Colorado State Board of Education

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION

DENVER, COLORADO

September 15, 2016, PM

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on September 15, 2016, the above-entitled meeting was conducted at the Colorado Department of Education, before the following Board Members:

Steven Durham (R), Chairman
Angelika Schroeder (D), Vice Chairman
Valentina (Val) Flores (D)
Jane Goff (D)
Pam Mazanec (R)
Joyce Rankin (R)
Debora Scheffel (R)



- 1 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: State Board of Education
- 2 will come back to order. We apologize for running late.
- 3 We're gonna start with item eight, somewhere here. It's
- 4 the review of the administrative procedures for the state
- 5 accountability actions coming on as the clock.
- 6 MS. ANTHES: For this presentation, we have
- 7 Alyssa Pearson and Brenda Bausch presenting.
- 8 MS. PEARSON: Good afternoon. Thank you all
- 9 for your time today. We wanna talk with you a little bit
- 10 today about four things. We wanna review the
- 11 accountability class division for the state law high level.
- 12 You all have heard a lot of this before, but just kind of
- 13 reground in that. We wanna share a Theory of Action around
- 14 the accountability clock. Where were is the Department
- 15 coming from because we wanna make sure that sounds right to
- 16 you, that we're on the right page, but we wanna be really
- 17 clear because our Theory of Action really lays out why
- 18 we're headed the path we are, why we're proposing the path
- 19 we are to go forward. So we wanna talk about that.
- 20 Again today, we're just putting out proposed
- 21 information. You don't need to make any decisions today.
- 22 You don't need to react today if you don't want to. We'll
- 23 have time on the 26th at that study session to really dive
- 24 deep into this, so we'll ask you at the end today for



- 1 questions or things that you wanna make sure we dive into
- 2 or follow up on more deeply. Sorry.
- 3 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: I think we'll just, we'll
- 4 just hold all questions till the end since we're not making
- 5 decisions on this, so you can proceed all the way through
- 6 your program. I really mean it this time.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We don't understand
- 8 (inaudible).
- 9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: No. Make a note that you
- 10 don't understand.
- MS. PEARSON: Send me a text.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay.
- 13 MS. PEARSON: So you know, there's time on
- 14 this. I just want you all to feel like nothing is set in
- 15 stone right now. We're just trying to lay out how we've
- 16 come to think about the clock and how we go forward with
- 17 this, get you started to think about it and then we'll go
- 18 deep on the 26th. We'll discuss where we at with the
- 19 proposed administrative procedures, and then again, collect
- 20 feedback for what you wanna talk about at that study
- 21 session. We wanna do this work very thoughtfully and take
- 22 our time with it as we keep hearing from legislators and
- 23 people in the field. This is big work that I think people
- 24 saw written in the law and never really knew how it was
- 25 gonna come out, but no, it's big decisions that are coming,



- 1 so we wanna be really thoughtful and take the time we need
- 2 for it, and to really keep the bigger picture in mind of
- 3 what we're trying to do with the accountability clock. You
- 4 know, to me, what it's really about is trying to get at
- 5 improved outcomes for kids in schools and ensuring kids
- 6 have the opportunities in their schools that they want. So
- 7 how do we get there? How do we use what's in the clock and
- 8 what's in the law to make sure we get to a place where
- 9 schools and districts can really provide better services
- 10 for students if kids aren't getting what they need
- 11 currently.
- 12 So quick, quick refresher and you guys
- 13 probably are sick of seeing the slide and all this
- 14 information. You know we give Districts Five different
- 15 accreditation ratings. Accredited with distinction as the
- 16 highest one that's blue, to accredited with improvement
- 17 plan, priority improvement plan and turnaround, and that's
- 18 the priority improvement and turnaround. Those last two
- 19 where the accountability clock clicks in. For schools,
- 20 there's four school plan types. We don't have that
- 21 distinction level for schools. Districts who accredit
- 22 their own schools can do that and do that kind of
- 23 recognition, but what's in state laws are just those four
- 24 plan types. And again, it's the turnaround plan and the



- 1 priority improvement plan that trigger the accountability
- 2 clock.
- 3 So here's a little overview of how the clock
- 4 works again because we always talk about five years, but
- 5 it's really a little bit longer than that. At the
- 6 beginning from the yellow in Year Zero when our school
- 7 districts first received their rating in the fall of
- 8 priority and improvement or turnaround, the clock doesn't
- 9 start until the following July 1. It's kind of that Year
- 10 Zero planning year. Thanks to them, we can go all the way
- 11 through. And then as you all know, we had a whole last
- 12 year for the schools that are in districts that are still
- 13 in Year Five, it's really been a two-year time period
- 14 because they entered Year Five, July 1, 2015 and they
- 15 stated at Year Five on July 1, 2016. Okay. And then we'll
- 16 get the frameworks this fall, they're coming out soon, and
- 17 then we'll know if they go to a Year Six in July 1, 2017 or
- 18 not. And it's by that year six of July '17 that an action
- 19 we need to be directed or taken.
- Okay. At that decision point, the State
- 21 Board, the action will be based on the commissioner's
- 22 recommendation, the state review panel recommendation, and
- 23 optional school district recommendation. The school
- 24 district recommendation is not in law, but that's part of
- 25 how we're following through with our Theory of Action on



- 1 this work and seeing this working best, and then you are
- 2 the ones that make that recommendation. So again, with the
- 3 timeline, as of July 1, 2016, we have 28 schools in eight
- 4 districts that remained on Year Five of priority
- 5 improvement or turnaround. You receive state review panel
- 6 reports for all of them, either a year ago or ones that
- 7 chose to have a review again early this summer, at least
- 8 when you got those. This fall, we're gonna have new
- 9 accreditation plan types for districts and new plan types
- 10 for schools. So districts are gonna get those
- 11 preliminarily, hopefully, at the end of this month. Then
- 12 we have a request to reconsider process, those should be
- 13 final.
- 14 We're looking at the December and January
- 15 Board meetings to make those final at that time. So some
- 16 schools and districts that have been on of these 28 schools
- 17 and eight districts may come off at this point. So we're
- 18 gonna see a change in that number most likely. So then,
- 19 after the plan types are finalized and released this winter
- 20 and into the spring, the commissioner's recommendation is
- 21 gonna be released to the State Board that will have billing
- 22 corporate what we know about the district, the trend data
- 23 analysis overtime, the state review panel report, we'll
- 24 take that into consideration as we put that forward, and in
- 25 districts recommendations that may come forward as we work



- 1 with the district. Between winter and June 30th of 2017,
- 2 the districts are gonna present to you, okay? All of the
- 3 districts that are on the clock, they have schools on the
- 4 clock, they will come and present to you and we'll talk a
- 5 little bit how those different presentations will look in a
- 6 little bit, but they all need to come forward. Okay. And
- 7 then by June 30th, 2017, we need to have an action directed
- 8 to those Year Five school districts if they'll remain on
- 9 the clock.
- 10 So here's just an overview; number of
- 11 schools, the school status again. You can see down at Year
- 12 Five, there were 18 prior to improvement, 10 on turnaround
- 13 for a total of 28 that were at Year Five. And then all
- 14 these other numbers, you know, those will change when we
- 15 have information updated again. So that's school status
- 16 and here is the district status. So most of the districts
- 17 that are on the clock, eight of them. All right, Year
- 18 Five. We've got one at Year Four and one at Year One.
- 19 Again, this will change and be updated as we get the new
- 20 results. Okay. You've all seen the slide before too, this
- 21 kind of high-level with the process.
- 22 So we've got schools or districts on the
- 23 clock for five years or in state law it also says, if there
- 24 is a school district in turnaround that hasn't yet reached
- 25 five years but is not making progress, you all can have



- 1 them come forward as well. To date, we have not done
- 2 anything with turnaround, schools or districts that are not
- 3 at Year Five. So we've got those. Then, we pull together
- 4 the commissioner recommendation, the state review panel
- 5 recommendation, and again, that optional district proposal
- 6 that will come forward to the State Board. You all a
- 7 direct in action to the school districts and then the
- 8 school districts receives ongoing monitoring and support as
- 9 we move forward. We're gonna get more into how we see
- 10 that, those schools and districts coming forward and the
- 11 Board directing action as we go into the rest of the
- 12 presentation.
- 13 So again, this is from law in terms of what
- 14 the actions are specified in law. You all have to select
- 15 from the school actions on the right, the management,
- 16 charter school operator Board, replacement, conversion to a
- 17 charter school with non-charter school ready, innovation
- 18 status or school closure or revoke charter. For schools,
- 19 that's pretty clear in the law that you need to pick from
- 20 that list. For districts; district reorganization, change
- 21 in management of one or more of the schools, conversion to
- 22 charter school, innovation status or school closure on the
- 23 list, but there's some language in there where you've a
- 24 little bit more flexibility with the district actions when
- 25 you do at the school actions. So again, what your role is



- 1 you need to direct an action to the local Board for the
- 2 school district that remains in Year Five or entering Year
- 3 Six on July 1 of priority improvement or turnaround. And
- 4 you must consider the recommendations from the commissioner
- 5 and from the state review panel in that decision.
- 6 Okay. So I'll talk a little bit about our
- 7 Theory of Action and I think Dr. Anthes wants to weigh in
- 8 on this as well. But what we really wanna stress with you
- 9 is what we view the purpose of the accountability clock is,
- 10 is really as an avenue to ensure that a drastic enough
- 11 action happens that students that are not being served and
- 12 not meeting the goals that we want for them in terms of an
- 13 education that's gonna prepare them to graduate for
- 14 secondary and workforce ready, they're not getting that.
- 15 We wanna be able to use the clock as a way to help schools
- 16 and districts provide that quality education for them.
- 17 It's really about what our kids are gonna get as a result
- 18 of this at the end.
- 19 So what we believe is the best way to ensure
- 20 those outcomes is to have buy-in from the community around
- 21 the path forward. I think you all have heard the talk
- 22 about how contentious this could get and who has the
- 23 authority to do what and all that. I think what we wanna
- 24 encourage is focus the attention on student outcomes and
- 25 not differences of opinion about what adults can and can't



- 1 do and who has what authority and who doesn't. We really
- 2 wanna try and make sure the energy and time and money is
- 3 really spent on focusing on improvements for schools and
- 4 for students. And we think that the most likely way of
- 5 that happening is we're focusing on collaborative pathways
- 6 forward and finding that together with the school
- 7 districts.
- 8 MS. ANTHES: Yeah. Just from my
- 9 perspective, I feel like the best possible way to actually
- 10 see improvements, is to have those three recommendations
- 11 that you saw in the previous slide coalesce into one, you
- 12 know, and that we know that the state review panel that has
- 13 done a lot of thinking and work and site visits, the
- 14 commissioner and the staff recommendation has done a lot of
- 15 work and in partnership with the district. The district
- 16 knows their community the best and has buy-in from their
- 17 community. We think that the best possible case for actual
- 18 change and implementing change in a meaningful way is when
- 19 those things align. So that's what we will be working
- 20 toward in that fashion.
- 21 MS. PEARSON: Okay. So we're gonna get into
- 22 that more of the new content now. Brenda is gonna walk you
- 23 through proposed process and timeline and kind of flowchart
- 24 for it. You all have a flowchart, a full flowchart in
- 25 front of you. Parts of it are pulled out here, but you've



- 1 got the full-blown flowchart and I'll have Brenda walk you
- 2 through that.
- 3 MS. BAUSCH: Thanks, Lisa. So following our
- 4 Theory of Action of both Alyssa and Dr. Anthes laid out, we
- 5 have come up with a set of procedures to be a staff in
- 6 consultation with both Tony and Julie around a process that
- 7 we believe will be the best way to bring forward this group
- 8 of schools and districts to you all in a consistent but
- 9 also an effective and fair manner, and the flowchart that
- 10 we handed out is an overview of that process. So this is
- 11 from start to finish. With administrative procedures
- 12 really lay out that State Board hearing role are part
- 13 section of the process. We wanted to make sure you had an
- 14 overview of the entire process so that you understood where
- 15 your role fits in, and where the culmination really of all
- 16 this work is.
- 17 So I'm gonna just quickly give you an
- 18 overview of what this flowchart is and then we're gonna
- 19 dive into some more details. In the top row of the
- 20 flowchart lays out our current practice, what's specified
- 21 in statute, what we're currently doing in terms of issuing
- 22 performance frameworks, assigning this to a review panel.
- 23 You've already received the recommendations from the state
- 24 review panel for these groups of schools and districts, and
- 25 they will be really receiving new frameworks as Alyssa



- 1 mentioned at the end of this month, hopefully. So and then
- 2 there will be a request to reconsider process. So if at
- 3 the end of the requests we consider process, the current
- 4 list of your five schools districts, if they were to
- 5 receive another PIT prior to our turnaround rating, they
- 6 would be advancing to Year Six, and at that point, they
- 7 would be at the more than five years part of statute.
- 8 Where after, if they've been on the clock for more than
- 9 five years, the State Board shall direct action to the
- 10 local Board.
- 11 So that's what really then triggers the rest
- 12 of this process. The green, yellow, and red rows are kind
- 13 of some different variations of how this may play out. The
- 14 green row which we're gonna get into more detail on is the
- 15 preferred path for the Department. This is where both
- 16 Katie and Elizabeth were speaking to is where we are hoping
- 17 to come together and come to an agreed upon set of actions
- 18 for the district or school to take, that both the district
- 19 themselves are willing to take and are already starting to
- 20 take and the department also thinks that it would be a
- 21 rigorous enough path, where they could see rapid
- 22 improvements in student outcomes. The yellow row is more
- 23 of where maybe that the school district doesn't necessarily
- 24 wanna engage with CBE or they have a different idea for
- 25 what action they wanna take. It would still end up coming



- 1 to you as I will show with the mission procedures. They
- 2 will still come forward to you but we just may not be on
- 3 the same page.
- 4 For districts, there is an option to remove
- 5 accreditation, and per statute, the districts have the
- 6 right to appeal such a recommendation. So before
- 7 accreditation is actually removed, if we were to recommend
- 8 that removal, the district has the opportunity to appeal
- 9 that recommendation to you all. This is a very formal
- 10 appeal and those rules have actually already been
- 11 promulgated for how that would work. So that's already
- 12 kind of set in stone.
- 13 So we're sort of here to present a process
- 14 that is a more conciliatory approach, and that's what this
- 15 slide lays out, the way we would envision that happening
- 16 for districts, and it is a little different per districts
- 17 versus schools because of the accreditation piece, so we're
- 18 trying to keep the processes as similar as possible, but
- 19 it's just a little different because districts have
- 20 accreditation at stake. And so after the final ratings are
- 21 released, the districts will receive a letter from the
- 22 department that would say that their accreditation may be
- 23 removed, that it might be a potential action; however, we
- 24 would rather have the district take a different set of
- 25 actions and keep the accreditation in place. However,



- 1 these actions need to be of rigorous manner and substantive
- 2 enough to see rapid improvements.
- 3 So we would issue a letter that said
- 4 something to that effect. And at that point, we would hope
- 5 that the district would engage with us in terms of
- 6 articulating which actions or which pathway they wanna go
- 7 down, so as Lisa showed the slide, engaging with a
- 8 management partner or innovation zone charter, it could be
- 9 a combination of actions. So we would hopefully work with
- 10 the district to go through that plan, to work on those
- 11 proposals and ensure that they are rigorous enough.
- 12 The commissioner at that time would also
- 13 react to the plan and she would send you her formal
- 14 recommendation for that district that says whether, you
- 15 know, we agree with the approach that district's seeking
- 16 and what actions we think would be, would be appropriate.
- 17 You all then would have the opportunity to hear from the
- 18 district at one of your medians, and the district would
- 19 come forward, present their plan, the department would
- 20 present the commissioner's recommendation. You would also
- 21 re-review the state review panel recommendations that
- 22 you've already received, and this would be an hour-long
- 23 hearing, so you would receive testimony. The next meeting
- 24 is when you would actually vote on what actions to be
- 25 taken.



1 So there would be a two meeting process, is this to allow for due process, to allow for you all to have 2 time to consider the written determinations. And we do 3 envision this being similar to the next slide, similar for 4 The nuance is that they wouldn't get a letter 5 schools. 6 saying their accreditations are gonna be removed. gonna get a letter saying that they need to come forward to 7 the State Board, and actually be directed to their local 8 Board, and again, encouraging them to submit their plans to 9 us ahead of time, but similarly, you would hear from them 10 11 in one meeting and then you would vote on an action item for the directed action in the second meeting. 12 That was 13 the process itself. The administrative procedures which you have in your Board document outlines the specific steps 14 15 to implement that process and your role in that. 16 So this is a specific document that you all 17 -- it's part of your Board administrative procedures you all would vote on at -- at another meeting right now it's 18 19 just an information item, but we -- we would ask for you to consider voting on this or an amended version to help guide 20 how you conduct these hearings. And so it does stipulate 21 that the state Board would at -- at the first -- prior the 22 23 first meeting they would receive -- you would receive documentation with ample time to review. So you would 24 receive the state review panel recommendation again, the 25



- 1 Commissioner's recommendation and any documentation from
- 2 the district itself. And then at the hearing there been an
- 3 allotted of the amount of time.
- 4 So 15 minutes for the District, 15 for the
- 5 department, 30 for Q and A for a total of one hour hearing.
- 6 Again, we're just proposing this as a structure. You may
- 7 all alternate and amend it as you see fit. At the
- 8 conclusion of this first hearing, you would all ask for us
- 9 for either the department or the district or both to come
- 10 up with proposed written determinations. That would be the
- 11 actions you would direct to the local Board.
- 12 So first -- so a school for example, you may
- 13 say we direct to the Board or the department and the school
- 14 to come up with an innovation plan or you would come up
- 15 with that written -- you would ask us a draft of proposal
- 16 and determination. You would then have the opportunity to
- 17 consider those proposed determinations and to formally vote
- 18 on it at the next meeting. But again at that second
- 19 meeting, no testimony would be considered. It would simply
- 20 be an action item to vote on. And then following the
- 21 adoption of the final written determination, the district
- 22 would agree to implement that action and we would include
- 23 such a clause in its accreditation contract, either on
- 24 behalf of the district or on behalf of a school or set of
- 25 schools and so that it would be codified in its



- 1 accreditation contract. They will implement this plan and
- 2 the Department staff could monitor the progress of that
- 3 implementation.
- 4 This last section of the procedure -- so the
- 5 first part of the procedures is part A outlines what I just
- 6 had up there out in bullet form. It provides in the area
- 7 for how this will that -- that type of hearing would occur.
- 8 The part B of the administrative procedures does outline
- 9 how you all would administer and appeal a potential
- 10 accreditation loss. So if the Department, the Commissioner
- 11 were to recommend the removal of accreditation from a
- 12 district, then you would use the part B of these
- 13 administrative procedures to then -- to conduct those
- 14 hearings and to administer that appeal process. And that
- 15 just mirrors what's already in rule.
- So there is -- you -- they added these
- 17 procedures to a degree but some of it is in rules so just
- 18 to -- to keep that caution. I believe that is all I have
- 19 for now. This is again just our first presentation of this
- 20 and you can take your time to consider them. We will be --
- 21 will be raising the issue again in our September 26 study
- 22 session and we can go into further review. We can also
- 23 talk about the state review panels. I know there have been
- 24 some interest in doing a deeper dive on the review panel
- 25 reports and consider any other remaining process questions



- 1 you all have at that time. We could potentially do a
- 2 practice scenario, one of these -- have one of these
- 3 hearings, do a mock, shorter version of it. We could do
- 4 that as well. Again, we kinda want to get your feedback on
- 5 anything you want on that agenda to be -- please let us
- 6 know and we will try to structure that meetings to be as
- 7 productive as possible for you all and that is all I have
- 8 at this time. Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you. Questions?
- 10 Ms. Goff I saw you had a question.
- MS. GOFF: I think you know (inaudible).
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay. Yes, Dr. Schroeder.
- 13 MS. SCHROEDER: Did I miss the monitoring
- 14 part once a new plan is established?
- MS. BAUSCH: The monitoring part?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Yeah, that's one.
- 17 MS. BAUSCH: Sure. So we are imagining Dr.
- 18 Schroeder, that we would have a clause amendment in that
- 19 accreditation contract. So the districts themselves every
- 20 June, July have their accreditation contract renewed. We
- 21 could add a clause to that that says that they will
- 22 implement, good faith and efforts, the actions directed to
- 23 them by the Board and then the CDE Department staff would
- 24 be -- we would be charged with -- with monitoring that on a
- 25 more detailed basis but they would certainly have an



- 1 opportunity to come back to the State Board on perhaps an
- 2 annual basis to provide updates on the -- on the directed
- 3 action and the frameworks would also be continued evidence
- 4 so we would hope to see them earn their way off the clock
- 5 in the next two to three years.
- 6 MS. SCHROEDER: So then what happens -- or
- 7 maybe you covered this, what happens if you come to an
- 8 agreement? We had -- We adopt the final determination and
- 9 two years down the line, you just -- they are not
- 10 happening. What -- what recourse does the Board then have?
- 11 What have we -- what have we committed to when we've taken
- 12 them off the clock?
- 13 MS. PEARSON: I think that's something that
- 14 we can think about how we write in the agreements and what
- 15 ends up getting written off from these hearings about what
- 16 the --
- 17 MS. SCHROEDER: Which nothing in the law
- 18 that helps?
- 19 MS. PEARSON: There's nothing in the law
- 20 that really says past five years what happens. It's just
- 21 like how (inaudible) state on implementation --
- 22 restructuring implementation forever. It doesn't go there.
- 23 So what we've been trying to think about is having kind of
- 24 these performance contracts of what we expect to see and to
- 25 the extent possible leaving that open to you all can have a



- 1 conversation if we don't see progress over time but
- 2 (inaudible) anything with that?
- 3 MR. ASP: No, that's essentially correct.
- 4 The statute is silent on what happens after that and what
- 5 happens if there's no improvement.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Dr. Flores?
- 7 MS. FLORES: I know -- I know this is
- 8 probably goes along with innovations status but there must
- 9 be other ways that districts can think of to improve. For
- 10 instance, would it be possible for schools to blend? To
- 11 blend -- to come together or districts to come together or
- 12 even districts. I mean I've been thinking about maybe
- 13 Denver would work better if it were cut in four -- four
- 14 pieces of -- you know four distinct areas. They may not
- 15 think so but you know that's a possibility. Also, what
- 16 about more quality? We talk about more quality but yet in
- 17 education -- but some of these districts actually need
- money.
- 19 You know, we're not throwing money at
- 20 districts and they really do need to have more money to
- 21 give those teachers, to pay those teachers more especially
- 22 in some of our rural districts that may have a difficult
- 23 time getting teachers -- and I think that's something we --
- 24 we -- we sort of look at it and say we're not going to talk
- 25 about money because the money issue, it's -- there is



- 1 already enough in the pot, where we know that a lot of
- 2 districts are hurting and money would do a lot for quality
- 3 and we need to think about that, we need to think on a
- 4 broader term other than to think about there is that pot of
- 5 money and that's all we have, and we are certainly a state
- 6 that let's -- let's face it, you know, we're doing well.
- 7 We're doing well economically and we should think about
- 8 that too. Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes, Dr. Schroeder?
- MS. SCHROEDER: The way this has work up
- 11 till now is that a number of schools and a number of
- 12 districts have been on turnaround and priority improvement
- 13 ratings and then managed to get accreditation with
- 14 improvement and so they were off the clock. And then the
- 15 clock started over again.
- MS. PEARSON: Clock -- if they went back on
- 17 you mean?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Right.
- MS. PEARSON: Yes.
- MS. SCHROEDER: If --
- MS. PEARSON: Yes. If they came off, then
- 22 they would go back --
- MS. SCHROEDER: Do we have the same
- 24 potential here? That we have a good year or two good years
- 25 and then we no longer have oversight. I mean is that where



- 1 -- is that where we need to legislatively make a change so
- 2 that we are monitoring kids, something shorter than five
- 3 years or once you're on the clock and you're in a situation
- 4 we're in now is a different committed time span, it's --
- 5 even if the district students have a good year, we're still
- 6 making sure that that's continuous.
- 7 MS. PEARSON: So --
- 8 MS. SCHROEDER: That was very inarticulate
- 9 but I think you know what I'm talking.
- MS. PEARSON: I think I know what you're
- 11 talking about. The way the clock works, the way it is in
- 12 lies, it's five consecutive years of priority improvement
- 13 and turnaround, so if you are an improvement or performance
- 14 for a year you're off the clock. If you fall back on, then
- 15 you start off on again back at year one or year zero or
- 16 start year one. So --
- 17 MS. SCHROEDER: And neither the department
- 18 nor the Board has any oversight or any opportunities unless
- 19 we start looking at that issue differently?
- MS. PEARSON: (Inaudible).
- 21 MS. SCHROEDER: I just worry -- I'm worried
- 22 because I know that's --
- MS. PEARSON: Yeah.



- 1 MS. SCHROEDER: I do know that's what
- 2 happened to a few districts. They got off for a year and
- 3 then it started over again.
- 4 MS. PEARSON: Yeah. We can look at the data
- 5 --
- 6 MS. SCHROEDER: (Inaudible) kids. That's
- 7 just not going to get us to where we want to do.
- 8 MS. PEARSON: Yeah. We can look at the
- 9 data. Some of the big ones like Denver who you know very
- 10 methodically has worked their way off the clock, has stayed
- 11 off the clock you know through now so you definitely see
- 12 some patterns of them that are very consistent and their
- 13 trends, but we can look and see how many that have come off
- 14 in the past have gone back on because that would be an
- 15 interesting thing to look at. But in terms of 163 and that
- 16 specific oversight, are the -- the rules around party
- 17 improvement and turnaround. It only applies if you are on
- 18 the clock. But we have improvement plans for all our
- 19 schools unless they are performance and then it's every
- 20 other year. We have federal oversight. We'll have to --
- 21 we're thinking about how this interacts with ESSA and the
- 22 identifications there and exit criteria, there are two.
- MS. SCHROEDER: That's the exit criteria
- 24 we're talking about under ESSA. That's a little in my
- 25 question.



- 1 MS. PEARSON: Because AYP you know, it was 2 always two years to go on, two years to go off so --
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Wasn't it two years ago?
- 4 MS. PEARSON: Yeah, so --
- 5 MS. SCHROEDER: Since most of the schools
- 6 are Title 1 schools.
- 7 MS. PEARSON: Well, we're going to have to
- 8 dig in and see what that looks like.
- 9 MS. BAUSCH: One thing I would add is that
- 10 if they're in turnaround status, if they were to fall back
- 11 on the clock into turnaround for example, so maybe they had
- 12 a blip here they went up to improvement but happen to come
- 13 back into turnaround, that's where you all still do have
- 14 that authority to direct action at any point of time so
- 15 suddenly something to monitor.
- 16 MS. SCHROEDER: We do have that one?
- 17 MS. BAUSCH: We do have that authority
- 18 during turnaround. They could be your one turnaround or
- 19 your two turnaround and if they've shown this -- this
- 20 decline in performance over a trend of time then you have
- 21 the authority to direct action at that point.
- 22 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Ms. Mazanec.
- MS. MAZANEC: I have several questions but -
- 24 several sorry.
- 25 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: It's all right.



- 1 MS. MAZANEC: First thing I don't see in the
- 2 possible remedies that we have the law provides for other
- 3 actions of significance correct?
- 4 MS. PEARSON: For districts it does.
- 5 MS. MAZANEC: For districts?
- 6 MS. PEARSON: Yeah.
- 7 MS. MAZANEC: Only for districts, not
- 8 schools?
- 9 MS. PEARSON: Yes.
- MS. MAZANEC: And we don't really know what
- 11 that means but we do have --
- MS. PEARSON: You have that discretion.
- 13 MS. MAZANEC: Sort of along those same lines
- 14 I see the process like as it's laid out as we have a state
- 15 review panels recommendations.
- MS. PEARSON: Yeah.
- 17 MS. MAZANEC: We have the Commissioner's
- 18 recommendation. And how will the commissioner arrived at
- 19 their recommendations? Are they separate or they based on
- 20 state review?
- MS. ANTHES: I think it would be a
- 22 combination of all of those things. So in many cases, our
- 23 staff have been working with the school districts and
- 24 partnership for a long time and so we would be working
- 25 closely with them. We would be doing school visits as we



- 1 have already in the past. We would also look at the state
- 2 review panel. We would take all that information and data
- 3 we've had over the past five years and you know use that as
- 4 the basis.
- 5 MS. MAZANEC: And then the State Board will
- 6 be expected to make their decisions really not
- 7 independently but based on the recommendations or is it is
- 8 assumed that the State Board could come up with something
- 9 totally different?
- 10 MS. PEARSON: I think that's allowed for in
- 11 law. I think it's -- that you're required to look at the
- 12 commissioner and the state review panel's recommendation
- 13 but then you have that authority --
- MR. ASP: Four districts -- I believe that's
- 15 correct. The statute is much more prescriptive when it
- 16 comes to making determinations on individual schools where
- 17 it seems to say you're -- you're given a list of potential
- 18 interventions you have to pick one or more from the list.
- 19 MS. MAZANEC: And what about parents? Is
- 20 there any avenue for parents to be involved in these
- 21 decisions? I mean we were talking about that yesterday
- 22 about reorganization for instance the methods to the
- 23 community. Seems like we need a path for parents to be
- 24 involved in the decisions that happen for these schools
- 25 too. They're passing notes.



- 1 MS. PEARSON: I know it's perfect. Sorry.
- 2 So you just get me if I get this wrong. But in terms of
- 3 the whole long process, improvement plans are written in
- 4 consultation with school accountability committees that
- 5 have parents on them, it's a parent input. And the
- 6 priority improvement turnaround, they're required to have a
- 7 hearing to let the community know that they are on that
- 8 status and gather input on what that plan should be and how
- 9 the school should move forward.
- MS. MAZANEC: I get that. Through the SAC.
- 11 MS. PEARSON: Through the SAC mostly but the
- 12 hearing part isn't just for the SAC. That's a community
- 13 hearing.
- MS. MAZANEC: Okay.
- MS. PEARSON: Yeah.
- MS. MAZANEC: I'm a little concerned about
- 17 the presentation time and -- and this is often true even
- 18 for charter appeals. 15 minutes per party seems awfully
- 19 short for you. I mean -- I -- I frankly I'm wondering how
- 20 we could even possibly accomplish it.
- 21 MS. SCHROEDER: Can we have interaction?
- 22 The way we have on charters now it's 15 minutes, 15 minutes
- 23 and then we talk to each other. We don't interact.
- MS. MAZANEC: And even -- even then it's not
- 25 always enough time.



- 1 MS. SCHROEDER: Yes. So I hope that whether
- 2 we copy that full process, I think it's what --
- 3 MS. MAZANEC: Yes.
- 4 MS. SCHROEDER: -- Pam is saying and I --
- 5 and I didn't like.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: It's more than 15 for
- 7 charters, isn't it 45?
- 8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Isn't it -- it's 30,
- 9 30, 30 then they give you around 10 minutes --
- 10 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: 30, 30?
- MS. MAZANEC: So it seems like we have to do
- 12 at least 30 and 30.
- MS. PEARSON: And now we can start getting
- 14 into that in a steady session to that's where we want your
- 15 feedback because it's balancing the time for presentation,
- 16 the time for you all to have that conversation and
- 17 interaction. Because we are thinking it was 15 pure
- 18 presentation, no interruptions, and then you all could
- 19 dialogue afterwards. But that's where we need to have --
- 20 think about what makes sense to you all. So it's how much
- 21 time there but then thinking about that number we need to
- 22 get through over the year and how much time of year
- 23 meetings or how much extra time to your meetings you want
- 24 to add to -- to go through this process. So I know it's a
- 25 huge balancing act.



- 1 MS. MAZANEC: And I know -- and I know we're
- 2 at the beginning of this process, and so have to speed
- 3 things that I think going forward I'd like to talk more
- 4 about the options for charters, that seems a little
- 5 limited, so.
- 6 MS. SCHROEDER: What do you mean limited?
- 7 I'm sorry.
- 8 MS. MAZANEC: Well, they -- what is it?
- 9 That they can only -- the only two options are closer on
- 10 management by different entities. You know, maybe there's
- 11 other options, maybe there's a group of parents in the
- 12 community that would, you know want to take over. I don't
- 13 know.
- MS. SCHROEDER: That's (inaudible) .
- 15 MS. MAZANEC: But it seems -- but it seems
- 16 pretty limited.
- 17 MS. BAUSCH: There's one other option they
- 18 could replace their governing Board and that -- yeah that's
- 19 --
- 20 MS. MAZANEC: Just the governing Board?
- MS. BAUSCH: Yeah, the governing Board.
- MS. PEARSON: So to your example, if parents
- 23 wanted to go over it -- it cannot be taken that way.
- 24 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes, Dr. Schroeder.



- 1 MS. SCHROEDER: The way I remember NCLB,
- 2 there was a requirement for the school to notify the
- 3 parents. I think it was up to you in making one. What
- 4 notification requirements do we have at this point for
- 5 parents?
- 6 MS. PEARSON: I'm gonna have Liz talk
- 7 because she'll be a little -- she knows details better than
- 8 I do.
- 9 MS. BAUSCH: Well hello again. So it was --
- 10 this is already kind of covered it, honestly. And that
- 11 title one requirement still exists. Parents need to be
- 12 notified. So we tried to align them up with the state
- 13 requirements as well. But it really is some sort of
- 14 written notification needs to go out, but then there is an
- 15 expectation, there should be a public hearing with the
- 16 local Board.
- 17 MS. SCHROEDER: So when -- when we trigger
- 18 these green boxes, when we notify the school district they
- 19 -- this process going to begin or the school, a letter --
- 20 the -- the school or the district is required to send out
- 21 letter to the parents notifying them that this is
- 22 forthcoming?
- MS. BAUSCH: Yes. And there's a timeline
- 24 attached to it that's in law as well by a certain number of



- 1 days. They need to be notified and then within a certain
- 2 number days then the hearing can take place.
- 3 MS. SCHROEDER: So we're actually notifying
- 4 them as -- as of the -- date and time of the hearing are
- 5 heard?
- 6 MS. BAUSCH: Oh, well, our hearing --
- 7 MS. SCHROEDER: Oh, wait a minute they have
- 8 a hearing?
- 9 MS. BAUSCH: So -- so year zero, let's say
- 10 they're just newly entering the clock, this requirement
- 11 goes into play. So it's not just end of the clock, it's
- 12 throughout the entire time. Parents have -- they're
- 13 expected to be notified -- every year. And so we've given
- 14 -- we give out like sample templates that they can use to -
- 15 to notify parents things like that. But it's up to --
- 16 it's up to the districts.
- 17 MS. SCHROEDER: Great. Thank you.
- MS. BAUSCH: Yeah.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Further questions? Okay.
- 20 It's that -- going once.
- MS. ANTHES: Actually, Deb I know you had a
- 22 question if you go back to slide three, maybe this -- the
- 23 question you were asking me Deb about what -- sorry, way
- 24 back here what goes into those categories. Was that your
- 25 question?



- 1 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yeah, this was just -- I was
- 2 just unclear as to when -- when schools or districts end up
- 3 in those two old buckets. And we look at a pie chart that
- 4 half of it has to do with student achievement. But also
- 5 there's a body of evidence in that half of what comprises
- 6 student achievement. Do the districts your schools have
- 7 discretion over how to weight those items in that 50
- 8 percent? At least 50 percent? So could one district say,
- 9 "Well, Park counts x percent for us in that larger body of
- 10 evidence?" But in another district they might say, "No, it
- 11 counts a different weighting."
- 12 MS. PEARSON: So in terms of the C plan
- 13 types, when we do our plan types, none if they're doing
- 14 their local accreditation. Where you all landed in June
- 15 was that for elementary and middle 60 percent of the
- 16 framework is growth and 40 percent is achievement. And
- 17 when we run our frameworks it's just state level data. So
- 18 the 60 percent growth is the CMAS. English Language Arts
- 19 and Math growth along with English language proficiency
- 20 growth and the access test. And then the 40 percent
- 21 achievement is the CMAS. English Language Arts, CMAS.
- 22 Math -- Math and Science assessments that are in there.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: So there's nothing else? So
- 24 why did someone would refer to a body of evidence? Where
- 25 would that have come from?



- 1 MS. PEARSON: So during that time when we
- 2 were doing the request to reconsider process, that is when
- 3 districts can submit additional evidence to us if -- if we
- 4 don't -- so for example a K3 school, we only have third
- 5 grade achievement data for a K3 school. We don't have
- 6 growth data for them when we have third grade achievements.
- 7 There's a lot of that school where there's no state
- 8 available or state testing grades. So that's where they
- 9 can submit additional information to us.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Okay. And then how does that
- 11 end up getting weighted then or would that be case by case?
- MS. PEARSON: We've got templates and
- 13 quidance on how that all works and we can send you the
- 14 request to reconsider template if you'd like to see how we
- 15 -- how we weigh in the expectation.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Would that be consistent
- 17 across districts or are there different ways of --
- 18 different templates based on the size of the school? How
- 19 does the insights come in?
- MS. PEARSON: There's different templates
- 21 based on the assessment or the local -- the evidence that a
- 22 district wants to give if it's one that we have set
- 23 expectations for. But we do look at size of school because
- 24 we know that smaller schools tend to bounce around a little
- 25 bit more and tend to be just by the size and the numbers



- 1 it's how, you know this very well how numbers work. If
- 2 you've got fewer insights who tend to be at the extremes
- 3 more likely than a larger district tends to be at the
- 4 extremes.
- 5 MS. SCHEFFEL: So I'm just trying to think
- 6 if the school does that, they -- they end up in these
- 7 buckets and then they come to you and say, "We want to
- 8 submit additional data." And you would say, "Okay, we're
- 9 going to look at your body of evidence and put it into a
- 10 template based on these characteristics of that school
- 11 district."
- 12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Do they know how that gets
- 14 weighted? I mean I know these are districts getting able
- 15 to pull back the curtain in a sense and understand what
- 16 would maximize the great things they're doing or I mean I
- 17 just wonder what kind of -- how privy are they to how this
- 18 -- it's calculated?
- 19 MS. PEARSON: Gets weighted --
- MS. SCHEFFEL: I mean, is it possible that
- 21 one district would be very privy to it, and knows exactly
- 22 how to weight things to make themselves look as best as
- 23 they can? Another district might be more naive on it or is
- 24 that not really happening?



- 1 MS. PEARSON: I -- I don't believe that's
- 2 happening. We have a process with the request to
- 3 reconsider where we ask districts if we have an optional
- 4 draft submission time. So they can submit a draft request
- 5 to us which will review and give them feedback on, and ask
- 6 them the additional questions if there's things that we
- 7 don't understand about what they're asking or about their
- 8 data and help them strengthen it. So if they choose to go
- 9 through that process, then they will get that additional
- 10 kind of technical assistance from us to clarify what
- 11 they're asking for and to help us understand what data
- 12 they're putting forward. They don't have to do that, it's
- 13 optional. If they don't do that or even once they do, once
- 14 we get the official request to reconsider we don't go back
- 15 to them with clarifying questions because otherwise we
- 16 tried that in the beginning and it just -- it's a long
- 17 process. And we instituted that draft process for that
- 18 review.
- 19 MS. SCHEFFEL: Do most schools take
- 20 advantage of that or is it part --
- 21 MS. PEARSON: I think a lot did. But I'm
- 22 trying to remember back in 2014. And I think probably at
- 23 least two thirds, three quarters of them went through the
- 24 draft process.



- 1 MS. SCHEFFEL: Well, great, that really
- 2 helps. Thanks for doing that hard work of going back and
- 3 forth with the district.
- 4 MS. PEARSON: Of course, well we wanna help
- 5 them because we want people to be able to explain that --
- 6 MS. SCHEFFEL: Tell their story in a sense
- 7 we've stated --
- 8 MS. PEARSON: It's a -- tell their story but
- 9 it's also really important to be able to reflect on what
- 10 your data is actually saying. And that's one thing we see
- 11 in the state, these districts have different levels of
- 12 incapacity of being able to understand their local data.
- 13 And so part of it is just also helping people understand
- 14 what that local data actually means in size.
- 15 MS. SCHEFFEL: Right, that's what I found
- 16 just a huge variance with how -- how well people understand
- 17 how to address the data.
- MS. PEARSON: And we've been offering just
- 19 you know, support in that process even though people don't
- 20 have their preliminary readings yet, we've been offering
- 21 that actually through last year because we knew with the
- 22 old -- there's a local data that people have been keeping
- 23 track of over the whole years. And if they want to help
- 24 looking at that data as we go so that they were prepared



- 1 for this fall if they wanted to submit this fall, we've
- 2 been offering that support throughout.
- 3 MS. SCHEFFEL: Thank you so much.
- 4 MS. SCHROEDER: And then we approve -- we
- 5 approve those as well. Does that come back to the Board?
- 6 The very few that were refused.
- 7 MS. PEARSON: So.
- 8 MS. SCHROEDER: This is -- it seems to me
- 9 there was a vote on that.
- 10 MS. PEARSON: So what happens is the
- 11 commissioner assigns the district accreditation ratings.
- 12 Will present that to you all, but the commissioner assigns
- 13 the district accreditation ratings. If a district
- 14 disagrees with that accreditation rating after we've
- 15 already done the request reconsider process then they can
- 16 appeal to you all. You all are the ones that assign the
- 17 school plan types, and so we will bring you recommendations
- 18 after we've done the request to reconsider process but you
- 19 are the ones that up formally approve the plan types for
- 20 schools.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Further questions?
- 22 MS. PEARSON: Is there any -- can I just ask
- 23 a question?
- 24 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Surely.



- 1 MS. PEARSON: Is there anything in
- 2 particular besides what you had on that list for the study
- 3 session that you all would like to make sure we spend time
- 4 on and bring back to you, already -- dig into? I think I
- 5 heard let's spend some time on the time for the hearings
- 6 and what that would look like and what you all would think
- 7 is ideal in terms of hearing a conversation and all those
- 8 pieces? But is there anything else that you all would
- 9 like?
- 10 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Ms. Rankin?
- 11 MS. RANKIN: So the learning that we talked
- 12 about, the commissioner -- state review panel's
- 13 recommendations, the commissioner's recommendations and
- 14 what those are based on.
- 15 MS. PEARSON: Okay. What comes when and how
- 16 --
- 17 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Further questions, I want
- 18 -- I'm sorry, Joyce. Go ahead.
- 19 MS. RANKIN: Between now and then, can we
- 20 shoot you some additional questions?
- 21 MS. PEARSON: Of course, yeah, please. We
- 22 want to make sure that time is well spent for you all
- 23 because we know it's an extra travel time and three hours
- 24 in the room. So we want to make sure that we use it. Well
- 25 we want to make sure we have it tailored to what you need.



- 1 MS. SCHEFFEL: So at some point, a mock
- 2 hearing I think would be helpful. Make it wicked. Well,
- 3 challenge -- challenge us with the kinds of --
- 4 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Be careful what you ask
- 5 for.
- 6 MS. PEARSON: So you don't want one of those
- 7 we've come together and agreed on another plan?
- 8 MS. SCHROEDER: Correct. That's correct, I
- 9 don't know if that's particularly helpful.
- MS. PEARSON: Okay.
- 11 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: I have a question for Mr.
- 12 Dill. Do the -- the state review panel's recommendation,
- 13 the Commissioner's recommendation create any rebuttable
- 14 presumptions should the Board not decide to accept those or
- 15 does it -- is that just one more piece of information in
- 16 the State Board's decision making now?
- 17 MR. DILL: I think I -- at least with
- 18 regards to the districts it's just a -- it's just a piece
- 19 of information, I don't think there's -- there is any
- 20 presumption that it's controlling or helpful really. It's
- 21 somewhat different when you're -- when you're dealing with
- 22 individual schools or you'll -- where the state review
- 23 panel presents you with a list of options and you're
- 24 required to pick one among the rest.



- 1 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay. Thank you. All
- 2 right and that's -- that's good. We'll go ahead and
- 3 proceed to the next item and while we're setting up for
- 4 that, the next item on the agenda is a consideration of
- 5 level district 60 -- School District 60 Innovation Zone
- 6 request on behalf of its six schools seeking to form an
- 7 Innovation Zone and we'll take about a five minute recess,
- 8 while they're setting the table. Welcome back to order,
- 9 think we'll hold the motion until later. Let's start.
- 10 Commissioner, would you like to introduce the program?
- 11 MS. ANTHES: Thank you. Today, we welcome
- 12 Pueblo School District here, and I'm going to turn this
- 13 over to Charlotte Macaluso who is the Interim
- 14 Superintendent, Phyllis Sanchez, the Board President, and
- 15 Karen Ortiz, Executive Director of Continuous Improvement
- 16 for Pueblo City 60. Just to let the Board know we have
- 17 been working in partnership with Pueblo on this plan for a
- 18 year. And so we look forward to hearing from them. Thank
- 19 you.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay.
- 21 MS. MACALUSO: Thank you, Commissioner
- 22 Anthes, Chairman Durham, and Members of the Board of
- 23 Education. It is my distinct pleasure to be able to
- 24 present to you today an Innovation Zone plan for Pueblo
- 25 City Schools. Just to provide you some historical



- 1 background and some insight into the current context,
- 2 Pueblo City Schools has three existing innovation middle
- 3 schools and that status is granted in 2013. Each of those
- 4 schools have very site specific plans and they have had
- 5 successful implementation of those theme based site
- 6 specific plans. This opportunity has enabled our district
- 7 to carefully examine the lessons learned, identify
- 8 effective practices of areas of success and also to
- 9 identify any barriers that continue to -- to exist
- 10 regarding our reform effort.
- 11 And so in our innovations zone we are
- 12 seeking to add three elementary schools to form what we're
- 13 calling our Innovation Zone. Those schools are Risley
- 14 International Academy of Innovation are -- is an existing
- 15 innovation school, Roncalli Stem Academy, Pueblo Academy of
- 16 Arts. The three elementary schools that we are proposing
- 17 to add are Benjamin Franklin Elementary, Irving Elementary,
- 18 and (inaudible) Elementary. All six of these schools are -
- 19 have a turnaround plan type and they're all in various
- 20 years of the accountability clock as you can see.
- 21 Also on -- on an additional note, Pueblo
- 22 City Schools district is on priority improvement plan type
- 23 currently. So in terms of a rationale for implementation
- 24 of Innovation Zone, we really feel like we would like to
- 25 identify a network of schools that have the same



- 1 philosophical alignment. Schools that have similar
- 2 conditions, and -- so that we could be able to collectively
- 3 respond to the individual needs of our school. One of the
- 4 great lessons that we learned is that the three existing
- 5 innovation schools really formed sort of a partnership in
- 6 terms of professional development and a -- in working in
- 7 the spirit of collaboration in a mode of advocacy. And
- 8 they proved to be -- to work in terms of acting as a
- 9 catalyst and a change for our entire district practices.
- 10 And so, that is really something that --
- 11 that we're really looking forward to, to kind of bring that
- 12 focus on unity and -- and provide a cohesive aligned system
- 13 throughout the district. In terms of the educational
- 14 programming, our current innovation middle schools will
- 15 continue with the existing educational programs that
- 16 they're currently offering. At Risley International, they
- 17 are currently offering the International Baccalaureate
- 18 Middle Years program. We're proud to say that we, this
- 19 summer, received a notification from the IPO that we are
- 20 unofficially recognized IB World School. And so if, if you
- 21 know what that means, it means that, that school has really
- 22 gone through all of their programs and practices that are
- 23 required to meet that type of certification. So we're very
- 24 proud of that.



- 1 Risley also is a certified Advancement via
- 2 Individual Determination School. We were just notified of
- 3 that the last couple of days. In terms of Roncalli, they
- 4 will continue with the STEM; Science, Technology,
- 5 Engineering, and Math educational programming at their
- 6 school, and at Pueblo Academy of Arts, they will continue
- 7 with the arts integration and Pre Advanced Placement
- 8 Program.
- 9 The elementary innovation schools are
- 10 proposing a more unified approach to their educational
- 11 programming, and so they won't necessarily have theme based
- 12 programs, but they're proposing to implement AVID;
- 13 Advancement via Individual Determination and focus on
- 14 extended learning opportunities and explore a blended
- 15 learning model for all three of those schools. In terms of
- 16 the innovation, calendar, and schedule, this was also a
- 17 lesson learned in terms of our implementation of our three
- 18 middle schools who started out having three very separate
- 19 calendars, and schedule for their schools which proved to
- 20 be a little taxing on our organization.
- 21 And so we took a look at that, our
- 22 elementaries are proposing that they would have a common
- 23 calendar. And that calendar would include three additional
- 24 student contact days, and six additional professional
- 25 development days for teachers. Our middle schools have now



- 1 come together and are proposing a common calendar that they
- 2 would work with. Our student contact days would include
- 3 five additional contact days and professional development
- 4 days. Five additional professional development days above
- 5 what our regular calendar for our district offers. The
- 6 teacher contract time still is site specific as you can
- 7 see, and it is extended past the regular teacher contract
- 8 time that other district schools operate under.
- 9 And so, that really is -- the school's felt
- 10 like they couldn't come to a common agreement based on the
- 11 various educational programs that they're offering, so
- 12 there is still site specific there in terms of the hours.
- 13 So although each school will have finds that implement site
- 14 specific educational programming, we will go forth with
- 15 some standard practices across the zone, some non-
- 16 negotiable if you will. And so those will be centered
- 17 around data driven instructional model, observation of
- 18 feedback coaching model, all through, also professional
- 19 learning communities. We will also be focusing -- have a
- 20 focus around building a strong staff and student culture
- 21 all through, implementing those systems and routines at
- 22 each of those schools.
- 23 So that kind of brings us to the theory of
- 24 action, and the theory of action, if you, at first glance
- 25 seems -- seems kind of simple but we really believe that



- 1 it's really more about the practices that are being
- 2 implemented at school not necessarily this particular
- 3 program or this particular silver bullet. We're looking at
- 4 really enhancing and refining those particular principles
- 5 and practices that we feel are the conditions that will
- 6 favor results. And so, again, we have the data driven
- 7 instructional model, and it's not necessarily that won't be
- 8 partnering with some organizations to get that work done,
- 9 but it really is just focusing around those areas that we
- 10 feel are supported by research, and that have huge but
- 11 underused potential to impact positively student
- 12 achievement at this point.
- 13 MS. SANCHEZ: In terms of waivers, I know
- 14 that you have access to -- to our entire Innovation Zone
- 15 plan. And so, the waivers are outlined in that plan quite
- 16 extensively. But I wanted to just kind of identify some
- 17 waivers that we're seeking here, and just kind of highlight
- 18 those for you. We're seeking waivers from both local,
- 19 Board of education policy, negotiated union. Some of those
- 20 aspects of the negotiated union agreement as well as some
- 21 state statutes. And so in terms of people, time, and
- 22 money, in terms of people where -- one of the waivers would
- 23 be that the schools would have no force to teacher
- 24 placements by the district, and that we would be asking the
- 25 teachers -- the expectations of the operations within the



- 1 innovation schools that those would be very clearly
- 2 outlined, and we would be asking teachers to sign on
- 3 teacher commitment form saying, "Yes, I understand all that
- 4 will happen in this particular innovation school, and I'm
- 5 signing onto that agreement."
- 6 We would propose to implement a three
- 7 semester at will period for all new district hires, and non
- 8 probationary teachers with below effective rating may
- 9 result in an administrative transfer out of that particular
- 10 school. In terms of the time, we've kind of talked a
- 11 little bit about their ability to determine their own
- 12 calendar and schedule. And then the implementation of
- 13 daily professional learning communities. In terms of
- 14 money, we have negotiated and worked out in an innovation
- 15 zone common compensation structure for the additional time
- 16 that our teachers would be working. And also we have
- 17 implemented a sign-on-stay on bonus and pay for performance
- 18 in terms of teacher recruitment and teacher retention. In
- 19 terms of outcomes, also that's in our plan and we are
- 20 centering around student achievement. Obviously our number
- 21 one goal would be to improve the plan type according to the
- 22 school performance framework and to increase the level of
- 23 student achievement.
- 24 And so we will have specific measurable
- 25 outcomes and targets for each of our schools. We will



- 1 engage in a continuous improvement model that will include
- 2 a performance management tool to monitor all those leading
- 3 indicators such as school specific targets around local
- 4 data, student achievement data, discipline, attendance, the
- 5 Unified School Improvement Action steps, qualitative
- 6 indicators around culture of the building. And we would do
- 7 that through a zoned professional learning community. One
- 8 important piece for our district is that we want to be very
- 9 strategic and very intentional about the dissemination of
- 10 best practices.
- 11 And so, we will have regular updates to the
- 12 Board of Education, and we -- our plan is to disseminate at
- 13 three levels. First, building the awareness, and level of
- 14 understanding and then how does that translate into action.
- 15 And so, we're really interested and really identifying
- 16 those barriers that were that currently exist in the
- 17 schools, and really looking at and making that a catalyst
- 18 for change, and changing some of those policies and
- 19 practices for all schools in our district not just the
- 20 Innovation Zone. So it's really about raising the water
- 21 that raises all ships. And so, that dissemination of best
- 22 practices is really an important component for our district
- 23 in terms of improving efficiency, practices, and processes
- 24 across the district.



- 1 We have had stakeholder involvement
- 2 throughout the innovation plan development and CDE as Dr.
- 3 Anthes indicated. They have really partnered with our
- 4 district and continue to do so, and they have provided a
- 5 review of our innovations on plan. Each school did vote on
- 6 April 8th, 2016. All schools passed with greater than 60
- 7 percent majority and several of our schools we have up --
- 8 that percentage was in the 90 percent. We do have letters
- 9 of support that have been included in the innovations zone
- 10 plan from various businesses and community Members in
- 11 Pueblo.
- 12 And also on Pueblo City Schools, Board of
- 13 Education voted on May 18th in a unanimous vote to accept
- 14 our innovation zone plan. So that's our innovation zone
- 15 plan in a nutshell, and I also have our Board President
- 16 Phyllis Sanchez here, and I also have Karen Hughes who's
- 17 the Executive Director of Continuous Improvement and
- 18 Innovation. That's a very intentional specific role in our
- 19 district and her role is really to ensure that what we say
- 20 we're doing in the Innovation Zone that we are actually
- 21 implementing, and she's advocating for those schools that
- 22 are in the, you know, the highest need in our district. I
- 23 also have with me Members of our Board of Education and we
- 24 have most of our innovation principals present. So if you



- 1 have any questions at this time, we'd be happy to entertain
- 2 those.
- 3 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Questions from Member of
- 4 the Board. Ms. Rankin?
- 5 MS. RANKIN: First of all, thank you for
- 6 that presentation, thank you for coming today. I have a
- 7 quick question. It's easy to answer, why wasn't Carlyle
- 8 included in this innovation plan?
- 9 MS. SANCHEZ: So we actually -- we were very
- 10 thoughtful about those schools that were ready to -- that
- 11 we felt moved into the innovation zone, and that
- 12 information was taking from the school works state reviews.
- 13 We actually have two schools that are -- we have been
- 14 granted the pathways grant. And so, we're looking at
- 15 continuing that work and we're actually -- in our plan,
- 16 we're talking about, how do schools become part of the
- 17 innovation zone? And so, we're looking at schools that
- 18 maybe could enter at a point when all those conditions are
- 19 ready to move in.
- 20 MS. SCHEFFEL: The ones you've chosen are
- 21 the ones that have the most opportunity for success. Is
- 22 that correct?
- MS. SANCHEZ: Yes. And they had the
- 24 conditions that were ready to -- that we felt were ready to
- 25 move into an innovation zone. And also we were



- 1 prioritizing based on greatest need in our district at this
- 2 time also.
- 3 MS. RANKIN: Why is innovation the right
- 4 choice for the three additional schools?
- 5 MS. SANCHEZ: Absolutely. And so as we
- 6 progressed through the planning of the innovation zone, we
- 7 felt that the three schools that were added have the
- 8 potential to gain the most from what we've already
- 9 established. And the collaboration that we've put forth is
- 10 really in place already. And it's able to easily move out
- 11 into those three. So the leadership that was on Board,
- 12 also the staff that was in place already really did select
- 13 to move forward in that direction. And it was very
- 14 thoughtful of the staff that was in place and they really
- 15 had to decide whether or not that was the direction to
- 16 move. So it's been a very collaborative effort and I
- 17 believe the unity that has been established within those
- 18 six schools is really going to be a jumping force to move
- 19 our district forward.
- 20 MS. SCHEFFEL: I have a question, there's
- 21 two parts to it. Phyllis I'd like you to answer it if you
- 22 can for me. You believe it's important for the community,
- 23 the school administration, the teachers, the parents, most
- 24 importantly the students to understand and buy into this
- 25 innovation program? And if so, has it been communicated



- 1 clearly to all of the above? And do you have that
- 2 acceptance?
- 3 MS. EMM: We do believe that the ownership
- 4 and the community buy in is extremely important. And in
- 5 those school communities, there were those meetings held.
- 6 We've also have held conversations about the zone publicly
- 7 at our Board meetings talking about what the zone is going
- 8 to look like? Who it impacts? And how it impacts? The
- 9 stakeholder involvement in this year planning process. So
- 10 we do believe that we've done that. I think that they were
- 11 pathways grant, we will do even more of that community
- 12 educational peace.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: So it's an ongoing process?
- MS. SANCHEZ: Absolutely.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Thank you. How is innovation
- 16 helped the current innovation schools Roncalli, Risley, and
- 17 Pueblo Academy of the Arts? Whoever wants to, to take
- 18 that.
- 19 MS. MACALUSO: So being a part of that
- 20 initial group, previously the Principal at Pueblo Academy
- 21 of Arts, we have seen tremendous growth in many ways. I
- 22 believe right now the biggest difference that you will see
- 23 is that we have very safe schools. So we've established
- 24 cultures in those schools that students want to attend. No
- 25 longer are we the schools that nobody wants to attend, but



- 1 we have waiting lists on our schools. Our schools have
- 2 grown in different ways. If you look in particular Pueblo
- 3 Academy of Arts, we started with approximately 230 students
- 4 three years ago, and we are at about 700 students this
- 5 year. It has been tremendous growth in student population.
- 6 And if you look at the three schools, the culture of the
- 7 school, the climate of the school has changed dramatically.
- 8 We've been able to retain teachers as well.
- 9 And now we are starting to see what we call
- 10 is the foundation to really establish that student
- 11 achievement. There's a grassroots movement in those three
- 12 schools that is absolutely incredible. There's buying from
- 13 the students, from the teachers, from the family Members,
- 14 from the community, and our community sees the changes that
- 15 are happening and really wants to be a part of that. So I
- 16 think it's a really effective mode to bring in those other
- 17 three schools now, it's a good time for that. And we're
- 18 starting to see the percentile ranking of where those
- 19 schools are increasing. And one of our schools for the
- 20 first time has increased in academic achievement in all
- 21 areas, in all grade levels. So we are starting to see that
- 22 growth.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: I saw that too.
- MS. MACALUSO: Thank you.



- 1 MS. RANKIN: How will the innovation plans
- 2 lay the groundwork for your turnaround in accountability
- 3 planning?
- 4 MS. SANCHEZ: So I'll take that one. I
- 5 think like we said, it is our true intention to really
- 6 examine what the current barriers are to our lack of
- 7 student achievement in some of our highest need schools,
- 8 and our priority improvement in turnaround schools. It is
- 9 our intent to ensure that when we identify those processes
- 10 and practices, innovation is all about flexibility and
- 11 autonomy to structure the conditions of learning to meet
- 12 the needs of a specific community or a specific school.
- 13 And every school should have that ability to have some sort
- 14 of flexibility, and processes of an organizational
- 15 structure shouldn't be the barriers.
- And so, we're taking a really hard critical
- 17 look at those things and really working on the
- 18 disseminating that. Our district as we mentioned before
- 19 did receive the pathways grant from CDE both for two
- 20 particular schools that are in turnaround and for our
- 21 district. And so, we're going to examine that over the
- 22 next few months, and we will be coming back to the Board by
- 23 the end of this year I believe with more information in
- 24 regard to our districts accountability path. But I suspect



- 1 that innovation zone will play a large part in terms of our
- 2 district accountability pathway.
- 3 MS. RANKIN: What are examples of the
- 4 waivers that you believe will significantly help the
- 5 schools to improve? Why do you choose those?
- 6 MS. SANCHEZ: I think there are -- there are
- 7 various waivers and I'll -- I'll speak to a couple and then
- 8 Karen, if you have some examples. I think in the past,
- 9 sometimes we just do things because that's the way that
- 10 we've always done things. And so, let me give you an
- 11 example that wasn't highlighted in here. Our model
- 12 evaluation system that we're using in terms of measures of
- 13 student learning and even the use of the school performance
- 14 framework. And so, sometimes we set up practices that when
- 15 you go to a Turnaround school and you're only using student
- 16 achievement data in this -- in terms of the school
- 17 performance framework, you're not getting any points on
- 18 there and that's not a good way to attract -- to attract
- 19 teachers to -- to our building.
- 20 And so, we're looking at, how could we
- 21 utilize that more effectively in terms of using the growth
- 22 model that are -- that the State Department will come out
- 23 with in terms of our school performance framework. And so,
- 24 just looking at some of those practices where we -- a
- 25 barrier still remains for a district is attracting and



- 1 retaining those highly qualified teachers in our highest
- 2 need schools. So those waivers, I think are important
- 3 waivers for our districts.
- 4 MS. RANKIN: Which one specific?
- 5 MS. SANCHEZ: In terms of the compensation
- 6 pay, in terms of the -- the evaluation. The -- the two
- 7 specific ones that I highlighted in the presentation. Do
- 8 you have any other?
- 9 MS. MACALUSO: They are in particular, if
- 10 you -- if you would ask the -- the teachers what they felt
- 11 was most effective, I believe that they would definitely
- 12 say the way that we have been able to structure our day and
- 13 structure our calendar year. In particular, our innovation
- 14 schools have consistent daily professional learning
- 15 communities where teachers meet every single day, they plan
- 16 together, they develop strategies, they look at data.
- 17 Those particular elements are not in place in our regular
- 18 district schools on a daily basis consistently. And so,
- 19 every teacher has the opportunity to participate in those.
- 20 And in addition to that, the additional professional
- 21 development that occurs prior to the beginning of the
- 22 school year is invaluable. I believe that those are
- 23 probably the two biggest ones that our teachers would say
- 24 have really helped push forward the implementation of our
- 25 innovation plan.



- 1 MS. RANKIN: Do -- do the three schools that
- 2 are already part of the innovation plan have that in place?
- MS. MACALUSO: Yes.
- 4 MS. RANKIN: And the three new ones are
- 5 going to be adapting that than the rest of the district
- 6 it's optional but they can join in with that.
- 7 MS. MACALUSO: We are really hoping that
- 8 what we have put forward and what we are showing to be
- 9 successful is -- those are the strategies we wanna take out
- 10 into our district. So we are really looking out at our six
- 11 schools, piloting different programs, strategies,
- 12 techniques, so that we can take those that are successful
- 13 out into the other district schools and we've actually
- 14 begun that process this year.
- MS. RANKIN: Thank you. And -- and do we --
- 16 how do we know if we have the right leaders in those
- 17 schools?
- MS. MACALUSO: As -- as you know, leadership
- 19 is very important. In our district, we have identified a
- 20 very specific structure in -- in place now in terms of
- 21 Executive Director of elementary and secondary and I think
- 22 Karen's role is -- is key to that. So we really have that
- 23 performance, we -- we have just implemented that
- 24 performance management model in terms of ensuring that when
- 25 we're doing site visits, that we are engaging in a coaching



- 1 model and that we are monitoring schools. And so, it's
- 2 really about working with -- with the leaders to ensure
- 3 that we do have the right leader there. Because there are
- 4 certain Turnaround leadership competencies that we know are
- 5 important if we're going to advance the work at particular
- 6 schools.
- 7 MS. RANKIN: Thank you so much for stepping
- 8 up to be the superintendent. And thank you for bringing
- 9 leadership to that community. Appreciate that. That --
- 10 that would be the end of my question.
- 11 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you Ms. Rankin, Dr.
- 12 Flores.
- 13 MS. FLORES: Yes. I remember that you
- 14 mentioned some conditions of learning that you've
- 15 instituted and -- and that you feel will bring up kids
- 16 achievement. I remember a -- a book by Brunner called
- 17 Conditions of Learning, which was a textbook I guess some
- 18 years ago. People should read it again. What do you say
- 19 would be other conditions of learning? You mentioned the -
- 20 the -- changing the school times or getting those
- 21 together for all those schools. What are some other
- 22 conditions of learning that would be, I -- I guess, would
- 23 be advantageous to -- for Pueblo -- for Pueblo kids?
- MS. MACALUSO: Sure. I think that it's
- 25 really about -- one thing, I think, is crucial is that we



- 1 examine our core beliefs and that we come from a place of
- 2 leadership in which we are really secure about what our
- 3 core beliefs in -- and how we believe, all -- all kids can
- 4 learn, that we execute a -- a focus on a very particular
- 5 vision and mission in terms of advancing the work and the -
- 6 -
- 7 MS. FLORES: And what are -- what are those
- 8 visions in there? What are they?
- 9 MS. MACALUSO: Well, I think that, I -- I
- 10 believe that all kids can learn. And so, we don't blame
- 11 kids for the zip code that they -- that they come with,
- 12 that are -- that we need to structure our environments to
- 13 be student centered and that we engage in a positive
- 14 culture.
- MS. FLORES: Okay.
- MS. MACALUSO: And so, we're there to
- 17 advance -- advance the education of -- of all kids. And
- 18 so, I think, if we are secure in what those core beliefs
- 19 are and our beliefs, then -- then I think that's our litmus
- 20 test and we -- we go back and check that with all because
- 21 sometimes our policies and some of our actions and some of
- 22 the things that we do, sometimes don't -- don't align. And
- 23 if we -- and if we're clear about that, we can go back and
- 24 check.



- 1 MS. FLORES: Okay. You also have a large
- 2 number of second language learners. What -- is there kind
- 3 of a -- a special strategy that you deal with in teaching
- 4 English as a second language? Could you tell us a little
- 5 bit about that?
- 6 MS. MACALUSO: Sure. We have about 13
- 7 percent of our population that I believe is English
- 8 language learners, which is -- which is surprisingly not
- 9 very high for --
- MS. FLORES: For?
- MS. MACALUSO: -- for -- for our -- our
- 12 population of -- of Pueblo that you would suspect, I guess.
- 13 But, I think it's really about providing them, first of
- 14 all, with quality tier one instruction, right? That-that
- 15 all kids would receive. And then we do ensure that we have
- 16 the added supports of highly qualified and trained
- 17 educators that are endorsed in those -- those strategies.
- 18 We do use the PSYOP model for those effective teaching
- 19 techniques.
- MS. FLORES: Okay. So you're not having a
- 21 problem retaining or trying to recruit these teachers, ESL
- 22 teachers?
- MS. MACALUSO: Actually I think -- I think
- 24 we're -- we're down by one right now for this school year.
- 25 But it's -- it's hard to fill area definitely. I think --



- 1 I think we would agree with the rest of the state on that
- 2 one.
- 3 MS. FLORES: Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes. Doctor -- excuse me,
- 5 Dr. Scheffel.
- 6 MS. SCHEFFEL: Thank you. Thanks for
- 7 putting together this plan and for all the thought that
- 8 goes into it and all the individually we have to talk --
- 9 talk to and just all the feedback that really goes into
- 10 something like this. Thank you for the presentation. I
- 11 have a question regarding root cause. So as you look
- 12 across the district and you think about where you are and
- 13 where you want to be, then you anchor that with what do you
- 14 think the real underlying causes for the achievement issues
- 15 are, how do they link to some of the things I picked up on
- 16 in your plan? For example, you say that you're gonna do
- 17 great professional development, professional development is
- 18 essential if it's good. If it's kind of more of the same,
- 19 it may not be beneficial. Your partnership with Relay
- 20 Graduate School, what will they do for you that that isn't
- 21 occurring right now? Data driven instruction, essential
- 22 for schools to get -- teachers to get great data especially
- 23 formative data.
- 24 But then when I look at the math and reading
- 25 inventory, I don't know how good they are. So how detailed



- 1 is the information and how will it be used? How is it
- 2 disseminated? And then coaching. Coaching has been one of
- 3 the most highest effect sizes that there is. If you can do
- 4 embedded coaching with great coaches but again, the devil's
- 5 in the details. You know how often all the coaching be?
- 6 Is it embedded in instruction? How are your coaches
- 7 chosen? How are they trained? All those details. Your
- 8 partnership with the achievement network. How will that
- 9 group help you? How is that different than what you're
- 10 using now? You wanna opt out of the district scope and
- 11 sequence, why is that? What will it be replaced by? How
- 12 do you -- how do you -- how are you thinking about the
- 13 scope and sequence that you replace it with?
- 14 And then finally, I just noticed this, the
- 15 Teach like a Champion taxonomy. You know, we know Bloom
- 16 and Web and others lots of learning taxonomies. Why will
- 17 this replacement be a great leverage point for change? So
- 18 I've listed a bunch of details just because I -- I you know
- 19 we've read your plan and obviously the goal is to ensure
- 20 that what you're putting in place can really work for the
- 21 students in Pueblo. Can you kind of link those details to
- 22 root causes and what's the likelihood of really making a
- 23 big difference in student achievement in your district?
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure. So was that just
- 25 one question, Dr. Scheffel?



practice?

25

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1
                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM:
                                     That was -- that was one
2
    of her shorter questions?
                   MS. SCHEFFEL: Well, just because you put a
3
    lot of time into the plan --
4
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.
5
6
                   MS. SCHEFFEL: I'm just pulling details --
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:
                                        Sure.
7
                   MS. SCHEFFEL: -- that you've presented. My
8
9
    question is, how does that sum together to really drill
    down to leverage points that are linked to root causes?
10
11
    How do you know that's going to matter?
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.
                                               I think one of
12
13
    the root causes is that we have -- we have a lack of
    quality instruction. I think that's one of the root
14
    causes. And so, I think if we're looking at that as a root
15
    cause, our teachers are then -- are one of the most -- they
16
    are the number one factor of student achievement and we
17
    value our teachers. And so, if you see that in terms of
18
19
    our theory of action, there are lots of things that are
20
    centered around the quality of instruction and the -- and
21
    the techniques that teachers will use to really, you know,
    as part of their instructions. So many, many of the items
22
23
    are centered around quality instruction in terms of
24
    professional development, and how do we advance that
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- 1 And so, you'll see the data driven
- 2 instruction model and so you'll see the achievement network
- 3 and it's really about, we know that at the end of the day,
- 4 it's really about what teachers do in the classroom. We
- 5 value that so much. And so, it's -- it's about
- 6 teachers looking at the data and saying, "Okay. How does
- 7 this -- what are the implications for instruction based on
- 8 this? What is the reteach plan?" And so forth.
- 9 And so, we feel like it's really not about
- 10 this program or that program, it's really about those
- 11 principles and those practices that make a difference for
- 12 kids everyday because it's about the quality of
- 13 instruction. And so, that's one of the -- the -- the
- 14 biggest root causes. I think that if you look at some of
- 15 the school reports, when we first entered into turn around
- 16 in our districts, it -- it wasn't -- it wasn't a pretty
- 17 report. And so -- and it was based on some of those
- 18 things. Also, I think one of the other root causes is not
- 19 having a positive culture in some of our schools. And so,
- 20 Karen talked extensively about that. We're very proud that
- 21 we have a positive culture now where kids feel valued, that
- 22 teachers place an emphasis.
- 23 Again, it goes -- again, our teachers are so
- 24 valuable because they're the ones that are making those
- 25 connections, they're the ones that are making the



- 1 relationship with kids. Obviously, for the first time in
- 2 our district, we implemented a -- a standards based grading
- 3 and that was really around being student centered, right?
- 4 Providing kids hope in -- in terms of the -- the
- 5 instruction that they're receiving. So I think we have
- 6 embedded lots of those things, that whole list that you
- 7 talked about and it's really about a concerted effort and a
- 8 focus on improving the quality of instruction. Because at
- 9 the end of the day, I think that's what matters.
- 10 MS. SCHEFFEL: That's true. Can I ask to
- 11 follow up?
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Please.
- 13 MS. SCHEFFEL: So if we take that one issue,
- 14 quality instruction and maybe the achievement network is a
- 15 good linkage there. How will that partnership really
- 16 enhance quality instruction? If it's possible to just get
- 17 a little more detail on it.
- UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.
- 19 MS. SCHEFFEL: When you think of what goes
- 20 on in classrooms, it's about the materials that teachers
- 21 have. It's the understanding of their content area that
- 22 they bring. It's their understanding of great pedagogy.
- 23 How do you communicate and how do you engage students in
- 24 the process of where it meets all those pieces as to great
- 25 quality instruction. You're saying it's not going on



- 1 consistently. So you've partnered let's say with the
- 2 Achievement Network, how will they help you get there?
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So the Achievement work
- 4 -- the Achievement Network, and Karen if you want to speak
- 5 to this, you can surely jump in. But the Achievement
- 6 Network has provided us with a formative -- formative
- 7 assessments, end term assessments that we can gauge our --
- 8 our student achievement levels on a -- on a national level.
- 9 And then, we can go in there. It's really about the
- 10 process of teaching our teachers how to engage in a data
- 11 analysis process. And so, looking at the data in terms of
- 12 what are the implications for instruction? So it's really
- 13 about where did -- where did kids do well? Where are the
- 14 gaps and why? And it's an examination of practice. And
- 15 so, really it's -- it's about diving deep into the
- 16 standards, do we really have the knowledge regarding what
- 17 the standards mean? Do we really -- are we teaching
- 18 standards to the level of rigor that we need to.
- 19 If our students are seeing rigor on the
- 20 assessment and that's the -- and that's the most rigorous
- 21 thing that they've seen, then our -- our instruction isn't
- 22 to the level of rigor that we need. So, it's -- it's the
- 23 whole teaching and learning cycle, which, as you know, is -
- 24 is -- is very complex. But it's really about examining
- 25 those practices and really having a laser like focus around



- 1 what can we change in our practice to ensure that our kids
- 2 are learning. Sometimes, it's not about I present the data
- 3 but it's, did -- did kids demonstrate the mastery? Did
- 4 kids demonstrate the knowledge in terms of what the
- 5 standards that we're expecting. And so, I think, there is
- 6 -- it's -- it's, you know, it's a very detailed process but
- 7 it's really about providing that professional development
- 8 to our teachers so that they are able to engage effectively
- 9 and efficiently with that process.
- MS. SCHEFFEL: So as -- may I ask follow up?
- 11 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes, please.
- 12 MS. SCHEFFEL: So when you look at the Math,
- 13 I think I saw four assessments that you are using
- 14 informatively, let's say the Math and the Reading
- 15 Inventory. As you look at that and it might not be a
- 16 question for you, maybe it's better for Karen, but as you
- 17 look at those assessments, do you think they'll give your
- 18 teachers the kind of detail they need to drive instruction
- 19 day by day. I mean, obviously it depends on how good they
- 20 are. I don't know the -- the exact instrument you're using
- 21 but I -- I know it's been in lots of classrooms where the
- 22 talk of data is good but when you look at the instrument
- 23 that's being used, sometimes it's not detailed enough to
- 24 really give a teacher guidance.



- 1 MS. KAREN: And I -- I believe that our
- 2 teachers would probably agree many times, what the
- 3 Achievement Network has allowed us to do is it's really
- 4 building that capacity within our teachers to identify what
- 5 good questions look like and what good formative
- 6 assessments look like. And it's able empowering them to
- 7 work collaboratively so that we're not relying on an
- 8 instrument to help us drive our instruction, we're really
- 9 relying on the capacity that the teachers have to create
- 10 those assessments and to move forward. Because we want
- 11 them to see what that looks like and empower them to be
- 12 able to create those on their own. And that's really what
- 13 this collaborative work is allowing us to do.
- 14 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes. Please continue.
- 15 MS. SCHEFFEL: So then when you link the
- 16 question, so I think what you're saying is if the teachers
- 17 are asking the right questions based on what students are
- 18 learning or not, then it can drive instructional practices.
- 19 So does that link back to that Teach like a Champion
- 20 taxonomy then because I'm not familiar with that as much as
- 21 I am with the other two?
- 22 MS. KAREN: So the Teach like a Champion, it
- 23 really isn't so much an assessment, it really isn't
- 24 allowing teachers to have strategies to use in the
- 25 classroom to have good instructional foundations, right?



- 1 And so, it's really about engaging our -- our teachers,
- 2 engaging our students, so that we have 100 percent
- 3 engagement. And what does engagement mean? So it's really
- 4 teaching them those best strategies on how to teach and how
- 5 to lay that foundation so that you have a good climate and
- 6 culture in the classroom.
- 7 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay. Thank you. Further
- 8 -- Yes, Ms. Rankin?
- 9 MS. RANKIN: Are we using you the same --
- 10 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: No, no, you know, I'm
- 11 sorry. My fault. Go ahead then.
- 12 MS. RANKIN: Are we using the same teachers
- 13 that we have all along pr are we getting some new hires or
- 14 are we expecting the same teachers to use the same things
- 15 that may not have worked in the last five years? That --
- 16 that's really the bottom line here. This -- this is my
- 17 concern. Are these students going to benefit from the
- 18 newness of whatever the teachers are going to teach or are
- 19 we going to have new teachers teaching?
- 20 MS. ANTHES: Well, we have a little bit of
- 21 both. So we do have teachers that have been in our
- 22 district for many years. And I think the old saying you
- 23 can't teach an old dog new tricks, that is not true. So
- 24 you certainly can teach new tricks to folks, and our people
- 25 are very exuberant about learning these new strategies.



- 1 Some of my master, what we would call our master teachers,
- 2 are the ones that have been the most excited about learning
- 3 these new strategies and the implementation work that we've
- 4 been doing. In addition to that we do have many new
- 5 teachers. We still, in our district, in our town we are
- 6 just like across the nation, we are still trying to get
- 7 quality teachers to come to our area. It's not easy to get
- 8 quality teachers to come to an area such as Pueblo, but we
- 9 have really gone out and tried to recruit these folks to
- 10 come in. We also have a partnership with Teach for
- 11 America, so we do get many of these young folks coming in
- 12 who are bringing their knowledge and their worldly
- 13 experience from other places. And I think it's been a very
- 14 good partnership. Ms. Schroeder, anything to add?
- 15 MS. SCHROEDER: I would just say that it
- 16 really is a differentiated approach. And so it's really
- 17 about taking teachers from where they currently are, and
- 18 engaging in that coaching process, and really identifying
- 19 those areas of support that they might need.
- MS. ANTHES: Well and I want to go back to
- 21 the (inaudible). I think that's- that's a big issue,
- 22 because teachers do have the opportunity to say" I don't
- 23 think this is where I want to be. " And allowing them the
- 24 honor to move somewhere else. I'm not saying you're going
- 25 to learn.



- 1 MS. EMM: So I've had this happen? With
- 2 this new innovation have you had some teachers say" I just
- 3 do not want."?
- 4 MS. ANTHES: Yes-yes. And I believe that
- 5 we have like Roncalli, I mean, which is now three years,
- 6 and they were total restart. So you know, everyone had to
- 7 reapply to come back in, and we have some teachers who
- 8 chose not to come back in.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Dr. Schroeder?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Are you gonna have a restart
- 11 for these other three schools?
- 12 MS. ANTHES: No, we did not engage in a
- 13 restart. We did an opt out process and so-
- MS. SCHROEDER: Same -- same difference,
- 15 right?
- MS. ANTHES: No.
- MS. SCHROEDER: No?
- MS. ANTHES: Actually, most of our
- 19 elementary schools, I think we had a very limited number of
- 20 people who said, you know, this-this isn't for me, or
- 21 maybe I'm retiring in a year, or what have you. But these
- 22 -- these -- these conditions that we're setting forth in
- 23 terms of what it will involve, in terms of the coaching
- 24 and- and the various pieces the calendar, the- the time so
- 25 forth, I'm not interested in signing on, and so we did at



- 1 the start of this school year, we did offer an opt out
- 2 process.
- 3 MS. SCHROEDER: I'm interested in knowing
- 4 whether the new elementary schools feed into these three
- 5 middle schools. Where- where's the structure for a
- 6 youngster in this innovation? Is this physically set of
- 7 schools that are in zone geographically, so that kids move?
- 8 MS. ANTHES: So it's not necessarily a very
- 9 defined feeder- feeder pattern, so they're kind of situated
- 10 in various locations geographically around- around the
- 11 city. And so, they're not really structured in terms of,
- 12 "This part of the city, we will have this zone." It's
- 13 really a collection of six schools that have like
- 14 conditions, and they're really structured around that, not
- 15 necessarily into many of them do feed into a pattern also,
- 16 but it's not a true aligned feeder pattern, so to speak, if
- 17 that makes sense.
- 18 MS. ANTHES: Which we see in some -- some
- 19 zones where you will have --
- 20 MS. SCHROEDER: Right. Like in the
- 21 northwest corner- right, and the attendance, and that's not
- 22 the case for our -- our town.
- MS. EMM: Which provides the opportunity to
- 24 expand in a very different way --
- MS. SCHROEDER: Right.



- 1 MS. EMM: -depending on what the dissipation
- 2 is. Do you have a district curriculum that all teachers
- 3 follow? I'm trying to follow the Achievement Network and
- 4 the monitoring that you're going to have, and how that
- 5 monitoring school it's going to advance teaching, and- and
- 6 learning both for teachers and kids, but is that based on
- 7 top of the district curriculum or is every school developed
- 8 their own?
- 9 MS. ANTHES: Sure. So we do have a district
- 10 curriculum, and we have a scope and sequence that that our
- 11 schools do follow. We have a couple of schools in the
- 12 Innovation Zone that have adopted different curriculum
- 13 materials. However, we still have the district curriculum.
- 14 As far as Achievement Network, we did do a correlation to
- 15 see where our standards fell within the Achievement Network
- 16 as well. Achievement Network helped us with that, and what
- 17 has happened is we are following the district curriculum.
- 18 However, those pieces, those standards that might be
- 19 covered in a different- in a different area within the
- 20 Achievement Network, we interweave those within ours. We
- 21 have been given, we're seeking the flexibility to be able
- 22 to move some of those pieces around so that the alignment
- 23 is a lot stronger, so that when we are looking at our
- 24 Achievement Network data and our analysis of that, it is



- 1 more closely aligned with our district curriculum or the
- 2 curriculum that the- the schools will be using.
- 3 MS. SCHROEDER: Okay. So finally, you've
- 4 talked a lot about your Teacher Professional Development
- 5 opportunities. What are the professional opportunities-
- 6 professional development opportunities for your leadership?
- 7 Do you have a leadership program in the district? Do they
- 8 have some options outside that they could participate in?
- 9 MS. EMM: So currently, we're working on- on
- 10 developing a leadership program within our district.
- MS. SCHROEDER: Okay.
- 12 MS. EMM: Many of our administrators in our
- 13 Innovation Zone schools have had the privilege of- of
- 14 attending the Relay Graduate School of Education, and so I
- 15 don't know if you're familiar with that particular program.
- MS. SCHROEDER: Somewhat, yes.
- 17 MS. EMM: Okay. And so, that really
- 18 provides a lot of professional development that aligns to
- 19 some of the things that we're doing in terms of the
- 20 observation feedback, the data-driven instructional model
- 21 and so forth.
- MS. SCHROEDER: Will they be continuing
- 23 that, or is that a kind of finite period of time?
- MS. EMM: So some of our principals have
- 25 completed that program, and so we are doing, trying to do a



- 1 second layer of support. So like there's assistant
- 2 principals, so that we have -- we're really structuring our
- 3 assistant principals to serve in the role of instructional
- 4 leader as opposed to the traditional role that we would
- 5 think of in terms of our assistant principals. So we are
- 6 providing a second and third layer of Relay Graduate
- 7 training to -- to those administrators in some -- in some
- 8 sites.
- 9 MS. SCHROEDER: Thank you.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Further questions from the
- 11 Board?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Jane.
- 13 MR. ASP: Thank you. Jane, I'm sorry. Yes,
- 14 Ms. Goff?
- 15 MS. GOFF: Thank you. What are your hopes
- 16 for impact on high schools who are not yet into the
- 17 innovation plan in the track? Or, do you have some signs
- 18 already about how the program, so far the middle schools
- 19 has impacted your high school outcomes and hopes about
- 20 things? And then, maybe attached to that is how- how have
- 21 some external partnerships or collaborative efforts come
- 22 about? If they have yet. I'm thinking businesses or
- 23 opportunities for apprenticeships, a different kind of
- 24 touch on career and tech aid opportunities, hands-on job
- 25 building, anything like that.



- 1 MS. EMM: Sure. I'll talk a little bit
- 2 about our -- our high schools and all that Karen talked
- 3 about the external partnerships that -- that -- that have
- 4 come as a result. I -- I was the former principal of
- 5 Risley International, and so East -- I'm the director of
- 6 the feeder pattern into East High School, which is an
- 7 international baccalaureate program, and so we have been
- 8 able to experience that successful partnership, and so they
- 9 are also an avid school, and so Risley was an avid school,
- 10 and so we're already seeing the results of the trickle
- 11 effect, and so we'll have the high school principal call
- 12 and say it is amazing that the level of, you know, even the
- 13 conversation and- and what kids are used to in terms of the
- 14 -- the Middle Years Program framework as they move into the
- 15 high school. And so clearly where, Karen also did the same
- 16 thing at Pueblo Academy of Arts in terms of the pre-
- 17 advanced placement and -- and having a feeder pattern into
- 18 -- into our high school, so that certainly has helped. I
- 19 know that the high school principals are expressing
- 20 positive things to us in -- in terms of their seeing,
- 21 they're finally seeing the change, and they're reaping the
- 22 rewards of that.
- MS. ANTHES: Absolutely. As the former
- 24 principal at Pueblo Academy of Arts, we have really honed
- 25 in on our community in getting our community involved. So



- 1 we have probably approximately 300 consistent mentors that
- 2 go through our system, that come and meet with students on
- 3 a weekly basis. So it's -- it's enormous. We have been in
- 4 a partnership with the United Way Mentors for about three
- 5 years now, and then we initiated with the Real (inaudible)
- 6 Association, what we refer to as Agents in Action, which is
- 7 another mentoring group that takes our students out into
- 8 the community into the real workforce. So these are middle
- 9 school students who are out in the workforce on a weekly
- 10 basis, so it's actually quite empowering for our students.
- 11 And then, another key component is what we
- 12 feel has sparked into what is, the Freshmen Success
- 13 Program, is our middle school. It's a mandatory program
- 14 for our middle school students, which is a leadership
- 15 program for all seventh and eighth grade students, which
- 16 our students are now taking into the high school. And so,
- 17 we see in our high schools is they're speeding up just to
- 18 keep up with the kids that are coming in. And so, they've
- 19 really started to establish some new protocols, and- and I
- 20 think it's an awakening that these students are coming in
- 21 at a higher level. Our- our high schools have now
- 22 established a pre-advanced placement program, all of them,
- 23 in addition to the advanced placement program they already
- 24 had. And so, those are some of the key components that we
- 25 see are already trickling into the high school.



25

1 MS. GOFF: Thank you. 2 MR. ASP: Yes, go ahead. MS. EMM: I'd like to make a motion to 3 approve Pueblo City 60 as a district of innovation, by 4 proving their Innovation Zone application pursuant to 5 6 section 22-32-25-107 380. On behalf of its innovations zones schools, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, Irving 7 Elementary, Ungouwa Elementary School, Pueblo Academy of 8 Arts, Risley International Academy of Innovation, and 9 Roncalli STEM Academy. 10 11 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: (Inaudible) motion, is 12 your second? 13 MS. EMM: I second it. MR. ASP: Okay. Dr. Flores? Okay, it's 14 15 been moved in seconded. Thank you for the candid assessment of the cause, and I hope this has the right 16 17 effect for you. Thank you. 18 MS. EMM: 19 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Would you please call the 20 roll, Ms. Burdsall? 21 MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Flores? 22 MS. FLORES: Am. 23 MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Goff? 24 MS. GOFF: Aye.

MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Mazanec?



1 MS. MAZANEC: Aye. 2 MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Rankin? 3 MS. RANKIN: Mrs. Macaluso, I hope you keep in touch with me. I hope all of you do. You have quite a 4 challenge ahead of you, and I want to be a part of 5 6 understanding how this is going. This is a very serious-7 serious situation. We have to keep one thing in mind, it's for the students, that's where we're working for. I'll 8 9 give it a yes. MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Scheffel? 10 11 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes. MS. SCHROEDER: Board Member Schroeder? 12 13 MS. BURDSALL: Aye. MS. SCHROEDER: Chairman Durham? 14 MR.ASP: Yes. The motions adopted, and the 15 16 vote is seven to nothing. Thank you very much for your 17 attendance. And while the name plates are being changed to protect the innocent, we will take a five-minute recess. 18 19 When we return, we'll have the next item on the agenda for 20 Burlington RE-6J. 21 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: I think we'll go ahead and come to order. The next item is the consideration of 22 23 Burlington RE-6J School District's Innovation Zone application requests. We'll skip the motions for the 24



- 1 present time. Commissioner, if you would introduce those
- 2 present?
- MS. ANTHES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 4 Welcome to Burlington, and thanks for driving down. I'm
- 5 going to turn this over to Tom Satterley, Superintendent.
- 6 And Tom, I'll let you introduce your esteemed panel.
- 7 MR. SATTERLEY: Sure. Thank you.
- 8 MS. ANTHES: Thank you.
- 9 MR. SATTERLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
- 10 Anthes, and Chairman Durham, and Members of the Board of
- 11 Education. Introducing, who are sitting to my left, I
- 12 would like to start first with our Master Teacher,
- 13 kindergarten teacher of many years, Ms. Louanne Mitch, our
- 14 elementary principal for four years, five years, Ms. Kenny
- 15 Davis, Board Member, parent, Mr. Mark Kilman, and
- 16 Consultant in our process, Mr. Kim Farmer.
- 17 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay, please proceed.
- 18 MR. SATTERLEY: Starting now, I'd like to
- 19 explain who we are as Burlington and -- and some of the
- 20 ideas of what we believe. Sorry. Burlington's a small
- 21 rural town found in the high plains of Eastern Colorado,
- 22 where the last stop on ice 70 as you head east into Kansas.
- 23 So approximately 162 miles from where we sit. To
- 24 understand the School District One, we'd first have to
- 25 understand the community as the district, and students are



- 1 the heart of our community. You will find that our
- 2 community embodies the term rural life. Agriculture
- 3 continues to play an important role in our community's
- 4 economy, and all are affected by agriculture in one way or
- 5 another. Burlington is a place where we celebrate each
- 6 other's accomplishments, and rallied together when one
- 7 faces a challenge.
- 8 This foundational thread of support runs
- 9 deep in our community and -- and its schools. The
- 10 Burlington School District employs 52 teachers. Our
- 11 district student population is approximately 778 students,
- 12 that's Pre-K12, with 55 percent being of white, 45 percent
- 13 being minority, 41 percent of our students are of a
- 14 Hispanic background. Approximately, 63 percent of our
- 15 students are eligible for free and reduced lunches, which
- 16 is 21 percent higher than the State average of 42 percent.
- 17 Twenty-one percent of our students come from a home where
- 18 English is not the primary Spoken language. Our graduation
- 19 rate is 90 percent, which is well above the State's
- 20 average, and with a dropout rate of one percent, we are
- 21 well below the State's average. So why are we pursuing the
- 22 innovation status?
- 23 Each school year, the district schools along
- 24 with the district itself, does a thorough and thoughtful
- 25 review of students achievements, accomplishments, and



- 1 challenges faced. We also review where the district and
- 2 the school's resources are spent. We look, not just at the
- 3 budget, but also time and energy of staff and students. We
- 4 have concluded that while the districts budget has been
- 5 declining due to Federal and State reductions, our
- 6 expenditures and time and energy has increased. With the
- 7 continued intrusion of Federal and State required unfunded
- 8 mandates, not only has our budget decreased, but our time
- 9 and energy has increased to a point, that is -- that it is
- 10 negatively impacting our students' learning due to constant
- 11 turnover in teaching staff.
- 12 Remembering that the district employs 52
- 13 professional teachers, of the 52, 30 are new to the
- 14 district within the past three years. That's 58 percent of
- 15 our teaching staff that are new to Burlington. Of the 30
- 16 teachers new to the Burlington School District, 22 are new
- 17 to the teaching profession. Forty two percent of our
- 18 teaching staff are new to the teaching profession. This
- 19 presents some unique challenges for our district. One of
- 20 the greatest challenges is just getting teachers hired,
- 21 since we have so few applicants. You might have heard
- 22 science and math are hard to fill positions. I would state
- 23 any teaching position in Burlington is hard to fill. Many
- 24 times we are looking outside of the state.



- 1 This is the first time that I can recall
- 2 Burlington, we have gone outside of the country to fill
- 3 teaching positions. Structuring additional opportunities
- 4 for teachers to become proficient in all curriculum
- 5 resources is a challenge. Expanding our teaching staff to
- 6 have more teacher leaders is challenging because they have
- 7 little leadership experience and are just trying to learn
- 8 about the curriculum and the school systems. Working with
- 9 new teachers as they learn grade level standards, and one
- 10 of the most important, because this affects our
- 11 professional development and our impact teams, and that's
- 12 what we're speaking about.
- 13 With our staff turnover and major content
- 14 areas, it makes it diff -- it makes it difficult for impact
- 15 teams, our professional learning communities to continually
- 16 move forward with implementing school-wide goals,
- 17 curriculum, programs and initiatives. Veteran teachers
- 18 find themselves taking a step back to get new staff up to
- 19 speed and caught up. So the collaborative process and the
- 20 stakeholders that have been engaged through the district
- 21 Accountability Committee, our building leadership teams,
- 22 our Board of Education, we have been engaged in this
- 23 process for over two years. Each of the individual groups
- 24 that I've mentioned continue to meet and continue to meet
- 25 to this day.



- 1 We would meet and our discussion was focused
- 2 on our students and their learning. It was decided to
- 3 bring in an outside facilitator to help organize our work
- 4 and narrow our focus within this process. So on two
- 5 occasions, April 15th, of 2015, and again on February 4th,
- 6 of 2016, the whole planning team, including Board Members,
- 7 parents, teachers, and administrators, met to explore how
- 8 our district could restore an emphasis on students and
- 9 local priorities, while de-emphasizing the time we spend on
- 10 compliance. The team began to identify challenges we face
- 11 as a district and we agreed that there are basic problems
- 12 with accountability and assessment in Colorado.
- 13 We agreed that Colorado's constitution
- 14 assigns educational leadership to the local school Boards.
- 15 Combined Federal and State expectations are overbearing.
- 16 Our districts experience with oversight is an external
- 17 system. The current oversight system is broken along
- 18 technical and social lines. The district invests enormous
- 19 amounts of time and energy in implementing State and
- 20 Federal directives. Some of these directives are good and
- 21 necessary such as caring for students with special needs
- 22 and making our students make meaningful progress towards
- 23 graduation. Other expectations are harder to justify, such
- 24 as misplaced allegiance to a national assessment.



Each year, the CDE issues new expectations 1 2 and clarifications. Each new round of directives requires training and planning to implement correctly. This annual 3 cycle drains our educators, our support staff, and most 4 important, our students, a valuable time for collaboration, 5 6 improvement, and instructional time. For years, we have diligently worked to do what the government has said is the 7 right thing, but what our stakeholders are telling us, what 8 might be perceived as the right thing for all is not 9 necessarily the right thing for Burlington, its students, 10 and its parents. During our individual meetings and the 11 two large group meetings, we identified student success as 12 13 our top priority for innovation. This focus led to a series of discussions 14 about what is currently distracting us from our students 15 and how we always want to put students at the center of our 16 17 planning and our leadership. We agree that we want to lead from a narrow focused on test performance in a few 18 subjects, to focus on the whole child, focus on overall 19 20 student growth, and students being prepared to graduate when they leave the district. From re-administering -- re-21 administering tests that demotivates students but focused 22 assessment, where kids are excited to come to school each 23 24 morning, and limited interruptions to meaningful education.



1 From observing -- obsessing about State and 2 Federal compliance, to accountability, to community first, and to local priorities. From my district being a brief 3 stop in a teacher's career, to retaining quality staff, 4 through initiatives and innovation. Our entire district 5 6 accountability committee, our entire administration, and 7 96 percent of our returning staff, agreed with the accompanying waivers and the zone of innovation. So the 8 waivers we are seeking with the strain on the district's 9 budget and the strain of time and energy on the district 10 staff and the constant turnover in teaching staff, the 11 district is seeking waiver relief in four areas: Teacher 12 13 Licensure; we are proposing to hire both licensed and nonlicensed professionals to instruct, direct, and supervise 14 instructional programs in our schools. Currently, all 15 employees are licensed or are seeking alternative 16 17 licensing. We would only use the waiver of licensure in 18 19 certain occasions where we find an exceptional or uniquely qualified individual, such as someone known within the 20 community with specific expertise, who is willing to teach, 21 but unwilling to spend the additional time to complete the 22 23 alternative certification process. Teacher Employment and 24 Dismissal; the district seeks to have the ability to extend teaching contracts that are of a one year or a multi-year 25



- 1 status. When a contract term has ended, the district would
- 2 have two options; to renew a multi-year contract, to renew
- 3 a contract, as a one time, one year probationary status or
- 4 to not renew the contract for any reason deemed sufficient.
- 5 Teacher Evaluation; the district proposes to
- 6 conduct annual evaluations for teachers who are on a one
- 7 year contract each year, but to conduct evaluations of
- 8 teachers on a multi-year contract during the last year of
- 9 their multi-year contract. The district would continue to
- 10 use the State's model encompassing the six quality
- 11 standards. Each of the first five standards would rate 10
- 12 percent.
- 13 With quality standard number 6, the
- 14 achievement in growth being at 50 percent in following
- 15 year. We're not asking to get out of the model, we're just
- 16 asking, we have such a turnover rate. Let us spend time
- 17 with those new teachers. Our master teachers, as they go
- 18 through the evaluation system, are still turning out as
- 19 master teachers. Professional development is never
- 20 stopped, it is a continuing process in Burlington through
- 21 our impact teams and our collaboration. So we're just
- 22 asking for, that our master teachers instruct and let us
- 23 spend some more time with our -- our new teachers.
- 24 And fourth, School Readiness Assessment; the
- 25 district proposes to assess students in preschool with a



- 1 state approved assessment, but not re-administering the
- 2 state approved assessment to students in kindergarten,
- 3 unless a student's parents or teacher determine such
- 4 additional testing is necessary. We believe with the
- 5 approval of the four waivers in the zone of innovation, the
- 6 district can better expand its resources, budget, time, and
- 7 energy instructing our students and developing master
- 8 teachers. With that, I would leave it to Mr. Hillman to
- 9 continue and then Mrs. Davis.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Senator Hillman.
- 11 MR. HILLMAN: Thank you Mr. Chairman,
- 12 Commissioner and Board Members. My name is Mark Hillman.
- 13 I am a Member of the RE-6J Board of Education for the last
- 14 three years. A lifelong resident of Burlington and a
- 15 product of the Burlington school system and a parent of two
- 16 little boys, a kindergartener and a second grader at
- 17 Burlington Elementary. Our innovation proposal is a
- 18 crucial step that will allow us to more efficiently use the
- 19 resources that we have, and by resources, I mean quality
- 20 teachers and administrators, as well as the revenue that
- 21 are provided to us by local taxpayers and the State of
- 22 Colorado. Our district employs just 96 people in all. Of
- 23 that 96 people, two thirds of them are in the classroom, 52
- 24 teachers and 13 paraprofessionals. So we focus our



- 1 resources on the areas and the people that will have the
- 2 most direct impact on our kids and their education.
- 3 Our administration consists of a
- 4 superintendent, three principals, and six secretaries or
- 5 office staff. That is our administration. Our
- 6 superintendent also drives a bus to ballgames and field
- 7 trips. Our principals and teachers write their own grant
- 8 proposals. We do not have a grant writer on staff. Our
- 9 district business manager is also the drama coach. Our
- 10 office secretaries in each of the three buildings, manage
- 11 the lunch program in the cafeteria every day. They are
- 12 very adept at bandaging alleys, taking temperatures, and
- 13 even special projects like extracting a rock from the nose
- 14 of a kindergartener. Last week, that was my
- 15 kindergartener.
- The point that I want to make is that our
- 17 staff is already fully committed. They each do their jobs
- 18 and they share the other responsibilities that do not
- 19 neatly fit into anyone else's job description. Our school
- 20 Board, our parents, and our taxpayers support this
- 21 innovation plan because they know the people who work in
- 22 our schools and they want them to be able to focus their
- 23 time and attention, more than anywhere else on what will
- 24 most benefit our kids. Every school district has its
- 25 challenges and for us, one of our challenges is,



- 1 particularly in the eyes of young teachers that are
- 2 unfamiliar with life in a small rural community, our
- 3 challenges are our location and our population.
- 4 That means that we are constantly battling
- 5 turnover in our teaching staff. In a recent four-year
- 6 period, we hired 49 new teachers. Remember, that's on a
- 7 teaching staff and we now have 52 teachers on staff. So we
- 8 prize continuity. When a teacher is successful in the
- 9 classroom, we do everything that we can to encourage them
- 10 to stay and to help them be successful. Our school Board
- 11 has created a small fund in our budget to help retain and
- 12 recruit quality teachers in critical positions. Now, I
- 13 will also say some spirited, well-meaning people in our
- 14 community have also been known to try innovative ways to
- 15 encourage teachers to stay, particularly young, single
- 16 teachers by trying to help them find a husband or wife with
- 17 local roots.
- 18 So the four areas that we are seeking
- 19 waivers in, all advance this cause of continuity. We ask
- 20 to waive the licensure requirement because in certain
- 21 circumstances, as Superintendent Satterly mentioned, we may
- 22 have someone in our community who is uniquely qualified to
- 23 teach an area in which they have expertise. Often, it may
- 24 even be only a couple of hours a day. When we talk to
- 25 these people and they are willing to devote their time and



- 1 their talent to teach, but they are not interested in a
- 2 long term career as a teacher, what they discover is that
- 3 when they find out how much time is required to complete
- 4 the alternative certification process that exists, that's
- 5 when they lose interest, and we lose the opportunity to let
- 6 our students benefit from their experience and background.
- 7 We ask to waive the statutes on employment
- 8 and dismissal to replace those with a modified system that
- 9 retains the existing probationary teacher classification
- 10 for the first three years, but replaces the non-
- 11 probationary classification with a professional teacher
- 12 contract. The professional teacher contract will provide
- 13 teachers with a three, five or a ten-year contract during
- 14 which they enjoy all of the protections of due process. At
- 15 the end of each of those multi-year contracts, our teachers
- 16 can be renewed, non-renewed or given a one-year
- 17 probationary contract. Our teachers support this because
- 18 they are not afraid of accountability.
- 19 A complimentary to that request is the third
- 20 part of our request, to waive the statute requiring a
- 21 formal evaluation of all teachers every year. Let me be
- 22 clear, we will continue to formally evaluate all of the
- 23 probationary teachers every year, and those who have
- 24 achieved a professional teacher status will be formally
- 25 evaluated in the final year of their contract. But every



- 1 year, they will continue to participate in professional
- 2 development and classroom observation. We simply want to
- 3 be able to focus the resources of our administrators and
- 4 our veteran teachers on helping those young teachers learn
- 5 to be effective, rather than repeatedly giving formal
- 6 evaluations to our established professional teachers. For
- 7 what it's worth, in a small town or in a school on our
- 8 buildings, we usually have about 250 students, there are no
- 9 secrets. In fact, when I used to work across the street,
- 10 there was a senator from Walden who had a bumper sticker on
- 11 his office door that said, "There are no secrets in a small
- 12 -- " excuse me. "You don't see much in this small town, but
- 13 what you hear more than makes up for it."
- 14 That's very much the case. There probably
- 15 aren't six classrooms anywhere in our three buildings that
- 16 are more than 40 yards from their building office, and if
- 17 something goes awry in one room, it will be noticed, and in
- 18 most cases, before the day ends. Finally, we are seeking a
- 19 waiver of the School Readiness Assessment statute. Our
- 20 teachers and principals have developed a report card for
- 21 kindergarten students that align with the State's
- 22 standards. And we appreciate the changes that have been
- 23 made in order to make the existing law more manageable.
- 24 However, we are a small district with about 60 students in
- 25 each grade. They either attend our preschool in our



- 1 elementary building, or they attend the community preschool
- 2 which is just around the block. So when our kids come to
- 3 us in kindergarten, we know them by name, we know their
- 4 parents, we probably know where their parents live, and
- 5 where they work. We believe that our kindergarten students
- 6 will be better served if they can be assessed regularly
- 7 using a tool that our teachers can integrate into their
- 8 classroom rather than to adapt their classroom to an
- 9 unwieldy tool.
- 10 We have 778 students. The State of Colorado
- 11 has 850,000 public school students. So we represent less
- 12 than one-tenth of one percent of the students in the State
- 13 of Colorado. We do use TS. GOLD in our preschool. Last
- 14 year, my son's teacher and I were talking during
- 15 conferences and I asked, "How long does it take to update
- 16 the documentation on the preschool students? " And she
- 17 estimated about a week later when I ran -- ran across her,
- 18 and she had a chance to look at it. She estimated that it
- 19 takes about 30 minutes per student, per week to upload the
- 20 documentation. Now, those classes have part time preschool
- 21 classes with two teachers in each room, whereas we have
- 22 full-time kindergarten with one teacher in each room. But
- 23 that comes out to 10 hours, per classroom, per week.
- 24 And I think the question comes down, even if
- 25 it's half that amount, the question is; when does that take



- 1 place? Does it take place, during class or at the expense
- 2 of preparing for the next day? This is to provide data on
- 3 less than one-tenth of one percent of the kindergarten
- 4 students in the State of Colorado.
- 5 MR. HILLMAN: That's an infinitesimal
- 6 contribution to the state database but it comes at a
- 7 tremendous cost to our kindergarten students who have just
- 8 one teacher. And speaking as a -- as a parent, I want my
- 9 son's teacher to be able to spend her time either teaching
- 10 in the classroom or preparing to teach, not uploading
- 11 documentation to satisfy someone's statistical curiosity.
- 12 Our request is simple, we welcome accountability, but we
- 13 ask that you allow us to focus the resources that we have
- 14 on teaching our students and developing our teachers.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you, Senator
- 17 Hillman. Next was Ms. Davis.
- 18 MR. HILLMAN: Mrs. Davis.
- 19 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you.
- 20 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. Thank you
- 21 Members of the Board. I'm Kandy Davis, principal of
- 22 Burlington Elementary School. It is my pleasure to be here
- 23 today and share with you about our school and have you
- 24 learn from one of our kindergarten teacher, Ms. Luann
- 25 Nitsch, about how we support the various needs of our



- 1 students and how we measure their school readiness. This
- 2 is my 20th year in education and my 16th year in the
- 3 Burlington School District. I understand the core values
- 4 of our district, school, teachers, and believe that our
- 5 school is highly supported by our families and community
- 6 Members because of our dedication to doing what's right for
- 7 our students and teachers and providing a consistent
- 8 quality education year after year. We have 55 kindergarten
- 9 students, 15 of which are a second language learners.
- 10 Many of our kindergarten students
- 11 participated in our preschool program or perhaps the
- 12 program just around the corner that Mr. Hillman was
- 13 speaking about. Teachers in pairs document the
- 14 developmental progress of students in a variety of domains,
- 15 including social-emotional development, language and
- 16 comprehension, cognition and general knowledge, and
- 17 physical well-being and motor development. With the
- 18 transition from preschool to kindergarten, we understand
- 19 that students will enter our classrooms with varying
- 20 degrees of proficiency and with individual behavior,
- 21 physical, and academic needs that their teachers will
- 22 identify within a relatively short period of time. This is
- 23 due partly because of our highly collaborative school
- 24 culture, as well as an efficient system of measuring what



- 1 students know and are able to do upon entering
- 2 kindergarten.
- We have designed specific measurement tools
- 4 to help guide our instructional decision-making, as well as
- 5 to predicate a roadmap for each student so that they have
- 6 access to all necessary resources in order to achieve
- 7 academic success. Our district provides full-day
- 8 kindergarten, where students have the opportunity to
- 9 demonstrate their learning and development in a variety of
- 10 ways. In addition to targeted instruction for reading,
- 11 writing, math, science, and social studies, our students
- 12 participate in physical education, music, and computer
- 13 class every day. We also value the social interactions
- 14 among our students and demonstrate our commitment to their
- 15 social development through free play and exploration.
- 16 We teach our students how to problem solve,
- 17 interact, and react positively in a variety of school
- 18 environments and we advocate for their needs. Through our
- 19 initial kindergarten screening program, class and --
- 20 classroom and specialist teachers are able to assess how
- 21 students take care of their own needs, respond to emotional
- 22 cues, interact with their peers, engage in conversation,
- 23 show curiosity, tell stories, identify letters, their
- 24 sounds, numbers, and connect numerals with quantities while
- 25 also demonstrating their travel and balance skills along



- 1 with gross motor skills so that teachers can effectively
- 2 plan for instruction. We really take a broad look at all
- 3 of the ranges of activities of the students can do. With
- 4 our measurement tools, we've had great success with
- 5 identifying specific skills for which we provide focus
- 6 groups for learning within those levels. The measurement
- 7 tools are systematic, ongoing, and that's very important
- 8 for us, and the data is highly informative for teachers as
- 9 well as parents.
- 10 Our system of documentation includes
- 11 checklists, as well as a standard-based report card. The
- 12 checklists are embedded into our weekly routine, and at the
- 13 end of the school year are passed on to first grade
- 14 teachers, who will then have a wealth of information to set
- 15 the course for informative practice and ongoing consistent
- 16 monitoring of student development that encompasses the
- 17 Colorado academic standards. In addition to district
- 18 developed formative assessments and recording, all
- 19 kindergarten students are assessed with DIBELS. Next at
- 20 the three benchmark periods with additional progress
- 21 monitoring for all students, at least once per month. We
- 22 provide interventions for students demonstrating below
- 23 grade level performance and offer enrichment opportunities
- 24 for students performing above grade level.



- 1 Our teachers have invested countless hours
- 2 to develop, assess, modify, and refine our reporting and
- 3 assessment systems, and I am confident that we are on
- 4 target for meeting the intent of the law while implementing
- 5 what we know is effective, informative, and specific for
- 6 our needs. As a school administrator, I worry that
- 7 veteran, as well as novice teachers, will be overcome with
- 8 mandates that are cumbersome and provide no measurable
- 9 feedback that is not already provided through our current
- 10 assessment systems. Members of the Board, I thank you for
- 11 hearing this information.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Questions from Members.
- 13 Yes, Dr. Schroeder?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Senator Hillman, were you
- 15 across the street when CAP4K et cetera were being discussed
- 16 or was that after your term?
- 17 MR. HILLMAN: No, ma'am. That was well
- 18 after my time. I'm -- I'm 10 years from being across the
- 19 street.
- MS. SCHROEDER: Would you say -- would you
- 21 tell me what you think was the intent of all those
- 22 legislature, please?
- MR. HILLMAN: Yeah. You know, I -- since I
- 24 wasn't there, I did go back and -- and read the intent
- 25 particularly when I was looking at the -- at some of the



- 1 staff feedback on our proposal because one thing that
- 2 jumped out at me in particular is that there are many, many
- 3 pages related to readiness. So I think a person can look
- 4 at a variety of things that are in the statute and -- and
- 5 with some discretion determine what you think the intent of
- 6 the statute happened to be. There are a couple of things
- 7 that I looked at that I thought were -- were particularly
- 8 noteworthy.
- 9 It was obvious to me when I read the 22-7-
- 10 1014 on preschool individualized readiness plans and how
- 11 those are incorporated into -- into kindergarten that some
- 12 of the objectives were also to make sure that there's a
- 13 systematic system of measurement, which is something that
- 14 our staff can do with the tools that they have developed
- 15 much more seamlessly within their classroom, that it was
- 16 used to accentuate to enhance the teachers' preparation not
- 17 to detract from the teachers' preparation and also to be
- 18 sure that we are all, as local education providers, certain
- 19 that we are progressing toward school readiness. And I
- 20 think, as you listen to our principal and our kindergarten
- 21 teachers, I think we can demonstrate to you that we're --
- 22 that we are upholding that intent.
- MS. SCHROEDER: Okay. And so has everybody
- 24 else whose come before us.
- MR. HILLMAN: I understand.



- 1 MS. SCHROEDER: Which leads me to believe
- 2 that for small districts, our legislature really should
- 3 have a discussion about whether preschool TS. GOLD, you
- 4 know, what's -- what's a more -- what's a more efficient
- 5 movement from the preschool assessment that's already given
- 6 to kindergarten. Most of the larger districts are I think
- 7 I actually doing just fine with it. About licensure, does
- 8 your hair dress -- do you have -- I mean, I'm assuming you
- 9 have a hairdresser in your town and they're licensed, and
- 10 people who do manicures are licensed, and your attorneys
- 11 are licensed, and your doctors are licensed, and everybody
- 12 but your teachers ought to be licensed. Talk to me about
- 13 that.
- 14 MR. HILLMAN: Sure, I'd be happy to. It's
- 15 interesting that you -- that you start with the hairdresser
- 16 or barber because I was one of the outliers when
- 17 cosmetology review came back up in front of the legislature
- 18 and I said, "We don't need to license those people." If
- 19 they want to license voluntarily, great, but I know the
- 20 person who cuts my hair. And as long as she does a good
- 21 job and keeps a clean shop, I'll continue to go there. I
- 22 think it was important that superintendent Satterley
- 23 mentioned that we're not looking at this as the -- as the
- 24 response might indicate to simply go out and impose the



- 1 'help wanted' sign and see who shows up. We're looking at
- 2 those to be --
- 3 MS. SCHROEDER: How do I know that?
- 4 MR. HILLMAN: Excuse me?
- 5 MS. SCHROEDER: How do I know that? I have
- 6 a responsibility to your children. I don't know what
- 7 percentage of the state population your kids are.
- 8 MR. HILLMAN: Sure.
- 9 MS. SCHROEDER: But I still care about them.
- 10 MR. HILLMAN: I appreciate that. Let me
- 11 respectfully say you don't care about my son any more than
- 12 I do, and I'm gonna make sure that my school district just
- 13 as --
- 14 MS. SCHROEDER: Exactly. So we're on the
- 15 same page on that.
- MR. HILLMAN: Exactly. That we have -- we
- 17 have not only qualified teachers in the classroom, but also
- 18 safe teachers in the classroom.
- 19 MS. SCHROEDER: Right. Okay. Are you
- 20 willing to make a commitment in writing? I mean, I -- I'm
- 21 not very impressed with what you submitted as opposed to
- 22 the presentation today. I'm not sure why some of the items
- 23 weren't answered, but that's okay, that you will not hire
- 24 folks in core subject areas who are not licensed. Well,
- 25 let's talk about this. You can get an emergency license,



- 1 you can do work online. I can't imagine that there's
- 2 someone who's qualified to teach math and science who
- 3 wouldn't be willing to demonstrate his or her credentials
- 4 in an online manner. I get the part about driving all over
- 5 the place, the lack of flexibility when you have to attend
- 6 courses at a certain time, but you have two years worth
- 7 emergency licenses to demonstrate that you meet the
- 8 standards of the State of Colorado. Why wouldn't you want
- 9 that for your kids?
- 10 MR. HILLMAN: Since you're looking at me,
- 11 I'm going to assume you're asking me. So I will -- I will
- 12 answer, and if I need to be corrected, I'll be happy to
- 13 have the people in my right correct me. My thought is that
- 14 the only way that I would see us hiring somebody in math,
- 15 for example, that did -- that wasn't certified was if we
- 16 haven't had somebody that -- that -- that retired to
- 17 Burlington perhaps. Often, we have people who'd go make
- 18 their fortune and then come back home and -- and after
- 19 their fortunes exhausted and -- and retire. If we had
- 20 somebody like that, like a graduate who was a couple of
- 21 years ahead of me in school who went to MIT who came --
- 22 came home and decided that he was going to retire in
- 23 Burlington and was available to teach math and was actually
- 24 up for teaching high school math, now that was something
- 25 that fit into -- fit into his recipe for -- for retirement.



- 1 In that case, if he was interested in doing
- 2 it but only interested in doing it for say four or five
- 3 years, given again we know him, we're not gonna skip
- 4 running anybody, even people we know through a background
- 5 check. In that case, I personally, as a Board Member,
- 6 would not have any trouble hiring that person for -- for a
- 7 math position. But otherwise, I think that -- that the
- 8 position we're talking about do tend to be a little more
- 9 specialized based upon someone's background and expertise.
- 10 I mean, for example, 20 years from now when I'm 69 years
- 11 old, if I decide I wanna teach social studies and there
- 12 happens to be a vacancy, I will tell you that will
- 13 certainly be a barrier to me to go into teaching, although
- 14 it's something that I would certainly enjoy doing because
- 15 I've been a substitute teacher in the past.
- MS. SCHROEDER: But you wouldn't bother an
- 17 online -- take some online assessments?
- 18 MR. HILLMAN: No. Here's what -- here's the
- 19 thing. I mean, take a lot of the people in our community.
- 20 It's not as though they are idle. When -- using myself as
- 21 an example since I'm the only -- I can speak for myself and
- 22 not necessarily for anybody else. When the time comes that
- 23 I retire, I'm still going to have a farm, I'm still going
- 24 to have horses, I'm probably still gonna have some
- 25 responsibilities in Denver. Weaving teaching into those



- 1 responsibilities is one thing. Weaving additional
- 2 accreditation credits into it is -- is another thing
- 3 entirely.
- 4 MS. SCHROEDER: I appreciate your
- 5 perspective, but I -- I can't go there. I personally can't
- 6 go there. I think we have a responsibility to State of
- 7 Colorado to license our teachers. What that's gonna be?
- 8 We don't know. Mr. Dill, aren't we still under our waiver
- 9 until next year or not? Is our waiver gone?
- 10 MR. ASP: Our NCLB waiver?
- MS. SCHROEDER: Mm-hmm.
- MR. ASP: I believe, technically, we're
- 13 still -- we're still under it, yes. But --
- MS. SCHROEDER: So highly qualified,
- 15 actually, is gonna last until we reconsider or not?
- MR. ASP: I -- I don't -- I don't believe
- 17 that's correct. I think it is more like an operational
- 18 document at this a point in time. But the requirement of
- 19 highly qualified did go away when the statute did.
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, that's true.
- 21 MR. ASP: Because I -- I think it would be
- 22 more --
- MS. SCHROEDER: So a waiver doesn't include
- 24 or highly qualified?



- 1 MR. ASP: I think it would be more accurate
- 2 to say that we're in sort of a transitional period, where
- 3 we're operating under that until the new -- the new rules
- 4 come into place.
- 5 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Ms. Mazanec, then Ms.
- 6 Goff.
- 7 MS. MAZANEC: Thank you for your
- 8 presentation. Thanks for coming all the way from
- 9 Burlington, which is only about what? 75 miles from my
- 10 hometown in Northwest Kansas. So I -- I'm gonna vote yes
- 11 for this because I -- I think that Burlington represents a
- 12 lot of communities that are similar struggling to attract
- 13 and retain teachers. And I mean, that's just one aspect.
- 14 The teacher licensure is one aspect of some of the
- 15 challenges small dis -- small and rural districts phase.
- 16 And I happen to think Mark Hillman would probably be a
- 17 really good social studies teacher and I don't think that
- 18 it's necessary for him to get a license to be an effective
- 19 teacher. I -- I understand licensure, it's a good thing,
- 20 particularly for people who want to make up their career
- 21 path. I think there are plenty of smart people out there
- 22 who could -- who could teach classes in local schools and -
- 23 and fill a need, so I'm -- I'm going to be voting yes for
- 24 this innovation plan. I wish you all the best. I hope it



- 1 provides the kind of relief and flexibility that helps you
- 2 continue towards success.
- 3 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Ms. Goff.
- 4 MS. GOFF: Thank you. Back to the purely
- 5 technical spur a moment. The highly qualified is on a
- 6 transitional or limbo state right now. But the fact that
- 7 the ESSA policy still takes us back to state law, is the
- 8 overriding priority language being used here. So if we
- 9 have a state law that requires licensure or some sort of
- 10 move toward licensure, that to me says we've got to have a
- 11 license. Until, state law changes or some other -- some
- 12 other alternative is developed on that. I don't recall
- 13 exactly what (inaudible) areas or regions of the state were
- 14 included in the bill. I think it was House Bill 14-62 or
- 15 something like that or 16. It was this past session that
- 16 created some job fairs or expositions that were geared
- 17 specifically toward rural areas.
- 18 And perhaps I would think that Burlington
- 19 would fall into one of the areas that was accommodated in
- 20 that consideration. I wouldn't know what the outcome of
- 21 that is, kind of early to consider that maybe all those
- 22 regions haven't had one that's held yet. But those kinds
- 23 of possibilities and alternatives and outreach, the
- 24 initiatives that both specially are rurals, this was rural-
- 25 focused. To take the initiative on and find out about and



- 1 do whatever we can to accommodate people who would truly be
- 2 interested in becoming licensed as a teacher and maybe you
- 3 need some push, encouragement, acknowledgment about the
- 4 things that do exist. Albeit takes some time to get going
- 5 for those kinds of people. I too I'm thinking there's not
- 6 a person in this room or at least in our realm of interest
- 7 that does not know someone who could be fabulous in a
- 8 classroom with kids who has not yet licensed or certified
- 9 or any of the official stuff.
- 10 But I still think they are interested and
- 11 they are aware of the importance of having some cognitive
- 12 enrichment about what that job means. I'm distressed to
- 13 hear you say that people are responding with, "Well, I
- 14 don't wanna go to school and learn that. I'm finding that
- 15 a real disconnect between a teacher who should be
- 16 promoting, learning all the way through. No matter if it's
- 17 one year, two years or five years. I find that distressing
- 18 just feelings coming out here. Because I would wonder,
- 19 where is the commitment level? When you're going to be a
- 20 teacher, how can you rely and depend on that level of
- 21 commitment to see things through, bottle things in?
- 22 And model language, that model what you
- 23 believe yourself. I am not in favor of this now. I do
- 24 think that statewide we have some opportunity for some real
- 25 innovative conversation at some point about how do we beef



- 1 up the opportunities for people to become teachers that we
- 2 and they themselves can really trust and rely on their
- 3 readiness. Their readiness, I'm sorry, to go into that.
- 4 So I'm gonna have to not be a backer of this right now but
- 5 I do like all the many issues I look forward to future
- 6 conversations how we can really start bringing some of this
- 7 into the possible.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Ms. Rankin and then Dr.
- 9 Flores.
- 10 MS. RANKIN: Mr. Dill, I have a question.
- 11 Oh, I'm sorry.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: (Inaudible), you'll be
- 13 next.
- MS. RANKIN: Okay.
- 15 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you.
- MS. RANKIN: If they are granted these
- 17 waivers and their local school Board oversees that, so that
- 18 if something hasn't, let's say progress or something goes
- 19 wrong, that local school Board can take the initiative to
- 20 change, or does it come back to us, or how does that work?
- 21 Can you tell me, or is it forever?
- MR. DILL: It's the local school Board.
- 23 What -- what the statute says is that the -- the waivers
- 24 will continue so long as the innovation school or
- 25 innovation school zone designation continues. Every three



- 1 years, the local district school Board reviews the level of
- 2 performance and the plan. And at that point in time, can
- 3 make changes to the plan or determine the plan is no longer
- 4 necessary.
- 5 MS. RANKIN: Thank you. How long do you
- 6 intend to remain on the Board?
- 7 MR. ASP: We're term-limited, so if I run
- 8 again, I could be on for five more years. I would also add
- 9 that we have some new Board Members who have come on, who
- 10 are doing a fantastic job, who have a longer horizon than
- 11 that.
- MS. RANKIN: And as long as you have
- 13 students in the school, that's very helpful for this.
- MR. ASP: Yes.
- 15 MS. RANKIN: But having been a kindergarten
- 16 teacher and looked at the evaluations and looked at what
- 17 our standards are, I may be a little more flexible than
- 18 what your school does. But when I see standards and I see
- 19 what tests your teachers use to talk to the parents at
- 20 kindergarten, I think they're very important between Pre-K
- 21 and third because of the importance of reading and math.
- 22 So I'm pretty confident that your Board is astute enough
- 23 and the teacher since there's not that many in the
- 24 community, would be astute enough that if things go right
- 25 it would be immediately taken care of, unlike in some other



- 1 districts. Being rural and small districts, I feel your
- 2 pain with finding teachers.
- 3 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Dr. Flores.
- 4 MS. FLORES: My question is that I can't
- 5 imagine -- I can't imagine, this is personal. A person who
- 6 is educated who does not read books, who is not interested
- 7 in their area, who the community would know that they do
- 8 this activity, whom the Board might ask to read a couple of
- 9 books, you know, on social studies. For one, I just don't
- 10 understand why Colorado asks me who has a doctorate in the
- 11 area to be licensed, you know, every two years or so. When
- 12 probably, you know, I read probably more than most people
- 13 and keep up in my area because it is such an interesting
- 14 area. And why wouldn't people continue this education? I
- 15 just can't imagine why they wouldn't. So you know, I'm
- 16 going to be a person who's going to vote for this.
- 17 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Further discussion from
- 18 Members of the Board. Senator Hillman, I -- I voted to
- 19 deregulate cosmetologists about 20 years before you did.
- MR. HILLMAN: Good for you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: And the rule of thumb is
- 22 don't anger people to get that close to your sharp objects.
- 23 I could have advised you on that. So right. Is there a
- 24 motion, Ms. Mazanec, would you like to make a motion on
- 25 this?



1 MS. MAZANEC: I move that we approve the 2 Remington's Innovation plan. As a licensed cosmetologist, 3 I second it. 4 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Am still suffering from that vote just for the record. I suspect Senator Hillman 5 6 is as well. For the motion seconded in the discussion. Seeing none, would you please call a roll, Ms. Burdsall? 7 8 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Flores? 9 MS. FLORES: Aye. MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Goff? 10 MS. GOFF: No. 11 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Mazanec? 12 13 MS. MAZANEC: Aye. MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Rankin? 14 MS. RANKIN: Aye. 15 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Scheffel? 16 17 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes. MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Schroeder? 18 19 MS. SCHROEDER: No. MS. BURDSALL: Chairman Durham? 20 21 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes. The motion is 22 adopted on a vote five to two. Thank you. 23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you. Thank you. 24 Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DURHAM: We will come back to



1

- order. Ms. Flores, do we have the motion some place from yesterday on Ray's School District?

 MS. FLORES: Yes, we do.

 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: We passed that along
- 6 somewhere (inaudible). Do you want to make some motion
- 7 (inaudible).
- 8 MS. FLORES: Sure. Hurry up, hurry. Yes,
- 9 we are okay. I move to approve the waiver request from
- 10 Ray's School District for CRS. 22-71-041(2)(a) School
- 11 Readiness Assessment.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: A second that motion. Dr.
- 13 Scheffel. It's been moved and seconded discussion on the
- 14 motion. Seeing none, Ms. Burdsall would you call roll --
- 15 Ms. Burdsall, would call the roll please?
- MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Flores?
- MS. FLORES: Aye.
- MS. BURDSALL: Board Member, Goff?
- MS. GOFF: No.
- 20 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Mazanec?
- MS. MAZANEC: Aye.
- MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Rankin?
- MS. RANKIN: Aye.
- MS. CORDIAL: Board Member Scheffel?
- MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes.



25

1	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Schroeder?
2	MS. SCHROEDER: No.
3	MS. BURDSALL: Chairman Durham?
4	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: No. That motion is
5	adopted by a vote of four to three. So the next course of
6	business will be probably in that same page. Right. Next,
7	it would be, let's see. Lewis Palmer. Here we go. Okay.
8	All right, a motion on Lewis Palmer. Anyone would like to
9	make a motion?
10	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I don't have a
11	(inaudible) or is it where is it? So sorry. All right.
12	I don't know which one to do. I move to deny the waiver
13	request from Lewis Palmer School District Number 38 for
14	CRS. 22-7-121(2)(a) school readiness assessments.
15	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: For promotions or second?
16	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I second.
17	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Second? It has been
18	seconded. Ms. Burdsall, would you call a roll on the
19	motion, please?
20	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Flores?
21	MS. FLORES: No.
22	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Goff?
23	MS. GOFF: Aye.
24	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Mazanec?
25	MC MAZANTEC. N.

MS. MAZANEC: No.



1	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Rankin?
2	MS. RANKIN: Yes.
3	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Scheffel?
4	MS. SCHEFFEL: No.
5	MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Schroeder?
6	MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.
7	MS. BURDSALL: Yes? Chairman Durham?
8	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes. Count is I lost
9	track.
10	MS. BURDSALL: I did, too. It is
11	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Four, three.
12	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: it is four to three.
13	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: The motion fails by a vote
14	of four to three. Is there another motion?
15	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Passes.
16	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It fails.
17	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It passes.
18	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: It passed by a vote of
19	four to three.
20	UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Deny passed by four to
21	three.
22	MS. BURDSALL: The move was to deny, the
23	motion was to deny.
24	CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Would you review the vote
25	call for me, please?



- 1 MS. BURDSALL: So to deny, Board Member
- 2 Flores says no. To deny, Board Member Goff says yes.
- 3 Sorry, I'm folding this thing. To deny, Board Member
- 4 Mazanec says no. To deny, Board Member --
- 5 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Do you want to change your
- 6 vote, Ms. Rankin?
- 7 MS. RANKIN: I hope it's not too late.
- 8 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: No, it's not. No. Not
- 9 until it's announced. Ms. Rankin?
- MS. RANKIN: I missed the word deny, sorry,
- 11 I'm sorry.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: It's all right. So Ms.
- 13 Rankin changed her vote from yes to no.
- 14 MS. BURDSALL: Yes to no. Yeah, that's
- 15 fine. Okay.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay.
- 17 MS. BURDSALL: All right. And then, Board
- 18 Member Scheffel is a no, to deny.
- 19 MS. SCHEFFEL: I'm sorry.
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, it's to deny.
- 21 MS. BURDSALL: Yeah. Right. Okay. Yeah, I
- 22 know, it's confusing. And then, Board Member Schroeder and
- 23 Chairman Durham are yes.
- 24 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay. That motion is
- 25 defeated by a vote of four to three.



1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: This is a new motion. 2 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: New motion. Is there another motion? 3 4 MS. FLORES: Yeah. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You guys, I'm telling 5 6 you. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, she has it. 7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right here. New 8 motion. 9 10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: New motion. 11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I move to approve the waiver request from Lewis Palmer School District Number 38-12 13 4 CRS-22-7-104(2)(a) school readiness assessments. CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Who is seconding that 14 15 motion? MS. FLORES: I second it. 16 17 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: It's been seconded by Dr. Flores. So objection to the reversal of the previous roll 18 19 call on that motion. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Four-three. 20 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Four-three. 22 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Four-three, yes. 23 MS. BURDSALL: And it passes.



- 1 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: If no objection to the
- 2 reversal of the previous roll call, that motion is adopted
- 3 by vote of four to three.
- 4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Let's -- let's be
- 5 clear, the wording here was I moved to approve.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Right.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So you need to say
- 8 four-three to approve.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Yes. Those who voted no
- 10 are now yes, and those who voted yes are now no.
- 11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I said I move to
- 12 approve. So you're saying four people moved to approve the
- 13 motion.
- 14 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Right.
- 15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Just read this reverse
- 17 (inaudible)
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, I just can't hear
- 19 it.
- MS. BURDSALL: Thank you.
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.
- 22 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay. Further discussion.
- 23 All right. Any other items to come before the Board, Ms
- 24 Burdsall, that you have on your list?



- MS. BURDSALL: No. That concludes our
- 2 meeting unless you have anything else.
- 3 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Good. Okay. We will
- 4 stand adjourned until October --
- 5 MS. BURDSALL: 12th.
- 6 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: -- 12th at 9:00 a.m.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 (Meeting adjourned)



25

1	CERTIFICATE
2	I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and
3	Notary, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter
4	occurred as hereinbefore set out.
5	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such
6	were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced
7	to typewritten form under my supervision and control and
8	that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct
9	transcription of the original notes.
LO	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
l1	and seal this 25th day of October, 2018.
L2	
L3	/s/ Kimberly C. McCright
L4	Kimberly C. McCright
15	Certified Vendor and Notary Public
L6	
L7	Verbatim Reporting & Transcription, LLC
L8	1322 Space Park Drive, Suite C165
L9	Houston, Texas 77058
20	281.724.8600
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