17 beyond -- and that does not necessarily prepare you 18 to do this job well.</p> <p>19 I had the same business manager for seven 20 years at Aldo Leopold, and they never once sat in 21 front of the PEC under these uncomfortable 22 circumstances. So I know it can be done.</p> <p>23 I also think that there can be a firm that 24 can provide the services that don't have to be on 25 site, where there's more division in duties. And I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">84</p> <p>1 auditor, we can begin that process. When that 2 happens, we don't need to wait for the final release 3 to have internal changes in our institutions. So we 4 can be more proactive and better at doing these 5 things.</p> <p>6 When we realized we had findings, again, I 7 was sitting in front of you. I had already put 8 things into place for us because you knew the 9 findings for FY24 were not favorable.</p> <p>10 The four general things we put into place 11 was, number one, change in our business manager and 12 going with a group. Ms. Seeley had -- we had tried 13 to retain Ms. Seeley, but you guys beat me to it. 14 So she recommended Diane Gunn, who's done a great 15 job. Unfortunately, by the time I onboarded her 16 last year, she ended up helping with the audit, not 17 helping to prevent things from landing in the audit. 18 It was simply too late again.</p> <p>19 She has been busy at work, and she's 20 working hand in hand with Mikaela Vigil, our 21 business manager, to look at the closeout of the 22 previous fiscal year, which is an ongoing issue for 23 us and look at our audit findings to examine our 24 FY25 practices, because we're now third quarter in 25 again. And our new business managers have to go</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">83</p> <p>1 believe the Vigil group has offered that to us.</p> <p>2 So I'm very excited about the change. And 3 I now have access to my own business manager and 4 someone who does payroll very separately.</p> <p>5 And I know that Mikaela Vigil, my business 6 manager, has the ability to speak to Mike Vigil and 7 Michael Vigil. There's depth -- and it's certainly 8 a family practice. But there's depth in knowing 9 that there's institutional knowledge that's being 10 gained and carried forward, and now I have that 11 behind me again.</p> <p>12 Now, it's similar to a business manager 13 who had over ten years' practice as a business 14 manager when I was at Aldo Leopold.</p> <p>15 I have come to believe by the time you 16 think there's an issue, it's too late. With 17 business management practices and something I didn't 18 express when I was here before, you all hear about 19 the audit finding in March. We're finding out 20 October-ish. We're -- you all are in the third 21 quarter of the next year, talking about the previous 22 audit and what we should have done.</p> <p>23 To Ms. Seeley's point, we need to be more 24 robust in how we're attacking the issues sooner. 25 And as soon as they come to light to us from an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">85</p> <p>1 back and, having not done the work for the nine 2 months, to go in and see what our previous business 3 manager has done to make sure that we can clean 4 anything up that we possibly can in anticipation for 5 closing FY25, which is a little unnerving, because, 6 again, we're going into the next audit cycle with 7 two business managers of practices over our school.</p> <p>8 So the likelihood of something not being 9 caught, because it's different thinking, is a higher 10 probability than having the same person, 11 potentially. Just pros and cons around that.</p> <p>12 When I was selecting a new business 13 manager, I had one primary thing -- item -- that I 14 was looking at. I was looking for an entity who had 15 more than one person who had the fewest number of 16 findings.</p> <p>17 And there were other pieces. And it 18 really came down to two firms that I was looking at. 19 And I ended up choosing the Vigil Group, based on my 20 fairly tertiary study of that. And, again, I feel 21 very good about the change, and I feel great about 22 the fact that there's more than one person that I'm 23 turning to.</p> <p>24 In looking at our actual findings -- and 25 this is what we've done to try to correct it -- we</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">86</p> <p>1 have three repeat findings, again, as general 2 reference to what we have. 3 And within -- I categorize things a little 4 bit differently, because I think it's a little bit 5 more user-friendly. Again, I can go into the detail 6 that you might wish after this. 7 We had three instances of improper closing 8 of the books, how we closed out the previous fiscal 9 year and how we rolled that into the new year. That 10 had manifestations to different findings. 11 I believe the Vigil Group has good mastery 12 of AptaFund. It's robust software and it does have 13 the ability to help if you know how to use it. If 14 you don't, it's not a tool. It's not going to help 15 you. You're more reliant on intellectual knowledge 16 and what's happening in your head, as opposed to 17 trusting the general ledger and what you're putting 18 into the financial management system. 19 So without closing the books properly, we 20 have a quarter four issue. We're also rolling into 21 the new year with other issues, which has been -- I 22 think last time I was in front of you all, it's the 23 ghost that keeps coming back at J. Paul Taylor. We 24 have had issue after issue because of not properly 25 closing out the financial management software,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">88</p> <p>1 and even back farther to make sure that we're 2 rolling over correctly from FY24 into FY25; so it's 3 not just the nine months of practices. 4 Review the practices of another person, 5 which is a compounding -- it's someone else's 6 thinking, which our new business manager has to try 7 to adapt and adopt to make sure we don't walk into 8 the same things again. 9 Again, I feel very good about the work 10 that we've done. We've done some good things that 11 could have been potential findings. The Vigil Group 12 has looked at our procurement policy. Diane Gunn 13 has stepped in very significantly, and is working 14 with the Vigil Group to look at the practices of 15 closing out the books entering into FY25 and our 16 practices there. 17 So these pieces systemically that we've 18 made as changes, and had made as changes before I 19 sat in front of you the first time -- sorry, the 20 last time not the first time -- they're in action. 21 They're in process. 22 We have Evan Wirth, who is the payroll 23 specialist with the Vigil Group, who has stepped in 24 very significantly with payroll and payroll 25 liabilities. I think that addresses this second</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">87</p> <p>1 which, again, that's our responsibility at the end 2 of the day. 3 We also need to book the audit findings 4 appropriately. After we have the final cash 5 balance, audited cash balance, we need to make sure 6 all those items are taken into account and put into 7 the system. We didn't do that correctly. We never 8 corrected from what the auditor gave us, so we just 9 perpetuated those issues into the new fiscal year. 10 We have seven instances of improper 11 coding, simply using the wrong fund and function 12 inside of UCOA, Universal Chart of Accounts. I'm 13 speaking a little bit out of my wheelhouse. So, 14 certainly, step in when I'm incorrect on that. 15 Those seven instances again came in under 16 multiple findings. But, again, trying to categorize 17 it a little bit different. We didn't capitalize a 18 new fence that we put up that was a little bit over 19 the \$10,000 -- I believe it's \$10,000 -- threshold, 20 where we have to list capital items that depreciate 21 over time. There are some other nuances, but those 22 are the major issues that plagued us pretty 23 significantly in this last audit cycle. 24 So the challenge we have, we're making 25 sure we clean up the books for the last nine months</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">89</p> <p>1 component that was brought up. And I might ask you 2 if you could remind me of the first, so we can speak 3 to that more specifically, or any other general 4 questions at this point. And also maybe -- I don't 5 know if Mr. Vigil is more -- I was pretty verbose, 6 so I apologize for that. 7 THE CHAIR: So I can tell you the two 8 items that were in Finding 1 that were not addressed 9 in the management response that you can address now. 10 One was the exclusion of one project from 11 capitalization. And then the maintenance of the 12 trial balance on the cash balance, with accrual 13 entries provided as part of the audit. 14 MR. ERIC AHNER: And I believe that might 15 be quarter four, how we closed out. We didn't close 16 it out correctly. So what our auditors were looking 17 at, what they thought was the close of the fiscal 18 year was not what our business manager thought. And 19 it was two parallel conversations in trying to 20 provide the documentation of what we thought were 21 the closeout amounts. 22 But, again, the auditor was doing it 23 correctly. We just didn't close things out 24 correctly for that fourth quarter, so there was a -- 25 it made very challenging conversation. And we felt</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">90</p> <p>1 like we had had the correct amounts, but not booked 2 in the system correctly. 3 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any question 4 for the school? 5 Commissioner Obenshain. 6 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. Just for 7 my curiosity -- because I remember at a -- there was 8 a time when exit meetings happened with component 9 units in a big room together. Do you all have 10 individual exit meetings with the auditor now, as a 11 component unit? 12 MR. ERIC AHNER: Yes. 13 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Okay. Okay. 14 That's all I wanted to know. 15 THE CHAIR: Seeing no questions? Yes? 16 So I personally don't support the school 17 going onto a CAP. I do think it makes sense what 18 you guys have done, taken a lot of actions. I 19 totally understand that we're always looking, 20 like -- the PEC, in general, looks in the rearview 21 mirror. This is, like -- I don't even know what 22 could be another euphemism to talk -- it's, like, 23 super far back. We do understand that. 24 Even after you find out, a lot of times 25 you're going to get those -- you're going to get the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">92</p> <p>1 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair 2 Burt and Commissioners. 3 CSD's memo regarding Hózhó Academy's 4 response addresses each of the findings individually 5 and some of the CSD's comments or questions, just 6 for clarification that the school can provide, 7 regarding the processes that they have proposed. 8 For Finding 1, the school states that all 9 issues will be addressed and corrected, but has not 10 provided detail on the improved processes. 11 There are double-checks of trial balances 12 and bank reconciliation. But it's unclear if the 13 business manager and head administrator or the 14 governing counsel and finance committee is 15 responsible. We just wanted to clarify who's doing 16 that. 17 The response includes review of all 18 submitted requests for reimbursement monthly. But 19 the finding included grant funds unspent. So we 20 asked, "How will unspent funds be avoided if only 21 the submitted RFRs are reviewed? How will the 22 school ensure that the RFRs are submitted timely for 23 all funds?" 24 The CSD recommends documentation, a 25 process document, that shows who conducts the checks</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">91</p> <p>1 findings, until, like, a year or two down the road. 2 Then it finally, like, clicks in. 3 So I think what we've presented, the plan 4 you've put in place, the actions already taken makes 5 sense to me. Just the traditional monitoring makes 6 more sense for this school for me. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I agree on that. 8 THE CHAIR: All right. So no action 9 needed. Thank you, Mr. Ahner. 10 MR. ERIC AHNER: Thank you, members of the 11 Commission. 12 THE CHAIR: We're going to come back and 13 take a quick -- we'll come back at 11:00 for the 14 next school. 15 (Recess taken, 10:48 a.m. to 11:01 a.m.) 16 THE CHAIR: All right. Are we ready to 17 go, Ms. Brown? 18 MS. MELISSA BROWN: We are ready to go as 19 long as Senator Ivey-Soto is okay with it being 20 reversed in the room. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: They're going to 22 reverse it right now. 23 THE CHAIR: Okay. So we can start? 24 Great. All right. Back to you, Dr. Russell. We're 25 on Item 8.c., Hózhó Academy.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">93</p> <p>1 that take place, updated asset list and depreciation 2 schedule, and a list of all prepaid expenses. 3 For Finding 2, this resulted from 4 expenditures made for transportation, which will not 5 be required in FY25. And CSD agrees with the school 6 that the finding is not likely to repeat, and a 7 review of the FY25 audit is sufficient. 8 Finding 3 resulted from expenditures made 9 for student meals in excess of reimbursements. The 10 school is moving to an in-house food program which 11 will decrease costs. And CSD does not require 12 further action on this -- or would not recommend. 13 Same with Finding 4. Review the FY25 14 audit to see if the finding is repeated. 15 For Finding 5, CSD recommends a process 16 document showing how, when, and by whom steps are 17 taken by the school payroll office, business 18 management office, and head administrator office to 19 make sure documentation is in all staff files. 20 CSD will review the staff files at the 21 site visit. Actually, on Monday, we will be out 22 there. So we can look at files then and see what 23 their processes are. 24 For Finding 6, does the governing council 25 request backup documentation for random transactions</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">94</p> <p>1 to ensure purchase orders are in place? If so, is 2 this outlined in a policies and processes document, 3 and has staff training been provided regarding 4 procurement procedures? 5 For Finding 7, CSD requests that the 6 school clarify the explanation and proposed 7 correction for this finding at the PEC meeting. 8 The audit report refers to deposits not 9 made within 24 hours. But the school explanation 10 concerns the Ed Fellows program. With a better 11 understanding of the circumstances around this 12 finding, CSD will be better able to evaluate the 13 school's assurance that the finding has been 14 addressed and requires no corrective action. 15 For Finding 8, this resulted from 16 transportation expenditures which, again, will not 17 be required in FY26. 18 And CSD agrees with the school that the 19 finding is not likely to repeat, and no further 20 corrective action is required. 21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell. If we 22 can have the folks from Hózhó? 23 Thank you. And would you like Missy to 24 put up the presentation that was submitted? 25 MS. KATIE RARICK: Yes, that would be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">96</p> <p>1 we became the first charter school in New Mexico to 2 run its own transportation program. 3 There is no road map for that, and there 4 is no way to predict all the expenses which have to 5 be paid, all up front. We thought we had a healthy 6 enough reserve. But, also, we were expecting that 7 the food program would be covered as well. 8 But we -- we overextended on that budget 9 item as well. But because we're sort of limited in 10 our area, we only had one person respond to our RFP 11 for the food program. So we kind of just had to go 12 with who we had to go with and -- but made some 13 plans for next year. 14 So I just want to -- not to make excuses 15 for this, because I fully -- I take full 16 responsibility. But Katie will go through the -- 17 the findings one at a time, and then, hopefully, we 18 can discuss any questions you may have at that 19 point. 20 MS. KATIE RARICK: Can you say how many 21 kids ride the bus now? 22 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: That's right. So 23 right now, we have a little over 400 students riding 24 our buses to and from school. Most of our students 25 come from more than twenty miles in any direction.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">95</p> <p>1 great. 2 My name is Katie Rarick, and I'm the 3 business manager for Hózhó Academy. R-a-r-i-c-k. 4 I've been with the school since they started, so 5 seven or eight years. It's been a long time. So, 6 yeah, Juliane and I have been together for a while. 7 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: So Juliane Hillock. 8 J-u-l-i-a-n-e. Last name, H-i-l-l-o-o-c-k. 9 And I'm the principal at Hózhó Academy. 10 And Chair and Commissioners, I appreciate the 11 opportunity to come here to -- to talk to you about 12 these audit findings. But I have to apologize for 13 wasting your time on that -- not wasting your time 14 but having you to have to spend your time on that. 15 It's my responsibility, and I take it very 16 seriously. 17 And as anybody who knows me, especially 18 the people who work in the Charter School Division 19 know, every time there's any kind of finding, I am 20 on it and concerned about that. And I appreciate 21 that you are concerned as well, which doesn't make 22 it any easier to be sitting here today. 23 Last year, I had a sort of prediction that 24 I might be sitting here because of the 25 transportation issue. We did take a risk, in that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">97</p> <p>1 So that was a lot -- that was a heavy burden on our 2 parents to have to bring them in, basically drive 3 there four times a day to bring in, drop off, go 4 home, bring in, drop off. So it limited the 5 students who could actually even enroll in our 6 school because that was a requirement at that time. 7 So we have more than half of our students 8 riding the bus. We'd have more students riding our 9 buses, except that we are limited in the number of 10 buses and the way that the Department of Ed audits, 11 whether or not you should have more buses and the 12 number of riders that you have on the two days, in 13 the 80th and 120th day. 14 But more people would ride except that 15 some of our students have to get on the bus two 16 hours before school starts. And parents have 17 elected to not have that option, because we have to 18 double our routes because we do not have enough 19 buses to do every route without having to double up. 20 And so we're kind of stuck in a little 21 Catch-22, where we can't prove that more people want 22 to ride. And yet they won't ride, and so the number 23 will never change. So we're stuck with the number 24 that we have riding right now. 25 MS. KATIE RARICK: Good morning,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">98</p> <p>1 Commissioners. I'm sure you're going to get tired 2 of hearing my voice.</p> <p>3 I also want to take responsibility for the 4 audit. We at Axiom feel very -- we spend so much 5 time and energy prepping for this every year and 6 going through it. And we take it very seriously.</p> <p>7 So when we get findings, I do try to fight 8 them. But we also want to learn from them. We see 9 this as a learning opportunity, and so we will -- so 10 one of the first slides on our presentation is what 11 are the things that were fixed last year.</p> <p>12 So while the categories may be repeated, 13 and that is what we're on, the -- or that is what is 14 flagged in the audit -- we did have three 15 categories -- or three items last year that we did 16 fix, and they did not happen again this year.</p> <p>17 So the -- I cannot read that. Okay.</p> <p>18 Great. Okay.</p> <p>19 So the -- so the responses -- the findings 20 have multiple parts to them. So I tried to respond 21 to each part to tell you what we were doing.</p> <p>22 So one of the first issues that we had for 23 this particular finding was that last year we -- 24 there were two funds that were created. 21000 is 25 federal food, and 21100 is state food.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">100</p> <p>1 to the next finding, that the majority -- if the 2 school did not enter into a transportation program, 3 they would have only received five findings. So 4 three of these findings were directly related to the 5 transportation program.</p> <p>6 Oh, thank you. Okay. I clearly need to 7 get glasses.</p> <p>8 Okay. So we -- and -- but we did feel 9 like that was important to do for our students. And 10 it has -- it has helped the kids get there and 11 helped with attendance.</p> <p>12 The other thing I'll say is that when we 13 first projected transportation, again, no one had 14 any idea what this would cost. But we estimated, we 15 leased our buses to keep costs down. Some of 16 those -- one of those buses was a lemon, so we had 17 to replace it. That did cost extra money.</p> <p>18 When there was -- or we also, with six new 19 buses, did not foresee maintenance. We had to do 20 maintenance. Gas was higher than anticipated. And 21 we had more special ed kids ride the bus than we 22 were anticipating, so we had to have additional 23 personnel on the bus, which cost money.</p> <p>24 So, overall, the transportation program 25 did cost a million dollars. And I think at one</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">99</p> <p>1 And so we had turned in cash reports from 2 PED that only had the first fund on it as the parent 3 fund. And then the cash reports came out with both 4 funds. And so that was one of the issues now, that 5 we have cash reports with both funds clearly 6 identified. We are coding as such, and also we are 7 reporting as such.</p> <p>8 The -- we have talked about this before 9 with the accounting team in place. We have an 10 additional -- we have really ramped up our 11 accounting team this year to help with the 12 double-checks, whether they are journal entries 13 balancing by fund or whether they are checking and 14 reviewing the financials.</p> <p>15 We review the financials internally, 16 Julianne and I and her director of operations. We 17 review the financials, and, in addition to that, 18 they are presented to the board. So to answer the 19 question before, all parties review everything every 20 month.</p> <p>21 We do feel like these issues will be fixed 22 this year, given our next steps and the fact that we 23 will be taking additional steps.</p> <p>24 Do you want to go to the next one?</p> <p>25 I do want to say, holistically, as we go</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">101</p> <p>1 point, we projected it would cost closer to \$400,000 2 to \$500,000. But it is what we had to do to get the 3 kids there.</p> <p>4 In addition to that, Hózhó has a 5 phenomenal food program. I enjoy lunch when I go. 6 You should all go have lunch at Hózhó.</p> <p>7 But the food, while it's excellent, is 8 also very, very expensive. And we only had one firm 9 respond to our RFP. And so we had to use the vendor 10 for the past few years.</p> <p>11 The school paid 30 percent of their food 12 expenses that were not covered by the State, like 13 every other school I work with. That resulted in 14 about a \$300,000 overage. And next year, hopefully 15 going in-house, we can take care of that, because we 16 are ramped up and we have the kitchen, that we can 17 actually come do it in-house.</p> <p>18 So the second finding -- sorry. Go ahead.</p> <p>19 Yes.</p> <p>20 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: It's about the 21 leasehold improvement. You're in a lease purchase; 22 right?</p> <p>23 MS. KATIE RARICK: No, not yet.</p> <p>24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So then I am confused.</p> <p>25 We made improvements to the building of \$43,000.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">102</p> <p>1 MS. KATIE RARICK: Yes. They're all 2 removable. So we can remove them if we ever moved. 3 I think they were the mobile air conditioning units, 4 if I'm remembering correctly. 5 Does that -- does that answer your 6 question? 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. 8 MS. KATIE RARICK: Yeah. Yeah. So they 9 are -- the way we categorize them for the audit is 10 that they're -- they're capitalized, and they're 11 building improvements. But they're really not. 12 Yeah. 13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: They're really not. 14 Okay. Got it. 15 MS. KATIE RARICK: Okay. So the second 16 one, our system has now been updated to make sure 17 that things balance correctly. 18 And, also, they said that the journal 19 entries did not provide adequate support. We got 20 more feedback on that from the auditor, and we feel 21 like we are now -- every journal entry has support 22 attached to it in the system. It's way simpler for 23 us to pull the JE and also pull the support that 24 goes with it. 25 The next one is controls over payroll</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">104</p> <p>1 I did have conversation with that 2 nonprofit to make sure that all backup documentation 3 is sent when they send us the invoice to help 4 reimburse for their purchase card. So this year, we 5 have all of the backup versus asking the nonprofit 6 to keep it. 7 The next one is internal controls and cash 8 receipts. So we, again, ask for the backup every 9 month from the school. So that was a two-parter. 10 The first part was the 24-hour receipts. 11 The school has not received this finding in a very 12 long time, as far as I can remember. 13 I think our first year, we did receive 14 this finding. Our first year. 15 Because Hózhó has grown so fast and that 16 office -- the business office has also grown so 17 fast, I think that there was a receipt that did not 18 get deposited in time. We have talked to the office 19 staff and tried to work with them to create better 20 systems, including when they make a deposit. We ask 21 for the backup right away so that we can make sure 22 it was sent in a timely manner. 23 The reason Ed Fellows was mentioned is Ed 24 Fellows, as I stated before in this forum, has been 25 a very difficult program to work with. It's a great</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">103</p> <p>1 roll? Is that -- I'm sorry -- I was on No. -- the 2 one up. Could we go up? There we go. Okay. 3 So this has to do with the contracted -- 4 the majority of this has to do with the contracted 5 amounts and the elections not being withheld 6 correctly. We -- at that time, we were working with 7 the payroll specialist. We have tightened a lot of 8 our systems. 9 Hózhó is such a big school, and there are 10 a lot of substitutes and a lot of hourly employees 11 with the transportation program. 12 And because of that, we -- we needed to 13 figure out our system to working with hourly 14 employees better, because until this point, we 15 mostly had salaried employees. And so we did learn 16 from this. 17 And we have a much tighter system with the 18 documentation being uploaded with the hourly 19 employees, so we make sure that we withhold 20 correctly. 21 We can go to the next one. 22 Okay. So the -- the P-card -- so the 23 school doesn't have a P-card. But they do work with 24 a nonprofit that allows them to use their purchase 25 card.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">105</p> <p>1 program because they pay 100 percent of the EA's 2 salaries and benefits. These EAs can then become 3 teachers. 4 They are not timely on reimbursements. 5 When we ask for reconciliations, we are not given 6 them. We don't know who they are reimbursing, who 7 they decided to fund and not fund in a certain 8 month. It is something we are still fighting, and 9 we have let all partners in the charter program 10 know. 11 We did receive \$42,000 from them, but we 12 could not obtain the backup the auditors require 13 from the program because they're not responsive. 14 And we can go -- okay. So these three are 15 primarily due to the transportation program. So it 16 has to do with being over budget because we just 17 didn't have enough money to cover expenses in 18 certain funds and functions. It had to do with 19 having our accounts payable higher than what we 20 could pay because we ran out of money and we knew we 21 were going to go into a deficit. 22 And the last one, again, had to do with 23 the procurement, the procurement issues, 24 specifically had to do with the buses. There are 25 only certain vendors that are -- that can either tow</p>

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1 your bus, maintain the bus. And they aren't through
2 a procurement partner. And if you go over \$60,000,
3 you get a finding.

4 So this year the good news is is that the
5 buses that we contracted with, PED did buy them this
6 year for the school, so we shouldn't have this issue
7 anymore.

8 The problem is PED doesn't buy the buses
9 or help with the mileage or transportation or
10 anything until year two. So year one, we had to
11 take a hit because of the program we ran.

12 The last slide. I did want to point out
13 that while transportation did cause a severe cash
14 flow and budget issue, we are, right now, forecasted
15 to end the year positively. And, in fact, since I
16 sent this -- this was published, the school has
17 received an additional \$150,000 grant.

18 So I anticipate that operating income
19 going up an additional \$150,000. So we were able to
20 pay off all of last year's bills, pay this year's
21 bills. We're anticipating paying all the bills
22 between now and June 30th for this fiscal year
23 because we finally got the transportation funding we
24 needed, and we are no longer paying for those lease
25 payments for the buses.

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1 Any questions?

2 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ingham.

3 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I just want to make
4 a comment. I want to applaud you guys for stepping
5 up. Clearly, in your area -- can you hear me okay?

6 MR. DAN HILL: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. Clearly, in
8 your area, you -- this is a -- this is a paramount
9 issue. Food and transportation are absolutely
10 paramount. You guys did the right thing. You did
11 what you had to do.

12 For me, that you have audit responses due
13 to the inability to program how much that would cost
14 and how much the actuals were, I just applaud you
15 for doing it. And I'm not going to say that there's
16 any reason for us to have issues with what you've
17 done.

18 And so I want to thank you for your
19 willingness to be that in that area. And I just
20 love your school. Thank you very much.

21 MS. KATIE RARICK: Thank you. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.

23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I want to echo what
24 Commissioner Ingham said. Just kudos for committing
25 to transportation. And we know that in this last

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1 legislature, they didn't do one thing. Nothing.

2 And I also am going to call Joe Guillen to
3 the mat. It's like you guys told us you were going
4 to make this your number one issue, and we were
5 ready to come with you on that. Nothing from the
6 NMSBA.

7 This is where the State fails miserably,
8 kids, in inequity. So I am thrilled that you're not
9 going to let that stop you. So thank you very much.

10 THE CHAIR: Chair Gipson.

11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: This is my question,
12 actually, for next year, just to make sure. Because
13 I know we had some schools last year, that when they
14 went to do their bus route, they were told no. So
15 after they had it all plotted out and had been
16 funded prior year for it, PED said, "We're not going
17 to fund that route or that route." So are you sure
18 that you're going to get full funding?

19 MS. KATIE RARICK: We don't get the full
20 funding.

21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: The full funding
22 you're anticipating.

23 MS. KATIE RARICK: Yes. They cover --
24 they cover all our routes; correct?

25 MR. DAN HILL: They currently cover all

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1 our routes. The routes aren't sufficient to meet
2 the needs of the school.

3 However -- so we just decided to be
4 pioneers and take a risk and see what is it going to
5 cost? There was no way to predict that ahead of
6 time.

7 So we've gone back and asked them --
8 the -- the Department of Ed -- to look at our
9 routes. And there are some things that are unfair
10 as far as, like, the requirements for charter
11 schools as opposed to district schools. And then --

12 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So could you just
13 expand on that a little bit? Give me a -- you know,
14 what that means.

15 MR. DAN HILL: I think it's in regard to
16 some requirements for hubs. And I think the whole
17 financial structure is set up to make it difficult
18 for charter schools to run their transportation
19 program, because there's no -- there's no road map
20 for that. And then you have no idea how much is
21 going to come out of your reserve.

22 And then with the way the funding is --
23 where you receive 1/12 of your SEG, then you start
24 off -- you use your entire reserve to start the
25 transportation program. Then you start up the next

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1 year. And everything is due at the beginning of the
2 year. And we're a growing school. We need desks
3 and furniture and another PowerSchool license and so
4 forth.

5 So you have all those expenses up front.
6 So it was a two-year process of us trying to crawl
7 out from underneath that, the structure that was set
8 up, I think, to make it impossible.

9 I mean, \$1.3 million is not something that
10 a small school in a rural area has on hand to be
11 able to provide food and transportation. I regret
12 to say that the Department of Ed, when they came to
13 do the audit, they're saying, "You're taking money
14 away from the public schools. You should not be
15 even having this opportunity to have transportation"
16 was told to us at the time they came to our school.

17 So I think there's not a feeling that we
18 are doing something that's good and right for kids.
19 When our buses -- when they decided to -- there's no
20 road map on their end, either, I guess. Because
21 we're the first school to do this, to know what to
22 pay for buses.

23 I feel like there was a nickel-and-diming
24 situation, where they said, "No, we're not going to
25 pay -- we're going to pay what it's worth right now.

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1 We're not going to pay you for what you've already
2 expended."

3 And then it was delayed and delayed and
4 delayed. And there were a number of late charges
5 for the lease agreement.

6 Then they said, "We're not paying those
7 late charges. Those are your responsibility."

8 So it all comes out of the operational
9 dollars of how we help our students be successful.
10 I don't understand why it feels like it's a fight
11 all the time.

12 Our parents have elected not to have their
13 students ride the bus if it has to be a
14 two-hour-before and a two-hour-after-school wait.
15 So I don't think those things are fair.

16 They tell us we have to have hubs. We're
17 not allowed to have bus stops like a typical school.
18 We have to create these hubs.

19 We haven't been able to find where any of
20 that is statute or policy. We feel like if we're
21 doing the right thing, it's for kids. We're already
22 making people travel in our area 20 miles, even to
23 get to a stop from the Zuni reservation and other
24 places. I don't believe it's been a fair process
25 for our students.

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1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. And that was --
2 that's what I was getting at more is if it was a
3 traditional school district with a requirement that
4 the hubs be there, as opposed to a charter school
5 with a requirement for the hubs, which certainly
6 does -- excuse me -- put the burden back on parents
7 to still have to get in a car and drive and also
8 wondering if -- I think that's something that we
9 have to work on. I just needed that clarification.

10 MS. KATIE RARICK: And on the finance
11 side, just to be clear, districts get a lot more
12 capital outlay money, SB-9, HB-33. Hózhó only gets
13 State SB-9 money. They don't get local SB-9, and
14 they don't get HB-33. Those funds usually go to pay
15 for buses for districts, but because Hózhó doesn't
16 get them, that's why we had to wait for the State
17 and turn to these leases for the buses.

18 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Thanks.

19 THE CHAIR: All right. Any other
20 comments? Questions?

21 (No response.)

22 THE CHAIR: I mean, I'll just echo what
23 everyone else has said. When we do separate it out
24 into transportation, everything else, it looks a lot
25 less severe and scary. So, for me, I'll also

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1 support taking no action.

2 It sounds like, for the transportation --
3 I mean -- and, once again, thanks for taking the
4 leap, the risk. And I do hope that other schools
5 can see that if you take this risk, we're not going
6 to make you come up here and -- you know, you didn't
7 do the risk right so -- and punish you for that.

8 Because it is a really benefit -- it is
9 beneficial to every school. I can't think of a
10 single school that it wouldn't -- it wouldn't be
11 beneficial for. So it was a big risk for you to
12 take. But you put kids first. So thank you for
13 doing that. And any other school who's, like,
14 wondering if they should do it, and they see what
15 you went through. Fair. Fair.

16 But as far as from our side, I hope that's
17 at least a comforting part of that.

18 As far as the other things, it seems like,
19 once again, you have a plan in place. You're
20 executing it already. I don't see any additional
21 monitoring needing to happen.

22 All right. And seeing a lot of head nods,
23 that looks like no action on this school. So thank
24 you for coming.

25 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Thank you.

<p style="text-align: right;">114</p> <p>1 MS. KATIE RARICK: Thank you.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: All right. The next item,</p> <p>3 Item d., is Raíces.</p> <p>4 Dr. Russell.</p> <p>5 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>6 Burt and Commissioners. So for Finding 1 for</p> <p>7 Raíces, the school is working to correct the errors</p> <p>8 that led to the journal entry issue. We recommend</p> <p>9 simply reviewing the FY25 audit to see if the</p> <p>10 finding is repeated.</p> <p>11 I did make a note in our memo that when</p> <p>12 Ms. Seeley reviewed the documentation, it looked to</p> <p>13 her as to though the Fund 27401 expenditures were</p> <p>14 actually less than -- or sorry -- that the</p> <p>15 revenue -- the finding said that the spending was in</p> <p>16 excess of revenues. And her review suggested that</p> <p>17 the expenditures were less than revenues. So she</p> <p>18 wondered if the school had challenged that finding.</p> <p>19 That's something that the school can speak to.</p> <p>20 For Finding 2, this is, again, that coding</p> <p>21 error between the federal and the state school lunch</p> <p>22 funding. And the school made the same error that a</p> <p>23 number of other charters did and got the same</p> <p>24 finding. And so CSP's question is simply what is</p> <p>25 the school's process for staying abreast of changes</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">116</p> <p>1 seems that only one purchase out of forty had</p> <p>2 that error in the sample that the -- the auditors</p> <p>3 reviewed. And we went back in and looked at the</p> <p>4 FY23 audit where this finding also occurred. And,</p> <p>5 similarly, there was only one purchase in 36 that</p> <p>6 had this error. So this does not seem it's</p> <p>7 something that occurs often. It's something that</p> <p>8 kind of fell through the cracks.</p> <p>9 For Finding 6, the CSD asks how does the</p> <p>10 school stay abreast of changes in GASB and</p> <p>11 recommends that the school submit the asset list and</p> <p>12 depreciation schedule for review.</p> <p>13 For the Finding 7, we can simply wait</p> <p>14 until the FY25 audit and review to see if it's been</p> <p>15 corrected.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Okay. We'll go ahead and turn</p> <p>17 it over to the school.</p> <p>18 Good morning. We'll ask you to go ahead</p> <p>19 and introduce yourself first, and then it's all</p> <p>20 yours.</p> <p>21 And if there's anything you would like</p> <p>22 Ms. Brown to show of any of the documentation you've</p> <p>23 provided, let us know, and she'll pull it up.</p> <p>24 DR. HECTOR GIRON: Thank you. Good</p> <p>25 morning, Chairperson and Commissioners. My name,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">115</p> <p>1 in the Uniform Charts of Accounts.</p> <p>2 For Finding 3, the school response -- the</p> <p>3 school management response indicated that the</p> <p>4 unreconciled difference of \$440 between the bank</p> <p>5 reconciliation and the trial balance could be a</p> <p>6 rounding error. That number seems excessive for</p> <p>7 what a rounding error should be to Charter Schools</p> <p>8 Division.</p> <p>9 And we would like to know what is the</p> <p>10 school's process for reviewing the trial balance</p> <p>11 versus the bank reconciliation.</p> <p>12 For Finding No. 4, CSD can review OBMS to</p> <p>13 determine whether the school is, in fact, submitting</p> <p>14 requests for reimbursement monthly as their response</p> <p>15 indicates.</p> <p>16 For Finding 5, there was a problematic</p> <p>17 statement in the school's response, to the effect</p> <p>18 that if invoices are received and do not align with</p> <p>19 the purchasing policies, the vendor is contacted to</p> <p>20 remedy the situation.</p> <p>21 From our analysis, the issue was having a</p> <p>22 purchase order in place prior to any expenditure.</p> <p>23 And that's not anything that contacting a vendor</p> <p>24 could remedy.</p> <p>25 However, when we dug into the finding, it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">117</p> <p>1 Hector Giron, H-e-c-t-o-r, Giron, G-i-r-o-n, head</p> <p>2 administrator at Raíces del Saber.</p> <p>3 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: Thank you all for</p> <p>4 letting us be here, Commissioners. We appreciate</p> <p>5 your time. My name is Terrance Hester.</p> <p>6 T-e-r-r-a-n-c-e, last name Hester, H-e-s-t-e-r. I'm</p> <p>7 the school's business manager. I have been with the</p> <p>8 school as a business manager since October of 2021.</p> <p>9 And so we -- I have probably a little more</p> <p>10 history of our school. I know I've sat with you all</p> <p>11 when we did our renewal 18 months ago, something</p> <p>12 like that. So I'm very appreciative of you guys.</p> <p>13 Unfortunately, I have a new head administrator</p> <p>14 sitting next to me. I know that was one of the</p> <p>15 things we had. I'll let him speak for a few</p> <p>16 minutes, and I'll go through some of the findings</p> <p>17 directly.</p> <p>18 DR. HECTOR GIRÓN: You know what? This</p> <p>19 has been a tremendous learning opportunity for me.</p> <p>20 This is my fortieth year in education, my first year</p> <p>21 in the charter school section. Public schools and</p> <p>22 charter schools function very differently. So every</p> <p>23 day is a new day of learning for me.</p> <p>24 So I actually kind of appreciate this</p> <p>25 opportunity. And I took this opportunity to come in</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">118</p> <p>1 person to be able to be present, because I really 2 want to be able to understand the system and the 3 processes so I can ensure that, in the future, I can 4 take care of these issues before they become an 5 issue for you; okay? 6 So without further adieu, I would like to 7 have Mr. Hester go ahead and proceed. 8 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: Okay. So for our 9 first finding, we did have a finding for financial 10 close and reporting. This was a previous audit 11 finding. 12 This one is rather different than last 13 year's. We did have -- more fund balances did not 14 reconcile, it says, for ten of our funds. This was 15 due to net adjustments and related to prior year 16 audit entries that were either not posted or posted 17 incorrectly. 18 Then we had a second part to this one. 19 And it was where, as brought up earlier, one of our 20 funds showed excess revenue -- expenditures over 21 revenue. 22 And then Ms. Seeley's evaluation on that 23 does show we had excess revenue over expenditures, 24 because we had prior year revenue come in over into 25 the new year. And then for the current year, I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">120</p> <p>1 For the fund balance, that was the ten. 2 They are saying due to prior year audit 3 adjustments -- I'm going to use an example. 4 Mr. Ahner and I have the same situation. 5 From what I gather from him, there were some 6 closeout issues last year we did have the audit 7 finding. 8 The prior years were not closed out 9 properly from what I understood. I was told rip the 10 Bandaaid off, get it done last year. 11 When we did that, I posted the journal 12 entries. They were posted in FY23, which is what 13 the auditors directed us to do. But when they pull 14 the audit for '24, they only pull the journal 15 entries from '24. So I have been working with the 16 auditors and doing a line-by-line audit to see these 17 errors have occurred to create that \$84,000 issue. 18 For No. 2, we had those revenues and 19 accounts receivable. I will 100 percent own this 20 one. This was a deposit for a prior year. And when 21 I coded it, I coded it to the incorrect fund. 22 This was done actually in this school year 23 for last year for this fund, and it was miscoded to 24 the incorrect fund. The journal entry has been done 25 and set and corrected moving forward.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">119</p> <p>1 actually -- and I did submit documentation for this 2 that showed our OBMS and our General Ledger and our 3 account balances show that we match exactly on those 4 reimbursements and on expenditures to revenue. 5 So it was brought up that if we did 6 challenge that -- I am still new to the business 7 managers. I did question that in the audit with the 8 auditors. And this was not on our exit interview. 9 This one was given to us on our final statement when 10 we did our management responses. 11 And since then, I actually have scheduled 12 with the auditors and been working on trainings. 13 And it was brought up with them, and they said, 14 "Well, that's what it was." 15 So I, unfortunately, can't give an answer. 16 My record shows that that was correct. But what we 17 are doing to move forward with that is we are trying 18 to monitor more closely with our expenditures to 19 revenues. This year has been a little bit of ebb 20 and flow for us, so we are working through some 21 things. But we are monitoring on our monthly audits 22 and our monthly financial reports, we are monitoring 23 those every month, checking balances across the 24 board that we are not exceeding any expenditure 25 lines.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">121</p> <p>1 So we have actually instilled some extra 2 checks in our finance meeting to make sure audits 3 are -- our revenues are reviewed a little more 4 detailed, line by line, and then discussed with as 5 our deposits come in. 6 Myself and the head administrator are 7 discussing those immediately, and so they're 8 reconciled quicker. If an error is done, it is 9 notified and rectified much quicker. 10 We did have the same thing as a lot of the 11 schools, the Fund 21100, federal and state food 12 reimbursement. I was not even aware. We had no 13 budget authority on Fund 21100. I did not know the 14 fund existed. I will own that one again. 15 What I am doing to work with that is, I 16 have actually requested with New Mexico ASBO that we 17 have more communication on when funds are allowed or 18 what are available. But, personally, I have started 19 pulling all of our allowable Uniform Chart of 20 Accounts through OBMS, which is where New Mexico PED 21 has those approvals, so that way, I can look to see 22 if anything should be there. I also have a little 23 better communication now with our audit team. So if 24 I have questions, they're more responsive this year 25 than we have had in the past with them.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">122</p> <p>1 So moving forward, if I have questions on 2 funds, they're a lot more responsive to help to make 3 sure we are following those. 4 On our Finding No. 3, this one was where 5 there was -- I attributed it to a rounding error. 6 The reason why I say a rounding error, that was poor 7 terminology on my part. 8 So in the audit finding, they used 9 approximate numbers. One of them is they had a 10 beginning balance variance of approximately \$77,000. 11 When I pulled my journal entry, I have it 12 at \$77,348 right now. So that would -- if we put 13 this -- the other numbers in there, we're a lot 14 closer to that number with their approximations, and 15 what I have is a direct number. 16 So we have been working very diligently to 17 go through our budget and through our line items to 18 ensure we don't have this error again. 19 And then this one, we also had that 20 it's -- we're working again with our board to make 21 sure that everyone is more clear and concise on what 22 our financial reporting is. 23 So if there are questions, we have our 24 financial person from our community who's on our 25 board who sits and is on that committee who's taking</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">124</p> <p>1 tell them this was not authorized. But when it came 2 down to it, it was paid out. And so that was where 3 the error occurred. 4 And then the prior year's that we did have 5 was a travel reimbursement, where the situation was 6 someone had signed on the line and put the incorrect 7 date. When we uploaded that one to the audit, it 8 did actually have the incorrect date and not the one 9 that was corrected by the employee. 10 The auditors, when we submitted the 11 corrected one, they said, "Well, it's already in the 12 finding." And so that's where that one was from the 13 first year. 14 DR. HECTOR GIRÓN: I wanted to comment 15 here. You notice here we have both office staff 16 members have not completed the CPO certification. 17 And so by doing this, we have a way 18 beginning to check somebody understands what needs 19 to be done on campus and to try to catch some of 20 these things before they're sent to the business 21 manager to handle. And we're hoping that this -- 22 well, we're expecting that this will eliminate some 23 of the issues that we're seeing. 24 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: And to make 25 clarification, we do have a CPO on site who has been</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">123</p> <p>1 a lot more time, and we're taking more time, to go 2 through our reporting. 3 On our cash management, this one is where 4 we did have -- we had to use all of our unrestricted 5 cash to cover while we are waiting on 6 reimbursements. One of those large reimbursements 7 did come from another group that's already been 8 brought up today. But we are working harder to make 9 sure that those are being submitted. 10 And I will provide Charter Schools, if 11 that's what we need to do, with a detailed list of 12 what's going on, so when they do review it, they can 13 see where I have in my notes if something is 14 pending. Or if I have something delayed being 15 reported, they'll have an explanation ahead of time 16 instead of having to reach out for that item. 17 No. 4, we had internal controls over cash 18 disbursements. This was a issue, again, that was 19 brought up that it was one of 40 disbursements that 20 were tested. 21 This was because there was a purchase 22 order that was issued. And the invoice that came 23 through was for -- had a date for a prior work 24 before the PO issuance. 25 We did reach out to the vendor and -- to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">125</p> <p>1 listed. We have two other staff that have been 2 trained as CPOs, so they have that extra background 3 so they know a little more what the laws are and 4 what we need to abide by them. 5 On No. 6, we have the internal control 6 over capital assets. This was -- I will -- this was 7 an error on my part with the new GASB rulings. It 8 was a item that was purchased as a -- that was not 9 intended as a classroom set or as a school set. 10 These were actual items purchased and distributed to 11 different classrooms. 12 The new GASB ruling is that if there is 13 not a policy in place, then it goes with the general 14 capitalization policy. 15 Our school unfortunately did not have that 16 in place for these items when they were purchased. 17 We are working to update our policy to have that 18 for -- collective purchase sets is what I understood 19 them to be under -- for them to be called. 20 So we are working on getting that policy 21 to our legal counsel to have it implemented into our 22 policy and procedures. 23 So we will have the collective set 24 purchasing, and we will also have the individual 25 capitalization limitations.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">126</p> <p>1 And then our final one was over our IT 2 controls. We do have a third party that has our IT. 3 They do all of our IT for us right now. 4 However, with that, the information we 5 received back from them did require certain items 6 that they have the access for the screenshots to be 7 implemented. 8 We did not receive that timely from them 9 for the audit. We have actually already started 10 that process with them for going into this year's 11 audit to make sure that we have those items to be in 12 compliance with that. 13 And then the school is also looking at 14 trying to expand our staff to include an on-site IT 15 support services or support specialist right now. 16 So we are not only relying on the external, but we 17 have an internal person as well for that. 18 And that's everything for our RFRs. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioners, any 20 questions? Commissioner Gipson. 21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Your audit committee, 22 or audit team -- you said audit team -- are you 23 referring to someone from the folks that do the 24 audit? Or is that audit team the audit committee 25 from the school?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">128</p> <p>1 those journal entries and will be the backup 2 documentation at the journal. And those are 3 actually separated already out in my audit file to 4 be uploaded with our audit for this coming year in 5 our journal entries. 6 So if they do question them, "No, that you 7 told us prior year. Here's where they are." 8 I'm working with our accounting software 9 team to see if there's a step that may have been 10 missed posting them in the prior year that was not 11 done. And I've spoken with other business managers 12 who are in the same boat. 13 And they said -- they use AptaFund. 14 Unfortunately, when I talk to the ones that are with 15 AptaFund, they all have this issue. I have, right 16 now, four, I believe, that had a rollover issue, 17 similar to the closeout of the year. 18 So I think as we're trying to work through 19 it, I'm also trying to update our business manager 20 community through are New Mexico ASBO for that as 21 well. 22 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Okay. Thanks. 23 THE CHAIR: All right. I don't see any 24 other questions. 25 I also -- any -- I'm trying to think of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">127</p> <p>1 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: It's both. So I 2 have been scheduling. And as we have audit team 3 members available with CLA to try to get through 4 some of these processes, and especially as I've 5 uncovered certain things, such as where we had 6 questions about why we are showing expenses higher 7 than our revenues, I've been meeting with them 8 trying to get more information as to, "Okay, if I -- 9 if this is incorrect, and I'm misreading it, where 10 is this information that you have that's showing the 11 audit finding versus what we have directly in our 12 paperwork?" 13 And a lot of it is what has stemmed from 14 where they're saying the journal entries were 15 improperly posted. And I have provided them with, 16 "This is your instruction. This is where they were 17 posted. What is done incorrectly?" 18 I have a meeting scheduled with them. In 19 complete transparency, we have not posted our audit 20 journal entries as of yet, because I don't want them 21 to say that they're posted improperly until I have 22 their direction. 23 If they tell me at one point, "Well, we 24 can't help you any further," then I will have my 25 notes that I have. And that will be supporting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">129</p> <p>1 what I could possibly ask the school to do that 2 they're not already doing again. 3 So thank you for the clear presentation. 4 Thanks for taking the action. 5 Is there anything -- like, I think it's 6 just -- like, I'm very -- I get really into, like, 7 specific words and language in here. So the only 8 question I have is -- and it's going to be more in 9 general -- is there anything from this audit that 10 you feel like you don't know where it came from and 11 you're not quite sure how to course-correct it for 12 this next -- like, moving forward? 13 Because there were a couple different 14 places where it was, like, "We're looking," "We're 15 trying to find." But the way you explained it 16 doesn't seem like that. But the way I read it 17 seemed like, "I don't know if they know yet those 18 type of things." 19 Can you clarify that? 20 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: The biggest thing, I 21 think, is the closeout and the rollover processes, 22 where our largest errors have come from. I think 23 part of that comes from me being a little bit 24 newer -- I've been here for almost four years. I 25 say I'm newer. I'm not new, by any means.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">130</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Not 40 years, anyway.</p> <p>2 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: Right. And I came</p> <p>3 from the federal sector, a whole new ballgame coming</p> <p>4 here.</p> <p>5 But I think a lot of, for us, was, and</p> <p>6 still, is that closeout and the rollover process.</p> <p>7 There were years prior that one specific</p> <p>8 person I know at AptaFund had told everyone, "Well,</p> <p>9 you do manual journal entries to close everything</p> <p>10 out."</p> <p>11 Now that we're being told to close</p> <p>12 everything out electronically in the system, it's</p> <p>13 creating some rollover issues, because those journal</p> <p>14 entries are being posted from their closeout and in</p> <p>15 their manual entries. That's where, last year, we</p> <p>16 had the Band-Aid, for lack of -- the Band-Aid ripped</p> <p>17 off. Get it fixed.</p> <p>18 And I worked with AptaFund, and I thought</p> <p>19 this was all resolved. So we are still working</p> <p>20 through that process. And I have reached out --</p> <p>21 and, actually, we will be -- I work for Southwest</p> <p>22 REC. With the roles that we have there, we will</p> <p>23 actually be having another business manager -- right</p> <p>24 now, we're in the processes of they're helping --</p> <p>25 who's got a lot more experience. She was actually a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">132</p> <p>1 The school states that their fixed asset</p> <p>2 payment packets are available upon request. CSD</p> <p>3 would just ask for clarification to whom? Is this</p> <p>4 to the -- to the head administrator or to the</p> <p>5 governing council finance committee? And does that</p> <p>6 fixed asset tracking software calculate</p> <p>7 depreciation? Reporting from that software,</p> <p>8 including fixed assets and depreciation, could be</p> <p>9 included with documentation.</p> <p>10 For Findings 2, 3, and 4, the school</p> <p>11 describes very detailed actions. And if -- if the</p> <p>12 PEC imposes a Corrective Action Plan rather than</p> <p>13 having the school submit documentation of those</p> <p>14 detailed actions, the CSD would recommend just</p> <p>15 sending our consultant out to the school to do an</p> <p>16 on-site review of documentation for Findings 2, 3,</p> <p>17 and 4, if the Commission decides to impose a CAP for</p> <p>18 this.</p> <p>19 For Finding 5, CSD recommends that the</p> <p>20 school should attach meal count sheets to all of</p> <p>21 their claims. This can be reviewed at the -- at the</p> <p>22 visit if a CAP is imposed.</p> <p>23 For Finding 6, CSD just needs to review</p> <p>24 the fourth-quarter report that's submitted through</p> <p>25 OBMS.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">131</p> <p>1 business manager for Raíces prior. And so we're</p> <p>2 working on having her assist with this.</p> <p>3 These were not errors that were happening</p> <p>4 prior. So we're trying to make sure we're being as</p> <p>5 proactive as possible with that knowledge that was</p> <p>6 already in place when it was closed out properly.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: I'll look forward to seeing</p> <p>8 these, naturally. With the plan and the actions I'm</p> <p>9 seeing, ideally, we see less and less findings.</p> <p>10 Seeing another no action?</p> <p>11 All right. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. TERRANCE HESTER: Thank you all for</p> <p>13 your time.</p> <p>14 DR. HECTOR GIRÓN: Thank you for your</p> <p>15 time.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: All right. We're on to Item</p> <p>17 8.e., South Valley Preparatory School. Dr. Russell.</p> <p>18 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you,</p> <p>19 Madam Chair and Commissioners. The South Valley</p> <p>20 Preparatory School has presented a very detailed</p> <p>21 account of their work to date to correct the 2024</p> <p>22 audit findings.</p> <p>23 For Finding 1, financial policies adopted</p> <p>24 on February 26 should be included with any</p> <p>25 documentation that the school submits.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">133</p> <p>1 For Findings 7 and 8, no further action</p> <p>2 beyond review of next year's audit to see if the</p> <p>3 findings are repeated.</p> <p>4 And for Finding 9, CSD will monitor this</p> <p>5 as part of our annual monitoring when we check the</p> <p>6 DFA website to see the CPO list posted there.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell. I'll</p> <p>9 go ahead and ask the school to come on down. Thank</p> <p>10 you.</p> <p>11 And is there anything in particular you</p> <p>12 want Missy to pull up on the screen to show?</p> <p>13 DR. BAYLOR DEL ROSARIO: Yes. I think the</p> <p>14 first one-pager timeline for steps for the</p> <p>15 disclaimer opinion.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: All right. If you can</p> <p>17 introduce yourselves first, and then it's all yours.</p> <p>18 DR. BAYLOR DEL ROSARIO: My name is Baylor</p> <p>19 Del Rosario. I am the head administrator at</p> <p>20 South Valley Prep. My first name is B-a-y-l-o-r.</p> <p>21 Last name is Del Rosario. D-e-l R-o-s-a-r-i-o.</p> <p>22 MR. MIKE VIGIL II: And I'm Mike Vigil.</p> <p>23 Members of the Commission, thanks for having me.</p> <p>24 Mike is M-i-k-e. And V-i-g-i-l.</p> <p>25 DR. BAYLOR DEL ROSARIO: Madam Chair,</p>

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1 members of the Commission, we do have a number of
2 our governing council members either online, as well
3 as our Chair, Ms. Barreras, here in the audience.
4 And I do want to make sure it's on the record that
5 as the head administrator at South Valley Prep, I
6 will absolutely take responsibility for, you know,
7 this disclaimer opinion.

8 Quite honestly, I'm actually embarrassed
9 to even be talking about this -- you know, this
10 topic, the subject in front of you all. And, you
11 know, the thing that I also want to express to you
12 all is that as the authorizers, you all are supposed
13 to present, you know, the best product out there.
14 And this clearly wasn't the best product, at least
15 in this area for this school.

16 And, again, on the record, I want to make
17 sure you all know that I take full responsibility
18 for this piece. And I apologize. You know, as
19 authorizers, your name is out there as well, too,
20 for our school. And with that said, I do want to
21 just outline some of the steps that we've taken thus
22 far to remedy this audit, 2024.

23 As you'll see, the -- the timeline, at
24 least officially here, starts January 1st, 2025. We
25 actually started working on the -- many of the

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1 findings without obviously disclosing it to those --
2 without publicizing it or anything of that sort.

3 And we had worked on some of the steps to
4 address each of the findings and had actually
5 provided it to Mr. Ken Norris, one of the Charter
6 School Division's financial experts.

7 So I think the first thing that we had to
8 do was switch business managers. And super hard to
9 do. Had relationships myself with the previous one
10 that we had. And it's -- but we had to vet multiple
11 business manager services. Multiple. Some of them,
12 you've heard from today, other than from Mr. Vigil
13 here.

14 I'd say, speaking with even CLA, the
15 auditors, Mr. Matt Bone and even Sara Cordova here
16 at PED, I think we've made the right choice. I want
17 to put that on the record as well, too.

18 The next item, the mini-grant award from
19 PEC that we received, super grateful for this. We
20 were going to do many of these things whether we got
21 the grant or not.

22 One of the things that we began right off
23 the bat is we did retain an individual, a CPA with
24 many years of experience, who's -- I want to say
25 she's retired or close to retired already --

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1 Ms. Mary Scofield.

2 And she helped us -- really, what I would
3 say -- helped try and build our 6/30/2024 statement,
4 so that when we come up and are ready for our
5 upcoming audit, it would be a lot more cleaner.

6 I noted that these things take time. But
7 in my head, as head administrator, I wanted to make
8 sure that we speed up the process.

9 And so super grateful for Ms. Scofield for
10 coming out of retirement and helping us with that
11 piece.

12 And the Vigil Group has also been super
13 helpful in terms of what I would call cleanup from
14 before the -- before their actual contracting with
15 us in January of 2025. They now have had to go back
16 to July 1st, 2024, to address many of the -- the
17 findings that were presented in the audit report.

18 The other things that I wanted to make
19 sure you all were aware of -- because it was in
20 the -- it was -- some of it was mentioned in the
21 findings, a number of the findings -- is that we
22 have a previous business manager who had done a
23 phenomenal job for a number of years, not just for
24 South Valley Prep, but for Academy of Trades and
25 Technology, the building that we are in now, the

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1 building that was essentially donated to us. And
2 his name is Alfred Martinez.

3 He also had retired before I came on
4 board. But he was gracious enough to come on to our
5 finance committee. Been an incredible perspective,
6 and, in many ways, in a positive way, calling out,
7 you know, myself and our business manager to make
8 sure that we're on the right path.

9 And, again, I'll bring up Ms. Mary
10 Scofield, who has been gracious enough to be part of
11 our audit committee as well. I know that was one of
12 the other audit findings.

13 I had to -- I don't know if Ms. Barreras
14 is still here in the audience. She is our chair,
15 and she's actually been meeting with Mr. Martinez
16 and with herself and our assistant to the business
17 manager on weekends, going over some of the
18 financials.

19 And, you know, kudos to her and, you know,
20 for folks like you all who do this for free and to
21 give up part of her weekend so that not only she --
22 not only to make sure that the school is on track,
23 but she herself learns more about the finances being
24 part of -- being part of the board of finance.

25 So I've seen that commitment from her and

<p style="text-align: right;">138</p> <p>1 some of our other board members. And I just wanted 2 to make sure that was on the record as well, too. 3 One of the things that the Vigil Group had 4 helped us with was review and refine our finance 5 policies. They were able to help us with that, 6 Ms. Justine, who is the business manager assigned to 7 us. And she was able to go through it, even 8 before -- obviously, before our governing council 9 approved it in February and just shortly after the 10 release of the audit. 11 So we were -- I just wanted to make sure 12 you all were aware that we were on top of it even 13 before the audit was released. 14 In addition to the required trainings 15 that -- that the State has for board members and 16 governing councils, in the area of finance, you 17 know, the Vigil Group has been fantastic in 18 providing that one-on-one work with our board. 19 But, most recently, they did provide a 20 more formal training, just recently for our 21 governing council this past week. So that's 22 something that we felt we needed to add, not just to 23 what was required for all GC members to have, but 24 another training internally for us with our own 25 statements and so forth.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">140</p> <p>1 can really get on top of it and get some of these 2 things fixed. 3 I noticed that a lot of things seem to be 4 late; late to the auditors, late to the auditors, 5 late to the auditors. I think that should be a move 6 that we take that would benefit all parties. 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So I think we do this 8 the same way we did Monte del Sol, because we're in 9 the same -- 10 THE CHAIR: Well, I think -- we can ask 11 Ms. Barnes. I think there's an opportunity that 12 maybe we don't have to do a June 30, then a July 1. 13 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yeah. This one is in a 14 little bit different of a situation than the 15 previous school, in that you had placed a condition 16 on financials on that school. This school has a 17 condition, but only related to academics. You 18 approved their contract last month. So a contract 19 is in place. 20 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. 21 MS. JULIA BARNES: I think that you could 22 do something similar, though, Commissioner, that 23 would require approval of their board as well, which 24 is if you wanted the financial condition compliance 25 form to be used in this case, past July 1, their</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">139</p> <p>1 I'm super happy, having spoken with Matt 2 Bone, Mr. Bone from CLA. And I know Mr. Vigil has 3 spoken with him as well, too, and Ms. Mary Scofield 4 about making sure that my understanding -- it's 5 certainly out of my realm. 6 But my understanding -- this is the term 7 I'm using -- is a reaudit of our 6/30/2024 8 statement. That way, when we enter, in the next 9 couple of months here, this coming audit, that we'll 10 be in a lot better position. 11 And, Madam Chair, members of the 12 Commission, that's, I guess, somewhat of a brief 13 rundown of what we've taken thus far to remedy our 14 financials. 15 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck. 16 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. Not so much a 17 question, as just a comment. I think with the kind 18 of situation you've been in for the last eighteen 19 months -- and I'll -- you know, the disclaimer 20 opinion, you know, I think it would be probably 21 beneficial for all of us to be able to monitor it 22 fairly closely going forward here based on the 23 situation that we have here. 24 I'm sure that -- you know, I feel -- I 25 know that the Vigil Group has done great stuff and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">141</p> <p>1 board would need to agree to it. 2 So it wouldn't be a condition, because the 3 CAP right now only goes till June 30. If you want 4 something to go forward after July 1 -- 5 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: (Inaudible due to 6 off-mic.) 7 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yeah. So I -- you are 8 welcome to impose a CAP right now till June 30. To 9 take action under the new contract term, I think 10 requires your request to their board as well that 11 that be added. 12 I'm open to other ideas, but I can't quite 13 see what those options would be. 14 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo. 15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So, Ms. Barnes, I 16 guess I don't understand why. If we do a CAP today, 17 why can't that just carry over into the next 18 contract term without the rigmarole of them having 19 to go to their board, and just say, "Hey, we want to 20 look at this and monitor it," keep things simple. 21 MS. JULIA BARNES: Everything we've 22 ever -- I think that the charter school law thinks 23 contract term by contract term. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Got it. Okay. 25 MS. JULIA BARNES: So it's a new contract.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">142</p> <p>1 The reason that it was different, in my opinion, on 2 the previous school -- 3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Because they already 4 had it in their contract. Monte Del. 5 MS. JULIA BARNES: You already had said 6 this is a concern. So I think that maybe this audit 7 is new information. In the other school, it was 8 continuing information. I'm not sure. But you 9 don't have a condition for finances on this school. 10 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I think that language 11 is fine. 12 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson. 13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I move that the Chair 14 issue a Notice of Concern to South Valley 15 Preparatory School regarding the disclaimed audit 16 and audit findings in the FY2024 charter school 17 audit, and that the school provide a Corrective 18 Action Plan based on the template form provided by 19 CSD to correct the audit findings by May 9th for 20 consideration and approval by the PEC at its 21 May meeting. 22 The school is directed to complete the 23 form provided by CSD, as needed. 24 THE CHAIR: Second. 25 There's a motion and a second. Any</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">144</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 3 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 5 Clahchischilliage. 6 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor. 8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 10 (No response.) 11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis? 12 (No response.) 13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 14 Obenshain. 15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: No. 16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson. 17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner -- Chair 19 Burt. 20 THE CHAIR: Yes. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Which Secretary 22 Carrillo votes yes. 23 So that makes it -- that makes it seven 24 for -- yes -- seven for and one against. 25 THE CHAIR: Okay. Motion passes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">143</p> <p>1 discussion on the motion itself? 2 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: I have one 3 question. 4 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain. 5 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: The CAP has to be 6 completed by May 9th? 7 THE CHAIR: The draft review. They mostly 8 did it already. What they submitted to us already 9 is mostly done. So I think it's just going to be, 10 yeah, they should work with their GC in advance on 11 that template, make sure it's gone through their 12 cycle as well. It needs to come back to us at the 13 next month's needing. The May 9th is for a review 14 process to get it into the next meeting. 15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: My concern is to 16 have that sort of a timeline to present in front of 17 their GC. 18 THE CHAIR: I think they mostly had it 19 done. 20 I'm sorry. I can't call on you. 21 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Okay. 22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: A motion and a second 23 is made. 24 So -- oh, my. Here we go. 25 Commissioner Beck.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">145</p> <p>1 Okay. Thank you. Appreciate you all. 2 DR. BAYLOR DEL ROSARIO: Thank you. 3 THE CHAIR: I'm at a little bit of a 4 conundrum I want to talk to you about. I am seeing 5 two schools, Items 10 and 11, are sitting here 6 waiting for us. I have a question of whether or not 7 you all want to go to Items 10 and 11 and then take 8 a lunch break and then come back? 9 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I think they're -- 10 THE CHAIR: Shouldn't take -- 11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: It shouldn't take 12 long. 13 THE CHAIR: We're not promising anything, 14 but -- okay. 15 Okay. So let's go ahead -- if that sounds 16 okay, we'll go ahead and do Item -- we'll come back 17 to Item 9 after lunch. We'll do Item 10 first, 18 San Diego Riverside Charter School, on Updated 19 Condition Compliance Form, Discussion and Possible 20 Action Under the Intervention Ladder, Including 21 Consideration of an Updated Condition Compliance 22 Form. 23 And, yeah, Mr. Lovato you're more than 24 welcome to join us already. 25 Dr. Russell, if you want to go ahead and</p>

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1 start us off, though.

2 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair
3 Burt, Commissioners.

4 CSD recommends accepting the action steps
5 to address the PEC's condition proposed by San Diego
6 Riverside Charter School for the 2025-'26 school
7 year -- well, the '24-'25 and the '25-'26 school
8 year.

9 Due to the complexity of the proposed
10 Corrective Actions for the current school year,
11 '24-'25, CSD recommends conducting an on-site visit
12 to San Diego Riverside on or about June 30th to be
13 scheduled with the head administrator and any
14 members of the leadership team he wishes to include
15 to review all of the elements in the -- the '24-'25
16 Corrective Action Plan. These are listed in the
17 memo, but I won't repeat them all here.

18 CSD will then report to the PEC at the
19 July 18th meeting as to whether these were satisfied
20 and whether the proposed '25-'26 -- okay -- that was
21 my -- okay -- typo in my memo -- whether the '24-'25
22 conditions were satisfied.

23 For '25-'26 and beyond, CSD recommends the
24 same academic and tribal consultation conditions
25 imposed on schools signing contracts in 2025 with

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1 the professional development and academic
2 improvement plan incorporated into the DASH plan
3 that the school has to do, anyway, and uploaded into
4 Epicenter by August 15th.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Lovato, first,
6 if you could introduce yourself.

7 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: I was about to say
8 "Good morning," but I think it's afternoon. Hello,
9 Commissioners, Chair Burt, Vice Chair Gipson.
10 Appreciate you guys having me here today.

11 Really, what I'm here to do is report that
12 I have made those corrections that you've requested
13 for the timelines. I have presented them for our
14 board, and they have approved them.

15 So I stand for any questions that you
16 might have at this point.

17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I think it was pretty
18 simple. We just really asked him to plug in dates.
19 So it's, you know, I think, good.

20 THE CHAIR: Well, we do have -- so 10.d.
21 is now the -- kind of the -- a larger document that
22 has everything kind of planned out into the template
23 as well, moved into that form.

24 Ms. Barnes, if I could ask you about
25 anything you see that we might need to consider.

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1 MS. JULIA BARNES: So Document 10.d. is
2 set up in two different ways. One is, obviously,
3 for April 25th for a condition document change this
4 year. It's not really a form that they're going to
5 be able to take any action. It's more of a report
6 or the identifying to you all what they are going to
7 do in order to meet your condition.

8 And then there is a second one which
9 Dr. Russell just outlined, which is what are they
10 going to do in the next years, and putting it more
11 on a normal track as we're dealing with schools.

12 And I think that you should use this
13 document, because part of it was -- your condition
14 had many different items. And not all of the items
15 were addressed by the school. They primarily looked
16 at academics.

17 So I think that this clarifies exactly
18 what they're going to fill out and how they're going
19 to fill it out and what they're going to be assessed
20 against.

21 So if I can just kind of walk through it.

22 First, it's --

23 THE CHAIR: I don't think we need to do
24 that, Ms. Barnes, no. I think if anyone has
25 questions at this point now, because I do think

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1 it's --

2 MS. JULIA BARNES: But there -- you need
3 to make a decision on -- I need page numbers on --
4 so several places, it says, "Here's what is proposed
5 and here's what was in the original condition, and
6 whether you're going to use -- maybe there's only
7 that one. And I don't know that the school has
8 certainly not reviewed this.

9 THE CHAIR: I still think this is a pretty
10 basic -- we're using a pretty standard template,
11 standard language, standard information.

12 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We haven't changed
13 anything about what the school's supposed to do.
14 This just puts it in the form.

15 But there's nothing new for the school.

16 So I didn't know I had to do that. This is
17 everything that the school brought forward. And I
18 think -- I pray to heaven we never have to look at
19 that old condition document again, you know.

20 THE CHAIR: But we did add -- but we did,
21 in the last several days, have added the financial
22 part to it. So the financial compliance document
23 wasn't given to us by the school. That was added in
24 coordination with Dr. Russell, with Julia. So that
25 is something that -- I think that's what Julia is

<p style="text-align: right;">150</p> <p>1 referring to is that we've added the financial 2 compliance document into here, which is needed 3 anyway. 4 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: That's based on the 5 condition. And that was discussed. So, yeah. 6 MS. JULIA BARNES: If I can just add one 7 thing that I -- the -- the section on tribal 8 consultation, I'm going to go ahead and -- I'm 9 sorry -- it's highlighted in blue. The original 10 documentation from the school said that they would 11 meet monthly and quarterly, the Tribe of Jemez 12 Education Department, to consult on the 13 implementation of the Towa language curriculum and 14 other issues germane to language, culture, and 15 tradition. They put into the document that they 16 propose visits to the Pueblo library and meetings 17 with the Pueblo Department of Education, which is -- 18 the second one is probably consistent. 19 I -- I don't know who would visit the 20 Pueblo library, how often they would do it, or for 21 what purpose. So I think you might clarify that. 22 Otherwise -- otherwise, I think it might be -- that 23 might be the only remaining question. 24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: When the school came 25 up last month, they did discuss with us how that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">152</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Okay. 2 MS. JULIA BARNES: So do you want to 3 replace that they're meeting monthly? Quarterly 4 meetings? How often are you meeting with the tribe? 5 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: Our intention was to 6 meet with them at least monthly, but everything is 7 determined by their schedule, which may be difficult 8 to get in. It took us two months to get our first 9 meeting, and I'm trying to do another check-in 10 before the end of the school year. 11 MS. JULIA BARNES: At least quarterly 12 meetings. 13 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: I think quarterly 14 would be more of a fair judgment. 15 MS. JULIA BARNES: Okay. I'm updating it 16 now. And then at least 40 percent growth in both 17 reading and math on your interim assessments. 18 There's a chart that you agreed to fill out 19 previously. So that chart is still there. 20 Okay. I think that's clear. Great. 21 THE CHAIR: I'm going to go ahead and make 22 a motion. Yes. 23 I move that the PEC adopt the Revised 24 Condition Compliance Form in the meeting materials 25 as Document 10.d.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">151</p> <p>1 takes place, the visits to the library and so on. 2 So we did discuss that. 3 THE CHAIR: We discussed it. But I hear 4 what Ms. Barnes is saying. It needs to be in 5 writing. If all of us disappear and this document 6 lives on, there's going to be no clarity of what 7 we're all agreeing for. 8 How often are the visits to the library 9 happening with the school? 10 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: Sure. So, Chair 11 Burt, what we're looking at right now is at least 12 once a month, trying to get it to a twice-a-month 13 visit. 14 THE CHAIR: That's perfect. At least once 15 a month. 16 MS. JULIA BARNES: Is it students who are 17 going to the library? 18 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: That's correct. 19 THE CHAIR: At least monthly. There's the 20 minimum. Please do it as many times as you -- do a 21 bunch. Yes. 22 MS. JULIA BARNES: It's only going into 23 the tribal consultation for this year. Next year, 24 they will follow the requirements of the tribal 25 consultation from --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">153</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 3 Motion by Chair Burt, second by Vice Chair 4 Gipson. 5 Any comment on the motion itself? 6 (No response.) 7 Seeing none, Secretary Carrillo. 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 9 THE CHAIR: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary votes yes. 11 Manis is not on, as I understand it. 12 Commissioner Taylor. 13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 15 Clahchischilliage. 16 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 17 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 18 Ingham. 19 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Beck. 21 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 23 Obenshain. 24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">154</p> <p>1 Gipson.</p> <p>2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: That means seven yes and</p> <p>4 one -- what? Oh, I thought -- I missed -- sure, I</p> <p>5 did. I didn't do this that way. Sorry.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Cindy, could you do us a quick</p> <p>7 favor and can you confirm what Commissioner</p> <p>8 Clahchischilliage's vote was in the record, in your</p> <p>9 record?</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: It was</p> <p>11 yes.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Okay. It</p> <p>13 passes eight-zero. Thank you, Mr. Lovato.</p> <p>14 Take care.</p> <p>15 MR. JOE DAN LOVATO: Thank you.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: All right. We are on to Item</p> <p>17 No. 11, Discussion and Possible Action on Walatowa</p> <p>18 High Charter High School Revised Mission Goals.</p> <p>19 MR. GREG BUTZ: Good afternoon,</p> <p>20 Commissioners and Madam Chair. My name is Greg</p> <p>21 Butz. B-u-t-z. And I'm here to present the CSD</p> <p>22 amendment analysis.</p> <p>23 So, basically, what the amendment is</p> <p>24 proposing is a merging of Item -- Mission Goal No. 1</p> <p>25 and Mission Goal No. 2. And in doing so, both of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">156</p> <p>1 Chair Burt and PEC members. My name is Dr. Arrow</p> <p>2 Wilkinson. W-i-l-k-i-n-s-o-n.</p> <p>3 The -- if you have any questions regarding</p> <p>4 the proposed change in the amendment to our goals?</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioners, any</p> <p>6 questions on this one?</p> <p>7 (No response.)</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Okay. I only have one, and I</p> <p>9 think it might be for Ms. Barnes, and you, as well,</p> <p>10 actually. I'll ask you first, Dr. Wilkinson, if</p> <p>11 this is a good move for you or not. I want to know</p> <p>12 if it's legal if we could possibly backdate this to</p> <p>13 where it is in effect in the current school year.</p> <p>14 Because we know that this -- your -- I</p> <p>15 imagine, by enabling it to go into effect July 1,</p> <p>16 2025, you're probably going to not look great this</p> <p>17 school year again from this nuanced map -- right --</p> <p>18 of how it's being done.</p> <p>19 I was wondering first if it would even be</p> <p>20 amenable to you to make it to where we can do it in</p> <p>21 the current school year, like, it applies right now</p> <p>22 instead of waiting for another year.</p> <p>23 DR. ARROW WILKINSON: It would apply right</p> <p>24 now, because I have --</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: The way this is structured it</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">155</p> <p>1 those would combine the two cohorts, which would</p> <p>2 enable the school to measure growth by their target</p> <p>3 of 887 (verbatim) and/or 5 percent growth.</p> <p>4 And so that -- in their original goals,</p> <p>5 that would have been Mission Goal No. 1 and Mission</p> <p>6 Goal No. 2. This proposed amendment change just</p> <p>7 combines those two elements. So it still captures</p> <p>8 all the academic requirements that was held under</p> <p>9 the first -- the original -- their original mission</p> <p>10 goals.</p> <p>11 Item Goal No. 3 and 4 is -- and then</p> <p>12 Walatowa Charter High School requests PEC approval</p> <p>13 to replace Mission Goal No. 3 and Mission Goal</p> <p>14 No. 4, and, instead, in its place, would have not</p> <p>15 measuring entrants by ACCUPLACER, because CNM do</p> <p>16 longer requires an ACCUPLACER score for reading. It</p> <p>17 eliminates kind of that redundancy, and, instead, in</p> <p>18 its place, as a dual credit -- sorry -- excuse me --</p> <p>19 dual credit for two different classes.</p> <p>20 And so it is my analysis that that -- the</p> <p>21 end result is better than the prerequisites. So it</p> <p>22 is CSD's recommendation that we approve both changes</p> <p>23 to their proposed amendments.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Dr. Wilkinson?</p> <p>25 DR. ARROW WILKINSON: Good afternoon, PEC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">157</p> <p>1 wouldn't go into effect until next school year. So</p> <p>2 would it be helpful -- I don't even know if I'm</p> <p>3 allowed to, which is the next question.</p> <p>4 But is there any way we could approve it</p> <p>5 to be for the current school year that we're already</p> <p>6 in and for future school years, instead of waiting</p> <p>7 for next year?</p> <p>8 DR. ARROW WILKINSON: That's fine. We</p> <p>9 have the data for that, yes.</p> <p>10 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yeah. Because it feels</p> <p>11 technical; right?</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: It does feel technical.</p> <p>13 They're already doing the work -- the way I see it,</p> <p>14 the work is already happening. The testing is</p> <p>15 already happening. The question is how we're</p> <p>16 evaluating the testing data.</p> <p>17 MS. JULIA BARNES: If you were --</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Creating a new thing.</p> <p>19 MS. JULIA BARNES: -- creating a new thing</p> <p>20 now that went back to July, that wouldn't make much</p> <p>21 sense. This seems technical.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Can we --</p> <p>23 MS. JULIA BARNES: Can the document,</p> <p>24 though, say the effective date?</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: Yeah, it does, in the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">158</p> <p>1 amendment request form.</p> <p>2 MS. JULIA BARNES: I can change that with</p> <p>3 an effective date of -- I'm going to say July 1 of</p> <p>4 2025; right?</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: No, July 1 of 2024. And that</p> <p>6 way, you get -- you can start using this for your</p> <p>7 current year.</p> <p>8 DR. ARROW WILKINSON: Yes. And then when</p> <p>9 we do our charter renewal, we go back to the</p> <p>10 original one, because we have the data for the 2022.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Correct.</p> <p>12 MS. JULIA BARNES: The only -- you have</p> <p>13 called it a revised mission goal. I think "revised</p> <p>14 mission goal" is still right. I think that's fine.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, all. Appreciate</p> <p>16 that. Any -- okay?</p> <p>17 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Make the motion?</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Go ahead.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I move that the PEC</p> <p>20 accept the revised mission goals of Walatowa Charter</p> <p>21 High School, provided in the meeting materials for</p> <p>22 Item 11, with an effective date of July 1, 2024.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: Second.</p> <p>24 There's a motion and a second. Any</p> <p>25 comment or discussion on the motion itself?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">160</p> <p>1 ahead and take an hour lunch until 1:30.</p> <p>2 (A recess was taken at 12:27 p.m., and</p> <p>3 reconvened at 1:33 p.m., as follows:)</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: All right. We're going to go</p> <p>5 ahead and get started.</p> <p>6 All right. We are on Item No. 9. That is</p> <p>7 Presentation by Schools of the Proposed Updated</p> <p>8 Financial Corrective Action Plans, Discussion and</p> <p>9 Possible Action Under the Intervention Ladder,</p> <p>10 Including Approval of Updated Financial Action</p> <p>11 Plans.</p> <p>12 And, Ms. Brown, can you pull in the people</p> <p>13 from online who are here from Alma d'Arte?</p> <p>14 So everyone who is from Alma that will</p> <p>15 need to be on the panel, if you all could raise your</p> <p>16 digital hands and Missy can start pulling you all</p> <p>17 over.</p> <p>18 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I see Board Chair</p> <p>19 Michelle Peugh-Swafford. So I've promoted her to</p> <p>20 the panel.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: While we're doing that, we can</p> <p>22 go to Dr. Russell. Take your time. Get settled.</p> <p>23 The floor is yours when you're ready.</p> <p>24 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>25 and Commissioners.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">159</p> <p>1 (No response.)</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, Commissioner</p> <p>3 Carrillo.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: All-rightly.</p> <p>5 Commissioner Clahchischilliage.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>10 Obenshain.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary Carrillo</p> <p>13 votes yes.</p> <p>14 Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Chair Burt.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And that passes,</p> <p>23 eight to zero.</p> <p>24 Thank you, Arrow. It's nice to see you.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: All right. We're going to go</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">161</p> <p>1 The proposed Corrective Action Plan.</p> <p>2 The column in Alma's proposed Corrective</p> <p>3 Action Plan for documents -- documentation to be</p> <p>4 submitted in Epicenter is blank. And it was unclear</p> <p>5 to CSD whether the last item in each action step,</p> <p>6 which says, "Provide an internal self-assessment of</p> <p>7 controls related to..." -- and then the item -- was</p> <p>8 intended to be documentation.</p> <p>9 And so CSD would need to see the</p> <p>10 proposed -- what that proposed self-assessment looks</p> <p>11 like before we can evaluate whether it's adequate</p> <p>12 documentation.</p> <p>13 Similarly, the due dates are all</p> <p>14 June 30th, 2025. And the proposed Corrective Action</p> <p>15 Plan should contemplate not only the time up to</p> <p>16 June 2025, but into the '25-'26 school year, and</p> <p>17 should include, at a minimum, check-ins quarterly.</p> <p>18 The narrative accompanying the proposed</p> <p>19 Corrective Action Plan indicates that the school is</p> <p>20 contracting with Las Cruces Public Schools to</p> <p>21 provide training and technical assistance to correct</p> <p>22 the findings, particularly the material weaknesses.</p> <p>23 And the head administrator and business manager did</p> <p>24 meet with me about a month ago and walked through</p> <p>25 their proposed action steps.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">162</p> <p>1 I am satisfied that the school is taking 2 action, that the school does have a plan. But I 3 haven't seen a written document proposing, "This is 4 what we would like to show CSD," to -- you know, to 5 mark the action steps along the way. And that's 6 what I would need to do.</p> <p>7 And if the Commission directs CSD to 8 create that, or directs the school to, you know, 9 take another stab at it, including staggered due 10 dates throughout the next fiscal year, yeah.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell.</p> <p>12 Folks from Alma, if you are -- if there's 13 anybody who would like to speak before we go to 14 Commissioner questions, I'd love to give you the 15 opportunity to go through it.</p> <p>16 MS. MELISSA BROWN: We only have the board 17 chair, so I'm not sure.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. We can 19 go -- Commissioner questions?</p> <p>20 Commissioner Obenshain.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah, I think 22 it's for Deputy Director Russell, is, in terms of 23 what you would look for as -- you said "documented 24 steps." Do you feel like they're taking steps -- 25 but you just haven't seen the documentation.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">164</p> <p>1 And their big picture solution is to 2 increase enrollment, thereby increasing funding, 3 thereby, you know, having a bigger pie to cut up.</p> <p>4 But the audit findings, in particular, 5 those processes still need to be addressed. So when 6 we talk about corrective actions, I'm -- I think 7 it's wonderful that they want to increase enrollment 8 and increase their funding. But those aren't 9 corrective actions specifically addressing audit 10 findings.</p> <p>11 So what I'm looking at is what are they 12 doing process-wise internally to correct the issues 13 that led to the findings?</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Right. So when 15 you're saying they say they will provide an internal 16 self-assessment of controls, okay, but you haven't 17 seen that; right?</p> <p>18 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Yes, that's 19 correct. They propose providing it. But my 20 question is what would that internal self-assessment 21 look like?</p> <p>22 If they have a -- like, a template that 23 they plan to use, "This is our self-assessment for 24 fund balance. This is for general ledger balances." 25 I would want to see what that proposed</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">163</p> <p>1 Would that look like -- on this first 2 chart, the proposed plan, would it look like just 3 like identifying each one of those statements and 4 saying, "Show us what you're doing or what is the 5 detail under each of those"? Is that what you would 6 be looking for from them?</p> <p>7 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Chair and 8 Commissioner Obenshain, what I would be looking for 9 would be -- so if they're consulting with Las Cruces 10 Public Schools, who's going in and looking at their 11 processes, I would look for a report from their 12 consultant, from Las Cruces Public Schools, 13 detailing the work that the school has done, the 14 processes that they see are in place.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: So not -- for 16 example, it says, "Increase funds through donations 17 and other methods"; right? That's one of their 18 expected actions; is that correct?</p> <p>19 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: That is one of 20 their expected actions.</p> <p>21 So as I read the plan, and as Dr. Amador 22 has expressed to me in the past, part of why the 23 school is in the -- the situation it's in is 24 diminished enrollment, decreased funding, you know, 25 robbing Fund Peter to pay Fund Paul.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">165</p> <p>1 self-assessment looks like.</p> <p>2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I need just a little 3 clarity on this.</p> <p>4 So what is missing at this moment in time 5 is what -- a lot of what Commissioner Obenshain was 6 speaking to, that what the school needed to provide 7 was because you're -- at the end of the day, at the 8 end of the year, you're going to have to do an 9 analysis of where they are in the progress of the 10 Corrective Action Plan. And, hopefully, we -- you 11 know, best of all worlds, we would be able to clear 12 it out and say, "Okay, they're good, and we don't 13 have to continue this for the following year."</p> <p>14 But you don't have that pathway forward. 15 You don't know what the school -- the school is 16 saying, "We're going to do this." But you don't 17 have anything that you can say this is going to be 18 sufficient for CSD to be able to give an analysis, 19 because we don't -- we don't have anything to look 20 at to say, "Yes, this is going to work."</p> <p>21 And we don't want the school, at the end 22 of the year, to just upload something and it not be 23 sufficient.</p> <p>24 So we'd like to look at it now to say, 25 "This is sufficient," so that at the end of the</p>

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1 year, you are giving us the information that we
2 need.

3 And so, at this point in time -- if I'm
4 looking at CAP for the FY2024 audit, the proposed
5 plan due, so that -- that whole -- that entire
6 column that's blank is what -- there should have
7 been some documentation of how they're going to do
8 it. That's what's missing out of here. It should
9 have been uploaded to Epicenter, or at least given
10 to you.

11 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Chair and
12 Vice Chair, yes. The school should have proposed
13 what documents did they want to submit and by what
14 due dates, not just all of them on June 30th, 2025,
15 carrying on into the next year.

16 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Right. Okay. Yeah.

17 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Moreover, the
18 reason we're asking the schools for documents
19 instead of CSD sits and says, "We want this, this,
20 this, and this," we want these documents to be tools
21 that are going to help the school improve.

22 We don't want them to be compliance,
23 administrative burden, things that they have to
24 spend their valuable time writing up to satisfy the
25 CSD. That's not what we want.

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1 We want them to have a plan, "This is what
2 we're doing," and then just show us, things they're
3 doing anyway. And then whatever document that
4 they're already creating as part of their internal
5 processes that is going to help them improve, just
6 propose showing us that.

7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. Because, for
8 me, this should be the template for the finance
9 committee to be looking at, saying, "Oh, I know that
10 on April 30th, they should have had this, so we can
11 ask at our May GC meeting. So, where are we in this
12 so that it does..." -- you're right. You want it to
13 be a living document that they're using, not just,
14 "I've got to fill this out and..." -- okay.

15 Thank you. I just needed -- I wanted to
16 make sure in my mind that's what was missing.

17 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck.

18 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. It's -- right on
19 the same thought process here. Because I'm looking
20 at 9.a.1., which was the same thing they're looking
21 at the Corrective Action Plan.

22 The action steps, is that the proposed
23 plan that they did that was due by April 14th? That
24 action steps? And then you have absolutely nothing
25 until 6/30; correct?

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1 So there's nothing that is forcing them to
2 do this prior to 6/30 -- correct? -- based on this
3 action. Am I right on that?

4 THE CHAIR: That's correct. But what
5 Dr. Russell was saying is actually the 6/30 is
6 actually too soon. We need steps throughout the
7 whole next fiscal year with check-ins on these
8 things. It shouldn't be 6/30/2025, where everything
9 is due then. It's what is going to happen all
10 throughout the whole fiscal year on these things.

11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: There should be
12 something in that "Documents."

13 COMMISSIONER BECK: In this document.

14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Where it says
15 "Documents," it's all blank. This is what we're
16 going to provide you.

17 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. Okay.

18 THE CHAIR: The one thing I'll say. I
19 think this is -- actually, for me, we're almost,
20 like -- because this is so obviously insufficient
21 that it almost makes it obvious and easy, that I
22 would propose sending this to CSD at this point to
23 go ahead and complete the CAP -- work with the
24 school, complete the CAP, get it back to us next
25 month.

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1 I'm also concerned about the timeliness.
2 I'm disappointed that Alma didn't file this on time,
3 because I do think it definitely could have been.

4 So I do have a concern with timeliness as
5 well.

6 But I think at this point, I would like to
7 see CSD go ahead and take the lead on this. And it
8 does -- it makes -- Dr. Russell, you know what we're
9 looking for. You know what it needs to have.

10 So I feel more confident sending it to CSD
11 at this time than going back to the school again.
12 That way, they can kind of take the lead at this
13 point. Work with what you have, work with the
14 school, but be able to move forward and actually get
15 this going so that we can start the monitoring.

16 And, once again, really focusing on the
17 next fiscal year even more so than June 30, 2025.
18 It's great if some of these things can get done
19 before then, kind of low-hanging-fruit kind of
20 things. But what's going to be happening over the
21 course of the next year is even more concerning.

22 Any other questions from Commissioners?

23 Commissioner Obenshain?

24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. I'm
25 looking at 9.a.2. Was that a document that Alma

<p style="text-align: right;">170</p> <p>1 provided? And then it looks like -- and I don't 2 know if I'm reading it correctly. But when you 3 scroll down to "Conditions," are those mapping to 4 the Corrective Action Plan?</p> <p>5 Okay. So it looks like -- they've 6 identified steps that have been taken that are 7 completed. And I'm not sure if that should have 8 been documented in these -- in that column. Is that 9 what we're saying? Not in this -- not in this 10 document? Or does it --</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Ultimately, we need that 12 template to be complete. This is fine if they want 13 to submit the narrative in this way. But, 14 ultimately, at the end of the day, we need that 15 template so we can vote on the template as is, and 16 that's what we move forward on.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: What is the 18 template?</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: 9.a.1., the proposed CAP, any 20 information from here.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: They would have 22 put it in there? They would have met the 23 expectations?</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Even with this narrative one, 25 they didn't put anything into the next fiscal year.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">172</p> <p>1 of the year saying -- you know, they think this is 2 okay, but it's really not.</p> <p>3 We're clear at the beginning of the year 4 what they have to report out to be -- to satisfy the 5 sufficient reporting. And that's what's unclear.</p> <p>6 So -- and, yeah, I think everything in 7 that one document sunsets on the 30th of June, '25.</p> <p>8 So, you know -- and this should be, you 9 know, as schools are getting ready for next year and 10 calendaring for next year -- we always use Missy's 11 calendaring -- that they should put this on the 12 board calendar for next year. It's, like, "Okay. 13 Now I know that this is due, so we can check with 14 the business administrator when he does his 15 financial report. Have you done this?"</p> <p>16 That's -- those are the best practices 17 that, hopefully, that completed document would help 18 them fulfill, that best practices.</p> <p>19 So I think we're good with sending it back 20 to the Charter School Division, having the 21 conversation, so that -- so the next meeting, this 22 is filled out. And then a Letter of Concern goes 23 because -- for timeliness of reporting out.</p> <p>24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: This says it was due 25 the 14th. When did we get it?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">171</p> <p>1 They have some ongoing. There's no contemplation, 2 really, of next fiscal year. It's really all this 3 fiscal year. We need them to think a little bit 4 further out to next fiscal year.</p> <p>5 That's one of the parts that -- this is -- 6 I mean, this is a lot of planning and preparation to 7 get to here. I think it's the time frame needs to 8 be extended. And then, like Commissioner Gipson 9 said, those documents, like the evidence of these 10 things -- that's why we need it to be specific is 11 because next October -- next April, it needs to be 12 clear from CSD and the school and us exactly what is 13 being looked for.</p> <p>14 So they were -- they started getting 15 there. It's just not all the -- it's not far 16 enough, and not specific in the evidence portion, 17 especially.</p> <p>18 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We don't want -- you 19 don't want to get into that situation where the 20 school submits something at the end of the school 21 year thinking they satisfied this, and CSD comes up 22 with an analysis that it doesn't satisfy it, when -- 23 and then the school says, "Oh, I didn't know you 24 wanted that. That's because you didn't..." -- we 25 didn't have that conversation back at the beginning</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">173</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We didn't. It's all 2 blank.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'm looking at the 4 heading where it says when it was due and when we 5 got it.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: It was due the 14th. CSD 7 didn't receive it until last Thursday. It was due 8 on Monday.</p> <p>9 The impact of that is it leaves almost no 10 time for CSD to do an analysis. It leaves no time 11 for our attorney to do an analysis. It just -- it 12 creates undue burden on school -- like, we tried to 13 give to the last possible minute. And that, still 14 even having that week to do that level of analysis, 15 it's still -- like, that's already a tight timeline.</p> <p>16 So for schools to not meet those 17 deadlines, it impacts -- it's like a trickle -- it 18 makes a bigger impact than just not doing it on 19 time.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Go ahead. Commissioner 21 Stewart -- Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: What is interesting 23 to me is that they're using the team from Las Cruces 24 Public Schools finance department to do their 25 training and technical assistance. They already</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">174</p> <p>1 lease from Las Cruces Public Schools. They're in --</p> <p>2 in some ways, it almost feels like they're leaning</p> <p>3 on Las Cruces Public Schools like they are a</p> <p>4 district school. And they're not. They're our</p> <p>5 school.</p> <p>6 And I don't understand -- it would seem to</p> <p>7 me -- I don't know -- as if Las Cruces Public</p> <p>8 Schools is doing this as a help to them, and that</p> <p>9 it's just a way to get it for free rather than to</p> <p>10 have to pay for something. I understand that. It</p> <p>11 just feels like almost they're -- they're leaning so</p> <p>12 hard on LCPS that they're almost (inaudible due to</p> <p>13 mic pickup).</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: I hear you. This is where I'm</p> <p>15 going to charter school autonomy, that at the end of</p> <p>16 the day, schools -- we don't get involved with how</p> <p>17 they do things. We set the end results. We set the</p> <p>18 expectations. However they get to there, that's up</p> <p>19 to them. And we do have to, like, remove ourselves</p> <p>20 from the how and let them figure it out on their</p> <p>21 own. I know it's very uncomfortable. But -- and we</p> <p>22 just have -- we have rigor. We have high</p> <p>23 expectations for the end result.</p> <p>24 If they end up picking a vendor that</p> <p>25 doesn't work out, that's on them. And we're going</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">176</p> <p>1 all in it to make it better for kids.</p> <p>2 So if I -- if I've built the best</p> <p>3 mousetrap, why not share it with you instead of</p> <p>4 making you reinvent it, you know? I know. Are we</p> <p>5 ready -- okay. Let me --</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: This is more for CSD</p> <p>8 than anything. I just want to make sure that</p> <p>9 whatever we're doing in our motion that we're taking</p> <p>10 provides CSD with enough time. Because let's say</p> <p>11 they come up with something, and we say, "We need to</p> <p>12 have this by...", you know, January 5th, whatever,</p> <p>13 I'm just throwing it out there. And they don't</p> <p>14 provide it. We're -- I know that.</p> <p>15 But I just want to make sure that there's</p> <p>16 not kind of an undue burden on CSD time-wise to</p> <p>17 complete some of these things with the school in</p> <p>18 terms of how cooperative or efficient they're going</p> <p>19 to be. We just have to wait and see. We can't make</p> <p>20 anybody do anything.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: You always make me laugh,</p> <p>22 because sometimes you're, like, "Get it in two</p> <p>23 days," and other times, "Well, how much time do you</p> <p>24 need?"</p> <p>25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Sometimes, no.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">175</p> <p>1 to see it in the result.</p> <p>2 We just have to hold firm to that, that we</p> <p>3 want to see the growth. We want to see those</p> <p>4 expectations be met. Charter autonomy is that we</p> <p>5 allow school leaders, the governing board, to decide</p> <p>6 however they want to do that to get there.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: It doesn't seem like</p> <p>8 they're not being accountable. I just feel like</p> <p>9 holding them to the end game, they failed; okay?</p> <p>10 And so what's the consequence of failing?</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: I think that's why I'll</p> <p>12 support the Letter of Concern.</p> <p>13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Can I just add? LCPS</p> <p>14 has often been a good partner with charters in the</p> <p>15 area in terms of -- they've got a really good</p> <p>16 evaluation form, and they're willing to share it so</p> <p>17 that it's helped schools, especially new schools or</p> <p>18 schools that have changed, had difficulty in keeping</p> <p>19 head administrators. It's, like, they've shared</p> <p>20 their process and their evaluation forms to help</p> <p>21 make the school better.</p> <p>22 So I think it's -- I don't see a concern</p> <p>23 about -- sometimes I feel that cooperation helps to</p> <p>24 break down some barriers between district and</p> <p>25 charter schools, you know. And it's -- yeah, we're</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">177</p> <p>1 Absolutely. There are times, like, five business</p> <p>2 days -- sometimes it's five business days or just go</p> <p>3 take a hike. Sometimes -- it's just the way it</p> <p>4 affects everything. Somebody used the word -- the</p> <p>5 domino effect. Their procrastination is not our</p> <p>6 emergency.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: We're moving it. Now we're</p> <p>8 giving the school to do that on their own and</p> <p>9 propose it. But we don't like what they gave us.</p> <p>10 So now, we're taking it from their control and</p> <p>11 giving it to CSD.</p> <p>12 Now, CSD, they're in control of the time.</p> <p>13 And what they're going to propose to the school</p> <p>14 will -- like, based off of the rule, the school will</p> <p>15 get -- CSD will need to have their new draft of what</p> <p>16 the CAP should be. And they'll need to give it to</p> <p>17 the school with five days' notice so that the school</p> <p>18 can give a comment.</p> <p>19 You know, like, if CSD puts things in</p> <p>20 there and the school doesn't like it, honestly, we</p> <p>21 gave the school a month to do this. If they didn't</p> <p>22 like it, they should have done it the first time.</p> <p>23 Now it's on CSD. CSD is giving them a</p> <p>24 five-day period to comment on this CAP. But CSD is</p> <p>25 now in control of the CAP. We're giving it to CSD</p>

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1 now. We're taking it from the school.
 2 So there is not going to be a worry about
 3 timeliness, because now CSD is the one in charge.
 4 And the school doesn't have to respond at all. In
 5 all honesty. We can go straight with what CSD
 6 proposes, and we can follow through and have the
 7 school follow whatever these two entities decide
 8 without them being a part of it at all.
 9 They are given an opportunity to comment,
 10 though. And then come back next month, if they
 11 would like --
 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Speaking of comment,
 13 I'm curious. I understand the board president is on
 14 Zoom.
 15 THE CHAIR: Do you have a question for
 16 somebody? I don't want to just -- we're ready for a
 17 motion.
 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: The board president,
 19 what are your thoughts on this? That's my question.
 20 Is she on?
 21 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Richelle, do you have
 22 any comments that you would like to make to
 23 Commissioner Carrillo's question, please?
 24 Dr. Amador has joined, and I'm promoting
 25 him to the panel. He has his hand up, so I believe

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1 he --
 2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: My question is more a
 3 CSD process question. Because if I'm --
 4 THE CHAIR: Sorry, Pattie. Before you
 5 continue.
 6 All right. Commissioner Carrillo has a
 7 question for Dr. Amador.
 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Yeah. He's now on.
 9 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Oh, okay. Sorry.
 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: The question I was
 11 asking -- just wanted to get your thoughts on what
 12 you heard in all the comments that we're making
 13 relative to when things need to be turned in and how
 14 and working with CSD.
 15 DR. ADAM AMADOR: Well, in regard to the
 16 financial paperwork, the Epicenter system was not
 17 working. And Dr. Russell has that information. I
 18 think Chris turned it in to her that day.
 19 So, you know, we have everything ready to
 20 go. It's just a matter of if this is -- what system
 21 we're going to use and how it's going to be done.
 22 'Cause, you know, the last meeting we were at, we
 23 were on the impression that the Epicenter was going
 24 to be the system we were going upload it to. And
 25 then it wasn't working, so we had to send it to

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1 Dr. Russell.
 2 Like I said, I just -- that's not the
 3 first time that we're dealing with that. But we
 4 presented to you guys the -- any documentation. And
 5 I'm not sure what else you want me to speak on, but
 6 that's kind of where we're at.
 7 I haven't checked recently to see if
 8 Epicenter is open or not. But I know that Chris did
 9 submit the documentation to Dr. Russell.
 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: What would you like
 11 to add, Dr. Russell?
 12 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you. Chair
 13 Burt, Commissioner Carrillo, prior to the -- the
 14 proposed CAP being due, Dr. Amador did let me know
 15 that it was not set up in Epicenter. And I said --
 16 I e-mailed him and Mr. Masters and said, "There is
 17 no Epicenter submission set up. Please e-mail it to
 18 me. It is not -- it is not late."
 19 But then I did not have it until -- I
 20 didn't have it on the 14th, in my e-mail.
 21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Can I just ask a
 22 clarifying question?
 23 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson.
 24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: And then the second
 25 concern is that that piece of the Corrective Action

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1 Plan, that template -- hate to use the word -- which
 2 is in our documents, it's at 9- -- is that 9.a.1.?
 3 No. Wait.
 4 Yeah. So, Dr. Amador, I'm looking at a
 5 document that's titled "Alma d'Arte Charter School
 6 School Corrective Action Plan for FY2024 Audit."
 7 And in our meeting documents, it's labeled 9.a.1.
 8 I don't know if you have an opportunity --
 9 can you see that?
 10 DR. ADAM AMADOR: No, I cannot.
 11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So, Missy, could you
 12 put that up? And then -- I mean, it is in the
 13 meeting materials. But I'll have Missy put it up so
 14 you know what we're talking about.
 15 So my understanding is that this is the --
 16 this is the document -- or one of the documents --
 17 I'm not 100 percent sure everything that the school
 18 was being asked to submit. But this was one of
 19 those documents that the school was asked to fill
 20 in.
 21 And there's -- the column that's labeled
 22 "Documents Submitted", granted it says "Epicenter,"
 23 but it should have been gone -- as I understand,
 24 Brigitte directed you to just e-mail it all to her.
 25 But there is -- so that column that's there, labeled

<p style="text-align: right;">182</p> <p>1 "Documents Submitted," my understanding is, from 2 what Dr. Russell said, was the school was supposed 3 to submit how they're going to show that the accrued 4 payroll -- that you have successfully completed 5 those action steps. 6 Am I incorrect in that? Because there's 7 nothing in any of that -- of that column. 8 DR. ADAM AMADOR: Yes. And if you look at 9 the due date, it says 6/30. So if they were 10 expected earlier, no one communicated that with us. 11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: No, no, no. That was 12 the proposal by the school. But the -- so this 13 is -- this is what I have heard, that the school was 14 supposed to show what documents they're going to 15 submit by 6/30 to show that they've -- that you've 16 satisfied that finding. 17 But, yes, the submission is due on the 18 30th, according to this. But what's supposed to be 19 in that column is what you're going to submit so 20 that we don't get into a situation where you submit 21 something on the 30th of June, and CSD then does an 22 analysis, and they say, "That's not -- that 23 doesn't -- that doesn't really show us..." -- 24 DR. ADAM AMADOR: Sure. So let me -- if 25 you don't mind, let me read the e-mail from</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">184</p> <p>1 that's what -- the step you would take in order to 2 fix that finding. 3 So you needed to, in Column C, put the 4 document that you were going to submit to show that 5 you actually did that. So everything in Column C 6 right here is blank. That should have all been 7 filled out by April 14th. 8 DR. ADAM AMADOR: So that's -- no, that's 9 not -- that is not what we agreed on. 10 So even with this e-mail, April 17th, we 11 still didn't have specific guidance from anybody. 12 And she's asking for that. 13 And so where I'm at is I don't want to 14 submit anything that's going to be getting kicked 15 back; right? 16 THE CHAIR: When you asked -- this is the 17 template you were given to fill out by April 14th, 18 2025. 19 DR. ADAM AMADOR: No, that's incorrect. 20 THE CHAIR: You didn't fill out this 21 template. 22 DR. ADAM AMADOR: No. We were asked to 23 provide this template before April 14th, not 24 produce -- I don't have any communica- -- 25 THE CHAIR: You don't have to produce the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">183</p> <p>1 Dr. Russell on 4/17. 2 She says, "Can you propose specific 3 documents in Column C that you would submit to show 4 compliance? Is the last line in Column B, 'Provide 5 an internal self-assessment...' -- it goes on and 6 says, "...is the proposed documentation. What would 7 that self-assessment look like? Is there a form you 8 would use?" (Verbatim.) 9 I don't know. Are we going to create that 10 together, or -- 11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: No. I think she said 12 you please provide. It is the "What is..." -- 13 DR. ADAM AMADOR: It says, "Propose 14 specific documents." But, I mean -- 15 THE CHAIR: Dr. Amador, I think I can make 16 it more clear for you. 17 So, for example, in this very first -- 18 first finding that you have, in the fourth one, 19 "Provide an internal self-assessment of controls 20 related to payroll liabilities." 21 What she's saying is that before 22 April 14th, which is the due date, you should have, 23 in this Column C right here, "Documents Submitted in 24 Epicenter," "Provide an internal assessment of 25 control..." -- that's what your -- you propose that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">185</p> <p>1 document, Dr. Amador. You have to write what you 2 will be producing in the future. 3 DR. ADAM AMADOR: That was communicated -- 4 THE CHAIR: The evidence of those things. 5 DR. ADAM AMADOR: Yes, ma'am. I 6 understand that. That was communicated with us 7 after April 14th. 8 THE CHAIR: I hate to do this to you. But 9 we do have other schools who have filled this out. 10 And not a single other school has had that issue of 11 filling out the template. 12 DR. ADAM AMADOR: I'm just -- as far as 13 I'm concerned, in working with CSD and working with 14 PEC, I want to be very thorough and exactly what is 15 expected, because I don't want to run into the last 16 eight months of what I've been dealing with. 17 THE CHAIR: That's what we're trying to 18 teach you. 19 DR. ADAM AMADOR: I have been in 20 communication with Dr. Russell. We have been in 21 communication with everybody. And I even e-mailed 22 her, like, "Epicenter is not working. What do we 23 do"; right? 24 My thing is I don't have a problem putting 25 anything in there. But I want to make sure that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">186</p> <p>1 we're doing it right, and that's it. I understand 2 the task. I'm just saying nothing was late. We 3 did -- this is what we proposed, and she asked us to 4 submit it in an Excel format.</p> <p>5 And I know -- you know, Chris had the 6 information. I didn't. But, you know, all I'm 7 saying is we can do whatever you need us to do. We 8 don't have to drag it out. That's where I'm at.</p> <p>9 THE CHAIR: Can I ask you -- so, really 10 quick, just to clarify, when was this document 11 e-mailed to CSD?</p> <p>12 DR. ADAM AMADOR: I guess -- it looks like 13 he put it in 4/17. I don't think we could get ahold 14 of him. Because I have my e-mails from Dr. Russell 15 saying we could not -- there was nothing in 16 Epicenter for us to download. And she asked me to 17 get with Chris. And I think Chris was out of town 18 that day. So if I'm not mistaken, they got it 4/17.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: Okay. I mean, this is 20 where -- there's two different issues, Dr. Amador. 21 I want to make it really clear. There's one about 22 submitting it on time.</p> <p>23 Just to clear this up, I could understand 24 if there was, like, an Epicenter issue. It was due 25 on the 14th, and something went wonky, and it ended</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">188</p> <p>1 throughout the next year, that's really the gaping, 2 missing part for us that's going to make it very 3 difficult for us to -- like, we can't approve this 4 today for you, so now we've got to bring you back 5 again.</p> <p>6 If you need an example of exactly what 7 we're looking for, we are -- I mean, we're going to 8 be looking at Estancia Valley right after this. So, 9 like, I would encourage you, if you want to stay on, 10 because you'll see what theirs looks like, just so 11 you can see an example of what our expectations were 12 for today and why we're saying that this is 13 insufficient for us for today for this meeting.</p> <p>14 So I don't want to conflate the two 15 issues.</p> <p>16 DR. ADAM AMADOR: I understand. I 17 understand. And, like I said, what I was looking 18 for, again, because of the situation we found 19 ourselves in with you guys, is more guidance, which 20 you have been providing to other schools.</p> <p>21 So I want to make that clear. We're not 22 here to not comply. But, you know, from -- I'm 23 going through my e-mail, and I'm going through the 24 minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>25 This wasn't asked for. That's all I'm</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">187</p> <p>1 up coming on the 15th. I get it. But the 17th is 2 still three days late, even after that.</p> <p>3 So I do think this wasn't timely. We -- 4 it can be corrected in the future, and we can move 5 on; right?</p> <p>6 Now, the second part is the PEC has looked 7 at this and feels like it's insufficient for what we 8 need to be able to vote to support you today. And 9 there's two parts that we have that are missing in 10 this.</p> <p>11 And this has nothing to do with CSD, the 12 work with them. This is just the expectations that 13 we have for schools when they're filling this CAP 14 out. There's no evidence -- like, what evidence are 15 you going to provide for these things in Column C? 16 And that should be filled out.</p> <p>17 And then the due dates need to be 18 considered as not just up through this fiscal year, 19 but through the next fiscal year as well. So that 20 would need to be corrected.</p> <p>21 But that's something we actually could 22 have done. If it's just the due dates, we could 23 have fixed that and moved on today. But having the 24 documents -- and it's basically the evidence that 25 you're going to provide for all these items</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">189</p> <p>1 getting at. We can produce it. I don't mind coming 2 on next month, either, to go over this, and we'll be 3 in a better position to.</p> <p>4 We did as asked. That's where I'm at. 5 I'm not going to stay on and watch another school. 6 I can walk across, and me and Chris can fill it out, 7 and we'll resubmit it to Dr. Russell.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: Okay. So I think it's still 9 to the imperative of the Commission. If we want to 10 ask Dr. Amador to go ahead and just fill this out 11 and do it next month, we have that option. Or, once 12 again, we can just move it over to CSD.</p> <p>13 With Dr. Amador talking like that, I'm 14 more inclined to, "Yeah, go ahead and fill it out, 15 submit it to us," not move this to CSD, and still, 16 once again, be able to just move on, get this done.</p> <p>17 I would say actually -- one question I 18 have. I was actually going to propose if we were 19 going to give it to CSD, because of the -- because 20 how little time there is between now and the 21 May meeting to have to put it on the June calendar.</p> <p>22 But I wonder, Dr. Amador, one thing we can 23 ask of you that maybe you can help us with, is if 24 you would be able to fill this out by the 25 May meeting, that would help us to get it through</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">190</p> <p>1 and move it faster.</p> <p>2 DR. ADAM AMADOR: I can move it across to</p> <p>3 Chris. Dr. Russell, maybe we can schedule a meeting</p> <p>4 Monday or Tuesday next week. We'll put everything</p> <p>5 in for you, and then she can resubmit it to you</p> <p>6 guys. I would rather do it that way. So you know</p> <p>7 I'm cooperating -- I'll be honest with you. It may</p> <p>8 be my miscommunication. I was pretty tired after</p> <p>9 the last meeting.</p> <p>10 But we have no problem getting it done and</p> <p>11 to your guy's standards. Dr. Russell, if that's</p> <p>12 okay with you, on May 5th, if we meet May 5th or</p> <p>13 6th, that way, that gives everybody enough time to</p> <p>14 make time, and then we'll have everything done.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: We'll talk about that offline.</p> <p>16 Commissioner Brauer?</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Thank you,</p> <p>18 Madam Chair. I -- I wanted to just, like, share</p> <p>19 that I think -- I'm in favor of giving the school</p> <p>20 and Dr. Amador and his team some time to get this</p> <p>21 figured out and to, you know, work with Dr. Russell</p> <p>22 where necessary.</p> <p>23 And I just don't want to go through</p> <p>24 another process of -- I guess my appetite isn't,</p> <p>25 like, you know, to go through another Letter of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">192</p> <p>1 misunderstanding, I'll take responsibility for that.</p> <p>2 Like I said, I don't see us not being able to get</p> <p>3 this done ASAP.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: I got the sense you're walking</p> <p>5 on eggshells right now. Like, I hear you. I don't</p> <p>6 want you to feel like that. But, also, we just want</p> <p>7 to make sure we get it done right. So we'll move</p> <p>8 on.</p> <p>9 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We're just going to</p> <p>10 move this to the May meeting.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: You guys want me to read the</p> <p>12 motion? Does anyone else? It does need to be a</p> <p>13 motion.</p> <p>14 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Are we just moving</p> <p>15 this -- can't we just move this vote to the</p> <p>16 May meeting? Why do we have to take an action on it</p> <p>17 now? Because we're not accepting the CAP. We're</p> <p>18 saying he's going to fill it out, and we'll</p> <p>19 hopefully accept the CAP in May. So why take a vote</p> <p>20 now on --</p> <p>21 MS. JULIA BARNES: If you want it on the</p> <p>22 record, then you need a motion. If you want to</p> <p>23 table it and move it forward without there being</p> <p>24 that documentation, you can skip that.</p> <p>25 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We're trying to do a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">191</p> <p>1 Concern and go through that process. And I think</p> <p>2 there's an opportunity for us to build bridges here</p> <p>3 and to hopefully get past some of the things we've</p> <p>4 seen over the last couple of months that I'm not</p> <p>5 regretting, but I think that -- I think if we can</p> <p>6 figure out a way to do this in a little bit more</p> <p>7 collaborative way, I'm more in favor of that so that</p> <p>8 we can just get down to the business of supporting</p> <p>9 students and schools.</p> <p>10 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So I don't want to</p> <p>11 drag this to June, for sure. So I think if we sent</p> <p>12 the letter -- here's my -- if we sent the Letter of</p> <p>13 Concern, the school would end up answering what they</p> <p>14 can answer now. So we're just, like, doubling what</p> <p>15 the school would have to do, because they're going</p> <p>16 to have to answer the Letter of Concern, and they</p> <p>17 would answer it by filling out that form.</p> <p>18 Why not just allow them to fill out the</p> <p>19 form? Because our May meeting is for a week -- we</p> <p>20 have a week less time between now and our</p> <p>21 May meeting -- I'm way more comfortable in letting</p> <p>22 the school just fill it out, and, hopefully, we can</p> <p>23 close the door on this at the May meeting.</p> <p>24 DR. ADAM AMADOR: And, Madam Chair, this</p> <p>25 is Dr. Amador. Again, if there was a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">193</p> <p>1 good faith that they're going to have it done. I</p> <p>2 would prefer not to have a record of this lateness.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: All right. Dr. Amador, we're</p> <p>4 going to go ahead and just ask you to -- we're going</p> <p>5 to put the same exact item on the agenda next month</p> <p>6 and just ask you to go ahead and work with</p> <p>7 Dr. Russell on the timing of it and when we need you</p> <p>8 to make sure and have it done by, and make sure</p> <p>9 you're just clear on exactly what it needs to look</p> <p>10 like and what it needs to have in it.</p> <p>11 DR. ADAM AMADOR: Absolutely, Madam Chair.</p> <p>12 Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: All right. Thanks.</p> <p>14 All right. Same item. We're on Item b.,</p> <p>15 Estancia Valley Classical Academy.</p> <p>16 Dr. Russell.</p> <p>17 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>18 Burt and Commissioners.</p> <p>19 Estancia Valley Classical Academy's</p> <p>20 proposed Corrective Action Plan addresses the --</p> <p>21 addresses the findings appropriately, and agrees</p> <p>22 with their proposed documentation and their due</p> <p>23 dates for findings 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8.</p> <p>24 The proposed documentation for Findings 3</p> <p>25 and 4 is more than CSD recommends. I think this</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">194</p> <p>1 would be -- I appreciate the schools wanting to go 2 above and beyond. But it seems like they're 3 creating a lot of work for themselves. And I don't 4 know that those quarterly submissions of all those 5 documents in Epicenter would be the best use of 6 their time.</p> <p>7 CSD proposes streamlining the process by 8 having our consultant, Ms. Seeley, consult an 9 on-site visit in May to review bank reconciliations 10 and signatures in March and April, as well as 11 journal entries signed off by the director and 12 governing council members so that those don't have 13 to be scanned and uploaded.</p> <p>14 For Finding 2, the school's executive 15 director should review all vendor activity in the 16 current fiscal year to date to determine if any 17 vendor services are likely to exceed \$60,000. If it 18 appears that vendors are nearing the threshold, the 19 school should issue an RFP for those services to 20 avoid that finding next year.</p> <p>21 If, at the close of FY25, no vendors were 22 paid in excess of the threshold, the school should 23 submit -- CSD recommends the school submit an 24 assurance to that effect. And if such an assurance 25 cannot be made because payments were made in excess,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">196</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 4 THE CHAIR: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary votes yes. 6 Commissioner Beck. 7 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 9 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 11 Clahchischilliage. 12 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor. 14 (No response.) 15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor. 16 (No response.) 17 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 18 Manis. 19 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Perfect. The vote is 21 nine -- eight-zero. 22 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. The motion 23 passes. 24 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Chair, this is 25 Commissioner Brauer. I vote yes as well.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">195</p> <p>1 than the school should submit quarterly reports of 2 vendor activity next fiscal year.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck. 4 COMMISSIONER BECK: I just want to applaud 5 Estancia Valley on Document 9.b.1. That's fully 6 filled out, and that really shows all the 7 documentation and the times and the due dates. So 8 that was well thought-out, well planned, and that 9 gives us something to really dig our teeth into.</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: Okay. Any other? 11 (No response.) 12 THE CHAIR: All right. I'll go ahead and 13 make a motion. 14 I move that the Public Education 15 Commission adopt the Corrective Action Plan for 16 Estancia Valley Classical Academy without changes.</p> <p>17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 18 THE CHAIR: Motion and a second. Any 19 comment on the motion? 20 (No response.) 21 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, Commissioner 22 Carrillo. 23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner -- 24 Commissioner Obenshain. 25 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">197</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Oh, my gosh. I'm 2 sorry. Because I knew you were here, and I forgot 3 -- I'm sorry, Alan. It's nine-zero. 4 THE CHAIR: Item No. 12, Update and 5 Discussion on Implementation Year Process. Who's 6 doing this one? 7 MS. MELISSA BROWN: That is me. 8 THE CHAIR: Ms. Brown. 9 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I will let the 10 Commission know that we did lose Commissioner 11 Taylor. Or we don't have Commissioner Taylor or -- 12 sorry. Commissioner Taylor has left the room. 13 All right. So I have two documents in 14 the -- in the Google Drive for you. One is a 15 summary report; one is a detail report. 16 I'm sharing the summary right now. 17 Equip Academy, the team has provided all 18 of the elements of both the November checklist and 19 the March checklist. There are a few items on the 20 March checklist that we're waiting for them to 21 rework and provide to us. 22 Overall, the school is very responsive, 23 and we don't have any concerns. 24 Right now, the only outstanding item we 25 have for Equip Academy is their internal control</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">198</p> <p>1 procedures, which I did just take back to them 2 yesterday. Lovely policies. Lovely, lovely 3 financial policies. No real indication of how the 4 internal controls will be done or when the internal 5 controls will be done. 6 Sacramento School of Engineering and 7 Science. The team has provided all elements of the 8 November checklist. There were nine items returned 9 for clarification, and all of the concerns or 10 suggestions were incorporated by -- when would that 11 be? -- March 26th -- not 2035 -- but 2025. Sorry 12 about that. 13 The team provided all the elements for the 14 March checklist. Seven items returned, and they 15 have incorporated all of those suggestions, and they 16 have no outstanding. 17 Sun Mountain Community School provided all 18 the elements of the November checklist. Nine items 19 were returned for clarification. Only six items 20 have been addressed as of the 18th of March. There 21 is still one item, the board calendar -- oh, no. 22 That was addressed by April 16th. There are still 23 two items outstanding as of the 16th. 24 So, overall, you know, there's things that 25 need -- there's a lot of things that need revisions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">200</p> <p>1 May checklist, you know. I've never had this 2 situation before, where -- since 2017, I've never 3 had a school that didn't resolve all of the issues 4 before the next checklist was due. 5 I would like to propose at a different 6 meeting maybe some language that could be added for 7 the Implementation Year Checklist, that things have 8 to be resolved before the next checklist so that 9 there can be more -- we don't have these continuing 10 things. That's my -- 11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: That's a good idea. 12 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck. 13 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. You know, I 14 mean, it is concerning enough that there were two 15 items from the March checklist. But for three items 16 from the November checklist, I mean, here we're 17 sitting five months later. 18 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Yes. 19 COMMISSIONER BECK: That would raise red 20 flags to me, big time. Big time. Did they have 21 any -- I mean, is anybody here who could explain why 22 the -- 23 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Zoe was here earlier. 24 She has been working on the issues. So -- 25 COMMISSIONER BECK: I'll just make a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">199</p> <p>1 for Sun Mountain. So we're working with them on 2 getting all of that in. 3 And, like I said, I have a detailed report 4 in there as well, which I can go over, or if you 5 have any questions. 6 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any questions? 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I would say, based on 8 your conversations and the information that you 9 received, Missy, are there areas that you have a 10 special lot of concern for? It's now the end of 11 April. 12 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Yes, Commissioner -- 13 Commissioners, Commissioner Burt, Commissioner 14 Carrillo. Yes. 15 I am -- I have taken a more direct 16 response with the items that are still outstanding, 17 in that I am giving explicit, "This is what we're 18 looking to see," and I'm giving them explicit 19 language in hopes that I can eliminate any potential 20 confusion as to what we're looking for. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: We're looking for? I 22 mean, they understand at this point, I mean, the 23 urgency of all of this because we're headed into 24 summer. Okay. 25 MS. MELISSA BROWN: Yes. They have the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">201</p> <p>1 comment. I don't have to ask a question. Thanks. 2 MS. MELISSA BROWN: So that concludes my 3 part. 4 THE CHAIR: Any other questions? 5 (No response.) 6 THE CHAIR: I don't think so. Okay. 7 We'll go to Item 13, then, Discussion and 8 Possible Action to Approve Contracts and Associated 9 Documents for '25-to-'30 Contract Term. 10 So these will be -- we are going to be 11 removing Items b) and f) today. So these two 12 schools, they hadn't -- we didn't get their 13 documentation of their board votes yet. So they'll 14 just be on another meeting in the future, once we 15 get that. 16 b) and f). So DEAP and SABE. 17 If you all don't mind, we're going to go 18 ahead and just rip through these motions. Does that 19 sound good? 20 All right. All right. 21 THE CHAIR: I move that the Public 22 Education Commission approve the charter contract 23 and exhibits, including the performance framework, 24 for The ASK Academy, identified in Agenda Item 13, 25 for the 2025-2030 charter term.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">202</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 2 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second. 3 Any discussion? 4 (No response.) 5 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, Commissioner 6 Carrillo. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 8 Obenshain. 9 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 11 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 13 THE CHAIR: Yes. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Secretary Carrillo, 15 yes. 16 Commissioner Beck. 17 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 19 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 21 Clahchischilliage. 22 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor, 24 I think, was off now; right? Yeah. 25 And Commissioner Manis.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">204</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 3 Obenshain. 4 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 6 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 8 THE CHAIR: Yes. 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Carrillo votes yes. 10 And Commissioner Ingham. 11 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 12 THE CHAIR: And Commissioner Beck. 13 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Great. Nine-zero. 15 THE CHAIR: Great. 16 I move that the Public Education 17 Commission approve the charter contract and 18 exhibits, including the performance framework, for 19 Monte del Sol Charter School, identified in Agenda 20 Item 13, for the 2025-2030 charter term. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Second. 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 23 There's a motion and a second by 24 Commissioner Carrillo. Roll. 25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">203</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 3 Brauer. 4 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Terrific. That's a 6 vote of nine to zero. 7 THE CHAIR: Item c). 8 I move that the Public Education 9 Commission approve the charter contract and 10 exhibits, including the performance framework, for 11 The MASTERS Program, identified in Agenda Item 13, 12 for the 2025-2030 charter term. 13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 14 THE CHAIR: All right. There's a motion 15 and a second by Commissioner Gipson. 16 Comments? 17 (No response.) 18 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, Commissioner 19 Carrillo. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Brauer. 21 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 23 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 25 Clahchischilliage.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">205</p> <p>1 Carrillo is a yes. 2 And Commissioner Beck. 3 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 5 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 6 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 7 Clahchischilliage. 8 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 10 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Brauer. 12 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 14 Obenshain. 15 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 19 THE CHAIR: Yes. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Nine-zero. 21 THE CHAIR: All right. I move that the 22 Public Education Commission approve the charter 23 contract and exhibits, including the performance 24 framework, for Sacramento School of Engineering and 25 Science, identified in Agenda Item 13, for the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">206</p> <p>1 2025-2030 charter term. 2 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 3 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion 4 and a second by Commissioner Gipson. Roll? 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 6 Obenshain. 7 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 9 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 11 THE CHAIR: Yes. 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Carrillo is yes. 13 Commissioner Beck. 14 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 16 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 17 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 18 Clahchischilliage. 19 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 21 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 23 Brauer. 24 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: It's a nine-zero as</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">208</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Carrillo 2 votes yes. 3 Chair Burt. 4 THE CHAIR: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Vice Chair 6 Gipson. 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 8 THE CHAIR: And Commissioner Obenshain. 9 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: By a vote of nine to 11 zero. 12 THE CHAIR: Item f). I move that the 13 Public Education Commission approve the charter 14 contract and exhibits for Tierra Encantada Charter 15 School, identified in Agenda Item 13, for the 16 2025-2030 charter term. 17 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 18 THE CHAIR: A motion and a second by 19 Commissioner Gipson. 20 Seeing no comment, roll. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 22 Obenshain. 23 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 25 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">207</p> <p>1 well. 2 THE CHAIR: I move that the Public 3 Education Commission approve the charter contract 4 and exhibits, including the performance framework, 5 for Tierra Adentro School of Academics, Arts and 6 Artesania, identified in Agenda Item 13, for the 7 2025-2030 charter term. 8 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 9 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second 10 by Commissioner Gipson. 11 Comments? 12 (No response.) 13 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, roll. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Brauer. 15 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 17 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 19 Clahchischilliage. 20 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 22 Ingham. 23 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Beck. 25 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">209</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt. 2 THE CHAIR: Yes. 3 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Carrillo votes yes. 4 Commissioner Beck. 5 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 6 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham. 7 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 8 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner 9 Clahchischilliage. 10 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 11 THE CHAIR: And Commissioner Manis. 12 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Brauer. 14 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Secretary Carrillo. 16 I know that got real fun for you towards the end. 17 All right. That'll take us to Item 14, 18 Discussion and Possible Action on Forms and 19 Protocols. 20 Ms. Barnes, are you -- am I sending it to 21 you to lead this one? 22 MS. JULIA BARNES: Anyone from the Policy 23 Committee, I'm happy to introduce it and send it 24 over to you all. 25 So the Policy Committee looked at the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">210</p> <p>1 change to the personnel form, particularly for the 2 business manager. There was then a conversation 3 based on a suggestion by CSD as to whether it made 4 sense to have three separate forms or to have one 5 combined form. 6 And I think that's the conversation that 7 you should have. The issue is I think the ease of 8 uploading it to Epicenter versus a suggestion from 9 the schools that might make sense. So both are 10 there for you to consider, either three separate 11 forms or one. 12 It's the second reading. So you can take 13 a vote on this one, if you're ready to. 14 THE CHAIR: All right. I would be happy 15 to go to CSD for your recommendation. 16 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Good afternoon, 17 Chair Burt, Commissioners. 18 I know that Ms. Barnes said that the 19 schools suggested one. The schools we're talking to 20 actually want three. They sometimes get confused 21 and don't send in the proper documentation for the 22 entity who is of question in the form. 23 So -- and because Epicenter wants to 24 separate them out, I strongly recommend that the 25 Commission vote for three separate forms.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">212</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Yes. 2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Carrillo votes yes. 3 Commissioner Ingham. 4 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis. 6 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Yes. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And Commissioner 8 Clahchischilliage. 9 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Swell. That nine to 11 zero. 12 THE CHAIR: That motion passes. So there 13 will all be three. 14 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Do you want me to 15 do -- 16 THE CHAIR: Actually, I was going to have 17 Ms. Barnes lead us through d. and then -- so a., b., 18 c., we're good. But we're on Item d., Review of the 19 Contract Negotiation Protocol. 20 MS. JULIA BARNES: Sorry. I think there's 21 a couple of more documents at this first reading. 22 The bylaws change. That's all right. We -- I just 23 combined a. with all of those, so it wasn't a., b., 24 and c. 25 So 14.b., there was a suggestion by one of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">211</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions from 2 Commissioners? 3 (No response.) 4 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, I'll be happy to 5 make a motion. All right. 6 I move that the PEC adopt the changes to 7 the personnel forms, separated by type of personnel, 8 provided in the meeting materials for Item 14. 9 COMMISSIONER BECK: Second. 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion 11 by Chair Burt and a second by Commissioner Beck. 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So this is 14.a.; is 13 that correct? 14 THE CHAIR: Right. 14.a. 15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: We're combining all 16 three. Got it. Okay. Just want to make sure. 17 All-righty. So Commissioner Obenshain. 18 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. 19 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Brauer. 20 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Beck. 22 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yes. 23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson. 24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yes. 25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">213</p> <p>1 our schools to take a look at the timing for 2 submitting documents, if there was a bylaw change. 3 And the issue was timing as to whether the school 4 could get the form in to you in a timely way and 5 still attach board minutes. So it was just a 6 logistical timing. 7 The Policy Committee looked at it -- this 8 is the first reading -- and suggested that instead 9 of attaching board minutes, they could just have an 10 assurance that they looked at that issue and are 11 submitting it to you. That eliminates getting draft 12 board minutes and final board minutes. So it just 13 speeds up the process for the school. 14 So the changes to the form -- and, again, 15 it's first reading for discussion -- is that this 16 now also has an assurance form in it, and you do not 17 have to attach board minutes because the assurance 18 is in the document itself. 19 So just put in the representatives below, 20 which is the school representative and the governing 21 board chair, provide an assurance that the 22 information in this document is true and correct. 23 That could be confirmed later if somebody needed to 24 go check the board minutes. But I think an 25 assurance is sufficient here.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">214</p> <p>1 The only thing I'll add is we require 2 board approval for the contract, because that's a 3 really important document, once every five years. 4 But for something that's more simple, the Policy 5 Committee has suggested doing an assurance. You 6 won't vote on that today, because it's a first 7 reading. 8 THE CHAIR: So b. and c. -- well, they're 9 two different forms. We're looking at the exact 10 same issue and basically same exact language changes 11 on both. Any comments on this? 12 (No response.) 13 THE CHAIR: Okay. So no comments. We'll 14 go for a second reading and possible vote next 15 month. And that way, if schools want to have any 16 comment between now and then, we can. 17 Director Chavez. 18 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Commissioners, 19 Chair Burt, the only -- I like this, and I know the 20 school will be happy that they don't have to wait 21 for the timing with their board minutes. The only 22 question I have is when Ms. Barnes was speaking, 23 there was some tentative language about "go back 24 later and double-check." 25 And I just -- I don't know if that's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">216</p> <p>1 And there already has been a lot of work 2 for, like, renewals and those kind of things. But 3 there hasn't been one, and it's kind of developing 4 for the contract protocol. So there was a desire to 5 go ahead and put one together. 6 This is based on what we have done over 7 the last couple of years; although, if you recall, 8 the Vice Chair is the one that could kind of -- does 9 control the process in a year. So this isn't 10 something that I think we're looking to have you 11 approve. But it's something that could be posted. 12 This also answers another question, which 13 is you have schools that need to know the 14 contracting process early on. But they don't know 15 if they've been renewed or not. 16 I think there was some concern about are 17 we making any kind of a comment to a school if we're 18 asking them to look at this. 19 This document is posted. Anybody can look 20 at it. Anyone can see it. There's no assurance. 21 There's no comment. There's no nothing as to what 22 action you're going to take at renewal. 23 So I think it also resolves another action 24 that was kind of a concern. 25 And then it -- it pretty clearly</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">215</p> <p>1 something that -- she said they could sign the 2 assurance for this, and then the board minutes would 3 come out later, and whether or not you all would 4 want for us to go back and double-check -- I just 5 wanted clarity on PEC thoughts about that. I wasn't 6 sure if she was suggesting that's what we do. 7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: No. I believe the 8 Policy Committee's recommendation was if there 9 ever -- if a question ever came up down the road 10 about whether that actually did happen, there was 11 the opportunity to be able to go to the record of 12 the board minutes. But it wasn't something that was 13 being required, that CSD staff has to, every month, 14 go and check on that month's changes. 15 But if there ever was a question, if it 16 arose, you can -- anyone -- anyone can go back and 17 look at the board minutes and say, "Yes, that 18 actually did happen." 19 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Thank you. 20 THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. So we'll go 21 ahead and go to 14.d. 22 MS. JULIA BARNES: There has been kind of 23 a general request, in particular, when developing 24 the Record of Performance to have protocols for 25 everything and kind of what the process is.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">217</p> <p>1 identifies exactly when the schools are going to be 2 asked to do something. There's four or five times 3 when we need something back from them. This is an 4 attempt to make it super clear to them. 5 Particularly, you just passed 22 schools. But out 6 of 22 schools, that's a lot of follow-up. "What 7 about this," you know. 8 So this is an attempt to get into 9 calendars early. You'll see, though, you haven't 10 set your calendar for the next year, so the dates 11 are tentative. So we're kind of threading a little 12 bit of a needle. But it's -- I think the Vice Chair 13 has looked at it. I have looked at it. I think 14 that CSD has looked at it. 15 And, actually a lot of them are being 16 implemented this year. So there's a pretty clear 17 handoff as well for when the contract is finished to 18 when CSD takes over in implementing the new year. 19 That's actually being implemented now. As soon as 20 we get the contract signed off by the Chair of both 21 the PEC and the school, then CSD takes over. 22 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So this was -- this 23 was something that -- this was not something that 24 the Policy Subcommittee looked at. This was just 25 something that CSD, Brigitte, in particular, spent a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">218</p> <p>1 lot of time organizing, so that we're better 2 prepared for next year. 3 And it was my recommendation to the EC 4 that it didn't require a vote, but it should be 5 certainly public -- it's important for 6 Commissioners. 7 You've got a school renewing in your 8 district, and someone calls you and says, "Hey, when 9 is -- what do I have to do next year?" 10 You've got this guideline to show them 11 this is what the process is, and this is the dates, 12 you know, that we're targeting, so that everyone is 13 much clearer going forward in this process as to 14 when things are going to happen. 15 So I really think this is -- this is 16 really important. And I know it took a lot of work 17 to get it done. So I appreciate everyone's effort 18 in getting this done. 19 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any questions 20 or comments? We're definitely getting ahead of 21 the -- ahead of schedule. This is great. It's 22 exciting. 23 Oh, go ahead. Commissioner Obenshain. 24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yes. So I guess 25 my question is this is -- it looks like more than a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">220</p> <p>1 And I think that our experience again and 2 again is that sometimes schools are like, "Oh, I 3 didn't get -- I didn't know you needed mission 4 goals." Or, "I didn't know..." -- whatever it is. 5 So this is something that we're thinking 6 will also be posted online as an informational 7 document. And then when your dates are actually 8 set, we might have to go in and revise those dates a 9 little bit, actually. 10 You're pretty consistent. But Agenda 11 Item 13, you decided you weren't going to do 12 contract negotiations in March; you were going to do 13 them in April. Then we redo the date. 14 And then it also, I think, surprises 15 schools how much you have to backwards-plan in order 16 to get the negotiating teams, which I'm counting you 17 guys for every time you show up is several hundred 18 people that end up reviewing all these documents. 19 We're also preserving a large period of 20 time. I know that Dr. Russell said before, "Oh, 21 we've got to way backdate these dates." And then 22 that can take schools by surprise. So we're trying 23 to correct that. 24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: So, then, in the 25 sense of providing this to the public on the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">219</p> <p>1 calendar for the contract. It looks like the whole 2 shebang; is that right? Or am I missing something? 3 MS. JULIA BARNES: It's a calendar for -- 4 well, it's a description of the entire process for 5 contracting, not the renewal. 6 You know, it does start with the renewal 7 application being submitted. But there's a whole 8 series of dates and things already posted on the 9 website that identifies all the renewal application 10 stuff. 11 This is that -- Commissioner, that is 12 exactly why we wanted to get ahead of this is they 13 do overlap a little bit. If you're just thinking 14 about renewal, and you're not thinking about your 15 contract at all, you had better be -- you really 16 ought to be thinking about kind of both of them. 17 And I think that there was -- it's 18 difficult to kind of find that -- do that line. But 19 there is not much in here about the renewal; there's 20 much more about the whole contracting. 21 But what you are correct in is it's not 22 just the contract. It's the performance framework. 23 It's the mission goals. It's your condition. It's 24 all of the things that come out of it. So it's a 25 much bigger packet.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">221</p> <p>1 website, I would see some value in -- and I don't 2 know if we need to do that right now. But in terms 3 of the discussion of breaking it out by 4 responsibility, by who has the respons- -- if I was 5 a school, and I looked at this, I would say, "Oh, my 6 gosh. That's a heck of a lot of stuff I've got to 7 do." 8 But when you look at who's doing it, it's 9 not as overwhelming, I think. 10 I'm not opposed to having both. But it 11 might be easier for a school to come to that and 12 see, "Here are the school's responsibilities 13 for..." -- maybe another tab that has -- just cuts 14 all of the ones that are school and puts them there. 15 Do you know what I'm saying? 16 MS. JULIA BARNES: We tried to do them in 17 blue. If that's not clear enough to you -- 18 THE CHAIR: Are you saying to create -- 19 like, one other document that's just the school's 20 responsibilities? Like, have this all combined, 21 that's fine. But that's internal -- yeah, sure. 22 That way, a school -- they don't need to know what 23 CSD's responsibility, when they have to -- none of 24 their business. When you're a school, you just want 25 to see yours, so you're not overwhelmed by -- I get</p>

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1 what you're saying.

2 MS. JULIA BARNES: Yeah. But the -- I
3 think that's a good point. But, for example, the
4 Technical Assistance Webinar is something, like, on
5 line 8, that's something that schools will attend.

6 THE CHAIR: If it's something that the
7 school is going to participate in, then it would be,
8 like, "This is what you need to know," that's super
9 clear for them and not convoluted by the PEC is
10 going to have a renewal hearing.

11 "Okay, fine. I need to know my part."

12 MS. JULIA BARNES: That's a good point.
13 And then, actually, it's not just the
14 responsibility. Because maybe it's not just CSD;
15 it's CSD and the school.

16 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I think that's a real
17 easy fix.

18 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ingham.

19 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I have one little
20 question, and I'm sure I'm just ignorant. But on
21 line 26, it says, "PEC vote on April 17th." What
22 are we voting for?

23 THE CHAIR: That's a tentative date,
24 again, on the contract. Like, we just voted on the
25 contracts in Item 13. It's that.

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1 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: We could just say
2 "PEC votes on contracts."

3 THE CHAIR: Probably April TBD. Put
4 April. Until we have a calendar, let's not put any
5 dates at all on things that are going to be on our
6 calendar for sure, until we know it, and then
7 populate them in there.

8 This is only like one little bit of this,
9 because it's only line 18, and it's not broken out
10 into it. One thing I'm wondering. Over the past
11 several years now, during contract negotiations
12 compared to the first year I was on, like the
13 negotiation itself was lengthy. Like, everything
14 was a little -- like, it just took a long time.

15 Now these negotiations are, like -- they
16 are fast, you know. They are happening quick. They
17 are -- some of them take a little bit longer. But
18 it's very streamlined now. Over the last three,
19 four years, it has become very streamlined, to where
20 these contract negotiations are pretty quick.

21 The contract -- there haven't been changes
22 in the contract, so it's not difficult. So, like,
23 we're all on the standard template.

24 I'm just wondering if there's a world in
25 which we don't do in-person, two-hour-long meetings

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1 with three schools a day. Do Zoom. Focus in on
2 what we need to do, and not take so long.

3 And it may just be the next year's
4 Vice Chair can consider it or whatever.

5 But it just seems like there's a lot of
6 wasted time doing these contract negotiations, not
7 just on us. But even the schools, just from having
8 to drive up from all over the state, you know, all
9 those different things. So just maybe something to
10 consider, because there is a lot of wasted time.
11 So, poor thing, having to doing that for two weeks
12 in a row.

13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Well, I consider that
14 part of my job. So I didn't feel overburdened by it
15 personally. I figured that was part of my job. I
16 remember the world in which the contract negotiation
17 team went to the school and the negotiations
18 happened at the school, so the school didn't have
19 to -- and the school could actually have more
20 people, board members and so on, participate.

21 I'm of the mind, for the most part -- and
22 we have fewer schools next year. But I'm of the
23 mind that I do -- it's one of the -- I think there's
24 a benefit to the face-to-face with the schools and
25 the people that come up. I really do.

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1 I think there's those conversations that
2 happen, and I think it's beneficial to
3 Commissioners. Especially if they're new
4 Commissioners, it's one more opportunity to really
5 interface with the school that they normally
6 don't -- that they normally don't get to.

7 So I've never -- you know, I've never
8 considered it a burden to have to do this. And I've
9 appreciated the opportunity to -- to meet with the
10 schools.

11 So -- but it's not -- you know, I don't
12 think that's something we need to hard-line at this
13 point in time.

14 COMMISSIONER BECK: Agree. And I agree
15 with Vice Chair. I got to see these people. The
16 more I get to know them, the more I can interact
17 with them. But I don't know if we can do three in a
18 day. We can probably do four in a day, easily. So
19 if it was something that -- that's something for the
20 new Vice Chair, whoever that might be, to
21 contemplate.

22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: There were I think at
23 least two that did go long. So that's -- you know,
24 that's always the difficulty is you never know when
25 something might -- you know, I think for sure, if

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1 we're looking at new schools, they need a little
2 more time often than a school that -- you know, if
3 you're looking at a school that, if we had expedited
4 renewal, would most likely -- they would have gotten
5 expedited renewal, we don't need a lot of time with
6 them.

7 But I think those are decisions that can
8 be made down the road.

9 THE CHAIR: All right. That'll take us
10 to -- we're actually going to skip down real quick
11 and just do PCSNM's report real quick.

12 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Thank you,
13 Chair Burt, for allowing me to go a little bit
14 early. I need to take Mr. Ahner down to Albuquerque
15 so he can catch a flight. So thank you for letting
16 me do that, a little report-out on PCSNM. We had an
17 amazing legislative recap and the facility day the
18 very next day, and now helping, working with
19 Commissioner Carrillo and Corina working on the
20 charter school conference, so very excited about
21 that.

22 We have a new round of the CSP that opened
23 up. We're now in Round 3. Our pipeline is still
24 very robust. We had fifteen schools apply for this
25 round. So it continues to be in high demand.

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1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So this is 15 schools
2 for expansion.

3 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Expansion,
4 yes. For this Round 3, we'll have one new -- no,
5 take that back. We have four expansion awards and
6 three new school awards to give.

7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Okay.

8 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: And we'll see
9 what happens with the new schools, and if there are
10 any that are approved in August, that's when they'll
11 go in and apply for those awards.

12 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: But there will only be
13 three awards possible.

14 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Correct.

15 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Okay.

16 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: That's all I
17 have. Any questions?

18 THE CHAIR: Any other questions?

19 (No response.)

20 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you. Safe
21 travels.

22 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Thanks.
23 Thanks.

24 THE CHAIR: All right. That'll take us to
25 Item 15 -- okay. 15.a., Charter Performance.

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1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So we've -- so we have
2 an ongoing conversation about expedited renewal
3 coming out of the performance framework group. And
4 looking at the Bellwether organization and looking
5 at how they look -- because they have a very robust
6 process for expansion and schools that are -- so we
7 feel that we can hopefully partner in some fashion
8 with them to help us -- I don't think it's -- I
9 don't think it's going to take a lot to get to the
10 what does expedited renewal look like.

11 I think we're more looking at what the
12 process of renewal is. So I think we're -- we're in
13 a good place. And we don't have to make that
14 decision right away, because we've got this cushion
15 of time with the schools just coming on in each
16 contract. So we've got to be thoughtful for it.

17 So we have nothing to bring forward to,
18 you know, a work session at this point in time for
19 that. But, hopefully, I would like to see something
20 by no later than September, I'm hoping, for that.
21 But we'll see.

22 We're continuing the conversation with
23 Epicenter to -- to see how they're going to be able
24 to do that Record of Performance and what those
25 prior years look like in terms of being able to

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1 access that through Epicenter so that you can get
2 that concise look at it.

3 So I think we're -- we're moving forward
4 fairly quickly with this.

5 Okay.

6 THE CHAIR: All right. Budget?

7 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Well, I wasn't able --
8 the last budget subcommittee, I was actually -- I
9 wasn't in a good web -- I wasn't in good Internet,
10 and I actually got bounced out and I couldn't get
11 back in. I was not home.

12 THE CHAIR: We're going to come back to
13 that, 'cause I'm going to have to rack my brain.

14 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Because I could not
15 hear 95 percent of it. Yeah. Yeah.

16 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'm going to come back
17 to that, because let me --

18 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I really can't respond
19 to it at all.

20 THE CHAIR: Policy. Obenshain.

21 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: So I -- we had a
22 meeting yesterday where we discussed a number of
23 issues. Probably, most importantly, is a look at
24 the MOU that was -- that is currently with PED and
25 talked about potential language change there and

<p style="text-align: right;">230</p> <p>1 maybe reduction of some of the asks. 2 I'm not sure we're ready to share that at 3 this time. But we will bring it forward when it's 4 appropriate. How is that? 5 The other thing, I just wanted to thank 6 Deputy Director Russell for her responsiveness to 7 questions that we had with regard to the academic 8 templates. And I think we all do feel confident, 9 after speaking with her and hearing what she -- what 10 her process is, is that we're here with a new 11 consultant and a new vendor that we'll feel very 12 comfortable with what comes out of that. 13 So thank you for that quick response and 14 for your continued work. 15 Anybody else want to add something from 16 our conversation? 17 THE CHAIR: All right. I'm going to go -- 18 oh. 19 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So I'm going to bring 20 it up just -- because I mentioned this to, I think, 21 Ms. Burt earlier. For the May meeting, in a work 22 session, to have the MOU on in the work session of 23 the May meeting. 24 THE CHAIR: We'll talk about that another 25 time. All right.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">232</p> <p>1 the schools, they want to spend their money and get 2 it. We're keeping our fingers crossed for that one. 3 We -- you all got the e-mail from Consuelo 4 about some branded PEC logo shirt. That way if 5 you're out on a school visit or out in the 6 community, if you want a branded shirt, you have the 7 ability, if the Budget Subcommittee approves that as 8 an expense for the Commission. 9 FY26 budget planning, we started taking a 10 look at that forecasting. 11 Director Chavez is going to provide us 12 with a draft, based off of our expenditures this 13 year. What we have next year, we're going to get a 14 draft of what that looks like, and we'll be 15 proposing that to the entire Commission very soon. 16 So that's our next step there. 17 We do have an ask in to PED, to ASD on how 18 they have spent their portion of the 2 percent 19 funds. So that detailed explanation that we've 20 gotten in the past that says, you know, "This is the 21 salaries, these are the programs it's going to, 22 we're ideally hopefully presenting that to you all 23 very shortly as well to be able to -- so you can 24 have access to that transparency. 25 That's really it. Those were the big</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">231</p> <p>1 I'm going to go back real quick to Budget. 2 Once again, so grateful how we're doing 3 subcommittees, and how cool the staff is for keeping 4 such good notes for us and keeping track of things. 5 I'm very grateful for how it's working right now. 6 So grateful. So thank you for that. 7 Then I didn't have to rack my brain. In 8 Budget Subcommittee we did review special projects 9 and what that IGA looked like. And one of the 10 thing -- all right. 11 All right. Okay. So we talked about the 12 special projects. And, actually, there's -- while 13 we awarded a lot, a lot of the expenditures haven't 14 been coming in yet. So the REC, Corina, they've 15 been on top of -- they've been diligent about 16 reaching out to the schools all the time. 17 "Spend this money." "Spend this money." 18 "Get us the receipts." "Let us reimburse you." 19 I'm sure it's going to be about 20 June 29th -- I think we said like June 6 or 21 something. It's earlier in June. I'm sure that's 22 when the receipts will start coming in is right at 23 the deadline. It looks really scary right now with 24 how little has actually been pushed out. It's a 25 little scary. But I do think -- I'm trusting that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">233</p> <p>1 updates. We'll get you more -- there will be more 2 to come, like more tangible information next month 3 is what we're expecting. 4 All right. Now we're down -- Legislative. 5 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: We have not met. But 6 I know there are two things that have, I think, been 7 put on our plate. So we will have to meet soon. 8 I think there was transportation, once 9 again, and building facilities, so that we will have 10 to start meeting so that we've got ourselves 11 together. 12 You know, it's a 30-day, so it's going to 13 be crunchy to try to get something in. But we will 14 have to start on that in the next couple of months. 15 So I'll call a meeting soon. 16 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Can I comment on -- 17 THE CHAIR: I think unless you all have 18 met already and talked about it, you probably 19 shouldn't present to all of us. 20 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: All I'm going to say 21 is I'm really disappointed in what happened at this 22 session and that our -- we -- and it's kind of a 23 shame that -- I think we left too much on PCSNM's 24 plate. And, frankly, we can't blame them. We need 25 to be proactive and be on it.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">234</p> <p>1 And I'm just going to say I probably only 2 have one more session left unless I choose to run 3 again. I had some high expectations. And I 4 really -- I feel like we have to have a certain 5 amount of urgency about this. It is a short 6 session. We need to get our bills -- the stuff we 7 need, we need to have sponsors, and we need to get 8 them ready and going and up. 9 THE CHAIR: Sounds like a perfect 10 subcommittee meeting. 11 Let's go ahead and keep going. 12 Board Awards. Commissioner Carrillo. 13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: As Commissioner 14 Ingham was saying, yes, it's good for a committee 15 meeting. It definitely is. But what -- 16 THE CHAIR: This is an update meeting. 17 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'm building on what 18 he was saying. 19 THE CHAIR: So the protocol should be that 20 a committee -- subcommittee -- meet and then 21 provides an update. Subcommittee is going to meet. 22 They can provide an update next month. Those are 23 exactly the kinds of things you guys are going to 24 discuss, ideally develop a plan on what you're going 25 to do.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">236</p> <p>1 month? 2 THE CHAIR: We can do this off-line. 3 Okay. 4 All right. Indicators of Success. We did 5 meet. We'll actually be -- our next meeting will be 6 in Atlanta next month. 7 We -- right now, the process that we're in 8 is creating what's called an asset map and figuring 9 out what resources are already out to the schools 10 for all the different indicators that we have 11 developed. 12 So there's a survey that went out that 13 Director Chavez is sending out to, like, the whole 14 charter community. Not just charter leader -- 15 charter community. Who's doing what for schools? 16 What are you providing? What resources do you have? 17 So that's really going to be the next part 18 of our iteration. 19 We really are anticipating -- when we come 20 back from Atlanta, when we come in June, we're 21 really hoping, June-July meetings, we're going to 22 have a robust plan of what this looks like. 23 We are anticipating -- because of that 24 timing, we are anticipating the first year is going 25 to be a pilot year, where schools can opt in, start</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">235</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I would echo what he 2 said. It's disappointing that one senator from the 3 southern part of the state and the temporary interim 4 secretary -- 5 THE CHAIR: It's not on our agenda right 6 now. 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: -- completely wreck 8 our politics. 9 We're extending it to May 1st. I would 10 ask Ms. Brown, how many -- how many -- we keep 11 extending it, and May 1st is it. It is "it" it. 12 MS. MELISSA BROWN: May 1st is "it" it. I 13 was just checking. We have 16 responses. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Swell. Good. 15 Nothing to shake a stick at. Great. We've chosen 16 the actual awards, so things are moving right along. 17 The next time we meet, which is -- I probably -- I 18 don't have my book. When? 19 MS. MELISSA BROWN: First Tuesday of the 20 month. 21 SECRETARY CARRILLO: First Tuesday. The 22 only reason I'm looking is because May is kind of 23 that crazy month for all of us, because every school 24 is doing lots of incredible stuff. All right. 25 That's Friday. You said the first Tuesday of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">237</p> <p>1 using the tool, maybe get access to additional 2 funding because they're opting in. 3 But we don't anticipate the Indicators of 4 Success program being effective -- an effective date 5 until July 1 of next year. So we want to push it 6 hard to get you guys. But then we will have a pilot 7 year is what we're anticipating because of the 8 timing. 9 COMMISSIONER BECK: Is this all going to 10 be housed on Epicenter? 11 THE CHAIR: It should be, yeah. So it 12 will just be -- we'll talk about it. But, 13 basically, there will be that indicators form that 14 governing boards fill out. They'll be submitting 15 that on Epicenter to CSD. And we won't have access 16 to that is what we're ideally working towards. 17 Okay. Reports from PEC Liaisons. LESC? 18 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: There's still been no 19 meeting until probably June. 20 THE CHAIR: We'll correct this on the next 21 agenda. But I'm LFC. And, yeah, no one is meeting. 22 Did the Indian Education Advisory Council 23 meet, Commissioner Clahchischilliaage? 24 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. We 25 meet every third Wednesday of the month. And this</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">238</p> <p>1 past meeting was mainly a recap of what happened 2 after Legislature and how a lot of the bills 3 impacted Indian education, and a lot of internal 4 information on what they needed to do to address a 5 lot of the concerns they had from the Session. 6 So it was mainly internal, a lot of 7 internal issues. That's it. 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you. All right. The 9 next one is Commissioner Ingham, PSCOC. 10 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. We met 11 yesterday for a special meeting for the Hobbs 12 schools. We have -- it's been pretty rigorous since 13 the Session. There's a lot of accounting that PSFA 14 has to attend to with what the Legislature kind of 15 laid in their lap. They just gave us a quick brief 16 overview of that right now. 17 But the reality is is that we're in a time 18 of turmoil in PSFA and -- so right now, we have 19 awarded many projects. And SODA is still on the 20 NMCI, top ranking, most -- school most in need of 21 replacement. And so they're going to be a case 22 study for us to see how we're going to interface and 23 how we're going to interject ourselves into the 24 PSCOC's agenda. And so I'm feeling like I'm going 25 to have to be a lot more assertive in the future in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">240</p> <p>1 open in the authorizing team. We lost our -- we 2 lost our finance analyst position. Ken Norris moved 3 to another area within the PED, so that is open. 4 We have a vacant -- that actually should 5 be "authorizing administrator" position, because we 6 are reworking it. And then -- and so that's two 7 positions that are open under Dr. Russell's team, 8 the authorizing team. 9 I still have not been able to fill the 10 financial coordinator position. I was having a 11 conversation earlier with Eric and Mike Vigil before 12 they left in how New Mexico continues to suffer from 13 people that have financial expertise. And so we're 14 short 40 percent of the school budget analysts on 15 the second floor at the PED. So it's really hard to 16 find people that have financial experience. 17 Happy to report that Missy's team, the TA 18 and Technical Assistance team, is fully staffed. 19 And that is it for the Charter Schools Division -- 20 for the Charter Schools Division org chart. 21 In terms of preparations for new school 22 applicants, next Monday is the final training that 23 we will have for folks that submitted their Notices 24 of Intent. That will be the fourth training. And 25 it will be a focus on how to submit the applications</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">239</p> <p>1 that committee. Thank you. 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner 3 Ingham. 4 Commissioner Manis. NMPSIA. 5 COMMISSIONER MANIS: I attended the 6 meeting, but nothing significant to report. 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 8 NMSBA. Commissioner Carrillo? 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Nothing to report -- 10 yeah, nothing to report. 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And Commissioner 12 Taylor is -- 13 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Is no longer with us. 14 THE CHAIR: -- is no longer with us. 15 All right. And we have not had 16 conferences. 17 THE CHAIR: So we're on to Director 18 Chavez. Report from Charter Schools Division and 19 Discussion. All yours. 20 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Awesome. Thank 21 you, Commissioners. 22 My first report is on Charter Schools 23 Division organizational chart. And I will share 24 screen for that. 25 We have a couple of positions that are</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">241</p> <p>1 via Epicenter, because Epicenter is all set up to be 2 able to receive those applications and for reviewers 3 to be able to review the applications within 4 Epicenter. 5 And we've had trainings that have walked 6 the schools through their -- the charter application 7 kit and where we've learned a little bit more about 8 the schools. At a third training, when we were 9 talking to the schools, one of the things I wanted 10 to let you know is that the Las Cruces International 11 STEAM Academy changed its name to "Inspira." That's 12 the Las Cruces school. So they will be submitting 13 under a different name. 14 We did have a deadline for the schools to 15 submit their facilities master plan. And there was 16 one school that did not submit their master plan, 17 which means they should be ineligible to submit the 18 application. And we can inform them about their 19 ineligibility. 20 Otherwise, the other schools are coming. 21 They still say they're going to apply. There's one 22 that said that they wanted to apply with APS and one 23 that might apply with -- with Santa Fe Public 24 Schools. But, otherwise, the others are still 25 saying that they are committed to submitting an</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">242</p> <p>1 application in June.</p> <p>2 Meanwhile, Ms. Barnes and I have been</p> <p>3 working to post a call for external peer reviewers,</p> <p>4 and we've received several applications. We'll be</p> <p>5 looking at those next week as we must also prepare</p> <p>6 the reviewers to use Epicenter and to ensure the</p> <p>7 consistency across the review teams, if there is, in</p> <p>8 fact, more than one review team.</p> <p>9 And we've decided that it's not good for</p> <p>10 any reviewer to review more than two applications,</p> <p>11 because then it just becomes overwhelming. June is</p> <p>12 really pretty intense in terms of the level of</p> <p>13 review and documentation that they have with the</p> <p>14 application -- applications that they read.</p> <p>15 In your -- any questions on either of</p> <p>16 those things before I move to the next item?</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Just that is the one</p> <p>18 school that didn't have their master plan, is that</p> <p>19 the school in Las Cruces? Or is it different?</p> <p>20 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: It's a different</p> <p>21 school. I mean --</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: What NOI is it? It's the NOI</p> <p>23 from ReS Academy.</p> <p>24 MS. MELISSA BROWN: No. It's the one from</p> <p>25 Clovis.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">244</p> <p>1 It's not like an e-mail where anybody can send</p> <p>2 something.</p> <p>3 Epicenter needs to know the e-mail address</p> <p>4 of the entity that's going to upload. They're just</p> <p>5 going to create space for those entities to upload,</p> <p>6 not just anyone. So they would need to engage with</p> <p>7 us. And that one school has not showed up or been</p> <p>8 in touch to say that they're not.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: What school is that?</p> <p>10 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: That's the ReS</p> <p>11 Academy, R-e-S Academy. They've submitted a Notice</p> <p>12 of Intent for a couple of years and not submitted an</p> <p>13 application.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: If you don't mind,</p> <p>15 which one is going to go to APS?</p> <p>16 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yes. Andalusia.</p> <p>17 MS. MELISSA BROWN: No. It's Andalusia</p> <p>18 School. And then the Santa Fe Public -- the one for</p> <p>19 Santa Fe Public Schools would be Sundance</p> <p>20 Montessori.</p> <p>21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah.</p> <p>22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay.</p> <p>23 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Any other</p> <p>24 questions?</p> <p>25 Okay. So we're getting ourselves ready to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">243</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: It's the one from Clovis?</p> <p>2 Okay.</p> <p>3 MS. MELISSA BROWN: The ReS Academy had</p> <p>4 submitted a facilities master plan last year that is</p> <p>5 still valid.</p> <p>6 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: Yeah. That's</p> <p>7 right. That school is not -- that leader has not</p> <p>8 been attending the trainings. We don't --</p> <p>9 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I understand that one</p> <p>11 dropped out entirely. Were there eight to start?</p> <p>12 One dropped out entirely, and now we have the one</p> <p>13 that didn't fulfill their obligation, bringing it</p> <p>14 down to six?</p> <p>15 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: There are still</p> <p>16 eight. But one told us they would go with</p> <p>17 Albuquerque Public Schools. One has not showed up</p> <p>18 to any of the trainings at all. It doesn't mean</p> <p>19 they won't submit. They still can. We're hoping if</p> <p>20 they plan to submit, they go to Monday's training,</p> <p>21 because I believe that you all would not accept an</p> <p>22 e-mailed application.</p> <p>23 Our application kit clearly says to upload</p> <p>24 into Epicenter. And we would be gathering the</p> <p>25 e-mails -- 'cause it's not just going to be open.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">245</p> <p>1 read applications. And so the final, Item c) in my</p> <p>2 report is outcomes of the Legislative Session. And</p> <p>3 there's 17.c. The document is in your -- in your</p> <p>4 materials.</p> <p>5 And, basically, this shows bills that went</p> <p>6 through and were signed. And my lens was really, in</p> <p>7 addition to providing you all a summary and links to</p> <p>8 the bills themselves so you can read them, was what</p> <p>9 are the implications for the compliance checklist.</p> <p>10 And, really, it looks like there's two</p> <p>11 items. And you can tell with the red font in the</p> <p>12 status column that there's the anti-distraction</p> <p>13 policy in schools, where the schools need to adopt a</p> <p>14 wireless communications policy that prohibit the use</p> <p>15 of a wireless device during instructional hours.</p> <p>16 And that has to be published to the school's</p> <p>17 website.</p> <p>18 And then the student water safety</p> <p>19 guidance, which is one that has governing bodies of</p> <p>20 the charter schools adopting guidance for parents</p> <p>21 that promote water safety.</p> <p>22 (Off-mic discussion.)</p> <p>23 DIRECTOR CORINA CHAVEZ: There was one</p> <p>24 that gave a longer -- that gave a longer timeline</p> <p>25 for charter schools. And that is the -- let's see.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">246</p> <p>1 Which one is it?</p> <p>2 Oh, yeah, the defibrillators in -- it says</p> <p>3 every high school, but then one of the amendments</p> <p>4 made it K-through-12 schools. And most schools have</p> <p>5 to start this next year. But charters don't need to</p> <p>6 start till the following year, '28. So we'll keep</p> <p>7 that in mind for that year's.</p> <p>8 You can read the analyses to see if it</p> <p>9 offers any money attached to it. Yeah.</p> <p>10 You know, when I was in New York, they</p> <p>11 required defibrillators in schools. That was one of</p> <p>12 the things on our checklist when we were monitoring</p> <p>13 schools. It's not uncommon. It's a safety issue.</p> <p>14 So the final item is an item that the</p> <p>15 Executive Committee has that asked that I start</p> <p>16 going. But I need to plug my computer in real</p> <p>17 quickly. Well, hopefully, it won't go out. And the</p> <p>18 schools were informed that I would let you all know</p> <p>19 that I was mentioning them.</p> <p>20 So the first school is South Valley</p> <p>21 Prep -- thank you so much. South Valley Prep got a</p> <p>22 letter from the Department of Justice, a disposition</p> <p>23 that says that they -- of the four complaints, the</p> <p>24 Department of justice found one IPRA violation</p> <p>25 because the school did not respond to -- to having</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">248</p> <p>1 Drive, you can get more information. There's a link</p> <p>2 to a letter that the Secretary sent to ACES</p> <p>3 Technical expressing concerns for data reporting and</p> <p>4 compliance and the Notice of Potential Enforcement</p> <p>5 it related to that.</p> <p>6 So there continues to be a concern.</p> <p>7 There were a couple of other e-mails that</p> <p>8 I was cc'd in with concerns around compliance. But</p> <p>9 I think this is not a new issue.</p> <p>10 And that is it.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Director Chavez.</p> <p>12 Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Can we have, for your</p> <p>14 report next month, TMP. There are, like, eleven</p> <p>15 special ed things. I would like an update on what's</p> <p>16 happening with their special ed Corrective Action</p> <p>17 Plan.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Okay. Any other questions for</p> <p>19 Director Chavez?</p> <p>20 (No response.)</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: All right. Report from the</p> <p>22 Chair and Discussion.</p> <p>23 Yes, I have none to report at this time.</p> <p>24 No. 19, any Discussion or Possible Action</p> <p>25 to Provide Input to Chairs or Liaisons to speak on</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">247</p> <p>1 the 15-day requirement.</p> <p>2 And so that -- that case is closed.</p> <p>3 There's no more that we would be discussing around</p> <p>4 the South Valley Prep Department of Justice</p> <p>5 investigation.</p> <p>6 The Montessori Elementary and Middle</p> <p>7 School, I let you all know before that they were on</p> <p>8 a special ed Corrective Action Plan, and that action</p> <p>9 plan has been completed. So you will not hear any</p> <p>10 more about them.</p> <p>11 This month, we had two schools that we</p> <p>12 were notified about that there was pending special</p> <p>13 ed investigations. That's New Mexico School for the</p> <p>14 Arts and Explore Academy-Albuquerque.</p> <p>15 Just this morning, I got notification that</p> <p>16 there is -- that the investigation is closed for</p> <p>17 Explore Academy-Albuquerque with a Corrective Action</p> <p>18 Plan in place and six items that they will need to</p> <p>19 address.</p> <p>20 Albuquerque Bilingual Academy, we received</p> <p>21 notification about a campus safety issue. And we</p> <p>22 were notified about that at the end of last month.</p> <p>23 ACES Technical, there is a letter. And if</p> <p>24 you go to the document that is the meetings</p> <p>25 materials document in the PEC -- in the PEC Google</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">249</p> <p>1 Behalf of the PEC. Anybody need that today?</p> <p>2 (No response.)</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: All right. Next one. PEC</p> <p>4 Comments, No Discussion or Action Taken.</p> <p>5 Any PEC comments?</p> <p>6 (No response.)</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: All right. Last one,</p> <p>8 Discussion of New Business Topics for the Next</p> <p>9 Agenda.</p> <p>10 Is there anything anyone wants to bring up</p> <p>11 now, you don't want to have to e-mail it to the EC</p> <p>12 later? You can propose an item of an agenda, a</p> <p>13 shirt-wearing day and protocol. We can spend a lot</p> <p>14 of time discussing this; okay?</p> <p>15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I would like, on the</p> <p>16 work session for the May meeting, the MOU.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Yeah. We already have that</p> <p>18 planned. That's the subcommittee will proposal</p> <p>19 that. Uh-huh.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I know the</p> <p>21 subcommittee is working on it. But it will be in</p> <p>22 the work session and on the agenda.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: We'll make the recommendation</p> <p>24 for that.</p> <p>25 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay.</p>

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1 THE CHAIR: Okay. All right. We're
2 adjourned.

3 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:27 p.m.)
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1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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6 I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified
7 Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby
8 certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true
9 transcript of proceedings had before the said NEW
10 MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the State
11 of New Mexico, County of Santa Fe in the matter
12 therein stated.

13 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
14 hand on May 7, 2025.
15
16
17

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on May 7, 2025.

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