SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

KATHLEEN C. WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

FIRST FLOOR BOARDROOM

600 SOUTHEAST THIRD AVENUE

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024 9:52 A.M. - 12:23 P.M.

COURT REPORTER:

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1	AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
2	DR. NATHALIE LYNCH-WALSH, Chair
_	MR. ROBERT MAYERSOHN, Vice Chair
3	MS. RUTH CARTER-LYNCH
	MR. ANTHONY DE MEO
4	MS. MARY FERTIG
	MR. OLEG GOROKHOVSKY, CPA
5	MR. ANDREW MEDVIN, CPA
_	MR. LEW NAYLOR
6	MS. PHYLLIS SHAW
-	MR. PETER TURSO
7	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR STAFF:
8	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR STAFF.
O	MR. DAVE RHODES, Chief Auditor,
9	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR
	MS. ALI ARCESE, Audit Director
10	MS. JENNIFER HARPALANI, Assistant Director
	IT Audits
11	MS. NAKIA GOULDBOURNE, Acting Manager
	Internal Accounts
12	MS. ELENA PRITYKINA, Task-Assigned Manager
	Operations
13	MR. GABRIEL CARVAJAL, Manager
1 /	Property & Inventory Control
14	MR. BRYAN ERHARD, System Support Specialist II MR. DEREK TILLMAN, Executive Secretary
15	MS. LAURA WRIGHT, Clerk Spec C
13	MS. WANDA RADCLIFF, Clerk Spec B
16	MS. OCTAVIA ALLEN HARDAWAY, Clerk Spec C
17	DISTRICT STAFF:
18	MR. OMAR R. SHIM, Director, Capital Budget
	MS. GERRILYN ARLOTTA, Asst. Director
19	Accounting & Financial Reporting
	MR. KEVIN NOSOWICZ, Chief
20	Broward County Schools Police
	MR. NATHAN SADE, Director
21	Office of the Chief Fire Official
	David Azzarito, Jr., Executive Direcor
22	Human Resources
23	INVITED GUESTS:
24	MS. RENEE WELCH RICHTER, Court Reporter
	Bass Reporting
25	BECON Broadcast

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for public comment?

Okay. Usually someone confirms -- we don't have anybody.

MR. RHODES: If Staff knows of anybody they will let us know.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Meanwhile, we need the report of the Audit Committee Nominating Committee. Mr. De Meo and Elections, you're up.

MR. DE MEO: The Nominating Committee has recommended the current chair and vice-chair continue both for continuity and, we believe, at least a two-year term makes sense for anybody to accomplish anything important. The vote was unanimous.

And we also mentioned that we'd like to see Ms. Shaw and Ms. Fertig get involved in the next term, after Dr. Lynch-Walsh's two years.

MS. FERTIG: We resign.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, you know, 1070 doesn't have a two-year -- you can be elected more than two terms, so you're safe.

MR. RHODES: That's fine.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's all right. We'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I think it was just a joke.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Listen, I still have a sense of humor after all these years on the Audit

MS. SHAW: Did they accept?

MR. RHODES: I think Mr. De Meo is running this. I didn't want to interrupt his running of that portion of the meeting.

MR. DE MEO: That's it.

MR. MEDVIN: You run the Elections.

MR. RHODES: So, before we do that, is there any discussion before we take -- do we take a roll call on that?

MS. SHAW: No. So, you need to open the floor if there are no other nominations. That's their recommendation.

And they can do a motion, they can do a motion to recommend them, but they also need to open the floor for anyone who might be interested in each position. And open them one position at a time.

MR. RHODES: Okay. So, the floor is being opened for any discussion about any other nominees that have not been named by the Committee.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: No. You have to do it 1 2 for the vice-chair. 3 MR. RHODES: Oh, I thought it was a slate. 4 I'm sorry. 5 Now we're going to do the same thing for 6 the vice-chair. Are there any comments from the 7 Committee? MS. CARTER-LYNCH: 8 No. Lew? 9 MR. NAYLOR: Motion to close the nominations. 10 11 MS. SHAW: Phyllis Shaw, second. 12 MR. RHODES: Okay. So, Mr. Naylor moved to close; Ms. Shaw seconded that. The vice-chair 13 14 nomination is closed and, so, we have a chair 15 and a vice-chair nomination. MS. CARTER-LYNCH: All in favor? 16 17 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye. 18 MR. RHODES: All opposed? 19 (No response.) 20 MR. RHODES: All right. The vote is 21 unanimous. 22 Now do we close this?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. We're done with 4

MS. FERTIG: Yes. Now we're done.

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and 5.

1 MS. ARCESE: Yay.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't know if that
"Yay" was heard throughout the District, but -All right.

No. 6, Housekeeping. And I think there was something in our packets. At least I saw it in mine. Hold on.

MS. FERTIG: I have some comments when you get to it.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Housekeeping?

Housekeeping was the Ethics Training/

Acknowledgment/Conflict of Interest Forms.

The policy 1070 says the Conflict of

Interest Form, that was supposed to be changed.

That's an error that made it into policy, much

like not having due process, but -- so, the one
that -- am I the only person that hasn't

done it?

MS. FERTIG: Probably.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That sounds like me,

but --

MR. RHODES: We will --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The acknowledgement?

24 This form.

MR. RHODES: So, we were waiting for this

meeting so that we could make sure that we let everybody know that there is a time frame in which this is supposed to be done.

We wanted to get all that information so that we could get the documentation on who had completed ethics training, who had filled out the acknowledgment forms, as well as to identify that if one recuses oneself, for any reason, that's the time when an 8B form, if necessary, would have to be filled out.

An 8B form is not filled out at the beginning of a year. It does not serve that purpose. It only serves the purpose one potential conflict at a time, throughout the course of the year.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, there is a list that the District compiles on everybody that's taken the ethics training, so that people don't -- even if they don't send their certificate, you would still have the list, and that would be better than waiting for someone to send it.

MR. RHODES: We do have a contact and we try to get that updated; but today's
Housekeeping part was to make sure that anybody who hadn't completed that is encouraged to

complete that as soon as possible.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And like I said, I'm going to point out that in 1070 this is not the form that it references; but it's still the form that was intended for us to complete because the conflict -- the other one was a conflict of interest form that you're required to do when you first get on. And we meant to change that through the policy revision.

I know this because somebody did a public records request and was trying to imply that I was up to shenanigans because I hadn't done a conflict of interest form. I'm like, go find it from 2015. But this is the one that gets handed out.

So, I've done mine. I might be the last. If everybody else -- when did we meet?

MS. FERTIG: I don't know. I was going to ask Wanda because she keeps such good track -- Wanda, I want you to know I dedicated my training when I did it to you, because you kept me straight through all these years. So, thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, if anyone hasn't done this acknowledgment of School Board Advisory

Page 12 Committee Member's Responsibility, just do it. 1 2 MR. MAYERSOHN: The one that just --MR. NAYLOR: Well, just a quick question: 3 What is the time frame for getting it done? 4 5 The policy says by the second MR. RHODES: 6 meeting of the new year. 7 MR. NAYLOR: After your appointment? 8 MR. RHODES: Yes. 9 Okay. Thank you. MR. NAYLOR: 10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think because of the 11 hurricane --12 MR. NAYLOR: No, I know what the rule says. 13 I'm just asking you to say it, repeat it again. 14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, okay. Yeah. 15 meeting. Mary has a question. 16 17 MS. FERTIG: I wanted to comment on 18 something else, for Housekeeping. 19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Housekeeping. 20 MS. FERTIG: Okay. You were doing forms. 21 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, you have a 22 question?

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Through the Chair:

Phyllis has a

Is it

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No.

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question.

MS. SHAW:

possible for you to verify how many of us completed not only the form but also the ethics training, and send us something? And, for those of us who may not have completed, because I feel like we haven't met in a minute, to send the form to us, the updated form, and have it sent back to you?

MR. RHODES: The answer to that is yes, and I'm assuming that my Staff is notating this as we speak, to get that information so that I can get it sent out to you as soon as at the end of the business day.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, just to be clear:

Mine was in my packet. If it's not in anyone
else's packet, does that mean that they did it
in August? Although, Mary, it looks like you're
holding the same thing.

MS. FERTIG: I actually printed this twice just in case, and I really didn't remember. So I didn't know whether we had had them at the August meeting or not. I will sign this, if not. If anybody wants one, let me know if you need one.

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes?

MR. RHODES: Also, if it's not in your packet, it should have been, but it is also available electronically on the Audit Committee's meeting website.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Mine is here.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I don't have one in my packet.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It totally makes sense that I'm the last person to do it. I think it was there in August and I just forgot.

Okay. Mary, you have --

MS. FERTIG: I know you'll be better at explaining this than I will, so I'll just bring it up and express things that --

I feel like we need to have our whole entire Committee know what the changes are with Board policies on how they are going to be responding to committees and the tenor of the meetings and so forth, and whether or not we thought all --

You know, this was presented to us at a meeting of chairs on the 14th. October 14th we had a meeting. So, we haven't met since then.

We had the meeting with John Sullivan and Andres and so forth. So, I just felt it was important

for us as a Committee to know, if you want to just briefly comment on it, about some of the things they told us about the -- I'm just going to say the tenor of the meetings and how we interact with Staff and what the implications of that are.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And the motions and what happens to them.

MS. FERTIG: The motions, yeah. The motions -- and I know you've been doing that; but I just felt one of the most critical things in that meeting is I know we've had some heated conversations in here, Dave, and I just feel like it's important for all of us to understand what, in fact, the perspective of the Staff -- I'm not going to say Staff, but what kind of meeting environment they're looking for so that we don't run afoul --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, I'm going to then interpret, do my -- it's going to come from my interpretation.

So, there was a discussion at this meeting, because they covered the Civility Policy. And actually, I think Staff even said that they're not looking for Staff that goes to meetings to

weaponize the Civility Policy and use it as an excuse to leave a meeting where they're being expected to answer tough questions. Because there's a difference between being attacked and merely being asked questions. I'm not sure if that's the interpretation, but that --

MS. FERTIG: Actually, I think it's important for us to know that, because we do get into some very detailed conversations in here.

So, I think it's -- you know, I just don't -- I'm just going to be blunt.

I don't want to see us reach the point where someone walks out or refuses to answer a question because of the way they're feeling that we're interacting with them.

So, I may not be explaining this well and maybe you need to have Mr. Sullivan or Mr. Hill come here and explain it to us. But I -- and, believe me, I don't hesitate, as all of you have known me for a long time, to speak my mind or ask my questions.

But I just, in light of what we've heard, I just think it's important for all of us to comply with trying to do that in a measured way.

And I guess I'm not saying this well; but

perhaps you could have that policy sent to all of us and maybe --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's not a policy.

MS. FERTIG: It's what they're going to do, so --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well -- yes, Phyllis?

MS. SHAW: The only thing I can say, outside of creating any type of policy or -- first of all, we're grown-ups and, so, there is a matter of mutual respect and understanding.

So, regardless of what we're doing, we need to treat each other well and I think we don't -- I don't think we need a policy or some written document for that.

I think for the -- I think that's just something where I don't -- you know, we're adults. We need to just work within those measures and, like I said, mutual respect and understanding.

We're all not going to agree. There's going to be conflict, but we're adults; we should be able to resolve those and think about why we're here and the greater good.

That's it.

MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes?

MR. DE MEO: I'd like to ask Mr. Rhodes a question.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure.

MR. DE MEO: Mr. Rhodes, are you familiar with what they're talking about?

MR. RHODES: Yeah.

MR. DE MEO: Were you at that meeting?

MR. RHODES: There was a different meeting for the liaisons, but it was supposed to be sufficiently similar to what was going to happen with the Advisory Committee Chairs.

My takeaway from it was that there was a series of electronic Microsoft forms that they were trying to put together that would allow things to be a bit more standardized amongst the various committees; but I walked away feeling like this was more a series of suggestions, more than it was this is the way it's going to go.

The only thing that I did get from them, and we're actually experiencing the deluxe version of it today, is that we're not currently streaming on BECON. BECON has offered to provide us with the microphones and to provide us with the sound and some of these monitors

that we have. But what they're trying to do is standardize the approach to how each Committee, Advisory Committee will do their business, which would include each one having access to a Promethean board, a Polycom camera, and that then everybody would be on even footing.

And folks that have their meetings after hours that cause for there to be some overtime pay, as a cost savings matter, as it was described to me, they were trying to make sure that they eliminated the overtime that was being spent on folks that were manning those meetings.

Our meeting doesn't fit that role because we do them during the day. However, I think the follow-up to that was that in order for them to create a situation that's equitable for all of the Advisory Committees, we would be dealing with the same things that they were all dealing with.

MR. DE MEO: Was there some mention of tone of the meetings and civility or some suggestions?

MR. RHODES: There were meeting discussions about that. It doesn't sound like they were as in depth as what was just described, because I

think that they understand that the chairs are the ones who ultimately have control of those meetings and that the liaisons are typically not the folks who are involved in those situations.

So, where there was discussion about trying to maintain the civility, there was no directives that -- for example, me being the liaison for this Committee -- that I have any role in maintaining order of this Committee.

And I think that that was the same message that was being sent to the other liaisons.

MS. FERTIG: They have a separate meeting.
Our meeting was October 14.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Theirs was like the two weeks before.

MS. FERTIG: Theirs was a couple weeks before that. I just turned it back on.

Yes. And there was conversation about it, but maybe we can just get the exact verbiage sent to us.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I believe we insisted on recording the meetings. I don't know why they separated liaisons and chairs. I like having all the players in the same room at the same time so you can have a discussion, and that

didn't happen.

But essentially -- rest assured, the two examples that were brought forward weren't actually about me, believe it or not. It was two other chairs piped up and were giving examples.

One was North Area and the other one was the Diversity Chair, and they were -- but after all the chairs were discussing it, and actually the new Chair of FTO had some commentary, too, the Staff said, yeah, well, we can't have Staff weaponizing the Civility Policy, because if you're being asked tough questions that is not a personal attack; that is part of your job.

If you're being attacked personally and you pack up your toys and go home, that's a different issue.

MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair, you would agree that we should set aside our own personal views and try to put ahead of those views the objectives of this Committee, and deal with people with all respect and ask them tough questions, but there's a way to do that. I think you would agree with that, wouldn't you?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. I think everyone

1 would agree with that.

I am usually privy to the fact that maybe we're not being treated with respect and when we discuss Old Business and our lack of responses because, for me, actions speak louder than words. You can be rude to me; just give me the answer. I don't really -- I don't take it personally, I don't care. If you give me an answer, that's what I'm looking for.

If you cloak your nonanswer in civility, that doesn't work for me, either, but that's just me personally. We can get to the audits.

Yes, Mr. Naylor?

MR. NAYLOR: Was there any discussion about questions directed to Staff that are on the purview of the Committee?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, not that I can recall.

MR. NAYLOR: Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: Well, are you saying, can we ask for things that --

MR. NAYLOR: No. Whether they're -- when questions are posed that are out of the purview of the Committee, whether Staff liaison is getting informed as the chair of that issue.

MS. FERTIG: That did not come up.

MR. RHODES: That did not come up at the meetings.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Civility was really the theme there. And we weren't clear why, but the two chairs that piped up with examples -- actually three -- none of them were actually me.

Yes, Ruth?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Mary, were you going to say something?

MS. FERTIG: No. Go ahead.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: My only thing is, look, first of all, we have to understand you can't legislate morality, nor can you legislate civility. Okay? That's the first thing.

Secondly, we just, as adults -- to

Phyllis's point -- we have to agree among

ourselves that we're going to treat each other

with respect and we're going to speak when we're

spoken to and not interrupt people, and learn

how to be disagreeable without -- to disagree

without being disagreeable.

And I think that's something that we personally need to, as a Committee, need to come to a conclusion that that's the way we are going

to act. Simple as that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right.

MS. SHAW: You catch more flies with honey.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, unless the flies are corrupt. Then it doesn't matter what you sprinkle them with.

But anyway -- yes, Mr. Medvin? Then we need to move on to our actual business.

MR. MEDVIN: Just briefly.

I believe, Mr. Rhodes, you stated that this meeting is no longer being streamed to the public?

MR. RHODES: I was corrected on that, that today's meeting is being streamed. I think that that may be a sunsetting courtesy. I'm not positive. Because I was under the impression that we were only going to stream via Teams, not through BECON.

MR. MEDVIN: Then I'll publicly state I think that's not very good. I don't think that a meeting goes by that I don't get a comment from somebody who says, I was listening to the meeting. And they were paying attention to it and it meant something.

I think this meeting, perhaps more than

many, should be available to the public the way it's been. Is there anything we can do to voice our objections to the policy? I would certainly think we should.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, a couple of things.

One, it's not a new policy; it's a position. I like to distinguish between things the Board approved and things Staff decided they're going to start doing.

Because they're often out of step with what the Board states. You know, when they say they love Advisories and then they do things like -- you may have noticed you don't have parking passes, which I need to ask about.

Yes, but I -- I agree, and I wonder if it's because they realize it's just as easy to stream it the way they've been as to not. Like it's actually harder to do Teams than it is to stop streaming.

But, we could certainly do a motion to the Board.

Yes, Mr. Mayersohn? And then --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Is the District -- and this is to Mr. Rhodes: Is the District required to have an Audit Committee meeting via state

statute?

MR. RHODES: Via state statute? I would have to follow up on that to see if it's a statutory requirement or a policy requirement.

I can report that back to you and let you know.

I do know that it's required to have an Audit Committee.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, this is the Audit Committee. So, I mean, to that perspective, I just think this committee and the makeup of the committee and the business that we do --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And the time of day.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Forget about the time of day. Just the business that we do is different than the other Advisories.

I'm not saying the other Advisories aren't important and they don't provide great recommendations; but this Committee is a little bit different. The makeup is a little bit different.

And, I mean, whether or not, again, you know, it's not live-streamed through BECON -- it could be a YouTube channel. There are so many other options available that may be at low cost, no cost to be able to do that and record it.

I think that we need to -- when I say Staff or whoever would need to look into investigating those options.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But I think the issue was overtime for BECON, which, as you pointed out, Mr. Rhodes, is not an issue since we meet literally in the morning when presumably BECON is at work, during their normal work hours.

So, actually if someone would like to make a motion to continue live streaming the Audit Committee meeting, I'm sure you would get a second.

MR. MEDVIN: I move that the Audit

Committee make it very clear to the powers -
the Board, the powers that be, that our meeting

continue to be live streamed so it's available

to the general public.

MR. TURSO: I second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, Mr. Medvin recommends the Board -- because we have to put "recommend." If we do "move," they get that -- that confuses people. We recommend the Board continue live streaming Audit Committee meetings -- I'm not a court reporter -- Audit Committee meetings so they're available to the

Page 28 public? 1 2 MR. TURSO: Via BECON. 3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Via BECON, so they are 4 available to the public. Moved by Medvin, 5 seconded by Turso. 6 Any discussion? 7 (No response.) 8 All right. All in favor? 9 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye. 10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed? 11 (No response.) 12 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'm not opposing. No. 13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Passes 14 unanimously. 15 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I have to leave at 10:30; remember I talked to you about that? 16 17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes. 18 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: But, if we need the 19 quorum I can call in. 20 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I think we're good 21 on quorum because we're at, what; seven? That's 22 why it's important to know whether Rebecca 23 resigned or not, too; that impacts the quorum 24 number.

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MR. RHODES: We have nine today.

1	DR.	LYNCH-WALSE	H: Yes.	Shaw,	and	then
2	Fertig.					
3	MS.	SHAW: Mada	am Chair.	I have	al	nard

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- MS. SHAW: Madam Chair, I have a hard stop at 12; I have a meeting.
- DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All the more reason to get off of Housekeeping.
- MS. FERTIG: Could I ask if we could start with some of these newer things? I'm worried that we've had -- that's several meetings canceled.
- DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's the plan.
- MS. FERTIG: Okay. Great. Because I -and then go back if we have time, to --
- DR. LYNCH-WALSH: To Old Business, right.

 We'll flip it.
 - So, Mr. Rhodes, is everyone ready to start with New Business? Because it's really 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, because there's four -- those need to be transmitted, I believe; and then we go back to Old Business and sort of New Business that's more follow-up in nature.
 - For instance, some things like you're now officially the Chief Auditor, right?
- MR. RHODES: Yeah.
 - DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And --

Congratulations. 1 MS. FERTIG: 2 MS. SHAW: Congratulations. 3 MR. RHODES: Thank you. DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And we have new Audit 4 5 Committee members to introduce that we haven't done yet. Actually, if we could do that, I was 6 7 hoping -- Mr. Friedman is not here and we never 8 really introduced him; but we have Oleg, who is not a new face but a new Audit Committee member. 9 10 Do you want to say a couple of words? 11 MR. GOROKHOVSKY: I'm just grateful for 12 being given the opportunity to be part of this 13 committee; and it's always been in my heart to 14 work with education, so I'm glad to be back and 15 helping this issue. DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 16 Welcome. 17 MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Thank you. 18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, we're good for 19 MSL, and am I able to share my screen or no? 20 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, do we have to do 21 anything official to change the order of the 22 agenda or can we just skip to that without

Technically you need to vote to

making that official?

MS. SHAW:

change the order.

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1 MR. RHODES: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Put New Business before Old Business.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. We're going to move to put New Business before Old Business.

MR. NAYLOR: Second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by Mary, seconded by Lew.

Any discussion?

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, just one question.

Do we want to be specific to 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 so that we would be able to go to some of the follow-up business while we have some of the people here? I would just like, if I could --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, that's fine.

MR. RHODES: I just want to make a point that today is onboarding of two new Board members. So, some Staff, they're going to have some difficulty because of the scheduling, that they have to participate in that process. I just wanted us to be cognizant of that, because they may leave when we need them, but it's not for any other reason than they have that

responsibility to show up at a meeting at a certain time.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. You're saying that the District scheduled onboarding the two new Board members during an Audit Committee meeting where multiple Staff people might need to leave to go to that onboarding process?

MR. RHODES: I'm saying from a date standpoint, that is correct. I don't know if the two things have anything to do with one another.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right, but they just picked this date is my point. Okay.

So, did you guys find the friendly amendment to do 8, 9, 10, 11, 12?

MR. NAYLOR: Right. There's a motion on the floor. Let's take care of one motion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, let's. I'd like to close one motion before opening another one.

MS. SHAW: So, as soon as he's not able to vote for the amendment, I will -- that's why I was raising my hand, for an amended motion to include only the items that we're going to be --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

MS. FERTIG: Can I just ask a question,

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Hearing none.

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So,

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you've done that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't know if we can read that. We're up there, up in the sky. Let me just go pull my copy.

Does anyone have any comments, questions, concerns?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Madam Chair, I do.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oleg?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. -- can you say your

last name?

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MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Gorokhovsky.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I'll work on that.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: It's all right. OG is

14 fine, too.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: OG?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes, for those who

17 understand.

I was going to comment on page No. 10 of the communication with those charged with governance.

There's a commentary:

The management has designated Erum Motiwala as a responsible party for oversight of the audit. I think it's going to be impossible for her to do it since she's no longer with the

1 District.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. What page is that

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MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Page 10.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is that like the last

page of it?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: No, the one before. It's

four lines down.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hold on.

MS. FERTIG: Has somebody been hired for

11 her position?

MR. RHODES: I'm sorry?

MS. FERTIG: I was asking if someone had

14 been hired for her position.

15 MR. RHODES: I missed who "her" was.

MS. FERTIG: Oh. Erum.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Erum.

18 MR. RHODES: Yeah. In fact, today we have

the new CFO that's here in the crowd with us

today; her name is Romaneir Johnson.

21 She looks different all of a sudden. But I

22 was warned that Omar could be stepping in for

23 her. But she was here, and she had to step away

24 to do some of the stuff we were just talking

about. But she had showed up today to be able

to be here to be a part of this conversation and the process.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, but, to your point, are they going to be correcting that, on page 10? Because it is kind of impossible since she's no longer -- I think someone's task is -- well, this was written so long ago, because wasn't she the Chief Financial Officer?

Yeah, I think they just need to fix that line altogether, the position; who was the position and the person.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: That's the only one.

MR. RHODES: And that's the fourth bullet, on page 10, that mentioned Erum Motiwala?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mentions her by name.

MR. RHODES: I will make a note to ask

Eddie if there's any intent to change that or if
this was time-sensitive and if there's anything
about that I don't understand.

MS. SHAW: Well, right. So, they just need to remove a name and leave the job description, if that's the case.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. No matter what, they need to remove her name, even if they keep the title. It doesn't make any sense.

And since there was the letter about the peer review, I had a question: What about do the other auditors, the other external auditors, and getting Peer Review Reports for all the auditors? I don't think we normally do that. We requested them sometimes, but I don't think we've ever actually seen them as a standard matter of course.

MR. RHODES: I'll follow up with that after I reach out to them.

Unfortunately, at the moment we don't have a contract for external auditors. We're hoping that that goes to the Board by November 14th. There's been some delays in that process; and, at a time that publicly this would be more appropriate to speak about while we're not under a cone of silence we could discuss that.

MS. FERTIG: Does that do anything to the time frame?

MR. RHODES: Say again?

MS. FERTIG: Is that going to impact any of the reports that they have to have done by a certain time?

MR. RHODES: It most certainly will, and it will also most certainly impact our ability to

complete our audit plan for the current year.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, to be -- yes?

MR. DE MEO: I have a question on the document.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Let's start with that because them not having a contract for external auditors, that's a whole other bit of drama.

MR. DE MEO: So, I'm going to ask

Mr. Rhodes, have you looked at page 6, and would
you add anything or is that complete? Does it
spark your concern? The significant audit and
financial reporting issues identified that we
would recommend to our external auditors, any
additional items?

And then, on page 11, the Auditor General compliance areas, I'd like you to take a look at that, make sure that's complete as well.

Because we -- in addition to statutory requirements, the Auditor General has communicated directly with us, adding other requirements.

MR. RHODES: If it would be okay with the Committee, I can follow up on these and come back at the November meeting, because that would

give me an opportunity to actually speak with the Auditor General's folks that are on-site and discuss these various bullets on page 11. And I'll review the other page as well.

MR. DE MEO: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yeah, I actually have a mark on page 6 myself. We have been talking about the fund balance quite a bit. And I don't think they mention any concerns about that or even call that out.

And then the -- we have also the charter school payments. And, remember when we had -- the first referendum was audited, sort of? That hasn't happened again, and I'm kind of curious. And maybe it's not material. I can't imagine it wasn't, though.

So, those are like three areas that I'm kind of interested to see what they come up with. But they don't seem to have any concerns about anything.

So, you're saying page 6, 11. So, I'll make a note of that. And page 10. Okay.

Any other questions?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes, I do have.

So, it's I think a concern that the

auditors are not on board yet. That's what I understood. So the audit hasn't started.

There's specific requirements wherein the Financial Statements need to be submitted. And, also, there's a requirement for SEC. So, I do know by December, audited financial statements got to be completely prepared by the Board. So, as a Committee member, I have a serious concern that that deadline will be achieved.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, I think MSL is on board. It's the other operational auditors, maybe.

MR. RHODES: Ali can --

MS. ARCESE: Can you hear me? I may be a little too low. Can you hear me now?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It doesn't sound like your mic is on.

MS. ARCESE: Can you hear me now? Much better?

So, MSL is our external financial auditors, and they have been working diligently. They are going to strive to have the report ready, the AFR ready by the due date. That was a discussion we had.

So, what Mr. Rhodes was talking about was

the external auditors for the operations side of it. So, that's a different audit piece. So, it's two different.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: All right. Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, yeah, according to MSL's timeline, November 2024 is when they should have the AFR.

Will that be at our November meeting, Mr. Rhodes?

MR. RHODES: We had a conversation with MSL's representative, Mr. Castaneda, and he told us that they're currently working to have it ready for November. It could be delayed because of some of the turnover within the accounting area.

And, so, we're going to have a follow-up conversation with him next week and find out what the update is with regard to the intended date of producing that report for the Board.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We don't currently have a meeting scheduled for December and we're a meeting behind. So, I'm thinking we may have to have a December meeting, even if it's online, to discuss sort of in details, some issues, then vote on them in January, unless we have to vote

in December.

So, anything that's -- transmitting the AFR might be an issue.

MR. RHODES: Just as an -- again, because I haven't been here for a long period of time, if we got into a situation where there was a time crunch but we had to meet the time requirement, would there be any reason why the AFR could not be presented directly to the Board and reviewed by the Audit Committee at a later date, with the potential for motion, or does that have to be reviewed first?

MS. SHAW: (Nodding affirmatively.)

MR. RHODES: I got a "yes" over here.

MS. FERTIG: Nathalie, can we go ahead and set a meeting now for December in anticipation? We've got a quorum, we're all here, and --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Pull out your calendars.

No, I'm all for that, because as you were saying that, I go, yeah, but we struggle now when we have observations before, to get them in front of the Board. I can't imagine what happens if it goes to the Board first and our observations come after.

So, let's see. And that would be in

1 person, ideally.

MS. FERTIG: I think it has to be, because we're going to have to transmit.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, let's see. Early December, first week? That's what I was thinking.

MR. RHODES: I would only request that if we were going to do it in early December, the time between now and the November 14 meeting and then the quick turnaround between November 14 and December 6, it could be a bit taxing on the Audit Department to get the items ready for the review, unless we had a bit more of a limited agenda so that there's a little bit less work and a little bit more -- less time that would have to go into it.

I'm open to whatever it is that you want to do; but, if that's the primary reason that we would be putting that meeting together, I would think that that would be the primary issue that we would be discussing with whatever other issues that might have to go through before December.

MS. FERTIG: Could we do this, Nathalie; can we just have you pick a date and circulate

it to us and see if we're available on those days? And that gives you time to go back and see what upcoming audits you have and --

MS. SHAW: Actually, let's do something better. Let's do a special meeting just for this, and that's all we discuss; and, any other matter will have to wait until our January meeting. Just to keep it clean and clear and give you the avenue for you and your Staff to be able to go back and get done what you need to get done.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, a couple of thoughts on that. Remember, we missed a meeting already. We did. So, that means there should be audits already in the pipeline that -- let's say that they would have come to the October meeting. Now they're coming to November. And then anything that was on November should be done. That makes for a very long November meeting.

So, there may be things that we push off from the November meeting to that December meeting, because we're down a meeting, and we're never going to get caught up.

They can collapse things like internal funds and property and inventory, but there are

very few other things where you can add the two together and call it one audit.

So, while I would love to do that, I think we may fall further behind.

Yes? Phyllis, then Mary.

MS. SHAW: That's fine; but I think we can get through these meetings with less words and focus on what -- on our agenda items.

The commentary and all of the other stuff that are totally irrelevant to the business at hand, we will be able to get through, if that's the case. But we have to be able to reduce all of that commentary in order for us to get -- continue with our business, because none of this should really take that much time.

- MS. FERTIG: So, can I just suggest --
- DR. LYNCH-WALSH: December 5th?
- MS. FERTIG: Can I just suggest that we meet -- I'm going to make this as a motion, that we meet either December 5th or December 12th, at the discretion of the auditors.
- MR. MAYERSOHN: And the availability of the room.
 - MS. FERTIG: Yeah. Thank you.
- MS. SHAW: Second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is that a suggestion or motion?

MS. FERTIG: No, that was a motion.

MS. SHAW: Phyllis Shaw, second for discussion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, moved by Fertig, seconded by Shaw.

Any further discussion?

reviewed.

So, we're looking at adding a meeting

December 5th or 12th, depending on the auditor

availability and ours, in person.

MR. MAYERSOHN: And availability of the room.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Room. Oh. When you said room I thought you meant the people. Yeah, obviously a room.

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, if I may?

We are going to -- we thought that

Mr. Castaneda might be here today to discuss

this, where -- if he does show, he might be

running a little late; but, if he does show, we

might be able to get a little bit more updated

information from him on whether or not November

is a realistic time that the act could be

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However, if he doesn't show today, we're going to reach out to him sometime during the afternoon, after the meeting and the other meetings that I've got established with the onboarding Board members, so that we can try to get that information. At which point, if I do get any information that's of any consequence I can send it out in an email to the entire Board or to the entire Committee and let you know that November does look like it's realistic.

And the reason that I'm saying this is because we've got a situation where we're going to a conference for -- the third week in November, there's a three-and-a-half-day conference in West Palm Beach for Council of the Great City Schools. Then after that we have the Thanksgiving break. Then after that we have a very short period of time where we're looking at that, like maybe August 5th kind of time frame -- or not August; December 5th, I apologize -- time frame where we may be able to work something like that in.

But we will do what we have to do to make sure that we can provide the meeting necessary to make sure that this thing gets transmitted in

1 a timely manner, regardless.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, 12/5 and 12/12. And room availability, Audit Committee member availability, and your department and the auditors' availability.

MR. RHODES: And my Staff is taking all that down right now.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So, we're good on that. So, all of that was on Item No. 8.

MS. FERTIG: Can we vote on that, on the motion?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: On what?

MS. FERTIG: On the motion.

MS. SHAW: On the motion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Done with discussion.

All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

Okay. It passes unanimously. Staff will look into December 12 or December 5th for adding a meeting. Do we need to do anything else with

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1 Item No. 8? Do we need to transmit the letter
2 or --

MR. RHODES: Yeah, we do need to transmit the letter. It needs to go to the Board.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, I need a motion.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to transmit with the comments made by -- I think Oleg made some comments with some changes, as well as Mr. De Meo.

MS. SHAW: Second.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Who seconded? Shaw?

Okay. Moved by Mayersohn, seconded by Shaw to transmit Item No. 8, the MSL Required

Communications Under Government Audit Standards and to transmit to the Board with the comments made by Audit Committee members, on pages --

MR. RHODES: 6 and 11.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- 10, 6, and 11. Or 6, 10, and 11 if we're going in order.

Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It passes unanimously.

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes?

MR. RHODES: Mr. Castaneda is en route. If this is something that we could reopen just long enough to get his input, it might be helpful for us to read it.

MS. ARCESE: He's on his way here. He's not here yet.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. When he gets here --

MR. RHODES: I'm sorry; I misunderstood what I was just told.

Internal Funds folks are the ones who are ten minutes away. I had Eddie on my mind when she said that. So, I'm wondering if we might be able to take something out of order.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We're going to have to if nobody for Internal Funds is here yet.

So, what they're saying is there's no one here to speak to the Internal Funds audit. So we also have No. 10. Let's see. Because I have some questions on that myself. All right. You guys good with skipping ahead to 10 to give Internal Funds time to show up?

All right. Let's see. Because my question on No. 9 is the Progress Report, and I have

1 other questions.

Item No. 10 is the Office of the Chief
Auditor Audit of Payroll Policies and Procedures
of Selected Locations.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes? Ms. Fertig.

MS. FERTIG: Yes. I have a real concern after reading this, and I -- so, it looks to me like you did one, two, three, four, five, six, seven locations. Is that correct?

MS. PRITYKINA: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: Yes?

And, two of them were just -- I mean, those approvals were so much -- were so late. I find that really concerning.

I'm wondering if that's indicative of what could be happening. And, I know you only found it in two of seven; but still, what kind of training are you doing to make sure that people are doing this timely, approving these payrolls?

MS. ARCESE: Do you want me to answer? Through the chair. Can you hear me? So, through the chair.

So, the training provided -- I think there's different types of trainings. From the IT department, they train the payroll piece.

There's also work construction and procedures.

Business Practice Bulletins. That has not really changed.

What we're -- you know, as far as the finding itself, I mean, they may not have realized or whatever the case may have been as far as the findings or what the requirements were; but, from the Audit Report, that just showed that there was just delay for no approval for changes.

MS. FERTIG: And, also, for the overtime and all. Right?

MS. ARCESE: Right, right.

MS. FERTIG: I mean, that --

MS. ARCESE: Right. I mean, it's outlined in the Business Practice Bulletins. It's outlined in the procedures that they're provided. You know, that's why we made sure that they received copies of those.

MS. FERTIG: Right.

MS. ARCESE: Made sure that they understand what the requirements are. And, so, from the responses it shows that they're going to comply. So, when we do a follow-up, we'll ensure that those are being done.

1 MS. FERTIG: And there is a training where 2 you're verbally telling them.

MS. ARCESE: So, we're not.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: She's not.

MS. FERTIG: I don't mean you. I mean the District is verbally --

MS. ARCESE: Yeah.

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MS. FERTIG: -- telling them. So, you're verbally telling them and it's in their manual, and they're not approving overtime beforehand and they're not approving the payroll for a month or two.

MS. ARCESE: Right. So, in that case, those items were out of compliance. And so, again, when we met with the principal, you know, he understood and made adjustments immediately.

MS. LYNCH-WALSH: Ms. Shaw?

MS. SHAW: Through the chair. Ms. Ali --

MS. ARCESE: Yes?

MS. SHAW: And I'm sitting here, looking at my payroll, so -- aren't there cutoffs? Number one. And, number two, calendar for biweekly, whatever the case may be. And, for those biweekly payroll due dates, are there followups? And on top of that, reminders. I mean, because

people may forget that, payroll is automatic, but we all know that's not the case.

MS. ARCESE: I also review our payroll as well, so I've looked at it from an audit perspective, so I'm constantly looking at it.

So, I'm very well aware of what those deadlines are. They are posted. They are provided by the District.

MS. SHAW: Not you.

MS. ARCESE: No, no, but I'm just saying in general in the District that is something that is communicated to us. If there are any deviations from the practices or the policies or procedures, we are notified.

So, you know, I'm just using myself as an example to say that, yes, we do get communications from the District as far as what the requirements are.

MS. SHAW: And what are the repercussions?

Because if folks -- I understand overtime. I'm

dealing with rabid overtime because of Staff

shortage. I understand that. But, my problem

is with overtime, it's the timing, number one.

It doesn't provide, for the budget folks, budget

department to be able to properly evaluate if

there's sufficient dollars set aside for overtime. And overtime might not be recorded on time, especially if it's off the chart.

Including payroll, you know, because if you bring in someone at a higher salary than the last person and it was budgeted at the last person's salary, then budget amendments would need to be done in order to account for any variances or differences.

So, to me there needs to be some better follow-up for -- whether it's Payroll Department or whoever, to make sure, along with working alongside Accounting, to make sure financial reporting are being -- are accurate, because this is affecting your quarterly or monthly financial reporting.

MS. ARCESE: Plus, there's payroll taxes that have to be paid, as well. There's a lot of other components that go along with just approving --

MS. SHAW: Information.

MS. ARCESE: Yeah, lots. But that is, it's part of the reality of what, you know, the payroll is. But, you know, that could be something down the road that we could add to the

Audit Plan as far as controls surrounding payroll and looking at the process as a whole to see if there are any additional recommendations from the District's standpoint, as the overall project to look at to see if there's improvements that can be implemented or --

MS. SHAW: And repercussions. Once, twice, three times, because this is repeated, so, and it seems to be the same place.

So, what happens when you miss one payroll because someone is sick? Okay, I can understand that. But, who is the backup? Number one.

Number two, but why does it continue to happen?

And what is in place when this happens?

MS. ARCESE: And so, again, this is management, right, overall, is responsible for these types of duties. And, so, those are things that -- I know, again, and I'll use myself as an example. I know who our payroll person is, I know who our backup is, we even have a backup to the backup, because we know how important that is and we ensure that every component within our financial side of it has backups, from our Purchasing practices and things like that.

So, that is something that we are taught as per the management side, that we are supposed to have those backups and they encourage that in the District.

So, I agree; but, again, that could be something that we can look at down the road as a process in the District.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I've got Mayersohn, then Naylor, then Turso.
Mr. Mayersohn?

MR. MAYERSOHN: So, I guess my question is:
Are all these payrolls data entries? Or not
even data entries. The reports; are they paper
or are they electronic?

MS. ARCESE: So, it's generated out of our SAP system. So, everything is data entry into the system, and it is generated out of the system.

The signatures are on paper. The documentation is paper still. So, at this point, when we're -- when I'm organizing my payroll -- again, I'll use myself -- I know what's required in each section for a Certificate of Absence, that I must have that within our documents.

1 MR. MAYERSOHN: Right. No, I get it.

But I'm just saying is the individual employee, are they on an electronic system, the Kronos system where they punch; if they're hourly, they punch in and they punch out? Or are they sitting here, going, here are my hours that I had for the week, and sign off on it?

MS. ARCESE: I believe that it just depends. And I think Ms. Marte some time ago gave an explanation on this -- I can pull that up out of the minutes -- as far as what groups are required to have Kronos versus what groups sign in, you know.

So, again, I don't know -- I can't speak to --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We keep getting at paper versus electronic.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Right.

MS. ARCESE: So, I don't think everyone is paper, to answer your question.

MR. MAYERSOHN: No, no, I get --

MS. ARCESE: I don't know that everybody is electronic. There is a mix.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So, my suggestion is to ensure, because I think it will help with the

accuracy and the ability to adjust, especially in overtime, is that if it's all electronic -- in other words, if I'm an employee and I'm an hourly employee I punch in, punch in on the clock, as opposed to going, Dr. Walsh, here's my time sheet for the day, and she looks and says, yeah, it sounds right, I guess you were here, blah, blah, blah.

Again, the accuracy is a lot greater, it's a lot easier I believe to manage, than sitting -- because you've got to either scan it, take it -- I mean, it's time consuming. And especially, you know, for departments, you know, which, again, can be complex. If you're dealing with somebody who is in charge of payroll and, you know, they may have 50 employees that are hourly. And you've got time changes -- you know, out of the, let's say 50, even 20 percent of those employees daily are either punching in early or punching in late or whatever, and adjustments have to be made and signed off.

I mean, that's a huge undertaking.

But if it's, you know, done with paper it just becomes clutter. If it's done electronically it can be accomplished, and you

can identify a lot quicker when overtime is occurring or when potential overtime is occurring, signing off on it. I just think it makes, again, life easy.

But I think we have been going down that path for years about trying to upgrade.

MS. ARCESE: Right.

MR. MAYERSOHN: And I think it's a priority. I really do. I think it will save money even though there's a cost to spending the system; but, in the overall, it's going to save money.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Are you good?

Mr. Naylor?

MR. NAYLOR: Yeah, just through the Chair, a clarification. AA and BB payroll periods.

MS. ARCESE: Yeah. So, AA payroll period is mostly instructional. BB payroll is everyone else.

MR. NAYLOR: Okay.

MS. ARCESE: So, that's how they differentiate.

MR. NAYLOR: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. Turso?

MR. TURSO: I have a question for

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Mr. Rhodes.

So, it says here that seven locations were selected. Five, for all practical purposes, are doing what they should; two shouldn't.

Can you tell me more about why we're seven?

What was the reason for seven being selected?

And -- let's start with that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The sample size?

MR. RHODES: I would have to turn that over to my Staff who selected that sample. That would be --

MR. TURSO: That was my next question.

What was the reason for those seven? Is it random? Is it a characteristic that they exhibited? And, then, that will go to my next question.

MS. ARCESE: So, capacity was one, as far as the number of schools -- or locations, because we had an auditor that was probably onboarded at the very end of December, right before we had the break. So, we only had the person on board for six months.

So, there was training; there was trying to process the audits; learning how to maneuver through the District as well, because most of

these documents are housed at the schools themselves. So, we actually have to travel to the schools to validate the records.

The actual locations were randomly chosen. So, they were not, you know, handpicked or anything. It was just a random selection.

MR. TURSO: So, if they're random, is there some characteristics or characteristic that the two schools who were not compliant have that may be shared by other schools, so we could see if there's a certain protocol that they have in common that's causing this, similar to what Mr. De Meo was talking about, so we could see if it's a much broader situation?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: One is not a school.

MR. TURSO: Well, location. Okay.

Location.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. One is SIU; and one is an elementary school.

MR. TURSO: All randomly, though?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

MS. ARCESE: So, the SIU department, which is the Broward School Police, they have their own nuances, because they have powers, and I'm sure he's here so he can speak about it, as far

as what the requirements are for us.

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But, as far as the school protocols, I know

that we've done audits in the past of schools

and, so, we've checked for the same exact thing.

Sometimes it may just be training. You know,

did they obtain the correct training?

But, as far as the process is concerned, we've had this process for a long time. Our processes have not really changed since inception of SIPs in 2010, I believe.

There's very few -- they're very little things. I know there was an implementation of Kronos at one point, which we didn't have at the very beginning; but they're -- overall, the process is pretty much the same. We just are out, looking to ensure that those -- they're being adhered to and that the documentation that needs to be on hand is there.

So, if there are any nuances or anything, of course, as we continue to onboard new Staff and try to expand the number of locations, we would be able to see more trends or more issues that may be -- may lie within possibly the training or things like that; but those are recommendations that we can do at that time, as

we are able to see --

MR. TURSO: Okay.

MS. ARCESE: -- any trends at that point.

MR. TURSO: Thank you.

MS. ARCESE: You're welcome.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Phyllis?

MS. SHAW: I'm sorry. I am so -- I can't imagine that we're still doing paper, at this day and age. I can't imagine that. Number one. Number two, especially if you have SAP. You can set up a work process in SAP to complete your payroll, type into a clock system, whether it's Kronos or some other clock system, and to be able to get your payroll done.

Not only that; put in place a process for your overtime that's beyond -- I'll give you an example. My payroll is due Monday morning at 10:00 a.m., that I need to sign out of my payroll.

We don't work on Fridays. We have overtime Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If those overtimes are not accounted for, change requests will need to go in for next payroll to account for those overtimes.

It's hard for those people who work that

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday if it's not in, but they will get it in the next pay period. But I don't understand, at this age, this sixth-largest school district is still doing paper payroll. Can you imagine the amount of errors that can occur from data entry? Number one. Number two, I would like to see --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Sounds like a motion to me.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah.

MS. SHAW: I would like to see a larger sample size with this payroll; it has been an issue for us over the years. So, I would like to see a larger sample size among schools, various different schools, because it's -- if 2 out of 7 is any indication that we have a problem --

MR. TURSO: 30 percent.

MS. SHAW: Exactly. I would like to see a higher sample. I don't know if the issue is manpower; but payroll is something that can cost us a lot of money and a lot of time.

And the motion, Mr. Mayersohn?

MR. MAYERSOHN: And you can clarify,
Ms. Shaw, President Shaw, that the District
implement an electronic, I guess, payroll system

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that eliminates paper, time sheets, accrual forms, et cetera, et cetera. As soon as -- urgently.

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MS. SHAW: And I'll second it with a workflow process.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Read that back, somebody? Recommend --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Recommend that the District urgently implements an electronic payroll system, eliminating all paper, including adopting a work-flow system.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by --

MS. SHAW: I'll second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by
Mayersohn, seconded by Shaw. Any discussion?

MR. NAYLOR: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, Mr. Naylor?

MR. NAYLOR: What electronic systems currently exist?

MS. ARCESE: So, we currently have Kronos.

And again, certain bargaining units use Kronos.

Outside of that, I don't --

MR. NAYLOR: What percent of our payroll?

24 Can we find that out?

MS. ARCESE: Yeah, I can find out. I can

1 follow up.

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MR. NAYLOR: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mayersohn, Turso, Shaw.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, just to that point --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And that's on the motion.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Broward County has a complete electronic system. So, as an individual, you approve your payroll sheet and then a supervisor approves it; but every two weeks the employee goes in, checks off yes, I've worked so much. If they have taken a vacation they can implement that request electronically, get a signature electronically. There's no paper forms. So, it works.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Works for Broward County.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Broward County government, it works. I can find out exactly what the system is.

MS. ARCESE: Okay. Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. Turso, then Ms. Shaw.

MR. TURSO: Would you say that having an electronic system would make auditing overall much more efficient and easier to do?

MS. ARCESE: Absolutely.

MR. TURSO: And would that increase the

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sample size as per Ms. Shaw would say?

MS. ARCESE: Yeah. I mean, the more technology we can implement the better and the easier it is to audit. And even with SAP, I know that there's capabilities of attaching documents if we did have to have a document, for whatever reason.

So, it would absolutely speed up the process because then we wouldn't have to do site visits; we wouldn't have to depend on, you know, flipping through papers, after -- I mean there's hundreds of documents that we would have to go through.

So, absolutely.

MR. TURSO: Excellent. Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Ms. Shaw, then

Ms. Fertig. And this on the motion.

MS. SHAW: What ERP system do you use?

MS. ARCESE: SAP.

MS. SHAW: So, first of all, Kronos is only used for hourly employees, and you cannot ask salaried employees to clock in because it's federal law. So you can't do that.

So, Kronos would only be for your hourly employees, number one; but, number two, are you

able to tie Kronos into SAP? Because for your salaried employees, apart from their PTOs that need to be approved, can that be approved in the system? And can you tie Kronos to that?

MS. ARCESE: So, I believe we do have some sort of mechanism that ties Kronos to SAP. I'm not familiar with it. It is integrated. So, there's still a checks and balance that has to happen prior to the close of the audit -- or the payroll period where a supervisor has to go in and review whatever records are there.

Ultimately, as far as the salaried employees, we are on a continuous pay and if there are any deviations from that, we don't have PTO. We actually still have a sick and vacation time separation. And, so, we do ensure that those are entered timely. And, so, that is part of the process that all of our payroll processers are trained in.

MS. SHAW: Are those manual or are you able to request your sick vacation, et cetera, electronically?

MS. ARCESE: Not electronically; it's all paper. That is all paper.

MS. SHAW: Can that be done in SAP?

MS. ARCESE: As of right now, I'm not aware of any capabilities of doing it. Can it be done? I'm sure.

MS. SHAW: It can.

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MS. ARCESE: I've heard of other districts that actually have that, but we do not have that.

MS. SHAW: Palm Beach does.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I think the county uses UKG.

MS. SHAW: Kronos. Same thing.

MS. ARCESE: We'll make sure that we gather all of these comments and forward it to the appropriate --

MS. SHAW: I have a pen.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mary, did you have a comment?

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I'm going to support the motion, but I have a couple questions. So, we send to this Board; how long would it take to implement an electronic --

MS. ARCESE: There are a lot of --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Somewhere else? 12 to 18 months.

MS. FERTIG: 12 to 18? I know we've -- I

just feel back over the years of how many things we have suggested --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think we passed a motion to go electronic either on this or --

MS. FERTIG: Like three or four, five years ago.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm remembering the same motion.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ARCESE: Like I said earlier, Ms. Marte suggested this question.

MS. FERTIG: I'm going to support the motion; but my point is going to be there would still be a long implementation period and some things need to change in the way this is being handled. When you're looking at four pay periods and you find a problem with every pay period, you have to wonder how frequently that's happening throughout the system.

And the other thing: Are any of the seven of these on any type of electronic --

MS. ARCESE: So, it's all depending on the bargaining unit. So, if you're like Ms. Shaw said, if you're hourly, so at the schools if you're a school employee and you're hourly,

that's usually clerical staff, that's custodial staff -- are usually the hourly staff members.

COPA. Outside of that, they're salaried.

So, it just all depends on the bargaining unit, not necessarily a location is or isn't on electronic version. So, it just depends on the type of employee that you are.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. We have a motion on the floor. And I echo everything; I am speechless at how much paper this District still does. And actually I was making notes since I do remember motions that we passed, in the past, regarding electronic. And I remember someone taking a trip down to Miami-Dade, looking at the accounts payable system.

I think at a future meeting we need to get
IT in here to address -- and this even goes to
the Board -- how to automate, and what's the
current status of the systems, in terms of what
year are we operating in. Because I would argue
1995, maybe, and that might be generous. For
each of these different systems, because
everybody is wasting their time auditing when
the clear answer is automate.

MS. FERTIG: But I'm just going to say I

think Ms. Marte was here for that motion that you and I are talking about here that was made a number of years ago, of how long will it be before we're there, and I thought it was going to be within the year. And, so, until we reach that point, this does -- the behaviors need to -- they need to comply with what's in place.

So, yes, we need to change in the future, but I just don't think these are acceptable results for the world we're actually living in and, given it's the School Board, could be another five years.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So, I have questions about whether they produce monthly reports so that you can monitor compliance. I don't think monitoring around here is a problem.

But, let's get the motion handled.

So, we have a motion, a second, we've discussed recommending the District implement -- urgently implement an electronic system that eliminates paper and includes a workflow or something to that effect. What I just said is not the official motion; you have captured the official motion.

All in favor?

1 (Committee responds affirmatively.)

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Opposed?

(No response.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hearing none, motion passes unanimously.

MR. RHODES: I'm sorry to interrupt at that time; but the CFO has come back to the meeting and she wanted to speak to this item, and I wasn't sure if she wanted to speak to the motion before you closed it or not. I just wanted --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We're already well into passing it. And, like I said, I think this is an IT issue more than anything.

MS. FERTIG: No.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Or includes IT. But, yes.

MR. DE MEO: SAP has payroll. Why aren't we using it?

MS. JOHNSON: We are using SAP for payroll, but the automated part of the system has not been connected. What we've been doing, paper, and we are implementing now a review of payroll. We look at that workflow. We're looking at the Kronos system, and the time management is not

being -- not have been implemented to electronic. We're doing that now.

It's a process to get electronic, and I've only been here for three weeks. We are looking at it. We're at a stage where we do -- how much it's going to cost to implement. We're working with the Staff team and the Meridian team to see if it's already built in during the implementation. It should have been already part of the process. It's something that we should have purchased and we just didn't do our due diligence by implementing.

I'm trying to research all that information so we can have something to bring back to the Audit Committee and to bring to the Board, because we've got an Educational Board, we need to be on an automated system, and payroll needs to be preapproved before we take out paper.

MR. DE MEO: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Just to slow you down, because you packed a lot of information into those comments, and I heard things like we didn't do our due diligence, we should have -- this wasn't connected, this, that.

So, just to refresh my memory:

Before you were the CFO, Erum Motiwala was the CFO, but that was such a brief period of time. And then the structure, the organizational structure has changed; but the constant since 2017 was Judith Marte, until she wasn't here. I'm just saying that these are facts.

So, when you say we didn't do our due diligence to use what Mr. De Meo brought up, whose responsibility would that -- which position would have been responsible, per their job description?

MS. JOHNSON: Well, I don't want to put off blame on anyone.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I said position, not person.

MS. JOHNSON: I'm just saying, I do not want to -- because specifically, I wasn't here, I wasn't present when the system was implemented. But I don't want to know who is responsible. I can't say who was responsible at that time, but I can say now we're looking at the system and trying to make these improvements so we can have internal control. If that is already built in the system, that we don't have

this manual process that we're currently doing.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Ms. Shaw?

MS. SHAW: Thank you for coming back, and welcome. Welcome.

So, how committed are -- because I take it funding has not been budgeted for the upgrades that are necessary to make sure the system -- to go to a fully electronic system or at least move towards an electronic system.

How committed, which means that, were funding set aside to be able to start tying the systems together or working with a consultant to tie the systems together?

MS. JOHNSON: I'm 100 percent committed.

It's not about the funding, because I'm possibly losing funding if the payroll system is not accurate.

It's about -- to capture that funding that's lost, it's something that must be done.

And we're going to be having a schedule so I can find all the major players to make this happen, even IT Department. We are looking at it now.

I can't tell you because I haven't finished with, you know, getting everybody together, setting out a plan of action and how long it's

going to take to implement; but I'm looking at a short window. So, we're trying to move expediently to make sure this is done immediately.

MS. SHAW: I like it.

So, we were told a few years back when payroll came up and the person said, well, I just got here, we're fixing payroll, payroll is a mess and payroll is going to be better. And we're here seven, eight years later and we're still dealing with the payroll.

And I'm -- and I know you still have to do your due diligence to figure out what needs to get done, how long it will take, who you need to --

MS. JOHNSON: I'm not -- my expectation, it's not going to take that long. First, I got to get the major players at the table, lay out a plan, and we're going to execute immediately.

MS. SHAW: Is it possible then for you to come back to us in February to give us an update --

MS. JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.

MS. SHAW: -- on how that process -- and I'm giving you enough time because we have all

the holidays in November and December and then back to school in January. And you're still need -- trying to figure out where all the dead bodies are. So, would February be a good time?

MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Let's put that on the calendar for February. If I have something sooner I'll just get on your schedule and present it for the Audit Committee.

MS. SHAW: Perfect. Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: And just to follow up with what she asked, you said it will not take that long; but, how long do you think it will take?

MS. JOHNSON: I'd say it won't take seven

years.

I don't know. If it's based on the system -- I'm new to the system. I'm going to push the system as quick as I can, but I'm not the only one going to be doing it. You know, it's an outside vendor, and do we have to put it up for R and P. But, all those things, I would update you as soon as I get more information.

And, as far as the process, how long it takes to get all that done, I will bring you along as I come along and I have more information.

MS. FERTIG: So, given that -- not to interrupt you here --

MS. JOHNSON: No.

MS. FERTIG: -- but I just feel like you should be including a couple more of these locations for this; until you get this new system in, be including more locations to audit, Ali, because I just -- I don't know how you just -- there's every single pay period, you've found a problem with it. That's happening throughout the District. That would have serious implications.

So, I think this is important, like a critical area, and you need to do it sooner rather than later, because other -- however many, and go and make sure that these are just two that fell through the cracks and everybody else is doing it correctly.

MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair, a follow-up question --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure.

MR. DE MEO: -- for the new CFO. What a homecoming, hmm?

Are you aware if the payroll has been reconciled quarterly and annually?

MS. JOHNSON: Well, it's not about the 1 2 reconciliation; it's about approval, if it's 3 correct. If it's not correct --MR. DE MEO: Yeah, I know; but --4 5 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. 6 MR. DE MEO: -- have you been able to 7 reconcile the General Ledger --8 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, the payroll --9 MR. DE MEO: -- the Expenses and then --10 MS. JOHNSON: Uh-hmm. 11 MR. DE MEO: -- Cash out, all of that? 12 MS. JOHNSON: Correct. So that we have documentation 13 MR. DE MEO: 14 about the reconciliation, right? 15 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Okay. 16 MR. DE MEO: Thank you. 17 MS. JOHNSON: But that doesn't mean it's 18 accurate. 19 No, no. MR. DE MEO: I --20 Now, you have to reconcile --MS. JOHNSON: 21 that doesn't mean the data in it --22 MR. DE MEO: No. We had the motion --23 MS. JOHNSON: Correct. 24 MR. DE MEO: The idea that we're using

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paper is mind-boggling. And the idea that --

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also what Mr. Turso said. If the findings show pervasive noncompliance, not only should the audit be expanded -- I'm not saying it will be expanded -- but there needs to be something done immediately.

As far as I'm concerned, the CFO -welcome, again -- and the superintendent are
responsible for this and should immediately pay
attention to this and get this resolved. Both
the automation and the lack of compliance.

The lack of compliance is astounding.

MS. JOHNSON: I understand that.

The superintendent is new as well as I am new, and we're going to be putting some stopgaps and some controls outside, why it's a manual process, because we definitely have to make those corrections in payroll.

We're doing our due diligence. We're not just allowing it. Even though it's still manual -- because we know we've got to fix it and approve our internal controls within the system.

We are doing what we can, and we are going to be pulling stuff out forthcoming and training and all that that goes with it, to ensure people are looking at this payroll and we're just not paying people because we just pay people. Okay? We are doing our due diligence.

As far as the Audit Committee, I wouldn't want them bogging down with more work to do; because, until we fix it, right, it's going to be a process. So, we got to put some stopgaps out there right now to stop this from occurring, even though it's a manual process.

And, I know the Kronos and all those other systems, we got to put it together. Or they will be running after something, trying to figure out something that is a large magnitude when the system can do it for them. Okay?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mayersohn before you, and then this is the last commentary so we can move on.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Just -- and, again, one quick question: So, in this paper system, because obviously we all agree, even if you can figure it out today and have a vendor, it's going to take a while to implement.

But, in the current system, if I'm an employee that's not on a Kronos time card and I'm using paper, when I -- I'm assuming that

there's a signature where I sign off on it. Am
I tested -- am I testifying that I agree to
what's there and I'm held liable if there's
fraud or something else or find out that the
numbers are inaccurate, to be charged back to
that amount of money?

Or is it something that I'm just signing off because the numbers are there?

MS. ARCESE: So, as the director, I need to know when Staff is there or not, if they're salaried. So, we do have attendance that we take. So, if someone calls in sick there has to be a Certificate of Absence to represent how they've taken their time.

Again, we have sick leave and we have vacation. Vacation must be preapproved. Sick leave is obviously sick leave. There are different types of, also, sick leaves. We have personal leave; we have sick leave other. So, but it all comes from the sick bank, for us.

So, my team ensures that if there's even a quarter of an hour that someone either came in late or whatever the case may be, there are parameters that we have put in our department, and it is documented.

And I make sure that the documentation mimics what truly happened as far as attendance; and, if employees need to provide Certificates of Absences for vacation, sick time, or whatever, there is documentation to represent, with their signature and my approval, showing what has transpired.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Right; but does the employee -- that's what I'm saying. The employee then is held accountable if, for example, they document that they had a sick day and it, like I said, it went through, whatever it may be.

MS. ARCESE: We would know -- I would know if an employee is there or not, because --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Right. So you, as the supervisor, don't approve it. I get that.

MS. ARCESE: Correct.

MR. MAYERSOHN: But I'm saying is the information that you audited -- you're dealing, talking about your employees. There may be somebody else at another site that has triple the amount of employees that you have and may not accurately be able to track all those employees.

MS. JOHNSON: Yes. When we find an error, employees aren't being held accountable. But we're not -- the District is not --

MR. DE MEO: You don't go back and charge them --

MS. JOHNSON: Right. But the District is not in the collection business. So, I'm just trying to get us out of that business of going back and collecting from employees.

MR. DE MEO: Right.

MS. JOHNSON: So, right now, if there's an error, we definitely sit down and --

MR. DE MEO: That's all. I just wanted to make sure that the employee understands that they can be charged back if it's inaccurate.

MS. ARCESE: Well, and that's all part of the --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. You guys, I'm sorry, but we've got to -- we're so far in the weeds. He said it was quick --

MS. SHAW: I'm going to make it quick.

As best as possible, and I realize you're going to be working with -- could you provide -- bring a timeline? I don't know, it might be that in this timeline it may change because

Kronos, the machine that you have now may have to be changed because it may not tie into the new system because it's old and so, if, at best, could you please bring a timeline with you when you come in January?

MS. JOHNSON: Yes. I'm going to lay it out, because I'm about being transparent. We're going to lay down -- as much information that I have you will have. Okay? Thank you.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Mr. Rhodes?

Before February, I would like to see -- and I'm sure the rest of the group would, because this all ties in -- how much funding is allocated for all of these systems that were mentioned today?

And what modules are available versus what do we have?

Because one of the bugaboos with the nation's sixth largest school district is there will be 13 modules that would make your life easier, and we go for like three, trying to save money. And then we have these things.

So, if we could find out the modules that we have, what they cost, what are we spending, because you could have a timeline -- you could

have a great aggressive timeline and then the District -- the Board finds out how much it's going to cost and it never happens. Especially if you don't have money, which is going to be one of our discussions when we get to fund bills. Okay.

I did actually have questions on the audit itself. I think it kind of all ties into where we are. I have concerns about who does payroll, whether they're qualified to be doing payroll. Because I came from the accounting world where things are centralized, and we don't have secretaries trying to do payroll, especially manually, when they have six million other things trying to happen.

MS. SHAW: We do.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But I'm just saying those are my concerns.

MS. SHAW: Data entry is data entry.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well -- but, from paper.

All right. And, then, was it just the guardians that were having issues? Because this letter just mentions guardians, and SIU is more than guardians, right?

MR. NOSOWICZ: Yes. As far as I know, it

1 wa

was just the guardians that I was made aware of.

They use Kronos. So, the issue lies -they punch in on Kronos; they punch out on
Kronos. And they were missing corresponding
Certificates of Absence as it relates to a sick
day.

So, they're -- obviously we monitor. Their Kronos activity is monitored for correctness, if they're there every day. So, let's say they called out sick on a Wednesday. Kronos is now going to show that there's going to be a sick day that's input.

However, even though that's electronic, we need a piece of paper to verify that they were out sick on that Wednesday. And that's where the deficiency was, is obtaining the Certificate of Absence, that piece of paper.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That sounds like going backwards; but I guess that will get hammered out in the dream world where we have all electronic. Because, to me, all electronic is you eliminate paper, which I think is what our motion was about.

I would -- I can't -- this just leaves me speechless, especially since we keep talking

1 about it year after year.

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Okay. So, we need to transmit it, though.

Okay. Nothing else? Because we've got to move on. People are telling me they have hard stops at noon, which is like 39 minutes from now.

MS. FERTIG: Did we move to transmit with our motion?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We're about -- we've passed the motion.

MS. FERTIG: I'm moving to transmit with --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, moved by Fertig to transmit this Audit Report.

This is the Office of the Chief Auditor,
Audit of Payroll Policies and Procedures of
Selected Locations.

Fertig is moving to transmit with our motion.

MS. SHAW: Phyllis Shaw, second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Moved by Fertig, seconded by Shaw. Any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

(No response.)

1	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It passes unanimously to
2	transmit this audit with our motion. All right?
3	Moving back. We have to double back. That
4	was No. 10. We go back to Internal Funds, which
5	is No. 9.
6	MR. RHODES: And, Madam Chair, the person
7	that was expected to be here by now has not
8	shown up.
9	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, we just keep going.
10	Anybody have any questions, comments,
11	concerns on Item No. 9, Internal Funds Audit of
12	Selected Schools?
13	MR. NAYLOR: Madam Chair?
14	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. Naylor.
15	MR. NAYLOR: As I shared with you and
16	Mr. Rhodes previously, I am involved with one of
17	the schools that is having an audit exception.
18	I sit on their SAC Committee and I've donated to
19	their school during the period that is
20	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is covered?
21	MR. NAYLOR: is covered. We spoke with
22	Ms. Baptiste, and she indicated that there was
23	no conflict.
24	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

MR. RHODES:

If I might just add to that.

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She reviewed the facts and identified that there was no conflict and there was no need for an 8B to be filled out; but, in an abundance of caution, he could make this notation to the committee, and also the findings in the audit were not definitively anything to do with the item that he's talking about having been involved with.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Thank you. If no one else has a question, as you know, we have been getting the Progress Report that shows the total number of schools. This is for the last school year, sort of wrapping up the loose ends from last year, I believe. So, I didn't see the Progress Report we have been getting, so I was looking for that. If we could get sent a copy of that electronically, that would be great.

And, then, where are we on the Business

Practice Bulletin overhaul? Do you guys know
where that is?

MR. RHODES: That was what we were hoping to get from the person who had planned to show up here to discuss this with the Committee. I'm not sure if he's running late or if his schedule has changed, but --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's probably just as well, from my perspective; but given that I believe he was tasked with overhauling these, the prior superintendent approved up to 50,000 for an accounting firm to do it. Then they stopped. So, now I don't even know if they're overhauling these processes. I couldn't help but notice the source of the exceptions appears to be the Business Support Center.

MR. RHODES: We will send an update regarding the numbers you were talking about just before that part of the conversation.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The Progress Report? Or whatever we call it. That's what I was calling it today.

MR. RHODES: Yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So, do I hear a motion to transmit?

MR. NAYLOR: So moved.

MS. FERTIG: Second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by Fertig, seconded by Naylor. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of Transmitting the Office of the Chief Auditor Audit of Internal Funds of Selected Schools?

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed? Hearing none, passes unanimously, and Item No. 9 is transmitted, along with 10, which takes us to 11, the Student Discipline Audit.

Aye.

Which, this was supposed to be -- obviously we were supposed to discuss this on September 26. Because I forgot about this, I meant -- I did call the Diversity Committee Chair this morning, because I think she should be present when these things are discussed.

Because there's an entire condition from the CCC settlement that speaks to discipline, and while this would seem to be limited to the SESIR incidents, that's a component in terms of how the discipline is being meted out that should not be violating the CCC. I'm not saying it is. But she's now aware of the report. I forgot, since this was delayed by a couple of hurricanes, or else I think she would have been here today.

I do not have any specific comments. Does anyone have any comments? Mr. Naylor?

MR. NAYLOR: Yeah, I just, on page 8, the Schedule of the Events, Students and Incidents,

there seems to be significant decline from 2017, '18, going forward. And I was just trying to figure out if we had an explanation what the decline was.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You're saying on page 8, a decline in offenses? Who was supposed to speak to this audit?

MS. ARCESE: So, Saemone Hollingsworth and Jodi Washington were just here. They had to leave; they have a meeting with Dr. Fulton with the new Board members. And they were in the waiting room until about five minutes ago. They just had to leave because of their appointment.

But, to answer your question, are you referring to the number, the sample size?

MR. NAYLOR: Yes. Well, that table there --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Then if we could have this overhead, that would be great.

MS. ARCESE: Thank you. I'll ask
Ms. Pritykina. She's the operations manager;
she can answer your question.

MS. PRITYKINA: So, initially when we started this project, the sample size was bigger and, unfortunately, it took a long time to do

this large of a sample due to the resources within the Audit Department.

So, in the following years, we just used a smaller sample. We used 95 percent confidence level sampling technique to select the sample size. And, then, in the last year we added the SI, reduces even more. We used even smaller sample size of 100 just because we needed to go through that audit.

MR. NAYLOR: Okay. And the schools selected were different each year?

MS. PRITYKINA: No. The first three years, actually they were the same schools because the trends kind of seemed the same. And they slightly changed. Once we did the analysis again in the last year, they slightly changed.

MR. NAYLOR: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You have one? Okay. I'm trying to articulate mine.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So, I guess this is for Mr. Rhodes; I don't know. Whoever. But it's my understanding that the SESIR incidents have not -- haven't been since May; maybe they have been recently -- but integrated into focus, so they're not being updated and published to

principals?

MR. RHODES: I will allow Ali and Elena, because they have been actually actively in those discussions recently, they can probably give you the information you need.

MS. PRITYKINA: We don't have much detail on that yet. We are planning to give you that with the IT Department, how it is, all involved practice, how it is going to be handled this year. But I do believe that the process is changing this year.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Right, but they're not getting -- since May. Like I serve on --

MS. PRITYKINA: I think they are still using the DMS system for the discipline. And then the information, like in the past, the information was transferred to Terms as the Student Information System. And then the Terms was used to report SESIR incidents. Now it's going to focus.

MR. MAYERSOHN: It's going to focus. But I'm saying since May, because it hasn't been integrated into focus, is that none of those monthly reports have been given to principals, so they report at a SAC meeting they don't have

1 any data.

MS. ARCESE: So, we're not aware of that because obviously we are auditing in arrears.

So, what we can do is ask that Staff provide an update to give, to provide the Audit Committee, if you like.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Okay. I would appreciate that.

MS. ARCESE: Because I can't speak to that.

MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair, did you want to --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I kind of forgot my -- do you have a question? Go ahead, because I found a new question.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Does SESIR include bullying and harassment violations?

MS. PRITYKINA: I do believe some sample years, there was a change. Once SESIR included bullying and then it didn't. I would need to double-check that.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Why didn't we include bullying and harassment in the sample?

MS. PRITYKINA: So, with the bullying, once we started reviewing these during the planning phase, it was -- first of all, it has a separate

policy. Also, it's a much involved process. It involves investigations and much more documentation. So, we believe that it should be a separate report, which we were planning to include in our Audit Plan.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I think this gets back to what Mr. Mayersohn was asking about, because it mentions Terms, which in theory -- nothing is going through Terms anymore?

MS. ARCESE: Not that we're aware of, right.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Only because on page 7 it said the data from Terms -- oh, never mind. I need to eat. I'm going to eat my protein bar. Because I misinterpreted what this comment was saying. All right.

So, like I said, the Diversity Committee I think is going to be reviewing this and they may very well have some questions.

Does anyone else have any questions, comments, or concerns?

MS. FERTIG: I just want to clarify this went to the Board on October 15, is that --

MS. ARCESE: It has not gone to the Board.

So, the reports were updated after the second storm, so this was supposed to go to the September 26 Audit Committee meeting. All of the reports online have updated dates; but because you received a packet in mid-September you have the outdated dates.

MS. FERTIG: Actually, I printed it off last night.

MS. ARCESE: Oh, really?

MS. FERTIG: Anyway, I just wanted to ask that.

MR. RHODES: Of the four reports that was the only one that still managed to have the old data. So that was still two hurricanes ago.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, sorry. Which Board meeting would this go to?

MR. RHODES: November 13.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Just so I can let

Diversity and the Advisories know, because

they -- the Advisory Chairs like North Central

and South are very interested in the same data.

And, like I said, from a CCC settlement position

there are things the District is supposed to be

in compliance with. So there's the State, but

there's also being in compliance with oneself.

So, I'm sure they will all be interested in this. That way they have a time frame for when this will go to the Board.

Okay. So, if nobody has anything else, I'm looking for a motion to transmit to the Board the Item No. 11.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to transmit.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Office of the Chief
Auditor Student Discipline Process Audit moved
by Mayersohn.

MS. SHAW: Seconded by Shaw.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any further discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

(No response.)

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And no opposition? All right. Motion passes unanimously to Transmit the Office of the Chief Auditor Audit of Student Discipline Process.

That takes us to Item 12, Property and Inventory.

Any questions, comments, concerns from the Committee on Item No. 12, the Office of the Chief Auditor Property & Inventory Audit of

1 Selected Locations?

I have a -- how do you guys, when you audit, how do you know who the custodian is?

MR. RHODES: Business Practice 0-100 states that the custodian is defined as either the principal of a school location or the director of a department location.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And who do you rely on to find that out?

MR. RHODES: We go by the language in O-100 and then we find that person at the locations as we audit them --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So this property and inventory audit is for 23-24. It covers what period?

MR. RHODES: Gabe? You can use that microphone right there if you want.

MR. CARVAJAL: Good afternoon, ma'am. Can you hear me?

So, those audits cover the year of '23 and '24, so last fiscal year. So, those are the reports, the last few reports that were out there that were conducted and then finally made it to the Audit Committee.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It says you conducted the

audits between February and June of '24?

MR. CARVAJAL: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, if there were a follow-up to be done and the custodian in February ceased to be the custodian in March, you would change the name to the current?

MR. CARVAJAL: So, on the report it will remain the custodian that was actually audited so it reflects the person that was actually present at the time of the audit. Because it wouldn't reflect on the new person that's out there.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Even if that person changed during the audit period?

MR. CARVAJAL: So, if they changed during the audit then we would need to cancel the audit. But I contact the custodian to ensure that they're not going to change or that they're not brand new. So, that way, we don't conduct the audit while the person has changed; that way they can get a -- go ahead.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm not trying to be mysterious. I just happen to know that Mary Coker (phonetic) hasn't been here since like March.

MR. CARVAJAL: Correct. And their audit was conducted before she departed, and we exited with her.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. When I saw February through June, I got confused.

All right. So, that was my comment there.

Anybody else? Okay. Lew and then Robert.

MR. NAYLOR: Just a question. If a school transfers an item to another school and the first school shows that there's a missing item, would there be a surplus item on the other school?

MR. CARVAJAL: If the school transfers an asset from --

MR. NAYLOR: Yes, from one school to another and it's not properly recorded. So, when you're auditing you're showing that there's a missing item from their inventory. Would the other school automatically show a surplus?

MR. CARVAJAL: It wouldn't show on the inventory report that they have a surplus. The physical asset would be located at that school, but it would have to conduct --

MR. NAYLOR: But it wouldn't show that there's a surplus?

MR. CARVAJAL: No, because the inventory report won't show that. And it won't be a surplus because it's not an excess asset. It's just the asset got transferred and the proper documentation wasn't provided, so then the asset would be updated in SIP.

MR. NAYLOR: So you're only doing an audit of the assets assigned to that school, not the assets actually at the school.

MR. CARVAJAL: The assets assigned at that particular school.

MR. NAYLOR: So, if you had included the assets of all the -- or audit of the assets of all the schools, then you might be able to figure out where some of the other items had been moved from?

MR. CARVAJAL: Well, when we go and do the audit we're doing it for that specific school, not for all of the schools in the District. We look to the school specifically. If they're missing an item that's on their inventory report, then we ask the question, where is it. If they claim that they transferred it, then they need to do the proper documentation. Then the asset on that inventory report gets pushed

to that particular school that they transferred the asset to.

MR. NAYLOR: Okay. I was just looking as a check and balance, it might be easier if you actually showed all the assets that were at the school, but -- okay. Thank you.

MR. CARVAJAL: Yes, sir.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Robert?

MR. MAYERSOHN: So, I get it, COVID, and I get the 130,000 laptops that were dispersed and probably changing, and kids going to school and whatever. And I'm looking here at the corrective action from North Lauderdale Elementary; and a plan of contacting the parent or guardian at the time about returning the device, several calls and attempts were made to locate the device and we received no responses.

That's an action; that's not a plan. I mean, I guess -- you know, and again, some of these laptops may be basically out of warranty, out of service, whatever it is. But just some way that the -- because we always discuss this with Property & Inventory. There's supposed to be a semi-annual audit. You should be finding out what's missing before you guys have to do

the audit and tell them that this is what's missing and it's noncompliance.

So, again, the importance of -- and, again, not you guys but somebody in the District managing those expectations that every school does these Property & Inventory audits semi-annually so that we can identify items that are missing, stolen, lost, transferred in the wrong place, and not including the numbers -- we discussed this ad nauseam.

It frustrates me when I see a response of, "Well, we tried." So, is the child out of the District? Maybe they're not going to the elementary school; maybe they're going to a middle school. Are they not in Broward County? It just -- I mean, like I said, the squeeze is not worth the juice, but it just frustrates me. That's my statement.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: To piggyback on that, how -- what sort of reporting is done to verify that the semi-annual audits are being done at the school or location level?

MR. CARVAJAL: For the schools, the superintendent has a website called BCPS Central and, in there, they have to submit their

semi-annual inventory; when they conduct it, what they found, their inventory team. All of that information will go in there, and they have to electronically sign. The principal will electronically sign, saying that they have conducted their semi-annual inventory on whatever date that they have designated to be conducted, and that's supposed to be pushed out from the superintendent.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What sort of system is used?

MR. CARVAJAL: It's a web-based system.

Broward County Public Schools Central. I think it used to be called OSPA. I'm not sure of the acronym, but that's the old system.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Wait. OSPA was a department.

MR. CARVAJAL: The old website, now it's called BCPS Central.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But it would be a link to something. It's a database?

MR. CARVAJAL: It has to be a database, but it's a web-based form that they fill out.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, what I'm trying to find out -- this might not be a question for

you -- is whose job is it to review what they're submitting, to make sure everybody is submitting and confirming that they're doing the audits that they're supposed to be doing?

Because, to Mr. Mayersohn's point, if they were doing them semi-annually it seems unlikely that you would have these findings.

MR. CARVAJAL: So, there is a letter that gets pushed out by the superintendent that tells them when to do it, when to do the semi-annual inventories.

As far as who is actually checking to ensure that they're conducting the semi-annual inventories, that is outside of my realm, apart from the audit.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. Like I said, probably not for you to answer.

So, can we as follow-up get a copy of an export of whatever system they're putting that into? Because that's not really an audit function. This is a management function. It's part of their internal controls. If they have to electronically sign that they have completed these semi-annual inventories, where -- who is monitoring it? Who is tracking, who is

monitoring, who is following up; whose job is that. But, also, can we get a copy of an export of the most recent one?

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MR. RHODES: What I'll do is I'll have

Gabriel get a copy of that from the very system

he was just describing, and we'll bring that as
a follow-up to the November meeting.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. It's under what?

MS. SHAW: It's still under OSPA.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: OSPA? It's under that? Because that's still a site. Is it linked to the new one?

MS. SHAW: I don't know. Version 2.0.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's probably Microsoft forms.

Okay. That's all I had. So, thank you.

MR. CARVAJAL: Yes, ma'am.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Moving on, if there are no other --

MS. FERTIG: I was going to make a motion to transmit.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh. That's what I was looking for.

MS. SHAW: Second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Motion by Fertig,

seconded by Shaw. Any further discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Motion passes unanimously. That is Item No. 12, Office of the Chief Auditor Property & Inventory Audit of Selected Locations.

So, that concludes what we moved to the top of the Agenda, and that takes us, circles us back to Old Business. And our Old Business section is starting to look like a Facilities

Task Force Old Business section due to, I think, lack of some responses.

So, first up, we have Fund Balance. And Omar has been here for the whole duration. Who else do we have from Accounting?

MR. RHODES: We have -- if you guys would like to come up to the table, bring your name plates with you.

MR. RHODES: We have Omar Shim; he's here in place of the CFO. As we saw, she might be popping in during this; I don't know. And then we also have Gerrilyn Arlotta, who is the

Assistant Director of Accounting currently.

And just for some very brief background,
Ms. Arlotta has identified in communication with
me that she was not the person who put together
the SAFR that we're looking at, kind of in
conjunction with the Fund Balance. I wanted to
make sure that you guys took that information
into consideration when you're asking the
questions and expecting the answers.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I have a feeling the questions are going to center around getting some clarity on some of the numbers that were provided to the group.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Madam Chair, I have some questions when it's ready.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You're good. You're first up. I'm still gathering my notes.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: So, on the SAFR Annual Financial Reports related to the board. Exhibit D1, page 18, and TT.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What page is that?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Exhibit D1, page 18, TT.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 18, TT.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Double T.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I'm just trying to

1 pull it up on the screen.

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2 MR. RHODES: I'm sorry; did you say that
3 was "something D1"?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Exhibit D1, 18, TT.

That's Fund Balance Reporting, Note 17.

MR. RHODES: Okay. Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Note 17. 18. Hold on. I'm almost there.

Wait. I'm at T and then U. How does this numbering go? And then they go from single letter to double letter? Is that how the numbering system is?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Then I'm not even close.

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, Exhibit D1 begins a new numbering system that begins with 18 followed by letters.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, yeah. No, no. I was on the single -- the page 18 single versus double letter. We'll talk about who came up with this numbering system.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: It's actually -- I do believe it came from the State.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's coming from the

1 State? Well, they're equally bad.

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MS. FERTIG: Sorry; what was the page number again?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's what I'm trying to get to. What was it? Exhibit D1, page 18.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Double T.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yay. I'm on that page.

All right. Fund Balance Reporting. If I could have it up on the screen, please. Thank you.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: That part that is talking about assigned Fund Balance. Assigned for school operations. If you can move just a little bit down.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: When you say down, do you mean up?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: There you go.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Assigned for school operations?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes.

So, there's a statement saying
...7.2 million for goods and services, including
supplies, furniture, picture, and equipment.

My question was: When I look at the AFR, 2023, that number was \$28 million. In 2022 was \$32 million. And 2021 was \$29 million. And

this year it's \$7.2 million.

So my question was why encumbrances are so low for the year 2024 and what change in methodology of calculation, calculating, occurred that year?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Go ahead. I mean, who is here to answer that question? Because we got sent a lot of very, very accounting-type work papers that would suggest people that do General Ledger entries could explain --

MR. SHIM: Yeah. That's what was requested was the work papers.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

MR. SHIM: However, just to not really answer it but -- good to see you again. I don't have a direct answer because we have not done that comparison that Mr. Gorokhovsky mentioned. So, we would have to go back and look at that and come back to you another day with that answer.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: There is a work paper that was sent to the Committee for the procedural support documents, and that was -- it has a note on the bottom of it, saying 16.9 as a reference number.

And it discusses the Total Encumbrances for General Funds for School District were \$40 million. I don't know if anybody found that page or did reference that page.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It says page 2 of 2; it's very small.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Yes. Page 2 of 2. On the bottom it says 16.9.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Let me see if that was included online so I can pull it up. I have it on paper.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: There is a reduction of an AP Accrual of \$32.5 million which, prior years, it fluctuated somewhat between 6 to 8 million dollars for the year, which makes sense because AP Accrual technically stands for two months of expenditures or invoices coming in after the year-end that pertain to the year prior to that. Payments that were not encumbered.

So I guess my question is: It's very unusual to have encumbrances of \$7 million compared to last year functions, knowing that the school before they go on break to procure the supplies, to procure the -- you know, we

have been going through this, Omar; you know what's going on. So, it's very unusual to see \$7 million encumbrances for the year-end for the whole School District. That's what I'm trying to identify here.

MR. SHIM: If I may, I don't think there's a difference in methodology, that we use the same methodology which is basically get information from our financial system, and that's referenced in the backup as 16.9.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Uh-hmm.

MR. SHIM: It's page 1 of 2. I think you were provided with that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm on page 2 of 2.

MR. SHIM: Okay. Yes. And that shows what all the transactions were that comprise that

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Does it? There's no -so, page 2 -- page 1 -- so, they're on two
different pages; but what you're saying is that
each of these columns, those are the totals on
the bottom?

Because the way this was sent, I got to tell you it's very hard to follow, because if you're telling me that page 1 is the top part of

this chart and page 2 is the bottom, that's hard to follow. Plus, we can't do anything with a pdf.

So, in the future, and I think I asked if I could get, we could get this in the original format, which would have been Excel? This information is an Excel spreadsheet? The 16.9, pages 1 and 2?

MR. SHIM: It's generated from SAP, so not necessarily a spreadsheet.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It was exported?

MR. SHIM: Yes. It's possible to get it in that format, yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Because that would be Step 1.

But Oleg is asking -- so, you have encumbrances of 7.2 million, roughly, for this year. What was it last year?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Well, I can help you there. I mean, I went back to the AFR; it was \$28 million this year.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So this year we just have a lot less?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: I believe, based on the explanation we're given the District says that,

at the year of 2024, the encumbrances were \$7.2 million for General Funds. I think that's what I'm hearing.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Right? That's what was reported to the State.

MR. SHIM: Right. And I said we have not done that comparison to go back and look, what it looked like last year versus this year. So, we would look -- you know, go back and look and see, do that comparison.

But this is basically the reference for how we generated that figure.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: How you generated what? I'm sorry?

MR. SHIM: The 7.2 million that you're referring to.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Because I -- there was a number here that I thought the second round of backup was supposed to answer, but I'm not getting an answer, either.

So, what they're saying is this, the encumbrance is explained on pages 1 and 2; that's how you get to the 7.2? That those are all the transactions that add up to 7.2?

1 MR. SHIM: That's correct.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is that correct? It's just hard to see because we were sent a pdf.

Are the General Ledger accounts identified, as far as what they are? I'll scroll down.

We have what I presume -- we have the rows and columns. So, the columns represent what?

I'm not asking about specific amounts; I'm literally asking like what are all of these columns?

MR. SHIM: Right. So, the columns at the top are the fund numbers.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MR. SHIM: And the --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Rows.

MR. SHIM: -- rows are the far left column; that shows the rows. Those are the GL accounts.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The General Ledger accounts. All right.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: I'm sorry; I'm still learning my ropes here.

So, if I may, I guess the question from that schedule would be what is 32.5 million dollars AP Accrual? On the same schedule of 16.9 referenced on the bottom, to the left, you

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have total encumbrances of 40 million dollars, less 32.5 million dollars AP Accrual.

Like I said, I know that typically it's two months of the invoices coming after the year-end.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, in what we were sent, because my expectation is we should be able to tick and tie back to these numbers from what was sent. So, you're asking about the AP Accrual, which is 32.5 million. Balance Sheet POs. Salaries & Benefits is nothing. Categoricals. To get to the 7.2.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: I'm just asking for clarification.

MR. SHIM: I'm sorry; the question is?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Did you provide -- so, is there a schedule that ties back to the number, the AP Accrual number, in what you provided?

MR. SHIM: We can provide that. It wasn't here. However, there are AP projections for accruals.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I have a question, because when I was trying to make sense of what we were sent, the first -- the work papers show next year budget appropriations of 54,000,642.

Where would I find the detail that makes up that number? Because I thought that's what the second thing was, but that -- I couldn't find that number anywhere.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: That was going to be my next question as well.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I was looking and --

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, can you repeat the number you just said? I'm trying to make sure I'm following you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It is under Assigned, after Encumbrances. It's next year budget appropriations, the amount is fifty-four six forty-two.

MR. RHODES: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's under the column labeled General Fund.

It's on Exhibit D1, page 2.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: May I suggest something, if it's possible? I do believe Marte still works with the School District? It's Accounts Payable manager? She, at least in the past, she prepared this note with all the details to it. She might be the person who can actually guide

us through it and tell us exactly what's part of those numbers. And I don't know if it's our --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, you guys -- I mean, not for nothing, because we got sent these, and we're not getting an explanation.

So, what Oleg is asking -- Molla? Is she -- because these numbers are all totals. They're coming from somewhere.

MR. SHIM: Right. So, we did provide -that question was asked, and we did provide a
response to that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: For the fifty-four six forty-two?

MR. SHIM: We did, yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Where is that?

MR. RHODES: That was the second record you sent. So, if you look at the entry that was kind of cut and paste into an email, I think the highlighted yellow part is the actual number.

And, Ms. Arlotta, are you saying that the numbers in that row represent the answer to that question?

MS. ARLOTTA: Yes. The explanation is above that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm sorry; can you guys

both do your mics? Because I can hear Omar --

MS. SHAW: (Inaudible.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Pardon?

MS. SHAW: (Inaudible.)

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, first, I was trying to find it for myself so, then, they could explain it.

So, this is about pieces that are making up the Fund Balance. This is under Assigned because -- Assigned and Unassigned. And remember, we were trying to figure out how they would ever get to 5 percent? And whatever is going in here, they have things that have occurred like the charter school payment. Don't know where that's coming from. And we have numbers in this Assigned section. We know what the Committed Self-Insurance -- that has not changed in how many years? I don't know. But the Assigned, it's not clear how we're getting to these numbers.

So, what we're seeing here is an ending balance. Okay. So, for the sake of argument you've shown us a cut and paste that shows an ending balance that rounds up to fifty-four six forty-two, is the second thing that we were

sent. However, it doesn't tell us what's in the opening balance for that General Ledger account, and it doesn't -- what is -- these next two columns. Adjust for additional referendum. And then it says, the next piece down, says CORR Entry Number 131C. And then there's another column that says Assigned Fund Balance for OPEB, and a similar thing that's for a much smaller amount.

So, what is the 31,257,312.13 for?

MR. SHIM: Yes. It's for additional referendum that was paid in July.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Can you explain that?

MR. SHIM: It's that --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because what you provided shows us an ending balance but it doesn't tell us how we got there, because there are two entries. We don't know what's in the starting balance, we don't know what the two entries are consisting of, so we don't really know how we got the ending balance.

MS. SHAW: Could I make a recommendation through the Chair? Because we have all these numbers and there's some references, and those references are not really tying back to it. Is

it possible -- and I realize this is coming out of the system -- but if you're looking at your restricted, if you're looking at your assigned, unassigned, expendable, et cetera, someone, number one, needs to be verifying this number that is generated out of the system.

Could someone take these numbers -- I mean, I just converted it to Excel, just so you know. But could someone take it and kind of foot it so that we can know what makes up the 32.5, what makes up the 20.7, what makes up all of these numbers so when we're looking at it, you don't have to sit here and explain your internal reconciliation process. Because that's what all this is.

So, the question is: Where are these numbers? How do we find it in your financials so we're able to verify what they are?

Because to have an AP Accrual for 32.5 is really weird for me. I mean, it could be just someone just says, you know what, we're just going to estimate and we're just going to call it 32.5 and roll it out.

And it could be -- it can't be debt service, because debt service would be someplace

else, you know, because that would be a different kind of restricted.

So, is that possible? I mean, in my accounting brain, it is.

MR. SHIM: Yes.

MS. SHAW: But --

MR. SHIM: Yes.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: If I can make a comment, I've done this extensively over the years, so I know the process.

The AP Accrual, typically there's a report in the system that's produced at the end of second months, which is the end of August, which tells them exactly, Accounting exactly what AP Accrual is. All depending, invoices to be paid. So, there is a report for that. At least there was in the year before.

The reason I was going to question why this \$54 million designated -- I'm sorry. Assigned Fund Balance so high, compared to year before. Because, according to Gatsby 54 (phonetic), Assigned Fund Balance is basically -- has to be a designated amount, which means it has to be directed by something to be put in Assigned.

In the past, two numbers went in there.

One was the carryover, referendum carryover money left over. And the second last year item was, if I remember from my memory, it was the MSD Settlement Agreement, which was the final payment last year.

MS. SHAW: And unless something new was designated to be included, we want to know what else is making up that number and the documents that designate. Because the document that designated must be approved by the School Board.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: And to follow up on that if we're talking about \$54 million, I think it was stated additional referendum, does it mean \$54 million is the leftover referendum money from last year to carry forward to next year? Which is another concern, because District having so many safety issues, so many mental health.

So, that's what I'm trying to understand here, what went into that number.

MS. SHAW: So, that would be next, along with the backup or the approval, because you can't just assign an amount without the appropriate approval. Otherwise, it needs to be removed.

MS. ARLOTTA: We can follow up with those questions.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, is it clear we're not looking for written narratives, we're really starting with the more detailed entries?

Because we have --

MS. SHAW: Not even entries. I think when you -- because there could be 30, 100 entries that go. But what makeup? Give us an idea. Especially the Assigned. Especially because it's required to be something that's adopted by the School Board for it to be in there. We want to know what makes up. So, if there's three numbers in there, what are those three numbers? You know. And along with the appropriate backup that designate those three numbers to be there. And it could be six numbers, but you understand what I'm saying.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And there are two entries specifically called out. What does CORR mean?

MS. ARLOTTA: Correcting entry.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's what I thought.

So there are two correcting entries, 131C and

191H. To Phyllis's point, the debit or the

credit could be 100 different little things or

could be one. So, but, without seeing those two entries we don't know.

So, Phyllis is saying the approval. And then I'm curious about these two entries.

Because correcting entries piques my interest.

And then we would have I think a better understanding of that. Then also the AP, all the pending invoices, that would add up to the 32-ish million. And then I think we might be on our way to some clarity.

Do you have any --

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Madam Chair, yes, I do have one more question.

So, on June 18, 2024, the Board approved the item for settlement agreements for charter schools 2018 referendum payment. The financial portion of that indicated there will be, the first year payment for referendum repayment to charter schools, like \$31 million, I think. And the next year will be 35 and 40 million dollars.

My question is: Was this amount accrued in year 2024? And the reason I ask that question is because on September 10 meeting, regular School Board meeting, Board member asked a question, how come the superintendent Annual

Financial Report does not state anything related to charter school settlement?

And the response Administration gave was that, well, July 10 payment, happen in the year 2025, funds were set aside for that in 2025 so, therefore, that's where it's mentioned.

MS. SHAW: No, I'm sorry --

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: So, my question again, is, I just want to clarify: Because July 10, 2024, payment seems to be, the first payment, which is a short-term liability, my question is, was that accrued in year 2024 Financial Statements?

MS. SHAW: Uh-hmm.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That is a question. Can someone answer that?

MS. SHAW: They're probably not going to be able to answer that because they're not that much in the details of it.

MR. SHIM: Well, we're going back to check the Accruals to total what that was and see if that was included.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, which Accruals would that be in?

MS. SHAW: Wouldn't be AP accruals.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I didn't think so.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: No, it cannot be AP Accruals. It's too large amount.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Where in what we were given should it show up?

MS. SHAW: It would be in Restricted. It would be part of the Restricted, because similar to your Debt Service because it's some -- (inaudible) -- I'm sorry. It would be part of the Restricted, because that's something that's designated and it must be on your books.

So, you're not going to be able to just put it somewhere and someone to spend the money without thinking that it has to be, it has to be designated for whatever the event was. It was an approval.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Just one correction. It will be part of Assigned Fund Balance simply because that's where the MSD Settlement used to be coded in. So, typically, if I would be reviewing this I would anticipate there's expense on the General Funds side and there's a liability created on June 18.

MS. SHAW: Is it possible that it could -- you could have created a special fund for it?

Because I know a lot of times when things are over a number of years and you want to separate it out of General Fund, you may create a separate fund for it? Is that possible? And, if that's the case, we should be able to see it somewhere in the details.

And I don't know -- Mr. Rhodes, we're getting into the weeds of this and I really don't want to, but I am curious.

MR. RHODES: My goal as the liaison was to provide the information so that this could be vetted to the point that you guys felt comfortable with what it is you were looking at.

MS. SHAW: Then -- I don't know if you were finished?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: No. Just the last statement.

So, based on the response that the board member got and the public got, I don't believe -- and, again, I'm speculating here because I don't have the specific records -- but I didn't see the Accrual for the full amount being booked in the financial records when I compare year to year.

So, this is why I'm trying to ask a

question so hopefully we'll get a response on that. Because, as you know, that accrual will be directly impacted. At least the first payment of the Settlement Agreement will be directly impacting Fund Balance of the year 2024.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And when you say that, so then currently the Fund Balance -- so, if it's in here and the Fund Balance, at the end of the fiscal year, Assigned, Unassigned, was 3.58 and 4.38 excluding charter school revenues -- for the purposes of the State, which of those are used?

MS. SHAW: I'm sorry; what was the question?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, for the purposes of the State minimum, which is 3 percent, do they look at the first measure or the second, excluding charter school revenues?

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: I'm going to try to help out the District right now, if I may.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: So, the State requires
Fund Balance percentage excluding charter
schools, because charter schools is considered

to be flow-through funds.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: So, the 4.38 percent that was reported to the State, that's the number based on the financials that were completed.

But, if -- so, there are three payments. The first payment normally recorded is a short-term liability to the other two payments, which is going to happen in following years. They will be recorded as a long-term liability.

So the impact, for those who know the accounting, the impact, the government-wide financial statements, but the first payment impacts the Fund financials.

And if that -- I don't know exactly what it was; but, if it's 31, 32 million dollars, we'll be reducing the Assigned, Unassigned Fund Balance of the District, as of the end of 2024 Fund year.

That's the concern that I have; that if that was not recorded that we're looking at a Fund balance that's really not accurate.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's not what it says, okay.

MS. FERTIG: Can we get some specific

answers though? What's the date of our November meeting? I'm sorry.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hold on. 14th. So, a week out.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, we're a couple weeks out.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, we would be looking for answers in time for our November Agenda going out.

MR. RHODES: Okay. So, we specifically want to know the breakdown of the 54.6 --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And all its moving parts.

MR. RHODES: -- and all of its moving parts, as well as when these amounts were booked and what they were booked for, in '24, and possibly scheduled for booking in '25; is that correct?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The charter school payment, the first payment, because it would have been a short-term obligation for the purposes of fiscal year '24, what -- where was that booked? Because they paid it, right? They paid it. Was it booked in fiscal year '24 or '25?

MS. SHAW: Well, they paid it in '25, but

it was sent back as an accrual to '24.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: Because, if it's not, it's a serious concern with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because you would be paying something which you didn't acknowledge was an obligation when you knew how much it was, it was absolutely going to happen.

I don't even understand how that would happen, that you wouldn't have accrued it.

MS. SHAW: Well, before, we have what?
Well, we're still doing -- so, I'm hoping that
the issues that we're seeing and the SAFR are
being corrected in the Annual Financial Report
or will be cleared up in the Annual Financial
Report.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: When we see that.

MR. GOROKHOVSKY: The only problem would be with that -- it's the only comment that I'll make on this additional one -- is that if indeed that is an issue, the Board is making decisions right now, settlement agreements, based on information provided to them.

MS. SHAW: Based on the information.

There's nothing we can do about that, but I want to make sure that at least with the Annual Financial Report, the changes are made and the corrections are done before now, it coming back to us and then going to the Board for an approval.

I mean, somebody will have to explain to the Board why, if in fact there were errors in the SAFR. But it is the requirement -- I mean, I understand you guys were going through some changes during, you know, this fiscal year and bodies -- you know, there were bodies moving.

But, unless you were short-staffed, your staffing -- your staffing, your staffing, your staffing -- are doing the work. Management are just assisting to report. So, unless your entire accounting crew was gone --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, actually they did lose two major players --

MS. SHAW: Then that --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- that are overseeing that, during the development of that. That's a whole other story.

Okay. So, I think I'll get with you to make sure we're clear on what the asks are.

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MR. RHODES: Yes.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: To document that.

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Then, I'm not trying to get rid of you, but didn't you say you were going to disappear?

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MS. FERTIG: Can we -- I know you've still got so many things on here, Nathalie. I saw you

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have booster clubs. I know I'm going to have to

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leave shortly.

time.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't think we have an

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update, so you guys know what I know.

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MS. FERTIG: If we can just do that next

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I just want to let you

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know, HCT Intercom Audit, we -- in terms of

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movement to responding to any of our motions.

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And in fact, I got pushback to us retransmitting

getting responses, there does not seem to be any

18 19 our prior motions. They said that they would only give to the Board motions that hadn't been

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already passed. And I'm like, but we passed it

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again, so it's like hitting the reset button

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because these things were not addressed the

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MR. NAYLOR: Change the ask.

first time around. So --

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Change the ask? Okay.

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MR. NAYLOR: Just modify it.

MS. FERTIG: Rephrase the motion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, yeah, yeah. But I thought you meant change who we're asking.

MR. NAYLOR: No, no. Change what you're asking for, to modify.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, rephrase.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think they don't want to answer the question, no matter how you put sugar on top and say pretty please.

MS. SHAW: Put sugar next time.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, that's that. So, that's a question mark that we have to revisit, because I know what I'm going to do.

All right. So, P-card, that was just what came out of it. Did they pass -- I believe they did pass the P-card policy. I believe so. And I can't speak to whether they incorporated our observations.

OIG Ballot Initiative, Public Awareness Campaign.

MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, I do have an update on that information you had requested about the 1.2 million.

I spoke with Ms. Batista, and she told me that based on the FTE rundown that they give on page 15 of 15 on the exhibit that we've attached to this item which went to the School Board at a workshop on May 29, she said that the \$1.2 million was an estimate that was provided by the Broward OIG, based on the full-time equivalence or any portion of the full-time equivalence that they had in that calculation or ultimately the layout of what they were going to be using as resources for a given year with the School District.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. In English, though. On what page?

MR. RHODES: On 15 of 15 on the presentation, the last page, shows the FTEs of the OIG staff.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, you're saying their staff. When you say FTE, I think students so I got a little confused.

So, this is even more people than what I saw. Oh, but there's a lot of .25s in here actually.

MR. RHODES: Right. So they're going to have some people that are going to be full-time

dedicated to the School District's business, and then they're going to have other support staff from their main office that would be providing services that they would charge to this, as well. And so the -- I guess the best example is when we talk about AE Com, how certain people became a portion of the person for their time.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. But you know when AE Com has in its staffing plan the hourly or whatever rate times a multiplier here? We don't know what they're suggesting are their salaries.

MR. RHODES: Right. I think the answer to that part is that in this discussion, because it hadn't become a part of the referendum, it hadn't been voted on, they were only able to give an estimate based on that. I think the actuals are going to come after they sit down at the table, once this would, optimistically, be approved.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I'm just going to do some simple math.

Inspector General .25. So, that's a quarter. So they're suggesting that a quarter of her time would now be taken away from Municipalities and used for the School Board?

MR. RHODES: Based on the estimate as it was described to me, yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think we really need to see how their time is spent now, because to me this seems like a lot of bodies. Even though their point -- because there's nothing under .25. And I can't imagine -- we would have to look at the volume that they currently handle, because it sounds like we're going to be like taking over the place.

MR. RHODES: Well, I apologize that I didn't do a breakdown of a hypothetical, but I did want to get the answer to where that 1.2 million dollar amount came from --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

MR. RHODES: -- that's being listed on the superintendent's video that he released recently.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I think for the purposes of transparency, though, I'd like to see, we'd like to see what is that based on. So probably her budget, current budget would be helpful.

But, anyway -- all right. I think we need a motion to --

	Page 145
1	MS. FERTIG: So moved.
2	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by Fertig.
3	MR MAYERSOHN: Second.
4	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Second by Mayersohn. Any
5	discussion?
6	(No response.)
7	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All in favor of
8	adjourning?
9	COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.
10	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?
11	(No response.)
12	DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Motion
13	carried.
14	Thank you very much.
15	(Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF FLORIDA)
3	COUNTY OF BROWARD)
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5	I, Renee Welch Richter, hereby certify that I
6	was authorized to and did stenographically report the
7	foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a
8	true and complete record of my stenographic notes.
9	Dated this 30th day of October, 2024.
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15	RENEE WELCH RICHTER
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