

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

July 18, 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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<p>2</p> <p>1 APPEARANCES</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONERS:</p> <p>3 REBEKKA BURT, Chair</p> <p>4 PATRICIA GIPSON, Vice Chair</p> <p>5 STEVEN J. CARRILLO, Secretary</p> <p>6 TIMOTHY E. BECK, Member</p> <p>7 STEWART INGHAM, Member</p> <p>8 K.T. MANIS, Member</p> <p>9 SAM S. OBENSHAIN, Member</p> <p>10 MICHAEL TAYLOR, Member</p> <p>11</p> <p>12 STAFF:</p> <p>13 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL Interim Director</p> <p>14 Charter School/Options for</p> <p>15 Parents and Families Division</p> <p>16 LUCY VALENZUELA Authorizing Practices</p> <p>17 Administrator</p> <p>18 Charter School/Options for</p> <p>19 Parents and Families Division</p> <p>20</p> <p>21 MELISSA BROWN Deputy Director</p> <p>22 (MISSY) Charter School/Options for</p> <p>23 Parents and Families Division</p> <p>24</p> <p>25 CONSUELO CONSTANTINE Liaison to the NMPEC</p> <p>26</p> <p>27 COUNSEL TO THE PEC:</p> <p>28</p> <p>29 JULIA HOSFORD BARNES, ESQ.</p> <p>30 Barnes Mediation and Law, PC</p> <p>31 200 W. DeVargas Street, Suite 7</p> <p>32 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501</p> <p>33</p> <p>34</p> <p>35</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS, Continued</p> <p>2 PAGE</p> <p>3 16 Adjourn 89</p> <p>4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 90</p> <p>5 ATTACHMENTS:</p> <p>6 1 List of Attendees</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
<p>3</p> <p>1 INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 PAGE</p> <p>3 1 Call to Order, Roll Call, 5</p> <p>4 Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the</p> <p>5 New Mexico Flag</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 2 Approval of Agenda 6</p> <p>8</p> <p>9 3 Public Comment 6</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 4 School Highlights and Spotlight 16</p> <p>12</p> <p>13 5 Consent Agenda 17</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 6 Discussion and Possible Action on Item(s) 18</p> <p>16 Removed from the Consent Agenda or That</p> <p>17 Are Monitored to Ensure Compliance with</p> <p>18 Minimum Contract Requirements -</p> <p>19 Not Addressed</p> <p>20</p> <p>21 7 Introduction of New Head Administrator 18</p> <p>22</p> <p>23 8 Discussion and Possible Action on 20</p> <p>24 ACES Technical Charter School Facility</p> <p>25 Amendment Request</p> <p>26</p> <p>27 9 Discussion and Possible Action on Altura 23</p> <p>28 Preparatory School Food Service Amendment</p> <p>29 Request</p> <p>30</p> <p>31 10 Discussion and Possible Action to Elect 59</p> <p>32 New PEC Secretary</p> <p>33</p> <p>34 11 Report from Charter Schools Division and 61</p> <p>35 Discussion</p> <p>36</p> <p>37 12 Report from the Chair and Discussion 69</p> <p>38</p> <p>39 13 Discussion and Possible Action to Provide 80</p> <p>40 Input to Chair or Liaisons to Speak on</p> <p>41 Behalf of the PEC</p> <p>42</p> <p>43 14 PEC Comments, No Discussion or Action 84</p> <p>44 Taken</p> <p>45</p> <p>46 15 Discussion of New Business Topics for 84</p> <p>47 the Next Agenda</p> <p>48</p> <p>49</p> <p>50</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Good morning. It's 9:01 a.m.</p> <p>2 And I will go ahead and call this meeting to order.</p> <p>3 Secretary Carrillo, if you can call roll.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>5 Obenshain.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Here.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Manis.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER MANIS: Here.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Vice Chair Gipson.</p> <p>12 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Here.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Chair Burt.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Here.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Carrillo is here.</p> <p>16 Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER BECK: Here.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Here.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Commissioner</p> <p>21 Clahchischilliage.</p> <p>22 (No response.)</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Not yet.</p> <p>24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. We have eight</p> <p>25 present.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: And all present.</p> <p>2 All right. If I could ask everyone to</p> <p>3 stand up and say the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute</p> <p>4 to the New Mexico Flag.</p> <p>5 (Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the</p> <p>6 New Mexico Flag conducted.)</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any changes to the</p> <p>8 agenda from any Commissioners?</p> <p>9 All right. Seeing none, I'll move for</p> <p>10 approval of the agenda.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Second.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second.</p> <p>13 Any discussion?</p> <p>14 (No response.)</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Seeing no discussion,</p> <p>16 all in favor, say Aye.</p> <p>17 (Commissioners so indicate.)</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: All opposed?</p> <p>19 (No response.)</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: The ayes have it.</p> <p>21 That will take us to Item 3, Public</p> <p>22 Comment, and I'll turn that over to Lucy.</p> <p>23 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: So good morning,</p> <p>24 Commissioners. There are five people registered for</p> <p>25 public comment, all online.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1 violations is unacceptable.</p> <p>2 The PEC and PED have an obligation to</p> <p>3 enforce compliance, ensure governance</p> <p>4 accountability, and uphold public trust in</p> <p>5 New Mexico charter schools. Turning a blind eye to</p> <p>6 Alma's blatant disregard for legal requirements is a</p> <p>7 dereliction of duty.</p> <p>8 Despite prior guidance from the DOJ, Alma</p> <p>9 continues to violate law, including improper or</p> <p>10 misleading notices, inaccessible postings, vague and</p> <p>11 misleading agendas, illegal votes on items not</p> <p>12 properly noticed, repeated failures to follow bylaw</p> <p>13 and policy amendment procedures, polling board</p> <p>14 members outside meetings, and unlawfully conducting</p> <p>15 executive sessions.</p> <p>16 Policies are changed without meetings or</p> <p>17 transparency, minutes omit documentation, required</p> <p>18 contracts and policies are excluded from posted</p> <p>19 agendas, directly violating Alma's bylaws, which</p> <p>20 mandate these materials be available to the public</p> <p>21 72 hours in advance.</p> <p>22 Although Alma has removed public comment</p> <p>23 from meetings, the webcasting and archiving statute</p> <p>24 clearly states, quote, "Live audio and video</p> <p>25 webcasts of governing body meetings shall be</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 The first one is Jana Holguin.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. If I could just</p> <p>3 make sure -- when you're coming online, make sure</p> <p>4 you can turn on your camera, and we will be happy to</p> <p>5 see you.</p> <p>6 FROM THE PUBLIC: I'm unmuted. But there</p> <p>7 wasn't the place to turn on the camera. It just</p> <p>8 gave me the unmute.</p> <p>9 THE CHAIR: Okay. One second.</p> <p>10 FROM THE PUBLIC: Okay. My name is Jana</p> <p>11 Holguin. J-a-n-a. Last name, Holguin,</p> <p>12 H-o-l-g-u-i-n.</p> <p>13 Good morning. I submitted a formal</p> <p>14 complaint regarding Alma to both the PEC and PED on</p> <p>15 March 19, 2025, documenting violations of the OMA,</p> <p>16 the webcasting and archiving statute, charter school</p> <p>17 assurances, and more.</p> <p>18 Along with clear supporting evidence, when</p> <p>19 will these violations be investigated, and when can</p> <p>20 I expect an actual response back beyond "Received"?</p> <p>21 When will the PED and PEC fulfill their</p> <p>22 legal responsibilities as authorizing and compliance</p> <p>23 bodies tasked with ensuring Alma operates in</p> <p>24 accordance with its charter and state law. Your</p> <p>25 continued inaction in the face of well-documented</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 accessible through the Charter Schools website and</p> <p>2 shall include a user interface that allows members</p> <p>3 of the public to submit written or verbal comments."</p> <p>4 These actions breach transparency, public</p> <p>5 accessibility, and legal procedure. By impeding</p> <p>6 public access to governance decisions, Alma's</p> <p>7 governing council not only undermines public trust,</p> <p>8 but also violates both State law and Alma's own</p> <p>9 internal process. This raises serious concerns</p> <p>10 about whether other elements of Alma's governance</p> <p>11 are being conducted illegally at all.</p> <p>12 I am urging you now. Do your job.</p> <p>13 Enforce compliance. Do not allow Alma's pattern of</p> <p>14 noncompliance to continue unchecked year after year</p> <p>15 without consequences. Just because the governing</p> <p>16 council and the PEC have chosen --</p> <p>17 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Ms. Holguin, your</p> <p>18 time is up.</p> <p>19 FROM THE PUBLIC: These violations are not</p> <p>20 helping.</p> <p>21 There's also someone on the mobile chat</p> <p>22 that wants to speak, but they don't know how to sign</p> <p>23 up.</p> <p>24 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Yes. The next</p> <p>25 person to speak is Leonard Baratta.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 FROM THE PUBLIC: Hi. Good morning. 2 My name is Leonard Barrata, and I am a 3 board member of the ACES Tech Charter School. I'm 4 part of the parent teacher organization. 5 And the reason I'm speaking today is to 6 throw my support to the additional building that is 7 being proposed to be opened a few miles from the 8 school where it's currently at. 9 The school is growing. And, you know, I 10 see firsthand, my son, who is a third-grader -- 11 going to be a third-grader this year -- and would be 12 affected by this new building proposal. And I 13 wholeheartedly support that, because the -- like I 14 said, the school is growing. 15 We -- the space and the classrooms are 16 getting cramped. But I also want to continue the 17 encouragement of having a lab, where there is 18 after-school activities. There's also a music 19 program in one of the classrooms. 20 So there's just -- we're just running out 21 of rooms. And having a second building also 22 tailored to the younger student body makes the most 23 sense. 24 So that is -- I'll just conclude my 25 comments there. And thank you for your time.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 participated in events, dances. Everything that the 2 school administrator offered, he participated in. 3 All the teachers have been so supportive. 4 They've been wonderful. 5 So it wasn't my son. It was the school. 6 It was the administrator. And it was the dean of 7 students. 8 I also found out one of my neighbors, his 9 grandson, attended Alma Arte last year. And, again, 10 there was an incident of bullying by the dean of 11 students, so bad where he's in therapy. 12 You already have one student unalive 13 himself because of the bullying and the tormenting. 14 Do you really want another student to have to go 15 through that? 16 Numerous parents have complained to you 17 guys, and yet you still have done nothing at all. 18 You give them little taps on the wrist. Not even 19 slaps. They're little taps. 20 It's disgusting that parents have to 21 actually come and complain and try to get something 22 done for our students when, I'm sorry, I thought 23 that was your guys' job to help us. And yet none of 24 you have been able to help us. I'm sorry, not able 25 to. None of you want to help us.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Thank you. 2 So the next speaker is Michelle 3 Griego-Trujillo, and she is the one on the phone. 4 And so she is calling in. We won't be able to do 5 the video for her. But she did sign up before 9:00. 6 FROM THE PUBLIC: Hello. Can you hear me? 7 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Yes. 8 FROM THE PUBLIC: Okay. Do you want me to 9 spell my last name. 10 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Yes, please. 11 FROM THE PUBLIC: G-r-i-e-g-o hyphen 12 T-r-u-j-i-l-l-o. 13 Good morning. It's been a while since 14 I've been here. My son Justin Griego-Trujillo, was 15 a student at Alma Arte (verbatim) Charter High 16 School for two years. In those two years, he was 17 bullied and tormented by the head administrator and 18 the dean of students. I filed numerous complaints 19 and yet nothing was done. 20 When we finally did move my son, he went 21 to New America School. 22 Please tell me how you guys did nothing to 23 Alma Arte. And my son didn't thrive. But in New 24 America, he's been thriving. He even got Student of 25 the Month. He is outgoing now. He's hot. He</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 But, yeah, my son has gone to New America, 2 and it's been wonderful. Alma Arte is a horrible 3 school and should have been shut down a very long 4 time ago. 5 Thank you. I hope you enjoy the rest of 6 your day. 7 THE CHAIR: Okay. The next person is 8 Ms. Barbara Mallard. 9 FROM THE PUBLIC: Hello. Can you hear me? 10 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Yes, we can. Is 11 there an option for you to start your video? 12 FROM THE PUBLIC: Yeah. But my camera is 13 not working. 14 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Okay. That's fine. 15 Make sure to spell your full name for the court 16 reporter. 17 FROM THE PUBLIC: Okay. My name is 18 Barbara Mallard, and I am speaking in behalf of ACES 19 Technical Charter School. I'm a teacher there. 20 And we are in dire need of another 21 building. It is very overcrowded. 22 And we have -- right now, we have the 23 younger students and the older students. And if we 24 get our old building for K through 5, it will allow 25 for much more concentration on the classes and not</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 having to worry about the big kids being loud in the</p> <p>2 hall.</p> <p>3 Also, we'll have -- the plan is to have</p> <p>4 two first-grade teachers, two second-grade teachers,</p> <p>5 and so on. And that will allow for teacher</p> <p>6 collaboration to help -- you know, because we all</p> <p>7 have our strengths, and we all have our weaknesses,</p> <p>8 and we'll be able to collaborate and help each other</p> <p>9 out with that.</p> <p>10 Right now, we're sharing the band room,</p> <p>11 and we'll have to share bathrooms with the older</p> <p>12 kids. Imagine your child was at a school. Would</p> <p>13 you like the older kids around while -- you know,</p> <p>14 there could be bullying and their language and</p> <p>15 things.</p> <p>16 And it's just -- I think it would be a</p> <p>17 betterment for our students and for everybody that's</p> <p>18 involved. And that's why we're there is for the</p> <p>19 students. So I hope you consider letting us have</p> <p>20 the school. And that's all I have.</p> <p>21 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Thank you.</p> <p>22 FROM THE PUBLIC: Uh-huh. Thank you.</p> <p>23 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Okay. The final</p> <p>24 speaker is Janet van Coblijn.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER BECK: Are we ready?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 examples unrelated to this particular situation of</p> <p>2 people in all sorts of positions not following the</p> <p>3 law and doing whatever they want, it is important,</p> <p>4 as citizens of the United States of America, that we</p> <p>5 set the example of what we've all thought was -- was</p> <p>6 our right in a democracy, and that is why we keep</p> <p>7 calling.</p> <p>8 Someone needs to correct this injustice</p> <p>9 and hold these people accountable. And the longer</p> <p>10 it goes on, the more and more people are -- are</p> <p>11 implicated in letting this continue.</p> <p>12 Thank you.</p> <p>13 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Thank you. And this</p> <p>14 concludes public comment.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Lucy. All right.</p> <p>16 That will take us to Item No. 4, School Highlights</p> <p>17 and Spotlights, No Discussion or Action Taken.</p> <p>18 Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER BECK: I just wanted to point</p> <p>20 out, in Sunday's Albuquerque Journal, they had the</p> <p>21 best workplaces to work. And they had large, mid</p> <p>22 sizes, and small.</p> <p>23 Amy Biehl High School came in fourth on</p> <p>24 small area school -- places to work. So I just</p> <p>25 wanted to give a shout-out to that. Thanks.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Janet, are you</p> <p>2 wanting to use the different name that is on the</p> <p>3 call?</p> <p>4 Please raise your hand with the one that</p> <p>5 you want to be promoted as a panelist.</p> <p>6 FROM THE PUBLIC: Okay. Sorry. Technical</p> <p>7 difficulties.</p> <p>8 I wanted to address the overriding</p> <p>9 concern -- good morning to everyone on the PEC and</p> <p>10 the PED and audience.</p> <p>11 My name is Janet van Coblijn. My last</p> <p>12 name is two words: v-a-n C-o-b-l-i-j-n.</p> <p>13 Again, I wanted to address the overriding</p> <p>14 concern that has put a lot of us in this situation</p> <p>15 that is not being addressed. And it is more than</p> <p>16 just Alma d'Arte; it is the fact that the PED and</p> <p>17 the PEC and the Secretary of Education, no one has</p> <p>18 authority over the governance council of the charter</p> <p>19 school when there is malfeasance.</p> <p>20 They can't be dismissed. They can't be --</p> <p>21 they can't be regulated at all. And no action is</p> <p>22 taken. These are private people; they're not</p> <p>23 salaried. Yet they're overseeing taxpayer funds and</p> <p>24 are required to follow the law.</p> <p>25 Even though there are now more and more</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'm excited to</p> <p>3 announce that on Thursday, August 14th, Sun Mountain</p> <p>4 Community School will be opening. And it's -- and</p> <p>5 we'll have the first free, public Waldorf school in</p> <p>6 New Mexico. And just very excited for them and very</p> <p>7 excited for the community of Santa Fe.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. I just wanted</p> <p>9 to do a shout-out to Equip Academy. I drive right</p> <p>10 past there at Costco. They have their signs up;</p> <p>11 they look ready; it looks great. I just wanted to</p> <p>12 do a shout-out to the people at Equip.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: And I'm sure the Alamogordo</p> <p>14 folks are also going to be opening. Good for them.</p> <p>15 All right. Anything else?</p> <p>16 (No response.)</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: All right. Let's take us to</p> <p>18 Item 5, the Consent Agenda. Anything that needs to</p> <p>19 be pulled off of the consent agenda?</p> <p>20 (No response.)</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, I'll move to</p> <p>22 approve the consent agenda.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Second.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Second.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 and a second.</p> <p>2 All in favor?</p> <p>3 (Commissioners so indicate.)</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: All opposed?</p> <p>5 (No response.)</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: The motion passes.</p> <p>7 That takes us to Item No. 7, Introduction</p> <p>8 of the New Head Administrator. And we have Director</p> <p>9 Russell coming up to --</p> <p>10 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: No. For the next</p> <p>11 one, she's online.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: All right. Great. We'll let</p> <p>13 her -- we have Alexis Black, Explore Academy-Las</p> <p>14 Cruces.</p> <p>15 Good morning.</p> <p>16 MS. ALEXIS BLACK: Good morning.</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Thank you so much for joining</p> <p>18 us, and congratulations on your new role. We want</p> <p>19 to take some time for you to introduce yourself to</p> <p>20 the Commissioners. And, then, yeah, thank you for</p> <p>21 being here.</p> <p>22 MS. ALEXIS BLACK: Thank you for having</p> <p>23 me. My name is Alexis Black. I am a Native New</p> <p>24 Mexican. I grew up in Albuquerque, moved to</p> <p>25 Las Cruces to go to college.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 in New Mexico. And for you to have gone to college</p> <p>2 in Las Cruces, I know it's probably giving you good,</p> <p>3 tingly feelings down there and support in the</p> <p>4 community. And it's cool that Explore can have that</p> <p>5 continuity of someone who's already been there,</p> <p>6 knows the system.</p> <p>7 So congratulations. We appreciate you</p> <p>8 taking on the role, even for an interim time. So</p> <p>9 thank you.</p> <p>10 MS. ALEXIS BLACK: Thank you so much.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thanks for coming this</p> <p>12 morning.</p> <p>13 MS. ALEXIS BLACK: No problem.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: All right. Okay. That will</p> <p>15 bring us to Item 8, which is Discussion and Possible</p> <p>16 Action on ACES Technical Charter School Facility</p> <p>17 Amendment Request.</p> <p>18 And, director Russell, all yours.</p> <p>19 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Good morning, Chair</p> <p>20 Burt and Commissioners.</p> <p>21 ACES Technical Charter School requests</p> <p>22 approval to amend its contract to add a second</p> <p>23 location.</p> <p>24 ACES is currently located at</p> <p>25 4501 Montgomery Boulevard in Albuquerque. They're</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 I have been teaching -- or I've been in</p> <p>2 education -- now, this is my 27th year. So I did</p> <p>3 24 years mostly as a high school science teacher</p> <p>4 with a little bit of middle school mixed in.</p> <p>5 In 2022, I moved to Explore Academy as a</p> <p>6 teacher. I spent the last two years as the</p> <p>7 instructional coach, and now I am filling in as the</p> <p>8 interim head admin.</p> <p>9 I am also an HHMI BioInteractive</p> <p>10 Ambassador. So I go out and do professional</p> <p>11 development with them. and I am just super excited</p> <p>12 to be here and to be able to lead this team.</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: Awesome. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Commissioners, any comments? Questions?</p> <p>15 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I just want to --</p> <p>16 Pattie Gipson, District 7.</p> <p>17 So I'm looking forward to meeting you.</p> <p>18 I've heard from your governance council a lot about</p> <p>19 you; so excited. And I know they're excited.</p> <p>20 So looking forward to meeting you when I</p> <p>21 get back to Cruces.</p> <p>22 FROM THE PUBLIC: Absolutely. Let me</p> <p>23 know. We're bound to meet.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Awesome. I always love people</p> <p>25 who are from New Mexico come back, get invested back</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 authorized to serve up to 875 students. But the</p> <p>2 capacity of the building is -- is dramatically less</p> <p>3 than that.</p> <p>4 The capacity of the portion of the</p> <p>5 building that they currently lease is difficult to</p> <p>6 determine. But it is not enough to -- it's not</p> <p>7 large enough to allow their K-through-9 170 students</p> <p>8 from last year to expand into tenth grade and then</p> <p>9 eleventh and twelfth and beyond.</p> <p>10 The proposed amendment would add a new</p> <p>11 elementary campus for grades K through 5 at</p> <p>12 4020 Lomas Boulevard in Albuquerque. The current</p> <p>13 Montgomery campus would serve grades 6 through 10 in</p> <p>14 the current year and, ultimately, grades 6 through</p> <p>15 12. They have hired a second administrator to</p> <p>16 oversee the elementary campus.</p> <p>17 Community input indicates support for</p> <p>18 these separate locations. The second campus will be</p> <p>19 located four and a half miles from the original</p> <p>20 campus, and three school buses will serve both</p> <p>21 campuses.</p> <p>22 At the current enrollment level, there is</p> <p>23 no need to add an additional school bus.</p> <p>24 The amendment analysis includes a map</p> <p>25 showing the distance between the campuses. ACES is</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 designated a traditional school in Vistas. Its 2 proficiencies are higher than both State and 3 district, slightly higher in reading and math, and 4 significantly higher in science. And that's what we 5 would expect from a STEM school. 6 CSD recommends approving the requested 7 amendment. 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And I know we 9 have -- from what I heard this morning, Dr. Campbell 10 may be online. And I heard he's traveling this 11 morning, so he wanted to be here; just unable. 12 So if you have any questions for 13 Dr. Campbell, you can ask. But if there's any 14 questions directed to Dr. Russell -- 15 (No response.) 16 THE CHAIR: Okay. Seeing none, I'm going 17 to go ahead and make a motion. 18 I move that the PEC accept the ACES 19 Technical Charter School facility amendment, as set 20 out in Document 8.a., approving a second location, 21 and make it part of the charter contract. 22 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Second. 23 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second. 24 Any discussion on the motion? 25 (No response.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 the 2025-2026 school year, but not remove the 2 requirement from the contract itself. 3 If the school continues to have barriers 4 to food service for the '26-'27 school year, they 5 can let us know and the PEC can determine whether 6 they want to extend that exemption for another year 7 or not. 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And I'm assuming 9 there's folks online. 10 MS. LUCY VALENZUELA: Yeah. The school is 11 online, and they're on as panelists. 12 THE CHAIR: If you have cameras, turn them 13 on. We can't see you if you don't have your cameras 14 on. 15 FROM THE PUBLIC: We have the camera on, 16 Commissioners. 17 THE CHAIR: Hold on one second. 18 (A discussion was held off the record.) 19 THE CHAIR: Okay. Yeah. Now we can see 20 you. 21 FROM THE PUBLIC: Great. Thank you. 22 THE CHAIR: Good morning. And, 23 Ms. Hindman, if you don't mind -- you might have 24 already been planning it. But just introduce 25 everyone first and then you can start.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, all in favor. 2 (Commissioners so indicate.) 3 THE CHAIR: All opposed? 4 (No response.) 5 THE CHAIR: All right. The ayes have it. 6 The amendment is approved. 7 All right. Item 9. 8 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair 9 Burt and Commissioners. 10 Altura Preparatory school requests an 11 amendment to their charter to discontinue food 12 service. 13 The school request includes the details of 14 why food service is not feasible for them this year, 15 and I will allow the school to explain that in their 16 presentation. 17 From CSD's point of view, food service is 18 an equity issue. I know it is to the Commission as 19 well, and that the Commissioners have been 20 increasingly unwilling to negotiate contracts that 21 do not include food service, whether for new schools 22 or renewing schools. 23 Therefore, the CSD is recommending that 24 the PEC grant a one-year exemption to the 25 contractual provision to provide food service for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Good morning, 2 Commissioners and Chairwoman Burt. Thank you for 3 having us here today to discuss our food service 4 issue. 5 I'm Meghan Hindman. M-e-a-g-h-a-n 6 H-i-n-d-m-a-n. And I'm here with my codirector, 7 Lissa Hines. 8 MS. LISSA HINES: Hi. Lissa Hines. Good 9 morning, everyone. And it's L-i-s-s-a H-i-n-e-s. 10 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: And I am Christine 11 Sargent. I'm the board chair. My name is spelled 12 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e S-a-r-g-e-n-t. 13 Good morning. 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 15 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: So we have our 16 amendment in front of you today. We won't read it 17 to you. 18 But the issue that we have been having 19 with food service is not one that we, you know, 20 have, A, taken lightly, and, B, not done a lot of 21 work around trying to figure out different 22 solutions. 23 We -- when we moved to our location in the 24 2019 school year, we had two lunches, two turns of 25 lunches with 45 kids each in a lunch. And that was</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 in order to accommodate a serving line in our 2 multipurpose space. 3 If we did this now, we would have six 4 lunch periods. We would have three hours of lunch 5 in order to meet the requirements of the Universal 6 Healthy Schools Lunch that was passed in 2023. 7 And this is just something that we're not 8 able to figure out how to accommodate having a 9 serving line. And the vendors that we've worked 10 with also will not continue to provide the 11 individualized meals that they were providing to us 12 during the pandemic and after. And so we're left in 13 this position of not being able to meet the 14 requirements of the Universal School Lunch Meal 15 rule, and now trying to figure out how we make that 16 fit in our facility when the facility doesn't have 17 space. 18 So this is just something that we are -- 19 have still been trying to figure out. We've had 20 four separate consultants or individuals come out 21 and look at the space and help us try to figure out 22 what to do. 23 We had somebody from the PED Wellness 24 Bureau. We had our current vendor. We had a 25 different potential vendor, and then we had a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 can spend \$100,000 to \$200,000 to add that space to 2 our facility. 3 These are all things that we're exploring. 4 But they're not things that are going to be able to 5 happen immediately. And so, again, we just ask for 6 your consideration in helping us with some time to 7 figure out how to meet this -- this requirement. 8 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you. We'll 9 go ahead and go to Commissioner questions. 10 Anyone have any? 11 Commissioner Obenshain. 12 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. My 13 question, really, has to do with -- I'm not 14 intimately familiar with the Universal Health 15 Food -- Healthy Foods Act, whatever you just 16 referenced. And I'm wondering. Is there a way for 17 you to provide meals that are not necessarily 18 hindered by the requirements of the "healthy foods" 19 expectation? 20 So are there other options that you've 21 looked at? For example, not necessarily a specific 22 food vendor, but multiple vendors that would be able 23 to provide -- if one vendor can't provide all of 24 them, have you looked at potentially working with 25 multiple vendors that would provide food service,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 separate consultant come out. And all of them have 2 looked at the space and said, "Yeah, I don't know 3 how you fit this into the space that you have." 4 And in order to meet the requirements of 5 the rule, we have to be able to accommodate that 6 serving line. And so we are going to have to figure 7 out how we can provide the meals to kids who still 8 pack a lunch for school so that we make sure that 9 none of our kids are going to not have a lunch. 10 And that's something that we definitely 11 prioritize. So, you know, we ask for your 12 consideration in helping us with some flexibility 13 for this, with this act. 14 And, you know, we are -- I'd say we've had 15 several conversations before about equity and access 16 in our school and making sure our school is 17 accessible to everybody. And this is something 18 that -- this act has been difficult for us, because 19 we understand the intent of the act. 20 We want to be able to provide meals to 21 every student. However, there are issues of equity 22 with charter schools and access to equitable 23 facilities. We don't have a facility with a 24 kitchen. We don't have a facility with space to 25 even add to a kitchen. We don't have a landlord who</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 but not necessarily meeting the requirements of that 2 healthy food act? 3 I think I'm missing -- I'm not saying it 4 correctly. But -- so, for example, like, when I was 5 running a school, we had different vendors come. We 6 had Subway come in. We had Dion's come in. I don't 7 know -- at that point, we didn't have a requirement 8 for specific nutritional value or even providing 9 that. 10 But I'm just wondering if you've looked at 11 other vendors that, potentially putting together -- 12 putting, you know, multiple vendors together, if 13 that would be able to meet an expectation for 14 providing lunches. I hope I made sense. 15 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yeah. That's a good 16 question. And I think -- to answer your question, 17 we have looked at and spoken with several vendors. 18 Part of the issue that we have come across 19 is that in order to meet the different requirements 20 and the reporting requirements, it's difficult to 21 coordinate those vendors, if that makes sense. 22 And part of the statute says that all 23 public schools that operate the NSLP, the National 24 School Lunch Program and the National School 25 Breakfast Program, will have to follow this</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 Universal Healthy Meals program, and then it follows 2 all of the different requirements.</p> <p>3 And so I think, to your question, this 4 definitely something we can continue to explore 5 (incomprehensible) just be about whether or not 6 vendors have changed their tune.</p> <p>7 But when we last spoke with vendors, a 8 couple of different vendors, it was difficult for 9 them to understand how they were going to meet the 10 requirements as laid out in the statute.</p> <p>11 To bring in outside vendors, food trucks, 12 other service providers, that doesn't necessarily 13 meet the requirements for the National School Lunch 14 program, which is what then follows. Like, we would 15 still have to opt out of the National School Lunch 16 Program in order to go that route, if that makes 17 sense, because we wouldn't meet the requirements of 18 the National School Lunch Program by using those 19 outside sources.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: And thank you for 21 that. And does the -- the money follow the 22 requirements, in the sense that you would not be 23 able to access funds to provide that because you're 24 not meeting those requirements? Is that correct? 25 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yeah, that's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 see your actual constraints. Is there no room to 2 build a cafeteria on your site?</p> <p>3 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: That's correct, 4 Commissioner. Thank you for the question. Yes, we 5 are in a space that shares with an office park. We 6 have very minimal space available. We do have a 7 landlord who would work with us, but cost is 8 prohibitive.</p> <p>9 You know, last summer, we had several 10 folks come out and survey the space and figure out 11 where we might be able to add. But, I mean, the 12 cost to the landlord, which would then push to the 13 school, is not something that they were willing to 14 take on up front. And so that didn't -- wasn't an 15 option.</p> <p>16 We're continuing this year, hopefully, to 17 explore other facility potential options. But, 18 again, that's not going to be an immediate fix to 19 the situation.</p> <p>20 The thing that we have done before, or up 21 to this point, is to offer meals that are 22 individually packaged that our vendor has brought to 23 school that are individually packaged, and then we 24 distribute them directly to the student. And that 25 has worked up till now.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 correct.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Okay. Okay. 3 Thank you.</p> <p>4 MS. LISSA HINES: I think there's a lot of 5 unintended consequences to what is well-intended 6 legislation, which is the issue here for our school.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: That's not a 8 surprise.</p> <p>9 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. So I am a 11 little confused.</p> <p>12 I understand what you said at first was 13 the serving line limitations, and that in the space 14 you have to accommodate the serving line so you 15 could do it in a time frame that was legitimate, you 16 weren't able to -- you weren't able to -- you didn't 17 have the space to have that serving line.</p> <p>18 Is that still the case? Okay. And I'm 19 sure --</p> <p>20 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yes.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: -- the guidelines 22 for that serving line -- I used to do cafeterias, 23 and I understand the situation. I'm not familiar 24 with your campus.</p> <p>25 I guess, for me, I would love to come and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 The reason it can't continue to work is 2 because of those requirements as laid out in the 3 statute for the Universal Healthy Meals Program and 4 the fact that the vendors are not able to meet those 5 requirements in that packaging, if that makes sense.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson.</p> <p>8 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Thanks. So in the CSD 9 analysis, there was a -- talking about, I guess, 10 building out the program. And there was a notation 11 that they weren't sure if you had applied or you 12 didn't get, when PED made available, a large sum of 13 money that schools -- and they allocated a separate 14 amount for charter schools to be able to work to 15 build out their food service equipment and 16 programming.</p> <p>17 And the analysis said they weren't sure 18 whether you had applied, or you hadn't received. So 19 that's one of my questions.</p> <p>20 Did you apply for that grant when it was 21 available? Because there's a lot of money.</p> <p>22 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yes, we did apply 23 for some of that grant funding.</p> <p>24 The challenge that we had with utilizing 25 that funding that was available was that we would</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 only be able to utilize it for equipment. And we --</p> <p>2 and equipment also takes up space.</p> <p>3 And so the more equipment that we receive</p> <p>4 and apply for -- because we don't own our building.</p> <p>5 And so the more equipment that we apply and receive</p> <p>6 funding for, the less space we have to place in a</p> <p>7 serving line, if that makes sense. And there's just</p> <p>8 not anywhere to put that.</p> <p>9 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So you received a</p> <p>10 grant, but you didn't use it. Is that --</p> <p>11 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: That's correct,</p> <p>12 yeah. We worked with Trista Ryan and Michael Chavez</p> <p>13 this last fall and spring to find out -- Trista was</p> <p>14 here for days, coming and measuring and moving</p> <p>15 furniture and taking specs from equipment. And, you</p> <p>16 know, ultimately, she and Michael said, "Yeah,</p> <p>17 this -- I don't know."</p> <p>18 And that was the guidance that we received</p> <p>19 was, basically, "I don't know."</p> <p>20 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Okay. Okay.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. A quick</p> <p>23 question. You mentioned that for students that</p> <p>24 don't have lunches, you're still going to be able to</p> <p>25 satisfy them. Can you expand on that a little bit,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So Tim -- I'm</p> <p>2 sorry -- Commissioner Beck -- touched on what I was</p> <p>3 going to ask.</p> <p>4 So you're going to ensure -- this is what</p> <p>5 I'm hearing -- that those kids that were taking part</p> <p>6 of your program who may not be able to have packed</p> <p>7 lunches, you're going to ensure that they have</p> <p>8 something available; like you said, sandwich,</p> <p>9 carrots, those types of things.</p> <p>10 And will there be an additional cost for</p> <p>11 them?</p> <p>12 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: There will be -- if</p> <p>13 the student would otherwise -- we don't -- I would</p> <p>14 feel like it's not appropriate if a student</p> <p>15 qualifies for Free and Reduced Lunch for us to</p> <p>16 charge students for meals. If a student meets the</p> <p>17 requirements, they should receive that free lunch.</p> <p>18 And it'll just come out of the school's general</p> <p>19 fund.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. Have you</p> <p>21 talked at all to other -- what's your student body</p> <p>22 pop- -- it's K-5; right?</p> <p>23 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yes.</p> <p>24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: What's your student</p> <p>25 body population? And the reason I ask that is we</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 on how that works or what that's about?</p> <p>2 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yeah. I mean, yes.</p> <p>3 We know -- we have students who would qualify or do</p> <p>4 qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. And we know</p> <p>5 that receiving lunch at school for those families is</p> <p>6 an important thing, and it's a big deal.</p> <p>7 We -- I mean, we will provide lunch --</p> <p>8 we'll provide lunches. It's not -- it's going to be</p> <p>9 outside of the National School Lunch Program. It</p> <p>10 will have to be outside of those guidelines, because</p> <p>11 we simply can't meet the requirements of the State</p> <p>12 and Universal Healthy School Meal Program.</p> <p>13 Students will receive lunches. We'll have</p> <p>14 sandwiches and fruit and carrots and milk. It will</p> <p>15 have to be school-provided, and it won't be able to</p> <p>16 follow those nutritional -- we won't have the</p> <p>17 stringent guidelines that are out in the National</p> <p>18 School Lunch Program or in the Universal Health</p> <p>19 School Meal Program. But kids will get lunches,</p> <p>20 yeah.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER BECK: Got you.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Have you all -- Commissioner</p> <p>23 Carrillo.</p> <p>24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: You go ahead.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: I go last.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 have a number of schools that are easily double that</p> <p>2 that manage to get their kids through a service line</p> <p>3 for lunch. And even some of those schools don't</p> <p>4 have their own kitchens, they have hot boxes or food</p> <p>5 delivered or whatever it might be.</p> <p>6 Have you contacted other schools as to,</p> <p>7 logistically, how they make that work? Honestly,</p> <p>8 from what I've experienced -- and the one I go to</p> <p>9 and serve at least a couple of times a semester is</p> <p>10 Turquoise Trail up here. And they have over 500</p> <p>11 kids. And, granted, the idea -- for me, the idea of</p> <p>12 eating lunch at 10:30 or 11:00 in the morning is</p> <p>13 abhorrent.</p> <p>14 They get all the kids through the line.</p> <p>15 Then they have extra time for some sort of play or</p> <p>16 other, and then they come back.</p> <p>17 Have you talked to other schools as to how</p> <p>18 they manage to get their kids through lines and fed?</p> <p>19 MS. LISSA HINES: We've talked to</p> <p>20 different people within the charter school network</p> <p>21 here in Albuquerque. And we are doing the hot</p> <p>22 box -- or we were doing the hot box lunches this</p> <p>23 past year.</p> <p>24 And the problem is providers cannot --</p> <p>25 cannot continue to put that many together, which</p>

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1 that's the issue.

2 So we've already contacted a number of
3 providers, and they aren't able to help us with that
4 request for that many students.

5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Like, vendors
6 probably aren't ready to -- a couple of vendors
7 split it up. So maybe you're doing your K-2 or K-3
8 with a vendor in the first hour and a half or two
9 hours. And then you're doing -- I just -- it's --
10 I'm not here to help you find a solution. You guys
11 are smart enough to do whatever you need to do.

12 I'm just -- and, I mean, I can only speak
13 for myself for the Commission. I know when we
14 renewed and did your contract and everything, the
15 fact that you provided food service was huge for us.
16 And so let me ask so -- I'm not clear.

17 I mean, I can read the words on the page.
18 But I -- so, Dr. Russell, on the recommendation,
19 what I'm reading here is -- so we'll give them
20 another year to maybe find a solution or work this
21 out, give them an exemption and revisit this in
22 another year. Is that essentially what this is?

23 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: That is essentially
24 our recommendation, yes. It's not feasible for
25 '25-'26. Give them an exemption for that.

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1 And if they let us know at the end of the
2 school year if the situation still exists for next
3 year, then the Commission can decide whether to
4 extend the exemption.

5 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. So -- but
6 the -- I would want to have a date that's maybe
7 earlier than the end of this school year, because
8 that's June -- technically, contractually, it's
9 June 30; right? That doesn't allow a lot of time
10 for us to make any kind of decision if we have to
11 make a new decision.

12 I would maybe want us to know what's going
13 on by April 30 -- I don't know how others would feel
14 about that -- just so we have more time to really --
15 to address the situation and -- so that's the way
16 I'm kind of looking at this -- modifying this
17 recommendation.

18 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: I agree with you,
19 Commissioner Carrillo. Chair Burt, Commissioner
20 Carrillo, if the Commission goes that route, I do
21 believe that there should be a target date when the
22 school should either let the Commission know that
23 they will be providing food service for the
24 following year or requesting an extension. And I
25 would ask that the school provide input as to what

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1 date would be reasonable for that.

2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: That sounds good.
3 All through.

4 THE CHAIR: Okay. Before I go back to
5 Commissioner Ingham, I'm going to ask just one
6 question.

7 'Cause one of the things I think I heard
8 you say is that one of the other issues is that if
9 you were to provide food service, with, like, the --
10 any -- like, a vendor that could do anything, it
11 would take three hours, six lunches, to do it. Is
12 that correct, like, that you -- there -- you could
13 find vendors, but then it would take your
14 schedule -- is that correct?

15 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: That is what I said,
16 Commissioner, yes.

17 If we were -- when we had a serving line,
18 we were able to fit the serving line and 45 kids in
19 the room at a time. So that would -- if I do the
20 math with 270 students, push up to a three-hour
21 block of lunch.

22 The reason that it's untenable, it's a
23 financial staffing issue at that point, then, to
24 have three hours out of a seven-hour school day
25 require staffing to man a cafeteria.

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1 We were just decreased in funding by
2 \$200,000 with no hold harmless. And our staff
3 that's not instructional is already three people and
4 two custodians.

5 So there's -- there's not the funding --
6 like, there's just not a funding pathway that we can
7 see without that \$200,000 to staff that, 'cause we
8 already had to cut from that -- that three people
9 and two custodians.

10 Like, that's already also now needing to
11 be cut, because we're not cutting instructional
12 staff. And that's always been our commitment, that
13 we're not going to let instruction suffer, we're not
14 going to let our outcomes suffer, we're not going to
15 let our kids suffer.

16 And so if there's a way for us to figure
17 out how to make sure kids who need lunches have
18 lunches, and kids who can bring home -- lunches from
19 home, bring lunches from home, then we're not going
20 to allow the instruction to suffer because of
21 funding cuts or a lack of space.

22 THE CHAIR: So is the -- how much is -- so
23 if you provide -- if you didn't provide the -- so
24 one of my worries is that I was one of the kids that
25 got the ticket for free lunch. And it's

<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>1 humiliating. And especially kinder to fifth 2 grade -- I mean, it is not -- when you are the poor 3 kid and everyone else -- like, it's like you 4 actually get exposed in a system like this; right? 5 Because only kids who can -- like who need 6 it get it. 7 As the kid -- like, as a family, maybe 8 that -- that's okay for a family. But as a kid, it, 9 like, just opens them up for, like, okay, well, you 10 all have uniforms, so everyone looks like we're all 11 from the same background and we're all on an equal 12 playing field. 13 But at lunch, now we know. Now we know 14 who's who. It kind of inherently happens. 15 So is the -- for you to provide students 16 with school lunches out of your general fund, 17 because you won't -- because you won't qualify for 18 the National School Lunch program, that's going to 19 cost you money out of your general fund anyway. 20 I wonder how much that's going to cost, 21 versus a staff person, you know, the timing. 22 Because, I mean, for me, I'm, like -- if it takes 23 you three hours and six lunches, I mean, it takes 24 you six lunches and three hours. 25 I mean, when my kids went to a traditional</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">44</p> <p>1 motivation; it's not in the practicality of it. So 2 that's my only, like, hesitancy is if it's 3 complicated in scheduling, and that's the problem, 4 it almost makes me want to be just, like -- I know 5 you guys do innovative, crazy things all the time, 6 and you're constantly trying to figure out how to do 7 best by your kids. 8 And I know this is adding one more 9 complication to all the other billion complications 10 you have day to day. But that's kind of where my 11 thought process is coming from. So I'll let you 12 guys just respond. I know it's not, like, a direct 13 question. 14 But -- and I'm sure you guys already 15 thought through this. So if you want to kind of 16 explain more of your thinking and try to help me, 17 like, sleep tonight, with, like, the compromise that 18 you've created -- yeah. 19 MS. LISSA HINES: I'm not sure what the 20 question is. I'm going to -- I think I kind of -- 21 if -- we're going to be sitting down with the 22 families that are going to be affected by this, 23 ordering -- the kids will order the lunch box and 24 choose the lunch box that they want. 25 The only thing that is going to be</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">43</p> <p>1 APS school, I'm pretty sure they did three hour 2 lunch blocks and six -- yeah. I mean, every grade 3 level had its own lunch. And they did it from, 4 like, 10:30 to 1:30. 5 It's not, like, an uncommon thing to do, 6 to do that kind of scheduling. And I hear, like, 7 maybe it's not ideal. But I also -- I really worry 8 for, like, the students who -- you know, the 9 families who shouldn't have to be exposed, the 10 students who shouldn't have to be exposed by kind of 11 the system that's being created to appease the 12 statute. 13 And I wish for your school that you didn't 14 have the statute of limitations that allow you more 15 flexibility to do it. 16 But that's my conflict. I know where your 17 hearts are at. I've spoken with all of you. I know 18 where you're at. I know you care about making sure 19 these students have equitable access to incredible 20 opportunities and rigor in academia. I know this 21 about this school. 22 It just -- I think it's a -- so, to me, 23 it's a systems, a logistics issue. I know that's 24 where the issue is. 25 It's not in your intent; it's not in your</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>1 different is that we will be pulling those lunch 2 boxes and putting lunches in them, again, so that 3 they don't stick out, so, that there isn't a, "Oh, 4 that is a child with, like, a brown bag that, you 5 know, looks like a school lunch." 6 I mean, we've thought through all of those 7 logistical things to make sure that they don't stand 8 out at all. 9 THE CHAIR: And you're not -- the ideas -- 10 you're really taught, like -- you'll only offer it 11 to families that are -- that qualify for Free and 12 Reduced Lunch, or you're going to offer it to all 13 families? 14 MS. LISSA HINES: I don't think we can do 15 that for -- if we did that to all families, I mean, 16 again, that, we couldn't do. But we're going to do 17 it to our families that are needing and require 18 this -- this program. 19 THE CHAIR: Because what if there's a 20 family that's above the threshold of income, but the 21 family works -- like, it's very difficult for them 22 to send lunch to -- with their students? And so 23 it's actually, like -- it's going to hinder them as 24 well, even though they can financially qualify? But 25 their family -- like, maybe there's a family member</p>

46

1 at the hospital, and they're focused on other
2 parts -- it just -- it's really -- if it can be
3 accomplished, and it's just a scheduling thing, I
4 feel like you guys should just deal with the
5 scheduling issue.

6 That's where I'm kind of standing. If you
7 had to struggle through the scheduling...

8 MS. LISSA HINES: It's beyond a
9 scheduling -- that's just one piece of many pieces.
10 When we did this -- first of all --

11 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. If you did the
12 three hours, six lunches, what would be the
13 hindrance outside of that?

14 MS. LISSA HINES: That we have classes
15 happening while --

16 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: That cafeteria, that
17 multipurpose space, is used for more than lunch.
18 Yeah. It's used for class for -- until 11:00
19 a.m. -- right now, it's used for three hours in the
20 morning and three hours in the afternoon.

21 Like, there's just -- and then there's not
22 a space for that class if we don't use that
23 multipurpose space. We have really thought through,
24 like, every scenario.

25 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'm going to -- any

47

1 other -- Commissioner Ingham, and then Commissioner
2 Gipson.

3 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I'm just going to
4 state what kind of seems obvious, that your facility
5 is inappropriate, and that you should be looking for
6 a new facility.

7 I'm sorry. That's a hard thing to say.

8 But for me, you guys are pressed between a rock and
9 a hard place. And there's no -- I agree. There's
10 no answer. I don't know. Has there been any
11 thought to looking into a different facility for you
12 guys?

13 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Yes, we've been
14 looking at facilities. We've been looking at
15 expanding this current facility, like we talked
16 about before. We've been looking at acquiring land.
17 We're actively involved in that right now. We just
18 haven't -- we haven't brought it to the Commission
19 because there's nothing to approve or change there
20 yet. But we're actively trying to figure the
21 facility piece out.

22 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Is that going to
23 happen -- I mean, this year-long extension for this,
24 I sympathize with your situation. I don't -- I
25 really -- it's -- it's disturbing to me that we

48

1 create statutes that make it so you can't function
2 and that there -- they don't have any way to opt out
3 or make any kind of accommodation. There's nothing.
4 And that's disturbing to me.

5 But I guess the idea of a new school, to
6 me, is more palatable. And I would just say that
7 I'm going to do everything I can to -- to help
8 schools get greater funding from the PSCOC and
9 from -- we just -- we need to find a way to do this.
10 And we need to look at these statutes that are
11 universal lunch statutes that don't work. I think
12 there's got to be an outlet for that.

13 Anyway, I just encourage you to keep your
14 eyes open. I think you're going to have to put some
15 urgency to that issue of looking for a new facility.

16 MS. LISSA HINES: Thank you for mentioning
17 that, Commissioner Ingham. I think that a part of
18 this is that there needs to be a waiver process
19 within the statute. And there isn't one currently.

20 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I'm fully aware of
21 that, and I'm doing everything I can to remedy that
22 situation.

23 MS. LISSA HINES: Thank you, sir.

24 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Gipson, then
25 Commissioner Carrillo.

49

1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: So is it possible for
2 the kids to -- it's not ideal. But is it possible
3 for the kids to eat in the classroom so that you
4 wouldn't -- and I know -- I acknowledge scheduling
5 issues within a staff lunchtime. But I think
6 through specials and things like that, that could
7 often be accommodated while you're in the process.

8 Because I don't -- I would be surprised if
9 you could find a facility during this school year to
10 be able to accommodate this. But would it be
11 possible for the teacher to take the kids to get
12 their food and then come back so the teacher is the
13 monitor of the lunch line, then, because you only
14 have, you know -- what is it? -- 25 kids on the
15 lunch line?

16 MS. LISSA HINES: Yeah. I don't know,
17 within their duty day right now, like, if that would
18 be feasible. There would be a lot to work through,
19 too.

20 Again, we're talking about still having to
21 modify a multipurpose space that serves as a
22 classroom throughout the day as well.

23 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: And teachers need
24 their lunch break as well. I think that's part of
25 the --

<p style="text-align: right;">50</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: I fully understand 2 that. I did contract negotiations for many years. 3 So I understand the challenges. 4 But I also know that those challenges can 5 fairly easily be remedied. It takes some creative 6 thinking, but it can be accommodated. 7 And elementary schools, more than any 8 other, are usually more adept at having to do that, 9 because you don't -- you have smaller staff. 10 But I -- I really didn't -- I guess I'm 11 still asking why can't they eat -- so they can't eat 12 in classrooms because you haven't really considered 13 it. And it may be challenging to create a schedule 14 that would allow for that; yes? 15 MS. LISSA HINES: I think there's a lot of 16 challenges with having -- if you've seen 17 kindergarten and first grade students eat and the 18 amount of messes that makes, and to have a 19 turnaround time, and the custodial staff involved in 20 that, there are a lot of expenses around that as 21 well. 22 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: What expenses would 23 that be? 24 MS. LISSA HINES: We would have to hire 25 another custodian during the day.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">52</p> <p>1 And I said, "What would they do if we just 2 said no" -- okay? -- and where you were actually 3 forced to be more creative or whatever your solution 4 was. 5 And I don't think that's a really fair 6 thing to do, because you wouldn't be bringing this 7 to us unless you were very concerned as well. 8 So my suggestion is what I said earlier. 9 And maybe April 30th is a date that you can live 10 with to give you -- it's a temporary reprieve. And 11 maybe there's -- you know, to come up with another 12 plan. And then we revisit this, you know, in the 13 summer. 14 I mean, I have not seen your facility. 15 I've driven by it, so I know you're in kind of a -- 16 if I'm not mistaken -- like, a two-story office 17 complex thing; right? 18 And so, you know, I'm just wondering if, 19 you know, there's -- they have even room there, not 20 adjoining to yours, but that maybe there's 300, 21 400 square feet available that you're able to lease, 22 and that's where the hot boxes are, and you take the 23 little kids, and they have a little buddy, and they 24 go into the class and they eat -- or the office or 25 whatever -- and they eat and they're led back.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">51</p> <p>1 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Honestly, I know 2 elementary schools that have worked really hard at 3 getting their kids trained. You know, kids go to 4 McDonald's and clean up after themselves. So I know 5 schools that -- I acknowledge that there's 6 challenges. 7 But especially when the breakfast program 8 came in, schools across the state and across the 9 country were feeding those kids breakfast in their 10 classrooms, because they had to start. So it has 11 been done without extraordinary cost to the -- to 12 the schools. But thanks. 13 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Carrillo. 14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I agree with Chair 15 Burt completely around the stigma thing. I never 16 had to go through that. But I -- I know what it was 17 like to have other kids around and get the cheese 18 sandwich, you know. And even until -- only until 19 recently, like in New Mexico, we got rid of that 20 entirely. Kids get to eat no matter what. 21 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: They don't get a card 22 anymore. It just went in, yeah. 23 SECRETARY CARRILLO: You're in a tough 24 spot. I was just thinking to myself, and I 25 whispered to Tim really quickly.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">53</p> <p>1 Just really trying to come up with 2 solutions, but giving you time to do so. 3 The idea of completely abandoning food 4 service altogether does not sit well with me at all. 5 And so coming up with efforts to feed all kids -- so 6 why wouldn't you feed -- if you're able to -- I 7 think you asked this, Chair Burt. If you're 8 preparing food for some kids, and they're -- box 9 lunches or whatever, why wouldn't you just prepare 10 it for all kids? 11 THE CHAIR: They can't afford it. 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: No. I know where the 13 money would come from. 14 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: The lunch has to 15 be a hot lunch. So, like, even if they did, they 16 still would have to get a waiver for the 17 requirements, because you can't serve a cold lunch 18 to everyone. 19 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Even if you're not 20 part of the program? Because it seems like schools 21 that were not part of the schools lunch program, the 22 kids are bringing a sack lunch. That's not a hot 23 lunch. Their folks are preparing something for 24 them. And they're not really brown bags anymore; 25 they're putting it in some sort of insulated case,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">54</p> <p>1 as they always do.</p> <p>2 But if you're not part of that federal</p> <p>3 program, it doesn't have to be a hot lunch; is that</p> <p>4 correct?</p> <p>5 Dr. Russell; is that correct?</p> <p>6 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: That's absolutely</p> <p>7 correct. Yeah.</p> <p>8 MS. LISSA HINES: That's a significant</p> <p>9 cost, though, as far as, like, for everybody, coming</p> <p>10 from our general fund, without getting any kind of</p> <p>11 reimbursement when we've already been cut \$200,000.</p> <p>12 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: And in the past</p> <p>13 years, there are students who, like, they're happy</p> <p>14 to bring a lunch.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I'm sorry. I didn't</p> <p>16 hear what you said.</p> <p>17 MS. CHRISTINE SARGENT: Just in the past</p> <p>18 years, there have been students who are happy --</p> <p>19 like, people pack lunch and bring lunch, anyway. So</p> <p>20 I don't even know that they would be happy to do</p> <p>21 that.</p> <p>22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So, Chair Burt, I</p> <p>23 would be supportive solution-wise as modifying the</p> <p>24 recommendation, having them come back -- the date</p> <p>25 that I -- I don't want them to go after April 30th.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">56</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. What</p> <p>3 percentage of your students are eligible for this --</p> <p>4 the Free and Reduced Lunch?</p> <p>5 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Right now, it's</p> <p>6 about 23 to 25 percent.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. I really,</p> <p>8 really -- I know that you guys are in a tough spot.</p> <p>9 But I will say that the -- the most recent</p> <p>10 responses, your most recent responses, seem to me to</p> <p>11 be, like, "Well, no, that's going to be too</p> <p>12 much..." -- it almost came across to me as, "No, we</p> <p>13 can't do that, because it's going to be complicated</p> <p>14 or too much work," almost, it sounded to me.</p> <p>15 I know that's not your intent. But that's</p> <p>16 what it came back to me as if. And if this truly is</p> <p>17 a matter about figuring out how to do six lunches in</p> <p>18 three hours with the staff that you currently have,</p> <p>19 I say that's possible, you know. It's -- it's going</p> <p>20 to be a big burden, but I think it's possible.</p> <p>21 And, like Commissioner Carrillo said, if</p> <p>22 we just came back and said, "No, we're not going to</p> <p>23 approve it," you guys -- you'd come up with a plan.</p> <p>24 You'd have to; right?</p> <p>25 So, anyway, I'm not set on that. But I</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">55</p> <p>1 But if you think it should go before that, you're</p> <p>2 able to meet a date before April 30th, it's</p> <p>3 incumbent upon you. But that's kind of where I</p> <p>4 stand right now.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Beck, and then</p> <p>6 Commissioner Taylor.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER BECK: Yeah. I agree with</p> <p>8 Secretary Carrillo on his idea. But you said you</p> <p>9 got cut \$200,000. Can you tell me again where that</p> <p>10 cut was from? I didn't quite understand that.</p> <p>11 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Sure. Thank you,</p> <p>12 Commissioner. With the passage of House Bill 63,</p> <p>13 the at-risk indexes were recalculated. And there</p> <p>14 was a provision in the bill for a "hold harmless"</p> <p>15 for schools that were negatively impacted by a</p> <p>16 decrease in the at-risk index when they calculate a</p> <p>17 school's SEG.</p> <p>18 And our SEG decreased. The legislator did</p> <p>19 not (incomprehensible) and not hold harmless funds</p> <p>20 for all the schools that experienced a decrease due</p> <p>21 to their at-risk index going down. And so the</p> <p>22 school's SEG decreased about \$200,000. And we</p> <p>23 received about \$20,000 in the hold harmless.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER BECK: Got you. Okay. Thank</p> <p>25 you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">57</p> <p>1 just feel like those -- it just seems like it's</p> <p>2 possible; so...</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Meaghan, is there a -- if we</p> <p>4 gave a one-year waiver for this school year and</p> <p>5 asked you to come back with where we are at by</p> <p>6 April 30th, is that an amenable time? Or would you</p> <p>7 like to do it any earlier than that?</p> <p>8 But just to kind of give you the space to</p> <p>9 figure it out, go through what you're doing this</p> <p>10 year, see if you can refine it, see if you can --</p> <p>11 like, someone has some brilliant dream that somehow</p> <p>12 solves this issue for you, is April 30th agreeable?</p> <p>13 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: April 30th would be</p> <p>14 a great date, yeah. Thank you.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY CARRILLO: So I'm looking at the</p> <p>16 motions here. Were you working on something,</p> <p>17 Ms. Barnes?</p> <p>18 Oh, here we go. Okay.</p> <p>19 Here we go. I see it. Okay.</p> <p>20 So I'm prepared -- April 30th is cool?</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Yes, it is.</p> <p>22 SECRETARY CARRILLO: All right. I'm</p> <p>23 prepared to make a motion.</p> <p>24 Based on the CSD recommendation, I move</p> <p>25 that the PEC grant a one-year waiver to Altura</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>1 Preparatory School to allow the school not to 2 provide comprehensive food service for the School 3 Year '25-'26. 4 I further move that the contract provision 5 to provide comprehensive food service remain as a 6 contract term -- as a contract term for future 7 years, unless the school comes forward to the PEC to 8 request an additional waiver by April 30th, 2026. 9 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Second. 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you. There's a motion 11 and a second. Any discussion on the motion? 12 (No response.) 13 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'm going to do a call, 14 but if we need to do a roll after, we will. 15 So all in favor, say aye? 16 (Commissioners so indicate.) 17 THE CHAIR: All opposed? 18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Nay. 19 THE CHAIR: All right. There's one of 20 those. The ayes have it. Thank you. Appreciate 21 you all. Thanks for going through the struggle. 22 I do think -- we know you guys are trying. 23 We do know that. And it's not your ideal situation, 24 either. So we'll talk to y'all again in April. 25 MS. MEAGHAN HINDMAN: Thank you,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">60</p> <p>1 nominate Commissioner Ingham. 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. The nomination is 3 heard. 4 Any other nominations? 5 (No response.) 6 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing none, 7 Commissioner Ingham, would you like to accept the 8 nomination and speak? 9 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. Yes, I would 10 accept the nomination. And I'm just a little 11 humbled. And please recognize that I'm the most 12 disorganized person in this room, with the idea of 13 being a secretary seems a little crazy. But I will 14 work at it to the best of my ability, if that's the 15 will of the Commission. 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner. 17 Any other discussion? 18 (No response.) 19 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, if you all could 20 send your votes to Julia. 21 (Pause in the proceedings.) 22 (A discussion was held off the record.) 23 MS. JULIA BARNES: We have a new 24 secretary. 25 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">59</p> <p>1 Commissioners. Appreciate the support. Thank you 2 very much. 3 THE CHAIR: All right. Item 10, 4 Discussion and Possible Action to Elect a New PEC 5 Secretary. But I think we -- do you need to resign 6 first? 7 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. Yeah. 8 So, Chair Burt and Commissioners, I 9 respectfully resign my positions as secretary of the 10 Public Education Commission, to take place at the 11 end of today's meeting. 12 THE CHAIR: Thank you. All right. 13 So at this time, everyone has Ms. Barnes' 14 phone number. And what we're going to do is we'll 15 first ask for nominations. And then after 16 nominations, we'll let whoever is nominated, you can 17 give a little speech, if you will, and then we'll do 18 a -- we'll do a vote. 19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Or if you won't. 20 THE CHAIR: Or if you won't. It's up to 21 you. 22 So anybody who would like to nominate 23 themselves or another for secretary? 24 Commissioner Obenshain. 25 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: I'd like to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">61</p> <p>1 That takes us to Item No. 11 and Director 2 Russell, the Report from the Charter Schools 3 Division and Discussion. 4 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: Thank you, Chair 5 Burt and Commissioners. Ms. Valenzuela will be 6 sharing screen to show the CSD's new org chart. 7 We have -- and if you could magnify it a 8 little bit, please -- we have filled two new 9 positions over in the left-hand column, the peach 10 column. The financial coordinator, Leah Jimenez, 11 will start on Monday, her first day. 12 And then the bottom green box is a new 13 authorizing administrator. We interviewed and hired 14 Robert Gallegos, the former administrator at 15 Cien Aguas, who has retired and is now joining the 16 CSD. 17 He is taking a well-deserved month off 18 this summer and will join us on August 18th. 19 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Great. 20 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: And our technical 21 assistance and training coordinator is vacant. That 22 one is not yet posted. 23 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Oh, okay. 24 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: So update on school 25 issues.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">62</p> <p>1 Explore Academy Albuquerque's special 2 education Corrective Action Plan No. C-2425-40 was 3 closed on June 12. The MASTERS Program special ed 4 CAP, C-2425-26, was closed on June 3rd. 5 There are a couple of corrective action 6 plan possibilities under the application that I will 7 report in the future. And all schools on an open 8 CAP are meeting deadlines, and there's nothing to 9 report there. 10 Item 11.b.3., San Diego Riverside Charter 11 School. 12 Ms. Valenzuela and I visited the school on 13 June 23rd to review with Head Administrator Joe Dan 14 Lovato their compliance with the Corrective Action 15 Plan proposed by the Commission. 16 In terms of proficiency and growth data, 17 the school -- Commissioners will recall that the 18 former head administrator prior to Mr. Lovato 19 joining the staff had not administered the 20 beginning-of-year interim assessment. 21 Therefore, the Commission modified the 22 goal, which had been 70 percent of students meeting 23 in both subject areas from BOY to EOY. This year, 24 they had to meet 50 percent between middle-of-year 25 and end-of-year, and the school did meet that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">64</p> <p>1 administration going forward. 2 The San Diego Riverside staff participated 3 in two visits to high-performing charter schools and 4 then debriefed as a team afterwards, and they plan 5 to continue that program of visiting high-performing 6 charter schools next year. 7 They're implementing tutoring. They're 8 working with Dr. Ayanna Cooper for supporting 9 English Learners. And Mr. Lovato is working to 10 systematize staff PD Fridays. 11 He has evaluated all of his teachers. 12 They all have professional development plans. He's 13 been working with the New Mexico Elevate liaison, 14 but is experiencing barriers and contemplating 15 submitting a waiver for an alternate school-specific 16 evaluation system. 17 CSD's recommendation is to continue annual 18 reporting of interim assessment data, but to 19 consider other elements of the Corrective Action 20 Plan -- academic Corrective Action Plan -- as 21 completed and satisfied, which the next time it 22 would be on the agenda (inaudible). 23 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Russell, for, 24 number one, having that level of information to be 25 able to provide to us. Thank you to Joe Dan Lovato</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">63</p> <p>1 52.8 percent of students met the target in 2 reading, and 60.4 percent of students met the target 3 in math. 4 Mr. Lovato credited the tutoring program 5 to the higher math scores than reading scores. 6 He has identified language as an ongoing 7 challenge. And the school is offering the PED 8 Summer Literacy program. And twenty San Diego 9 Riverside students are participating in the summer 10 reading program now. 11 Ms. Valenzuela and I reviewed with 12 Mr. Lovato all of the other elements of the 13 Corrective Action Plan. And the school is 14 implementing all of them, either has completed them, 15 or it's ongoing. They plan to continue working with 16 the PCSNM mentors next year, both for the 17 administrator and for the board. 18 LETRS training has been effective. And 19 Mr. Lovato plans to attend training for school 20 leaders and to continue LETRS training for his 21 staff. 22 The school also implemented the CLR DEEP 23 DIVE Institute Special Education Academy. They're 24 working with the charter school testing service for 25 data. So we won't have issues like the B-O-Y</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">65</p> <p>1 and that staff for doing all of that, like, that is 2 actually -- you know, for -- because it is 3 middle-of-year to end-of-year. 4 We often talk about like one year is not 5 enough to do anything. We need more time. And I'm 6 grateful -- I know -- I know. They still will need 7 consistency and time and really get this into their 8 culture and how the school does business. 9 But that's a big lift in six months. So 10 I'm just impressed. I don't know if any of them are 11 online listening. But if they are, that's awesome. 12 Stick with it. 13 We're -- that's an incredible report from 14 where we were at the beginning of the school year 15 getting reports to this one. I'm incredibly 16 grateful. 17 And, once again, to you and the staff for 18 doing those levels of follow-up for the last six 19 months as well, thank you, because I know that, on 20 the team that's doing that, it matters. So thanks 21 for getting -- I know you guys actually go out there 22 and you see it yourself. And so thank you for that 23 as well. 24 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: It is -- I mean, I 25 find this model of Corrective Action Plan monitoring</p>

66

1 much more meaningful and effective and not
2 burdensome for schools than, you know, "Submit this,
3 submit this, and this," because that requires the
4 administrator to sit there and spew out all this
5 education jargon, trying to tick the box, trying to
6 satisfy us.

7 Whereas, when Ms. Valenzuela and I went to
8 the school, yes, it was a lot of work on her part,
9 not mine, because she did all of the prep work and
10 the pre-work with Mr. Lovato. But when we went out
11 there, it was just a really rich, deep, meaningful
12 conversation. He didn't have a lot of, you know,
13 written documents for us. He just told us about the
14 experience.

15 I learned a lot about the school. I
16 just -- I think it's really -- it's ideal, because
17 it's not just a compliance thing. It's meaningful
18 and it's helpful for the school.

19 And administrators, particularly in rural
20 areas, they don't always have the -- you know, the
21 back-and-forth communication, the thought partners
22 that head administrators in Albuquerque or bigger
23 cities have; so...

24 THE CHAIR: I'm just -- I'm, like, so
25 impressed, because I do remember when we first got

67

1 that plan. There was a lot of training coming up.
2 I felt like it was very ambitious. It was a lot to
3 do.

4 But for them to have actually followed
5 through with it, it's -- once again, very grateful
6 to Mr. Lovato, to the board for their leadership in
7 that, to prioritizing those things and actually
8 making it happen. I know that -- especially going
9 to visit other schools is something I think is
10 always, like, this ideal -- you know, this
11 aspirational thing that never actually gets
12 accomplished.

13 So for them to have gone to two different
14 schools, debriefed -- it really is very cool and
15 impressive. Grateful to have another school in our
16 pocket whenever we hear things can't get done or
17 things are too hard or we can't do. I always
18 appreciate when we have a school that's, like,
19 actually, you can.

20 And now what would be wonder- -- I would
21 still like to see consistent data before I start
22 recommending other schools go see them. We need
23 some more consistency. We need to see it, like,
24 keeping together. Like, I feel like everything
25 feels, like, better this time.

68

1 But we can get back to that actually
2 happening versus at the end of the school year.
3 Thank you for that.

4 Any other -- yeah. Commissioner Ingham.

5 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I just remember the
6 whole issue was Walatowa being -- is that all -- at
7 this point, they don't any longer have a -- they're
8 not leaning on Walatowa?

9 THE CHAIR: The staffing is completely
10 separate now, correct, yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Well, Walatowa can
12 see this as an impetus for them.

13 THE CHAIR: All right. Anything else
14 about those -- any update -- anything else about
15 those schools?

16 All right. Go ahead.

17 DR. BRIGETTE RUSSELL: And, finally, in
18 addition to Ms. Black at Explore-Las Cruces, we have
19 been notified of five additional schools that have
20 head administrators -- new head administrators on
21 board. And those will be on the consent agenda in
22 August.

23 THE CHAIR: All right. Any other
24 questions or discussion for Director Russell?

25 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I -- okay. So I was

69

1 aware of the -- at 21st Century and Aldo. But
2 South Valley Prep. Wasn't that Baylor? Did he
3 retire?

4 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: He left.

5 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: He left. Oh. I'm
6 just -- this is disappointing to me that there's --
7 that's a lot of really good administrators last
8 year. And it's -- I'm sad to hear that. But,
9 hopefully, all these will be really quality
10 administrators.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Director Russell.

13 All right. Report from the Chair and
14 Discussion.

15 I have no report on new or updated PEC
16 school issues at this time.

17 Update on the MOU: So the Secretary
18 did -- we were not able to connect before Dr. Segura
19 left. But she did get back to me yesterday. And so
20 there will be a meeting with the PED staff in
21 August, mid-August.

22 I also -- and then to the -- to another
23 point is -- which I'll be talking about in No. 13.
24 But the MOU, as it is, will be discussed with LESC
25 next week as well. So that's also -- and PED is

<p style="text-align: right;">70</p> <p>1 going to be presenting as well. 2 So that might be -- it'll be interesting. 3 But -- 4 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I have a question on 5 that. So you said -- you said there's going to be a 6 meeting with PED staff. And that's with you also? 7 THE CHAIR: Yes. And, actually, the 8 policy chair is also going to be attending as well. 9 SECRETARY CARRILLO: And the Vice Chair? 10 THE CHAIR: It'll be Sam Obenshain as the 11 policy chair. 12 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Okay. 13 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Did you say Segura 14 is -- 15 THE CHAIR: Yeah. So she actually 16 accepted the superintendent of Pojoaque. And she 17 left July -- so a week ago was her last day. So, 18 yeah, congratulations to her. Sad for us. She 19 really was a great partner for PEC, an incredible 20 partner. 21 I actually -- I mean, yeah. So it's 22 bittersweet. Great for her, because she's an -- 23 incredible talent. 24 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Great for Pojoaque. 25 THE CHAIR: Great for Pojoaque, great for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">72</p> <p>1 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: On our website 2 is where all of this is publicly accessible. Under 3 the CSP Grant tab, if you scroll down, you'll see 4 about each of the cycles we're having the resources, 5 how to apply, and any archived videos that we have. 6 If you click on the Resources and scroll 7 down, you'll see our allowable cost guide as well as 8 the budget template. 9 In the allowable cost guide, it goes into 10 depth about how it's aligned with federal funding 11 policies and principles, talks about the phases, the 12 categories, what's allowable and what's unallowable. 13 Now, let's scroll down to Facilities, 14 Lease, and Transportation, just to focus on that, 15 because I'm not going to go through the whole thing. 16 Under the Allowable Costs under Direct Instruction, 17 we have the categories on the left, some examples of 18 what could be purchased with CSP funds, some 19 restrictions. And, most importantly, on the 20 right-hand side, it talks about the phases and when 21 it's allowable. 22 There are two phases of the CSP grant: 23 One is the planning phase, which is when they get 24 approved up until they receive SEG funds. 25 So a planning phase for a new school would</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">71</p> <p>1 kids, because she's an incredible talent. That's 2 the sweet part for them. Very bitter. Very bitter 3 for us, because she really has been an incredible 4 partner. 5 And so I know Amanda DeBell is back to 6 being the supervisor. We'll be reaching out to her 7 to continue those monthly meetings just to get an 8 update from the leadership of the PED. So that's it 9 for that. 10 Okay. Report from the Public Charter 11 Schools of New Mexico. And if Valery is online, 12 cool. Thank you. 13 (A discussion was held off the record.) 14 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Good morning, 15 Commissioners. 16 THE CHAIR: All right. Valery, we're all 17 yours. 18 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: What I would 19 like to share with you all is a little clarification 20 on the CSP grant and what is allowable for expenses 21 with the CSP grant. And I'm going to focus on new 22 schools and then be open for any questions that you 23 all may have. 24 A. Are you all able to see the PCSNM website? 25 UNIDENTIFIED COMMISSIONERS: Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">73</p> <p>1 be from approval to June 30th. 2 After June 30th, starting July 1st, then 3 from there on, is the implementation part of the CSD 4 grant. And all schools, whether they're new, 5 expansion, or replicating have the grant for three 6 years. 7 So this isn't by year; it's really just 8 two phases, either the planning phase and then the 9 implementation phase. 10 For expansion schools, the planning phase 11 is whenever they get approved for the CSP grant up 12 until they receive SEG funds for whenever those new 13 seats are going to happen. 14 So on the right-hand side, you can see 15 that these expenditures are allowable throughout the 16 year that they have the grant, if it says Planning 17 and Implementation. Again, on the left, what can be 18 bought, purchased, materials, supplies, it's really 19 all the guts, all the stuff that you want to put 20 inside your school and use to expand for those new 21 seats. 22 And, again, I'm going to scroll all the 23 way down to Operational. 24 Okay. So I'm going to stop right here. 25 On Facilities Expense, Mortgage and Lease. For the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">74</p> <p>1 three new schools that are currently up and going 2 during their planning, about to -- well, it's July 3 now, so they are receiving State funding, or will 4 receiving State funding, probably, in a couple of 5 weeks -- they were able to use CSP funds to lock in 6 their facility and pay all of their lease during 7 their planning phase. 8 So they have been able to use CSP funds 9 for lease payments whenever they find a lease after 10 approval up until June 30th. And then starting 11 July 1, they have to use operational funds to pay 12 their lease payments. 13 For renovation, minor repairs, and code 14 compliance, if the new facilities, the new schools, 15 if PSFA goes and looks at the school and provides 16 the school with their FAB, which is the report that 17 says, "The following things need to be done in order 18 to improve the conditions of the school. Those can 19 be paid for with CSP funds as long as they're within 20 reason." 21 The schools also have to go to the CID 22 Department to receive E-Occupancy, which is a 23 completely separate entity. 24 The CID, those requirements may or may not 25 line up with whatever is required by PSFA. PSFA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">76</p> <p>1 specialists, anybody that's going to be involved in 2 developing curriculum, they can all receive salary 3 payments during the planning phase, again, from 4 approval all the way up until June 30th. 5 And then, finally, the last one I wanted 6 to highlight was transportation. So the 7 transportation, we can pay for start-up costs. It 8 says "planning phase," and that means that if they 9 have a transportation contract lined up by 10 June 30th, then CSP is -- you can use CSP funds to 11 pay for that first-year transportation contract; so 12 when they actually receive kids and are transporting 13 them to and from school for the first year. 14 And that is it. And down here, we have 15 allowable costs, capital improvements. So if it is 16 anything that is done to the building or any 17 requests that they say, "Well, we want to do some 18 adequacy standards..." -- and, again, that falls 19 within PSFA. 20 The PSFA adequacy standards for charter 21 schools is not a shopping list to be used by CSP. 22 It has to fall within whatever is required by PSFA 23 or CID in order to receive E-Occupancy or to 24 increase that percentage -- the New Mexico index 25 score PSFA standards.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">75</p> <p>1 just wants to improve the condition of the building. 2 So, for example, PSFA may say, "You need 3 to paint the walls in order to get the index value 4 up." 5 CID could care less whether the walls are 6 painted. They want to make sure that the life, 7 health, and safety things are good. 8 So if the CID, in order for E-Occupancy, 9 said, "The following facility needs X, Y, and Z," 10 CSP funds can pay within reason for those 11 renovations or whatever. 12 Within the CID, when they're looking for 13 E-Occupancy, the fire marshal will have to come in 14 and make sure that all the fire safety issues are 15 there. So the fire marshal may come in and say, 16 "Well, you have to update X, Y, and Z," which also 17 the CSP funds can pay for, within reason, to help 18 the schools gain E-Occupancy, because there is no 19 other funding for them to do that. 20 For salaries, during the planning phase, 21 you can pay salaries for any essential staff or 22 curriculum development for anything for start-up 23 costs. 24 So the administrator can get a salary. 25 Any secretarial, registration, curriculum</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">77</p> <p>1 So it is dependent on the facility of the 2 school and a case-by-case scenario. 3 I am open to any questions. 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 5 Commissioner Ingham. 6 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: First question is 7 did all three schools get their application in for 8 lease reimbursement? 9 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: They haven't 10 finished their PSFA process yet. So as soon as they 11 finish and get that final inspection via the PSFA 12 and the CID -- well, Sun Mountain already has 13 E-Occupancy. So their school previously had 14 E-Occupancy. 15 But in order to get the lease assistance 16 from PSCOC, they're still going through the PSFA 17 process in order to make sure that that -- that 18 those requirements are met. 19 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. So if a 20 school is in the process -- because I know that the 21 application deadline is really quick for the lease 22 reimbursements. 23 Do they get a special dispensation since 24 they're new schools and are in the process so that 25 they would be kind of listed separately for that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">78</p> <p>1 lease reimbursement, saying they're tentative or 2 whatever?</p> <p>3 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Yes, 4 potentially.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. And the 6 second thing is, then, with -- I hear what you're 7 saying about PSFA's adequacy standards and the -- 8 the issues with code compliance.</p> <p>9 And so is there -- does PSFA -- do they do 10 any help with the code compliance -- I mean, I know 11 that -- I know that it is the fire marshal that has 12 to provide that E-Occupancy.</p> <p>13 But does PSFA coordinate with the code 14 officials so that when they do a FAD for the school, 15 that those issues are brought up in that FAD also, 16 because it would seem to be appropriate for those 17 code compliance issues in their FAD, so it wouldn't 18 be any question about having that reimbursed; is 19 that true?</p> <p>20 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: Right. I'm 21 not sure if it's true if they work together. But it 22 is true that the FAD reports, some of the things 23 that are coming out on the FAD are code compliance 24 related, so that helps. All three schools have had 25 some fire issue -- or fire -- I don't want to say</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">80</p> <p>1 The CSP grant is for salaries, staff, 2 curriculum, all the stuff that should go in the 3 school. So, yes, you could say, "Let's turn this 4 warehouse into a school."</p> <p>5 Technically, that's bringing it up to 6 code. But that's not within reason. It's not 7 reasonable.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: That's an 10 extreme.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Any other questions? 12 (No response.)</p> <p>13 THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Valery.</p> <p>14 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: You're 15 welcome.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: All right. That will take us 17 to Item 13, Discussion and Possible Action to 18 Provide Input to Chair or Liaisons to Speak on 19 Behalf of the PEC.</p> <p>20 Commissioner Ingham, do you want to go 21 first? Or I can.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: No. You can go 23 first.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: So on -- I just -- next 25 Friday -- Mark Montoya came and introduced himself</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">79</p> <p>1 issues -- but fire compliance requirements that are 2 in the FAD, what the fire marshal pointed out anyway 3 for the CID. So those have been there. So that's 4 helpful, yes.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Yeah. I heard 8 you mention a couple of times "within reason."</p> <p>9 So is that from the feds, that they 10 determine that? Or is that something that is based 11 on the amount of money that is available and the 12 number of schools that apply?</p> <p>13 MS. VALERY RATLIFF-PARKER: That would be 14 on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>15 For example -- and within reason, because 16 what -- I'm going to go to the extreme. But if a 17 school -- a new school just found a warehouse that 18 was completely open and vacant and empty, and they 19 asked PSFA to come and say, "Well, what do I need to 20 do in order to get this up to code," and they have 21 to do everything, and that's not essentially what 22 the CSP grant is built for, that would be that 23 new -- the facilities program that Commissioner 24 Ingham was talking about, where you can do 25 construction and renovation.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">81</p> <p>1 from LESC. I know he met with several 2 Commissioners.</p> <p>3 He'll be releasing a report on Monday. 4 And he asked myself and Joseph Escobedo from APS to 5 co-present with him. I'll only be there -- it's a 6 Friday-morning agenda item.</p> <p>7 He just discussed with you the kind of 8 framework for what is expected. It's going -- it 9 should be -- at least for the presentation, it's 10 going to be very general; right? Just, what is 11 authorizing? What does authorizing look like for 12 us? Specifically approval, renewals, what does that 13 look like? What does the Ladder of Intervention 14 look like when something goes wrong, and trends in 15 charter performance. So a very general overview of 16 it.</p> <p>17 Obviously, you never know what they'll 18 ask. But from my -- for this, in speaking on behalf 19 of the Commission, it will be very broad, general 20 overview.</p> <p>21 And, of course, if there's -- if any kind 22 of wild question comes up that has not been 23 discussed and agreed upon from the PEC, I won't 24 speak on behalf of the PEC if that were to come up. 25 But broad general overview, co-present for</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">82</p> <p>1 ten minutes. So that's what I would be asking for.</p> <p>2 But before I do a motion, I'm happy to</p> <p>3 take any questions first about that.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I'm planning on</p> <p>5 attending that. And I just wondered if anybody</p> <p>6 else -- do we have to worry about a quorum and all</p> <p>7 that?</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: So Pattie will be there as the</p> <p>9 liaison for the whole time, like, the multiple days.</p> <p>10 VICE CHAIR GIPSON: Yeah. I'll be there</p> <p>11 all day Thursday. Yeah.</p> <p>12 THE CHAIR: And I'm only coming 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>13 Friday.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I'm prob- -- there's</p> <p>15 no other charter school issues during the rest of</p> <p>16 the week; right? So I'm planning on being there</p> <p>17 Friday morning also.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: All right. I move that</p> <p>19 Commissioner Burt be authorized to speak on behalf</p> <p>20 of the PEC regarding charter school performance,</p> <p>21 authorizing, and financing at the Legislative</p> <p>22 Education Study Committee. Did I say that --</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER BECK: Second.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: There's a motion and a second.</p> <p>25 Any discussion on the motion?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">84</p> <p>1 are included in the membership rate, and these rates</p> <p>2 are awarded as grants to the school.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER BECK: Second.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: A motion and a second. Any</p> <p>5 discussion on the motion?</p> <p>6 Seeing none, all in favor?</p> <p>7 (Commissioners so indicate.)</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: All opposed?</p> <p>9 (No response.)</p> <p>10 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, the ayes have it.</p> <p>11 PEC Comments, No Discussion or Action</p> <p>12 Taken.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER BECK: Just want to thank</p> <p>14 Commissioner Carrillo for the six months of being</p> <p>15 secretary, working with the EC. Appreciate it.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY CARRILLO: My pleasure. Thank</p> <p>17 you.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Any other comments or</p> <p>19 questions?</p> <p>20 (No response.)</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: All right. Seeing none, any</p> <p>22 discussion of any new business topics for the next</p> <p>23 agenda?</p> <p>24 But you always are welcome to fill out an</p> <p>25 e-mail and send it in. But this is a good space to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">83</p> <p>1 (No response.)</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Seeing none, all in favor, say</p> <p>3 "Aye."</p> <p>4 (Commissioners so indicate.)</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: All opposed?</p> <p>6 (No response.)</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: The ayes have it. Thank you.</p> <p>8 Commissioner Ingham.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: I'm not really sure</p> <p>10 what I'm going to ask, that I can be authorized to</p> <p>11 speak for our -- oh, there's a motion? Okay. I</p> <p>12 move that --</p> <p>13 No, that's Commissioner Burt's. The top</p> <p>14 one? Oh.</p> <p>15 I move that Commissioner Ingham be</p> <p>16 authorized to speak on behalf of the PEC in support</p> <p>17 of the increased charter school lease reimbursements</p> <p>18 and decreased barriers to facility funding for</p> <p>19 charter schools.</p> <p>20 Thank you.</p> <p>21 Further, I move that the PEC provide a</p> <p>22 letter to the Public School Capital Outlay Council,</p> <p>23 the Awards Committee, and the Public School Finance</p> <p>24 Authority, that request that the PSCOC approve lease</p> <p>25 reimbursement rates that assure that CPI increases</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">85</p> <p>1 be able to get it on the agenda easily.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY CARRILLO: I have a question</p> <p>3 about that. I know that -- you remember. A long</p> <p>4 time ago (inaudible) created a form; right?</p> <p>5 Remember? To have something on the agenda? Can it</p> <p>6 just be as simple as an e-mail, not -- because there</p> <p>7 was a form that --</p> <p>8 THE CHAIR: I think you need to follow the</p> <p>9 tenets of what's in the form. If it's not --</p> <p>10 SECRETARY CARRILLO: No, absolutely.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: If it's not -- I don't think</p> <p>12 we're held that you have to have an attachment. But</p> <p>13 the items in it, you should fill out. Yeah.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Yeah. Okay. Thanks.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: All right.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: Just --</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Obenshain.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER OBENSHAIN: I don't know how</p> <p>19 this -- where this would go on the agenda. But I</p> <p>20 did have a question and wanted to have discussion</p> <p>21 about the community input hearing process and have</p> <p>22 the intent of those meetings. Because I'm just a</p> <p>23 little unclear about what the expectation is to the</p> <p>24 applicant, and then kind of what our role is in just</p> <p>25 that particular hearing versus -- or as well as with</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">86</p> <p>1 the decision-making hearing that comes later. 2 So just any -- I don't know where that 3 would go. But if that's a conversation we could 4 have, it would be very helpful for me. 5 THE CHAIR: Okay. 6 COMMISSIONER BECK: Work session. 7 THE CHAIR: I'll second it. And what I'll 8 ask is that Director Russell and Julia, if you all 9 can take a look at kind of the statute, like, what 10 the statute says. And then, Brigitte, if you could 11 start doing, like, an analysis for next month, and 12 we'll just present it, like, as a work session item 13 and see where to go after that, like, just what it's 14 looked like historically, what it's actually been 15 like in practice from Dr. Russell. 16 Julia, if you could look at the statutory 17 obligations that might be pertinent to it. 18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I think that's a 19 great idea. I think in some of those hearings, it 20 seems like there's some redundancy in how we're -- 21 the information we're gathering and so forth. It 22 would be good to have that defined a little bit 23 better. 24 SECRETARY CARRILLO: Thank you. 25 Weren't we going to examine, at some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">88</p> <p>1 we need to look at and then get them on board. 2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Do we have a 3 subcommittee for that yet? 4 THE CHAIR: I don't. But my plan was to 5 consult with Consuelo and send out an e-mail asking 6 for -- I guess -- 7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I would like to be 8 on it. People probably hate that, because my time 9 is limited as far as when I can meet. But I would 10 like to be on that. 11 THE CHAIR: I mean, I don't see -- I know 12 Commissioner Clahchischilliage isn't present. But, 13 I mean, we could take volunteers for a subcommittee 14 right now. 15 We can have up to five. 16 I also would like to participate. If 17 anyone knows for sure you want to be on the 18 strategic plan subcommittee, I can write you down. 19 MR. OBENSHAIN: I would. 20 THE CHAIR: Sam? Pattie? We can take one 21 more, if someone wants to -- I don't know. K.T. 22 Okay. All right. Thank you. 23 Missy, Brigitte, if you can make sure and 24 update the subcommittee list, let's go ahead and 25 just formalize that strategic plan subcommittee.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">87</p> <p>1 point, the peer reviewers and the peer review 2 process because of -- I thought we were going to 3 look at that, only because of the way some of their 4 comments read and -- 5 THE CHAIR: So I do think the new 6 application -- just to let the Commissioners -- 7 Dr. Russell has been thinking, with Missy, about the 8 new application as a whole. 9 I do think -- once again, I think the 10 strategic plan might help us determine kind of the 11 priorities, the structure of how we review some of 12 these things that -- you know, maybe they're just 13 due for a review; right? What are we doing? Can we 14 do it better? Should we do it this way? Can we do 15 it different? 16 It is on their -- I know it's been on 17 Dr. Russell and Missy's mind for a long time to 18 really look at kind of a comprehensive piece of it. 19 And I do think -- I think there's a lot of these 20 pieces. But that's where I am hoping the strategic 21 plan can help us determine priorities, structure. 22 That allows the CSD staff to also not feel 23 like everything needs to be done at once, and we can 24 kind of -- ideally, that would be an outcome for me 25 from the strategic plan is what are all the things</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">89</p> <p>1 If -- we can assign a CSD staff member to 2 lead it. And then if we can send out an e-mail, 3 like, Monday to the five Commissioners to start 4 figuring out timing. And let's invite Matt Pahl to 5 the first one -- or PCSNM, Valery or whoever they're 6 going to assign to help us with this, so we can get 7 them at that first meeting as well, start giving 8 direction, start moving forward. 9 All right. Cool. Thank you, all. 10 Appreciate it. That makes it easier on me. Great. 11 THE CHAIR: Okay. We're adjourned. 12 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:48 a.m.) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

90

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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a.m 1:11 5:1 46:19 82:12 89:12	addressed 3:10 15:15	Amanda 71:5
abandoning 53:3	adept 50:8	Ambassador 19:10
abhorrent 37:13	adequacy 76:18,20 78:7	ambitious 67:2
ability 60:14	adjoining 52:20	amenable 57:6
able 11:4 12:24,24 14:8 19:12	Adjourn 4:3	amend 20:22
26:8,13 27:5,20 28:4,22 29:13	adjourned 89:11,12	amendment 3:13,15 8:13 20:17
30:23 31:16,16 32:11 33:4,14	admin 19:8	21:10,24 22:7,19 23:6,11 25:16
34:1,24 35:15 36:6 38:3 40:18	administered 62:19	America 11:21,24 13:1 16:4
49:10 52:21 53:6 55:2 64:25	administration 64:1	amount 33:14 50:18 79:11
69:18 71:24 74:5,8 85:1	administrator 2:11 3:11 11:17	Amy 16:23
absolutely 19:22 54:6 85:10	12:2,6 18:8 21:15 61:13,14	analysis 21:24 33:9,17 86:11
academia 43:20	62:13,18 63:17 66:4 75:24	AND- 1:13
academic 64:20	administrators 66:19,22 68:20	announce 17:3
Academy 17:9 19:5 62:1 63:23	68:20 69:7,10	annual 64:17
Academy-Las 18:13	advance 8:21	answer 29:16 47:10
accept 22:18 60:7,10	afford 53:11	anybody 59:22 76:1 82:5
accepted 70:16	after-school 10:18	anymore 51:22 53:24
access 9:6 27:15,22 30:23 43:19	afternoon 46:20	anyway 42:19 48:13 54:19 56:25
accessibility 9:5	agenda 3:4,7,9,25 6:8,10 17:18	79:2
accessible 9:1 27:17 72:2	17:19,22 64:22 68:21 81:6	Apodaca 1:12
accommodate 26:1,8 27:5 31:14	84:23 85:1,5,19	appease 43:11
49:10	agendas 8:11,19	applicant 85:24
accommodated 49:7 50:6	ago 13:4 70:17 85:4	application 62:6 77:7,21 87:6,8
accommodation 48:3	agree 39:18 47:9 51:14 55:7	applied 33:11,18
accomplished 46:3 67:12	agreeable 57:12	apply 33:20,22 34:4,5 72:5 79:12
accountability 8:4	agreed 81:23	appreciate 20:7 58:20 59:1 67:18
accountable 16:9	Aguas 61:15	84:15 89:10
ACES 3:13 10:3 13:18 20:16,21	ahead 5:2 22:17 28:9 35:24 68:16	appropriate 36:14 78:16
20:24 21:25 22:18	88:24	approval 3:4 6:10 20:22 73:1
acknowledge 49:4 51:5	Alamogordo 17:13	74:10 76:4 81:12
acquiring 47:16	Albuquerque 1:22 16:20 18:24	approve 17:22 47:19 56:23 83:24
act 27:13,18,19 28:15 29:2	20:25 21:12 37:21 66:22 90:21	approved 23:6 72:24 73:11
action 3:8,12,14,16,21,23 15:21	Albuquerque's 62:1	approving 22:6,20
16:17 20:16 59:4 62:2,5,14	Aldo 69:1	April 39:13 52:9 54:25 55:2 57:6
63:13 64:19,20 65:25 80:17	Alexis 18:13,16,22,23 20:10,13	57:12,13,20 58:8,24
84:11	aligned 72:10	APS 43:1 81:4
actions 9:4	Allegiance 3:3 6:3,5	archived 72:5
actively 47:17,20	allocated 33:13	archiving 7:16 8:23
activities 10:18	allow 9:13 13:24 14:5 21:7 23:15	area 16:24
actual 7:20 32:1	39:9 41:20 43:14 50:14 58:1	areas 62:23 66:20
add 20:22 21:10,23 27:25 28:1	allowable 71:20 72:7,9,12,16,21	Arte 11:15,23 12:9 13:2
32:11	73:15 76:15	asked 53:7 57:5 79:19 81:4
adding 44:8	allows 9:2 87:22	asking 50:11 82:1 88:5
addition 68:18	Alma 7:14,23 8:8,22 11:15,23	aspirational 67:11
additional 10:6 21:23 36:10 58:8	12:9 13:2 15:16	assessment 62:20 64:18
68:19	Alma's 8:6,19 9:6,8,10,13	assign 89:1,6
address 15:8,13 39:15	alternate 64:15	assistance 61:21 77:15
	altogether 53:4	Associates 1:20 90:20
	Altura 3:14 23:10 57:25	assuming 24:8

assurances 7:17
 assure 83:25
 at-risk 55:13,16,21
 attachment 85:12
 ATTACHMENTS 4:5
 attend 63:19
 attended 12:9
 Attendees 4:6
 attending 70:8 82:5
 audience 15:10
 audio 8:24
 August 17:3 61:18 68:22 69:21
 authority 15:18 83:24
 authorized 21:1 82:19 83:10,16
 authorizing 2:11 7:22 61:13
 81:11,11 82:21
 available 8:20 32:6 33:12,21,25
 36:8 52:21 79:11
 Avenue 1:12
 awarded 84:2
 Awards 83:23
 aware 48:20 69:1
 awesome 19:13,24 65:11
 Ayanna 64:8
 aye 6:16 58:15 83:3
 ayes 6:20 23:5 58:20 83:7 84:10

B

B 25:20
 B-O-Y 63:25
 back 7:20 19:21,25,25 37:16 40:4
 49:12 52:25 54:24 56:16,22
 57:5 68:1 69:19 71:5
 back-and-forth 66:21
 background 42:11
 bad 12:11
 bag 45:4
 bags 53:24
 band 14:10
 Baratta 9:25
 Barbara 13:8,18
 Barnes 2:18,19 57:17 60:23
 Barnes' 59:13
 Barrata 10:2
 barriers 24:3 64:14 83:18
 based 57:24 79:10
 basically 34:19
 basis 79:14
 bathrooms 14:11

Baylor 69:2
 Bean 1:20 90:20
 Beck 2:4 5:16,17 14:25 16:18,19
 17:8 34:21,22 35:21 36:2 55:5,7
 55:24 82:23 84:3,13 86:6
 beginning 65:14
 beginning-of-year 62:20
 behalf 3:22 13:18 80:19 81:18,24
 82:19 83:16
 believe 39:21
 best 16:21 44:7 60:14
 better 67:25 86:23 87:14
 betterment 14:17
 beyond 7:20 21:9 46:8
 Biehl 16:23
 big 14:1 35:6 56:20 65:9
 bigger 66:22
 bill 55:12,14
 billion 44:9
 BioInteractive 19:9
 bit 19:4 34:25 61:8 86:22
 bitter 71:2,2
 bittersweet 70:22
 Black 18:13,16,22,23 20:10,13
 68:18
 blatant 8:6
 blind 8:5
 block 40:21
 blocks 43:2
 board 8:13 10:3 25:11 63:17 67:6
 68:21 88:1
 bodies 7:23
 body 8:25 10:22 36:21,25
 bottom 61:12
 bought 73:18
 Boulevard 20:25 21:12
 bound 19:23
 box 37:22,22 44:23,24 53:8 61:12
 66:5
 boxes 37:4 45:2 52:22
 BOY 62:23
 breach 9:4
 break 49:24
 breakfast 29:25 51:7,9
 Brigitte 2:9 18:10 20:19 23:8
 38:23 39:18 61:4,20,24 65:24
 68:17 86:10 88:23
 brilliant 57:11
 bring 20:15 30:11 41:18,19 54:14

54:19
 bringing 52:6 53:22 80:5
 broad 81:19,25
 brought 32:22 47:18 78:15
 brown 2:13 45:4 53:24
 buddy 52:23
 budget 72:8
 build 32:2 33:15
 building 1:12 10:6,12,21 13:21
 13:24 21:2,5 33:10 34:4 75:1
 76:16
 built 79:22
 bullied 11:17
 bullying 12:10,13 14:14
 burden 56:20
 burdensome 66:2
 Bureau 26:24
 Burt 2:3 5:13 20:20 23:9 25:2
 39:19 51:15 53:7 54:22 59:8
 61:5 82:19
 Burt's 83:13
 bus 21:23
 buses 21:20
 business 3:24 65:8 84:22
 bylaw 8:12
 bylaws 8:19

C

C 1:20 2:1 3:1 4:1 90:8,19
 C-2425-26 62:4
 C-2425-40 62:2
 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e 25:12
 C-o-b-l-i-j-n 15:12
 cafeteria 32:2 40:25 46:16
 cafeterias 31:22
 calculate 55:16
 call 3:2,2 5:2,3 15:3 58:13
 calling 11:4 16:7
 camera 7:4,7 13:12 24:15
 cameras 24:12,13
 Campbell 22:9,13
 campus 21:11,13,16,18,20 31:24
 campuses 21:21,25
 CAP 62:4,8
 capacity 21:2,4
 capital 76:15 83:22
 card 51:21
 care 43:18 75:5
 Carrillo 2:4 5:3,4,7,9,11,13,15

<p>5:15,18,20,24 17:1,2 35:23,24 36:1,20,24 38:5 39:5,19,20 40:2 48:25 51:13,14,23 53:12,19 54:15,22 55:8 56:21 57:15,22 59:7 70:4,9,12 84:14,16 85:2,10 85:14 86:24</p> <p>carrots 35:14 36:9</p> <p>case 31:18 53:25</p> <p>case-by-case 77:2 79:14</p> <p>categories 72:12,17</p> <p>cause 40:7 41:7</p> <p>CC 1:25 90:25</p> <p>CCR 1:20 90:8,19</p> <p>Century 69:1</p> <p>CERTIFICATE 4:4 90:7</p> <p>Certified 90:8</p> <p>certify 90:10</p> <p>chair 2:3,3 3:19,21 5:1,11,12,13 5:14 6:1,7,12,15,18,20 7:2,9 13:7 16:15 17:1,13,17,21,25 18:4,6,12,17 19:13,15,24 20:11 20:14,19 22:8,16,22,23 23:1,3,5 23:8 24:8,12,17,19,22 25:11,14 28:8 31:9 33:7,8 34:9,20,21 35:22,25 39:19 40:4 41:22 45:9 45:19 46:11,25 48:24 49:1 50:1 50:22 51:1,13,14,21 53:7,11 54:22 55:5 56:1 57:3,21 58:10 58:13,17,19 59:3,8,12,19,20 60:2,6,16,19,25 61:4,19,23 64:23 66:24 68:9,13,23 69:4,12 69:13 70:7,8,9,10,11,15,24,25 71:16 77:4 79:6 80:11,13,16,18 80:24 82:8,10,12,18,24 83:2,5,7 84:4,8,10,18,21 85:8,11,15,17 86:5,7 87:5 88:4,11,20 89:11</p> <p>Chairwoman 25:2</p> <p>challenge 33:24 63:7</p> <p>challenges 50:3,4,16 51:6</p> <p>challenging 50:13</p> <p>change 47:19</p> <p>changed 8:16 30:6</p> <p>changes 6:7</p> <p>Chapman 1:20 90:8,19</p> <p>charge 36:16</p> <p>chart 61:6</p> <p>charter 2:9,12,14 3:13,18 7:16 7:24 8:5 9:1 10:3 11:15 13:19 15:18 20:16,21 22:19,21 23:11</p>	<p>27:22 33:14 37:20 61:2 62:10 63:24 64:3,6 71:10 76:20 81:15 82:15,20 83:17,19</p> <p>chat 9:21</p> <p>Chavez 34:12</p> <p>cheese 51:17</p> <p>child 14:12 45:4</p> <p>choose 44:24</p> <p>chosen 9:16</p> <p>Christine 25:10,10 49:23 53:14 54:6,12,17</p> <p>CID 74:21,24 75:5,8,12 76:23 77:12 79:3</p> <p>Cien 61:15</p> <p>cities 66:23</p> <p>citizens 16:4</p> <p>Clahchischillage 5:21 88:12</p> <p>clarification 71:19</p> <p>class 46:18,22 52:24</p> <p>classes 13:25 46:14</p> <p>classroom 49:3,22</p> <p>classrooms 10:15,19 50:12 51:10</p> <p>clean 51:4</p> <p>clear 7:18 38:16</p> <p>clearly 8:24</p> <p>click 72:6</p> <p>closed 62:3,4</p> <p>CLR 63:22</p> <p>co-present 81:5,25</p> <p>coach 19:7</p> <p>Coblijn 14:24 15:11</p> <p>code 74:13 78:8,10,13,17,23 79:20 80:6</p> <p>codirector 25:6</p> <p>cold 53:17</p> <p>collaborate 14:8</p> <p>collaboration 14:6</p> <p>college 18:25 20:1</p> <p>column 61:9,10</p> <p>come 12:21 19:25 26:20 27:1 29:5,6,6,18 31:25 32:10 36:18 37:16 49:12 52:11 53:1,13 54:24 56:23 57:5 75:13,15 79:19 81:24</p> <p>comes 58:7 81:22 86:1</p> <p>coming 7:3 18:9 20:11 34:14 44:11 53:5 54:9 67:1 78:23 82:12</p> <p>comment 3:5 6:22,25 8:22 16:14</p>	<p>comments 3:23 9:3 10:25 19:14 84:11,18 87:4</p> <p>Commission 1:1 23:18 38:13 39:3,20,22 47:18 59:10 60:15 62:15,21 81:19 90:1,12</p> <p>Commissioner 5:4,6,7,8,9,10,16 5:17,18,19,20,23 6:11 14:25 16:18,19 17:1,8,23,24 28:9,11 28:12 30:20 31:2,7,9,10,21 32:4 33:6,7 34:21,22 35:21,22 36:2 39:19,19 40:5,16 47:1,1,3,22 48:17,20,24,25 51:13 55:5,6,7 55:12,24 56:1,2,7,21 58:9,18 59:24,25 60:1,7,9,16 68:4,5,11 68:25 69:5 70:13 77:5,6,19 78:5 79:5,6,7,23 80:8,20,22 82:4,14 82:19,23 83:8,9,13,15 84:3,13 84:14 85:16,17,18 86:6,18 88:2 88:7,12</p> <p>Commissioners 2:2 6:8,17,24 18:3,20 19:14 20:20 23:2,9,19 24:16 25:2 58:16 59:1,8 61:5 62:17 71:15,25 81:2 83:4 84:7 87:6 89:3</p> <p>commitment 41:12</p> <p>Committee 82:22 83:23</p> <p>communication 66:21</p> <p>community 17:4,7 20:4 21:17 85:21</p> <p>complain 12:21</p> <p>complained 12:16</p> <p>complaint 7:14</p> <p>complaints 11:18</p> <p>completed 63:14 64:21</p> <p>completely 51:15 53:3 68:9 74:23 79:18</p> <p>complex 52:17</p> <p>compliance 3:9 7:22 8:3 9:13 62:14 66:17 74:14 78:8,10,17 78:23 79:1</p> <p>complicated 44:3 56:13</p> <p>complication 44:9</p> <p>complications 44:9</p> <p>comprehensive 58:2,5 87:18</p> <p>compromise 44:17</p> <p>concentration 13:25</p> <p>concern 15:9,14</p> <p>concerned 52:7</p> <p>concerns 9:9</p>
--	---	--

conclude 10:24
concludes 16:14
condition 75:1
conditions 74:18
conducted 6:6 9:11
conducting 8:14
conflict 43:16
confused 31:11
congratulations 18:18 20:7
 70:18
connect 69:18
consent 3:7,9 17:18,19,22 68:21
consequences 9:15 31:5
consider 14:19 64:19
consideration 27:12 28:6
considered 50:12
consistency 65:7 67:23
consistent 67:21
CONSTANTINE 2:15
constantly 44:6
constitute 90:10
constraints 32:1
construction 79:25
Consuelo 2:15 88:5
consult 88:5
consultant 27:1
consultants 26:20
contacted 37:6 38:2
contemplating 64:14
continue 9:14 10:16 16:11 26:10
 30:4 33:1 37:25 63:15,20 64:5
 64:17 71:7
continued 4:1 7:25
continues 8:9 24:3
continuing 32:16
continuity 20:5
contract 3:10 20:22 22:21 24:2
 38:14 50:2 58:4,6,6 76:9,11
contracts 8:18 23:20
contractual 23:25
contractually 39:8
conversation 66:12 86:3
conversations 27:15
cool 20:4 57:20 67:14 71:12 89:9
Cooper 64:8
coordinate 29:21 78:13
coordinator 61:10,21
correct 16:8 30:24 31:1 32:3
 34:11 40:12,14 54:4,5,7 68:10

corrective 62:2,5,14 63:13 64:19
 64:20 65:25
correctly 29:4
cost 32:7,12 36:10 42:19,20
 51:11 54:9 72:7,9
Costco 17:10
costs 72:16 75:23 76:7,15
council 9:7,16 15:18 19:18 83:22
COUNSEL 2:17
country 51:9
County 90:13
couple 30:8 37:9 38:6 62:5 74:4
 79:8
course 81:21
court 1:21 13:15 90:9
CPI 83:25
cramped 10:16
crazy 44:5 60:13
create 48:1 50:13
created 43:11 44:18 85:4
creative 50:5 52:3
credited 63:4
Cruces 18:14,25 19:21 20:2
 68:18
CSD 22:6 23:23 33:8 57:24 61:16
 73:3 87:22 89:1
CSD's 23:17 61:6 64:17
CSP 71:20,21 72:3,18,22 73:11
 74:5,8,19 75:10,17 76:10,10,21
 79:22 80:1
culture 65:8
current 21:12,14,22 26:24 47:15
currently 10:8 20:24 21:5 48:19
 56:18 74:1
curriculum 75:22,25 76:2 80:2
custodial 50:19
custodian 50:25
custodians 41:4,9
cut 41:8,11 54:11 55:9,10
cuts 41:21
cutting 41:11
cycles 72:4
Cynthia 1:20 90:8,19

D

D 3:1,1 4:1,1
d'Arte 15:16
Dan 62:13 64:25
dances 12:1

data 62:16 63:25 64:18 67:21
date 39:6,21 40:1 52:9 54:24
 55:2 57:14
day 13:6 40:24 44:10,10 49:17,22
 50:25 61:11 70:17 82:11
days 34:14 82:9
deadline 77:21
deadlines 62:8
deal 35:6 46:4
dean 11:18 12:6,10
DeBell 71:5
debriefed 64:4 67:14
December 90:21
decide 39:3
decision 39:10,11
decision-making 86:1
decisions 9:6
decrease 55:16,20
decreased 41:1 55:18,22 83:18
deep 63:22 66:11
defined 86:22
definitely 27:10 30:4
delivered 37:5
democracy 16:6
Department 74:22
dependent 77:1
depth 72:10
Deputy 2:13
dereliction 8:7
designated 22:1
Despite 8:8
details 23:13
determine 21:6 24:5 79:10 87:10
 87:21
DeVargas 2:19
developing 76:2
development 19:11 64:12 75:22
Diego 62:10 63:8 64:2
different 15:2 25:21 26:25 29:5
 29:19 30:2,8 37:20 45:1 47:11
 67:13 87:15
difficult 21:5 27:18 29:20 30:8
 45:21
difficulties 15:7
Dion's 29:6
dire 13:20
direct 44:12 72:16
directed 22:14
direction 89:8

directly 8:19 32:24
director 2:9,13 18:8 20:18 61:1
 68:24 69:12 86:8
disappointing 69:6
discontinue 23:11
discuss 25:3
discussed 69:24 81:7,23
discussion 3:8,12,14,16,18,19,21
 3:23,24 6:13,15 16:17 20:15
 22:24 24:18 58:11 59:4 60:17
 60:22 61:3 68:24 69:14 71:13
 80:17 82:25 84:5,11,22 85:20
disgusting 12:20
dismissed 15:20
disorganized 60:12
dispensation 77:23
disregard 8:6
distance 21:25
distribute 32:24
district 19:16 22:3
disturbing 47:25 48:4
DIVE 63:23
Division 2:10,12,14 3:18 61:3
Document 22:20
documentation 8:17
documenting 7:15
documents 66:13
doing 16:3 37:21,22 38:7,9 48:21
 57:9 65:1,18,20 86:11 87:13
DOJ 8:8
Don 1:12
double 37:1
Dr 2:9 18:10 20:19 22:9,13,14
 23:8 38:18,23 39:18 54:5 61:4
 61:20,24 64:8,23 65:24 68:17
 69:18 86:15 87:7,17
dramatically 21:2
dream 57:11
drive 17:9
driven 52:15
due 55:20 87:13
duty 8:7 49:17

E

E 2:1,1,4 3:1,1,1 4:1,1,1
e-mail 84:25 85:6 88:5 89:2
E-Occupancy 74:22 75:8,13,18
 76:23 77:13,14 78:12
earlier 39:7 52:8 57:7

easier 89:10
easily 37:1 50:5 85:1
eat 49:3 50:11,11,17 51:20 52:24
 52:25
eating 37:12
EC 84:15
ed 62:3
education 1:1,12 15:17 19:2
 59:10 62:2 63:23 66:5 82:22
 90:1,12
effective 63:18 66:1
efforts 53:5
eight 5:24
either 39:22 58:24 63:14 73:8
Elect 3:16 59:4
elementary 21:11,16 50:7 51:2
elements 9:10 63:12 64:19
Elevate 64:13
eleventh 21:9
eligible 56:3
empty 79:18
encourage 48:13
encouragement 10:17
end-of-year 62:25 65:3
enforce 8:3 9:13
English 64:9
enjoy 13:5
enrollment 21:22
ensure 3:9 8:3 36:4,7
ensuring 7:23
entirely 51:20
entity 74:23
EOY 62:23
equal 42:11
Equip 17:9,12
equipment 33:15 34:1,2,3,5,15
equitable 27:22 43:19
equity 23:18 27:15,21
Escobedo 81:4
especially 42:1 51:7 67:8
ESQ 2:18
essential 75:21
essentially 38:22,23 79:21
evaluated 64:11
evaluation 64:16
events 12:1
everybody 14:17 27:17 54:9
evidence 7:18
examine 86:25

example 16:5 28:21 29:4 75:2
 79:15
examples 16:1 72:17
excited 17:2,6,7 19:11,19,19
excluded 8:18
executive 8:15
exemption 23:24 24:6 38:21,25
 39:4
exists 39:2
expand 21:8 34:25 73:20
expanding 47:15
expansion 73:5,10
expect 7:20 22:5
expectation 28:19 29:13 85:23
expected 81:8
expenditures 73:15
Expense 73:25
expenses 50:20,22 71:20
experience 66:14
experienced 37:8 55:20
experiencing 64:14
Expires 90:21
explain 23:15 44:16
explore 18:13 19:5 20:4 30:4
 32:17 62:1
Explore-Las 68:18
exploring 28:3
exposed 42:4 43:9,10
extend 24:6 39:4
extension 39:24 47:23
extra 37:15
extraordinary 51:11
extreme 79:16 80:10
eye 8:5
eyes 48:14

F

FAB 74:16
face 7:25
facilities 27:23 47:14 72:13 73:25
 74:14 79:23
facility 3:13 20:16 22:19 26:16
 26:16 27:23,24 28:2 32:17 47:4
 47:6,11,15,21 48:15 49:9 52:14
 74:6 75:9 77:1 83:18
fact 15:16 33:4 38:15
FAD 78:14,15,17,22,23 79:2
failures 8:12
fair 52:5

fairly 50:5
fall 34:13 76:22
falls 76:18
familiar 28:14 31:23
families 2:10,12,14 35:5 43:9
 44:22 45:11,13,15,17
family 42:7,8 45:20,21,25,25
far 54:9 88:9
favor 6:16 18:2 23:1 58:15 83:2
 84:6
Fe 1:13 2:20 17:7 90:13
feasible 23:14 38:24 49:18
fed 37:18
federal 54:2 72:10
feds 79:9
feed 53:5,6
feeding 51:9
feel 36:14 39:13 46:4 57:1 67:24
 87:22
feelings 20:3
feels 67:25
feet 52:21
felt 67:2
field 42:12
fifth 42:1
figure 25:21 26:8,15,19,21 27:6
 28:7 32:10 41:16 44:6 47:20
 57:9
figuring 56:17 89:4
filed 11:18
fill 84:24 85:13
filled 61:8
filling 19:7
final 14:23 77:11
finally 11:20 68:17 76:5
Finance 83:23
financial 40:23 61:10
financially 45:24
financing 82:21
find 34:13 38:10,20 40:13 48:9
 49:9 65:25 74:9
fine 13:14
finish 77:11
finished 77:10
fire 75:13,14,15 78:11,25,25 79:1
 79:2
first 7:1 17:5 24:25 31:12 38:8
 46:10 50:17 59:6,15 61:11
 66:25 76:13 77:6 80:21,23 82:3

89:5,7
first-grade 14:4
first-year 76:11
firsthand 10:10
fit 26:16 27:3 40:18
five 6:24 68:19 88:15 89:3
fix 32:18
Flag 3:3 6:4,6
flexibility 27:12 43:15
focus 71:21 72:14
focused 46:1
folks 17:14 24:9 32:10 53:23
follow 8:12 15:24 29:25 30:21
 35:16 85:8
follow-up 65:18
followed 67:4
following 16:2 39:24 74:17 75:9
follows 30:1,14
food 3:15 23:11,14,17,21,25 24:4
 25:3,19 28:15,22,25 29:2 30:11
 33:15 37:4 38:15 39:23 40:9
 49:12 53:3,8 58:2,5
foods 28:15,18
forced 52:3
foregoing 90:10
form 85:4,7,9
formal 7:13
formalize 88:25
former 61:14 62:18
forth 86:21
forward 19:17,20 58:7 64:1 89:8
found 12:8 79:17
four 21:19 26:20
fourth 16:23
frame 31:15
framework 81:8
free 17:5 35:4 36:15,17 41:25
 45:11 56:4
Friday 80:25 82:13,17
Friday-morning 81:6
Fridays 64:10
front 25:16 32:14
fruit 35:14
fulfill 7:21
full 13:15
fully 48:20 50:1
function 48:1
fund 36:19 42:16,19 54:10
funding 33:23,25 34:6 41:1,5,6

41:21 48:8 72:10 74:3,4 75:19
 83:18
funds 15:23 30:23 55:19 72:18
 72:24 73:12 74:5,8,11,19 75:10
 75:17 76:10
furniture 34:15
further 58:4 83:21
future 58:6 62:7

G

G 3:1 4:1
G-r-i-e-g-o 11:11
gain 75:18
Gallegos 61:14
Gaspar 1:12
gathering 86:21
general 36:18 42:16,19 54:10
 81:10,15,19,25
getting 10:16 51:3 54:10 65:15
 65:21
Gipson 2:3 5:11,12 19:15,16
 22:22 33:7,8 34:9,20 47:2 48:24
 49:1 50:1,22 51:1,21 59:19
 61:19,23 69:4 70:24 82:10
give 12:18 16:25 38:19,21,25
 52:10 57:8 59:17
giving 20:2 53:2 89:7
go 5:2 12:14 18:25 19:10 22:17
 28:9,9 30:16 35:24,25 37:8 40:4
 51:3,16 52:24 54:25 55:1 57:9
 57:18,19 65:21 67:22 68:16
 72:15 74:21 79:16 80:2,20,22
 85:19 86:3,13 88:24
goal 62:22
goes 16:10 39:20 72:9 74:15
 81:14
going 10:11 17:14 22:16 27:6,9
 28:4 30:9 32:18 34:24 35:8
 36:3,4,7 39:12 40:5 41:13,14,14
 41:19 42:18,20 44:20,21,22,25
 45:12,16,23 46:25 47:3,22 48:7
 48:14 55:21 56:11,13,19,22
 58:13,21 59:14 64:1 67:8 70:1,5
 70:8 71:21 72:15 73:13,22,24
 74:1 76:1 77:16 79:16 81:8,10
 83:10 86:25 87:2 89:6
good 5:1 6:23 7:13 10:1 11:13
 15:9 17:14 18:15,16 20:2,19
 24:22 25:1,8,13 29:15 40:2 69:7

71:14 75:7 84:25 86:22
governance 8:3 9:6,10 15:18
 19:18
governing 8:25 9:7,15
grade 21:8 42:2 43:2 50:17
grades 21:11,13,14
grandson 12:9
grant 23:24 33:20,23 34:10 57:25
 71:20,21 72:3,22 73:4,5,11,16
 79:22 80:1
granted 37:11
grants 84:2
grateful 65:6,16 67:5,15
great 17:11 18:12 24:21 57:14
 61:19 70:19,22,24,25,25 86:19
 89:10
greater 48:8
green 61:12
grew 18:24
Griego-Trujillo 11:3,14
growing 10:9,14
growth 62:16
guess 31:25 33:9 48:5 50:10 88:6
guidance 8:8 34:18
guide 72:7,9
guidelines 31:21 35:10,17
guts 73:19
guys 11:22 12:17 38:10 44:5,12
 44:14 46:4 47:8,12 56:8,23
 58:22 65:21
guys' 12:23

H

H-i-n-d-m-a-n 25:6
H-i-n-e-s 25:9
H-o-l-g-u-i-n 7:12
half 21:19 38:8
hall 1:12 14:2
hand 15:4 90:16
happen 28:5 47:23 67:8 73:13
happening 46:15 68:2
happens 42:14
happy 7:4 54:13,18,20 82:2
hard 47:7,9 51:2 67:17
harmless 41:2 55:14,19,23
hate 88:8
He'll 81:3
head 3:11 11:17 18:8 19:8 62:13
 62:18 66:22 68:20,20

health 28:14 35:18 75:7
healthy 26:6 28:15,18 29:2 30:1
 33:3 35:12
hear 11:6 13:9 43:6 54:16 67:16
 69:8 78:6
heard 19:18 22:9,10 40:7 60:3
 79:7
hearing 36:5 85:21,25 86:1
hearings 86:19
hearts 43:17
held 24:18 60:22 71:13 85:12
 90:12
Hello 11:6 13:9
help 12:23,24,25 14:6,8 26:21
 38:3,10 44:16 48:7 75:17 78:10
 87:10,21 89:6
helpful 66:18 79:4 86:4
helping 9:20 27:12 28:6
helps 78:24
hereunto 90:15
hesitancy 44:2
HHMI 19:9
Hi 10:1 25:8
high 11:15 16:23 19:3
high-performing 64:3,5
higher 22:2,3,4 63:5
highlight 76:6
Highlights 3:6 16:16
hinder 45:23
hindered 28:18
Hindman 24:23 25:1,5,15 29:15
 30:25 31:20 32:3 33:22 34:11
 35:2 36:12,23 40:15 46:16
 47:13 55:11 56:5 57:13 58:25
hindrance 46:13
Hines 25:7,8,8 31:4 37:19 44:19
 45:14 46:8,14 48:16,23 49:16
 50:15,24 54:8
hire 50:24
hired 21:15 61:13
historically 86:14
hold 16:9 24:17 41:2 55:14,19,23
Holguin 7:1,11,11 9:17
home 41:18,19,19
Honestly 37:7 51:1
hope 13:5 14:19 29:14
hopefully 32:16 69:9
hoping 87:20
horrible 13:2

HOSFORD 2:18
hospital 46:1
hot 11:25 37:4,21,22 52:22 53:15
 53:22 54:3
hour 38:8 43:1
hours 8:21 26:4 38:9 40:11,24
 42:23,24 46:12,19,20 56:18
House 55:12
huge 38:15
humbled 60:11
humiliating 42:1
hyphen 11:11

I

idea 37:11,11 48:5 53:3 55:8
 60:12 86:19
ideal 43:7 49:2 58:23 66:16 67:10
ideally 87:24
ideas 45:9
identified 63:6
illegal 8:11
illegally 9:11
Imagine 14:12
immediate 32:18
immediately 28:5
impacted 55:15
impeding 9:5
impetus 68:12
implementation 73:3,9,17
implemented 63:22
implementing 63:14 64:7
implicated 16:11
important 16:3 35:6
importantly 72:19
impressed 65:10 66:25
impressive 67:15
improper 8:9
improve 74:18 75:1
improvements 76:15
inaccessible 8:10
inaction 7:25
inappropriate 47:5
inaudible 64:22 85:4
incident 12:10
include 9:2 23:21
included 84:1
includes 21:24 23:13
including 8:9
income 45:20

incomprehensible 30:5 55:19
increase 76:24
increased 83:17
increases 83:25
increasingly 23:20
incredible 43:19 65:13 70:19,23 71:1,3
incredibly 65:15
incumbent 55:3
index 55:16,21 75:3 76:24
indexes 55:13
indicate 6:17 18:3 23:2 58:16 83:4 84:7
indicates 21:17
individualized 26:11
individually 32:22,23
individuals 26:20
information 64:24 86:21
Ingham 2:5 5:18,19,23 17:23 31:9,10,21 33:6 40:5 47:1,3,22 48:17,20 60:1,7,9 68:4,5,11,25 69:5 70:13 77:5,6,19 78:5 79:5 79:24 80:20,22 82:4,14 83:8,9 83:15
inherently 42:14
injustice 16:8
innovative 44:5
input 3:21 21:17 39:25 80:18 85:21
inside 73:20
inspection 77:11
Institute 63:23
instruction 41:13,20 72:16
instructional 19:7 41:3,11
insulated 53:25
intent 27:19 43:25 56:15 85:22
interesting 70:2
interface 9:2
interim 2:9 19:8 20:8 62:20 64:18
internal 9:9
Intervention 81:13
interviewed 61:13
intimately 28:14
introduce 18:19 24:24
introduced 80:25
Introduction 3:11 18:7
invested 19:25
investigated 7:19

invite 89:4
involved 14:18 47:17 50:19 76:1
issue 23:18 25:4,18 29:18 31:6 38:1 40:23 43:23,24 46:5 48:15 57:12 68:6 78:25
issues 27:21 40:8 49:5 61:25 63:25 69:16 75:14 78:8,15,17 79:1 82:15
it'll 36:18 70:2,10
item 6:21 16:16 17:18 18:7 20:15 23:7 59:3 61:1 62:10 80:17 81:6 86:12
Item(s) 3:8
items 8:11 85:13

J

J 2:4
J-a-n-a 7:11
Jana 7:1,10
Janet 14:24 15:1,11
jargon 66:5
Jerry 1:12
Jimenez 61:10
job 1:25 9:12 12:23 90:25
Joe 62:13 64:25
join 61:18
joining 18:17 61:15 62:19
Joseph 81:4
Journal 16:20
Julia 2:18 60:20,23 86:8,16
July 1:11 70:17 73:2 74:2,11 90:16
June 39:8,9 62:3,4,13 73:1,2 74:10 76:4,10
Justin 11:14

K

K 13:24 21:11
K-2 38:7
K-3 38:7
K-5 36:22
K-through-9 21:7
K.T 2:5 88:21
keep 16:6 48:13
keeping 67:24
kid 42:3,7,8
kids 14:1,12,13 25:25 27:7,9 35:19 36:5 37:2,11,14,18 40:18 41:15,17,18,24 42:5,25 44:7,23

49:2,3,11,14 51:3,3,9,17,20 52:23 53:5,8,10,22 71:1 76:12
kind 39:10,16 42:14 43:6,10 44:10,15,20 46:6 47:4 48:3 52:15 54:10 55:3 57:8 77:25 81:7,21 85:24 86:9 87:10,18,24
kinder 42:1
kindergarten 50:17
kitchen 27:24,25
kitchens 37:4
know 9:22 10:9 14:6,13 19:19,23 20:2 22:8 23:18 24:5 25:19 27:2,11,14 29:7,12 32:9 34:16 34:17,19 35:3,4 38:13 39:1,12 39:13,22 42:13,13,21 43:8,16 43:17,18,20,23 44:4,8,12 45:5 47:10 49:4,14,16 50:4 51:1,3,4 51:16,18 52:11,12,15,18,19 53:12 54:20 56:8,15,19 58:22 58:23 65:2,6,6,10,19,21 66:2,12 66:20 67:8,10 71:5 77:20 78:10 78:11 81:1,17 85:3,18 86:2 87:12,16 88:11,21
knows 20:6 88:17

L

L-i-s-s-a 25:9
lab 10:17
lack 41:21
Ladder 81:13
laid 30:10 33:2
land 47:16
landlord 27:25 32:7,12
language 14:14 63:6
large 16:21 21:7 33:12
Las 18:25 20:2
law 2:19 7:24 8:9 9:8 15:24 16:3
lead 19:12 89:2
leaders 63:20
leadership 67:6 71:8
Leah 61:10
leaning 68:8
learned 66:15
Learners 64:9
lease 21:5 52:21 72:14 73:25 74:6 74:9,9,12 77:8,15,21 78:1 83:17 83:24
led 52:25
left 26:12 69:4,5,19 70:17 72:17

73:17
left-hand 61:9
legal 7:22 8:6 9:5
legislation 31:6
Legislative 82:21
legislator 55:18
legitimate 31:15
Leonard 9:25 10:2
LESC 69:24 81:1
let's 17:17 72:13 80:3 88:24 89:4
LETRS 63:18,20
letter 83:22
letting 14:19 16:11
level 21:22 43:3 64:24
levels 65:18
liaison 2:15 64:13 82:9
Liaisons 3:21 80:18
License 90:21
life 75:6
lift 65:9
lightly 25:20
limitations 31:13 43:14
limited 88:9
line 26:1,9 27:6 31:13,14,17,22
 34:7 37:2,14 40:17,18 49:13,15
 74:25
lined 76:9
lines 37:18
Lissa 25:7,8,8 31:4 37:19 44:19
 45:14 46:8,14 48:16,23 49:16
 50:15,24 54:8
list 4:6 76:21 88:24
listed 77:25
listening 65:11
Literacy 63:8
little 12:18,19 19:4 31:11 34:25
 52:23,23 59:17 60:10,13 61:8
 71:19 85:23 86:22
live 8:24 52:9
located 20:24 21:19
location 20:23 22:20 25:23
locations 21:18
lock 74:5
logistical 45:7
logistically 37:7
logistics 43:23
Lomas 21:12
long 13:3 74:19 85:3 87:17
longer 16:9 68:7

look 17:11 26:21 48:10 81:11,13
 81:14 86:9,16 87:3,18 88:1
looked 27:2 28:21,24 29:10,17
 86:14
looking 19:17,20 39:16 47:5,11
 47:14,14,16 48:15 57:15 75:12
looks 17:11 42:10 45:5 74:15
lot 15:14 19:18 25:20 31:4 33:21
 39:9 49:18 50:15,20 66:8,12,15
 67:1,2 69:7 87:19
loud 14:1
Lovato 62:14,18 63:4,12,19 64:9
 64:25 66:10 67:6
love 19:24 31:25
Lucy 2:11 6:22,23 9:17,24 11:1,7
 11:10 13:10,14 14:21,23 15:1
 16:13,15 24:10
lunch 25:25 26:4,4,6,14 27:8,9
 29:24 30:13,15,18 35:4,5,7,9,18
 36:15,17 37:3,12 40:21 41:25
 42:13,18 43:2,3 44:23,24 45:1,5
 45:12,22 46:17 48:11 49:13,15
 49:24 53:14,15,17,21,22,23
 54:3,14,19,19 56:4
lunches 25:24,25 29:14 34:24
 35:8,13,19 36:7 37:22 40:11
 41:17,18,18,19 42:16,23,24
 45:2 46:12 53:9 56:17
lunchtime 49:5

M

M-e-a-g-h-a-n 25:5
Mabry 1:12
magnify 61:7
making 27:16 43:18 67:8
malfeasance 15:19
Mallard 13:8,18
man 40:25
manage 37:2,18
mandate 8:20
Manis 2:5 5:7,8
map 21:24
March 7:15
Mark 80:25
marshal 75:13,15 78:11 79:2
MASTERS 62:3
materials 8:20 73:18
math 22:3 40:20 63:3,5
Matt 89:4

matter 51:20 56:17 90:14
matters 65:20
McDonald's 51:4
Meaghan 25:1,5,15 29:15 30:25
 31:20 32:3 33:22 34:11 35:2
 36:12,23 40:15 46:16 47:13
 55:11 56:5 57:3,13 58:25
Meal 26:14 35:12,19
meals 26:11 27:7,20 28:17 30:1
 32:21 33:3 36:16
mean 32:11 35:2,7 38:12,17 42:2
 42:22,23,25 43:2 45:6,15 47:23
 52:14 65:24 70:21 78:10 88:11
 88:13
meaningful 66:1,11,17
means 76:8
measuring 34:14
Mediation 2:19
meet 19:23 26:5,13 27:4 28:7
 29:13,19 30:9,13,17 33:4 35:11
 55:2 62:24,25 88:9
meeting 1:10 5:2 19:17,20 29:1
 30:24 59:11 62:8,22 69:20 70:6
 89:7
meetings 8:14,16,23,25 71:7
 85:22
meets 36:16
MELISSA 2:13
member 2:4,5,5,6,6 10:3 45:25
 89:1
members 8:14 9:2
membership 84:1
mention 79:8
mentioned 34:23
mentioning 48:16
mentors 63:16
messes 50:18
met 63:1,2 77:18 81:1
Mexican 18:24
Mexico 1:2,13,22 2:20 3:3 6:4,6
 8:5 17:6 19:25 20:1 51:19
 64:13 71:11 76:24 90:2,9,12,13
 90:21
Michael 2:6 34:12,16
Michelle 11:2
mid 16:21
mid-August 69:21
middle 19:4
middle-of-year 62:24 65:3

miles 10:7 21:19
milk 35:14
mind 24:23 87:17
mine 66:9
minimal 32:6
Minimum 3:10
minor 74:13
minutes 8:17 82:1
misleading 8:10,11
missing 29:3
Missy 2:14 87:7 88:23
Missy's 87:17
mistaken 52:16
mixed 19:4
mobile 9:21
model 65:25
modified 62:21
modify 49:21
modifying 39:16 54:23
Monday 61:11 81:3 89:3
money 30:21 33:13,21 42:19
 53:13 79:11
monitor 49:13
Monitored 3:9
monitoring 65:25
Montgomery 20:25 21:13
month 11:25 61:17 86:11
monthly 71:7
months 65:9,19 84:14
Montoya 80:25
morning 5:1 6:23 7:13 10:1
 11:13 15:9 18:15,16 20:12,19
 22:9,11 24:22 25:1,9,13 37:12
 46:20 71:14 82:17
Mortgage 73:25
motion 6:12 17:25 18:6 22:17,23
 22:24 57:23 58:10,11 82:2,24
 82:25 83:11 84:4,5
motions 57:16
motivation 44:1
MOU 69:17,24
Mountain 17:3 77:12
move 6:9 11:20 17:21 22:18
 57:24 58:4 82:18 83:12,15,21
moved 18:24 19:5 25:23
moving 34:14 89:8
multiple 28:22,25 29:12 82:9
multipurpose 26:2 46:17,23
 49:21

music 10:18

N

N 2:1 3:1,1 4:1,1
name 7:10,11 10:2 11:9 13:15,17
 15:2,11,12 18:23 25:11
National 29:23,24 30:13,15,18
 35:9,17 42:18
Native 18:23
Nay 58:18
necessarily 28:17,21 29:1 30:12
need 13:20 21:23 38:11 41:17
 42:5 48:9,10 49:23 58:14 59:5
 65:5,6 67:22,23 74:17 75:2
 79:19 85:8 88:1
needing 41:10 45:17
needs 16:8 17:18 48:18 75:9
 87:23
negatively 55:15
negotiate 23:20
negotiations 50:2
neighbors 12:8
network 37:20
never 51:15 67:11 81:17
new 1:2,13,22 2:20 3:3,11,17,24
 6:4,6 8:5 10:12 11:21,23 13:1
 17:6 18:8,18,23 19:25 20:1
 21:10 23:21 39:11 47:6 48:5,15
 51:19 59:4 60:23 61:6,8,12
 64:13 68:20 69:15 71:11,21
 72:25 73:4,12,20 74:1,14,14
 76:24 77:24 79:17,23 84:22
 87:5,8 90:2,9,12,13,21
NM 1:20 90:19
NMPEC 2:15
nominate 59:22 60:1
nominated 59:16
nomination 60:2,8,10
nominations 59:15,16 60:4
noncompliance 9:14
notation 33:10
noticed 8:12
notices 8:10
notified 68:19
NSLP 29:23
number 37:1 38:2 59:14 64:24
 79:12
numerous 11:18 12:16
nutritional 29:8 35:16

NW 1:21 90:20

O

O 3:1,1 4:1,1
Obenshain 2:6 5:5,6 6:11 17:24
 28:11,12 30:20 31:2,7 58:9
 59:24,25 70:10 79:6,7 80:8
 85:16,17,18 88:19
obligation 8:2
obligations 86:17
obvious 47:4
Obviously 81:17
offer 32:21 45:10,12
offered 12:2
offering 63:7
office 32:5 52:16,24
officials 78:14
oh 45:3 57:18 61:23 69:5 83:11
 83:14
okay 5:24 7:9,10 11:8 13:7,14,17
 14:23 15:6 20:14 22:16 24:19
 31:2,2,10,18 33:6 34:20,20
 36:20 39:5 40:4 42:8,9 46:25
 52:2 55:24 56:7 57:18,19 58:13
 59:7 61:23 68:25 70:12 71:10
 73:24 77:19 78:5 79:5 83:11
 85:14 86:5 88:22 89:11
old 13:24
older 13:23 14:11,13
OMA 7:15
omit 8:17
once 65:17 67:5 87:9,23
one-year 23:24 57:4,25
ongoing 63:6,15
online 6:25 7:3 18:11 22:10 24:9
 24:11 65:11 71:11
open 1:10 48:14 62:7 71:22 77:3
 79:18
opened 10:7
opening 17:4,14
opens 42:9
operate 29:23
operates 7:23
operational 73:23 74:11
opportunities 43:20
opposed 6:18 18:4 23:3 58:17
 83:5 84:8
opt 30:15 48:2
option 13:11 32:15

options 28:20 32:17
order 3:2 5:2 26:1,5 27:4 29:19
 30:16 44:23 74:17 75:3,8 76:23
 77:15,17 79:20
ordering 44:23
org 61:6
organization 10:4
original 21:19
outcome 87:24
outcomes 41:14
outgoing 11:25
Outlay 83:22
outlet 48:12
outside 8:14 30:11,19 35:9,10
 46:13
overcrowded 13:21
overriding 15:8,13
oversee 21:16
overseeing 15:23
overview 81:15,20,25

P

P 2:1,1 3:1 4:1
pack 27:8 54:19
packaged 32:22,23
packaging 33:5
packed 36:6
page 3:2 4:2 38:17
pages 90:10
Pahl 89:4
paid 74:19
paint 75:3
painted 75:6
palatable 48:6
pandemic 26:12
panelist 15:5
panelists 24:11
parent 10:4
parents 2:10,12,14 12:16,20
park 32:5
part 10:4 22:21 29:18,22 36:5
 48:17 49:24 53:20,21 54:2 66:8
 71:2 73:3
participate 88:16
participated 12:1,2 64:2
participating 63:9
particular 16:1 85:25
particularly 66:19
partner 70:19,20 71:4

partners 66:21
parts 46:2
passage 55:12
passed 26:6
passes 18:6
pathway 41:6
PATRICIA 2:3
pattern 9:13
Pattie 19:16 82:8 88:20
Pause 60:21
pay 74:6,11 75:10,17,21 76:7,11
payments 74:9,12 76:3
PC 2:19
PCSNM 63:16 71:24 89:5
PD 64:10
peach 61:9
PEC 2:17 3:17,22,23 7:14,21 8:2
 9:16 15:9,17 22:18 23:24 24:5
 57:25 58:7 59:4 69:15 70:19
 80:19 81:23,24 82:20 83:16,21
 84:11
PED 7:14,21 8:2 15:10,16 26:23
 33:12 63:7 69:20,25 70:6 71:8
peer 87:1,1
people 6:24 15:22 16:2,9,10
 17:12 19:24 37:20 41:3,8 54:19
 88:8
percent 56:6 62:22,24 63:1,2
percentage 56:3 76:24
performance 81:15 82:20
periods 26:4
person 9:25 13:7 42:21 60:12
pertinent 86:17
phase 72:23,25 73:8,9,10 74:7
 75:20 76:3,8
phases 72:11,20,22 73:8
phone 11:3 59:14
piece 46:9 47:21 87:18
pieces 46:9 87:20
place 7:7 34:6 47:9 59:10
places 16:24
plan 14:3 52:12 56:23 62:2,6,15
 63:13,15 64:4,20,20 65:25 67:1
 87:10,21,25 88:4,18,25
planning 24:24 72:23,25 73:8,10
 73:16 74:2,7 75:20 76:3,8 82:4
 82:16
plans 63:19 64:12
play 37:15

playing 42:12
please 11:10,22 15:4 60:11 61:8
pleasure 84:16
Pledge 3:3 6:3,5
pocket 67:16
point 16:19 23:17 29:7 32:21
 40:23 68:7 69:23 87:1
pointed 79:2
Pojoaque 70:16,24,25
policies 8:16,18 72:11
policy 8:13 70:8,11
polling 8:13
poor 42:2
pop- 36:22
population 36:25
portion 21:4
position 26:13
positions 16:2 59:9 61:9
possibilities 62:6
possible 3:8,12,14,16,21 20:15
 49:1,2,11 56:19,20 57:2 59:4
 80:17
posted 8:18 61:22
postings 8:10
potential 26:25 32:17
potentially 28:24 29:11 78:4
practicality 44:1
practice 86:15
Practices 2:11
pre-work 66:10
prep 66:9 69:2
Preparatory 3:15 23:10 58:1
prepare 53:9
prepared 57:20,23
preparing 53:8,23
present 5:25 6:1 86:12 88:12
presentation 23:16 81:9
presenting 70:1
pressed 47:8
pretty 43:1
previously 77:13
principles 72:11
prior 8:8 62:18
priorities 87:11,21
prioritize 27:11
prioritizing 67:7
private 15:22
prob- 82:14
probably 20:2 38:6 74:4 88:8

problem 20:13 37:24 44:3
procedure 9:5
procedures 8:13
proceedings 1:10 60:21 89:12 90:11
process 9:9 44:11 48:18 49:7 77:10,17,20,24 85:21 87:2
professional 1:21 19:10 64:12
proficiencies 22:2
proficiency 62:16
program 10:19 29:24,25 30:1,14 30:16,18 33:3,10 35:9,12,18,19 36:6 42:18 45:18 51:7 53:20,21 54:3 62:3 63:4,8,10 64:5 79:23
programming 33:16
prohibitive 32:8
promoted 15:5
properly 8:12
proposal 10:12
proposed 10:7 21:10 62:15
provide 3:21 23:25 26:10 27:7,20 28:17,23,23,25 30:23 35:7,8 39:25 40:9 41:23,23 42:15 58:2 58:5 64:25 78:12 80:18 83:21
provided 38:15
providers 30:12 37:24 38:3
provides 74:15
providing 26:11 29:8,14 39:23
provision 23:25 55:14 58:4
PSCOC 48:8 77:16 83:24
PSFA 74:15,25,25 75:2 76:19,20 76:22,25 77:10,11,16 78:9,13 79:19
PSFA's 78:7
public 1:1,10 3:5 6:21,25 7:6,10 8:4,20,22 9:3,4,6,7,19 10:1 11:6 11:8,11 13:9,12,17 14:22 15:6 16:14 17:5 19:22 24:15,21 29:23 59:10 71:10 83:22,23 90:1,12
publicly 72:2
pulled 17:19
pulling 45:1
purchased 72:18 73:18
push 32:12 40:20
put 15:14 34:8 37:25 48:14 73:19
putting 29:11,12 45:2 53:25

Q

qualifies 36:15
qualify 35:3,4 42:17 45:11,24
quality 69:9
question 28:13 29:16,16 30:3 32:4 34:23 40:6 44:13,20 70:4 77:6 78:18 81:22 85:2,20
questions 19:14 22:12,14 28:9 33:19 68:24 71:22 77:3 80:11 82:3 84:19
quick 34:22 77:21
quickly 51:25
quite 55:10
quorum 82:6
quote 8:24

R

R 2:1 3:1 4:1
raise 15:4
raises 9:9
rate 84:1
rates 83:25 84:1
RATLIFF-PARKER 71:14,18 72:1 77:9 78:3,20 79:13 80:9,14
reaching 71:6
read 25:16 38:17 87:4
reading 22:3 38:19 63:2,5,10
ready 14:25 17:11 38:6
really 12:14 28:13 39:14 43:7 45:10 46:2,23 47:25 50:10,12 51:2,25 52:5 53:1,24 56:7,8 65:7 66:11,16 67:14 69:7,9 70:19 71:3 73:7,18 77:21 83:9 87:18
reason 10:5 33:1 36:25 40:22 74:20 75:10,17 79:8,15 80:6
reasonable 40:1 80:7
REBEKKA 2:3
recalculated 55:13
recall 62:17
receive 34:3,5 35:13 36:17 72:24 73:12 74:22 76:2,12,23
received 7:20 33:18 34:9,18 55:23
receiving 35:5 74:3,4
recognize 60:11
recommendation 38:18,24 39:17 54:24 57:24 64:17
recommending 23:23 67:22
recommends 22:6

record 24:18 60:22 71:13
Reduced 35:4 36:15 45:12 56:4
redundancy 86:20
referenced 28:16
refine 57:10
regarding 7:14 82:20
registered 6:24
registration 75:25
regulated 15:21
reimbursed 78:18
reimbursement 54:11 77:8 78:1 83:25
reimbursements 77:22 83:17
related 78:24
releasing 81:3
remain 58:5
remedied 50:5
remedy 48:21
remember 66:25 68:5 85:3,5
remove 24:1
removed 3:9 8:22
renewals 81:12
renewed 38:14
renewing 23:22
renovation 74:13 79:25
renovations 75:11
repairs 74:13
repeated 8:12
replicating 73:5
report 3:18,19 61:2 62:7,9 65:13 69:13,15 71:10 74:16 81:3
REPORTED 1:20
reporter 13:16 90:9
REPORTER'S 4:4 90:7
reporting 1:21 29:20 64:18
reports 65:15 78:22
reprieve 52:10
request 3:13,15 20:17 23:13 38:4 58:8 83:24
requested 22:6
requesting 39:24
requests 20:21 23:10 76:17
require 40:25 45:17
required 8:17 15:24 74:25 76:22
requirement 24:2 28:7 29:7
requirements 3:10 8:6 26:5,14 27:4 28:18 29:1,19,20 30:2,10 30:13,17,22,24 33:2,5 35:11 36:17 53:17 74:24 77:18 79:1

requires 66:3
resign 59:5,9
resources 72:4,6
respectfully 59:9
respond 44:12
response 5:22 6:14,19 7:20 17:16
 17:20 18:5 22:15,25 23:4 58:12
 60:5,18 80:12 83:1,6 84:9,20
responses 56:10,10
responsibilities 7:22
rest 13:5 82:15
restrictions 72:19
retire 69:3
retired 61:15
review 62:13 87:1,11,13
reviewed 63:11
reviewers 87:1
revisit 38:21 52:12
rich 66:11
rid 51:19
right 6:2,9 13:22 14:10 16:6,15
 17:9,15,17 18:12 20:14 23:5,7
 28:8 36:22 39:9 42:4 46:19
 47:17 49:17 52:17 55:4 56:5,24
 57:22 58:19 59:3,12 60:6,25
 68:13,16,23 69:13 71:16 73:24
 78:20 80:13,16 81:10 82:16,18
 84:21 85:4,15 87:13 88:14,22
 89:9
right-hand 72:20 73:14
rigor 43:20
Riverside 62:10 63:9 64:2
RMR 90:8
RMR-CRR 1:20 90:19
Robert 61:14
rock 47:8
role 18:18 20:8 85:24
roll 3:2 5:3 58:14
room 14:10 32:1 40:19 52:19
 60:12
rooms 10:21
route 30:16 39:20
rule 26:15 27:5
running 10:20 29:5
rural 66:19
Russell 2:9 18:9,10 20:18,19
 22:14 23:8 38:18,23 39:18 54:5
 61:2,4,20,24 64:23 65:24 68:17
 68:24 69:12 86:8,15 87:7,17

Ryan 34:12

S

S 2:1,6 3:1 4:1
S-a-r-g-e-n-t 25:12
sack 53:22
sad 69:8 70:18
safety 75:7,14
salaried 15:23
salaries 75:20,21 80:1
salary 75:24 76:2
Salute 3:3 6:3,5
Sam 2:6 70:10 88:20
San 62:10 63:8 64:2
sandwich 36:8 51:18
sandwiches 35:14
Santa 1:13 2:20 17:7 90:13
Sargent 25:10,11 49:23 53:14
 54:6,12,17
satisfied 64:21
satisfy 34:25 66:6
saying 29:3 78:1,7
says 29:22 73:16 74:17 76:8
 86:10
scenario 46:24 77:2
schedule 40:14 50:13
scheduling 43:6 44:3 46:3,5,7,9
 49:4
school 3:6,13,15 7:16 10:3,8,9,14
 11:16,21 12:2,5 13:3,19 14:12
 14:20 15:19 16:16,23,24 17:4,5
 19:3,4 20:16,21 21:20,23 22:1,5
 22:19 23:10,13,15 24:1,3,4,10
 25:24 26:14 27:8,16,16 29:5,24
 29:24 30:13,15,18 31:6 32:13
 32:23 35:5,9,12,18,19 37:20
 39:2,7,22,25 40:24 42:16,18
 43:1,13,21 45:5 48:5 49:9 57:4
 58:1,1,2,7 61:24 62:11,12,17,25
 63:7,13,19,22,24 65:8,14 66:8
 66:15,18 67:15,18 68:2 69:16
 72:25 73:20 74:15,16,18 76:13
 77:2,13,20 78:14 79:17,17 80:3
 80:4 82:15,20 83:17,22,23 84:2
school's 36:18 55:17,22
school-provided 35:15
school-specific 64:15
School/Options 2:9,12,14
schools 3:18 8:5 9:1 23:21,22

26:6 27:22 29:23 33:13,14 37:1
 37:3,6,17 48:8 50:7 51:2,5,8,12
 53:20,21 55:15,20 61:2 62:7
 64:3,6 66:2 67:9,14,22 68:15,19
 71:11,22 73:4,10 74:1,14,21
 75:18 76:21 77:7,24 78:24
 79:12 83:19
science 19:3 22:4
score 76:25
scores 63:5,5
screen 61:6
scroll 72:3,6,13 73:22
seats 73:13,21
second 6:11,12 7:9 10:21 17:23
 17:24 18:1 20:22 21:15,18
 22:20,22,23 24:17 58:9,11 78:6
 82:23,24 84:3,4 86:7
second-grade 14:4
secretarial 75:25
secretary 2:4 3:17 5:3,4,7,9,11
 5:13,15,18,20,24 15:17 17:2
 35:24 36:1,20,24 38:5 39:5 40:2
 51:14,23 53:12,19 54:15,22
 55:8 57:15,22 59:5,7,9,23 60:13
 60:24 69:17 70:4,9,12 84:15,16
 85:2,10,14 86:24
see 7:5 10:10 24:13,19 32:1 41:7
 57:10,10,19 65:22 67:21,22,23
 68:12 71:24 72:3,7 73:14 86:13
 88:11
Seeing 6:9,15 17:21 22:16 23:1
 60:6,19 83:2 84:6,10,21
seen 50:16 52:14
SEG 55:17,18,22 72:24 73:12
Segura 69:18 70:13
semester 37:9
send 45:22 60:20 84:25 88:5 89:2
sense 10:23 29:14,21 30:17,22
 33:5 34:7
separate 21:18 26:20 27:1 33:13
 68:10 74:23
separately 77:25
serious 9:9
serve 21:1,13,20 37:9 53:17
serves 49:21
service 1:21 3:15 23:12,14,17,21
 23:25 24:4 25:3,19 28:25 30:12
 33:15 37:2 38:15 39:23 40:9
 53:4 58:2,5 63:24

<p>serving 26:1,9 27:6 31:13,14,17 31:22 34:7 40:17,18</p> <p>session 86:6,12</p> <p>sessions 8:15</p> <p>set 16:5 22:19 56:25 90:15</p> <p>seven-hour 40:24</p> <p>share 14:11 71:19</p> <p>shares 32:5</p> <p>sharing 14:10 61:6</p> <p>shopping 76:21</p> <p>shout-out 16:25 17:9,12</p> <p>show 61:6</p> <p>showing 21:25</p> <p>shut 13:3</p> <p>side 72:20 73:14</p> <p>sign 9:22 11:5</p> <p>significant 54:8</p> <p>significantly 22:4</p> <p>signs 17:10</p> <p>simple 85:6</p> <p>simply 35:11</p> <p>sir 48:23</p> <p>sit 53:4 66:4</p> <p>site 32:2</p> <p>sitting 44:21</p> <p>situation 15:14 16:1 31:23 32:19 39:2,15 47:24 48:22 58:23</p> <p>six 26:3 40:11 42:23,24 43:2 46:12 56:17 65:9,18 84:14</p> <p>sizes 16:22</p> <p>slaps 12:19</p> <p>sleep 44:17</p> <p>slightly 22:3</p> <p>small 16:22,24</p> <p>smaller 50:9</p> <p>smart 38:11</p> <p>solution 38:10,20 52:3</p> <p>solution-wise 54:23</p> <p>solutions 25:22 53:2</p> <p>solves 57:12</p> <p>somebody 26:23</p> <p>son 10:10 11:20,23 12:5 13:1</p> <p>soon 77:10</p> <p>sorry 12:22,24 15:6 36:2 46:11 47:7 54:15</p> <p>sort 37:15 53:25</p> <p>sorts 16:2</p> <p>sounded 56:14</p> <p>sounds 40:2</p>	<p>sources 30:19</p> <p>South 69:2</p> <p>space 10:15 26:2,17,21 27:2,3,24 28:1 31:13,17 32:5,6,10 34:2,6 41:21 46:17,22,23 49:21 57:8 84:25</p> <p>speak 3:21 9:22,25 38:12 60:8 80:18 81:24 82:19 83:11,16</p> <p>speaker 11:2 14:24</p> <p>speaking 10:5 13:18 81:18</p> <p>special 62:1,3 63:23 77:23</p> <p>specialists 76:1</p> <p>specials 49:6</p> <p>specific 28:21 29:8</p> <p>Specifically 81:12</p> <p>specs 34:15</p> <p>speech 59:17</p> <p>spell 11:9 13:15</p> <p>spelled 25:11</p> <p>spend 28:1</p> <p>spent 19:6</p> <p>spew 66:4</p> <p>split 38:7</p> <p>spoke 30:7</p> <p>spoken 29:17 43:17</p> <p>spot 51:24 56:8</p> <p>Spotlight 3:6</p> <p>Spotlights 16:17</p> <p>spring 34:13</p> <p>square 52:21</p> <p>staff 2:8 41:2,7,12 42:21 49:5 50:9,19 56:18 62:19 63:21 64:2 64:10 65:1,17 69:20 70:6 75:21 80:1 87:22 89:1</p> <p>staffing 40:23,25 68:9</p> <p>stand 6:3 45:7 55:4</p> <p>standards 76:18,20,25 78:7</p> <p>standing 46:6</p> <p>start 13:11 24:25 51:10 61:11 67:21 86:11 89:3,7,8</p> <p>start-up 75:22 76:7</p> <p>starting 73:2 74:10</p> <p>state 1:2 7:24 9:8 22:2 35:11 47:4 51:8 74:3,4 90:2,9,13</p> <p>stated 90:14</p> <p>states 8:24 16:4</p> <p>statute 7:16 8:23 29:22 30:10 33:3 43:12,14 48:19 86:9,10</p> <p>statutes 48:1,10,11</p>	<p>statutory 86:16</p> <p>STEM 22:5</p> <p>STEVEN 2:4</p> <p>STEWART 2:5</p> <p>stick 45:3 65:12</p> <p>stigma 51:15</p> <p>stop 73:24</p> <p>strategic 87:10,20,25 88:18,25</p> <p>Street 1:21 2:19 90:20</p> <p>strengths 14:7</p> <p>stringent 35:17</p> <p>structure 87:11,21</p> <p>struggle 46:7 58:21</p> <p>student 10:22 11:15,24 12:12,14 27:21 32:24 36:13,14,16,21,24</p> <p>students 11:18 12:7,11,22 13:23 13:23 14:17,19 21:1,7 34:23 35:3,13 36:16 38:4 40:20 42:15 43:8,10,19 45:22 50:17 54:13 54:18 56:3 62:22 63:1,2,9</p> <p>Study 82:22</p> <p>stuff 73:19 80:2</p> <p>subcommittee 88:3,13,18,24,25</p> <p>subject 62:23</p> <p>submit 9:3 66:2,3</p> <p>submitted 7:13</p> <p>submitting 64:15</p> <p>Subway 29:6</p> <p>suffer 41:13,14,15,20</p> <p>suggestion 52:8</p> <p>Suite 1:21 2:19 90:20</p> <p>sum 33:12</p> <p>summer 32:9 52:13 61:18 63:8,9</p> <p>sun 11:14 17:3 77:12</p> <p>Sunday's 16:20</p> <p>super 19:11</p> <p>superintendent 70:16</p> <p>supervisor 71:6</p> <p>supplies 73:18</p> <p>support 10:6,13 20:3 21:17 59:1 83:16</p> <p>supporting 7:18 64:8</p> <p>supportive 12:3 54:23</p> <p>sure 7:3,3 13:15 17:13 27:8,16 31:19 33:11,17 41:17 43:1,18 44:14,19 45:7 55:11 75:6,14 77:17 78:21 83:9 88:17,23</p> <p>surprise 31:8</p> <p>surprised 49:8</p>
--	---	---

survey 32:10
 sweet 71:2
 sympathize 47:24
 system 20:6 42:4 43:11 64:16
 systematize 64:10
 systems 43:23

T

T 3:1 4:1
T-r-u-j-i-l-l-o 11:12
 tab 72:3
 tailored 10:22
 take 6:21 16:16 17:17 18:19
 32:14 40:11,13 49:11 52:22
 59:10 80:16 82:3 86:9 88:13,20
 taken 3:23 15:22 16:17 25:20
 84:12
 takes 18:7 34:2 42:22,23 50:5
 61:1
 talent 70:23 71:1
 talk 58:24 65:4
 talked 36:21 37:17,19 47:15
 talking 33:9 49:20 69:23 79:24
 talks 72:11,20
 taps 12:18,19
 target 39:21 63:1,2
 tasked 7:23
 taught 45:10
 taxpayer 15:23
 Taylor 2:6 5:9,10 55:6 56:1,2,7
 58:18 86:18 88:2,7
 teacher 10:4 13:19 14:5 19:3,6
 49:11,12
 teachers 12:3 14:4,4 49:23 64:11
 teaching 19:1
 team 19:12 64:4 65:20
 Tech 10:3
 technical 3:13 13:19 15:6 20:16
 20:21 22:19 61:20
 technically 39:8 80:5
 tell 11:22 55:9
 template 72:8
 temporary 52:10
 ten 82:1
 tenets 85:9
 tentative 78:1
 tenth 21:8
 term 58:6,6
 terms 62:16

testimony 90:15
 testing 63:24
 thank 6:7 7:2 10:25 11:1 13:5
 14:21,22 16:12,13,15 17:25
 18:17,20,22 19:13 20:9,10 22:8
 23:8 24:8,21 25:2,14 28:8 30:20
 31:3 32:4 33:6 48:16,23 55:11
 55:24 57:14 58:10,20,25 59:1
 59:12 60:2,16,25 61:4 64:23,25
 65:19,22 68:3 69:11,12 71:12
 77:4 79:5 80:8,13 83:7,20 84:13
 84:16 86:24 88:22 89:9
 thanks 16:25 20:11 33:8 51:12
 58:21 65:20 85:14
 therapy 12:11
 thing 32:20 35:6 43:5 44:25 46:3
 47:7 51:15 52:6,17 66:17 67:11
 72:15 78:6
 things 14:15 28:3,4 36:9 40:7
 44:5 45:7 49:6 67:7,16,17 74:17
 75:7 78:22 87:12,25
 think 14:16 29:3,16 30:3 31:4
 40:7 43:22 44:20 45:14 48:11
 48:14,17 49:5,24 50:15 52:5
 53:7 55:1 56:20 58:22 59:5
 66:16 67:9 85:8,11 86:18,19
 87:5,9,9,19,19
 thinking 44:16 50:6 51:24 87:7
 Third 1:21 90:20
 third-grader 10:10,11
 thought 12:22 16:5 44:11,15 45:6
 46:23 47:11 66:21 87:2
 three 21:20 26:4 40:11,24 41:3,8
 42:23,24 43:1 46:12,19,20
 56:18 73:5 74:1 77:7 78:24
 three-hour 40:20
 threshold 45:20
 thrive 11:23
 thriving 11:24
 throw 10:6
 Thursday 17:3 82:11
 tick 66:5
 ticket 41:25
 till 32:25
 Tim 36:1 51:25
 time 9:18 10:25 13:4 18:19 20:8
 28:6 31:15 37:15 39:9,14 40:19
 44:5 50:19 53:2 57:6 59:13
 64:21 65:5,7 67:25 69:16 82:9

85:4 87:17 88:8
 times 37:9 79:8
 timing 42:21 89:4
TIMOTHY 2:4
 tingly 20:3
 today 10:5 25:3,16
 today's 59:11
 told 66:13
 tonight 44:17
 top 83:13
 topics 3:24 84:22
 tormented 11:17
 tormenting 12:13
 touched 36:2
 tough 51:23 56:8
 traditional 22:1 42:25
 Trail 37:10
 trained 51:3
 training 61:21 63:18,19,20 67:1
 transcript 1:10 90:11
 transparency 8:17 9:4
 transportation 72:14 76:6,7,9,11
 transporting 76:12
 traveling 22:10
 trends 81:14
 Trista 34:12,13
 trucks 30:11
 true 78:19,21,22 90:10
 truly 56:16
 trust 8:4 9:7
 try 12:21 26:21 44:16
 trying 25:21 26:15,19 44:6 47:20
 53:1 58:22 66:5,5
 tune 30:6
 turn 6:22 7:4,7 24:12 80:3
 turnaround 50:19
 Turning 8:5
 turns 25:24
 Turquoise 37:10
 tutoring 63:4 64:7
 twelfth 21:9
 twenty 63:8
 two 11:16,16 14:4,4 15:12 19:6
 25:24,24 38:8 41:4,9 61:8 64:3
 67:13 72:22 73:8
 two-story 52:16
 types 36:9

U

Uh-huh 14:22
ultimately 21:14 34:16
unable 22:11
unacceptable 8:1
unalive 12:12
unallowable 72:12
unchecked 9:14
unclear 85:23
uncommon 43:5
undermines 9:7
understand 27:19 30:9 31:12,23
 50:1,3 55:10
UNIDENTIFIED 71:25
uniforms 42:10
unintended 31:5
United 16:4
universal 26:5,14 28:14 30:1
 33:3 35:12,18 48:11
unlawfully 8:14
unmute 7:8
unmuted 7:6
unrelated 16:1
untenable 40:22
unwilling 23:20
update 61:24 68:14 69:17 71:8
 75:16 88:24
updated 69:15
uphold 8:4
urgency 48:15
urging 9:12
use 15:2 34:10 46:22 73:20 74:5
 74:8,11 76:10
user 9:2
usually 50:8
utilize 34:1
utilizing 33:24

V

v-a-n 15:12
vacant 61:21 79:18
vague 8:10
Valenzuela 2:11 6:23 9:17,24
 11:1,7,10 13:10,14 14:21,23
 15:1 16:13 24:10 61:5 62:12
 63:11 66:7
Valery 71:11,14,16,18 72:1 77:9
 78:3,20 79:13 80:9,13,14 89:5
Valley 69:2
value 29:8 75:3

van 14:24 15:11
vendor 26:24,25 28:22,23 32:22
 38:8 40:10
vendors 26:9 28:22,25 29:5,11
 29:12,17,21 30:6,7,8,11 33:4
 38:5,6 40:13
verbal 9:3
verbatim 11:15
versus 42:21 68:2 85:25
Vice 2:3 5:11,12 19:15 22:22
 33:8 34:9,20 49:1 50:1,22 51:1
 51:21 59:19 61:19,23 69:4 70:9
 70:24 82:10
video 8:24 11:5 13:11
videos 72:5
view 23:17
violate 8:9
violates 9:8
violating 8:19
violations 7:15,19 8:1 9:19
visit 67:9
visited 62:12
visiting 64:5
visits 64:3
Vistas 22:1
volunteers 88:13
vote 59:18
votes 8:11 60:20

W

W 2:19
waiver 48:18 53:16 57:4,25 58:8
 64:15
Walatowa 68:6,8,11
Waldorf 17:5
walls 75:3,5
want 10:16 11:8 12:14,25 15:5
 16:3 18:18 19:15 24:6 27:20
 39:6,12 44:4,15,24 54:25 73:19
 75:6 76:17 78:25 80:20 84:13
 88:17
wanted 15:8,13 16:19,25 17:8,11
 22:11 76:5 85:20
wanting 15:2
wants 9:22 75:1 88:21
warehouse 79:17 80:4
wasn't 7:7 12:5 32:14 69:2
way 28:16 39:15 41:16 48:2,9
 73:23 76:4 87:3,14

we'll 14:3,8,11 17:5 18:12 28:8
 35:8,13 38:19 58:24 59:14,16
 59:17,18 71:6 86:12
we're 10:20 14:10,18 19:23 26:7
 26:12 28:3 32:16 41:11,13,13
 41:14,19 42:10,11 44:21 45:16
 47:17,20 49:20 56:22 59:14
 65:13 71:16 72:4 85:12 86:20
 86:21 89:11
we've 16:5 26:9,19 27:14 37:19
 38:2 45:6 47:13,14,16 54:11
weaknesses 14:7
webcasting 7:16 8:23
webcasts 8:25
Webinar 1:14
website 9:1 71:24 72:1
week 69:25 70:17 82:16
weeks 74:5
welcome 80:15 84:24
well-deserved 61:17
well-documented 7:25
well-intended 31:5
Wellness 26:23
went 11:20 42:25 51:22 66:7,10
weren't 31:16,16 33:11,17 86:25
whereof 90:15
whispered 51:25
wholeheartedly 10:13
wild 81:22
willing 32:13
wish 43:13
wonder 42:20
wonder- 67:20
wondered 82:5
wonderful 12:4 13:2
wondering 28:16 29:10 52:18
words 15:12 38:17
work 16:21,24 25:21 32:7 33:1
 33:14 37:7 38:20 48:11 49:18
 56:14 60:14 66:8,9 78:21 86:6
 86:12
worked 26:9 32:25 34:12 51:2
working 13:13 28:24 57:16 63:15
 63:24 64:8,9,13 84:15
workplaces 16:21
works 35:1 45:21
worries 41:24
worry 14:1 43:7 82:6
wouldn't 30:17 49:4 52:6 53:6,9

78:17	14th 17:3	400 52:21
wrist 12:18	15 3:24	4020 21:12
write 88:18	16 3:6 4:3	45 25:25 40:18
written 9:3 66:13	17 3:7	4501 20:25
wrong 81:14	170 21:7	
	18 1:11 3:8,11	5
X	18th 61:18	5 3:2,7 13:24 17:18 21:11
X 3:1 4:1 75:9,16	19 7:15	50 62:24
	1950 1:21 90:20	500 37:10
Y	1st 73:2	52.8 63:1
Y 75:9,16		59 3:16
y'all 58:24	2	
yeah 6:15 13:1,12 17:8 18:20	2 3:4	6
24:10,19 27:2 28:12 29:15	20 3:12	6 3:4,5,8 21:13,14
30:25 34:12,16,22 35:2,20 43:2	20,000 55:23	60.4 63:2
44:18 46:18 49:16 51:22 54:7	200 2:19	61 3:18
55:7 56:2 57:14 59:7 68:4,10	200,000 28:1 41:2,7 54:11 55:9	63 55:12
70:15,18,21 79:7 82:10,11	55:22	69 3:19
85:13,14	201 1:21 90:20	
year 9:14,14 10:11 12:9 19:2	2019 25:24	7
21:8,14 23:14 24:1,4,6 25:24	2022 19:5	7 2:19 3:11 18:7 19:16
32:16 37:23 38:20,22 39:2,3,7	2023 26:6	70 62:22
39:24 49:9 57:4,10 58:3 62:23	2025 1:11 7:15 90:16,21	72 8:21
63:16 64:6 65:4,14 68:2 69:8	2025-2026 24:1	
73:7,16 76:13	2026 58:8	8
year-long 47:23	219 1:20 90:8,19	8 3:12 20:15
years 11:16,16 19:3,6 50:2 54:13	21st 69:1	8.a 22:20
54:18 58:7 73:6	23 3:14 56:6	80 3:21
yesterday 69:19	23rd 62:13	84 3:23,24
younger 10:22 13:23	24 19:3	87102 1:22 90:21
	25 49:14 56:6	875 21:1
Z	25-'26 38:25 58:3	87501 2:20
Z 75:9,16	26-'27 24:4	89 4:3
Zoom 1:14	270 40:20	
	27th 19:2	9
0	29 90:16	9 3:14 23:7
		9:00 1:11 11:5 82:12
1	3	9:01 5:1
1 3:2 4:6 74:11	3 3:5 6:21	90 4:4
1:30 43:4	30 39:9,13	
10 3:16 21:13 59:3	300 1:12 52:20	
10:30 37:12 43:4	30th 52:9 54:25 55:2 57:6,12,13	
10:48 89:12	57:20 58:8 73:1,2 74:10 76:4,10	
100,000 28:1	31 90:21	
11 3:18 61:1	339P 1:25 90:25	
11.b.3 62:10	3rd 62:4	
11:00 37:12 46:18		
12 3:19 21:15 62:3	4	
13 3:21 69:23 80:17	4 3:6 16:16	
14 3:23		