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NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

Meeting

Friday, October 22, 2010

10:31 a.m.

Mabry Hall-Jerry Apodaca Education Building
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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APPEARANCES

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION OFFICERS AND MEMBERS:

M. Andrew Garrison, Chair
Carolyn Shearman, Vice-Chair
Eugene Gant, Secretary
Kathryn Krivitzky, Commissioner
Dr. Kristine Meurer, Commissioner (Sitting in for
Commissioner Lopez)
Mavis V. Price, Commissioner
Catherine M. Smith, Commissioner
Vince Bergman, Commissioner
Millie Pogna, Commissioner
Jeff Carr, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Bern Tennyson, Executive
Administrative Assistant, Finance and
Operations

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1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Call this meeting of
2 the Public Education Commission to order. We will begin
3 with roll call.

4 Secretary Gant.

5 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Krivitzky?

6 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Here.

7 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Smith?

8 COMMISSIONER SMITH: Present.

9 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

10 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Present.

11 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

12 COMMISSIONER CARR: Here.

13 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

14 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Here.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Price?

16 Not here, is absent.

17 Commissioner Shearman?

18 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Here.

19 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Here.

21 SECRETARY GANT: Chairman, we have a
22 quorum.

23 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Carla Lopez,
24 Commissioner Lopez, is not here. She let me know there
25 is a health issue in her family, so she had an

1 emergency.

2 We are going to stay seated for item three,
3 which is the statement of aspiration with Commissioner
4 Bergman.

5 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 Are we working? Can you hear me?

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I was trying to
10 spend a week trying to find out what I might say today,
11 and then on Monday, I saw an article that appeared in
12 the El Paso Times, and it referenced a story about the
13 Ysleta Independent School District, which is on the far
14 southeast side edge of El Paso along I-10. And the
15 purpose of the story was that their superintendent and
16 some of the other administrators in that district -- and
17 I'll get to the point why we're talking about a Texas
18 school district.

19 But they're traveling to New York City.
20 They were one of five finalists for an award called the
21 "Broad Prize for Urban Education." And it's a group
22 that follows and honors school districts in urban areas
23 that have had success in their educational results, and
24 they're one of five finalists. And I'm sure you get a
25 nice trophy, but the big part of this award was that

1 they win -- the school district that wins takes home a
2 check for a million dollars to their school district.

3 And I thought that since this is the part
4 about aspiration, we'd talk about that district, because
5 as you might imagine, in an urban district, they all
6 seem to have more difficulties than the smaller
7 districts.

8 The Ysleta School District has 44,000
9 students in 61 schools, so if they were in our state,
10 they would be one of the largest districts in our state.
11 And what I thought -- part of the story that really
12 caught my eye was that they are 92-percent Hispanic, 80
13 percent fall into the poverty guidelines, and 24 percent
14 are English-language learners, which we normally would
15 identify those -- those statistics typically have some
16 problems. And, in fact, this district did -- for many
17 years, they were a low-performing district. They had
18 some years where they were better than others. But
19 apparently, at least on three occasions, they were on
20 the brink of being sanctioned by the Texas Education
21 Agency and placed on probation, and yet here they are
22 now going to New York City as a one of five finalists.

23 And when you look at those factors -- I
24 thought I might just share how they got to that point,
25 and there's a point I'll make at the end.

1 The superintendent said, "There are some
2 who feel that perhaps, given the makeup of our student
3 enrollment, Ysleta should be a low-performing school
4 district, but we are proof that every child can learn
5 and deserves a chance to do so even if they come from
6 low-income families and English is not their first
7 language."

8 And here's some of their achievements.
9 They were the first urban school district in Texas to
10 ever reach the recognized mark. They have the highest
11 rate of students taking the SAT exam among all urban
12 districts in Texas. The number of exemplary and
13 recognized schools exceed the number of academically
14 acceptable schools in their district. More schools in
15 Ysleta have received blue ribbon awards from the federal
16 government than any other district in El Paso, and it
17 wasn't -- like I say, it wasn't an easy transition.

18 One of their principals, Gloria Polanco,
19 said, "For many years, there was no culture of high
20 expectations in this district." And, unfortunately, I
21 think that could be said of a lot of districts. They
22 don't have the high expectations. Instead of saying to
23 the kids, "We know you can learn," they share -- they
24 try -- through a procedural error, tell them they can't
25 learn. Well, this district shows that they can learn

1 and do very well.

2 How did they do this? That's the important
3 part. They implemented new instructional methods,
4 devised special programs to help students succeed. The
5 superintendent, when this all started -- and they have a
6 different superintendent now -- he empowered his
7 principals. He told them that they were going to be
8 responsible for their particular schools, and he would
9 give them all the tools necessary to make those schools
10 successful. He raised performance expectations. Again,
11 sometimes I think we're slow to recognize that kids can
12 learn, but they expect us to put some high expectations.
13 They want to be able to excel, and we sometimes don't
14 give them credit for that.

15 Test scores were improved to levels that no
16 El Paso district had ever reached. He implemented a new
17 bilingual education program that focused on Spanish for
18 retention. He was an innovator, and he brought to his
19 position as superintendent a sense of urgency about the
20 job that was in the hands of the educators in that
21 system.

22 It says, "Ysleta has consistently been
23 there at the top in student performance on the TAKS test
24 effective" -- that's the Texas Assessment of Knowledge
25 and Skills. And therein closed by saying -- the current

1 superintendent said, "We are the ones thinking outside
2 the box about instruction. Since 2003, our TAKS scores
3 have gone up 32 percent." 32 percent. And that's in,
4 what, seven years? They probably don't have this
5 year's, so that's probably in six years.

6 He credits the recent increase in student
7 achievements to the creation of small learning
8 communities within the district, a program that breaks
9 down that student district into small clusters of
10 schools for purposes of teacher training and as they
11 continue their focus on bilingual education, foreign
12 languages, fine arts, science and technology.

13 And the thing that really jumped out on me,
14 in 2008, their graduation rate was 80 percent. Last
15 year -- or this year, our cohort rate for statewide was,
16 I think, about 65 percent. And this is a district that
17 most people would assume is a low -- should be a
18 low-performing learning district, and they're graduating
19 80 percent of their kids.

20 And my part of the aspiration part of this
21 is, surely we can do this in this state, with some bold
22 new ideas. We're going to have a new governor in two
23 months. We're going to have a partially new
24 legislature. They're inheriting some budget problems,
25 which is going to impact education, unfortunately. But

1 maybe this is the time to say good-bye to the status
2 quo, and it's time to tell the kids, We know you can
3 learn, no matter what your circumstances are. It
4 doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor or Anglo or
5 Hispanic, you can succeed.

6 We need to change the culture of
7 expectations in this state. And hopefully this coming
8 January, we'll have a chance to maybe go in a new
9 direction. That says nothing about what's been done in
10 the past. Efforts have been made. But what happened in
11 this district I just -- occurred to me -- I just
12 thought, like I said, you know, wow, it can be done if
13 the political will and the desire amongst the people is
14 there.

15 And that's what this is about. What do we
16 aspire in this sate? What are our aspirations for the
17 school students in this state? Nothing we'll do here
18 today can change that, but it's -- I offer all this as
19 food for thought for people to think about. What can we
20 do to make it -- I don't know how to word it. I'm going
21 to word it wrong if I do it -- to ensure that the kids
22 get the necessary education they need.

23 I've gone a little longer than we normally
24 go.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you, Commissioner
2 Bergman.

3 I'd like everyone to stand while
4 Commissioner Smith leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance
5 and leads us in the salute to the New Mexico flag.

6 (Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and
7 Salute to the New Mexico Flag.)

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The next item is the
9 approval of the agenda. I had a couple of late
10 arrivals. Dr. Veronica Garcia is en route. And also,
11 Dr. Kris Meurer, who is sitting in for Secretary of
12 Education, Dr. Susanna Murphy -- bless you -- she is on
13 a conference call. So what I would like to propose is
14 that we move number nine, the Career-Technical Education
15 Update, to -- before number seven, before the
16 recognitions. Dr. Lomax is ready to go. And she
17 actually has a conference call that she wants to make
18 after, so this might be the perfect storm. So we could
19 end up in --

20 The Chair will entertain a motion.

21 COMMISSIONER SMITH: Mr. Chair, I move that
22 the agenda be adopted and changes made necessary to
23 expedite the business.

24 COMMISSIONER CARR: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's been moved by

1 Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Carr.

2 All those in favor say aye.

3 (All Commissioners present said "aye.")

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Opposed?

5 The agenda is approved.

6 Number six, Approval of the Minutes. Has
7 everyone had the opportunity to go through the minutes?
8 Are there any corrections?

9 COMMISSIONER CARR: Make a motion that we
10 approve the minutes.

11 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: There's a motion on the
13 floor. There's a second by Commissioner Bergman.

14 Any discussion? I actually had three, but,
15 Commissioner Carr, I think I was fumbling through here
16 when you said that, so I was stuck. Let me just -- let
17 me just go over these briefly.

18 COMMISSIONER CARR: Well, we're in a
19 second, so --

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Now I lost my handy,
21 dandy blue page that separates all of this.

22 On the agenda of September 10th, there is a
23 three -- the minutes of September 10th -- thank you --
24 on page 53, line 23, please change ACAMA [phonetic] to
25 YAFL. It stands for Young American Football League.

1 Page 55, line 15, "Brian Colburn."
2 C-O-L-B-U-R-N will replace the spelling that is in the
3 minutes.

4 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Where was that,
5 again, Mr. Chairman?

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: That was on page 55,
7 line 15. So if you don't have the blue page that
8 separates September 9th from September 10th, that may be
9 causing some confusion.

10 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: It is.

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Mine's in there, but
12 it's very -- it must be shorter than the rest of the
13 page. There it is. So September 10th is where I'm at,
14 and it's after the blue divider.

15 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And then the last one
17 is on page 66. And as matter of self preservation, I
18 cannot let my daughter's name go misspelled. It's --
19 her name's Stefani. And I told my wife, She'll never
20 be -- she's going to be called Stephanie for the rest of
21 her life, and here it is. So page 66, line 20,
22 S-T-E-F-A-N-I, and it's pronounced like the singer, Gwen
23 Stefani. My wife is sick.

24 (Laughter.)

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Are there any other

1 changes?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't believe you
3 said that.

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Well, she's away, so I
5 can't get --

6 So, Commissioner Carr, there's a motion on
7 the floor to approve the minutes; it was seconded by
8 Commissioner Bergman as a friendly amendment. So all
9 those in favor of approving the minutes from the
10 September 9th and September 10th meeting say aye.

11 (All Commissioners present said "aye.")

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: All opposed? No?

13 The minutes are approved.

14 We will now move to item number nine,
15 "Career-Technical Education Update," by Dr. Lomax.

16 Good morning.

17 DR. LOMAX: Good morning.

18 Good morning, Mr. Chair and Members of the
19 Commission, and Mr. Gant, the Chair of the PEC
20 subcommittee.

21 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
22 today to bring an update to you about something that I
23 and Mr. Bergman aspire to provide support to, and I also
24 see many good notes that are similar to some of the
25 things that you've reported on just this morning. And I

1 hope that the documents that I've provided you during
2 your review prior to today will help underscore some of
3 those items.

4 With that being in mind, I believe that in
5 your packet -- I haven't looked at it, but they should
6 have a copy of the agenda items.

7 So, Mr. Chair, if it's all right with you,
8 I'd like to get to address those, and then pause at each
9 moment, see if there are any questions.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The floor is yours.

11 DR. LOMAX: Thank you.

12 Item number one: Welcome and thank you for
13 allowing me to be here.

14 Number two: The Perkins Grant
15 Implementation. For those of you who may not recall,
16 the Career-Technical and Workforce Education Bureau is
17 in charge of administering the Carl D. Perkins Education
18 Improvement Act, and those are grant monies that total
19 approximately a little over \$8 million.

20 By the time administrative costs and certain other costs
21 are taken away from that amount, there is about
22 \$3 million-and-some-odd that are split 50/50 between
23 support for secondary and postsecondary schools that are
24 implementing career and technical education programs.

25 And so what I've provided for you is a

1 link, and I broke down and gave you a large -- I think
2 it's an 11-by-17; it may be 11-and-a-half-by-14 --
3 two-part document. I was going to just make it
4 electronic, but I thought, well, if you're like me,
5 sometimes you like to have a reference point. So you
6 have a listing of this year's grant-funded programs by
7 postsecondary institution and by secondary institution
8 that's available for you. If you would like to look at
9 it electronically, that is the Web site that will take
10 you to the place that you can access, and then do
11 searches that you might like.

12 But you'll see that these documents are
13 broken down with regard to the local educational agency
14 that is the recipient of the Perkins funds, who they are
15 partnering with, what the program of study is that they
16 are implementing, what the industry certification is
17 that is achieved through the particular study that is
18 implemented, what New Mexico cluster is identified and
19 in which this program of study resides, and then also
20 what is the national career cluster.

21 What we want to do is train our young
22 people to be -- well, for lack of a better term --
23 shovel-ready or dental-ready or stem-ready at the moment
24 that they graduate from high school in some form or
25 fashion. And so industry certifications play a big part

1 in what we are underscoring our curriculum in. And we
2 want it to be portable across the nation, but we prefer
3 much that they would stay here in New Mexico.

4 You also see the career pathway. If you
5 see a two-year degree plan of a student and that the
6 program of study is in alignment with, should that
7 student at the graduation point in high school determine
8 that they want to join a career field at the moment, and
9 then you also see Local Industry Partners.

10 And as I mentioned to Mr. Gant and also to
11 Mr. Carr in our subcommittee meeting, Local Industry
12 Partners is something that I and also the members of the
13 teaching faculty and the administrators of the district
14 are extremely proud of.

15 More and more you hear emphasis talked
16 about in the community about building relationships and
17 talking about economic indicators and providing jobs for
18 our families in our communities. And when you see a
19 listing of the Local Industry Partners that are actively
20 engaged in support of our LEAs, our postsecondaries and
21 our students, it gives me reason to pause and be very
22 proud and to thank the business community for the work
23 that they are doing in education.

24 This is just an FYI point, but it is a
25 current listing of our 2010-11 Perkins supplemental

1 supported fund.

2 So, Mr. Chair, are there any questions at
3 this point?

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: No.

5 DR. LOMAX: Thank you.

6 The next item that I'd like to address is,
7 there is another portion of the Perkins Grant
8 administration, and it's known as Tech Prep. It is a
9 separate funding item. The totality of Tech Prep is
10 somewhere in the neighborhood, this year, of around
11 \$830,000. Again, administrative and technical
12 assistance services come out of that total amount.

13 Hello. How are you? Welcome.

14 (Dr. Kristine Meurer enters the meeting.)

15 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

16 Very briefly, I want to welcome
17 Dr. Kristine Meurer. She's sitting in for Secretary
18 Susanna Murphy.

19 Good morning.

20 DR. MEURER: Good morning. Thank you. I
21 apologize for being late. I had two conference calls
22 this morning, but I'm here. So thank you.

23 DR. LOMAX: Thank you.

24 The Tech Prep is a separate grant. It's
25 competitive. Remember that Perkins basic grant funds

1 are given according to federal formula allocation.
2 There's no variation. It must be applied based on
3 demographics, but Tech Prep is competitive. And through
4 an application process that requires outside individuals
5 to score and rank the applications, the Tech Prep funds
6 are awarded. And you can see here a listing of the four
7 schools that have received Tech Prep funds and the
8 amounts and the programs of study that are being
9 implemented.

10 The requirement that differs between the
11 basic grant and the Tech Prep Grant is that there must
12 be a two-plus-two readily identifiable required
13 programmatic sequence of courses, meaning a junior and
14 senior in high school and a freshman and sophomore in
15 college. And that track doesn't deviate, and that
16 education is provided.

17 In the basic grant, the option is there.
18 Certifications can be achieved and attained by the time
19 a high school student finishes. But in Tech Prep
20 grants, the completion of that certification does not
21 occur until the end of their second year in college.

22 Those are the items regarding Tech Prep.

23 And, Mr. Chair, if there are any questions
24 on Tech Prep, I'd love to be able to respond to them.

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Any at this time?

1 Please continue.

2 DR. LOMAX: Okay. Item C under our Perkins
3 Implementation is the electronic grant application. And
4 I have -- hopefully, you received them in color, and
5 your -- well, maybe your hard copies are black and
6 white, but electronically, you should have received them
7 in color. But on page 3, you see the score-content
8 plan, which was provided to the full Commission the last
9 meeting that I attended, because I wanted you-all to be
10 aware of what this document was going to be including.
11 And these are the elements of inclusion for this
12 application.

13 What we found over the last two years is
14 that the stakeholders who are applying and making
15 application for the funds that are provided through
16 Perkins have a much easier time if they can maneuver and
17 navigate electronically, rather than through the paper
18 mill. And so we had a beta test two years ago and an
19 implementation phase of an electronic application. We
20 did version two last year. Now our full-fledged version
21 is brought to you in living color. And it is not only
22 the screen shots of the pages, but our stakeholders and
23 the staff of CT Web will access and utilize.

24 You-all should be able to review this at
25 the completion of the generation of this document, and

1 that will be in December, because we will be using this
2 for the 2011-2012 grant application process. But the
3 beauty of this -- it's called the score project. It's
4 called the States Online Career-Tech Resource
5 Environment. It is a one-stop shop. We have grant
6 monitoring that's available. We can keep up with the
7 status of grants. We have applications that are -- that
8 are inserted and completed at the local level and the
9 postsecondary level through this document.

10 And so I'm going to take you quickly
11 through the six or seven pages that I have there. The
12 first one is -- and as I said, these are screen shots.
13 But this gives you an idea of what our stakeholders will
14 see. There is an opportunity for grant navigation, to
15 look in -- look at and log into our Explorer upcoming
16 calendar events. There's grant management for the staff
17 within the bureau. There are user accounts that'll be
18 individualized for each of the stakeholders. That means
19 the LEAs and postsecondaries that are going to complete
20 their education, as well as contact information.

21 On your next page, this picture is static
22 on this -- on this document, of course, but when we get
23 to the Web site, what you see is, this scrolls through.
24 It's live; it's living. It does not stay just on one
25 picture. It has different representatives, photographs

1 of people and the different trades and the different
2 career-tech areas. This is the home page. You can see
3 it's highlighted in red. So this is what you'll see
4 when you go to the home page of the document.

5 On the next page, what you have is
6 information that's called "About Perkins." This is
7 everything we hope that people want to know and probably
8 more than that, but it is about the Perkins Act. It's
9 about the complete act and how we go about applying for
10 it and how we make those resources readily available.

11 On the left-hand side, you see that in the
12 contents of "About Perkins," we'll be covering
13 background information, requirements for the
14 applications, how do you determine if you're eligible.
15 So it's a complete, we hope, full information guide to
16 the Act. It doesn't have the whole Act there. Nobody
17 wants that except me, but it does give information for
18 us.

19 On the next page, Members of the
20 Commission, you'll see Applications and Reports. This
21 is what our stakeholders will use and access as they
22 complete their application and they determine what the
23 programs of study are that we just referenced, and how
24 they go about identifying the resources that don't have
25 available support.

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1 On the next page, you have a Resources
2 page. This encompasses information such as a career
3 cluster, what are nontraditional programs, meaning do we
4 have programs that are emphasizing career fields for
5 females in the sciences, for males in nursing, for
6 females in welding. So you have a whole listing of the
7 types of resources that people may find related to
8 Perkins.

9 And then on the next page, we're back home
10 again. And you can see that there is another picture,
11 and that's just one of many that highlight the areas of
12 career-tech that are covered under the Perkins
13 supplement funding.

14 Mr. Chair, I can answer any questions there
15 might be. Sorry for going so fast, but there's so much
16 material, and I know y'all have many things to do.

17 SECRETARY GANT: Dr. Lomax, you said this
18 is going to be online. When will that be, so any of us
19 can access this online?

20 DR. LOMAX: Mr. Chair, Mr. Gant, thank you.

21 That will be shortly after the first week
22 in December. What the plan is and the implementation --
23 and actually, the completion date is -- I don't want to
24 give you the wrong date, but it is actually the first
25 week in December. And at that point in time, we will be

1 able to open this up to all parties. There is a public
2 domain. It's going to be managed on our Web site, but
3 when you go here, anything that you are able to see on
4 these pages, unless it is confidential information or
5 grant-management type stuff, those items will be
6 available for all the parties.

7 And I hope to bring this to you-all in the
8 December meeting, because I expect I'll be asking if I
9 can be back and visiting with you in December. So
10 hopefully I can bring you an online version of that, a
11 live version.

12 SECRETARY GANT: Thank you.

13 DR. LOMAX: Yes, sir.

14 The next item on our agenda is information
15 on data. Perkins requires performance measures. Again,
16 to the aspirations, we have a culture of very high
17 expectations, in my estimation. I feel that we -- that
18 we set out very clearly on Perkins that we expect to be
19 aligned with the overall performance measures of the
20 state. In fact, Perkins measures are accounted for.
21 One is one, one is two, and four is -- one is four
22 having to do -- has to do with our student performances
23 on reading, math, at graduation, as well as we have
24 other measures which you-all are familiar with.

25 But what I wanted to bring forward to you

1 today is a two-year comparison of our CTE concentrators.
2 A CTE concentrator is a young person who has been
3 enrolled in more than two CTE courses that happen to be
4 aligned with a common goal of an industry certification
5 or a particular outcome.

6 And what you have -- if you're on page 10,
7 I believe, of your graph -- or of your handout, if
8 everybody's at this page (indicating), what you have is
9 a comparison chart of our subgroupings that are reported
10 and certified by the state of the performance of our CTE
11 concentrators. This information is not CTE developed
12 and derived. It comes from the certified subgroups that
13 are posted on our Web site. And our IT Department, who
14 runs those charts for the Secretary, is the one who
15 happens to work with our career-tech ed.

16 So before we start to look at this, I'd
17 like to call your attention -- and we'll look at 2008
18 and then 2009. But the -- all students -- overall, the
19 student performance in the state, in '08, for
20 mathematics was at the 41st percentile. If you'll look
21 at your chart and look at the blue column, you will see
22 that Hispanic students, in 2008 and '9, performed at
23 58.66. That's the subgroup for our Hispanic students.
24 It's quite a difference from what the all-student
25 performance was for the state.

1 If you look, then, at the performance of
2 our CTE concentrators in 2009, 53.69, and our target for
3 2009 was 42 -- I mean, our achievement in 2009 of all
4 students was 42.

5 Let me just take a leave, then, to our
6 reading, because in '08-'09, our all-student groups
7 reported performance was at the 55 percentile. And if
8 you start with CTE Hispanic in 2008, what you see in the
9 red column is that in reading, the CTE Hispanic subgroup
10 performed at the 56 percentile, 56.37. And in 2009, our
11 target was 53.

12 And again, overall this year, we did not do
13 as well as we had hoped in reading, and we saw some
14 decreases in our school. There was a decrease in 2009
15 and '10 to 48.25 for our Hispanic subgroup.

16 But that's the way you have to take a look
17 at this, because you can see that across the board,
18 typically our career-tech ed concentrators are
19 performing at least as well and oftentimes better than
20 students who have not been engaged in career-tech ed.

21 Now, I'm not a data guru, and I'm not
22 suggesting that -- that -- that we -- I give this to you
23 as data points that are supportive of aspirations that
24 many people who support career-tech ed strive to
25 achieve. And so I have shared this. This information

1 has been made available. If you'll recall that there
2 was information on closing the achievement gap that's
3 been highlighted in the Albuquerque Journal over the
4 course of this past year, and this information was
5 shared. So it's not new news, but it is food for
6 thought.

7 And so with that being said, Mr. Vice-Chair
8 or Mr. Secretary or -- any questions?

9 Okay. Thank you.

10 The next item that I'd like to do is give
11 you a preliminary look at what we'll be reporting on our
12 student performance that was gathered from the 2009-10
13 SBAs from our Perkins-supported high schools. You have
14 two pages of performance levels. These are the levels
15 of performance that we'll be reporting on from our
16 public school students. The items -- and we have a set
17 criteria.

18 If you read across the top for 2009-10, in
19 reading, our target area was 57.5 percent. We negotiate
20 that with our federal monitors, and it should be very
21 close to what our SBA targets were. In mathematics, it
22 was 40.5. Our graduation rate was 87 percent.

23 And then we have other performance
24 manuals [sic] we have to do, with participation and
25 completion in nontraditional course work and also

1 placement in, say, military or postsecondary or in a
2 career.

3 What you see, though, is that the Feds give
4 us a ten-percent leeway so that if our schools' overall
5 performance does not meet that precise level of 57.5,
6 they can target and be considered as meeting the target
7 if they hit a 90 percent -- 90 percent of the identified
8 measure.

9 The areas that are highlighted in yellow
10 are schools that did not meet 90 percent of our
11 identified performance areas.

12 So we will -- "we," meaning the CT Web
13 Bureau, will be working as part of the ongoing grant
14 monitoring system to provide technical assistance to
15 address the areas that these districts did not meet
16 their performance levels in and talk about a continuous
17 improvement plan. It is not an add-on. It is a
18 continuous improvement that already exists in the state.
19 Perkins clearly -- and the programs of study and the
20 application clearly target our state's EPSS plans. They
21 clearly target the bills that are being already
22 identified by the districts that are stated and
23 submitted to the state to ensure that a district and
24 that a high school is aligned.

25 And what we do is come in. And, of course,

1 we have to be true to the Act. We have to ensure we're
2 in support of the programs for career-tech ed, academic
3 impression and career-tech ed courses, but we do not
4 have this as an add-on to these many programs that
5 districts are already required to do.

6 This is a preliminary look. If I'm allowed
7 the opportunity to come in December, I would like to be
8 able to bring the final annual report. This is a
9 preliminary look of the items that you will see in
10 December when that comes forward. And I'll have a due
11 date, and I'll be asking for your -- for your -- for the
12 Commission to review, prior to this meeting, for the
13 narrative and for the data contents of the fiscal pieces
14 of the consolidated annual report. And this will be a
15 part of it.

16 So with that being said, there were only a
17 couple of other items, I think. I won't take time, but
18 we will be doing support visits to the monitor -- the
19 schools listed as monitored sites, and that way we'll be
20 giving technical assistance based on program
21 expenditures, based on data points, and so on.

22 And then finally, I leave on Sunday to
23 represent the state of New Mexico at the National State
24 Directors Meeting. And again, to its credit, New Mexico
25 is representing -- representative of Region IV on the

1 national board.

2 And I want to summarize and then, again, of
3 course, open for questions. But I want to always
4 acknowledge the works of the teachers and the engagement
5 of the students, because that is where the differences
6 are made. And the tools that the teachers grab onto and
7 that they utilize based on their Perkins dollars, and
8 the administrative foresight and wisdom that our leaders
9 at our schools show by implementing this is highly
10 commendable. And if it weren't for the teachers and
11 students, we would not have these results.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you, Dr. Lomax.
13 Are there any questions?

14 I'd just like to say that -- I guess I
15 speak on behalf of the Commission -- you had us at
16 hello. What a great presentation. You set us up. Do
17 we want more? We will have you back in December,
18 absolutely. Those are great statistics to look at.

19 DR. LOMAX: Thank you, sir.

20 And my compliments to the work of the
21 students and the teachers and also the support staff.
22 And any opportunity that we have to leverage and
23 maximize, we like to take advantage of that.

24 Thank you, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Amen. Thank you.

1 We're going to move back from item nine to
2 item number seven. And we have some recognitions. And
3 I just want to preface by saying that in my history in
4 education and my history in public service in Bernalillo
5 County for 22 years and now my sixth year at the state
6 level with the Public Education Commission, we all
7 understand the pro delta of the system that we're in,
8 but few and far between do we get the opportunity to
9 really look at excellence at the individual level, at
10 the career level, at the inspiring, passionate level of
11 an individual human being. And we have two of those
12 folks here with us today. And I have no set format
13 here, so I would definitely welcome Commissioners'
14 comments.

15 For our first recognition, Dr. Veronica
16 Garcia, the former Secretary of Education here in
17 New Mexico. If you would come forward to the table, and
18 maybe give us an update on what's going on in your life
19 with the Hispanic Information.

20 (Applause.)

21 DR. GARCIA: Thank you so much.

22 Well, an update. First of all, I would
23 say, I missed everybody. I don't miss the editorials,
24 and I don't miss the cartoons. But I really miss the
25 people, and I really miss the work. And I've discovered

1 that retirement -- you have to really be super ready for
2 it. And I needed a break, and I needed a rest, and it's
3 been great.

4 I've been able to take care of my mom. She
5 is doing much, much better. I still cook all of her
6 meals; once a week, get all her meals done. But she's
7 really doing quite well, and I'm very pleased about
8 that. I wouldn't have been able to take such good care
9 of her had I continued on.

10 But it's been an adjustment. The main
11 thing is missing and having a team, missing and working
12 with the people. That was just so fantastic. But, you
13 know, I don't read the paper with quite the interest
14 that I used to. So that part -- that part of the stress
15 I don't miss, but I do miss the people.

16 I did start early and have time with
17 Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network. We
18 just received a \$3 million federal grant for Ready to
19 Learn. And I've been to Puerto Rico to launch their SES
20 programs. They are the Supplemental Education Services.
21 I'll be in New York on Monday in meetings with our
22 federal partners and Callaway, who does all the media
23 stuff, you know, animations, and the Michael Cohen Group
24 is doing the evaluations. So we're meeting with them
25 for a few days, and then Puerto Rico on Wednesday. I'll

1 be back on Friday.

2 So I'm doing a lot more traveling than I've
3 ever done, ever, but it's just part-time. So I'll come
4 back, and then I won't do anything for a couple of
5 weeks, which is kind of nice. So that's basically what
6 I've been doing.

7 Playing around with the grandkids a lot,
8 spending a lot of time with my grandchildren. So it's
9 really been nice. More time with my husband. And I'm
10 on Facebook now (laughter). I've finally had time to do
11 that. It's kind of peculiar. I haven't been on it for
12 a week. That's a whole new phenomena for me. But
13 making new friends and catching up, having lunch with
14 old friends has been my life so far. But I do miss
15 having a team, and I miss the adrenaline rush; you know,
16 let's go do battle. So I miss that very, very much, and
17 I miss all of you.

18 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We miss you, too.

19 I want to open up, obviously, for
20 Commissioner comments. Before I do, I did my media
21 research, and I have a stack of Albuquerque Journal --
22 no, I don't (laughter).

23 I just want to -- for any of you who don't
24 know Dr. Garcia's history: Dr. Veronica C. Garcia was
25 appointed by Governor Bill Richardson as the state's

1 first Education Secretary in 2003. She has served as
2 superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools and regional
3 superintendent for Albuquerque Public Schools. She was
4 also a classroom teacher, school psychologist,
5 coordinator and assistant director for Special
6 Education, principal of an alternative high school for
7 pregnant and parenting teens, and executive director of
8 the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators.

9 In 2003, she was named Educator of the Year
10 by the New Mexico Research and Study Council under the
11 administrative category; was named 2002 Superintendent
12 of the Year by New Mexico School Superintendent
13 Association and was named one of the top ten Hispanic
14 women in New Mexico by the New Mexico Legislature in the
15 year 2000. Garcia holds New Mexico certifications in
16 five areas: Elementary Education, Special Education K
17 through 12, Educational Administration, School
18 Psychologist and Speech Communication.

19 She received Ed.D., MA and BA degrees from
20 the University of New Mexico, and now, of course, she
21 moves on to bigger and better things with the Hispanic
22 Information and Telecommunications Network. And so we
23 just wish you the best of luck.

24 And I've stated before that we've known
25 each other since the early '90s, and I probably knew

1 more of her, since she was the principal at the school I
2 was coaching, than her knowing me.

3 But role models; role models for children.
4 We are the higher power. I've said that before, too,
5 but I cannot state that enough, that children's hearts,
6 minds, emotions, their lives will open up to an adult
7 who cares, and they will also be severely damaged by
8 those who don't.

9 So I'm just proud to know you, and I do
10 miss you, personally. And I hope we can work together
11 in some fashion or start some Facebook something in the
12 future, but Godspeed.

13 DR. GARCIA: Thank you.

14 The other thing I just meant to say -- that
15 I want to say and I forgot to say is that what a
16 privilege it was to serve. You know, we were going at
17 100 miles an hour, but what an honor and what a
18 privilege and what a tremendous responsibility. And it
19 was one that every single day, you know, I never took
20 for granted, and so I really do want to thank the State
21 of New Mexico, the Legislature for -- the Governor for
22 appointing me and the Legislature for confirming me as
23 Secretary. And what a privilege and honor to have
24 served. And so I want to thank you for that as well.

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Smith.

1 COMMISSIONER SMITH: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Chair.

3 I'm going to catch that train yet.

4 Veronica, I will say it again, as I've said
5 many, many times, you were the right person for the
6 right job at the right time, and you have been good for
7 the children of New Mexico, and thank you very, very
8 much.

9 DR. GARCIA: Thank you so much.

10 (Commissioner Smith exits the meeting.)

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Smith.

13 Commissioner Carr.

14 COMMISSIONER CARR: Thank you.

15 I can tell vacation time has been good for
16 you. You look about ten years younger (laughter). And
17 I see a smile, and that smile is really genuine. I can
18 see that. It's been a pleasure. I want to thank you.
19 I was appointed by the Governor, by Governor Richardson,
20 to this position, but I had to go through you first.
21 And if you hadn't approved me, I wouldn't be here, so
22 thank you for that opportunity. And it has been a great
23 pleasure to serve the last two years with you, and I
24 wish you the best in your next endeavor.

25 DR. GARCIA: Thank you so much.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Pogna.

2 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 I had known of Dr. Garcia for many years.
5 My position on the State Board and her involvement in
6 all her official duties, and I think she had known about
7 me. And then we were able -- when all the years that I
8 sat next to her at the table here as Secretary, we had
9 an opportunity to do a lot of talking. And the fun part
10 is, she and I are both very interested in politics, so
11 we were able to discuss Republican, Democratic politics.
12 I loved that.

13 DR. GARCIA: And shoes.

14 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Pardon?

15 DR. GARCIA: And shoes (laughter).

16 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Oh (laughter).

17 DR. GARCIA: Thank you. I appreciate
18 everything, and I love you, too. Thank you, Millie.

19 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: If there are no further
20 comments by Commissioners, I have a Certificate of
21 Appreciation. But without the cliché, this is a
22 certificate of absolute appreciation for your service,
23 and I just want to read this and go down there for my
24 photo -- I mean, if anyone wants to applaud (laughter).

25 "This certificate is awarded to Veronica C.

1 Garcia, Ed.D., in recognition of your unparalleled
2 dedication to improve education for the children of
3 New Mexico. You went above and beyond and worked
4 diligently to bring education standards to a higher
5 level. The Public Education Commission thanks you for
6 your hard work, dedication and inspiration for all
7 educators to strive and succeed at educating the youth
8 of New Mexico." Signed by Andrew Garrison, Chair, and
9 Carolyn Shearman, Vice-Chair. Thank you so much.

10 DR. GARCIA: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 DR. GARCIA: Oh, my goodness. That's
13 beautiful. Wow. So nice. Thank you so much. You're
14 much too generous.

15 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I also want to let you
16 know that the Public Education Department, obviously,
17 put in on this award and helped prep the certificate.

18 DR. GARCIA: It's beautiful. Oh, thank you
19 so much. Who's taking the photo over there?

20 (Laughter.)

21 DR. GARCIA: Thank you. Thank you so much.
22 Appreciate it very, very much.

23 (Dr. Garcia personally thanked all the
24 Commissioners one by one.)

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And if you didn't see,

1 outside they have her bust upon the wall, First
2 Secretary of Education out there.

3 DR. GARCIA: Oh, really?

4 COMMISSIONER GARRISON: Did you see it?

5 DR. GARCIA: The photo?

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes. Not a bust. I'm
7 sorry.

8 (Laughter.)

9 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Next week it's going to
10 be a shrine and a building. I like to embellish. I
11 apologize.

12 DR. GARCIA: It's like, wow, is it bronze
13 (laughter)?

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's gold.

15 DR. GARCIA: Oh, thank you so much. I
16 appreciate it very, very much. You-all are very kind.
17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Our next educator that
20 will be recognized is Mr. George Bickert, and I have an
21 Associated Press article I'd like to read.

22 But, please, Mr. Bickert, come on up and
23 relax there for a second.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: "Tohactchi, New Mexico,

1 Associated Press - Fifth grader Darius Yazzie's
2 after-school chores includes hauling water for horses
3 and feeding chickens, while his classmate, Shanika
4 Begay, rides a bus 15 miles each way through the rolling
5 hills of this impoverished corner of the Navajo Nation.

6 "Some students travel a much greater
7 distance, as far as 45 miles on dirt roads that become
8 impassable in bad weather. Some of their homes lack
9 electricity and running water. About 83 percent of
10 Shanika's and Darius' classmates are poor, according to
11 state data, with about 80 percent designated as English
12 language learners.

13 "While Tohactchi Elementary School is a new
14 building this year, with walls decorated with Navajo
15 language posters and student artwork, the demographics
16 of poverty and language have added up in the past to
17 some of the worst test scores in New Mexico.

18 "But about four years ago, Shanika, Darius
19 and other students noticed a change.

20 "A bespectacled, mustached-man with a
21 buoyant character was there to greet them each morning.
22 George Bickert, who as a first-year principal" -- a
23 first-year principal -- "had to get a special waiver to
24 take the job, immediately learned his students' names.
25 He gave them smiles, hugs and high fives. He led early

1 morning basketball games, which Darius loved.

2 "Like those games, Bickert turned academics
3 into a challenge, one that he believed his students
4 could win. And win they did.

5 "Tohactchi boosted its math scores from 15
6 percent of the students being proficient in 2006 to
7 nearly 78 percent this year." And this is a 2009
8 article. "Reading scores rose from nearly 28 percent of
9 the students being proficient to almost 71 percent ...
10 according to the state data.

11 "Ask Darius and Shanika, both 10 years
12 old [sic], about making 'adequate yearly progress' a
13 year ago and they break into wide grins when they recall
14 how Bickert shaved his head as his part of the bargain.

15 "State Public Education Secretary Veronica
16 Garcia described Tohatchi's progress as 'astonishing.'

17 "'It is astonishing and it is amazing,' she
18 said. 'And, I hope that his success is able to grow
19 even more success.'"

20 It says: "Daria" -- or "Daria Hall" -- was
21 it Daria? It's Daria? I'm sorry. I'm asking George.
22 And I see -- I thought it was a student. That's
23 actually a director.

24 "Daria Hall, director of K-12 policies with
25 The Education Trust, based in Washington, D.C., said

1 that schools like Tohatchi 'are proof positive that when
2 we organize for student success, low-income and English
3 language learning students can perform at high levels.'

4 "Nationally, Native American and low-income
5 fourth graders score lower than their peers in reading
6 and math, Hall said."

7 I do also want to state that we do have a
8 timed item for open forum at 11:30, so we might divvy
9 this up a bit. I'll try to get through the article
10 before that.

11 "A 2007 National Assessment Education
12 Progress report shows 49 percent of Native American
13 fourth graders tested are not proficient in reading,
14 compared to 34 percent of the fourth graders of all
15 ethnicities. Disparities also appear in math scores.

16 "Bickert, who was promoted this school year
17 to principal of Crownpoint High School 40 miles east of
18 Tohatchi, insists that his character and motivational
19 skills were not the only reasons for the school's
20 success.

21 "'I do think several staff members thought
22 I was crazy, but I believed in the faculty and staff
23 that we had, and more importantly I believed in our
24 students and parents,' he said.

25 "Data drives Bickert's methods. He knew

1 who his English learners were, which students were poor,
2 what skills they were missing, what their reading and
3 math scores were.

4 " 'Know your students,' he said. 'Everybody
5 around the country is struggling with English language
6 learners and students with disabilities, but you need to
7 know what categories your students fit into and find out
8 what your students need.'

9 "Bickert also made learning fun and
10 competitive.

11 "The eye-drooping 'curriculum based
12 measures' - weekly tests to measure students' progress -
13 became 'Math Monsters' and 'Cougar Readers.'

14 "Classroom scores were posted. Students
15 who got perfect scores on the weekly 10-question tests
16 heard their names read during Monday morning
17 announcements and classes that scored 100 percent got
18 pizza parties.

19 "Darius still remembers his classroom's
20 party.

21 " 'We worked so hard on it, and I'm proud of
22 myself because I amaze myself by what I can do,' he
23 said. Darius wants to be a doctor and live in
24 Los Angeles or Atlanta.

25 "Parent Margie Leonard, whose three sons

1 attend Tohatchi, noticed changes when Bickert became
2 principal, though she was initially unaware of the
3 rising math and reading scores.

4 "Suddenly, homework was brought home.
5 Teachers were available to parents. Weekly tests
6 measured her son's progress.

7 "'The kids liked it,' Leonard said. 'They
8 liked the way he praised them.'

9 "Bickert said he was fortunate 'that the
10 teachers and community rallied around the vision of
11 excellence.'

12 "Tohatchi's new principal, Vanessa Holly,
13 says she plans on maintaining Bickert's success.

14 "'I don't know if we'll make the huge jumps
15 that we've made in AYP,' she said, 'but I think we'll
16 continue making adequate yearly progress and just move
17 farther and farther along that road.'"

18 We have a couple of minutes. I'd like to
19 entertain maybe a story by Mr. Bickert. This is an
20 amazing article. When I saw it last year, I was just --
21 I was almost entranced. I was just fascinated at how
22 human beings can change a culture and get the kind of --
23 the kind of results that you were able to pull out of
24 those students. So the floor is yours.

25 MR. BICKERT: Thank you, Chairman Garrison,

1 Members of the Commission.

2 A big part of it -- and it was a book that
3 I read several years ago that brought my philosophy of
4 coaching to a forefront. It was "Good to Great" by Jim
5 Collins. And in it, one of the premises of what -- how
6 you get your greatness or how you get to excellence, you
7 start with people. And you get the right people on the
8 bus, and you go from there with their strengths.

9 And a couple of those people are with me
10 today. I know I only have a short few minutes. I just
11 want to recognize them, a couple of my former teachers.
12 Dr. Jane Fernandez and Ms. Cora Barsana are with us
13 there out, if you'll recognize them.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BICKERT: The two -- Ms. Fernandez
16 brought her daughters, Gwyneth and Charlize. They were
17 also students there. And so --

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BICKERT: When we talk about what we
20 did, it was -- it was "we." I look at it -- as being a
21 principal, I use the analogy all the time of -- a sports
22 analogy of being the head coach of a big college
23 football team. Maybe not UNM, but --

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. BICKERT: You know, but the head coach

1 and then the teachers and the staff are position
2 coaches, and they put the big plan into effect. And
3 then the students are the athletes. The students are
4 the ones doing the learning, and the students are the
5 ones taking the tests. And we all end up being
6 successful. And it's just fascinating.

7 And, you know, we start with a statement of
8 excellence. We talked about the school district. You
9 were talking about the school district in Ysleta, Texas.
10 We did -- when we came to Tohatchi, we talked about -- I
11 wanted Tohatchi simply to be the highest-performing
12 academic school in Gallup, McKinley County, State of
13 New Mexico, and be a nationally recognized school of
14 excellence.

15 When we started, out of approximately 431
16 elementary schools, we were 413th in reading and 406th
17 in math. And at the end of '09, we were number 19 in
18 math and number, I think, 52 in reading. So, you know,
19 tremendous growth. We kept pushing to be number one in
20 the state. Both years, in '08 and '09, we were number
21 one in Gallup, McKinley County. We beat schools that
22 had much different demographics than what we had. We
23 were 99 percent Navajo, over 80 percent ELL, over 80
24 percent free-and-reduced lunch.

25 And a big focus of that, students want to

1 learn. Students will learn. We focused on instruction.
2 We focused on what the students need from pre-K, all the
3 way through fifth grade. We talked -- we didn't talk
4 about it as testing. We always talked about our Math
5 Monsters and our Courgar Readers.

6 And NMSBA and short-cycle assessment and
7 all those things, they were oppotunistics to show how
8 great you are. So when we took a short-cycle assessment
9 with the other 19 schools in our district, we would talk
10 to our students about this is an opportunity to show
11 that you're the best elementary school in Gallup,
12 McKinley County. When we prepared to take a state test,
13 it wasn't a test. It was another opportunity to show
14 everybody in New Mexico that we were a great school.
15 And our students really took to that challenge, to show
16 that they were great, not just that they were taking a
17 test.

18 And so -- you know, again, some of the
19 other things, when all of us went to school, the focus
20 was on the three Rs: Reading, writing and arithmetic.
21 And today we focus on a different three Rs in a
22 different way. We focus on relationships, building
23 relationships with students. And that's also working at
24 Crownpoint High School.

25 Then we focus on making the learning

1 relevant, so the second R is relevance, that what the
2 students are learning, we've got to connect somehow to
3 where they are right now in life and where they're going
4 in life.

5 And then the third R is rigor. We want to
6 raise what they're doing in the classroom to higher
7 levels, not just memory and recall, but actually being
8 able to do things with what they're doing in the
9 classroom.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Mr. Bickert, if I may
11 interrupt real quick -- and this might be a short
12 interruption -- because we're into our timed item, which
13 is open forum.

14 MR. BICKERT: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER GARRISON: But I will make
16 this -- I see no one has signed up to speak before the
17 Commission, so if you will just give me a moment.

18 Item eight is open forum, "Public Comments
19 and observations regarding education policy and
20 government issues, as well as the strategic plan for
21 education are heard at this time." There is a
22 "four-minute time limit per presenter. Persons from the
23 same group and having similar viewpoints are asked to
24 select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf.
25 Multiple and repetitious presentations of the same view

1 will be discouraged."

2 Is there anyone that is here to speak
3 before the Public Education Commission this morning?

4 Sweet.

5 (Laughter.)

6 COMMISSIONER GARRISON: Not that I don't
7 want -- (laughter).

8 I'm missing an R, Mr. Bickert. What was
9 the first R?

10 MR. BICKERT: The first R is relationships,
11 making connections with students.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Please continue.

13 MR. BICKERT: The second R was relevance,
14 and the third R was rigor. And we've taken that
15 concept, of those new three Rs in education, to
16 Crownpoint High School, and we had some tremendous
17 success in our first year there.

18 Also, I'd like to recognize our assistant
19 principal, Matt Jopek, with me today as well. He
20 believes in that same philosophy as well.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BICKERT: And at Crownpoint, we
23 started -- last year, when we got there in July, from
24 the previous year, we were 142nd out of 140 high schools
25 in reading, and we grew from 20-percent proficient in

1 reading to 55-percent proficient in our first year. And
2 in math, we were at 10.8 proficient, and this year,
3 we're 24-percent proficient. So we grew nicely in both
4 reading and math at the high school level.

5 We brought the same -- I brought the same
6 concept of a vision of excellence. Our vision at
7 Crownpoint High School now is that we are going to be
8 the most dominant force in academics and athletics in
9 the state of New Mexico. And our teachers believe that,
10 and that's what we're working for. And our students
11 believe that, and that's what they're working for, both
12 in the classroom and outside the classroom.

13 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you, Mr. Bickert.
14 That's a fascinating story. I'm glad you expanded on
15 what was in the article, because that's what interested
16 me. When I see greatness, it's always -- it's always
17 something that someone was born with. I believe you can
18 develop skills in any individual, but leaders are born,
19 really, not made. So the things that you were able to
20 do and the energy that was transferred back and forth,
21 not just your energy, but -- you can throw it out there,
22 but those children, those teachers, those helpers giving
23 it right back is what makes it continue.

24 MR. BICKERT: It was phenomenal at the
25 elementary school.

1 And I have to say, I was very surprised of
2 the same type of recognition, students that score
3 perfect tens. We now do Eagle Readers, Monster Math.
4 The students named our social studies quizzes "Social
5 Study Scholars" and "Mad Scientists." We do weekly
6 quizzes in all four core academic areas at the high
7 school. We recognize students by name when they score
8 perfect tens each week. We recognize classes, and we
9 have competition for the top three classes in each
10 subject.

11 The same -- what a lot of people would have
12 considered an elementary approach has worked at the high
13 school. And the students that were apathetic last year
14 are no longer apathetic, and it's great to see it at
15 Crownpoint High School as well.

16 And it was phenomenal at Tohatchi, and
17 we're hoping to have magic and success at Crownpoint
18 High School.

19 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Any Commissioner
20 comments? We'll start off with Commissioner Bergman and
21 we'll go --

22 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I had not seen this,
23 so I'm amazed by the parallel between your experience
24 and the little story I shared. I don't -- I don't know
25 exactly how they did it at Ysleta other than what you

1 read in the newspaper, but I could get a sense, and I
2 got the same sense from you.

3 And the thing that I forgot in my remarks
4 that I was going to add in my aspiration statement was,
5 they didn't take the curriculum and put it down, make it
6 easier to move people through the system. They
7 increased the rigor because they accepted that kids want
8 to learn, and if you challenge them, they normally will
9 respond. And that's what I see in your experience.

10 MR. BICKERT: Yes, sir, very much so. And
11 as far as our state is concerned, we have one of the
12 hardest AYP tests in the country. The fact that we make
13 our students do short answer and open-ended questions in
14 every single subject area raises the bar in New Mexico.
15 So we don't have just a one-hundred percent multiple
16 choice, where you can get lucky and guess your way to
17 success. Our students are forced to really show depth
18 of knowledge, and they do.

19 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: And Secretary Garcia
20 started talking this year about best practice, and a
21 letter went out to NMED about best practices. We've got
22 to figure out a way to take formulas like this and put
23 them into the -- get them into the other schools. It
24 comes from leadership. It comes from attitude. Makes
25 school fun. I mean, it may not sound right, but kids

1 enjoy it more when it's fun.

2 MR. BICKERT: Yes, sir. One of the -- one
3 of the other -- three other statements that we make each
4 year at Crownpoint High School: One, we need to
5 increase the amount of success students experience in
6 school. We need to decrease the amount of frustration
7 and failure that they experience in school. And then
8 thirdly, especially at the high school level, to prevent
9 high school dropouts, we need to increase the connection
10 that students experience with school.

11 So, for instance, in the last two years, we
12 have a cheer club. We had students ask for an anime
13 club, a music club. We restarted rodeo club.

14 Whatever interests our students have, we'll
15 find a faculty member that will sponsor them. And then
16 once they form a club, they have to be eligible to
17 participate in that club, which then raises the bar for
18 them, that if you want to participate in rodeo club, you
19 have to maintain a 2.0 GPA. We're raising it to 2.25 in
20 January, and 2.5 next year. So we're going to continue
21 to raise the eligibility status to be part of those
22 clubs.

23 But as I said, if a student has an interest
24 in an area, we'll find a faculty member who will sponsor
25 that club so that they are further connected to

1 Crownpoint High School and further connected to graduate
2 in four years.

3 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Congratulations on a
4 good job.

5 MR. BICKERT: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Pogna.

7 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Very simple. You
8 mentioned three Rs. I got two down, relationship and
9 relevance.

10 MR. BICKERT: Yes, ma'am. The third R is
11 rigor, because once you -- once you make a connection
12 with students, all phrases [sic], they don't care how
13 much you know until they know how much you care. You
14 have to make a connection, the relevance, that what
15 you're studying matters in life. If it's mathematics,
16 measurement matters for what you're going to do outside
17 of school. Once you make the relevance and once you
18 have a relationship with them, you raise the rigor of
19 what needs to be done in the classroom, and you can take
20 them higher places once you've done the first two Rs.

21 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Vince, you made that
22 connection, also, with what you had stated during your
23 statement of aspiration. What a great segue for
24 Mr. Bickert coming up here.

25 One of my -- one of my points of contention

1 with the coaching -- I coached at Rio Grande High School
2 and Valley High School. It was apathy, and it was low
3 expectations. And the notion that we can't do anything
4 about it, that's the way this community is, or that's
5 the way these students are. And I just thought -- I had
6 to come up with -- it was almost a bad quote, but I
7 said, Okay, so at the end of day, you're going to tell
8 this child, Congratulations on meeting my very low
9 expectations of you? Right on. And that's how I felt.
10 So it is not inspiring when adults put a glass ceiling
11 on the future of a child. What a criminal act.

12 Yes, sir.

13 MR. JOPEK: Mr. Chairman, Members of the
14 Committee, I'd just like to -- I'm Mr. Jopek, the
15 assistant principal of Crownpoint High School. I've
16 worked with Mr. Bickert for two years now, going on two
17 years, and he's an inspiration to work for and to work
18 with. Every day it's enjoyable to go into work, no
19 matter how many discipline referrals I'm doing. That's
20 my main key in life right now, is disciplining the kids
21 at Crownpoint High School.

22 But also, with the move of our
23 instructional coach from Crownpoint High, last year,
24 Ms. Chapo, to the middle school, I'm also supporting her
25 as an advisor in discipline at Crownpoint Middle School.

1 So the vertical alignment is just a great thing going
2 on. Every Monday, we have weekly admin meetings and our
3 instructional coaches come along as well.

4 But again, just the rapport I had coming
5 into the building with Mr. B -- last summer, I had come
6 from middle school, and I had worked for a great system
7 down there. But again, it's an inspiration every
8 morning to work there. I set off my snooze alarm, yeah,
9 but that's just me. But at the same time, too, enthused
10 to go into work and to work with those kids and get them
11 pushing towards their graduation. So thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you for that
13 comment.

14 Any other Commissioner comments.

15 With that said, before I read your
16 Certificate of Appreciation, I would like to ask the
17 whole crew to come up here and stand with you for this,
18 because they're part of this great energy, this great
19 accomplishment. You-all have created it together.

20 Where are the children? And they have to
21 hold the microphone down and say hello.

22 "Certificate of Appreciation. This
23 certificate is awarded to George Bickert in recognition
24 of your tireless efforts and unmatched performance to
25 educate the children of New Mexico. Your successful

1 efforts inspire us all to work as diligently as you have
2 to bring the standards of education for the children
3 of" -- "to bring the standards of education for the
4 children of New Mexico, October 22nd, 2010." Thank you,
5 sir.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I'm going to call a
8 ten-minute recess. We have some parking-meter issues we
9 have to take care of. It is what it is. So a
10 ten-minute recess, please.

11 (Break taken, 11:41 a.m. 11:53 a.m.)

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: In the body, any
13 state-chartered charter school that has been approved by
14 the Commission must qualify as a Board of Finance. The
15 Commission needs to vote to approve the Board of Finance
16 designation for the individual school.

17 We have with us -- do we say "interim," or
18 what do you want your title to be?

19 MR. OBENSHAIN: What do I want my title to
20 be (laughter)?

21 Mr. Chair, Members of the Commission, I
22 believe they're calling me "acting," which is probably
23 appropriate.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Acting like or pretend?

25 MR. OBENSHAIN: Like I said, that's

1 probably appropriate. We should probably go no further
2 than that.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Mr. Sam Obenshain, from
4 the Charter School Division, will lead the way here.

5 MR. OBENSHAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
6 Members of the Commission.

7 I appreciate the short recess, because that
8 was a tough act to follow, and I don't think I could
9 have done it any justice. So thank you for that recess.

10 We will get into, as you recall, conditions
11 of approval for the new state-chartered charter schools.
12 There are two of those that you approved in your
13 September meeting.

14 The first condition is that they must
15 qualify as a Board of Finance. Each governing body must
16 qualify as a Board of Finance. As you'll see on the
17 attached resolutions, the schools and governing bodies
18 have complied with those required documents. I have
19 those available if anyone would like to review those.
20 We have verified that those are complete and notarized,
21 and so it really just calls for a vote from the
22 Commission to approve those governing bodies as Boards
23 of Finance.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The Chair will
25 entertain a motion.

1 Commissioner Krivitzky.

2 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Do you want me to
3 read?

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Before we do the
6 motion, can I ask a question? Is that permissible?

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Absolutely.

8 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Sam, last year you
9 sent us copies of their business manager's licenses and
10 stuff. I know you've seen them, but --

11 MR. OBENSHAIN: I believe -- I don't
12 remember exactly the history. I don't know. Was that
13 last year or the year before that?

14 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Because I was -- two
15 years ago, I wasn't on this committee, so it was last
16 year, yeah.

17 MR. OBENSHAIN: Okay. So what we had
18 talked about, in the resolution that was passed, it's
19 really a notification of qualification, and we just
20 decided that we would notify you. That's the way the
21 regulation was written. Again, I have those documents
22 available. I didn't know that -- I didn't feel that it
23 was necessary for you-all to do the same kind of
24 verification that we did; leave it up to us, and we
25 would have -- if there was an issue, they would not come

1 forward for your approval today.

2 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

4 You may proceed with the resolution.

5 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: "Resolution:
6 Whereas, the governing body of the J. Paul Taylor
7 Academy Charter School has submitted its application to
8 be designated as a Board of Finance that included an
9 affidavit of a business manager who holds a license as a
10 certified school business official for the state of New
11 Mexico, including a copy of the business manager's
12 license, a statement signed by all the governing body
13 members that they agree to consult with the Public
14 Education Department on any matter not covered by the
15 manuals of accounting and budgeting before taking any
16 action related to the funds held as the Board of
17 Finance; a statement signed by all the governing body
18 members that they agree to notify the Public Education
19 Commission within 30 days of a change in the business
20 manager for the school and submit a signed affidavit of
21 business manager; a statement signed by all the
22 governing body members that they agree to notify the
23 Public Education Commission within 60 days of a change
24 of membership of the governing body; an affidavit from
25 each governing body member that she or he is not

1 currently a member of any governing body of any other
2 charter school and has never been a member of any
3 governing body of any other charter school that was
4 suspended or" filed -- excuse me -- "failed to receive
5 or maintain their Board of Finance designation; a
6 certificate of insurance that indicates that the
7 business manager of the J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter
8 School is adequately bonded.

9 "Therefore, be it resolved, the J. Paul
10 Taylor Academy Charter School governing body is
11 designated as a Board of Finance."

12 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Seconded.

13 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The resolution by
14 Commissioner Krivitzky, seconded by Commissioner Pogna.

15 Any questions?

16 Secretary, please proceed with the
17 roll-call vote.

18 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Krivitzky?

19 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

20 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

21 Commissioner Pogna: Yes.

22 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

23 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

24 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

25 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

1 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

2 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

3 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

5 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes
6 yes.

7 All in favor.

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's unanimous. It is
9 resolved that the J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School
10 governing body is designated as a Board of Finance.

11 And we have some documents?

12 MR. OBENSHAIN: Not yet. That'll be the
13 next item.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Excellent. Thank you.
15 Any comments on the next school?

16 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
17 Commission, this is the second school that you approved,
18 and the same condition was provided at that meeting for
19 that school. So we have received the documents from
20 those schools sufficiently notarized, and they would
21 qualify as a Board of Finance, and we recommend that
22 they do so.

23 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Carr?

24 COMMISSIONER CARR: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
25 make the following resolution: "Whereas the governing

1 body of New Mexico International School Charter School
2 has submitted an application to be designated as a Board
3 of Finance that included an affidavit of business
4 manager who holds a license as a certified school
5 business official for the state of New Mexico, including
6 the copy of the business manager's license; a statement
7 signed by all the governing body members that they agree
8 to consult the Public Education Department on any matter
9 not covered by the manual of accounting and budgeting
10 before taking any action related to funds held as a
11 Board of Finance; a statement that's signed by all
12 governing body members that they agree to notify the
13 Public Education Commission within 30 days of the change
14 in business manager for the school and submit a signed
15 affidavit of business manager; a statement signed by all
16 the governing body members that they agree to notify the
17 Public Education Commission within 60 days of the change
18 of membership in the governing body; an affidavit from
19 each governing body member that she or he is not
20 currently a member of any governing body of any other
21 charter school and has never been a member of any
22 governing body of any other charter school that was
23 suspended or failed to receive or maintain their Board
24 of Finance designation; a certificate of insurance that
25 indicates that the business manager of the New Mexico

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1 International School Charter School is adequately
2 bonded.

3 "Therefore, be it resolved, New Mexico
4 International School Charter School's governing body is
5 designated as a Board of Finance."

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The resolution has been
7 made.

8 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We have a second by
10 Commissioner Bergman. Are there any discussions?

11 We will proceed with the roll-call vote
12 with the Secretary.

13 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Krivitzky?

14 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

16 Commissioner Pogna: Yes.

17 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

18 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

19 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

20 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

21 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

22 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

23 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

25 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes

1 yes.

2 We have a vote. It's unanimous.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's unanimous. New
4 Mexico International School Charter School's governing
5 body is designated as a Board of Finance.

6 Now are there documents to sign?

7 MR. OBENSHAIN: Not yet.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Andrew just wants to
10 sign something.

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And I have a cheap pen.
12 I can't even play like I have a Cross. Oh, there's a
13 nice pen (indicating).

14 Item number 11. "Pursuant to the
15 resolutions passed on 9/9/2010, the state-chartered
16 charter schools that have been approved by the
17 Commission must enter into in a contract with the
18 Commission in order for their charters to become
19 effective. The Commission needs to vote to approve the
20 charter contract with the individual schools."

21 Mr. Obenshain.

22 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
23 Commission, again, a condition of approval at the
24 September decision-making meeting was that the charter
25 school would enter into a contract with the Commission.

1 That contract needs to be approved today by a vote from
2 the Commission, and then we will sign the documents.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I can hardly wait.

4 A resolution, Commissioner Gant?

5 SECRETARY GANT: Since this is my hometown
6 school, I can pull this off, maybe.

7 "Resolution: Whereas the application of
8 J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School is approved
9 subject to the condition that the charter school shall
10 be effective upon signing of the charter contract
11 between the Public Education Commission and J. Paul
12 Taylor Academy Charter School, and whereas the Public
13 Education Commission and J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter
14 School have reached agreement on the terms of a charter
15 contract, be it resolved that the charter contract
16 between the Public Education Commission and J. Paul
17 Taylor Academy Charter School is approved."

18 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We have a resolution by
20 Commissioner Gant, seconded by Commissioner Shearman.
21 Is there any discussion?

22 Secretary Gant, please proceed with your
23 roll-call vote.

24 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Krivitzky?

25 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

1 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Pogna?

2 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Yes.

3 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

4 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

5 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

6 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

7 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

8 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

9 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

11 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes
12 yes.

13 It's unanimous.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's unanimous.

15 "Be it resolved that the charter contract
16 between the Public Education Commission and J. Paul
17 Taylor Academy Charter School is approved."

18 The Chair will entertain a resolution for
19 the New Mexico International School.

20 Commissioner Shearman.

21 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: "Resolution: Whereas
22 the application of the New Mexico International School
23 Charter School was approved subject to the condition
24 that the charter shall be effective upon the signing of
25 a charter contract between the Public Education

1 Commission and the New Mexico International School
2 Charter School, and whereas the Public Education
3 Commission and the New Mexico International School
4 Charter School have reached agreement on the terms of a
5 charter contract, be it resolved that the charter
6 contract between the Public Education Commission and the
7 New Mexico International School Charter School is
8 approved."

9 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We have a resolution
11 made by Commissioner Shearman, seconded by Commissioner
12 Krivitzky.

13 Do we have any discussion?

14 Secretary Gant, please proceed.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Krivitzky?

16 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

17 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

18 Commissioner Pogna: Yes.

19 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Carr?

20 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

21 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

22 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

23 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

24 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

25 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Garrison?

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

2 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes
3 yes.

4 It's a unanimous vote.

5 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chairman, Members of
6 the Commission, at this time we do have representatives
7 from each school to actually sign the contract with you,
8 so if you could come on down to the table?

9 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I'm kind of nervous
10 now. I built up my signature, and it is really awful,
11 god-awful.

12 (Documents signed.)

13 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Can I have big round of
14 applause for --

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: They're free, if
17 you-all have any comments.

18 MS. RISNER: We're just really excited.
19 We're going to do our best, and we won't let you down.
20 Woo-hoo!

21 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

22 Item number 12. "The Commission must
23 approve or deny a charter school's request to amend its
24 charter." We want to vote on some amendment requests.
25 And Mr. Sam Obenshain, Acting Deputy Secretary of the

1 Charter School Division is with us today.

2 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
3 Commission, I apologize. Mr. C de Baca was unable to be
4 with us today, and he usually is the one who takes care
5 of all of these things. And you can tell things are not
6 running smoothly -- nearly as smoothly without his
7 presence here. So if you'll bear with me for one
8 second, I'll get my papers in order and be right there.

9 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission,
10 I'd like to invite up to the table the executive
11 director of Gilbert L. Sena Charter High School, Nancy
12 Romero. She's available here after I present the
13 amendment, any questions that you-all might have.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Welcome.

15 MR. OBENSHAIN: I believe you-all should
16 have received in your -- in your packet the documents
17 with the amendment change request form. This is one of
18 those changes, as you have identified in the guidance
19 that you provided, that must come forward to the
20 Commission for approval. That is a mission -- change to
21 the school's mission. The school changed their mission.
22 As you can see in the third column, this is the proposed
23 new Mission Statement and the rationale for their
24 changes there.

25 We are recommending approval of this change

1 in mission, and we will -- either of us are available
2 for any questions you may have about this particular
3 change.

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Are there any questions
5 by Commissioners?

6 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: I do.

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Bergman.

8 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: I just -- I'm just
9 curious. You say this is to clarify and create a more
10 focused and successful mission, and I see you have made
11 it much more compact and succinct. But I'm curious as
12 to why some of the things in your original statement
13 have been dropped, such as the service learning,
14 technology and those kinds of things. Could you
15 elaborate on that a little bit, please?

16 MS. ROMERO: Mr. Chair and Commission
17 Member Sherman -- is that right?

18 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

19 MS. ROMERO: They've been deleted,
20 basically, from the Mission Statement. It's not -- it's
21 not that it's not occurring. It's just we believed we
22 had expanded too much within our mission to begin with.
23 Technology is still currently in our school. We have a
24 computer for each kid. Part of our program says that we
25 do computer-aided, as well as teacher-directed

1 instruction. We call it a hybrid model, is what we're
2 looking at. So it hasn't gone away.

3 We were -- and I'll -- to give you some
4 more explanation as to why it was changed, shortly after
5 you reauthorized us to become Gilbert L. Sena, we
6 started working on the strategic plan. And part of the
7 strategic plan was, we needed to look at the Mission
8 Statement again, and that was within about a six-month
9 time frame after you had approved our original
10 commission. And what we determined at that point is
11 that we needed to tighten it up a little bit. We
12 weren't taking away the service learning. That's still
13 available for the students. The technology is still
14 there, the community resources, et cetera. Nothing went
15 away. It just simply moved out of our Mission
16 Statement.

17 We felt -- it is still happening. It's
18 alive and well at Sena High, and that is -- just simply
19 wanted it to be a little more succinct.

20 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Thank you.

21 Any other questions?

22 The Chair will entertain a resolution.

23 There is one in the back, on page 3 there.

24 Commissioner Bergman.

25 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: "Whereas the Gilbert

1 L. Sena High School has requested amendment to its
2 charter to change its Mission Statement; therefore, be
3 it revolved that the request to amend the charter of the
4 Gilbert L. Sena Charter High School to change its
5 mission is hereby approved."

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We have a resolution
7 made by Commissioner Bergman and seconded by
8 Commissioner Krivitzky.

9 Secretary Gant, please proceed with the
10 roll-call vote.

11 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Krivitzky?

12 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

13 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

14 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Yes.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

16 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

17 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

18 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

19 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

20 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

21 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

22 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

23 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes
24 yes.

25 It's unanimous.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: "Here resolves that the
2 request to amend the charter of the Gilbert L. Sena
3 Charter High School to change its mission is hereby
4 approved."

5 Congratulations.

6 MS. ROMERO: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: You're welcome.

8 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chairman, Members of
9 the Commission, the next amendment before you is from
10 the New America School. And I'd like to invite the
11 principal, Dr. Janelle Garcia, to the table, and she's
12 here for any questions. We do recommend approval of
13 this amendment.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

15 Do any Commissioners have any questions?

16 SECRETARY GANT: Mr. Chair, we're adding --
17 well, they are. Excuse me. They want to add another
18 100 students.

19 Your facilities will handle another 100
20 students?

21 DR. JANELLE GARCIA: Mr. Chair, Members of
22 the Commission, yes. Actually, we have a state-approved
23 master plan with PSFA, and we are working on adding --
24 because we know that with the additional students, we're
25 going to need to increase at least four additional

1 classrooms. Currently, we are leasing some classrooms
2 from Williams Scotsman, so they're a modular-type
3 classroom. And so they have told us -- and the
4 architect has agreed, as has PSFA -- that in order to
5 meet adequacy standards, in order to add 100 students,
6 we would have to add four classrooms, which is two
7 modular buildings.

8 SECRETARY GANT: Next question: How are
9 you going to afford the addition to your school?

10 DR. JANELLE GARCIA: If I can defer to
11 Mr. Greg Cook who assists with our budget and finance,
12 and he is the founder of the New America School New
13 Mexico.

14 MR. COOK: Thank you very much.

15 To answer -- whoops, I just hit the button.
16 Currently, as Janelle mentioned, we have a master plan
17 approved by PSFA. We have adequacy standards for 291
18 students currently. We made state ACRA standards. Our
19 program has day and night and start at 8:00 in the
20 morning and go to 10:00 at night, so our capacity is
21 really by eight [sic]. But because of the way we use
22 our classrooms, we've already developed a master plan to
23 add additional classrooms. And the affordability of
24 that is, working with our financier, we added a
25 classroom in December. We added one in August, and we

1 plan, by next year, to add these four classrooms. We
2 lease the classrooms, which is within our capacity in
3 terms of our lease costs and PSFA money and within our
4 state funding. And also the debt service to pay for the
5 infrastructure to put in additional classrooms is within
6 our funding budget.

7 SECRETARY GANT: Okay.

8 MR. COOK: And it's something, I might add,
9 that I watch very carefully. Even though we're approved
10 for 291, we don't use or classrooms that way. We're
11 very careful to make sure our students have adequate
12 space and not compacted space in our program. And I
13 would invite the Commission to come down and look at
14 what we've accomplished in the South Valley, on Isleta,
15 in terms of our campuses. It's pretty amazing.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

17 Any other comments or questions by
18 Commissioners?

19 With that, the Chair will entertain a
20 resolution.

21 Commissioner Krivitzky.

22 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: "Resolution:
23 Whereas the New America Charter has requested an
24 amendment to its charter to increase the enrollment cap
25 from 350 students to 450 students; therefore, be it

1 resolved, the request of the amendment charter of the
2 New America School to increase the enrollment cap from
3 350 to 450 is hereby approved."

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: A resolution has been
5 made. Do I hear a second?

6 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Seconded by
8 Commissioner Bergman.

9 Secretary Gant, please proceed with the
10 roll-call vote.

11 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Krivitzky?

12 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

13 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

14 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Yes.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

16 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

17 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

18 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

19 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

20 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

21 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

22 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

23 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant votes
24 yes.

25 It's unanimous.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: "Be it resolved that
2 the request to amend the charter of the New America
3 School to increase the enrollment cap of 350 students to
4 450 students is hereby approved."

5 Congratulations.

6 DR. JANELLE GARCIA: Thank you very much.

7 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
8 Commission, the next amendment in front of you is for
9 the Academy of Trades and Technology, and the principal,
10 Dr. Wayne Gordon, from Academy of Trades and Technology,
11 is here for questions. And we approve the amendment --
12 we recommend approval of the amendment for Academy of
13 Trades and Technology.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Dr. Gordon, welcome.

15 Any questions by Commissioners?

16 Commissioner Bergman.

17 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I'm just a little
18 confused. I see on your document here you're leaving
19 the Yale address.

20 DR. GORDON: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: You've already gone
22 from there?

23 DR. GORDON: We are in a temporary
24 location, yes, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Okay. Then why do

1 you show capital outlay requirements on the form for
2 re-roofing the building and heating equipment and things
3 like that. Are you doing this after you're already
4 gone, or is that old business?

5 DR. GORDON: That was old business that we
6 were going to do at the Yale building. It was a mistake
7 on my part. I thought I took that out.

8 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Okay. I just -- you
9 know, I was just -- thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Nice catch,
11 Commissioner.

12 Any other questions of Dr. Gordon?

13 The Chair will entertain a resolution.

14 Commissioner Pogna.

15 COMMISSIONER POGNA: "Resolution: Whereas
16 the Academy of Trades and Technology Charter School has
17 requested the amendment to its charter to allow the
18 school to be located at another site; therefore, be it
19 resolved that the request to amend the charter of the
20 Academy of Trades and Technology Charter School to allow
21 the school to be located at another site is hereby
22 approved."

23 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Seconded.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: There is a resolution
25 made by Commissioner Pogna and seconded by Commissioner

1 Shearman, and if there are no questions, we'll proceed
2 with the roll-call vote with Secretary Gant.

3 SECRETARY GANT: Commission Krivitzky?

4 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yes.

5 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Pogna?

6 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Yes.

7 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr?

8 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

9 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Bergman?

10 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yes.

11 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Shearman?

12 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

13 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Garrison?

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes.

15 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Gant says
16 yes.

17 It's unanimous.

18 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And the request to
19 amend the charter of the Academy of Trades and
20 Technology Charter School to allow the school to be
21 located at another site is hereby approved.

22 Congratulations.

23 DR. GORDON: Thank you.

24 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, if you would
25 allow me, I do have some documents for you to sign. I'm

1 sure you'll be happy about that.

2 (Laughter.)

3 (Documents signed.)

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Mr. Obenshain, thank
5 you.

6 Item 13 on the agenda: Reports from the
7 PEC Committees. We will start with the Chair of the
8 Strategic Planning Committee, Kathryn Krivitzky.

9 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 Millie and I are the only members that met
12 today, and we had kind of an interesting discussion, and
13 it's come on to our attention -- she was the chairman
14 for a while, and then now I am the chairman. And I
15 guess our issue -- and we need to bring this to the
16 whole Commission -- is, the purpose of this committee
17 seems to have been lost. We're trying figure it out,
18 because the strategic plan is a five-year plan
19 originally developed by the Public Education Department
20 and the State Board. And it stands for five years, and
21 then it is supposed to be revised after those five years
22 if necessary. It was decided -- the one that we carry
23 right now on our books is from 2005. And as 2010 came
24 around, we were in discussion with the Public Education
25 Department about what does the next five years look

1 like? And we were basically informed: It's going to
2 stay the same; there's not going to be any big changes;
3 the document stands for the next five years.

4 And I guess as committee members, we're
5 wondering what our mission and purpose is to meet, not
6 that I don't enjoy Millie's company; she's fabulous.

7 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: But we feel like
9 our time is not being used as wisely as it could. And
10 so I think this Commission, as a whole, needs to discuss
11 the future of this particular committee. We're honored
12 to sit on it. We would love to be doing something, but
13 we do not see anything currently happening with it other
14 than us enjoying each other's company. So I think
15 that's about as best I can put it. I said, I'm going to
16 be as honest as I can about what we're doing, but I just
17 don't know where to go from here. We're looking to you,
18 as our leader and our fellow commissioners, what are we
19 supposed to do? That's our question, I guess.

20 COMMISSIONER POGNA: And it is routine. We
21 do not have PED representation to meet with us. We do
22 not have materials. We do not receive materials. As
23 Kathryn said, our last document is dated 2005. If they
24 have meetings on strategic planning, we are not
25 notified. What are we to do besides visit between us?

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: That could be quality
2 time.

3 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: It is absolutely
4 quality time.

5 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioners Krivitzky
6 and Pogna, thank you for those comments.

7 And what I would like is my executive team
8 to hold me to put these concerns on the next agenda, so
9 we can look at those as a full Commission, and come up
10 with some answers. Does that sound fair enough for
11 everybody, for the December meeting, the next agenda?

12 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: We would really
13 appreciate that, and I think it would do this whole
14 Commission a service if something could occur about this
15 particular committee. It seems sort of moot.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So was that an evil
17 joke, that you were meeting in Room 108?

18 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Which did not
19 exist. I mean --

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: All that was missing
21 was Floor 13.

22 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: I know.

23 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Kind of gives us the
24 feeling you didn't --

25 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yeah. We know

1 we're not wanted, but, you know, you guys have to be a
2 little more subtle (laughter).

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I heard you found the
4 coffee.

5 Fair enough?

6 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Fair enough.

7 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Actually, they're --
8 this is not the PED's strategic planning group? Was
9 this part of that process or --

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I think that was one of
11 the -- I just wrote my notes down, and there are no PED
12 representatives in the Strategic Planning Committee
13 meetings of the PEC nor are there invites to the
14 committees or whatever group, whatever they call it,
15 with PED as far as developing the strategic plan in New
16 Mexico. It's being done somewhere, and it needs to be
17 identified.

18 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: And just to make
19 it clear, both Millie and I, in our capacities via
20 Chairman, have requested to be a part of that, and it
21 was not followed; it was not allowed on their side. So
22 we both felt kind of stymied in that way.

23 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Who was your point of
24 contact?

25 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: It was Katherine

1 Cross [sic], mainly. She was, and then she was our
2 liaison and --

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We'll make ends meet.
4 Thank you.

5 Letter B on Reports from PEC Committees:
6 The Career-Technical Education; Commissioner Gant,
7 Chair.

8 SECRETARY GANT: Commissioner Carr and I
9 met with Dr. Lomax. We had a nice discussion. You sat
10 in on part of it. Well, I'm not going to go into all
11 that discussion because she's already given it, but we
12 do have continued actions by the PEC in December. We'll
13 set us up to take care of business in March, where we
14 have to reauthorize and go through this whole drill
15 yearly. So have it in your mind that's what we're going
16 to do in the next three months, four months.

17 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

18 And Catherine Smith, Commissioner Smith,
19 the Chair of the Charter School Committee, was trying to
20 catch the Railrunner back. And I guess there is a big
21 divide between the 11:30 train and the one I'm on, the
22 4:10, so if anyone wants to hang out afterwards for
23 lunch, I'm available.

24 (Laughter.)

25 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So the Charter School

1 Committee will be -- the proxy is Commissioner Shearman.
2 Here you go.

3 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: With Commissioner
4 Bergman's able help.

5 Neither of us, I think, realized that
6 Commissioner Smith was going to be leaving -- was going
7 to have to leave early, so my notes may be incomplete,
8 and I ask Commissioner Bergman to help me out with this.

9 The first thing that was brought up by
10 Commissioner Smith is what's the purpose of this
11 committee? And that led us into a really good
12 discussion of the role that we play in bringing
13 staff-recommended changes to the Commission, ideas that
14 we have and so forth. So the staff, through Sam
15 Obenshain, brought to us that they are considering a
16 change to the way they do the preliminary evaluation of
17 the applications, considerations being given to doing
18 away with preliminary evaluation and doing the procedure
19 a little bit differently. They will finalize that
20 recommendation and get it to the committee, and we will
21 bring that to you at the December meeting for your
22 consideration.

23 The other thing that we considered or
24 certainly my consideration, is that any of us on the
25 Commission have ideas or concerns or recommendations for

1 changes to that application process or procedure, those
2 can certainly be considered as well. That's part of
3 that whole continuous improvement process that the CSD
4 goes through and that we do as well.

5 Commissioner Bergman.

6 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Yeah. They're going
7 to send us a survey, apparently, some time between now
8 and December that they do each year, the CSD. And it's
9 imperative that we all fill out that survey so that we,
10 you know, give them these thoughts and ideas that we
11 have. And getting rid of those preliminary analyses is
12 part of that. They always -- we're always -- they're
13 always evaluating the process, seeing how it can be more
14 nicely fine tuned or however that wording might be. So
15 that's what we're talking about. But we will get a
16 survey, and I encourage everybody to fill it out when
17 you get it.

18 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: That's a SurveyMonkey
19 thing, isn't it, that's online?

20 MR. OBENSHAIN: Yes, ma'am.

21 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: And the last thing I
22 have written down is -- you-all remember if we were
23 doing those new applications. There are reasons and
24 statutes why a charter school may not be approved, and
25 one of them is something to do with in the best interest

1 of the district, the community and students. And that's
2 always been very nebulous to all of us, I think. The
3 meaning of that has not ever been made very clear, so
4 we've asked Mr. Arnold if he could just do that and
5 maybe talk to general counsel, maybe give us a direction
6 to go on, some clarification on that one area.

7 I believe that's all I have.

8 Commissioner Bergman.

9 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I think that covered
10 it.

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you.

12 Item number 14 on the agenda is Secretary
13 of Education Comments. And we have here today a proxy
14 for Dr. Susanna Murphy, Kristine Meurer.

15 DR. MEURER: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair and Members of the Commission.

17 Secretary Murphy sends her regrets and
18 apologies that she was unable to be here today, but you
19 get me instead, so hey. I don't know what that means,
20 but --

21 I do just have a quick update for the
22 Public Education Department. We are currently in the
23 process of doing transition documents for the new
24 administration, so that's taking up a bit of our time,
25 to prepare those document and be ready for the new

1 administration coming in and the transition that will
2 occur at that time. We will keep you appraised [sic] of
3 that as that happens and if there will be any changes
4 that occur based on that.

5 I know we'll have, in January, a new
6 Secretary of Education, but as we move between now and
7 January, we're just continuing all the services for
8 children that we can. We've moving forward and keeping
9 things in place.

10 Please note that the Public Education
11 Department is at about a 30-percent vacancy rate, and
12 we'll be maintaining that for quite a while. So if we
13 are behind in submitting any requests that you make,
14 please bear us with. It's more of a personnel-shortage
15 issue than anything else, but we are here to work with
16 you and to serve you. So that's all I have.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Dr. Meurer, thank you
19 for those comments and that update.

20 Item number 15: PEC Comments. Letter A is
21 PEC Budget.

22 MS. TENNYSON: I'm here to answer any
23 questions.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Come forward and give
25 us the bad news.

1 MS. TENNYSON: Well, currently, under
2 listing, you're going to see most of the payments that
3 have been made out. I still have some encumbrances to
4 take care of, the meetings through December. Come
5 January, I get the next half of the money so that we can
6 go ahead and take care of your travel. But it comes
7 with the idea that we are facing another 3.2 percent
8 cut, so it will have an impact on what we've got. So
9 when we're looking at dates and so on for our next
10 meetings, I will try to give you, if nothing else,
11 something that's -- you know, an estimate of what we're
12 going to be spending and everything else, so we don't go
13 over our budget.

14 If that be the case, we are also going
15 to -- I've already talked to, well, Steve about -- Steve
16 Burrell, who is now our Interim Deputy Secretary, about
17 hopefully being able to get a -- squeak out a little bit
18 of money, so we can get the travel covered for all of
19 you. It is a very, very tight year. We have had one
20 cut right after another, and it has impacted your budget
21 as well. So, I mean, bear with us. I'll try and bring
22 you as current information as to budgetwise and what I'm
23 anticipating, and hopefully we can make the year, and
24 all of you will get paid.

25 And I also apologize for the delay in some

1 of our payments. We have had a change in our budget
2 analyst over at DFA. She has just torn us up with
3 rejections, so I'm having to -- she doesn't like our
4 format. She doesn't like a lot of stuff, so we're
5 having to resubmit and everything else. I'm hoping that
6 I'm going to meet all her criteria this next round so
7 that we can get you paid in a more timely fashion.

8 Any questions about where we are right now
9 with the budget besides we don't have one?

10 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: You don't know
11 when these amounts will be paid up that are listed?

12 MS. TENNYSON: That are listed? I believe
13 that you and Ms. Shearman are on the list.

14 Millie --

15 Commissioner Pogna: I received mine.

16 MS. TENNYSON: Okay.

17 I think those are the only two that are on
18 there. No, actually, Vince Bergman. I was going to
19 say, Wait a minute; I know there's three of them.

20 There's three of them.

21 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: No, I'm on there,
22 too.

23 MS. TENNYSON: These have been submitted --
24 resubmitted to DFA, and I am anticipating that we should
25 have a payment by next week. I have not seen a

1 rejection, so that's a good sign. I went and met all
2 her little idiosyncrasies and everything else like that.
3 You know, I haven't seen a rejection, and I'm hoping I
4 don't see one when I get back to my desk. But you
5 should be getting paid by next week. And again, I
6 apologize, but she is just tearing us up on rejections
7 these days, so bear with us. I don't know why.

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I had some paperwork up
9 here for you, if you wouldn't mind coming up now.

10 MS. TENNYSON: For me?

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yeah.

12 I would like to put forth a facade that I'm
13 just an outstanding gentleman, but Bern was kind enough
14 to grab those flowers for Dr. Garcia.

15 And I appreciate everything you do. That's
16 first class.

17 MS. TENNYSON: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Andrew, you didn't
19 do that all by yourself, did you?

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Do what?

21 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: So innocent
22 looking.

23 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: You like that look?

24 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: You ought to
25 practice that.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I have three siblings.

2 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: There you go.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's called pecking
4 order.

5 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Yeah. I don't
6 know what you're --

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: It's taken care of.

8 Letter B: December Meeting Dates. Now, we
9 were looking at consolidating -- hopefully, we can do
10 it -- two days into one. Does that still look good,
11 Mr. Obenshain? I almost said "doctor." Do you want
12 "doctor"?

13 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chairman, Members of
14 the Commission, we had anticipated -- I think we had
15 actually provided two days, because we didn't know how
16 many renewal applications we would receive. We have
17 received four renewal applications, so we -- we don't
18 anticipate meeting those two days. We believe we can --

19 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: So we'll meet on a
20 Monday, then, on the 20th?

21 MR. OBENSHAIN: -- get it taken care of in
22 one day. Now, the issue of what -- when that date is is
23 another discussion, I believe.

24 MS. TENNYSON: Andrew, Bev has brought this
25 up in prior meetings, about changing the dates. And so

1 being that the week that we're looking at currently,
2 which is December 20 and 21st, is the week of
3 Christmas -- we have a lot of people out-of-pocket, a
4 lot of families coming in and so on. So Beverly has
5 asked that I suggest that we might not have it the week
6 before; possibly the 15th, 16th or 17th, whichever works
7 for all of you folks, so we're not in conflict with, you
8 know, the week of Christmas.

9 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Now, if my memory -- I
10 hate to bank on that, but if my memory serves me
11 correct, we have a teacher here, the grassroots of
12 education, Commissioner Carr, and the whole reason --
13 the whole reason for doing the 20th and 21st was to
14 accommodate your teaching schedule.

15 COMMISSIONER CARR: I'll tell you -- I'll
16 tell you that the 17th is usually a nothing day, the day
17 before is not much of a day, so the 17th would be -- I
18 don't think my -- most of our students are like taking
19 off, and it's usually even half a day. So the 17th, I
20 don't think most of my students would be missing me that
21 day.

22 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Do they miss you now?

23 COMMISSIONER CARR: Depends on the -- I try
24 to get a mean substitute teacher, so they appreciate me.

25 (Laughter.)

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Great strategy.

2 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: The 17th is fine for
3 me if it's fine for Mr. Carr.

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I better do this,
5 because I was late last time looking at my --

6 (Discussion off the record.)

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: 17th. Do we vote on
8 that?

9 MS. TENNYSON: Yes, please.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So I will entertain the
11 motion.

12 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER CARR: Seconded.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: I move that we change
15 the December 20th and 21st dates to December 17th. That
16 is a Friday. It was moved by Commissioner Bergman and
17 seconded by Commissioner Carr.

18 Is there any discussion?

19 All those in favor, say aye.

20 (All Commissioners present said "aye.")

21 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Oppose?

22 It is unanimous that the Public Education
23 Commission meeting of December 20th and 21st is moved to
24 Friday, December 17th, and that will save us lots of
25 money.

1 COMMISSIONER CARR: Mr. Chair?

2 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Carr.

3 COMMISSIONER CARR: This is not on -- this
4 is not on the -- I mean, we didn't put an agenda item on
5 here, but I think it would be a great idea to honor
6 Catherine. It will be her last Commission meeting. And
7 how many years has she served?

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: 29, I think.

9 COMMISSIONER POGNA: I think, 26.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Thank you. Yes.

11 So let's plan on that. The December 17th
12 meeting, that will be her last meeting.

13 Executive Committee, we will strategize,
14 and we'll send out the appropriate e-mails as far as
15 what the plan is.

16 Thanks, Commissioner Carr, for that
17 reminder.

18 Item C on number 15 was PEC Meeting Dates
19 for 2011.

20 MS. TENNYSON: These are some of the
21 Charter School Bureau and possible dates. I also have a
22 calendar that shows the holidays, so we can work around
23 that, make sure --

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The summary provided by
25 Beverly Friedman states that in January, the CSD would

1 provide the PEC with a status report for all state
2 charters. It states here we can do that in a January
3 meeting or find another suitable time in the next couple
4 of months.

5 In June, "PEC approves renewal Boards of
6 Finance and contracts and gives ability for new schools
7 to commence operations."

8 In August, we have community input
9 hearings. These have historically been the third week
10 of August.

11 In September, "new school decision-making,"
12 and there is an asterisk here.

13 Let's see. We have heard new applicants
14 might not agree to extend the decision-making time line
15 if we wanted to do so. If that is the case, the
16 decision-making meeting would have to be moved up to the
17 end of August. And then to continue here on the
18 comments area: Also, as more and more state charter
19 schools come onboard, there are more requests for
20 amendments. Some of the amendments are time sensitive,
21 and we need more frequency of meetings of the PEC to
22 approval or denial of these amendments. We need to
23 discuss this during the PEC meeting times agenda items.

24 I would also note that the January meeting
25 will be for the swearing in of new members who are

1 elected in November: District 3, Commissioner
2 Krivitzky; District 2, Commissioner Pogna; District 5,
3 Commissioner Price; District 6, whoever will be
4 replacing -- well, it's not Commissioner Smith. Whoever
5 her replacement is. And District 7, Commissioner Gant.

6 So those are the comments on the September
7 decision-making meeting.

8 In October, "approve new school board to
9 finance a contract."

10 And December, "renewal, decision-making."

11 I'll take recommendations.

12 SECRETARY GANT: There is another one
13 you've got to throw in there in March. We definitely
14 have to meet in March for the Carl Perkins. That has to
15 be done by 1 April.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Has to be done by what?

17 SECRETARY GANT: 1 April. The last several
18 years, we've done -- the voting or the authorization of
19 the Carl Perkins was done at the March meeting, because
20 it takes Dr. Lomax and her folks that long to get it
21 ready to go to D.C. It needs to be sitting in
22 Washington, D.C. by the 1st of April. That's been
23 the --

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So should that meeting
25 be sooner in case there are any issues with the

1 reauthorization?

2 SECRETARY GANT: There have not been any
3 issues the last few years. The committee gets the
4 verbiage and reads through it and makes the
5 recommendation.

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: All righty.

7 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Let me ask Sam. Do
8 we know what the starting date of the legislature is in
9 January? Normally, it's going to be around the 15th or
10 the 18th.

11 MR. OBENSHAIN: Yeah, I believe it's the
12 18th.

13 MS. TENNYSON: It's the 19th. Usually it's
14 on a Tuesday.

15 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I would suggest we
16 don't want to be up here when they're starting the
17 legislature. Maybe a little earlier.

18 COMMISSIONER CARR: We could meet on the
19 15th, then, or the 8th.

20 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: And Gene makes a
21 good point, then. You've got to find a parking place
22 and a place to stay, so either way.

23 COMMISSIONER CARR: The 8th or 15th are the
24 two good days.

25 (Discussion off the record.)

1 SECRETARY GANT: I would suggest the one
2 from March, do it on the 26th.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: This year, this last
5 March, we did have the meeting on the -- on a Thursday,
6 and I believe that was because of the Spring Break deal.

7 So this last June, we met on June 11. It
8 was a Friday. So we can pick a Friday. June 10th?

9 Look at that; we have half the year done.

10 August. What do we want to do for our week
11 of fun? We did August 16th through the 20th. Did not
12 use the 20th, I believe, so 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th.
13 So this is August.

14 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Does that assume that
15 we're going to get the extension we asked for before?

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: That was -- that was --
17 we have heard grumblings that the new applicant might
18 not agree to extend a decision-making time line. With
19 that being the case, the meeting would have to be at the
20 end of August.

21 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: That would put us --

22 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Sam is standing
23 here. Maybe he has something to throw in.

24 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
25 Commission, the issue with that August deadline is

1 based -- the statute says that the Commission must make
2 a decision within 60 days of the July 1 application
3 submission. We have requested extensions, and we've
4 received those from all the applicants in the past, and
5 then we have been able to go to the second week of
6 September.

7 There are representatives from schools,
8 legal representatives, who have indicated to us that
9 they, potentially, will not sign an extension the
10 next -- this next cycle. What that would do is then
11 cause us to make the decision prior to September 1st --
12 or for you-all to make that decision prior to September
13 1st. You'd be looking at the last week in August, which
14 then would affect, as Ms. Shearman indicated, the
15 community input hearings. You may need to then bump
16 those up or back, however you look at that, so that we
17 can then take that input and also then make our final
18 recommendation.

19 Consistent with what we spoke about in the
20 Charter Committee is the idea that potentially with some
21 changes, that won't be as problematic. We had addressed
22 the preliminary analysis and their ability to respond to
23 that during that time, so that may alleviate some of
24 that crunch, but it still would change the calendar
25 significantly from what it's been in the past.

1 So my recommendation is that you look
2 potentially at moving those community input hearings
3 essentially one week prior to what they have been now,
4 and then we would have to make -- you-all would have to
5 make a decision for the last week in August to meet that
6 deadline.

7 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I'm looking at the
8 8th through the 12th instead of the middle of the month.

9 COMMISSIONER CARR: And, Mr. Chair, that
10 would be -- the reason I couldn't attend any of the
11 hearings is because it is the first week of school. The
12 second week of school is bad enough. The first week of
13 school, I -- I just -- you know, I couldn't. I couldn't
14 allow myself to miss the first week of school with my
15 students because it's just so -- it's so important, the
16 first week.

17 And this is something that I would want
18 to -- even this year, I would have liked it -- and here
19 is another good reason to do it: If -- if school -- if
20 most schools have not started -- I know that some
21 schools start sooner than that, but most schools will
22 not have started yet, and that will allow more people to
23 come to the hearings.

24 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: So you like the
25 8th, 9th and 10th? That works better for you?

1 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So I want to backtrack
3 and visit something. Since 2007, we have -- we have
4 extended the 60-day decision, and that helped CSD do a
5 better job of preparing a preliminary analysis for the
6 community input hearings. Tell me more about how this
7 affects or doesn't affect.

8 MR. OBENSHAIN: Well, Mr. Chair, what --
9 what we were proposing -- one of the changes that we
10 mentioned that we would be proposing is that the
11 preliminary analysis would not -- the applicants would
12 not have an ability, because we wouldn't provide one, to
13 respond to this preliminary analysis. We had given them
14 that opportunity to do so. And then what it also did
15 was, it gave our staff an opportunity to analyze the
16 responses, and that was really where that time that we
17 needed was provided for. Because, really, the deadline
18 for the written response was only three days, if you
19 recall.

20 This -- well, this past cycle, after their
21 community input hearings, really doesn't affect them as
22 much as it affected our staff's ability to really
23 analyze that information and then provide our final
24 recommendation.

25 The way the statute reads is that the --

1 "with mutual agreement of both parties." And if they
2 don't agree, then we are bound -- you-all are bound to
3 that decision by law. So it's potentially possible that
4 we could, because there is no preliminary analysis, be
5 prepared -- be more prepared and be ready to go without
6 needing that extra cushion in there. So whatever -- we
7 would, of course, work around whatever schedule you-all
8 approve. Any cushion for us is easier. It's a small
9 amount of time to do a thorough review of an
10 application, so any leeway that we are given would be
11 helpful.

12 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Moving the
13 preliminary analysis should take a lot of time-consuming
14 stuff out of it, so yeah, that's going to be a much
15 simpler process.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Now, if we -- I'll give
17 an example. This last August, we planned for five days
18 and only used, what, four. If we didn't need to use the
19 full five-day work week, would it behoove you to move
20 that Tuesday through Friday versus starting Monday and
21 going through -- does a day help you, or do I need to
22 get that specific?

23 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chair, a day
24 potentially would help us if you moved to the Monday as
25 opposed to the -- and any time that we have between the

1 end of the community hearings and the recommendations is
2 really the cushion that we had relied upon.

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: And I think we have
5 to schedule a whole week, because we don't know right
6 now how many applications we're going to have.

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So start Monday, August
8 8?

9 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Just plan on a whole
10 week.

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER CARR: We can always adjust
13 it.

14 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: We can adjust it
15 later.

16 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Gant?

17 SECRETARY GANT: Just for curiosity sake,
18 why are the attorneys talking about not agreeing?

19 MR. OBENSHAIN: I don't know that we've
20 been given that information, Commissioner Gant. I
21 believe what they have indicated is that it's part of
22 this, I think, back-and-forth, if the -- if
23 recommendations are not being -- or if approvals are not
24 happening, then we're going to -- we're going to abide
25 by the letter of the law, and make them meet that

1 letter. I don't -- I mean, I'm clearly speculating as
2 to their intent.

3 SECRETARY GANT: Take my football and go
4 home.

5 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Bern, did you get a
6 date?

7 MS. TENNYSON: Yes. January the 18th.

8 COMMISSIONER CARR: On a Monday?

9 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: No, that's a
10 Tuesday, because the way that this thing is laid out,
11 that's actually a Tuesday. The 18th is a Tuesday.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And what did we say for
13 January? Oh, we didn't say because we're looking at
14 this.

15 COMMISSIONER CARR: So the 7th through the
16 14th is good for me.

17 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Is the 18th not a
18 holiday?

19 MS. TENNYSON: No. The 17th is a holiday.

20 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Pardon me?

21 MS. TENNYSON: The 17th is a holiday,
22 Martin Luther King.

23 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: We can do it on the
24 14th. Even though the legislature hadn't started, a lot
25 of legislators are already going to be here.

1 SECRETARY GANT: They're in committees.

2 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So the 7th, Friday the
3 7th?

4 Where did Commissioner Krivitzky go?

5 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: She went out the
6 door.

7 There she comes (indicating).

8 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Friday the 7th?
9 Commissioner Krivitzky, what do you think about January
10 7?

11 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: You're such a
12 brat. I needed to put money in the meter.

13 January 7th? That's going to be good.

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Okay. So to this
15 point, I have -- the 2011 calendar is January 7th, in
16 which we will be swearing in new members, and also the
17 CSD provides PEC with a status report for all the state
18 charters.

19 And in March, we have our authorization of
20 the Carl Perkins funding, and we have Friday, March 25th
21 for that meeting.

22 Moving forward to June, where the PEC
23 approves the renewals school Boards of Finance of
24 contracts and gives ability to new schools to commence
25 operations is Friday June 10th.

1 Moving into August, we would start the
2 community input -- input meeting on Monday, August 8th
3 and continue as needed throughout that week.

4 And then -- so if we are not -- Sam, follow
5 me on this. If we are not granted an extension, we'll
6 be moved up August 15th to the 8th, do we need -- is it
7 by September 1st or before September 1st or -- it's 60
8 days, so --

9 MR. OBENSHAIN: By September 1st, I believe
10 that would be interpreted.

11 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So would that mean --

12 MR. OBENSHAIN: So September 1st --

13 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: And then after our
14 community input meeting, what would -- what would help
15 CSD is the last day possible. So Wednesday, August
16 31st, I know we have legislators in here, but --

17 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Is that within the
18 60 days, or is that 61 days? If they --

19 MR. OBENSHAIN: Mr. Chairman,
20 Commissioners, that is within -- I think we can also
21 accommodate the Friday before that. It sounds like
22 Fridays are easier for folks, so --

23 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: We can do Friday, the
24 26th of August?

25 MR. OBENSHAIN: We could look at Friday,

1 the 26th.

2 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Which?

3 COMMISSIONER CARR: Friday, the 26th is
4 better.

5 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: 26th?

6 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Let's put that down for
7 the decision-making.

8 October. We're at the 22nd. We have
9 October 21st. Good enough for now?

10 And then December. Friday the 16th?
11 Friday, December 16th for renewal, decision-making.

12 COMMISSIONER CARR: So that leaves --

13 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: So that means we will
14 not meet at all in September. Twice in August. None in
15 September.

16 COMMISSIONER CARR: For six months, we will
17 not meet.

18 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: And no meeting in
19 April.

20 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: We did meet in --

21 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: We don't meet in
22 February, but that's spring budget, I think, so that
23 takes up a whole week right there.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: What was the -- I can't
25 remember the April business. There's nothing on here.

1 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: We had a retreat.

2 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: So let's leave that
3 blank.

4 And what we'll do, Mr. Obenshain, is, we'll
5 let this turnover happen, as far as the political realm.
6 And I would love room built in and we have that built in
7 in April and May for a possible retreat for whatever we
8 deem would help us make the best decision possible, and
9 it would help you in moving the charter-school process
10 forward. Thank you.

11 MR. OBENSHAIN: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The Chair will -- do we
13 need a vote on this? Where did Legal go?

14 MR. OBENSHAIN: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: The Chair will
16 entertain a motion.

17 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I would move that we
18 adopt our tentative calendar. Can we say that word,
19 "tentative," because we tend to change? So I would move
20 that we adopt at this time tentative calendar for the
21 2011 suggested meeting dates, subject to change whatever
22 change needs to be made.

23 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: There is a motion on
25 the floor. It's been seconded by Commissioner Shearman.

1 All those in favor say aye.

2 (All Commissioners present said "aye.")

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Opposed?

4 No.

5 The tentative 2011 calendar has been
6 approved.

7 Any other Commissioner comments?

8 SECRETARY GANT: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Gant.

10 SECRETARY GANT: Mr. Chair.

11 I said I'd talk about this a little bit so
12 everybody knows: The Government Restructuring --
13 Committee Task Force, I should say, sent to the LESC a
14 recommendation that -- the first recommendation they
15 had -- and there was a draft bill -- that all positions
16 on the PEC be appointed by the governor. You know where
17 that goes. The LESC said, You know where you can put
18 that. So they didn't like that.

19 The problem with -- they figure that giving
20 this appointment to the governor takes a lot of -- gives
21 him or her a lot of power, you know, that it becomes a
22 political thing. You know, if it's a Republican, then
23 y'all become Republicans. If it's a Democrat, we all
24 become Democrat, and all that good stuff.

25 One of the problems they've had with the

1 restructure -- government restructure, they said, Well,
2 you know, you had elections, and nobody ran for one
3 position in one of the district. And my point made to
4 the LESC was, That's because we haven't gone out there
5 and told our story to the world or to the state what
6 this is all about.

7 Well, then they came back and said, Well,
8 since you won't take that, one of the appointments,
9 we'll just get rid of the PEC.

10 Commissioner Pogna: Get rid of it?

11 SECRETARY GANT: Their recommendation was,
12 the Task Force was, Well, we'll just do away with it,
13 and everything the PEC does, we'll turn over to the PED.
14 Well, Dennis Roch, Representative Dennis Roch, said,
15 quote: "First of all, Carl Perkins must be authorized
16 by a body like the PEC by federal statutes. Therefore,
17 the PED, standing alone, cannot do it."

18 And I got up in the -- Senator Nava said,
19 Well, Mr. Gant, what do you think of all this; you're on
20 the committee -- on the Commission? I said, Secondly,
21 besides what Dennis Roch said, if the PED/Secretary of
22 Ed denies the charter -- a new charter or a
23 reauthorization of a charter, then who does that charter
24 school appeal to? That's like putting the fox in the
25 henhouse. I mean, who would the charter school go to

1 for appeal?

2 So the LESC is not in favor of this, and
3 hopefully it won't go anywhere. But it would take a
4 change to the constitution to make it applicable.

5 COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: It would have to get
7 through the legislature first, and then go to the
8 constitutional.

9 SECRETARY GANT: So that's two years out.

10 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: At least two years.

11 COMMISSIONER KRIVITZKY: Can I clarify?
12 Clarify their original -- what was the -- why did they
13 care? I mean, what is their beef with us?

14 SECRETARY GANT: They're trying to --
15 they're trying streamline government. They figure by
16 getting rid of us -- they also want to do a massive
17 restructuring or changing or getting rid of the PE --

18 VICE-CHAIR SHEARMAN: The PRC.

19 SECRETARY GANT: PRC. So yeah. So it's
20 not just the PEC. It's everywhere, with no rationale.

21 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Pogna?

22 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Just a comment about
23 constitutionally done. Yes, our Commission is an
24 elected board, not an appointed board. Secondly is
25 that -- what was my second (laughter)? It has to be --

1 whatever it was, it has to be done constitutionally.

2 COMMISSIONER CARR: Mr. Chair?

3 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Commissioner Carr.

4 COMMISSIONER CARR: Talking about e-mail
5 trying to get the word out to people, you know, of what
6 we -- you know, what we do and everything. I -- I sent
7 an e-mail to four different newspapers asking them to
8 add me to their list of elected officials, which is
9 always on the op ed section. We're not on there. And,
10 you know, just something as little as that, you know,
11 it's like -- because most people don't even know who we
12 are until maybe you say, Well former State School Board,
13 which is what I still have to say to my mom (laughter).
14 So, you know, I was trying to think of ways to get the
15 word out as to who we are and what we are. And maybe it
16 wouldn't even hurt to even write a letter to the editor
17 or something, to your local newspapers maybe explaining
18 to people what we do and who we are so there is more
19 awareness.

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: All I know is, all I'm
21 for the restructuring of the PRC's salaries and
22 transferring --

23 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: I'd like to see
24 their salaries cut in about half and given to us
25 (laughter).

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Amen.

2 I have an update from NASBE. I attended
3 the conference in Utah. I want to save that for the
4 December meeting, so I can provide you-all with that
5 information. But there were some interesting things on
6 youth violence that would be good information for us,
7 especially with the area that I represent, just looking
8 at -- looking at children going in and out of systems,
9 and not necessarily school systems, but from school
10 system to juvenile detention or youth services centers,
11 what Bernalillo County calls theirs, and then back and
12 then forth and to and fro. A lot of them get lost. And
13 so there's a -- there's a piece in that that goes
14 outside the school walls in making sure that every child
15 has optimal opportunity and ample opportunity to be
16 educated.

17 Commissioner Pogna?

18 COMMISSIONER POGNA: You said you're going
19 to give the report in December?

20 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Yes. I want to give
21 something solved [sic] and then something with teeth in
22 it.

23 COMMISSIONER POGNA: And I'll save my
24 NMPSIA report for that time, too, because it deals with
25 the violence.

1 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Excellent.

2 Thank you, everyone.

3 The next item on the agenda is the
4 adjournment. All those -- well, I'll entertain a motion
5 that we adjourn.

6 COMMISSIONER CARR: Vote that we adjourn.

7 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Moved by Commissioner
8 Carr.

9 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Seconded by
11 Commissioner Pogna.

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 (All Commissioners present said "aye.")

14 CHAIRMAN GARRISON: Meeting adjourned.

15 (The meeting adjourned, 1:07 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

3

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6 Court Reporter No. 20, and Registered Professional
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15 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
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17 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
18 the final disposition of this case.

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