

## **Board Meeting 7-17-19 Transcription**

### **[DR. WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL FOUR TIMES TO SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING]**

**Williams:** Good morning and welcome to the regular meeting of the Orange County Board of Education. Today is July 17, 2019. In our regular meetings we have our agenda that is posted online on our website, and they are also available at the back table. Anyone wishing to address the board to express their freedom rights of speech is requested to complete a card at the back and then give it to Darou or Nina up front here. We'll be having the public comments in about 5-10 minutes from now.

This is a public meeting and we're obligated to be respectful of and demonstrate civility towards the board, the superintendent, our good staff, and of course, the other guests that are here at this meeting. At this time, which is typical and usual, we have our invocation and I will ask Pastor Jinah Yi to come up. Pastor Yi is a children's pastor at Bethel Korean Church in Irvine. If you would like, you're not mandated, but we'll have a standing invocation as well as for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Yi:** Thank you so much. My name is Jinah Yi I am a children's pastor of Bethel Korean Church in Irvine. We have about 8,000 members, and every Sunday we have from nursery to high school, about 600 to 800 kids. They come every Sunday. It is my honor to start your meeting today with an opening invocation. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, I thank you for these leaders here today who are devoting their lives to serve our families in Orange County. They have been entrusted to steward our most precious gift from you, and that is our children. I ask you to guide them in their decisions. Give them divine discernment for their love of these 500 children and thousands of educators in Orange County.

May their conscious be their guide rather than the suggestions of the state. Lord, please help our state's educational leaders and legislators. Give them insight into restoration of parental rights. Show them how to best make laws that respect diversity, spiritual and cultural values. We pray for a steady course of re-establishing our nation's foundation. Our forefathers acknowledged you in the Declaration of Independence saying that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that we've been endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights." The Creator they refer to is you, Lord, the God of the Hebrew Bible which says, "He created them, male and female, in His image."

Strengthen us and give insight to your place as Creator in our lives. You are the one who knows your people individually, and you alone know our hearts and intentions. Help us acknowledge that when we stray from your self-evident truth, then our unalienable rights become jeopardized and threatened. You are our heavenly good shepherd. Help these leaders who are earthly shepherds guard the innocence of our children.

Help them partner with parents to lead our children, our precious little lambs, to green pastures, still waters to keep them far from temptation and deliver them from evil. We know in your strength we can do this. We give you thanks for your many bounties and pray we will store them well. I pray health, blessing, peace and wisdom today over our educational leaders in Orange County. In your name I pray, amen.

**Audience:** Amen.

**Williams:** Next will be the Pledge of Allegiance led by Trustee Barke.

**Barke:** Please join me by putting your hand over your heart.

**Audience and Board:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Williams:** Very good. Moving on with the meeting. Darou, may we have roll call?

**Sisavath:** Trustee Sparks?

**Sparks:** Here.

**Sisavath:** Trustee Barke?

**Barke:** Present.

**Sisavath:** Trustee Williams?

**Williams:** Present.

**Sisavath:** Trustee Gomez?

**\*TRUSTEE GOMEZ IS ABSENT FOR THIS MEETING\***

**Sisavath:** Trustee Bedell?

**Bedell:** Here.

**Williams:** Very good. Good superintendent Boyd, do we have any introductions today?

**Boyd:** There are no introductions at this meeting.

**Williams:** Very good. May I have a motion from the board for adoption of today's agenda?

**Bedell:** So moved.

**Williams:** So moved by Bedell.

**Barke:** I'll second.

**Williams:** A second by Trustee Barke. Any questions or changes? Otherwise, none noted. All those in favor say, "aye."

**Board:** Aye.

**Williams:** Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 4-0-0. We have two minutes from two previous board meetings, June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> to approve. May I have a motion for such?

**Barke:** I'll make the motion.

**Williams:** I have a motion.

**Bedell:** Second.

**Williams:** And a second. Any changes, edits, amendments to those minutes? Otherwise,

none noted. All those in favor say, “aye”.

**Board:** Aye.

**Williams:** Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 4-0-0. At this point we have public comments. Nina and Darou?

**Boyd:** We have several public comments for general. The first up is Linda Cone, followed by Jinah Yi. If you're not familiar with making public comments at this board meeting, we use a three-minute timer. It has a light bar. It's green, yellow, and then red, and then you'll hear a buzzer. At the buzzer, if you're still talking, we ask that you just finish your sentence. If you continue the dialogue, then I will let you know that your time is up. Thank you.

**Cone:** And you will be unceremoniously dragged away as I have been many times. Good morning all. My focus today is on AB 493. I just want to share with you some important information about AB 493. On August the 12<sup>th</sup>, it will be heard by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. The bill will then go to the Senate and then return to the Assembly for a final vote. The legislature in Sacramento is currently in recess until August the 12<sup>th</sup>, so there's plenty of time to give feedback to your local representatives, both your senators and assemblymen, on this particular piece of legislation. Why AB 493? Because simply it will directly and profoundly impact all certificated staff in grades 7 through 12, both public and charter schools.

Obviously, it will also impact students as well. AB 493 will give an unprecedented platform to a particular group of people to promote a particular agenda. The CTA supports this piece of legislation. The CSBA position is pending, and I will be watching for them to take a position very, very closely. It would take me several minutes to flesh out the analysis of this bill and why I personally am opposed to it. My position on this bill is not the point. I am urging every single person who has any interest and connection whatsoever with public education to avail themselves of this bill, know what it intends to do, and understand the impact that it will have. You may support it. That is your right, but if you choose to do so, at least understand what you are supporting. Thank you very much.

**Bedell:** Linda? Could you give the number again, please?

**Cone:** AB 493.

**Bedell:** And the writer is who?

**Cone:** I'm sorry.

**Bedell:** Who wrote it, the author, and who's carrying it?

**Cone:** Todd Gloria.

**Bedell:** Gloria?

**Cone:** Todd Gloria.

**Bedell:** Thank you.

**Cone:** It's exactly as it spells.

**Bedell:** Thank you.

**Cone:** And a quick internet search on legislation will pop up the bill, as well as any questions you might have on its status.

**Bedell:** Thank you.

**Cone:** I think my times up. I do not wish to be dragged away.

**Boyd:** Jinah Yi, followed by Darrell Williams.

**Yi:** Hi, my name is Jinah Yi. I didn't prepare exactly what I'm going to be talking to you about today. As a minister of all the children, I really have best concern for our sex education. I think difference is not discrimination. We all can have different opinion, but if we say it is discrimination, that is wrong. Our children, especially, they're going to observe whatever we teach, as a sponge. In Lexington Junior High, seventh grade, November, we found out that we got a report from all the parents saying that Planned Parenthood came in and they taught seventh-graders, boys and girls, all together. They said they taught them about oral sex and anal sex with the dental dam.

They gave out all the dental dams and let them touch it, and they told them to smell it. There's a lot of flavors and they can put it on the private part and so on. All the seventh graders, they got really shocked. After that, they made a lot of views of their voices to the department. They removed Planned Parenthood. I found out when I went to the district office here in Irvine, I found out that they are using Teen Talk, which is not medically accurate, and also, they have Planned Parenthood. I wonder why we have Planned Parenthood. They are working with all the junior high and high school students here for sex education. As we saw what happened in Anaheim district, we should make sure we take out Planned Parenthood for junior and high school sex education. Thank you.

**Boyd:** Darrell Williams, followed by Dr. Laura Haynes.

**Williams:** Good morning, President Williams, board of education, and Superintendent Mijares. I am a graduate of Vanguard. I received my teaching credential from Vanguard University. I am concerned about teachers of faith when it comes to these new laws such as AB 329 and SB 179. Teachers are being forced to teach ideologies that go against their beliefs and conscience. Teachers' livelihoods will be on the line if they are unwilling to use non-binary pronouns. If a student identifies as both genders, and the student requests to be referred to with the pronoun of they, them, or theirs. The teacher must defy reality that a single person can be plural "they."

I must obey this student's request no matter what grade or age of the child. If the teacher is unwilling to do so, the teacher will be accused of discrimination, and according to the California Code of Regulations 11034 G3, could be fired. Also, in the Human Rights Campaign LGBT 2018 Youth Report, the organization that Orange County Department

of Education has used to train district employees in LGBT sensitivity, it states that the law requires that school staff refer to non-binary students using their chosen pronouns.

The California School Board Association's non-discrimination policy AR 5143.3 states: "If a student so chooses, district personnel shall be required to address the student by a name and the pronouns consistent with his or her gender identity, without the necessity of a court order, or a change of his or her official district record." The Human Rights Campaign has kindergarten books and lessons teaching kids that they can choose their own unlimited gender and pronouns. They give examples of non-binary pronouns like z, tree, they. The CTA magazine gives examples of non-binary pronouns such as here, here's or hear yourself for students who claim that they are neither gender.

These are radical ideas to force upon teachers. This violates their first amendment rights with compelled speech. It creates a fearful and unsafe environment for teachers. They must abandon common sense as well as common science for the sake of keeping their jobs. Please do not further this agenda of intimidation of teachers with disingenuous professional development trainings in how to use inclusive language and create safer school climates. This is not teacher enhancement. It is teacher indoctrination and tactics to control and suppress free speech, especially those who have strong religious convictions about gender and sexuality. Thank you for listening.

**Boyd:** Dr. Laura Haynes, followed by Brenda Lebsack.

**Haynes:** Greetings, Dr. Mijares and trustees. I am Dr. Laura Haynes, a licensed psychologist and Orange County resident. I was shocked when I heard the Orange County department received a \$5million grant from the state to roll out this controversial health framework. Our county gave the greatest push back on this framework, yet we are the ones leading the way for the state to implement it? This makes no sense. How was this decision made? It was not in any way in the board minutes. We vote for board members to represent us yet this was never brought to the board for a vote. How can elected trustees represent the people when they are not being informed by the county superintendent and leadership?

This is an obstruction of justice and the democratic process. Why is the state investing \$5 million into implementing a document that is only an optional suggestion for districts? If it is optional then why would the county mandate professional development in its implementation? This is a contradiction. This framework is controversial, because it suggests teaching the unlimited gender choices, it promotes consensual, non-monogamous relationships, Pansexuality, polysexuality, asexuality, unlimited, ever-expanding sexual orientations, and instructs teachers to use gender-neutral pronouns such as they, them, or theirs.

It introduces a term, “spiritual abuse,” defined as using religion to justify rigid gender roles. In other words, holding to the view that gender is based on biology will now be labeled as abusive. Besides these controversial sexual teachings, the framework promotes websites, such as Advocates for Youth that contain political recruitment of student activism and one-sided political propaganda. I will give you hard copies. The website is recommended six times in the health framework for grades 4 through 12. Board policy 61-44 states that teachers are not to use their position of influence on students to forward their own political or social views.

Wouldn't the same rule apply to state-endorsed websites used by teachers and students? Lastly, it's highly coincidental that AB 493 is soon to pass in Sacramento, which will mandate all teachers statewide to be trained in LGBTQ sensitivity and inclusive practices. This \$5 million grant from the state is earmarked only for professional development. It's amazing the timing of this new law aligned perfectly with the county framework rollout through professional development. Board of Trustees, can you retract the acceptance of this grant? How can we as a community rally behind you? We will do whatever it takes to prevent the implementation of this framework in our county. Thank you.

**Boyd:** Brenda Lebsack, followed by Andrea Tapia.

**Lebsack:** Greetings. In light of OCDE receiving a \$5 million grant from the state to implement the newly adopted framework through professional development, it seems what districts were told is optional suggestions may soon be enforced at the county level. This is confusing and concerning. The framework has many disparaging and controversial components. However, there is one line found in the sex ed. standards provided to educators that tells me that this framework should be disregarded and disdained. To provide context, the framework recommends sex ed. and HIV prevention to be taught in kindergarten through third grade.

It says students will explore and discover their identities, gender, and sexuality from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The website, Advocates for Youth, is recommended six times in the framework. The framework emphasizes consent, which is a good thing. However, when I read the professional learning standards for sex education provided in the Advocates for Youth link, I could not believe my eyes. On page seven under consent for grades K through 12, this is the advice given to teachers on how to implement sex education standards. It says, “Explain why consent is a fundamental right for people of all ages.”

Let me say that again. “Explain why consent is a fundamental right for people of all ages.” Dr. Mijares, President Williams, trustees and staff. What does this mean? What do you interpret it to mean? To me, it can only mean one thing: this framework advocates

that sex with children is okay, as long as the child gives consent. Anyone who works with children knows that children can easily be persuaded, exploited, and manipulated. That's why we have laws to protect them. However, a new law is on the table, Senate Bill 145. If passed, it appears this law will protect sex offenders who lure minors.

I have provided you a copy explaining Senate Bill 145, and a copy of the sex standard quote referenced through the framework. These two incidences are not coincidental. Our children are no longer being protected through our educational system or within our judicial systems. Given this knowledge, I hope you will reject the \$5 million gift to implement this framework because there is no price tag on a child's innocence.

**Boyd:** Andrea Tapia? You need an interpreter? Okay, we have one in the back.

**Interpreter:** Good morning. I was very impacted by the fact that I learned that the Orange County Department of Education is receiving \$5 million to implement a frame of reference which many of the parents from Orange County were opposed. I am one of the parents that traveled to Sacramento, joining many other parents, to express our opposition for who are the decision makers. I never thought that my own superintendent of my own county was going to lead the implementation. Parents from all over the state have invested thousands of hours to investigate what is the truth around this frame of reference. Why? Because we love our children.

All the sexual education books that are recommending this frame of reference for elementary students makes them paint, in different colors, all the sexual organs like clitoris, and to name all of those that give you sexual pleasure, for elementary students. One of the activities for the young girls in elementary school, they're teaching them how to stretch their hymen with their fingers so when puberty comes, it doesn't hurt when they're going to use tampons. According to OCDE, this is age appropriate. In the book for fifth grade students called, "What is Happening With My Body?", they're telling students that masturbation with other kids is normal.

They're teaching students how to measure their penis and, also, they gave them a complete glossary about non-appropriate words to name different parts of the body. It gives them detailed descriptions of the different organs. This is what OCDE is calling sexual education appropriate for ten-year-old students. One of the books that was taken out of circulation in May 2019 was the framework for grades 9-12. The reason was because parents had a strong opposition about this. The name of the book was, "A Guide for Sexuality." This is all that you need to learn in your puberty years until you're 20.

Even though this book was taken out of circulation from the board of directors from the state Department of Education, we still have some of those things recommended via Planned Parenthood. Part of this curriculum has been approved by ASHWG. This book shows how you can make a fist and you can put the fist in somebody's anus, and it

describes their erotic reaction and games with blood, and also sadomasochism. We need leaders to represent us. Please represent. Thank you.

**Williams:** Thank you. Any other public comments at this time?

**Boyd:** Not at this time.

**Imbriano:** I didn't fill out a comment card but I'm going to speak.

**Boyd:** We don't have a card for him.

**Williams:** If you can -

**Imbriano:** My name is Joe Imbriano. I'm the Fullerton Informer. I'm a Fullerton resident and Mr. Bedell is my man.

**[DR. WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL THREE TIMES]**

**Williams:** What is your name, again?

**Imbriano:** Joe Imbriano.

**Williams:** Joe, if you could be so kind afterwards to -

**Imbriano:** I'll fill out a card out afterwards.

**Williams:** - to complete a card.

**Imbriano:** I don't need to fill one out before I speak. I know the rules. Look folks. This is really scary. It's amazing. Mr. Mijares, how much do you make in a year? A couple hundred thousand? And you won't even look at the people talking when they're calling your name. Thanks for looking at the camera, sir. Pedophilia is a very powerful force in our government, and it has a very strong pull on a lot of very high-level people. I believe what has been outlined explicitly clear to everybody in this room right now is that the framework for the aforementioned has been laid in concrete mixed with an alloy. The legislature is working lockstep with the county.

People here are asking you, our elected representatives, not to go down in history on the wrong side of this issue. I believe this woman has done her homework. I believe this woman here is a board member of a school district in a neighboring city that is within your jurisdiction. I believe she has presented you with everything you need to know and have in your position to act and make an educated and informed decision to return that filthy, evil, demonic money back to where it came from and say no. This is Joe Imbriano. Thank you.

**Boyd:** We have one other. Charlene Metoyer?

**Metoyer:** Good morning. My name is Charlene Metoyer, president of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board of Education. On behalf of the district and the board, I urge you to hold the International School of Science and Culture petitioners accountable for their abuse of the charter approval process and their blatant misrepresentations to you during their charter appeal. As detailed in my June 25<sup>th</sup> letter to you, despite ISSAC's explicit denials and statements to the contrary, ISSAC is now openly touting Dr. Padmini



Srinivasan-Hands as its founder. This information is on ISSAC's website. Dr. Hands was recently quoted as ISSAC's founder in an EdSource article, and when the district officials called ISSAC, our district officials, it was Dr. Hands who took the call.

As you know, some of the district findings and concerns related to the fact that ISSAC is a repackaging of Dr. Hand's failed Adrian Hands Academy charter petition, which was repeatedly found to be an illegal conversion. The Orange County Department of Education also found that Dr. Hands made specific misrepresentations to the county board and staff at the time she appealed the Adrian Hands charter. ISSAC's representatives vehemently denied the district's concerns regarding Dr. Hand's involvement in the conversion issue. In fact, during your public hearing, ISSAC board member, Vanessa Besack, specifically asserted to the county board that the district's concerns were false, and claimed that Dr. Hands was, "not involved in ISSAC."

ISSAC's lead petitioner and then principal, Patricia Gould, responded to a direct question from the county board by denying any connection to the Adrian Hands Academy. These statements by ISSAC's representatives were clearly not true. ISSAC has now explicitly admitted that Dr. Hands is ISSAC's founder, and she is intimately involved in ISSAC's operations. In fact, during our facilities negotiations, ISSAC's attorney repeatedly stated that she would have to ask Padmini about any questions or points of negotiation. We believe there is only one explanation for ISSAC's behavior.

ISSAC believed that the connection to the prior efforts to illegally convert Dr. Hand's private school to a charter and her related misrepresentations to the county would hurt its chances to have its charter appeal approved. Of course, since conversion from a private school to a charter is unequivocally prohibited by law, they had good reason to worry. We urge you not to allow ISSAC's representatives to get away with these or any additional misrepresentations or implementations of the illegal conversion of Dr. Hand's private school. ISSAC can't claim that she's not involved, or alternatively, that her involvement came after this board granted ISSAC's charter.

As ISSAC's founder, Dr. Hands started the school, which also undeniably means that ISSAC's prior assertions to the board were untrue. As elected officials representing this community and charged with holding the charter petitioners accountable to law, we implore you not to overlook ISSAC's misconduct, or the fact that ISSAC is a prohibited private school conversion. Thank you very much. Lots of words, not a lot of time.

**Williams:** Thank you, Charlene, you did a wonderful job. Thank you for your communication. At this time, moving on with the agenda, we have our open organizational meeting today. We have elections of officers. The first officer that we will be electing today will be president. I'd like to make the motion to have Trustee Barke as our president. The nominations are open -

**Bedell:** Second.

**Williams:** - to anybody else. Second by Dr. Bedell. Any other nominations? Barring that there are no further nominations, all those in favor of Trustee Barke say, "aye."

**Board:** Aye.

**Williams:** Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 4-0-0. Congratulations, madam president.

**Barke:** Thank you.

**Audience:** [APPLAUSE]

**Williams:** I will now pass the gavel and she is our presiding president.

**Barke:** Thank you very much for your confidence in me, everyone. I appreciate that, and I will start by asking for nominations for vice president to join me in this journey.

**Bedell:** I nominate Ms. Sparks.

**Sparks:** I deny it. I'll nominate Ken Williams.

**Barke:** I'll second that. We have a motion and a second. Bring it to a vote. All those in favor of Dr. Williams as the vice president say, "aye."

**Barke, Sparks and Williams:** Aye.

**Bedell:** Abstain.

**Barke:** Abstain. 3-1, it passes. Moving on now to #2, we're going to nominate and approve board member assignments for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

**Williams:** Nina? Can you help us out here?

**Boyd:** If you go to tab 2 in your binders, it shows who has held the position for 2018-2019.

**Barke:** Executive committee.

**Boyd:** Just reverse.

**Barke:** Just reverse. CCBE board of directors.

**Boyd:** Will continue.

**Barke:** That will continue, Dr. Bedell. CSBA delegate assembly continues as well.

**Boyd:** That continues.

**Barke:** Dr. Bedell. Political action group: myself.

**Williams:** I would like to do that.

**Barke:** You would like to do that instead?

**Williams:** Take your place.

**Barke:** Excellent. Do we vote on that or does anybody want to challenge that? Anybody else want that?

**Bedell:** I'll second it.

**Barke:** You'll second it? Okay

**Boyd:** You can do this late as a whole.

**Barke:** Excellent. We'll write in Williams for that. OCSBA, that is assigned to Beckie. Is that something that would go on because of what she's done in the past or is that open?

**Boyd:** It's open. Certainly, she can continue. She had a scheduling conflict when the meeting got changed. She already had a prior commitment, so she's out of state right

now. We did not converse on whether or not she wished to continue or not, so I don't know. You could hold that over until next month if no one else is interested in doing it.

**Barke:** Is anyone else interested?

**Williams:** We'll finalize everything next month.

**Barke:** We can finalize the next month. We'll check in with her. Dr. Sparks, we have you as a PTA liaison. Are you willing to continue?

**Sparks:** Yes.

**Barke:** All right, and I have a list of the meetings, so you'll know when they are. Do I have a motion to approve this as a whole, holding over Gomez for OCSBA? We'll check in with her.

**Bedell:** So moved.

**Barke:** So moved.

**Williams:** Second.

**Barke:** All in favor?

**Boyd:** Who seconded it?

**Williams:** I did.

**Boyd:** Thank you, Ken.

**Barke:** Dr. Bedell, are you in favor of that?

**Bedell:** Yes.

**Barke:** It passes 4-0.

**Boyd:** We'll bring OCSBA back in August?

**Barke:** Yes. Moving on, the next order is to confirm board meeting dates for 2020 through 2021. Here are those dates. Does anyone have issues with any of the dates?

**Sparks:** What tab are you on?

**Barke:** I'm still in tab 3.

**Boyd:** Tab 3.

**Williams:** Page 16.

**Barke:** Page 16, tab 3. This is actually 2020 and 2021. Do you have any issues, Dr. Bedell? Dr. Williams?

**Williams:** As usual, these dates will change -

**Barke:** Yes.

**Williams:** - as the years go on. Now I think it's just setting and establishing dates for now. I have no problems with that.

**Barke:** May I have a motion to approve those dates for now?

**Bedell:** So moved by Dr. Bedell.

**Williams:** Second.

**Barke:** Second by Dr. Williams. Moving on to item #4.

**Williams:** We have a vote.

**Barke:** Oh, sorry. We need a vote. All those in favor?

**Board:** Aye.

**Barke:** Passes 4-0. May I have a motion for the consent calendar as a whole?

**Bedell:** So moved.

**Williams:** Second.

**Barke:** All those in favor?

**Board:** Aye.

**Barke:** Passes 4-0. That brings us to our closed session.

**Boyd:** Recess.

**Barke:** Recess.

**Boyd:** Approximate timeframe?

**Barke:** Approximate timeframe?

**Bedell:** 5 minutes.

**Williams:** 30-45 minutes, I would think.

**Barke:** 15? Our good attorney says about 15 minutes. We'll try and keep it quick.

**[PRESIDENT BARKE STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE TO SIGNAL THE RETURN OF THE BOARD MEETING]**

**Barke:** We're back in session. I'd like to start by calling up our attorney, Jonathan Brenner, to report out from our closed session.

**Brenner:** Thank you. Closed session was held by the board to discuss the pending litigation between the board and the superintendent's office. An update was provided, a discussion ensued, and no action was taken other than a vote on our fee statement dated June 28<sup>th</sup> for May time. That was approved for payment. The vote was 4-0 of the members present. Thank you.

**Barke:** Thank you. Moving down to board recommendations #8. May I have a motion for #8?

**Williams:** I so move since I am the maker of this.

**Barke:** Second?

**Sparks:** Second.

**Barke:** Any discussion?

**Bedell:** Ken, I was interested in your interpretation of the final "therefore." "The Orange County Board of Education regards as extraordinary open or closed ACCESS school sites or other community schools without board input, discussion, and vote. Can you walk me through how you would see that and how that would happen?"

**Williams:** I don't think there's any action mentioned to that but it's a good point that you make, Jack. I think it just says extraordinary in the events that happened with the two site closures of the CHEP school. The 1977 resolution by the Orange County Supervisors empowered the Orange County Board of Education with certain educational duties and responsibilities. One of those, and I think you iterated that at the last meeting, your concern about these community schools that were closed.

One, for an example, is that maybe the board could have entered into the dialogue and the debate earlier, and we could have come up with different thinking outside of the box solutions. Maybe finding and securing a school that is closed. Maybe taking half of that school and renting it out with a charter school, and using the other facilities for ourselves. There's lots of options I think could have been done, and that's the purpose of that last "therefore."

**Bedell:** Could you tell me how this would substantively change, as you see how it operates, in a situation that needs a decision in 24 hours? For example, if one of the sites has a big fire and has to be closed, the way this reads to me, literally, is that would be impossible to comply with. It uses the word "extraordinary" in an interesting place, but that's not a problem. I think this reduces degrees of flexibility and the notion of voters, for me, is different than the recommendation. To me, and this not being snarky, but it gets very close to micromanaging. I'm worried about the ability of the department to respond in a very timely manner.

For example, it is decided by the sheriff's department that this site we have today is in a very dangerous situation. The superintendent and his staff says we have to close this site because of xyz, a literal enforcement interpretation of what you've written here. I don't think that's in the weeds. I think there's some flexibility that needs to be here that I don't read from that last "therefore."

**Williams:** I think the error in your decision-making process -

**Bedell:** I welcome because I have a lot of errors.

**Williams:** - is that last statement is taken out of context. When you include the context of the previous "whereas," what's happened, it gives the context to that decision. What happened, the closing of the two sites was extraordinary. I think it's an interpretation. I don't think this is micromanagement at all. If we do have a 24-hour emergency in a school, obviously, the managing of the schools in emergencies would be done by the superintendent. Hopefully, we have dialogue with the executive committee and get that dialogue out to the board, which has happened in the past, especially when we had the fires so many years ago, if you remember.

**Bedell:** Right.

**Williams:** This department took a significant lead in leading the county for evacuation of those school sites. I just disagree.

**Bedell:** That's fine.

**Williams:** I don't understand your lack of comprehending it, but with all due respect, I love you.

**Bedell:** I think there was a compliment.

**Barke:** Can I call for a vote? Is there any more discussion? Dr. Bedell?

**Bedell:** Oh, no.

**Barke:** You're good? All those in favor?

**Barke, Sparks and Williams:** Aye.

**Barke:** Dr. Bedell?

**Bedell:** No.

**Barke:** 3-1, passes. Moving on to #9, charter submissions.

**Boyd:** We have no charter submissions at this meeting.

**Barke:** Moving on to #10, we have an ISSAC update.

**Boyd:** I ask for Renee Williams to come up, and she's also with her counsel from Young, Minney, and Corr. This is Renee Williams. She is the new principal of ISSAC.

**Barke:** Welcome.

**R. Williams:** Good morning, trustees and Superintendent Mijares. I am Renee Williams, and I'm the new principal assigned to the International School for Science and Culture. It's my pleasure to meet you all. I am here this morning not only to meet you, but to provide you any updates that I might have available to me at this time, and of course take notes of any further information you may want provided to you at a near date.

**Boyd:** For context purposes, last month staff reported to the board that there had been a change in leadership. There were questions that had come up with regards to the principal; the fact that there were some communications that we received from the former principal. We were also being communicated with a person who is identifying themselves as going to be the CEO, which was Padmini Hands. We shared that with the board. The board had just asked that a representative from ISSAC come. Ms. Williams is here primarily to answer questions that the board has with regards to the status of the school, what's happening with the school, and anything else that the board feels is important for them to know.

**K. Williams:** We can ask anything?

**Boyd:** Related to the school.

**R. Williams:** That's scary.

**Barke:** Dr. Williams?

**K. Williams:** I have questions.

**Barke:** Excellent.

**K. Williams:** If I may be so acknowledged. Welcome, Ms. Williams. By the way, for the record, we're not related in any way. You have a great last name, I love it, but no relationship. Today we've heard from the good president of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District making certain allegations. You weren't here, but it was a difficult vote. The ISSAC vote was a very difficult vote and there was a lot of concerns, a lot of questions. I probably asked an hour worth of questions myself.

I eventually made the decision, because I wanted to give it the opportunity and the hope. With your change, I don't know you, so tell me about you. Your background, your expertise, your strengths, your weaknesses; all those things that make you the leader that we want to have and know at the school.

**R. Williams:** I've spent my entire career, 25 years plus, dedicated to kids. I wasn't expecting really to necessarily tell you about me. I thought perhaps I'd be updating you with regards to enrollment and facilities, staffing updates. However, I'm happy to talk about me. I am recently coming from Inglewood Unified School District. It is a high needs area and in my particular site, I was principal of the largest school within the district, more than 850 students covering two sites as it was a merger between elementary and middle school sites. As you know, I'm sure, that particular district is under state receivership, and the only district in the state under state receivership.

Therefore, it's managed by a state administrator who recently resigned. More recently, it has a layer of oversight from the Los Angeles County Office of Education. I say that background, that context, to let you know that in my most recent experience out of the 25 years, this has been an opportunity of growth for me to partner my previous instructional background with a heavy dose of operational background. I also managed the Lawler Project for sound mitigation and two construction projects simultaneously while attempting to raise the scores and reduce the number of students needing reclassification.

Thankfully, within that strong team, I was very fortunate to lead an island of excellence within the district. I am a team player. Speaking human-to-human, I'm very easy to collaborate with. I'm always looking for the win-win. I believe that that's always possible. My hope here, at the International School for Science and Culture, is just to contribute in the best way I can as I always do. Listen, and observe, and work with the families who come.

**K. Williams:** I have lots of questions but I'll spread it around.

**Sparks:** Hi.

**R. Williams:** Hi.

**Sparks:** I'm losing my voice a bit, so bear with me. I'm curious about how we're going to get from startup to success. What's your path?

**R. Williams:** Everything is urgent in that path from startup to success. That's a balance of simultaneous urgent efforts between student quality implementation, the delivery of instruction, finding the right type of staffing that can put students first, but also engage with parents, and ensuring that everyone, while pursuing these efforts, are safe. That's a priority, both safe physically, but also socially, emotionally safe. Every branch out of each of those topics has a multitude of follow-up pieces that I consider to be important.

The how is through collaboration; through collaboration and listening and taking strategic, targeted steps toward that end goal, which of course has multiple measures at the end of the year as to what success means.

**Sparks:** Can you describe the innovative curriculum, and how that differentiates from what the district is able to offer?

**R. Williams:** Yes, I'll do my best in what would be my short time onboard. My perspective is this global citizenship effort and philosophy is to embed a sense of community and learning, taking care of one another, and through the academic layers of the English language arts, math, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish embedded, but also the physical wellness. That's the approach in which this particular charter will secure those academic strengths, as well as human strengths.

**Sparks:** Thank you.

**Barke:** Jack, do you want to ask anything?

**Bedell:** Yes. Thank you very much for coming. I appreciate and welcome to your assignment.

**R. Williams:** Thank you.

**Bedell:** I have gotten more comments about the ISSAC proposal than any other process or any of the item, except maybe the Common Core and the sex curriculum, and it's not even anywhere near my district. I really need your help on this. It was one of the most difficult votes in my 14 years here, and nine years on the Fullerton board. I really need your help here. How long have you been in this role?

**R. Williams:** I can't articulate an exact date. I'm sure it's reflected in the board minutes for ISSAC, but it's been about a month that I've been doing some groundwork.

**Bedell:** You've been on payroll for a month?

**R. Williams:** Yes.

**Bedell:** Okay, perfect. Is it your view, and this is where I'm very confused because it hasn't been made clear to me. I apologize for that. Dr. Williams will tell you he frequently does not comprehend me. On a serious note, it's never been clear to me that ISSAC was not or is a derivative of a private school going public. I'm all fuzzy on that. What is your view of the history of ISSAC and where am I wrong or right? I'm really fuzzy on this.

**R. Williams:** I apologize that I am probably not the one that could articulate that distinguishing pattern of what occurred earlier or through the petition process. Not only was I not present, but as I've come on board, my focus has been primarily toward preparing to open in a short period of time a quality setting for the kids. I am aware of



what you're alluding to and I also heard comments earlier, so it isn't lost on me that there's been some fuzziness or some tension, other descriptors. However, I am just not knowledgeable in the details.

**Bedell:** That's fair for 30 days. It was very unclear to me again and it made me uncomfortable, because it was sort of a shroud of here. Why did your predecessor leave?

**R. Williams:** I really have no idea.

**Bedell:** You did not have the benefit of having a predecessor who could help socialize you? You had to walk in cold?

**R. Williams:** Correct.

**Bedell:** That's fair. When are you going to see kids coming through the front door?

**R. Williams:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Bedell:** Do you, in fact, have a facility?

**R. Williams:** Do we have the facility? Yes.

**Bedell:** Is that a 39? Is that the number I'm looking for?

**Boyd:** Prop 39.

**Bedell:** Prop 39 facility?

**R. Williams:** It's a shared location and it's at Harper Park.

**Bedell:** Tell me, please. I want to make sense of this, because if it were my district, I'd probably be more steeped in it. Who advises you, and what is the relationship of the board with you as you see yourself going forward, and who are the players in the background and in the foreground, helping you succeed? I've never ever seen anything that went down like between this charter and Newport-Mesa. I'm sure we're going to see it in three years. This is going to be bubbling for years. Therefore, my viewpoint is first and foremost, kids. What are you going to do for the Newport Mesa community to alleviate their concerns that everybody is working forward to put the children first?

**R. Williams:** I think that's what will alleviate that.

**Bedell:** I just got three emails and it was three conversations last week about this. Already, I'm tired of it, and it's not my district. Help me with this, because I've never seen anything like this. Even in my own local district, I've never seen anything that approximated how that went. In your 30 days, what have you done to reach out to the Newport-Mesa community that was very concerned about your coming into the operation?

**R. Williams:** I understand the concern, especially with this timeline. I wish I knew more about the history, but I am very aware that there is a trust issue, and it's likely fair to have a trust issue without seeing what is to come. For me, when you think about a year from now, or three years from now, the best indicator of everyone's comfort level will be entirely based upon the success of the school. The proof will be in the pudding, and the

students need to be well educated and happy. The parents need to be engaged, and that's, for me, the bottom line is what happens to the kids.

That's the answer to everything going forward. The preparation to meet that end is with regards to proper staffing, proper professional development, proper collaboration, and proper communication. The communication has to involve the community, the parents, and of course, the directives from the authorizer. I have to, as well, communicate with the board for the International School of Science and Culture.

**Bedell:** There's a name I don't know and somebody can help me with this. This is the word I don't like, and I really don't like, because for me, if I say the capital of California is Albany, I've made a mistake. I have not lied. All right? I have been told frequently that proposers of this charter lied about its history. Lied about Adrian Hands, and I'm not so sure I even know what that means, in the background of the charter. That's why I'm saying you are coming into, and I hope your board is socializing you to protect you as a serious educator, because there's so much going on that needs to be filtered, cleared, and the word lie is used over and over again.

The district has been lied to, the parents have been lied to, there's been people chased on campus. The problem is this is really a difficult one to me, because people whom I respect deeply, professionally, have raised red flags. The privatization of it, the publicization of it, the curriculum, the readiness, the 39. Why did the director, poof, go? I find it extraordinary, with somebody with over 50 years in the university administration, not to know why exactly your predecessor left. That could be a hostile act to you, because that means you may not be briefed, fully, by a board. I really appreciate your honesty here. That's one thing I sure as hell would find out, because that could be setting you up.

**Barke:** Dr. Williams?

**Bedell:** It's a tough act to follow, Ken.

**Barke:** Please don't.

**Audience and Board:** [Laughter]

**Bedell:** Touche.

**Williams:** It should be known that you are now an actor.

**Barke:** Once is enough.

**K. Williams:** You're actually doing a movie appearances. I'm impressed with that. No, I'm not an actor. I'm just a plain and simple country folk physician. I care about people and I care about kids. You've been put in a difficult situation.

**R. Williams:** Yes.

**K. Williams:** I think it was well articulated. Don't take it offensively -

**R. Williams:** I won't.

**K. Williams:** - if you felt a little put in your corner by the good Trustee Bedell. He's pretty passionate about his choice of words. Again, I echo his sentiments that this was the most contentious charter approval that we've made. I'm concerned about statements that were made earlier, and maybe the good counsel could help answer this. Again, echoing what Trustee Bedell said, there was allegation made by the good Newport-Mesa Unified president, Charlene, today that Dr. Hands answered phones. Did you hear that?

**Bedell:** I heard there was involvement, yes.

**K. Williams:** I think that's odd. From the very beginning, this was not a conversion. Dr. Hands was involved and the good president from Newport-Mesa stated that. Can you help me understand that more?

**Ruley:** I did not hear the comment. I don't have personal knowledge about who answers phones. I understand that Dr. Hands has some involvement at this point. She's not a board member. She's not a paid employee. I believe that she volunteers her time.

**K. Williams:** Just for Renee, that's a big red flag for us, because the law is quite clear. You can't convert a private institution into a charter school. With Dr. Hand's involvement, we were assured many, many times that this was not a conversion. She's not involved. This is a completely autonomous functioning entity, and we voted upon that, and that was the basis. It concerns me, because the optics doesn't look good. If that was a real focus of contention and controversy, it doesn't look good that she's answering phones. I don't think there's a problem with her volunteering, but anywhere near the management and the day-to-day activities, even answering phones could be problematic. I don't know how my good colleagues feel about that.

**Bedell:** I agree.

**Boyd:** Dr. Williams?

**K. Williams:** Yes?

**Boyd:** If you recall last month, one of the things that we introduced in our conversation in the update was the fact that she, yes, she had, in fact, not only when you're saying answered the phones, she's communicated with our office representing ISSAC. In that representation, we've also received documents that have her name on them. The SELPA approval that they reached out to Los Angeles County to be a part of that SELPA, that document was sent to the superintendent addressed to her. That was part of the confusion that we were trying to ascertain who's in charge, what's happening, and so forth when we first started having the conversations.

I just want, for point of reference, to remind the board that yes, we know that there's some involvement. She's contacted our office, she's talked with our director, Kelly Gaughran, on numerous occasions, providing information. When Ms. Gould left ISSAC, she pointed us to Ms. Hands as the person that we should be communicating with in the

interim, and then we were redirected by one of the board members with regards to contacting someone else. There were multiple layers in there in terms of the conversations and communication. Although Miss Williams can't speak to that, I want to clarify for the board that we do have knowledge and have experienced the conversations as well.

**K. Williams:** I have to process that.

**Boyd:** I understand.

**K. Williams:** It's concerning to me. I'm going to have to process this. I'm going to hold any further questions.

**Barke:** Any other questions?

**Sparks:** Can you give us an understanding of the projected enrollment in the numbers, again, referring to that pathway to success which is what we're all concerned with?

**R. Williams:** Yes. In a first year starter, I consider this to be pretty successful, in that there are currently 200 completed applications and 25 in progress, just collecting the appropriate documentation. That's as of today, still a little bit of time to go.

**Sparks:** Thank you.

**Bedell:** Madam Chair?

**Barke:** Yes?

**Bedell:** Nina's report right here was much more significant than what I've heard from the community. I'm not chastising the community, because it's verification of what the community has shared with me in some ways. I need time to process this, because I share Dr. Williams' feelings. This is, for me, it's huge. Again, I want to be sure that I'm fair here because I voted against it. I want to be sure that I'm not using implicit bias or explicit onto you. I don't envy your position. I think it would be patronizing for me to say other things. I just won't do that.

I think this is really essential to get that school fully integrated into that community where you have some of the highest achieving schools and some of the highest achieving children, and some of the highest involved parents. I've never seen a community mobilized this way on an issue like this, and this only makes it more difficult for me because in some ways, I feel that I was lied to even though I did not vote for it. That's why I hate that word. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Barke:** The only thing that I would say is I'm a little disappointed that we're just finding out today that they communicated with our staff. I feel like it would have been nice -

**Boyd:** I mentioned that to you last month. I read a whole agenda and provided that information. That was why you wanted to have a representative here today, is my understanding.

**Bedell:** That's my understanding.

**Boyd:** I provided that information right after Michelle Anderson gave you some updates.

**K. Williams:** This is kind of a further discussion. Renee, I want to encourage and exhort you to do your job. You heard a lot of concerns expressed here today. We don't want you to leave here today without the knowledge that we still support you. We want you to be successful. We want the kids in that community to have a great education. You seem like a very good-natured, kind, caring human being. You have a lot to do, a lot to accomplish.

You have a couple months to get all these 200 kids in the classroom and assign them teachers, and have curriculums, and all of the micromanaging that's required. We want to encourage you to do that. There are some more bigger issues here that perhaps we can have clarified at our next meeting regarding ISSAC? How does that sound as a suggestion?

**Bedell:** I agree with that. I would like to also know the role of that person we've talked about, and the hiring of this person. It has nothing to do with you.

**K. Williams:** The honesty and straightforwardness and being transparent is so essential to any sort of relationship, and I kind of feel that's been lost. We'll talk about it more next month, the executive committee with the consent of the rest of the board. We'll create something and dialogue and get something on the agenda. Is that okay with you, Madam President?

**Barke:** Yes.

**Boyd:** Whatever questions that the board might have, if we could get those, whether they need to be clarified by Ms. Williams or by our staff, so that we get those in advance and they have enough time to research or address whatever it is that you're interested in hearing, would be helpful.

**Bedell:** I also think the school district should be involved, at least getting information as well.

**Boyd:** If the board has questions of the district, we'll be happy to reach out to them as well.

**Bedell:** Thank you.

**K. Williams:** Thank you, Nina.

**Barke:** Thank you very much.

**R. Williams:** Thank you.

**Bedell:** Thank you.

**Barke:** We appreciate your time. Charter school public hearing, Ednovate, Legacy College Prep material revision submission, public hearing regarding relocation to two temporary locations.

**Boyd:** Teresa Johnson will facilitate the public hearing.

**Barke:** Thank you.

**Johnson:** Good morning, President Barke, members of the board, Superintendent Mijares. Today, Legacy College Prep is submitting a request for material revision to their charter and the board will hold a public hearing to consider input regarding the request. The school is requesting to relocate to another facility within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District, and the request has been expedited due to the opening of school in August for the 2019-2020 school year.

The lease for Legacy College Prep's current facility will end July 31, 2019. The documents submitted to you include the information known at this time. For today's public hearing, representatives from Legacy College Prep our allotted ten minutes to address the board. Then the hearing will be open for public comments. Santa Ana Unified School District requested, and has been provided, all documents related to the material revision. I now call representatives from Legacy College Prep to the podium.

**Hart:** Good afternoon, members of the board and superintendent. My name is Katie Hart. I'm the chief operating officer for Ednovate, a charter management organization supporting five high schools in both Los Angeles and our one high school in Orange County, which is in Santa Ana. I am representing Legacy College Prep and items number 11 and 12 today. Thank you for your time and consideration. Legacy College Prep recently completed their third year in operations and continues to raise the bar in the Ednovate network for both academic performance, and student experience.

This past year was the first year that Legacy had a junior class, all of whom took the ACT this spring. Legacy's junior class achieved an average of 19.6 on the ACT. That is all students in their junior class, and outperformed our first two schools, which both have junior classes as well, on their first year. They are on an incredible trajectory. We're very proud of them, to say the least. We're confident that Legacy College Prep will follow in the footsteps of the first two Ednovate schools who have achieved 100% college acceptance for the past four years.

Last year, we were fortunate to secure a property and the financing to build Legacy College Prep their future home in Santa Ana, which is designed especially to support our unique instructional model, and also to support and engage the surrounding community. We're excited this project is now well underway with the building under construction at this time. We've had some setbacks along the way that have impacted the timeline. Our hope is that this permanent home would be ready for this school year, but due to delays with the project, we're projecting the building won't be complete until this winter. Last year, we were able to partner and co-locate with Calvary Chapel Tustin, in Santa Ana, to house our students for three grade levels.

We are very grateful for their partnership and support during that time. Throughout that year, we worked with the property owner of the site to secure additional time in the event

that our construction was delayed. Unfortunately, the site was recently sold and the new ownership was not able to allow us to remain on this campus for any additional time. Through many community partnerships and support from many great leaders at the city of Santa Ana, we've been fortunate to find two alternative sites that Teresa described to temporarily house our students and staff while the construction of our permanent facility is being completed over the next six months.

Both sites are church campuses and they're located within two miles of each other, and both are within five miles of our permanent site. We're also going to be working with each of our families to determine if transportation would be helpful to them during this interim time until our facility is completed. We know each family is unique in their needs, and how they would love to get their student to school, so we'll work with them on an individual basis. The sites are both warm and welcoming environments that are safe with ample spaces for all of our students and wonderful outdoor areas for our PE program, and also after school programming.

The staff at both sites have been very welcoming to us and our families. We, again, are very grateful for their partnership over the next few months, supporting Legacy College Prep. We're confident that these two sites will provide our students and families with great environments to learn and grow while we anxiously await our transition to their permanent home in January. Thank you for your time this morning and for your continued support.

**Barke:** Thank you.

**Johnson:** Thank you, Ms. Hart. The hearing is now open for public comments from individuals who have submitted a comment card to address the board. Each individual will have three minutes to speak for a total of 30 minutes allocated for comments. For those speaking today, the board clerk will time each speaker. A red light will flash and a buzzer will sound when time is up. President Barke, please call the first speaker.

**Boyd:** We have no public comment cards submitted for this topic.

**Barke:** Excellent.

**Johnson:** This concludes the public hearing for the material revision request for Legacy College Prep. Barring any unforeseen delays, the board will render a decision at the August board meeting. President Barke, I now turn the meeting back over to you for any questions the board may have.

**Barke:** Thank you. Do we have any questions? No?

**Williams:** Yes. Your name, again? I'm sorry, I didn't get it.

**Hart:** My name is Katie Hart.

**Williams:** Katie Hart. Katie, thank you and welcome. The school has been in existence for three years. All of your kids took the ACT with really wonderful scores. I'm

impressed with that, and 100% college admission.

**Hart:** 100% college acceptance -

**Williams:** Acceptance.

**Hart:** - for our two most-senior schools up in Los Angeles. All of the seniors of those two schools, which is about 200 students, were accepted to one or more universities.

**Williams:** How many students do you have now?

**Hart:** At Legacy College Prep? This year we had about 310 students, and we anticipate just over 400 for next year.

**Williams:** For next year? You're going to be moving to two different sites, because you lost your home right now because of the sale of the property.

**Hart:** Exactly.

**Williams:** You're going to be moving into these temporary sites for the 2019-2020 academic year?

**Hart:** Correct, just for the first semester while our permanent site construction is being completed.

**Williams:** It sounds like you're going to be moving into your permanent structure in January?

**Hart:** We will.

**Williams:** 2020? That permanent site is where again?

**Hart:** The permanent site is located in Santa Ana, 1450 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Williams:** Very good. That's very, very good, numbers and news, and we appreciate that. You are successful.

**Hart:** Our students are doing wonderful.

**Barke:** That's great.

**Williams:** Very good.

**Barke:** Any other comments? Questions?

**Sparks:** I would just say I know that you all have had to overcome a lot, have had quite a few hurdles, and I just say that because some other folks here that we've talked to are going to have to overcome some hurdles as well as you get from that startup point to the pathway to success. I commend you for your perseverance for the kids. Well done.

**Barke:** What's that?

**Boyd:** She's going to address item #12 as well. Teresa will facilitate that for you as well.

**Johnson:** Good morning, again, President Barke, members of the board, and Superintendent Mijares. Today, Legacy College Prep is submitting a request for material revision to their charter and the board will hold a hearing to consider public input regarding the request. The school is requesting to change the organization's bylaws and to relocate to a long-term facility within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District. The school has requested to expedite the process due to the August opening for the 2019-2020 school year. The board approved Legacy College Prep on appeal in 2016.



The school began operations in August of 2016 in the city of Santa Ana. The documents submitted to you include information known at this time. For today's public hearing, representatives from Legacy College Prep are allotted 10 minutes to address the board, then the hearing will open for public comments. Santa Ana Unified has requested and been provided all documents related to the material revision. I now call Ms. Katie Hart from Legacy College Prep to the podium.

**Hart:** Good afternoon, again, board members and superintendent. As I previously stated, this material revision is for our permanent facility. Our facility has been under construction since the winter timeframe. We are projecting that the permanent facility will be completed no later than January. We're very excited to have a building not only as a permanent home for our students, but a building that's been specifically designed to support our instructional model and our unique personalized learning approach. We are very excited for this building.

**Barke:** Great. Congratulations.

**Hart:** Thank you.

**Johnson:** Thank you, Ms. Hart. The hearing is now open for public comments from individuals who have submitted a comment card to address the board. Each individual will have three minutes to speak for a total of 30 minutes allocated for comments. For those speaking today, the board clerk will time each speaker. A red light will flash and a buzzer will sound when time is up. President Barke, please call for the first speaker.

**Barke:** Nina, do we have any speakers?

**Boyd:** We have no speakers for item #12.

**Barke:** Excellent.

**Johnson:** This concludes the public hearing for the material revision request of Legacy College Prep. Barring any unforeseen delays, the board will render a decision at the August board meeting. President Barke, I now turn the meeting back over to you to facilitate any questions the board may have.

**Barke:** Do we have any questions?

**Bedell:** We have seen before the relocation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Street address, right?

**Hart:** The site that we were located at last year was right across the street from our permanent site. You may be recalling where we were located last year, was 1500 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Our permanent site is at 1450 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Bedell:** I was following sort of a derivative of Dr. Williams on an earlier point. You're building, now, right?

**Hart:** Yes.

**Bedell:** You didn't build without this boards permission before, did you?

**Hart:** The building was all vetted through the charter school division. All of our materials for all the financing of the project, we worked with the charter schools division

on everything.

**Boyd:** They were leasing a site before.

**Bedell:** Right. This relocation, that third sentence. "Relocation to a permanent location." I support that, but if we said no to that today...

**Williams:** Your point well made.

**Bedell:** It just seems to me that should be redundant, the thing we should be seeing, in my mind, it's just a bylaw revision. We've already approved you go in there. Haven't we?

**Boyd:** Right. The revision in the bylaw hasn't been completed, so that would have their permanent facility in it. The bylaw does not have that information.

**Bedell:** It's an editorial, then?

**Boyd:** Yes.

**Bedell:** Not substantive. Is that fair? Am I getting that right? Suppose today, Trustee Williams and I say, "This is the first time we've heard of 17<sup>th</sup> Street." Then you got a building that they're pouring concrete. We say, "Wait a minute, we didn't want it on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, we want it on 15<sup>th</sup>." We wouldn't micromanage that way. It seems to me this is superfluous.

**Boyd:** Information was provided to the board with regards to what they were doing, but it's taken them some time to get through the details of their documents with their governing board. That's why it's coming as a material revision now, because we typically give you the information but they work through the language and what they need to do. Once they submit it then we bring that to the board. The board has known that they were going there and that they were moving forward with the construction at this facility. At the time, that was introduced to the board if there were concerns with what they were doing, because their board approves the actual construction. This board doesn't.

**Bedell:** Right.

**Boyd:** They vetted what they needed to do with their governing board.

**Barke:** This is more of an update, just letting us know?

**Boyd:** It's more of updating the documents that we hold that have all of the legalities pertaining to where they are housed, and where the students are housed, and where the records are kept, and so forth in this particular material revision. When material revisions are coming to the board, it's because there's a change in the petition. The original petition identified a different location. Now they are going to have a permanent facility so they're updating their document so it's consistent with new language and new location.

**Williams:** In essence, this board has no role in approving the construction, the actual loan that was obtained, or anything like that?

**Boyd:** Correct.

**Williams:** That's the type of micromanagement at the board level for Legacy Prep. I was thinking the same thing as good Dr. Bedell. I do have questions, by the way, outside of

that, if you are done?

**Bedell:** I'm done.

**Williams:** Looking at the documents, you're using bond funds to build your facility? Is that correct?

**Hart:** Yes.

**Williams:** What bond number?

**Hart:** We have a real estate entity that holds all of our real estate. That entity went to the Charter School Financing Authority in Sacramento, and sought to issue bonds in order to finance this facility. Just like any other nonprofit organization, the charter real estate entity can issue bonds as a form of financing for these projects.

**Williams:** That's interesting because we have a real big issue in establishing charter schools with permanent housing and getting funds to create permanent sites. We have our one good charter that we fully support that, right now, they had a real big issue with construction. Thank you for sharing that with me. Looking at, though, the cost of the bonds and everything that's associated with this, is that an under budget amount of \$222,000 on page 182? Is that what that means, that you're behind \$220,000?

**Boyd:** She doesn't have the documents that you're looking at in front of her.

**Williams:** Maybe I can have some insight by Teresa or staff? That's on page 182.

**Boyd:** In the board packet? Is that what you're looking at?

**Williams:** In the agenda packet?

**Boyd:** Okay.

**Hart:** Is that a portion of the budget that was submitted?

**Barke:** Looks like they're under budget, because the project budget is \$8.5 million and it looks like the estimated total is \$8.3. It looks like coming in under budget?

**Williams:** You're under budget.

**Boyd:** Under budget.

**Hart:** A portion of those funds will be used to ensure that we have internet low-voltage throughout the building and furniture for the building. Our goal was to set aside some of those funds so it wouldn't have to come out of the annual school budget in order to actually outfit the building. Typically, when you're constructing these buildings, the furniture, fixtures, and equipment, or a portion thereof, is separate. We are very excited that we've been able to keep the project slightly under budget, so we have extra money to be able to invest in furniture and low voltage.

**Williams:** How much was the bond for from the state?

**Hart:** I can't remember off the top of my head the total bond issuance.

**Williams:** Was it \$8.5 million?

**Hart:** It was a bit more, because there's other financing fees associated with that. I can't remember off the top of my head the total issuance.

**Williams:** That's a bond you repay over an extended period of time?

**Hart:** It's a 38-year term for the bond.

**Williams:** 38 years?

**Hart:** Yes. The bond's total is closer to, I believe, \$14 million, because we also acquired the property. The property cost was slightly over \$5 million.

**Williams:** I'm just curious. What is the monthly check you have to write for that bond?

**Hart:** I don't know off the top of my head, but I do know our goal in our budget is to ensure that our facilities costs are at or below \$2,000 per pupil, which sticks the total annual requirement just under \$950,000, I believe. That comes in right at \$2,000 per pupil, for a fully enrolled school of 460 students. We're able to maintain our affordability.

**Williams:** We depend upon the good superintendent staff to tell us all the details and the financing. I'm not an accountant guy. I trust that everything looks good from the staff's perspective?

**Johnson:** We're definitely still reviewing all the documents. Legacy has been very forthcoming in submitting all of the documents that we've requested so far.

**Boyd:** We will be able to answer these questions in between now and the next board meeting, because you'll take action at the next board meeting. The questions related to the budget and financing, and so forth, if there's interest, as Teresa said, there's still analysis going on. If there are other questions in addition to what you've asked today, then if you get those to us, we'll research those and be able to report back to the board prior to you all taking action on the item.

**Barke:** Any other questions? Jack, Dr. Bedell?

**Bedell:** Pass.

**Barke:** Dr. Williams?

**Williams:** No more questions.

**Barke:** Thank you.

**Hart:** Thank you very much.

**Bedell:** Madam President? When do you plan to adjourn for lunch, given the next two items are pro-terminus? Could we adjourn lunch for 20 minutes before item #13, and then do #13 and #14 together?

**Boyd:** Item #15 will be here at 1 o'clock.

**Bedell:** That's fine.

**Williams:** 1 o'clock?

**Barke:** We'll keep it to 20 minutes.

**Bedell:** Perfect. Thank you very much.

**Barke:** We're recessed.

**[PRESIDENT BARKE STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE TO SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE 20-MINUTE BREAK. PRESIDENT BARKE STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE TO SIGNAL THE CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING]**

**Barke:** We are now back in session, and we are on item #13, I believe. Yes, Unity Middle College High School update, please. Welcome.

**Eastman:** Thank you very much, President Barke, members of the board, esteemed staff members. We took this past few weeks in recess from you. We took the principle and operated under the principle that we heard this group saying, “Well done is better than well said.” I think we agree, and we made some affirmations to this group and said that we, with all diligent speed, we’re trying to collect sufficient funds. As Dr. Bedell said, fundraising and promises make you nervous. I think that’s a paraphrase. Folks with check books that are not signed make you nervous. Us, too.

We are pleased to report, and it’s certainly my pleasure as board president who is terming out and having an opportunity to see some things to the end that Dr. Craig, and Mr. Roy Kim from ICON, and Michelle Anderson, of course, from charter, will have an opportunity to give you some details on what we believe is really wonderful news. By no means are we spiking a football here as much as we’re saying this is great news.

We’ve seen significant movement in our construction settlement cash flow and some other details that you will be provided. It’s my opportunity merely to briefly act as their herald. I’m super proud of the diligent effort that they’ve had. Thank you for being patient with us and for cheering for us as well, to the success of Unity. I’ll invite Dr. Craig to give you some details.

**Craig:** Good afternoon, President Barke, members of the board. I’m very grateful again for the opportunity to be in front of you to share what we have accomplished in the last three weeks. We’ve been in close communication with staff. We’ve spoken to them actually twice on Thursday. I do have to say I was surprised to see a Notice of Violation in the board packet. More than surprised, I’m grateful right now for the opportunity to articulate the steps that we have taken since we have met last. At the last meeting, I had \$50,000 in cash, in writing, but not in the bank. Since then, I have \$495,000 in writing.

We have \$400,000 in the bank, a \$50,000 check is sitting on my desk ready to be deposited today, and the remaining \$45,000 will be disbursed directly to the contractor once the settlement is finalized. We’ve made significant progress. I know that there have been some doubts and of course reasonable concern, but we did it. There were also some discussion as far as is Unity going to incur more debt because of this construction, wondering if it was going to be a loan, is it going to be a donation? What we’re looking at right now is a full donation.

If I had to need it, which we are not planning, and we’re in the final days – when I say final days, I was hoping I could be here in front of you to say the settlement is this, here’s the number, and we are transferring and wiring the money – but we’re anticipating tomorrow or Friday; very soon. Our goal is not to need any sort of extra loan. The

landlord had offered \$50,000 of a loan if we needed it to settle, but it's looking like we do not need that money, which is even better news to not incur more debt. The last thing that I want to say about the construction funding is 1937 West Chapman is our long-term home.

This was the only extreme and major tenant improvements that have to occur, their sprinklers, that need to happen on the second floor once we move up there two years from now. For us to accomplish a long-term tenant improvement project, I understand it was extremely expensive and blew up out of control, but then also be able to pay for it in cash within one year, our future is extremely bright moving forward. I also would like to say that we have a lease addendum that's been finalized, and the lease addendum is for expanding our space, starting on August 1 with adding three additional classrooms, approximately 2,100 square feet.

Our old rent, plus the new rent, will directly align to what we have submitted to Orange County Department of Education staff of \$13,000. It's actually \$13,200, but we're starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, not July 1<sup>st</sup>, with that additional rent. Our budget is based off 125 students with 123 fully enrolled. We are fully staffed. We're ready to go. We're actually planning our professional development in a calm state of mind, ready to move forward because with this construction thing behind us, now is the time just for school. I thank you for standing by us, and observing and encouraging through the challenges. They were not minor.

I'm sure you could tell, when you look at my face right now, that I am in a better place, and a calmer and more confident sort of demeanor than I was on June 26<sup>th</sup>, or whatever the date was when I was here, when I was pushing and knowing that I could hopefully and probably do it, but we've done it. I'm now going to turn it over to Mr. Roy Kim from ICON to give details not only about the budget, but about the cash flow.

**Kim:** Good afternoon, board members. It's a pleasure meeting you again. My name is Roy Kim, COO of ICON School Management. I wanted to take the opportunity to give you some detailed information as to the financials that Unity is currently in, and more importantly, the sustainability of the school moving forward. Besides the construction debt, which Erin had talked to you about, what that illuminated, Unity still has a lot of payments to make. We have about \$90,504 in accounts payable, which includes \$11,822 in furlough, \$78,682 in AP so those vendors are getting paid, because we had to hold a lot of payments due to cash flow situations.

In addition, we have \$156,000 for Charter Asset Management payment that Unity has to make. Those are the receivable sales that Unity has to make for cash flow purposes. That brings us to \$244,504. We also have about \$40,000 of short-term loans that Unity has to pay, a \$10,000 loan and then a \$30,000 loan. That combines to \$286,504. In our budget

calculations for 2019-2020, we're looking for \$350,000 loan. Mr. Todd Hanson from OCCF is working with us to get that loan. We have about \$250,000 of the \$350,000 committed and he'll be sending us a check on Friday. That's going to clear up a lot of AP's, the debts, and the CAM that we have to get off our backs.

Obviously, we need another \$100,000. I have a private investor that's willing to put the \$100,000, but Mr. Hanson is trying to get it at a lower interest rate, which I'm all for it. The first 250,000 is at 4% interest rate. If you recall, Charter Asset Management receivable sales, their interest rates range from 18-24%, so we're very happy with the 4%. We're looking for another \$100,000 and we're expecting to get that in the next couple of weeks, I would say. If Mr. Hanson is not able to get it at 4%, I can certainly bring investors in at around 7%. With the \$350,000 that we get, we will pay all the debts that we have incurred. We'll have about \$70,000 remaining for schools operations.

In addition to that, we have accounts receivable, which is money that we are supposed to receive for 2018-2019 school year that we haven't received yet. G apportionments, SB 740, SLE's grants, they all come in after the school year ends. Our current projection is \$150,000 to \$170,000. In the budget we had \$131,000, but we just submitted another application for SB 740 that's going to give us another \$18,000. The reserve, if you will, will have about \$220,000. To also give you some additional information for charter schools, the first four months of school, we have less revenue coming in and more expenses going out.

Obviously, we're going to have some cash flow situations that we're going to have to deal with. That's what the \$220,000 reserve will be used for. Put some numbers into perspective, first four months of school, we're expecting to receive \$307,000 in revenues. Our expenses are projected to be \$497,000. Obviously, we're going to see a gap of \$109,000, and that's what the \$220,000 will be used for. The next six months of school, we have more revenues coming in so we're not worried about that. All in all, everything is looking very promising for Unity.

When I stood here last time in front of you, we had \$812,000 in construction debt, we had \$160,000 in state aid overpayments, and we have \$231,000 of in-lieu property tax overpayments. That's \$1.2 million of which we've resolved this year, which is phenomenal. That kind of speaks to the community support that believes in Unity, your patience as an authorizer, and perseverance of the school board and Erin. Kudos to everyone.

**Anderson:** Good afternoon, President Barke and honorable board members and staff. I probably want to put a recap on this and bring it home by talking about when CCSA first backed this petition when they came before you on appeal. It was because we read through it, we found it to be a very sound, academic program. I think that's playing out

very well with the students and how well they're doing. I certainly encourage everybody here to go and visit the school. It is amazing what's happening. We looked at it from the standpoint of compliance, and it certainly was a well-written petition and was compliant.

Then the other piece we look at is we look at capacity. By capacity we mean, typically, leadership capacity or the community capacity to handle things. One might look at everything that's happened to Unity over the last four years, and go, "Wow, they kind of lacked capacity." Instead, I probably would turn that around and say, "Actually, they had the capacity and proved that they could do this." I don't think from the charters that you've seen come before you, I don't know too many who could have made it through this series and string of events that went against them. Speaking from a standpoint of CCSA, facilities is the worst, absolute issue that we deal with every time with charters.

We have authorizers that will not authorize a school until they know they have a facility, and that's not within the law to do that. We see that happen, and it is because facilities is a very difficult issue. When you throw in permitting problems, the politics that were at play, and finding a facility, then the politics. We saw it with another charter school. You even have community that comes out against you. My hats off to Ednovate. I don't know if people here realize they actually had a neighborhood of people coming in gorilla suits, chanting at kids, "Go home. Go back to Mexico." Kids that are trying to go to school and better themselves. When you have non-community support, it's very difficult.

What I would say is, this was the leader for these times, because I don't know too many people who could have persevered through what happened. They certainly have gone through some dark times. They're certainly out of that hot water. Is the timing going to be difficult? They'll have to pull their belt tight and really watch as they go through, but certainly people in the community would not have come forth with donations if this was a school that could not have proven themselves to be doing a good job with kids, and that they have faith in the leadership. I would say that this was the leader for the times. She did prove that she has the capacity.

That's the last place we look at. I would also want to thank the Orange County Board of Education for being a partner with this school, for coming to bat for them when it was a facility's issue. Dr. Williams, it was a direct result. CCSA, we tried. We had lawyers go in and try to get that facility moved along, and get permitting. I don't know what you did but it happened. This is what true partnering is about and we would love to see more partnering happen, because when good partnerships happen, good things happen for kids. Thank you very much.

**Craig:** Finally, I would just like to address the items that are on the reasonable time to remedy violations, the list of 13 items. Based on the \$250,000 coming in on Friday, the first item, a complete list of outstanding invoices, loans, or vendor payments with the



amounts and contact information. We are paying out everyone that we owe money immediately. When that happens, if there's anyone remaining, we would be happy to send that over. A comprehensive plan for payment of all outstanding debt: At our last meeting with staff on Thursday, we had dialogue, back and forth, of would they like to see the cash flow right at that time outlining with the construction in there?

They said, "Get the construction result and then just revise the budget." That's absolutely what we're planning on doing and we'll do right away. Debt repayment schedule: That's the same thing that I just said. Documentation of the final settlement amount with the contractor: 100%, not an issue. I will get that as soon as it's signed. It will be sent immediately over to Kelly Gaughran. A disclosure of legal filings: Done. Fully executed contracts for current loans: I can send that right at this moment to them for the \$30,000 and the \$10,000. There's a mention of the landlord in here, but there's no loan with the landlord. There's nothing to send over.

An intent to learn from all sources: As we talked about with Mr. Todd Hanson and Orange County Community Foundation, that paperwork is finished. That would be also why we'll be holding the special board meeting within the next two days, to approve not only the lease addendum, but the \$250,000, which I will immediately send over to the staff as well. Contact information for the custodian of record: It's me. We already have that contact information. Contact information for the contractor: That's an easy thing to send over as well. Backup documentation for all donations: That's also an easy thing. Access to the student information system:

If absolutely mandatory, we would do that as well. These items that are on this list are things that we've talked about, particularly our last meeting on Thursday, and we don't believe that they're worthy of a Notice of Violation because we're just a day or two away from wrapping them up and sending them over. Documentation for showing the amount of unpaid salaries: Again, the two people that had furloughed salary are myself and the principal on two pay periods, March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. That will be paid in full at our next pay period, which is the first of the month. There's as a statement about an OCDE contracted independent audit.

When I changed my back office service providers to ICON, and also not being satisfied with the auditor we had last year, I did say this earlier. The auditor we had last year was told I didn't work for the organization anymore, and did not ask me questions. I knew even before we brought ICON into it, that we had to change auditors, and we are fully confident in the auditor that did our audit for this academic year, and we hope to look forward to working with them moving forward. I know I've said a lot, but I wanted to really just address these items, because a lot of these items we've talked about and if I was asked for these, some of them I would have already had already sent them right away.

I'm grateful for the staff's work. I'm grateful for the collaboration and having the ongoing dialogue with us, and my hope and goal is this is the last time that I'm up here explaining these items. The next thing that happens is I personally invite each of you to come to our school, and to see our students, and to see what's happening, the belief and the patience and the encouragement, but also the hard accountability, and we accept it. It's important to know that we've gotten there and we're doing this. Thank you.

**Barke:** Thank you. I'll open it up to Dr. Bedell.

**Bedell:** Thank you for everybody for coming. Erin, I counted at least nine "will" or synonyms for the verb, "will." Will is not a verb, but I'm really thinking that, and this is just off the top of my bald spot, there's a lot of promise in what you said at this dais today. I will, I will, I will. We can, we will, I will. Just as I say about donors, wills make me nervous, and I don't mean the testimony given when somebody's dying.

I could be convinced not to take action on this agenda item today, and then really, really see that the wills are "is" and "are." No hortatory or promissory stuff that something is going to be sent to Kelly tomorrow, I get an email, and the board gets an email through the chair. I got it. Will, will, will. This has been years of will. I'm just being candid with it. I'm looking forward to that.

**Craig:** What I'm saying now is the items on this list, many of them I have in my laptop. I don't know what the right word is...

**Bedell:** Shall.

**Craig:** Shall by end of business, send them.

**Bedell:** That's fine and I'm taking you at your word, but next month, if this is deferred -

**Craig:** It won't be.

**Bedell:** - what's left of my hair will be on fire, and the new president will have to deal with it.

**Craig:** The last thing that I'd like to say is at the last meeting, "I will. I'm going to do this, I'm going to do this," the biggest barrier, Jack, the money, and we have it. That has been the biggest barrier of not being able to sell, not being able to move forward. Now we have that. I hear you, I agree with you, and I'm going to make you proud.

**Bedell:** You know Dr. Williams and I have been assiduous and very active in supporting the curricula.

**Craig:** 100%

**Bedell:** There can be no honest doubt on that. Michelle, I think we agree. I was a little nervous that reports didn't get submitted on time and that kind of stuff. The roles are really important to me, because you're opening in a few weeks.

**Williams:** I'm up next. Welcome to episode two, season one of the educational version of Shark Tank. You have been put under the microscope. I think the information you gave

to us today was very helpful. I'm the one who put the agenda together. I was very concerned. That's why the N.O.V., or the Notice of Violation, is a very serious issue that we don't take lightly. I agree with Dr. Bedell.

I don't think there's a need for that, but I definitely would like to see if you can come back next month to give us the "shalls" to be completed. I'm impressed that, as Mr. Kim stated, you've retired a debt of \$1.2 million dollars. That is incredible. I didn't know if you were going to be able to do it, but you did it. My hats off to you for doing that. Just a real quick question. Todd Hanson, could you define his role in all this again?

**Craig:** He is the vice president for philanthropy at Orange County Community Foundation, and he has been my point of contact since 2015, since Orange County Community Foundation vetted multiple charter petitioners and decided to work with Unity.

**Williams:** You're getting a loan from him, about \$286,000, did you say?

**Craig:** \$250.

**Williams:** 250?

**Craig:** At an interest rate of 4%.

**Williams:** Mr. Kim, you said that your reserves are going to be \$220,000 and you're going to pay off some of the \$190,000 deficit that you have?

**Kim:** Yes. Currently, we're looking at a \$350,000 loan. We have \$250,000 that has been committed and the check will be arriving to us on Friday. We have another \$100,000 that I'm working with Mr. Hanson to see who's going to be able to fund that. He has his partners that he's working with currently, and he's trying to get it at 4%. I have contacts that I worked with in the past, and their rate is at 7%. I'd rather go with the 4% rate if he can furnish that. In any event he can't, I'll be able to furnish that through my investors. We're looking at total of \$350,000 of a loan, and we have another \$150,000 of accounts receivable that we will be receiving the next couple of months and together, with that, we're going to be paying all the debt that I've mentioned here.

\$286,000 of the accounts payable. Charter Assets Management, accounts payable, furloughs, everything that we've mentioned. The debt will be paid, and then the rest of the money will be used for cash flow. Any charter school that's growing, which is what Unity is doing, we're growing by 80 students to 125 students next year. We have less revenues coming in the first four months of school, because it's based on prior year, P2. To manage that cash flow we're going to be using the remainder of the funds to cover the cash flow needs.

**Williams:** These kids, 125 students. Are they hardcore? They're ready to go? They're signed up and you have a line waiting for them? They're ready to go forward?

**Craig:** 123, yes, and our entire team, both returning and new staff, are recruiting five

days a week. We continue to enroll and the number one way in Orange that we recruit is we go door-to-door.

**Williams:** Awesome, and you say tomorrow, Friday, you're going to have that settlement with your contractor done?

**Craig:** That is the goal. We are in the final, final, final stages, and what we're looking at is \$400...a little bit less than \$500,000.

**Williams:** You'll give that documentation to the staff?

**Craig:** Of course.

**Williams:** And to us.

**Craig:** I will, happily.

**Williams:** I'm done.

**Barke:** Trustee Sparks?

**Sparks:** I would just comment that you all have been running a marathon and a sprint at very high altitude, with no oxygen, and I'm very proud of you. You're not quite there, but you're very, very close to reaching the summit. Congratulations.

**Craig:** Thank you.

**Barke:** I would concur with Dr. Sparks. It's great to see all the smiles. I'm not sure whose smile is the biggest up there. I think it's a tie between Erin and Michelle. Everyone is smiling so it's great. I appreciate your resilience. It's amazing, it is absolutely amazing. I would just encourage going forward, on behalf of all of us in this room, that we partner. You tell us anything that you just think we might want to know. We ask you any questions that we have that the staff and you communicate with us, so there's no surprises and together we can all work as partners.

I think that's really important that we don't go behind anybody's back or keep anything or say, "Oh, I want to figure it out first," and then tell them. Let's everybody keep their cards on the table at all times, and I think we'll have a very successful year and future, and I look forward to visiting very soon. That's all I have. Anybody else? I guess we'll see you back next month to tell us everything's done? Is that what will happen?

**Boyd:** I guess I'm confused because we started with item #13, which was the Unity update, and then they merged item #14 into #13.

**Barke:** Yes, we did do that.

**Boyd:** Were we doing #13 and #14, or just #13? Staff needs to know where we are.

**Barke:** Go ahead, Dr. Williams.

**Williams:** Good point, good associate superintendent.

**Boyd:** Thank you.

**Williams:** I would make the motion that we lay on the table item #14 and bring back for the next meeting, as well as including an update like we received today, and all the issues.

**Boyd:** We had an update from Unity, which I appreciate, but you didn't hear from staff. Do you only want to hear from Unity?

**Barke:** No.

**Boyd:** The only reason I'm asking is because Erin and Mr. Kim have met with staff. They've had conversations and so forth, but our documents don't necessarily agree. I just want to make sure that the board has clarity. Whether you defer this to next month in terms of action or no action or what you do there. Erin, as you said, has been running a marathon, and she's done a phenomenal job in terms of what she's been able to provide for students and the academics. We have no issue with that. Our challenge is we continue to have discrepancies in the numbers, and you heard a lot of numbers today.

Our challenge is that when we get a budget, we can't figure if it is anticipated money that's coming, or is it money that's already there? Is it money that they're still negotiating in terms of the line items and so forth, I believe they're telling us everything that's absolutely the truth, but our challenge is we don't have any documentation to support what they're saying in some cases. Our numbers show a lot more debt than what they're saying they have. As they're paying down and so forth, we're trying to see where, because we're waiting on some documents and they did send something this morning, just prior to the board meeting, but our conversation was last Thursday.

We haven't had time to analyze or ask them additional questions. I know that they're trying to respond to us, respond to the folks that they're trying to negotiate with, and get additional monies as well. We've continued to have this dialogue since last November. The board certainly has the authority to treat this in the manner that they choose to, but we continue to, each month, have conversations.

The intent is to have things settled by Friday. Last month, the intent was to have it all done by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and that was what was coming before the board. It was not our intent to bring this Notice of Violation and non-compliance issue from the standpoint of we want to act on it. It's more that we keep bringing this before the board, and in terms of, at what point does the board say, this is the deadline? We've provided a lot as staff in terms of our role and responsibility. Where do we cut that off?

**Barke:** I might say, just holding on to your motion for a minute. If there's something we can clarify today, where we're all here; if we've got issues and they're all here to answer. Does staff want to come up and ask some questions, so that we get it really clean as to exactly what we expect, need, want? Does that make sense?

**Johnson:** We just would like to make it clear that we still have concerns that go well beyond the contractor debt being settled regarding the fiscal solvency of the school. We were provided with documentation this morning, which we have not been able to fully review. This was as a result of the conversations that we had, two conversations that we

had last Thursday. That was in part because the budget that we received was incomplete. That was a preliminary budget for the 2019 school year, and due to it not mixing with the numbers that we have been told are true, we had those two conversations.

There are still documents that I am personally looking for in the request for information that we sent as a department back in June that I still don't have. There are other financial documents that while we appreciate all of the work that has been done on retiring the contractor debt, there are still outstanding balances that have not necessarily been accounted for that we still remain concerned about.

Also, the contractor debt, as of now, has not been settled and yet, it was one of the items that was missing from the preliminary budget. That's just an example of some of the questions that we had as staff and the reason for the conversations on Thursday. We still have concerns regarding the fiscal solvency and the timeliness of the information that we received regarding all of the debt and obligations for the school.

**Gaughran:** I'm not completely clear whether the STRS has been paid. I haven't heard that from OCDE staff as of now, so I'm still looking into making sure that STRS has been paid. Should STRS not get paid then OCDE becomes responsible to pay that debt to STRS. That's a major concern of ours. In addition, today I heard \$250,000, but yet, it's never been \$250,000, That's another figure that I hadn't heard before. It's always been \$350,000 from somebody associated with ICON, yet this was a bit of a different conversation. My concern is it'll probably be \$350,000, but it's just a moving target.

Again, I am a fan of Unity and I want it to succeed. I think Erin is very capable and I think she's a wonderful principal, and I've seen parents love her. I've seen parents give her coffee in the morning as they're driving in to drop their kids off at school. I want her to succeed, but I also want her to be a little more forthcoming with us. We didn't hear for six months about the litigation. That's a very, very big concern of mine. Again, just the moving target of everything and deadlines. For example, I would have preferred if last month she had said by August instead of July. If it's September, I would rather it was September instead of August, now, if that makes sense.

**Williams:** I have questions regarding the dollars. Thank you very much, by the way, Kelly. You did very well, and we so appreciate the superintendent staff taking an active role in the oversight. That's the co-governing function of this entire thing. You guys do an awesome job. Questions for you, sir, because you are the CPA type of guy. You know all the details. There's this difference in opinions as to what is the outstanding legal fees.

I don't know where the truth is, and that's what we trust the staff with. We have to have you work with the staff to find out what to expose or to reveal. What is the truth? What is the debt? The issue of fiscal solvency that you brought up, Teresa. That's a real concern

for every one of us here. I think today, though, I feel a little bit more comfortable in the long-term solvency. The STRS payment was made?

**Kim:** Yes, they were.

**Williams:** Okay. Did you send documentation to the staff?

**Kim:** I believe John forwarded the email which confirmed, because there's a STRS contact that we send all of our reports to. We not only work with Unity, but we submit reports for Palm Lane, Vista Charter School. The staff confirmed that they received April and May STRS payments. We forwarded that email to staff.

**Johnson:** The email that is in question was that there was a check overnighted this week. However, it had not been received yet in the business department for OCDE because it was not properly routed. As to now, we don't have confirmation of a check amount or any documentation regarding the receipt of STRS.

**Williams:** Did you tell Erin that? Did we let her know that?

**Craig:** The bill in question is \$111 for a processing payment, not the CalSTRS payment at all. CalSTRS has been paid on time, verified by Vita. It was a check for processing for \$111. I just want to be clear that that's the payment that we're talking about, not paying into CalSTRS.

**Williams:** This whole thing, an issue about STRS, is over \$111?

**Johnson:** No. Our issue was about STRS being paid, and actually, our conversations on Thursday were about May and June STRS. Our manager in the business services department had said that STRS had not been received for May and June; not only for one of the schools that ICON management is over, but all of the schools that ICON Management is over. That was a part of our conversation on Thursday. The response from John Arndt was, "Well, it can just be drawn down from the treasury." There was again a misconception as to the appropriate path for paying STRS. The head of our business department was concerned about the actual STRS payments.

**Kim:** We have the email that verifies that payments have been received for May and June. I thought we had submitted that email to you, but we'll be happy to forward that again.

**Barke:** I feel like I've seen that email. I think I have.

**Craig:** Staff has it.

**Barke:** I can't access Wi-Fi in this room, for some reason, or I'd show you, but I feel like I've got it now. I'm not sure where I got it from.

**Williams:** This is what we need the wisdom of Solomon here, because the differences between our good staff and you folks, it's a he said, she said, type of situation. Where is the truth? We're trying to figure that out. Lisa, what are your thoughts?

**Sparks:** I'd like to see a little more grace on both sides. If you sent the email, can you resend it? Instead of arguing about it, let's just come together and get it done.

**Williams:** Your thoughts on where we go from here?

**Bedell:** I would support postponing this agenda item, to have all the issues addressed today to have all the “wills” taken care of and to have a full report the next meeting.

**Barke:** I agree. Is there any other confusion like this STRS memo that we should hash out right now that we should have, that we don't have, or we do have or we might have?

**Johnson:** Maybe this is my confusion as well, but there's also certain fees that have not been accounted for. Again, Unity, to my knowledge, and I could be wrong, has not paid their oversight fees for the 2018-2019 school year. There are some other things. Maybe it's just a matter of us continuing to work through with Unity, so that we can hopefully get a handle on everything and have a report to you next month. That would be my hope.

**Barke:** I would encourage, as soon as you're missing something, I would shoot an email to them. Copy us, let's get everybody in the loop, so we all know what's missing and we can resolve it. That would be my recommendation. As much transparency as possible. You have a motion? Are you ready for a motion? Anybody else have questions? Staff, is there anything else besides that? We've got the oversight fees, we've got the STRS. Anything else?

**Johnson:** The remaining debt that we've seen according to financial reports. Again, there was a document submitted to us this morning. However, we have not had a chance to review it to see if anything has been paid, or compare it against the bank statements, or to see if anything was missing. For instance, credit card debt, things of that nature. We just need time to analyze.

**Barke:** We're confident whatever was sent this morning, that will resolve. If there's still questions, you'll get back to them, you'll copy all of us. Are we ready for a motion?

**Williams:** Actually, I think I didn't make it, but I'll restate it. I didn't have the opportunity to complete it. I make the recommendation to lay on the table item #14 and to bring back, next month, Unity, as well as our staff, to basically do episode 3 of the educational version of Shark Tank.

**Barke:** The final episode.

**Bedell:** I'll second that.

**Boyd:** Are we doing an update? Is that what you're wanting to come back, or are you wanting #13 and #14 to come back?

**Williams:** The motion was for both #13 and #14.

**Boyd:** #13 and #14? Thank you.

**Williams:** To have an update like the good staff created for us. That was an excellent document. Are you guys okay with that?

**Craig:** Yes.

**Barke:** I would just encourage, between now and then, any communication that's necessary between us, between you, that we just all communicate so we don't, again,



postpone it.

**Craig:** I agree.

**Barke:** Thank you. Thank you for your time, I appreciate it.

**Bedell:** Madam Chair? It would help that if we have – this has been so much going on – any certification that the lien is gone, or anything that protects the department in it's oversight.

**Barke:** I think if the staff needs any of that they should just ask and then we should get it.

**Bedell:** Perfect.

**Barke:** We should ask for anything we need to feel more comfortable with our position as an authorizer, and then if Unity has any concerns or questions, they can ask.

**Williams:** If I can say, publicly, my hat is tipped to the staff and Nina, really working hard and diligently on this. This is something that has been ongoing for several months now. It's good to hear that there's reconciliation with the concerns iterated by staff, and you folks did a wonderful presentation. I'm really positive going forward here, and I want to encourage and exhort everybody just to keep the good fight. In a few weeks, you're going to be having 125 kids in your school. That's the far more important mission here.

**Barke:** We'll move on to #15, which has been cancelled.

**Boyd:** Did you all vote?

**Barke:** I'm sorry. A vote on Dr. William's motion. All in favor?

**Board:** Aye.

**Barke:** 4-0.

**Boyd:** Thank you.

**Barke:** Moving on to information items.

**Boyd:** Would you just make a statement about item #15 since it's on the agenda for the public? The inter-district appeal hearing that was on the agenda has been settled prior to the board meeting. That will not be happening.

**Barke:** Thank you, and now we'll move on to board discussion. Dr. Mijares?

**Mijares:** Thank you, madam President, and congratulations on your new job.

**Barke:** Thank you, I think.

**Mijares:** You'll do a good job. I just want to bring to your attention two items. One deals with a marvelous event that we do every year, and it's under Latino Youth Leadership OC. It is a 5013 C organization that we helped to found. We took to Vanguard University several dozen young men, boys, with high potential, low achievement. The whole goal is to get them into a university setting, and be mentored by professors from the university, business people from the community; and help them understand the power of a college degree.

Being on the campus and going through the whole week just energizes them. By the way, we have people who have gone through the program and got their degrees. They come back, and they serve as counselors for them, for the kids. Marvelous, marvelous event, and I wanted to let you know about that. It happens every year, and we've been doing it now about five years. If ever you want to come to that to see it, just let me know. These are boys, they're our boys.

**Barke:** I think if you let us know about it ahead, I'd love to know more.

**Mijares:** Awesome. The next thing I want to call your attention, and perhaps it's the elephant in the room, but we don't have an approved budget. That budget was to have been submitted to the state July 1. Today is the 17<sup>th</sup> and we cannot run a multimillion-dollar organization without an approved budget. We need to know from the board what your thoughts and ideas are the sooner the better. We were advised by the state that we could not submit a budget with amendments. I think we shared that memo with the board. I know you're contemplating what to do next. Unless we have an approved budget soon, since we have covenants with our employees, we have to pay people.

Right now, there's an element of grace, but eventually, it's going to start to tighten. The state can't allow an organization of this magnitude, we're the third perhaps the second largest county in California. That's one of the reasons why they ask us to do a lot of things, and recognize that while we are beholden to the constituents in this great county. We are also agents of the state. Frequently, the state will ask us to take on tasks that have to do with more than just Orange County. Such as the multi-tiered system of support, which we are building out across California. Because of that, eventually I will be left with no other recourse than to go up there, and find out what are the next steps to break this?

You had given me some amendments to the budget, and we didn't know we were going to get those amendments. They happened on the day of the adoption, not during the study session. Perhaps if we had talked about it earlier and you said to me, "Hey, I'd like you to adjust the budget by \$172,442." Which is what you told me, then, I think I could have maybe found that money for you, and we would have been fine. Then you would have approved the budget without amendments. To insert those amendments is not the practice of the state. Dr. Williams, you were the president and you mentioned last time, John Dean Havermill.

You've been on the board, I think, 24 years, and that's always been the process that you either vote the budget up or down. You've never inserted amendments. Now, obviously, you had a time where you wanted things done, like police services. We never had police services, but we thought we needed that. We had to find the budget to do that, and we found the money to do that. It's not like we haven't talked about these things before.

What we're being told now is that you have to go back through the process. A hearing so the public understands what you're going to do and then go to the adoption.

To put those amendments in there was not permissible. Like I said, the ship's not going to blow up tomorrow, but every day that we live and breathe, we have to resolve this. You heard Erin mentioning STRS. That is all the State Teacher Retirement Program, and the state gets very, very concerned when we don't pay STRS bills. That's why we're putting pressure on them. The same level of fiscal integrity applies to us.

The one thing that I do pretty carefully is to approve all of the 27 districts that we serve.. We are the agency that approves them before they go to Sacramento; and yet, I have a budget that has not been approved. It doesn't make us look good. We don't look like we're fiscal titans that are on top of our game. Again, I'm not asking you for an answer right now, but I do need to know as soon as possible what the board wishes to do.

**Barke:** Would you like to respond?

**Williams:** Since I was president and part of the executive committee, we carefully discussed this. As you know, the budgetary authority has been discussed on numerous issues over the past five years. We've had numerous legal opinions, and it was quite clear to the executive committee that the item of the budget was passed by resolution. First one was in February, second one was in June of 1977, to adopt the budget for this department. That was the authority that was given to us by the supervisors. To my knowledge, I'm not sure if that was ever advocated by this board in the subsequent years until 1996 when I came on the board.

We believe that we have, and we're going to get our legal counsel to come up here to address this issue. It now becomes a public issue and it's in the record. To say that you could find money, I don't understand that. You're trying to say we were removing funds, but you were trying to find money. No, when you remove funds, you don't need to find money. You just need to subtract it from the budget. Part of this issue was the staff. On the day after our meeting, staff went to the California Department of Education to get on the record, talk with Christine Davis. I happened to talk with Christine Davis when I received the memo. I talked with her yesterday. She did finally admit that it was a unilateral perspective that she was given.

Our perspective as a board, as well as a legal counsel, no one talked from the California Department of Education with our legal staff. They never talked with me. There is no formal legal opinion. I don't know how to use the correct legal term, but they don't have any ability to legally advise us. We do believe as a board, that we adopted a budget as it was proposed. It was posted properly 72 hours before we voted on June 26. The budget was also talked about and discussed at our May meeting as well as the June 12<sup>th</sup>. We had

the discussion. I, at that time, asked if there was anything in this budget, ask Renee, is there anything in this budget that we can reduce?

Her response was no, so I took that at that time, that there was no willingness to negotiate. The question is a technical issue, and yes, the board plans on making arrangements just to meet this technical issue; but, we believe and we hold and maintain that we did pass a legitimate budget properly posted by July 11<sup>th</sup>. If I can have our legal counsel come up, because you did advise the board on this. We'd like to put this into the record, your assessment of our board vote.

**Rolen:** I believe the board adopted a budget on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I believe the board approved a budget with changes on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the board, I welcome the superintendent's offer to try to resolve this issue. We did have an opportunity to review the CDE email. Suffice it to say, we have a disagreement with the analysis. The analysis didn't take into account any of the prior opinions that were offered to the board or the department. It didn't take into account the prior resolutions conferring budget authority upon the board. It wasn't done by CDE counsel. It wasn't even done on CDE letterhead. It was an email. To the extent CDE is even relevant, because it's approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The board president had an opportunity to speak with the drafter of the email upon receipt. She agreed that she hadn't received all the relevant information and all the back and forth that the board had gone through. We don't agree with the analysis. We don't necessarily agree with the options. We believe the board adopted a budget on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and the board approved a budget on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The concern of CDE was somewhat hyper-technical that the budget document was not made available with changes 72 hours ahead of the meeting.

Again, we don't think it's necessary, but in order to allay the concerns of this CDE employee and honor the efforts of staff, we are going to put a special board meeting together, have a 72-hours notice, have a second vote, and give the public an opportunity to view the revised document with \$172,000 worth of changes. Again, we don't think it's necessary, but we want to move forward with this process. We agree there's warrants coming and there's kids to serve. Do you want me or Solomon?

**Mijares:** Mr. Rolen, I appreciate that, and I just wanted to say that what we did was to contact the state. I think I mentioned that at the last board meeting that I would notify the state and let them know the action the board took. Which is what we did. Staff did that, and we got the response that we got. We shared that immediately with the board. I think that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is probably, at some point, will maybe have to weigh in on this matter. I welcome that actually, because then we can get this thing solved one way or the other. Right? Dr. Williams, I think when you were asking

Renee is there anything that you can or should, maybe the nomenclature, because we presented a budget that we thought met our needs.

Should we reduce it? We didn't think it should be reduced. Can we reduce it? The question is how do you reduce it once we've already gone through our own internal investigation determining our needs? It would send us back to the drawing board, in theory, to figure it out. Indeed when we create a budget, we don't slice it down to the very penny. There's some flexibility in each of the object codes that we find, but we have to have that fore-knowledge.

**Williams:** I would think that would be very simple to cut out travel and conference and lobbying fees. Those are things that people really are concerned about in educational or government entities. You don't need to find money to reduce the budget. The statutory authority, we believe that we worked well within, we met it, but we're going to go overboard and do an exercise of gymnastics just to make sure everybody's happy. If you can tell me, there was a subsidiary motion made by Trustee Barke when we adopted the budget to have the new budget prepared with the items that were reduced. Did you ever produce that, or look at that document?

**Mijares:** We took your motion of approving the budget with amendments. Before we went to the subsidiary part of that, we wanted to find out from the state what would be our next steps. In terms of producing electronically a budget, because I think that's what you requested earlier. We could do that. We need you to know, that's a technical task on our part. We still don't believe that the budget is adoptable in that condition.

**Williams:** It was the will of the board to reduce those. The board adopts the budget.

**Mijares:** That is the will of the board.

**Williams:** I think it is very easy to find the time and the ability to make a little bit of changes. The reason I'm making the statement is, because we're going to need it by Monday for public posting for our public meeting. If we can work with you and encourage and exhort you to get it real quick for us -

**Mijares:** Renee?

**Williams:** - because we'll need it for the public meeting.

**Mijares:** We're going to have Renee speak to the those aspects.

**Williams:** Hold on. Before, Renee, you go, why is Renee coming up here?

**Mijares:** She's going to do the grunt work on what we're requesting.

**Williams:** You're not going to have your own opinion on this? We know your opinion. You don't think the board has the ability to make any adjustments to the budget.

**Hendrick:** That wasn't what I was stating. Dr. Williams if you would let me speak please? What I was going to say is you said by Monday. Unfortunately, I'm not sure if you're aware, it is a small change to you, but I have to submit that in a state format, which

is a very large, technical process. It is a month long process for us to do the budget. To do that change will probably take about two to three days.

Unfortunately for me, I have something scheduled for tomorrow. I cannot be here. I have an emergency with my family. I can't change that. Dr. Mijares has already approved that time off. It will literally take us about that time to try and reformat. There are probably 75 reports that go with a change in the budget. We have to reformat everything. It is a large task. I can probably have it done by Tuesday, but that will be the soonest we can get that done.

**Williams:** I don't know if that meets the 72-hour deadline.

**Boyd:** We haven't been told a date.

**Hendrick:** We haven't been told a date or anything. I have to have that format is what CDE is saying. That format is what has to be available to the public for transparency purposes. It's not all the pretty stuff we give you with the budget. It's all that technical data that is required to be sent for the public and what people are supposed to see.

**Mijares:** You're aware that the budget is a technical wonder, frankly. The hundreds of object codes that go into building one of these budgets is innumerable almost. That's how hard it is. You just can't make a simple adjustment on the computer. We can deliver it at some point. She's mentioning, potentially, we could do it by Tuesday.

**Williams:** Renee, is there anybody else on staff that's able to do that?

**Hendrick:** I do have a budget manager that's going to do it, but she had told me that it would take her four to five days to do it. Every time we do that, you have to upload it. You have to go back and balance every resource. Then, you have to go through all the reports. She'll have to make sure they're all matching and everything else. It's just a large process. It is very technical, and if you do it incorrectly when you go to submit to the state it fails. You have a list of technical checks you have to do. Much more than you need to understand, but it is a very complicated item. This is why it takes us so long to prepare everything. It's not as simple as just saying take out \$172,000. It's not that simple.

**Bedell:** Madam President?

**Barke:** Yes?

**Bedell:** My understanding is that the rubber doesn't hit the road until September. Is that correct?

**Barke:** September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Williams:** Is that when you have to submit it?

**Barke:** Yes.

**Mijares:** We're 17 days over right now.

**Boyd:** It was due July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Bedell:** Where did I get the idea that nothing bad is going to happen until September 15<sup>th</sup>?

**Rolen:** I can't really speak to the budget preparation process. I only know that 1622 does not provide that it has to be in a particular format, and 1622 B has a date of September 15<sup>th</sup>. There's got to be a way we can make this happen.

**Boyd:** 1622?

**Rolen:** 1622 B. We've got to get it to him first. There has to be work done by the county superintendent based on the motion. It seems to me that if you want to give us the budget and we can fix it, so we can have something available for the public to look at that's fine. It should not be a process by which a technical difficulty makes it impossible to meet a code section that we don't feel we need to meet. It seems to be just another impediment to adopting the budget. There's got to be a way we can fix this. I'm happy to work with whoever we need to work with to fix this, but there's got to be a way to do it.

**Bedell:** If I still have the floor, Madam Chair?

**Barke:** Yes.

**Bedell:** Therefore, it's not urgent, urgent that this be done next week? It still could be done the fourth week of July and still comply, even though recognizing we're late, late?

**Rolen:** I'm not certain about that. I think there is a sense of urgency about this. I think we do need to put it before the public, and I do think we need to adopt a budget again.

**Williams:** Again, it's not because we feel we did anything wrong. We adopted a budget and did it before July 1<sup>st</sup>. We're just doing this as a gymnastic exercise just to make sure all our t's are crossed and our i's are dotted.

**Rolen:** Correct.

**Williams:** We feel that, on legal grounds, we've met the letter of the law.

**Mijares:** Madam President, if I can add? You said there's no format, Mr. Rolen, on how it's to be submitted? The law's not going to articulate every point, as you know. This is done by the bureaucracy itself. There is an absolute format that you must follow at the state level.

**Rolen:** I imagine there is. There's a format for everything. I'm just going by the statute.

**Mijares:** We have to deal with the system, and they're entitled to create administrative regulations for their own governance.

**Williams:** Do you think we can work fast over the weekend? Maybe put a Saturday or Sunday and have it ready by Tuesday morning, so we can post it to have a meeting, perhaps on Thursday, so we meet that 72 hours?

**Boyd:** When are you trying to do your meeting? We haven't been notified that there was a date that you were looking at -

**Williams:** We're trying to get this done.

**Boyd:** - to even check facilities.

**Williams:** We have no specific day. I'm just sort of penciling out.

**Boyd:** I'm just concerned. It's summer. We have a lot of staff vacations as well as we've already worked as around board dates. I want to make sure that we have the people who

need to be here are here and we have the room available as well.

**Williams:** As far as the exact date, the executive committee will get back to you on that and information.

**Boyd:** We can poll the board as well.

**Williams:** We'll have more details as well.

**Barke:** Anything else? Anything else, Dr. Mijares, on your agenda?

**Mijares:** No, it's all I have. Thank you.

**Barke:** Dr. Sparks?

**Sparks:** I just wanted to make an announcement about a program that's going to be adopted by Newport-Mesa, Palm Springs Unified, and some schools in San Diego. I met the folks who are in charge of this. It's a really amazing crisis communication kind of program called HERO. Empowering K-12 students to understand when there's an active shooter situation. It's a very efficient and quick curriculum that's narrative-based. HERO stands for Hide Escape Run Overcome. It does not emphasize guns. It emphasizes safety, and a seventh-grade parent talked about this prior to HERO. My daughter was anxious and afraid to go to school.

Now, she's confident and no longer afraid. HERO changed her life. Part 1 is school staff engaged in a two hour professional development. Part 2, educators present the HERO curriculum to students through five lesson plans, and they're about 30 minutes each. It doesn't take a lot of time dipping into the curriculum that people already have. Part 3, the entire school or site participates in a set of safe, scripted drills. Part 4, HERO experts provide answers to unique safety questions. I was very impressed with this program, so I wanted to kind of put it out there. I don't know the exact steps of examining it, but I would encourage you all to look into it. I was really impressed.

I don't like to make too many announcements unless it's something I really believe is really worth announcing, and I really believe this is worth consideration for adoption. Of course, each district, each school will make their own decisions about adopting. There is a story where K-3 kids had gone through the program at a particular school, I think in Cathedral City. The 4-7 had not gone through it, and there was an active shooter on campus. The K-3 kids knew exactly what to do, they disappeared, and did exactly what they're supposed to do. The other kids that didn't go through the training, didn't. It's kind of interesting, and that's sort of a case study. I was very impressed with it, and I just wanted to make that announcement. Thank you.

**Barke:** Thank you. I think I went out of order. We're doing board comments. One thing I thought going forward would be great is, at the end of each meeting all the members say if they've done anything exciting the last month. If they've run into a great program, they visited a school, went to a conference, to update. I think it would be great for us all to know what we're doing and all that. I apologize for going out of turn.



**Boyd:** Board member comments is on the agenda, so whatever point you want to take those, is up to you.

**Barke:** I was just kind of going around.

**Boyd:** My only updates are a reminder that your next board meeting is on August 14<sup>th</sup>. It begins at 2:00 in the afternoon, because we have instructional materials at 4 PM. Submission deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>, and we also have in September the CCBE Annual Conference, September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>, in Monterey. Early bird ends on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please let Darou know as soon as possible if you're planning to attend prior to that date, otherwise, it's substantially higher. The CSBA Annual Conference is December 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> in San Diego. Deadline for letting us know participation at that conference is August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Darou know as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we can get your hotel accommodations as well as your registration submitted. That's all I have.

**Barke:** Do we have information on those conferences -the exact time, location, maybe some topics?

**Boyd:** We don't have topics as of yet, because that hasn't come out. They typically update their website. They know some of those because submissions and so forth, but that will typically, like for CSBA, that's going to be more September/October timeframe. For CCBE, I believe within the next 30 days, you will start seeing more information with regards to their program.

**Barke:** The one that's really concerning to avoid paying a late fee is the CSBA?

**Boyd:** We do a placeholder and we pay. If people don't go, then they still keep a part of that registration. Even though the department will get some of that money back, if you cancel, in year's past, it's been one of those where we might be able to substitute somebody in if somebody's not attending. August 2<sup>nd</sup> would be the deadline for CSBA. We know it's in San Diego, December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. That's as much as we know. There is some outlined information online if you go into CSBA but not the detail in terms of program delivery.

**Barke:** There was one that you said we have to -

**Boyd:** CCBE, the county office. That's the -

**Bedell:** Monterey.

**Boyd:** - Monterey, and that's the County Office Boards of Education Conference.

**Barke:** That, you need to know, by the 18<sup>th</sup>?

**Boyd:** Yes.

**Barke:** What are the dates of that one?

**Boyd:** That one is September 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Barke:** That's in Monterey. If anybody wants to go to that one, we've got about 48 hours.

Okay. I went last year, and I thought it was a pretty good conference. It really applies to us. It's really about counties, and if nothing else, it was good networking. I met some people there throughout the state, and I thought it was helpful.

**Boyd:** Last year, you, and Beckie, and Jack. So far, we only have Jack confirmed for CCBE.

**Barke:** I'll look at my calendar, but if my calendar's open I do think that's a good one to go to, and it's local. It's not terribly far. Thank you. Jack? Anything you want to share?

**Bedell:** I went to the National Charter meeting in Las Vegas. It was a very interesting meeting structurally, because many, many of the sessions focused on charter structure, etc. I did attend a couple of very good student-oriented sessions about students at risk, student needs, and student services. Those were very informative. Students at risk and diligence. Those were really good.

**Boyd:** Now that Jack brought that up, Beckie also attended that conference. It was July 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Because of the mix-up in the calendars, she's not here at this board meeting. She did do board business at the conference. Normally, if you're not in attendance at the board meeting your stipend is affected; but, the board can certainly authorize. My question to you is whether or not, because she did do it for business during this month, and traveled to a conference for the National Charter Conference. Should we put an item on the agenda, if you all agree, that she would receive her July stipend? We've done that in the past when board members have done other board business on behalf of the board for conferences and they're spent.

**Bedell:** I agree with that.

**Williams:** I don't think we have an official board policy, but I think by precedence, we've been doing that for 24 years.

**Boyd:** Actually, you do have a policy.

**Williams:** We do?

**Barke:** The policy is if you miss the meeting, you don't get your stipend. If you do other business during that meeting -

**Boyd:** It doesn't say if you do. That's the part that maybe you're referring to. If you're doing board business on behalf of the board, you're attending conferences or that type of thing, if you just go visit a site, I don't know that that would constitute to the same thing. It's certainly at the board's discretion.

**Williams:** Maybe we should look at that board policy, too? Do you have anything, Dr. Williams?

**Williams:** We'll make it happy. I did go to Yosemite with my wife over July 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time. Yosemite is God's green valley here on Earth. It's wonderful. Just a real quick question to our good superintendent. We've had three or four speakers today on this

\$5 million grant. I don't know anything about it. What is it? If you can get the documents to us, could you elaborate for me?

**Mijares:** In as much as you're a doctor and you support health, we all do. We were asked to roll out the health framework. Health deals with all aspects of life, all types of health. It's a multi-dimensional framework, and this is typical business for the state. Whether it's social studies, biology, the natural sciences, or any aspect of the curriculum, there are frameworks that we have to follow. That gives the consistency of what we expect in all of our classrooms at every grade level. With the health framework, and I think what you were hearing today, is that there is one aspect in the healthy frameworks that deals with AB 329, which is sexually transmitted diseases.

That's always been in there, and it's always been taught in the K-12 continuum. The \$5 million sounds like a lot of money, but it isn't really when you have over 1,000 districts with 6.2 million students. The money is targeted for how this framework gets rolled out. That's what we're going to do. We've done other frameworks that the Orange County Department of Education has, as you know, has been a leader in professional development.

**Williams:** Can you make sure the staff can get me more documents and information on this? We haven't received it. Is this money that comes in, does it go into the budget?

**Mijares:** It goes into the budget, but it's largely a pass-through. It has to be archived somewhere in there, and there has to be accountability with the funds obviously. All the expenses that we bear, we draw from this money. If we're going to train districts and their staff, that's where this money goes.

**Williams:** Is this for a statewide rollout?

**Mijares:** Yes.

**Williams:** \$5 million for the entire state? Everybody's going to come here to this department?

**Mijares:** Not necessarily. We will potentially dispatch teams of people that are trained -

**Williams:** I see.

**Mijares:** - to go out and help with the training.

**Bedell:** Mr. Williams? I do have that in my notes, and I apologize for not mentioning it. Given all the conversation we've had in this boardroom about this subject and the concerns the parents have brought and the different responses, I think this is an extraordinary opportunity for this department as they train other areas. These are some of the issues parents have raised with us. I think it's extraordinary credit to this department, because I don't think any other department knows as much about, and any board, knows as much about the concerns.

I think this is a huge opportunity for this department, and a huge credit to the department, in the success its had in rollouts. Nobody knows better than what we've heard. I think when they give the staff development and they do workshops, this is what the parents have been concerned about. These are the lightning rods. I bet you much more than if it's going to some district that had nowhere near the interactions we've had. I think it's a plus.

**Mijares:** Bear in mind, in terms of a primer here, the state establishes standards, but these are large rubrics that talk about what ought to be taught at what grade level. The shoe leather comes in the framework.

**Bedell:** Exactly.

**Mijares:** Frameworks are changed every five, six years. This is work that we do. I have done it as a principal. I've done it as a superintendent. I've done it at districts where I've served as a leader there. The frameworks touch every aspect of the K-12 system. Remember, too, that there's a customizable piece to this based on the needs of that district. We're talking about us providing a big picture, but Santa Ana Unified, they may choose to take it another way, and we have to follow the law. That's imperative. I appreciate what you're saying, Jack, and I do agree with that perspective.

**Bedell:** I think it could hand off a lot of problems by the districts.

**Mijares:** I do think that it's important that we don't superimpose our will on everybody else. That is not permissible.

**Barke:** Were your questions answered?

**Williams:** They were.

**Barke:** Anything else?

**Bedell:** I move that we adjourn.

**Barke:** I think we have a public comment left, right? Is there anybody?

**Boyd:** We do not have any cards for the additional public comment period.

**Williams:** I move.

**Bedell:** So moved.

**Barke:** Does it have to be second?

**Williams:** No.

**Barke:** No. We are hereby adjourned.

**[PRESIDENT BARKE STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE TO SIGNAL THE CONCLUSION OF THE BOARD MEETING]**