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SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

KC WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION CENTER
BOARD ROOM
600 SE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 9:34 A.M. - 1:19 P.M.

Court Reporter:
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- 1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
- 2 MS. MARY FERTIG, VICE CHAIR
 - MS. RUTH CARTER-LYNCH
- 3 MS. REBECCA DAHL
 - MR. ANTHONY DE MEO
- 4 DR. NATHALIE LYNCH-WALSH
 - MR. ROBERT MAYERSOHN
- 5 MS. JACLYN STRAUSS
 - MR. PETER TURSO

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR STAFF:

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- MR. JORIS JABOUIN, Chief Auditor
- 8 MS. ALI ARCESE, Audit Director
 - MS. MEREDITH ARLOTTA, Manager, Operations
- 9 MS. ANN CONWAY, Manager, Internal Funds Audits
 MS. JENNIFER HARPALANI, Information Technology Audits
- 10 MS. ELENA PRITYKINA, Auditor III
 - MS. MICHELE MARQUARDT, Executive Secretary
- 11 MS. WANDA RADCLIFF, Clerk Spec B
- 12 DISTRICT STAFF:
- 13 MS. MARYLIN BATISTA, General Counsel
 - MRS. JUDITH MARTE, Deputy Superintendent, Operations,
- Office of the Deputy Superintendent, Operations
 - DR. VALERIE WANZA, Acting Chief of Staff
- 15 MS. ERUM MOTIWALA, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
- 16 DR. JOSIAH PHILLIPS, Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- 17 MR. ALAN STRAUSS, Regional Superintendent, South Region
- 18 DR. JERMAINE FLEMING, Regional Superintendent, North Region
- 19 DR. TED TOOMER, Acting Associate Superintendent Non-Traditional Schools
- 20 MR. DAVID AZZARITO, Executive Director, Human Resource & Equity
- 21 MR. RYAN SMITH, Director, Business Support Center
- MR. ERIC SEIFER, Process Analyst, Procurement & Warehousing Services

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 1 INVITED GUESTS:
 2 MS. ANNETTE LEWIS, S. Davis & Associates
   MS. FAYE MUNNINGS, S. Davis & Associates
 3 MR. TIM BASS, Court Reporter, United Reporting, Inc.
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   GUESTS:
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   SCOTT TRAVIS, Sun Sentinel
 6 RAUL ALVAREZ, Trimerge Consulting Group, PA
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Lynch-Walsh?

Superintendent.

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DR. TOOMER:

MR. SMITH:

MS. FERTIG:

Support Center.

the agenda?

Superintendent Non-Traditional.

give us a better gauge on time.

MR. JABOUIN:

Okay.

to start off by saying, if it's okay with

At this time we're going to -- we're on Item

Number 3, Approval of the Agenda. I'm just going

everybody, I'd like to move the minutes to the

top so we can get those done and then that will

And, Mr. Jabouin, did you have a comment on

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members who requested delivery to their homes and

businesses on Friday, May 12th. And the

Yes.

agenda on Wednesday, May 10th. The agenda was

packages were delivered to the audit committee

posted online on Thursday, May 11th, and the

communication went out to the school board, the

audit committee members, the cabinet, and other

parties of interest that the agenda items and the

meeting documents were posted to the website.

Chair.

MR. MAYERSOHN:

Thank you. And Dr.

Ted Toomer, Acting Associate

Ryan Smith, Director of Business

Thank you. And welcome.

The Chair finalized the

1 Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'd like to move that we strike Item 16 because it is not -- what was submitted for today is not actually in compliance with the motion that we passed back in June of '22.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Could I just make a suggestion that, maybe, when we get there we defer that item, which is at the bottom of the agenda?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, the thing is, it's not what we passed the motion on.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. But if we leave it on you can give your rationale for that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I just don't want to waste staff's time.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. All right. You're moving to -- to --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Strike it. Remove it. And have the Chief Auditor review the motion that we passed and the other pages.

MS. FERTIG: All right. Well, let's strike it or not. We're going to vote on that. Okay.

Well, go ahead, you can tell why, but -DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I want to make sure

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that at our next meeting or that moving forward they're clear, so I can do that during audit committee member comments, but I want to make clear in open forum so we don't have our time or staff's time wasted again.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I'm sorry, I'm not rushing you, but you can see what kind of an agenda we have.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's why I'm trying to jettison half an hour of wasted time.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So it's been moved. Is there a second to strike Number 16?

MS. STRAUSS: Second.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. So we have, at this point when we move to adopt the agenda we have moved the minutes up to the top and is there anything — is there anybody who wants to move to adopt the agenda in that manner? And we have deleted Item 16.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to approve the minutes of February 16th and March 2nd and April 23rd.

1 MS. FERTIG: But we have to approve the 2 agenda.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I move to approve the agenda as amended.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'll second it.

MS. FERTIG: Thank you. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Oppose?

(No response.)

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. We have adopted an agenda and our first order of business is the minutes of February 16th.

MR. MAYERSOHN: All right. Motion to approve the minutes of -- can we do them all together?

MR. JABOUIN: Please do them separately.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion to approve the February 16th minutes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Second.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any comments?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor of approving the minutes of February 16th, 2023 audit committee?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And I move to approve the minutes of April -- of March 2nd, 2023.

1 MR. MAYERSOHN: I second.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. All in favor of -- oh, any discussion?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor of approving the minutes of March 2nd 2023 audit committee, please say aye.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries.

Number 12, or number next, approval of the minutes of April 25th, 2023.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to approve the April 25th minutes.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'll second it.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion to approve the April 25th, 2023 virtual audit committee minutes.

Any discussion?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor --

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think this is the first time we're approving minutes for a virtual meeting where we couldn't conduct business

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because it's virtual. I just want to make sure that there's no problem approving minutes for a meeting -- or just to be clear that no business was conducted at this meeting because it was virtual. So I just want that on the record.

MR. JABOUIN: And the minutes do reflect that as well, because that's a statement that I made at the meeting and that's reflected within the minutes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. That's all I wanted to point out.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any other discussion?
(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries. And we are now down to Chief Auditor Administrative Matters. Did you take care of that a minute ago or you still have some?

MR. JABOUIN: I do have a few items to mention, Chair. I wanted to mention that representatives from teaching and learning that are in attendance, such as Mr. Strauss, Mr.

Fleming -- Dr. Fleming and Dr. Toomer, they have an off-site meeting and they have a conflict.

Mr. Strauss needs to leave at 10:15 and Dr.

Fleming needs to leave at 10:30.

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Also, the certificates of appreciation are in your areas. I do want to thank the committee and we do have, Ms. Fertig, your certificate will be given by your other committee and so will Ms. Shaw's.

With respect to the next meeting on June 22, the agenda is likely to be very long for that.

We are also asking for a 9:30 start for that particular meeting. If the committee members would kindly note that as well.

Thank you very much. That concludes my administrative items, Chair.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

So we're down now to public speakers.

Are you finished?

MR. JABOUIN: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Are there any public speakers?

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, I was told we do have a public speaker.

MR. TRAVIS: For the agenda item.

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MS. FERTIG: On the agenda item. Thank you.

Okay. So now we are down to Audit Committee Chair Comments, and thank you all for coming today. And I want to congratulate you because we have picked up eight minutes on my timed agenda.

So if everybody's ready, we're going to go to Number 7, Internal Funds Audit of Selected Schools. This was postponed from April 13th and I'm going to ask that you make comments and --

MR. JABOUIN: If I may?

MS. FERTIG: The floor is yours.

MR. JABOUIN: If I can please introduce Items 7, 8 and 9, if I introduce them together, it'll probably be best in the interest of time.

Agenda Item number 7 is an internal funds audit of 45 schools that were originally presented at the canceled April 13th meeting.

The Agenda Item Number 8 is the internal funds audits of 29 additional schools. And then Agenda Item Number 9 is the payroll audit of nine schools and departments that were originally scheduled at the canceled April 13th meeting.

With respect to the internal funds audits, some of them are Business Support Center schools. The payroll audits are not business support

center activities and is not part of their responsibility. Some of these are two-year audits and the issue vary from negative year-end balances. From 2021 is where some of these audits had negative -- negative year-end balances. And they were all cleared by the end of 2022 except for McNicol. We did check and they all have positive balances as of March of 2023.

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Other issues that you'll see involved the use of internal advances, cash distribution sheets, bank reconciliation reports, receipt and depositing procedures, bookkeeper responsibilities, missing pre-numbered receipt books, late deposits, financial reporting, deposits in transit and errant deposits.

I wanted to mention that with the McNicol report, we did neglect to put the statement of balances in the report and my staff has distributed them to your team right now. And then with the Parkway, the statement of changes are also being provided to you. You can see the negative balances on them.

With respect to Margate Elementary School, this school is still under investigation.

District management, due to the fact that there is some criminal investigation that is ongoing right now, won't be commenting outside of the items that are in the report. We don't want to impact the activity that's being done by law enforcement organizations. So we do want to point that out.

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So the responses that we received, we received some from the schools and on the schools that are Business Support Center schools we received joint responses from the school and the Business Support Center Director Smith, as well as responses from the regional superintendent. Ι have discussed these issues in these reports in a consolidated fashion with some of the board members, including the chair. Last night I discussed these with Interim Superintendent Smiley. We discussed a few strategies including my team doing some more speaking on common audit issues so we can educate some of the school personnel on some of the things that we're seeing in order for them to be able to address them going forward.

At this time, Chair, I would like to ask that the committee go to questions and note that the

timing of the representatives from teaching and learning and the Business Support Center.

Thank you, Chair.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. And just to be clear, I would like to stay on Number 7 and then move to Number 8; okay? So Number 7, yes, Ms. Dahl, you have a comment?

I have two comments, actually. Having been a former principal with Broward County Schools, this kind of takes care of all three of them, I was really surprised, actually, unhappy about the number of exceptions that were found in these audits. We've been doing pretty well with them. We didn't do well with these. Most of the things except for the ones with Margate, most of them are things that principals should have known even if it was coming from the cost center, and I do know that caused a few things. However, the principal's supposed to keep up with cost center, too. And so I don't know what happened. I mean, it was pretty obvious with the high schools that it was athletics with that -- you know, a lot of it was athletics with negative balances. And that used to be a problem in the past. The elementary

schools were lost receipt books and envelopes, which, again, you're supposed to have an absolute idea where those things are. So that's my comment.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thanks. And I would just ask that we keep these two audits separate because I noted what you did, that it's one set of issues in the one audit, which is mainly high schools and a totally different set of issues in the second audit which has a lot of elementary schools. So if we could just focus on Number 7.

Dr. Lynch-Walsh did you have a comment on Number 7?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm trying to keep 7 and 8 straight, but when I -- I have two reports that both say May 18th now, so I have to go -- so which one -- no, no, but which one is which?

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So McNicol is what we're on right now and Parkway. Those are our current.

MS. ARCESE: It identifies it on the agenda, where the comment was from.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no --

MS. FERTIG: I know Number 7 is McNicol and Parkway.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, hold on. So

I've a got to find which of these reports that look identical on the front is 7 and which is 8.

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MS. FERTIG: 7 is dated -- well, I agree with you there.

MR. JABOUIN: If you can go to the table of contents, Number 7, if you go and you see it's the one that begins with Bennett Elementary?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's Number 7?

MR. JABOUIN: That's number 7.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's all I was looking for. Because if it had said April 13 deferred to May 18th, then I would be clear.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I get you there. I, actually, had the same observation yesterday.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I'm on that report, and, first of all, my issues are more global before getting specific. Because we were also sent a joint legislative auditing committee response which then further confused me. In the appendix, Appendix A, it has a list of schools, and this is also in the table of contents BSC and Non-BSC bookkeeper employed, blah-blah-blah. So Appendix A has a chart with a list of schools and a history dating back to 2016. And then I'm looking at -- there were multiple letters back

and forth between the district and the state, but it speaks to now having done 97 schools. I'm confused. If, literally, all the schools have been audited for internal funds, then why am I just looking -- unless my report's missing pages, this doesn't seem like enough schools, especially when the history starts in 2016 and goes to 2022 and we're in 2023, so where are the ones for this school year?

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MR. JABOUIN: I can explain all that on Agenda Item Number 17 where.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So first question, though, is, does this chart -- are there schools missing from this chart? Because the math I'm doing, we have how many schools, and there's only 40-something schools on these two pages.

MR. JABOUIN: So it is difficult for a reader to understand the point of view that that is written, from a -- it's written from a fiscal year 2021, but I can describe the situation where the legislative audit committee responds on that item.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Through the Chair, my first question is, does this list represent all the schools that have been audited up to today -- to

now, basically, through these reports?

MR. JABOUIN: No.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Why not?

MR. JABOUIN: Because all of the schools are presented when they're done, but we have completed the balance of schools for fiscal year 2022 as expected from the -- the auditor general. But their list starts from fiscal year 2021. But, as I mentioned, I can go through the whole process of that item.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I'm still trying to -my question remains the same. In this appendix,
if everything is now up to date -- because this
appendix is independent of this letter. This
appendix says BSC or Non-BSC bookkeeper employed
and audit exceptions by fiscal year. It is
attached to an internal audit report for fiscal
year '23. And it goes only through '22. And if
we have 200-plus schools, why am I only seeing a
fraction of that on these two pages?

MR. JABOUIN: So we, typically -- as we do, we present the schools that are audited. So this is not a cumulative list of schools that were presented to you at the September meeting and October meeting.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But this dates back to 2016.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Let me get -- let me get
Ms. Strauss because she has a question and
then --

MS. STRAUSS: Thank you very much. So here's the deal. Once again, the scope of the audits are clearly restricted at the Chief Auditor's direction.

Once again, okay, the sample sizes, in my professional opinion, are not appropriate. And that continues to be a theme that I have witnessed as I have been sitting here as a member of this audit committee, whether we're talking about this report, or audit, I'm sorry, behavioral threat assessment audit, whatever it may be, it seems as if sample sizes are limited and restricted and not appropriate according to standards.

Is that something that you were trying get to?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, yes, and even more basic. Because this list starts in 2016, if I'm reading this, these are the only schools, the interpretation is that the only schools that have

been audited for internal funds are on these two pages. That is either true or not true. And if more have been audited, why are they not on this list?

MR. JABOUIN: Because we've seen them already.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It doesn't matter.

MR. JABOUIN: What I can do, Chair --

MS. FERTIG: These are the outstanding audits?

MR. JABOUIN: No, these are the ones which were completed in this report. So if we took the ones from this report and the ones in the last meeting and the meeting before then, that will be the cumulative total.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So let me just -- let me just see if I can -- if we can cut through this. We had asked at one point to see non -- Non-BSC and BSC schools so we could kind of compare how many exceptions we had in each one. What you've given us is a list of all the audits done in this round and I think what they're asking for is a list of all audits --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All audits.

MS. FERTIG: -- with exceptions or none and

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MR. JABOUIN: Right.

then who did it, who completed it, bookkeeper or Does that -- does that do it?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, because I can't understand why you would just include the ones attached to this report if we clearly, for the past couple of months at least, have been losing our collective minds over the findings because then it obscures the impact of what happened.

MS. FERTIG: So if I can -- if I can offer I know that I've had the same question about whether it was a bookkeeper or BSC, so he's shown us for this specific one and I know in the next audit there's a list for that audit of which ones are exceptions. So I think just a follow-up discussion item just on the issue of BSC versus bookkeeper is what we would like to have, but not on -- if we could just finish this item.

Yes, I'm sorry, Mr. De Meo?

Madam Chair, so that I can be MR. DE MEO: clear and understand the answer to the question, this BSC chart or Exhibit A to it is -- has 45 schools in it and that's what you're reporting on, and you've reported on all the other schools as we've progressed throughout the year.

MR. DE MEO: So we're focusing on these 45 that you've recently done. And the letter from the state focuses on a different scope. Okay.

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MS. FERTIG: And if you can just reference the index and then chart.

But, just as follow-up, you're requesting a follow-up with a list of all schools with exceptions and whether they're BSC or bookkeeper; is that --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, and by, at our next meeting. Because if it's been attached to all the internal funds audits, and it would be very helpful since some people are visual and actually it's easier to see, in totality, what percent are business support versus non-business support by year. Because it seems like for at least these schools they were clean until recently and we don't know if that's a trend across the board because we're only seeing now. And so we would need to see the complete table for all the schools and then -- and then some statistics in terms of the percent breakdown so that I don't have to throw this into Excel and do it.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So could we come back on that one at the end on our comments and just give

them exactly what we'd like to see in follow-up next time?

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MR. JABOUIN: So I did check with my staff.

So of the reports that you've seen in the previous meetings throughout this year my team has told me that there's only one school that we're missing that we're going to show you at the next meeting.

So what I can do is go back to the beginning of the year and we can list all of the schools that you've seen in the various meetings on that end.

Now, if there's some additional statistics that you'd like, we can also put that in as well.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I think what -- I think what we're requesting is a list of all the audits done this year and in the information whether there was an exception or none, what bookkeeper or BSC. And I know we've asked that question several times.

Did you have anything else you wanted on that chart besides those factors?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, they've been showing it since 2016, so not just for this year.

MS. FERTIG: So you want it from 2016?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well -- and I want all the schools. Because it also begs the question, are there schools that never got audited? Because if the letter from the state is about the backlog and in the letter it mentioned a new backlog --

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. I think he's going to get us the chart and then we have in June -- unless he wants to send it sooner. You can send it to everybody, of course.

MR. JABOUIN: I'll present it at the June meeting, but I can also talk about the legislative audit committee situation because that issue dates back to 2011. When we get to Agenda Item 17, if you can ask -- remember, our teaching and learning individuals are under time constraints. If you have any specific questions that they can respond to.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And I'm still processing why you wouldn't schedule them longer, but that's neither here nor there.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Does anybody else have a question on this particular item?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, I have tabs, but I'll wait.

MR. MAYERSOHN: On Number 7?

MS. FERTIG: On Number 7.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So can somebody explain to me, because I've been on this committee for 10 years, how we have a negative balance without it being audited, that what -- I mean, explain to me the process of what a bookkeeper does, what the principal does to understand that when you have a negative balance that somebody -- until somebody is waiting until you do an audit and you say, oh, I'm sorry, is that it should be uncovered immediately and managed properly. So can somebody explain to me that process?

MR. SMITH: Ryan Smith, Director of Business Support Center. I can only speak to since my arrival. I arrived here in late April of 2020. We did not have adequate controls in place in the BSC to run reports to determine if these accounts had negative variances.

Since my arrival I've worked directly with our contractor who oversees our Microsoft Great Plains, now known as Dynamics, which is the ERP accounting side for Great Plains, to develop these reports. We do run them monthly and that was in response to this first round of audit exceptions that covered mostly through 2022.

That was one of the controls that we put in place is that was reviewed monthly, and then we would do immediate intervention on those schools. You saw it listed in some of the responses with athletics where we have a process where we meet with the school, representatives from the district and the BSC for BSC schools. For Non-BSC schools we turn that information over to the principal and follow-up is done.

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As you'll see in a future report, because it's a lookback it didn't control it as tight as we'd like to, so our next response, and the reason we didn't jump immediately to this response is a cost to the taxpayers because there's a development cost, is to put a hard stop in place where our accounting system does not allow for you to go in the red. The challenge with that is, there are certain fundraising activities that the schools do, for those of you who worked in schools, that this will create a hard stop for them. So any time a fundraising activity that could possibly take the school into a temporary deficit will be blocked and will require special authorization by leadership in order for it to be removed. We believe that

these two together will put an end to this challenge that we've been facing for the past several years.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

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MR. MAYERSOHN: And when will that hard stop be implemented?

MR. SMITH: It is in development now. The developer is supposed to be giving me a response by the close of business tomorrow from a price perspective. And then once we have that the work will be initiated with the hopes of it being in place by July 1st of next year.

MR. MAYERSOHN: July 1st of next --

MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, next fiscal year, July 1st, 2023.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Anybody else? Yes.

MS. DAHL: Do you also look at the schools that have the bookkeepers, is that part of it, too?

MR. SMITH: We do. So, again, this was a new process that we put in place, and we communicate directly with the school leadership when we see those variances. From what I recall in the reports that I read, I didn't see any of those

issues for some of the Non-BSC schools. So I think for them, if we notice it, it will be turned over, again, to the principal.

MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair?

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

MR. DE MEO: Just to be clear, you said that you monitor all schools, whether they're BSC or not.

MR. SMITH: Right.

MR. DE MEO: And on a monthly basis if you see a deficit you contact them.

MR. SMITH: That is correct; yes.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any other questions? I have a few and I was trying to wait.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Mine's quick. You said that -- I just want to be clear. You said that the hard stop will be in place July 2023? Or did you mean 2024?

MR. SMITH: That is correct. Our target is July 1st 2023. This is important enough to the district that it's become a top priority. So we've put it at the top of our development list.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I have a couple questions on this, some, Mr. Jabouin --

Oh, I'm sorry, you had another one?

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I can go after you.

MS. FERTIG: No, that's fine. Which one do you want -- do you want to go ahead?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I can just go after you.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I noticed what I'm sure everybody else did, but I know Ms. Dahl articulated, which is in these schools, mainly in high schools, we are noticing one kind of a problem and we have been noticing this since, I think, 2018, Dr. Wanza?

DR. WANZA: Uh-huh.

MS. FERTIG: Which is a deficit or a negative balance in the athletic accounts. And when you further look into some of the schools where it's occurring, they're under-enrolled schools. I'm really concerned that we have to provide, and I think that we've discussed this before, the district has to provide equity in offerings. They've got to provide the opportunities for these students. And if they're running into a negative balance repeatedly, then there needs to be some conversation about how you are going to ensure that you've got delivery of services to

these without the school incurring a negative balance?

2.1

DR. WANZA: So, good morning, Valerie Wanza, Acting Chief of staff. Since it's my first time speaking, I will say that Dr. Smiley had a conflict or she would be here and she certainly sends her apologies for not being here this morning. So let me start with that.

The second thing to your point, Mrs. Fertig, so we've done a couple things; right? So we know that some of the schools, particularly you have a Stranahan or other schools that are under-enrolled or schools that cannot even play games at their school, so they don't have the opportunity to get all of the financial benefits that schools that have stadiums on campus have. So we've done a couple things. The first thing is, there is, from the district level, funds that are available to those schools so that they do not have to decide, can we play, you know, this sport or can we not do this? So we have done that. That's one.

I think the question becomes, and it's something that Mr. Smith said and it's something the regional associate sups or more so the region

sups will have the conversation about is, are the schools coding expenditures to that available funds appropriately so that they are not realizing negative balances in their internal funds? Because the money is available through budget and these are internal funds. But there are opportunities to code things for these programs through the budget funds that would not result in the negative internal funds balance.

2.1

So that's something that I know Mr. Strauss, Dr. Fleming, Mr. Adamson's not here, and then working with Mr. Smith and BSC is to make sure those schools are properly coding those things so that the funds that are provided to them are accessed appropriately and it does not result in a negative balance in the internal funds.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you for that explanation. And, also, just one other quick thing. I think it would be beneficial if -- these two audits have called this out. I think it would be beneficial to include a chart of what the exceptions are when you see that they're all in the same area. Because in the next one we're going to get to there are a lot that are missing deposit or receipt books. And in this particular

one it's athletic funds. So if we could have that chart included, just to get to the visual point, you can kind of look at it and see what the exception was really easily and then maybe identify some problems that we need to address as a district.

Dr. Lynch-Walsh, thank you for your patience.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: One of my better virtues, I'm sure.

Okay. Page -- so I'm sorry, is it Ms. Conway that does internal or Ali?

MS. CONWAY: Both.

2.1

MS. FERTIG: All right. So the theme that I'm seeing throughout and I want to confirm because it's a repeated recommendation and there are some specific pages, page 109 is one of the pages I've marked. We recommend the Business Support Center director and principal review Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools Chapter 8 and Standard Practice Bulletin I-203, Classes, Clubs and Departments. And this has been an observation I've had even with the prior chief auditor.

If you're a degreed accountant and you read

those, that's going to mean something to you. But what I keep asking for is, are we sending laypeople to bulletins and accounting -- for instance, accounting books and guidelines as opposed to breaking it down so that they can understand it through procedures? Because we keep seeing repeat findings of the same nature which is, I think, a failure of them to understand what they need to be doing both at the school level and the Business Support Center. And so -- because that's one on page 109 and then there was an interesting -- and then on page 112 the steps that are being taken, the bottom of 112, in the event of an internal account entering a negative balance on a month-end report the following steps will be taken. In the first instance the Business Support Center specialist will immediately notify, via email, the Principal, Director of the Business Support Center, Manager of Internal Accounts, and appropriate District staff for the area.

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To what end? What does that accomplish?

So I know these responses were reviewed, but, again, if you're an accountant, which is what was critical, accounting or finance for the Business

Support Center, and the schools don't even have that, what is that step supposed to accomplish at the bottom of page 112? And then what is the second bullet at the top of 113 supposed to accomplish?

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Can we let Mr. Smith -DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, no, he wrote the
response. I'm now looking at the accountants to
tell me, is that going to -- how is that
effective or do they think it's effective?

MS. FERTIG: Well, as the author, can we let him respond and then --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure.

2.1

MS. FERTIG: With what he intended here.

MR. SMITH: So my response would be, in regards to page 109, we have reviewed these clearly with the principals. There is a general understanding. We do review them in layman's terms so that they can clearly understand.

And as it relates to the response in 112, this response has negated any future audit exceptions with the exception of one, and it was still followed under the control that was issued. So the control was, we run a lookback report every month, and the way our internal accounting

works is, it is a lookback. Because, again, there are some accounts that will run negative variances throughout the month momentarily as we wait for deposit and then withdrawals.

However -- this has worked. However, the schools

have not had subsequent audit findings due to it. And as we look at the timing of these, specifically of Boyd Anderson, if you look at the timeline, by the time this second audit hit, the year had already closed. So the response to the original audit exception worked. However, because the second audit was done prior to the first release the timing necessitated that we would have exceptions for both years.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So --

MS. FERTIG: Ms. Conway, did you have any comment on that?

MS. CONWAY: No.

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So to be clear, though, if both sides of the house, and this is why this thing about bulletins versus procedures, are there procedures above and beyond on page 109 what you directed them to? Because if we have non-accountants both at the school level and the Business Support Center level, we're asking them

to explain concepts that they may not understand how to explain to the people they're explaining it to.

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So are there procedures or is this it? MS. CONWAY: The Standard Practice Bulletins are written for laypeople and they are much more comprehensive than that simple clip that you see there. They have a guide. They have an internal fund user's guide for Great Plains that gives them step-by-step instructions with pictures on how to operate Great Plains and they do have Standard Practice Bulletins that are written with understandability in mind. They're much more clear. And those tend to be an interpretation of the Red Book chapter 8 that you see me quoting from there. So they flow from there and are simplified so that bookkeepers can understand them better.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But since this keeps happening I would argue that perhaps people are not understanding them and we need procedures -- this is not a -- this is not a -- I am suggesting because sometimes it's hard -- I know you guys think that they're written in layperson's language, but I've read the practice bulletins

and I'm telling you they don't go far enough. As an accountant I'm telling you that for a layperson they are probably not going far enough because we keep seeing the same sorts of things. And if they don't understand conceptually what they're doing, that could be a problem.

2.1

I was also confused on page 125 at the bottom. It mentions Late Deposits, Standard Practice Bulletin I-303, which, sidebar question, do we have access to these Standard Practice Bulletins, so like if I wanted to look at one as I'm reading the report, I could?

MS. CONWAY: We do, but I don't know where they are made available to the general public.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, we're not exactly the general public, but -- so the answer is, no, we don't have access to it.

MS. FERTIG: Mr. Mayersohn is saying they're on-line. Do you want to elaborate?

MR. MAYERSOHN: Somewhere in that audit --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Website? Web page?

MR. MAYERSOHN: -- website, I believe they're available.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But that didn't help me when I was looking and didn't know that. So

either we need to put a link into these reports or provide links. Because I might not bring this up because I would've answered my own question.

2.2

So it mentions in here the timing of deposits. So staff is saying we recommend doing A and then the response talks about late deposits on page 127. The District has reviewed and updated the language in I-303 to remove dated information mandating cash pickups by the last working day of the week, the last working day of the month and before all holidays. The standard practice will now reflect the state statute of five business days for cash deposits beginning 7/1/2023.

What is the statute that changed that rendered the practice bulletin? Because, essentially, that response is suggesting negating the audit staff's recommendation on page 109. I mean, not 109, 125.

So from page 125 to 127 why are we having conflicting information?

MS. CONWAY: Well, because it's a recent revision of I-303. It's not even in effect yet. It will become effective on July 1. So I'm operating under the previous version of I-303

when writing the findings for these audits.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Mr. De Meo, did you want to comment on that.

MR. DE MEO: Yes, just briefly I'd like to ask the district superintendents, would it be a big burden -- in accounting you're drilled into your head that deposits should be made daily, intact, daily. Would that be a big burden for the bookkeeping staff or the BSC staff at these schools?

Because three or four or five days, I can tell you in business, that breeds trouble. Cash sitting around, checks sitting around, not good. I would -- I'm not going to make a motion to change that or anything, but I would like you all to maybe confer with the chief auditor and see if we should tighten that up a little bit, maybe intact daily, something like that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But they're suggesting the statute allows for almost more time.

MR. DE MEO: Yeah, that's unbelievable.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Can you clarify, and I'm going to make a motion about --

MS. CONWAY: So in the Red Book the state

regulations would allow you five days to get money to the bank, generally speaking, like from a student's hand into the bank. So our Standard Practice Bulletins have generally, for the sake of being practical, divided that time period up to bring it to the office within three days and then get it into the bank within two days.

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So -- so what's the new --

MS. CONWAY: So we have to give the money to the bank within five days.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And understand that because I don't have the current and the one that will become effective I'm having to extract it, and I know it's painful, so what is the impact of the new? Because there's a claim that there's a state statute of five business days. So what is going into effect in the future -- on 7/1 that is different from what I-303 is based on now?

MS. CONWAY: There is nothing different in the Red Book. There's nothing different in the regulation of it. It's just that it's not practical, really, to have a pickup every single day because they charge the schools to pick up.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, I haven't even gotten

to that line because I saw something about the principal is committed to utilizing an armored car service. I'm like, I think those are not free. I am not even up to that yet. I'm trying to -- because you said earlier that something hasn't gone into effect yet and you're basing your recommendations on what is in effect.

2.1

So what is changing, that's what I'm trying -- or is nothing changing?

MS. CONWAY: There's a new version of
Standard Practice Bulletin I-303 Deposit and
Collections that has already been approved but
it's supposed to go into effect on July 1 for the
new school year.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Got it. But what is different about that from what we're doing now, from what the rule is now?

MS. FERTIG: Mr. Smith?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I'm sorry, she's the auditor. I know, but I'm trying to get an answer based on the auditor's recommendation. And so if she's -- they're the ones that audit.

What I'm asking has everything to do with their recommendation and this Business Practice Bulletin that they're following.

Now, so it sounds as though they're not aware of a change. I'm just tying to get a clear answer.

MS. FERTIG: The person that's doing the Business Support System is Mr. Smith, so --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: He's interpreting. So he can speak to his response, but I'm relying on the auditors to know whether or not that that is accurate.

MR. JABOUIN: You're asking if there was a change. And, Mr. Smith, can you please respond to that?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I would be concerned if the auditors don't know there's a change. And I don't think they're unaware, I just want --

MS. CONWAY: Yes, we do know there's a change.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What is the change is what I keep asking.

MS. CONWAY: The change is that they're no longer going to be required to get it into the bank by Friday or by the weekend. And they're not allowed to have employees take money to the bank anymore. There's a specific provision for avoiding that. So we're not holding them to a

specific cutoff anymore in the pickups. We are having them get it to the bank within a certain number of days.

MS. FERTIG: So where it might have been the end of the workweek, now it's five days; am I getting that right?

MS. CONWAY: Right.

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MS. FERTIG: Yeah; okay.

Actually, she said earlier DR. LYNCH-WALSH: that it was still five days. So I'm getting the -- so without reading it, and I'm at a disadvantage completely because I don't have it in front of me. So then their solution then, if we're going to have five days, and I concur completely, anybody with an accounting background would be horrified at the thought of money lying around any longer than it needs to, there are people who get fired for not depositing nightly, so -- but on the flip side, in some of these schools we're talking not a lot of money. So to utilize an armored car service twice a week beginning July 1 to ensure all cash deposits are made within five days sounds costly. So do we know what the cost is? Because I'll double back. I'm going to do a motion.

MS. FERTIG: Can I ask Mr. Smith to answer that?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What was his rationale?

MS. FERTIG: No, the cost, of what the cost of having that. He -- he -- I mean, I'm assuming this is what you do so you may know.

MR. SMITH: So speaking specifically to the cost, there would be a significant increased And this has been a financial burden on cost. our school locations. As of the last RFP for our armored car service, it used to be we were in a relationship because they came for the food and nutrition service pickups every time that we could do on-call pickups. So as those of you in the schools understand, there are some elementary schools where they may not have any cash for a month. There are some other high schools that may have thousands of dollars every month. the school has had some flexibility about when they do their cash deposits as long as they're compliant with the Standard Practice Bulletins. And, in addition to that, up until July 1st our school leaders have had the option to delegate a staff member to transport cash deposit. not believe this to be a best practice and out of

the safety of our staff have changed accordingly. Other changes that we made to the Standard Practice Bulletin were just really modernizing the language. This was written over 20 years ago when schools dealt with a lot more cash. moved almost \$60 million of transactions to our on-line store, which means that \$60 million is no longer coming through our doors. So we've removed some of the language that required pickups before every single holiday. We removed some of the language that required a pickup every single last day of the month. Because these were not things that we were doing regularly. And we retained the fact that everything we do within these Standard Practice Bulletins will align with chapter 8 of the Red Book and our Florida statutes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you.

Did you have a motion?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes. I mean, for this one it would be, I move that we receive the current I-303, or at least a link to it, what is being proposed and any related state statutes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Do we need a motion for that, do you think, or --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Around here, I do.

MS. FERTIG: Go ahead. Go ahead.

Is there a second?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'll second it.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any discussion?

MR. DE MEO: Just a brief question on that subject.

Do we -- do we have the ability to deposit checks, which I presume now, unlike 20 years ago must be 90 percent, maybe 95 percent of the deposits, do we have the ability, you know, to deposit them at our location, you know, with little machines, and do we utilize those machines?

MR. SMITH: We are continuing to upgrade our technologies. I would say that the vast majority of payments that are coming through the schools are coming through via cash. We have certain pockets within our district where they still operate largely with cash. Those that have moved away from that, actually, aren't issuing checks, they are actually processing payment via credit cards through our online marketplace. And I think from that alone has grown from about \$10 million four years ago to close to 55, 60

1 million, currently.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. I'm just going to stop this for a second. We have a motion on the document.

Any other discussion on that document?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor?

MR. JABOUIN: Chair, could I please have the language on the motion, a link to Standard Practice Bulletins?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Either be provided or provided with a link to the current Standard Practice Bulletin I-303, the proposed updated version, and any related state statutes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries.

Okay. We are back to the Internal Funds of Selected Schools. We are about 20 minutes off schedule, so if we could just wrap up our discussion and -- yes --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Are you done?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I have two more questions

1 and then I have no more tabs.

2.1

So, one, just to get through what's in here is the last bullet says, in this instance the checks on hand were received after the year-end closing due to a vendor making a late payment on a facility rental. I'll leave that one there. The launch of Facilitron should prevent this from happening in the future.

Has Facilitron, is that something that's gone before the board for approval?

MS. FERTIG: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Yes, it has. It has been approved and all of your facility leasing payments go through Facilitron now and they direct payments to our treasury department where it's then redistributed down to the schools.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So if we're using technology for school rentals, when my kids go to a game, because I do have kids still in the system, there is no cash -- well, you can do cash, but everybody almost has one of these (indicating), and there are schools where it's all app driven and so no money is changing hands.

So I would also like to make a motion that the district look into implementing technology

instead of cash. And I think this would also help on a lot of these findings. Because these poor souls -- these poor souls that have to handle all of this cash. But I know it won't be 100 percent, but it would certainly cut down.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. There's a motion. Is there a second?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'll second it.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Ms. Dahl?

2.1

And then if we can just do this motion and then move the rest in. Thank you.

MS. DAHL: I'm sorry, but I don't feel that that's something that can be done. In schools -- in low socioeconomic schools, which I worked in my entire career, the families have money from week to week and they have cash. Some of them do not, a large number of them do not have bank accounts. So they're living from cash to cash. And you're asking them to --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No.

MS. DAHL: Yes, you are. You're asking them to go with using your smart phone -- and let me tell you, I have it on my thing, I can't figure out how to use it.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But you're not like

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MS. DAHL: No. No, I'm talking. Thank you.

So I believe that the portion of your motion
to me is, isn't feasible for the low
socioeconomic families. So I would like to have,
because you're sort of making it that everybody's
going to do this.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I said move towards. T did not say make mandatory. So would you like to make a friendly amendment? Because we have to start somewhere. And there's no reason you can't offer that as district wide. Because what's happening now is there's a crazy quilt of apps out there and there's a friend of mine who keeps reminding me that there is a company that's making like three bucks every time you go to a football game. So if the district was the one providing the app understanding, understand that even the kids that can't put it on a smart phone, she has two kids, and if they go to multiple games, they are giving the vendor tons of money every time they go to a game.

MR. TURSO: Why?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because that's the only option that they have. And they're nodding at

 $1 \quad \text{me.}$

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MS. FERTIG: I have Dr. Wanza, Ms. Strauss, Mr. Mayersohn.

MS. STRAUSS: I have to step out for a second.

MS. FERTIG: Do you want to speak before you step out or Dr. Wanza are you ready?

MS. STRAUSS: Yeah, so I just want to say, I understand you said "move towards". At the end of the day we cannot eliminate --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I didn't say "eliminate".

MS. STRAUSS: Okay. Or move towards not taking cash. It -- very few of the population most likely still use cash because they use Venmo, Cash App, whatever the case may be, whether or not we take those forms of payment, I don't know who oversees that. I can tell you as the treasurer for the PTA at Bayview Elementary for four years, I did not allow a Venmo account or a Cash App account or any of that stuff. Okay? Not good controls. I don't know where it was going, whose account.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm not talking Venmo.

MS. STRAUSS: I don't want -- I don't think that that's appropriate. People look at it as

cash these days, but at the end of the day, it's not. There are people that, as was stated, live paycheck to paycheck. They have the cash to bring to school to get what they need and that's it. So we cannot eliminate that ever.

MS. DAHL: Thank you.

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And I did not say that.

MS. FERTIG: All right. Doctor Wanza.

DR. WANZA: So, thank you. I think there are two things and I'll be very quick with this.

I do agree with the district looking at the possibility of the district creating some kind of district-sponsored app so that there is not a service fee that goes to whomever every time you go on Go Fan or this account page or that account page.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think it's Go Fan.

DR. WANZA: But this is when they're at the football game. And if I've been to five football games -- if the district is, you know, through our technological resources creating some kind of district-sponsored app. I will also say that our treasurer, Mr. Perrone's office, has been working for a couple of years trying to see how we can move the district to a complete cash-free

district. But for the very same reasons that Ms. Dahl noted and also Ms. Strauss brought up, there are some families in some communities that electronic means only -- is not going to be applicable to. But we can look at ways to where there are areas in our community that choose to go cash free, then we should afford that to them.

2.1

But I do think that we have opportunities in the organization to look at building our own apps so that we are not subjected to industries that are making money that could stay in the district.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And I just want to clarify, when I heard your motion I thought you were not talking in absolutes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I was not talking in absolutes.

MS. FERTIG: You were talking about that being an option.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I would never. No, I'm like the CCC defender. It would never like -- I wouldn't lose it and make it mandatory. That was not what I was saying.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Can we ask staff to come back at our next meeting with some data? Because right now we're assuming that five schools have

it and there may be 200 schools that have cash flow. So at least we have data points, information, and then, I mean, I would then, again, address what Dr. Walsh brought up.

2.1

MS. FERTIG: This whole conversation has raised a lot of questions in my mind and you raised the one about, don't they make their deposits into the school with the -- I mean, as most people do, with the machine that takes it to the bank for you.

I mean, I'm -- I think there are a lot of questions that have come out of this, so maybe what we need to have is just a follow-up conversation on options.

And so do you mind deferring your motion until we get that or do you want to go ahead and follow through?

MRS. MARTE: Your motion is different than that. Can I help?

MS. FERTIG: Sure. Yes. And then --

MRS. MARTE: So I think we're -- we're commingling what I heard Dr. Lynch-Walsh say and the issue around deposits of staff. So we can certainly get you whatever data you want.

I think Mr. Smith said it pretty well, some

elementary schools barely have cash deposits any given month. High schools have them routinely. So we've set up a cadence based on frequency of pickups with Brinks. So cash is kept overnight, but pickups are twice a week. It is costly and we can get all that information.

2.1

Dr. Lynch-Walsh, and I would never put words in your mouth, but my understanding of what you said was around cash at athletic or events that students attend and the option of using their phone and not paying a company \$3 but having the school district --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Each time for each kid.

MRS. MARTE: -- set up a system. But it wouldn't be by school, it would be by individual person. So we wouldn't stop schools from taking cash though.

DR. WANZA: We do not take cash at athletic events. We no longer, in the days of when I went to Miramar High, my son was at Pompano Beach High, you'd have four or five men and women in the ticket booth and you're paying your -- they've gone to a complete online ticket purchase system for sporting events.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And sometimes you can buy

them through the school store, but that gets a little frantic because you're like looking and you have to do it and then they have to get a copy of it. And there are other things, not just sporting, but other school events. But, again, it's by the individual. It's not being dictated so that obviously you have the option to pay cash. But if we don't start somewhere, but they're already starting. And if the treasurer is looking at cash-free options.

2.1

MRS. MARTE: Because of \$3 that you mentioned for every single -- and the ticket is a few bucks and then they're charging three bucks, it doesn't make sense.

MS. FERTIG: And I think -- I just -- Mr.

Mayersohn has been very patient, so I'm going to

let him speak. I agree with you on that. I

think many of us are in agreement on that. I

just think that what we're talking about here

seems to be going in a lot of different

directions. And what it sounds like, and maybe

this is something for the board, that there just

needs to be a comprehensive understanding of

what's happening in the bookkeeper's office in a

school and how things are being paid for. When

I'm hearing a vendor had to pay for a rental on a thing, that to me is a different issue than buying a ticket at a football game. And what I'm hearing is there aren't daily deposits going in for the checks you're receiving. That's a different issue.

So I kind of thought what Dr. Lynch-Walsh was saying was let's start comprehensively addressing these issues and making sure -- I mean, that's how I took your motion. And let's start comprehensively discussing how we are paying for things and depositing and so forth.

Mr. Mayersohn?

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MR. MAYERSOHN: So, two things. Number one, Dr. Wanza you made a comment about that there, again, going back to the athletics and internal -- or athletics, the funding, is that there may be opportunities where somebody has miscoded or hasn't taken advantage of using those in the general fund.

DR. WANZA: Right.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Can you go back and look at Stranahan or whoever the schools were and review to see if they were miscoded and come back to us and say, yes, they were, or, no, they weren't, as

a learning tool for other schools that may have similar challenges?

DR. WANZA: Yes.

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MR. MAYERSOHN: So that's the first thing.

DR. WANZA: Yes.

The second thing, in hearing MR. MAYERSOHN: the conversation that's here, is that my recommendation, and I don't need to make a motion is, again, as a follow-up, is to take the items which I think you clearly have heard, and to Ms. Fertig's point, look at what the challenges are. Because it's not -- it's great that you write a recommendation saying we're going to review it, but there may be more of an issue than just to say we're reviewing the process to ensure. know, again deposits, maybe there's a better mousetrap. Maybe there's a better mousetrap to look at the internal controls for sporting events or ticketing or whatever it may be. We see these things come up constantly. There's got to be a better way than just telling somebody, follow the process. Because apparently the process may not be applicable in today's world.

So those are my comments.

MS. FERTIG: I mean a 20-year-old bulletin in

That the

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today's world is unbelievable.

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want to re-read the motion?

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MR. JABOUIN: Yes, please. If someone could state the motion, please?

So, okay, where are we on the motion? Do you

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MS. FERTIG: Can you re --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Good Lord.

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district, because I had actually set this aside,

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move towards automating -- automating, not just

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deposits, but just move towards an electronic

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MS. FERTIG: Deposits and collections?

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MRS. MARTE: Void of individual fees is what

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I think you want.

wouldn't each time.

means of checking.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Void of individual fees.

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Although, even the school things --

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MRS. MARTE: Well, it wouldn't be \$3.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It wouldn't be \$3 and it

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So we move that the district move towards

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automating deposits and cash collections to a

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non-fee based platform, something like that.

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were here. What did I say the first time? That

Or, wait a minute. Mr. Bass I forgot you

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was a while ago, I know. He's looking at me, so

1 I'm not getting it.

2.1

Essentially, we move that the district move towards automating its cash collections to a non -- we can all do this collaboratively, to a

MRS. MARTE: To a platform that minimizes the cost to the family.

MS. FERTIG: I think we're really off your original motion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no.

MS. FERTIG: It was about automating deposits, which I support, but that goes well beyond the whole concept of --

MR. DE MEO: I thought you were talking about an app specifically to be used for any purchase at the schools to the extent that a person desires to use it and download it. And that the district would create it. There would be some costs, but, certainly, even if they charge a fee of a buck it would be less than three bucks. I think that's an excellent idea.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. That is what I had said; yes.

MS. FERTIG: I don't know that that's what you said. I think that's where we've gotten. I

1 think when the minutes come out --

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I did say cash app.

MS. FERTIG: Can we just, for purposes of just moving ahead here, if you could remove -- if you could remove your motion that was on the floor and put a substitute motion on, I think that would help us to just vote and get out and get on.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Move that the district -- I know I said "move towards".

MR. DE MEO: Investigate.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We move towards creating an app that would allow for the.

DR. WANZA: For cash collections.

MR. DE MEO: For use of purposes for school functions.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: For use of purchases at school functions.

DR. WANZA: At a minimal cost.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: At minimal cost.

DR. WANZA: To the family.

MRS. MARTE: To the purchaser.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: To the purchaser. Because it could be family, it could be anybody.

DR. WANZA: Right.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries.

Now, we are still back to Number 7.

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1 MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to transmit.

MS. FERTIG: Oh, thank you. Is there a second?

MR. DE MEO: Second.

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MS. FERTIG: All in favor -- and was your motion to transmit inclusive of a recommendation to attach the --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Yes. Yes. The recommendations that were made.

MS. FERTIG: The motions that we passed will be included in the motion.

Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. JABOUIN: Hold on one moment, please.

Please, hold on one moment. Thank you.

So Parkway and McNicol, the attached pages that I gave out to you, those are to be included in the transmission?

MR. MAYERSOHN: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Great.

With the addition of the updated pages on McNicol and Parkway.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So we have the updated pages -- have we already voted on this? Thank

you. So we're transmitting it with the motions and the updated pages. Thank you.

We are up to Number 8.

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MR. JABOUIN: You didn't vote.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I'm just going to make this real clear. Whether we voted or not, we're revoting.

Okay. We are transmitting this motion to the board with the motions that we passed and the updated pages on McNicol and Parkway.

All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Okay. We're on Number 8. Comments?

(No response.)

Okay. I'll just start the ball rolling since no one has a comment and say, again, I'd like a chart missing -- I made a list of these, so I would be able to help you make the chart if you needed me to. Here we go, missing receipt book, missing pre-numbered, missing funds, missing pre-numbered receipt books -- I mean missing pre-numbered accounts. I'm not -- I'm not really

understanding that. So I don't want to belabor this if no one else is interested, but I just am wondering how do you just have missing receipt books and missing pre-numbered --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What page are you on?

MS. FERTIG: Well, I made a list because I

thought it would be helpful to have a chart, so I

made a list of the different elements of this and

these were mainly elementary. It's interesting,

one set of issues in high schools, one set of

issues in elementary schools.

Yeah, I'm sorry, go ahead, Ms. Dahl.

MS. DAHL: We don't really do envelopes and receipt books necessarily in middle school or high school. You do some in middle school. But in my humble opinion, having been an elementary and middle school principal, this should not have happened. I can't imagine that a principal wasn't keeping up with their bookkeeper to make sure that those envelopes were there, the students sign it. Actually, the envelopes are the way to do it these days because you don't have to have a receipt book, just the kid signs -- you know, you put the child's name, you put the amount, when you take it to the office

you count it in front of the bookkeeper, so there's no question about it. So I don't know how they were taking in money without the envelopes or the receipt books because what were you using to prove that the money was collected? So I'm a little concerned that maybe there's money sitting out there that did get collected and perhaps did not make it to the bookkeeper. That's my concern with this.

MRS. MARTE: Or to the bank.

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MS. FERTIG: Yeah, Mr. Jabouin would like to comment real quickly in response.

MR. JABOUIN: Sure. So, obviously, a lot of issues in these reports and I needed to explain to Dr. Smiley and Dr. Doyle, I created like an inventory per school on the issues on each school that are in these three reports, including the payroll. So I need to give you some data at the next meeting. We can have that. Because we obviously have to manage it. Because you read these, and everybody wants to know, and then when I do the executive summary for the board I've got to put a table on this in order for them to sift through it. So I can come to the next meeting, because, remember, we've gone through all the

schools already and that would be a great time to give you a picture of the entire year on these audits.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay great. And I just think that it's interesting how you see the same thing on all of these audits. So I think, hopefully, that means it will be easy to fix.

Okay. Anybody else have a comment? I had quite a few things I'd written down but I think your chart and some of the --

MR. DE MEO: Can I ask, is it Mr. Smith?
MR. SMITH: Yes.

MR. DE MEO: I mean, we've got insight from longtime principal, what's your view on these items, these attributes that have been identified?

MR. SMITH: I would agree. I don't believe that there should be lost receipt documents.

MR. DE MEO: Why are they occurring all of a sudden?

MR. SMITH: So a couple, I think, key points to mention, because there were various reasons for this. We had instances in which a staff member was terminated when they were in receipt of a receipt book.

MS. DAHL: But that was just one.

MR. SMITH: Yeah. And that's why I'm saying there's multiple reasons why. We had a few that were related, remember the district, they didn't return from COVID until October of 2020, so the 2021 audits may include receipt books that, from when the schools were not in session. And during that time period most bookkeepers weren't at the location. It was in the name of safety. They were pulled out of there.

So, in addition to that, there were others where the receipt books were lost, but the controls and the identification of those lost books were executed in accordance with our standard practice. So there are a multitude of reasons.

But going back to the point made, there is no reason why they should disappear. In our response we did propose ways to tighten this up even more, including the -- and as a former administrator you'll appreciate this, including visual inspections of those books upon every visit from the bookkeeper.

MS. DAHL: Yes.

MR. SMITH: So we definitely recognize there

are opportunities to improve. In working with our audit team we've collaborated on some of those to make sure that this issue no longer continues.

MR. DE MEO: Thank you.

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MS. FERTIG: Yeah, and I just want to note that on this one on the chart most of the schools with exceptions were business center schools. So, hopefully, that's something you really can fix there.

Yeah, Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

Oh, Mr. Mayersohn? I'm sorry.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I just go back to the same comment that I made before. These issues have always seemed to be systemic issues. We've gone through the same thing with, you know, receipt books, you know, even to the point of, you know, having taken the money to the bank, I remember there was somebody who was in this building who went to the parking lot to collect the cash and ended up taking that money and depositing it in a bank that wasn't a BCPS bank.

So, you know, these are things that happened.

And, again, we're a large school district. I get

it. But I think what, to me, would be more

impactful is to take these items, and, again, I go to Dr. Wanza or Ms. Marte, is to send these out to the principals, to the bookkeepers, and saying, here's the things we have identified. We need to figure out how to correct them, and get to the reason of why they continually exist. mean, just -- I mean, we've talked about, you know, again, property and inventory. How do we -- you know to see the same things happen every audit, you know, whether it's internal funds or property and inventory funds, and see the same response, we're going to get better, we've got to figure out why it's happening. Ι don't know the reasons why, but I think you wanted to --

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MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, if I can add? So, yes, our team who knows these issues and we're inventorying it ourselves, we're going to get out to the schools. And Ms. Arcese just had, she attended the All Principals Meeting on Monday where she had inventory of -- of findings that were seen out there. But we're going to do more of that next year. I think we're going to try to break it down on a regional basis so that way there can be some more question and answers. So

we'll go to north region, south region, central region, instead of doing all of them.

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But, yeah, we need to play a part in that and we will.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Right. I mean, this is just implementation with fidelity. You know, it's not difficult if you're the bookkeeper to make sure that you do what's required. And if you're not doing what's required there are reasons why. So we just need to do a better job working at it.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I -- Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, I have a couple more. I know where to find school board policies but there is Standard Practice Bulletins I-302, Cash Collections, and I-404, Certificate of Loss, that I'd like, again, with the prior report, same idea, same motion, that we get either a link or are provided with those two Standard Practice Bulletins.

MR. JABOUIN: So I had I-303 and now you'd like another one as well?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 302 and 404.

MR. DE MEO: May I -- I agree with you. Can we just blanket that and ask you to append to or to provide a hyperlink to the documents referred

to? Because it's really hard for us -- you guys are in it every day. You know this. It's hard for us to make an evaluation without, you know, looking at these documents. So, in general, can you source everything that's included in a report like you would do, you know, in a previous life?

MR. JABOUIN: We can probably do it on our website. Is that a good idea?

MRS. MARTE: Include a link in the report so when they're reading the item they can just look at the link and connect all the dots.

MR. DE MEO: Exactly.

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MRS. MARTE: So every time we refer to an I-302 or 303 or 404 the link should be imbedded. It's just a matter of how you create this document.

MR. JABOUIN: And I think, obviously, if you read it online the link will be on there. If you read the print version --

MR. DE MEO: But if it's in the document, like we have the minutes and you can click, that's what I'm doing. If you can click on that, wow.

MRS. MARTE: Invent a hyperlink.

MS. FERTIG: And I would say before printing

them every time, I like the link idea. And if you were ever talking about printing them I would hand us a manual of the policy at the beginning of the year so we can refer to it if we have to refer to a written form.

2.1

Okay. Did you have one other thing here, you said?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, obviously, little kids don't have football games that I know of. But same issue where school activities, because the prior motion, I just don't want it to apply to just high schools, it would also apply, and that wasn't the intent, it was to apply to all. If there's a scholastic book fair, there's no --

MS. FERTIG: Field trips.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Field trips. All of those things where generally it is easier to pay electronically and then there's far less of these issues to contend with in the first place.

MS. FERTIG: So I took your motion to be universal.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Just making sure.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

MRS. MARTE: We took it that way, too.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: May I? Can I say -- add

something to the prequel to what we were discussing.

MS. FERTIG: Turn your mike on.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: It's on. What we were discussing.

When you go out to these different schools and try to figure out why they're having these repeated problems, can you also put in a recommended fix so it won't keep happening?

MR. JABOUIN: Yes.

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MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And that way we won't have to keep going back and forth and back and forth with the same thing. So when you come back to us let us know what the outcome is of that visit; okay?

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I'll get to Mr. Turso, if I can, and then Ms. Dahl.

MR. TURSO: It's almost as if Ms. Carter is reading my mind and I tend to like the idea of dumbing things down and I want to preface it by saying, I think it's pretty universally realized that the majority of people are terrible with money. So we're sitting here and we're talking about all these different document numbers and all these protocols, but let's just dumb it down

for a second, the schools that are here, are they aware of procedures? And if they are aware of procedures and they're not following the procedures, then that tells me one of two things. Either they shouldn't be in the job or the procedures are just too complicated, we need to make it simpler. If X happens, you need to do Y. If Z happens, you need to do A. And, okay, everybody makes mistakes. You find something bad in an audit, you go there and you talk to them. If it happens again there needs to be ramifications. If there's no ramifications, then, as Mr. Mayersohn said, it just becomes a systemic thing that never ends.

So I don't know how to say it formally, but we need there to be ramifications or we're just going to keep doing the same thing over and over again.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And I think, to your point, that -- what I asked for, that will mitigate what you're saying. If they come back and tell us what the fix is and the people don't do the fix --

MR. TURSO: Thank you.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: -- then that's a different

story. Then we need to take a look if they are the right person for that job.

MR. TURSO: It seems very simple, but, yes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Ms. Dahl, then Dr. Lynch-Walsh.

MS. DAHL: I have -- in one of the comments in this there was a mention of having a seasoned bookkeeper go and work with a bookkeeper to help them with what they were doing. You don't remember writing that or maybe it was the area office that wrote it, I don't remember. But it was in there. And I thought that was a really good suggestion.

The other thing is what happens if it's at the cost center? And if you have new bookkeepers, are you giving a mentor to the new bookkeepers to, again, make sure that they really understand what is going on? Because there are a lot of ins and outs of all of this and you have to be able to have someone that is helping to monitor. Even though the principal is supposed to be monitoring it, you have to have somebody else that monitors it.

So can he answer my questions on those, please?

1 MS. FERTIG: Sure.

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MR. SMITH: Great feedback. We do. One of the things that we initiated about a year ago was a formal training and development program for all bookkeepers. And that's BSC and Non-BSC. So if you joined the district as a bookkeeper you were required to spend a week full-time with us. And during that week we review all of the Standard Practice Bulletins and ensure they're clear. We review the detail usage of Great Plains. We review all the expectations that come with the position.

In addition, for the Non-BSC schools, I know that they partner them with a neighboring bookkeeper who helps support them. And then for the BSC schools they are not released into the field until after they spend another three weeks shadowing an experienced bookkeeper. And these are often our most experienced bookkeepers, typically at a high pay grade, to ensure that they are able to stand alone before we place them in a school.

MS. DAHL: Okay. And I have comment for that.

I've done enough computer training and I

think I know everything when I walk out of it and then I don't do anything with it for a short period of time and I forget 90 percent of it.

2.1

So that's where my concern comes, especially with brand new bookkeepers. You may do a week training with them, but how do we know they really understand what you just talked to them about because they haven't used it yet?

So I would hope that we go a little bit more to using mentor bookkeepers so that some of these things like the lost books and the envelopes and a lot of other things that have happened do not happen. That's just my opinion.

DR. WANZA: So we -- if I may, Ms. Fertig?

So we have done that. And so I can say when
I was in my previous role, the budget/payroll
person from my office would get assigned to
groups of schools on a quarterly basis to go out.
And I know that the region offices have continued
that in some fashion. But it was for that
specific mentoring and budding process around
payroll, around internal accounts and around the
budget. And because my person, you know, 20
years error-free exceptions, things of that
nature.

1 MS. FERTIG: Okay.

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MS. DAHL: But it's not a standard thing and it was in your office. You're saying you do this -- you know, you do it when they first come in and then you make them go back for three weeks. I, personally, and maybe I should make a motion on this, I believe that there needs to be constant monitoring until that person has at least one audit free, perfect audit, so that they can go on.

MS. FERTIG: You're talking about when you have a new bookkeeper or member of BSC?

MS. DAHL: Yeah. Or a bookkeeper that has had one of these issues that we have seen here today.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. You want them to be mentored until they have an audit with no exceptions?

MS. DAHL: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Are you making that motion or --

MS. DAHL: Yes, I am making that motion.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Is there a second?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: My point then would to be that. And I hear what you're saying and I get it

and I understand. Every time we make motions and then every time we give them a job, are we factoring in, one, manpower, and are we factoring in money? Because all of that stuff costs. Are we willing to factor that in? That would be my question.

2.1

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And then Peter.

MR. TURSO: So I have a question that I think may solve part of this riddle is, you have indicated that they go through a week-long process, this training and everything, so it seems to me, here's the easy solution or at least part of the solution is, when we look at the schools that have had a negative, whatever the terminology is, just not having done what they should have done as far as the audit goes, are any of those people who participated in that program part of the negative attributes of these audits?

MR. SMITH: They are, yes.

MR. TURSO: Okay.

MR. SMITH: And at times we make them go back through it, depending on what the exceptions are.

MR. TURSO: No, hang on. So then what we would want to do is then go look at the training

and say, okay, this part of the training seems to have been -- I don't want to use the word violated, I don't know the right word, but this particular thing wasn't done correctly and we need to look back and see and then perhaps in their next audit, if they did it again, well, clearly something isn't working, so we need something in place. And, again, my goal here is to never have to visit the internal funds audit situation ever again. I feel we should be here for a much more significant and broader reason, not for, you know, de minimus type things. Thank you.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Dr. Lynch-Walsh.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You're the de facto?

MR. MAYERSOHN: I'm de facto.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I think what I'm going to say sort of pulls it all --

MS. DAHL: I'll withdraw my motion.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Because there's a larger issue. And you touched on it. So, about whether they're in the right job. So the first thing is to look at the job description. Is it that the bookkeeper -- what are the requirements to be a bookkeeper, on both sides of the house,

at the school and in the Business Support Center?

And making sure that the minimum requirements

would get you the type of performance you're

looking for. And then as far as the training

goes, despite this being a learning organization,

sometimes training is ineffective, despite

everybody's best efforts.

2.1

So, to your point about the training, it may not be that they're not getting it, it may be that the training, itself, is not the most effective.

So I think we need an examination of what are the requirements, who are we putting in these bookkeeper jobs? Are we expecting too much of them based on the minimum requirements? And if that -- is technology or lack thereof a factor? Like are there external factors impacting their ability to do their job effectively? But one of them may very well be who -- what are the requirements? What is the training? And I touched on procedures earlier. You do need to boil down, I think the Business Practice Bulletins do not boil it down enough. I heard that there was a manual. I'd like to see the training. And to Rebecca's point about

monitoring, but also they need to have the resources that are readily available. You know, frequently asked questions; how do I do this? And it needs to be effective. And the way you know that it's effective is getting feedback from the people that just went through it. Because they can tell you if it's effective or not, if it helped, instead of just looking at their performance, you may not be identifying the root cause of the problem, which may be ineffective training and they're asking to do things that are outside of their purview and also their ability because of the minimum requirements for the job.

MS. FERTIG: I see Mr. Smith nodding and I see him taking copious notes over there on all of this.

MR. DE MEO: I make a motion that we charge Mr. Smith and our Chief Auditor to examine these errors and these exceptions, look at the training and consider monitoring and remediate -- for remediation purposes when exceptions are found and come back and tell us what you think.

Because -- all right. That's the motion.

Because I think it's hard --

MS. FERTIG: All right. One second.

1 Second?

2 MR. TURSO: I'll second.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Can I make a friendly

amendment?

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MS. FERTIG: You have to ask him.

MR. DE MEO: Sure.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Can we set a time frame to come back?

MR. DE MEO: Yeah. Absolutely. Even better.

MS. FERTIG: Do you want that by June?

MR. JABOUIN: The June meeting is really

long.

MS. FERTIG: Can we do August?

MR. DE MEO: Can you respond to us in writing at some time?

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, we can respond to -- we can respond to it.

MR. DE MEO: And the reason is because except for Dr. Lynch-Walsh, who knows -- you know, I'm amazed at all the stuff she knows, we cannot micromanage, you know, what you're doing. You've got to tell us. I have a lot -- just listening to you guys I have a lot of faith. We have a pretty good crew here. So I'd like to hear from you all and then, you know, it will help us. We

can't create policies and micromanage. You've got to help us with that.

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I wasn't proposing we do it. Before we vote, the examination I was suggesting is for the people in charge of, above — because, remember, everybody reports up. There was a reason you had additional staff here before. So the Business Support Center reports to, ultimately, to the Deputy Superintendent of Operations and I think the Chief Financial Officer is in between there.

MRS. MARTE: Yes, you are correct.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And that person is a CPA. And so a lot of these issues to me are accounting issues. And so, from an accounting standpoint, making sure that they've reviewed the training, so that it will be effective. And some of it is technology, so you might consult with IT, but also on the principal side, because, generally, I hold the schools less responsible because just like -- because principals are not accountants. So you can give them a practice bulletin all you want, but if they don't truly understand what it's saying, how are they ever going to turn to their bookkeeper and make it clear?

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So I'm saying that this is a senior level management issue that they need to task everybody with reviewing the training, reviewing the manual, whether it's the Chief Auditor, whoever is involved, not us, I wasn't giving us more work.

So you asked about them reviewing it. I'm saying that in addition to self review, because they did put stuff in place and the people that have gone through the training are still having exceptions, so I'm saying -- I'm questioning the training, itself, and the people --

MS. FERTIG: I think his motion actually does address that because we've got the auditor looking at it and we've got you looking at it and we've done a lot of talking about accountants and all, but I would just like to suggest that when it comes to education there's nothing like including an educator in the conversation to -you know, we have learned so much over the years from Ms. Dahl about what principals deal with, so I would just say that you all know who to include in the conversation.

Is there any other discussion on the actual motion?

MR. DE MEO: Do you want to add -- Dr. Lynch-Walsh, do you want to add Dr. Wanza or somebody to review this.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, senior -- senior management.

MR. DE MEO: Sorry.

All right. So I'll amend my motion to include these two gentlemen and Dr. Wanza to review --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I didn't just say Dr.
Wanza. I said -- I literally said --

MRS. MARTE: You are correct. Erum's a CPA and is Mr. Smith's direct supervisor and I'm an MBA, so, I mean --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. The two of you should be -- the people above that are ultimately responsible for these processes. So on the other side, the person ultimately responsible for teaching and learning, whether you wanted it to be the three areas and the deputy superintendent, whatever is appropriate, but if the units, themselves -- because the issue is at the unit level.

MS. FERTIG: Can we say a principal and/or whatever your regional supervisor's title might

be? Can we say that? Can we add that in and then we've covered everybody.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Wait. Did we cover senior management?

MR. DE MEO: If you had those two ladies that would really be -- I mean, then you've got a lot of brain power there.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But Dr. Wanza isn't over --

DR. WANZA: It's teaching and learning.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Teaching and learning. You can add in Dr. Wanza, I'm just saying teaching and learning.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. I think we had a motion, we had a second, we've had a lot of conversation.

All in favor?

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And I'm not trying to prolong the meeting, that's not my thing, I just have one question. With the -- where we're going and the people that -- is there a repetition of the same people doing the same thing all the time and can we just streamline it to make sure that they don't do it anymore? Did that make sense?

DR. WANZA: Yes.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: You see what I'm saying?

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Aye.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

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(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you. Now we are on Number 9, Payroll Procedures, and we are really kind of about almost 30 minutes off track. So these are really critically important audits coming up. I would just call upon -- would you like to tell us about this audit and introduce whoever you have here to talk to us about it?

MR. JABOUIN: I did -- I did have -- I did include in my introduction already on 7, 8 and 9. But this is an audit of the payroll procedures. We do these primarily because of the previous motion that the audit committee has passed as well as the fact that payroll is a higher-risk area. The individuals from teaching and learning, as I mentioned, needed to leave, but we do have our audit team to answer any questions regarding this matter.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Are there any -- are there any questions?

MR. DE MEO: Just briefly. I couldn't discern any specific pattern here. One, there was an overpayment, okay, that happens, they paid 35 hours for somebody terminated or somebody

separated from service. Are there any patterns that you all are noticing that we should be aware of?

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MS. ARLOTTA: Meredith Arlotta, Office of the Chief Auditor. The only pattern we're noticing is retroactive changes, the staff isn't reprinting the documents for it, but, otherwise, there was no real pattern of --

MR. DE MEO: Yeah, and the one case the principal said that was necessary because something, the report was printed askew, didn't have the full; right?

MS. ARLOTTA: Correct. Yes. They're required to reprint.

MR. DE MEO: So retroactive adjustments are really dangerous, right, in accounting. So I hope we're clamping down on that and we're not --making it clear that that shouldn't be done. Thank you.

MR. JABOUIN: It looks like that finding was in Pioneer, Millennium and Hallandale.

MR. DE MEO: Yeah.

MR. JABOUIN: It's different, obviously, from the internal funds ones where you've got the findings grouping up a little bit differently

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I just have a couple of questions.

Just so I understand, and sometimes I don't retain stuff, so the person that's the payroll preparer, is the person at the school?

MS. DAHL: Yes.

MS. ARLOTTA: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And -- I'm trying to find this page. So we have the payroll preparer and then I think there's a payroll contact; or is that the same person?

MS. ARLOTTA: It's generally the same person at the schools. It depends on the location.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I found the page I was looking for. It says on the bottom, page 32, and there's, obviously, practice bulletins, but I think this time it is included. I thought I saw one.

Okay. So the payroll contact is the person at the school. The HR action processor, who is that; school or district?

DR. WANZA: That's at the school.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: At the school?

DR. WANZA: Uh-huh. Yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And is this person, is that their job or is this like the IMT, a confidential?

DR. WANZA: Generally, at the school level it's the principal's secretary. Typically, it's the principal's secretary, a confidential office manager.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

DR. WANZA: And at some schools it may be the bookkeeper. But, generally, it's the principal's secretary.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So when I've worked in corporate you have like a payroll specialist and, you know, these are people with at least, I think, a two-year degree or a certification so that they know it backwards and forwards, because that's all they do all day long. An office confidential has 10 million things to do all day long. Are they trained in payroll? Like they get some sort of certification?

DR. WANZA: Yes, they are. They go through district training, payroll processes, payroll procedures. A lot of schools have processes where, while it's constant, right, because people

are absent, people -- but most school payroll processors, everyone knows on Monday they close their door and they focus on reconciling, they focus on their certificate of absences, they focus on ensuring that the payroll is accurate. Because after Monday, then it starts to run for that week. So most of them -- in most schools and district offices, they know Monday is typically the payroll reconciliation, final preparation. It is a weekly -- even though they have activities that go on, you know, throughout the week, Monday is their, typically, their dedicated day to focus on ensuring that they've reconciled, they have all their time entries, their ZTIMs. I'm sorry, that's that report you see in here that they say the principal or the director should sign weekly or each time the report is run.

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MS. ARCESE: Can I give you some more insight? Because I think the last time we had another payroll report I think you had similar questions. In SAP there are very specific roles to do transactions. You are not given access to a specific area in SAP until you've actually gone through the training. It's not until after the

training that the person actually gains the access to do -- to be an HR action processor, to be the payroll contact at the school, to do I-Forms to transfer staff. There are very specific trainings that -- and there are different components and there are different -- you know, they're just all -- probably a good six to eight different types of trainings that a bookkeeper or an office manager or whoever the administrator deems should be able to do these transactions.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. But as we just discussed earlier, we're not, you know, training -- the output -- their ability to do their job is only as good as the training that went into them. So I'll leave that there because -- and I'm not dissing people that are doing it, I'm saying they may be being put at a disadvantage if they're being asked to do something and the training may or may not be as effective as it could be.

On page 42 there's a form Overtime, slash,

Compensatory Time Authorization Form. Are people
still filling things out manually on scraps of
paper?

DR. WANZA: Yes.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oy vey. And so -- don't we have Kronos?

DR. WANZA: Some of the employees, not all.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And how do the other ones do; how do they track their, submit their time, with a --

MRS. MARTE: So there's time off -- so the employees in security, food service and transportation are on Kronos. Other employees are mostly contracted and they submit exceptions to their payroll on certificate of absences.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But payroll also includes like all the -- so these people are not doing payroll for everybody at the school or they are?

But, like, for example, the principal's payroll is set up in the principal's contract and they're automatically paid. They do a certificate of absence to deduct from their --

MRS. MARTE: For the most part they are.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The exceptions.

MRS. MARTE: Yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And the same is true for teachers?

DR. WANZA: Teachers; yeah.

1 MS. DAHL: They don't do cafeteria.

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MRS. MARTE: Right. No, they're on Kronos.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But then they still have to do this paper form?

DR. WANZA: This is typically for, you have a clerical employee or someone who's going to do additional time. It's not administrative or teachers. This is for what we would consider hourly employees who are getting additional payroll.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And the clerical people, are they punching in?

MRS. MARTE: No, no.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So it's all the same exception; okay. So this is like -- so, I guess, if I were going to bring a motion, it would be to move towards eliminating paper from the payroll process?

MS. FERTIG: What an odd idea. You can just say "laugh out loud" next to that.

Okay. Ms. Strauss?

MS. STRAUSS: So in regards payroll, yeah, the paper time sheets don't work. Those are archaic. They need to be gone. That is a very large opportunity for mistakes, for behavior that

we wouldn't welcome, all of the above. With -- I understand the current -- you've got an electronic system for a certain set of employees, not clerical, but lunchroom staff, whoever, whatever.

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Okay. Here's my question. With the evolution of technology these days, even for contractors, there are tools now that when a contractor or person that is going to provide services that they are to receive payment for, physically, walk on to the property it tracks that, right, and then when they leave it tracks that. So we get a -- right. We get a much more accurate picture of when people are there and when they are not there. All these retros, the exclusions here and the findings, were a lot of going back and doing retroactive adjustments for overtime pay. That's shady. I don't understand, like nobody would forget their overtime pay and then all of a sudden go back and ask for it to be paid. Like people know their money and know what they need to be paid, especially if they're hourly. So can we look at those types of technologies?

And, also, what about a time clock where they

log in, log out, with a badge with a camera on top of it? Because I have seen major hospital systems give -- people in leadership positions give their assistants their badges and let them clock in and clock out for them and steal time. So that was because there was not another internal control of a camera watching the time clock.

So what have we considered here and what are we going to do to like move forward off of paper?

MS. FERTIG: Ms. Marte?

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MRS. MARTE: Thank you for the question, Mrs. Strauss. So the employees who are clocking in now, it's a thumbprint. So that's tight.

But, to your point, it is a limited number of employees. We need to -- so our collective bargaining agreement --

MS. DAHL: I was just going to say that.

MRS. MARTE: -- has some limitations. So, for example, teachers do not have to sign into a school at all. It's in their collective bargaining agreement. So we have to overcome some of those issues.

As it relates to paper we are just implementing Success Factors. It went live this

month. That will begin to eliminate paper. We are working on -- I saw Dr. Phillips comes in, on automating the certificate of absence to route through the an automated system, through the approval, and then automatically posting to payroll.

But you're absolutely correct, we have much work to do in eliminating paper. And some of it is the, and I'm going to let Dr. Joe speak to that, is the limitation of what we would have to do to reconfigure SAP in the version we're currently using it at.

My husband works for a company that uses the technology that you just said. When he walks into a client's his phone automatically says he's in that -- is it Geofencing or whatever?

MS. STRAUSS: Yeah, it's Geofencing; yeah.

MRS. MARTE: And then when he leaves it clocks him out.

MS. STRAUSS: Right.

MRS. MARTE: It also keeps track of his mileage between stores and his mileage check is just put in our bank account.

MS. STRAUSS: Right.

MRS. MARTE: So we're well aware of --

MS. STRAUSS: So then let me ask you, the system that's using the thumbprint, are there any other groups that we don't have collective bargaining issues or challenges with that we can move on to that system?

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MRS. MARTE: So the only groups that we could do that with are the COPA employees, the confidential exempt clerical and the administrators. But they don't get overtime anyways, they're salaried. So the challenge with that is --

MS. STRAUSS: Why can't we require a contractor to use that? I mean, they're not employees, so --

MRS. MARTE: You're talking about contractors, like 1099 contractors?

MS. STRAUSS: Yeah, that are coming in, substitutes, I don't care who you are.

MRS. MARTE: Well, substitutes are paid by Kelly. They're paid --

MS. STRAUSS: Oh, they're outsourced; okay.

MRS. MARTE: Right. Right.

MS. STRAUSS: So then who else?

MRS. MARTE: So it would just be the COPAs and the administrators.

MS. STRAUSS: Because, obviously, for somebody that's on salary you don't really need a fingerprint situation going on.

MRS. MARTE: Right. And that's the point I was just going to make. We don't always end up at the same place. My day starts in a different place all the time.

MS. STRAUSS: Yeah, that's really a waste.

MRS. MARTE: So we have captured food service, transportation and security, which is a large number of employees. That's in excess of 5,000 employees.

MS. STRAUSS: But those are all salaried employees.

MRS. MARTE: They're hourly.

MS. STRAUSS: Oh, okay. So then that's fine. So that's the fingerprinting.

MRS. MARTE: The Kronos is a thumb print.

MS. STRAUSS: Okay. So who else can we put on there? Let's be efficient here, let's not like invest more money. Who else can we put on there?

MRS. MARTE: So the rest would be subject to collective bargaining, but I think the only other group that is not, and David's right there, I

think the only other hourlies he have are clerical and custodian. Everyone else is salary.

MS. STRAUSS: Dr. Wanza, can I ask you, in a collective bargaining agreement, what's the objection of being employed and actually having to, wow, like report that you're there? Woo, I mean, that seems really novel to me.

DR. WANZA: So I think that it is -- it has a history in their professionalism. These are professional employees who --

MS. STRAUSS: Uh-huh.

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DR. WANZA: -- and so the collective bargaining agreement does lay out conditions of employment, things of that nature, and so that's why requiring individuals who have a collective bargaining agreement to sign in and out daily, that is -- that could be construed as a term of employment. And so that's why it would have to be negotiated, if you will, and codified in a collective bargaining agreement.

MS. STRAUSS: I mean, to the obvious taxpayer, to a taxpayer, I would think that professional, nonprofessional, like, I'm a professional and I'm happy to clock in, because if I'm here to do my job, I've got nothing to

1 hide.

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DR. WANZA: So I don't think that it's anyone trying to hide anything. I think the other question comes, that if I'm going to clock in and I'm going to clock out, the expectation of I'm going to be paid for every single hour that I'm there, and these are salaried employees.

MS. STRAUSS: I get it. But that's just not what a salaried employee is. If you're signing up to be a salaried employee, then you understand that.

So perhaps we should look at those collective bargaining agreements, because they really seem archaic to me. And if people feel like big brother is watching by the whole clock in clock out thing, it's kind of too bad.

MS. FERTIG: So I think those are kind of out of our purview, though we can certainly make a suggestion that they look. But I've got three hands up. You've provoked a lot of conversation here. So I have Mr. Mayersohn, Ms. Dahl and Dr. Lynch-Walsh. Who wants to go first?

MR. MAYERSOHN: I'll go.

MS. FERTIG: Bob, and then we'll go to Rebecca and then --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm not leaving without SDA getting discussed.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah. Okay.

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MR. MAYERSOHN: So, two things. Number one on this, you know, clocking in, clocking out, just curious to find out what other districts do across the country. I mean, are we the only ones that are doing this or does everybody else have a thumbprint or whatever else they do? So I'd be curious. You don't have to answer it now.

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, we'll look into it.

MR. MAYERSOHN: That's number one.

Number two, I guess my question is, in reading the response, principal says I'm going to make sure that X, Y and Z is done, I'm going to meet weekly with, you know, the payroll supervisor, whatever it may be, how do we ensure that that's done with fidelity?

DR. WANZA: So they've left, but that would be -- that would be incumbent upon the regional associate superintendent's office and how the director then checks for that level of accountability.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, let me ask you this.

In your previous life --

DR. WANZA: Yeah.

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MR. MAYERSOHN: -- how did you handle that?

DR. WANZA: So one of the things that we would do is, when the director makes a regular visit to the school, let me see your log of the times that you and your payroll processor met, what you discussed, things of that nature. What I also did and I talked about it was, Ms. Vickers, who was my business person in my office, I even set up times where she went out quarterly and then she would review the logs and the conversations of what happened with the principal and the bookkeeper, what challenges they had, how she provided assistance, and then what she thought was something that needed to be looked at in a more global issue. So there are a couple of ways to get it done. It's the intentionality of ensuring that it gets done.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So I guess I would ask, through the Chair, Mr. Jabouin, if you can follow up to ensure that those recommendations that -- or recommendations that the principal made are followed with implementation and fidelity. So if the principal says I want to meet with the payroll processor once a week, you know, whatever

their response is, that those are actually happening.

MR. JABOUIN: Okay.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. And Ms. Dahl?

MS. DAHL: When I was working at the beginning of my time at Sunrise Middle School it came up that they wanted teachers to start signing in and signing out. And what happened was they worked exactly seven and a half hours. And not many teachers ever work seven and a half hours. So it became a real issue with the amount of work that was getting done.

Now, I handled it by having a time sheet in the front office, and I didn't care what time during the day you put your initials that you were there, because you have to have something to show, at least in my opinion -- you can't do that anymore?

MRS. MARTE: Well, you certainly can do whatever you want except the contract doesn't require a teacher to sign in.

MS. DAHL: Well, the only other option is to have the AP in charge of that group, go to each room and check them, which is very time consuming.

MS. STRAUSS: But that's manual again.

That's stupid. That's manual. We need to get away from that.

MS. DAHL: Well, I don't think you're going to get away from it, at least right now with the union the way it is.

MS. FERTIG: I just -- I just have to ask a question though. If you have a class without a teacher it's going to be kind of obvious. So I'm not -- and they're going to require substitutes, so I'm not -- yeah, I -- and I'm just -- okay.

MS. STRAUSS: I'm just concerned with all the retroactive overtime pay adjustments.

MS. FERTIG: I understand what you're saying. I found that -- I think one of the things about this audit, if I can just bring this back to where we are here, is the -- is the recordkeeping. The fact that the principal hadn't approved those. The principals know they have to -- you know, I'm sorry, that's just routine. You do payroll, you get the signature on it. I don't -- you know, and basically we're looking at half of the schools audited hadn't followed that. So that's a concern.

DR. WANZA: But I have to say this, because I

don't want people to think that there -- that there is a preponderance of something maybe going on that, you know, may not.

So when you talk about a retroactive payment, so in the payroll period, let's say the period goes from January 1 to January 15th, and the payroll is run and now it's time for a retroactive payment because I may have just completed a workshop. I may have just completed something and now that -- the time that they are -- you know, the payroll period that I completed it, it has passed, but now they've got to go back and account for it in that period. So the report needs to be run at that time to show why, with the attachment justifying why a retroactive payment was done, and then the principal needs to sign the retroactive.

MS. FERTIG: Right. And that's what happened here in some cases. I don't think the question was that you might retroactively adjust something, I think the question, again, the recordkeeping, and then just another theme that's come out of here is a lot of this recordkeeping is paper based, which I think has generated some concern in 2023.

So, okay, Dr. Lynch-Walsh, do you want to comment real quickly here?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah. I'd like to move that the district move towards electronic recordkeeping instead of paper and conduct a study of best practices for timekeeping and payroll.

We may need to flip those two, because you want to conduct a study and then use -- conduct a study of best practices for timekeeping and payroll processes and then use the results to move towards electronic recordkeeping and payroll processes. So, basically, research and then apply.

MS. FERTIG: Research what other districts are doing for payroll and timekeeping.

MS. STRAUSS: Second.

MS. FERTIG: And use those results to institute an electronic process.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Electronic payroll and timekeeping processes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Ms. Strauss has seconded that. Is there any conversation?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor?

1 | COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And I have another motion.

In the interest of time and because I've just checked the Auditor's employment agreement, the board only has to approve the Audit Plan in July, contractually, so I'd like to move that. Because there's no way in the world we're getting through the Audit Plan, even though we've discussed it once, and SDA.

MS. FERTIG: You're going to have to wait until we get to that. We can't do it on this item. We've got to get this item transmitted.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, transmitted. Okay. Then I'll be back. I'm just trying to move us along.

MS. FERTIG: I know you are. Don't worry. We're watching the clock.

MR. DE MEO: Just a brief comment and a recommendation. I don't know if it's feasible, but it appears that three out of the nine schools had an exception for the principal not signing a payroll. This is a common control and it's an

important control. Is there any way that before the bookkeeper submits the payroll the principal must get on and click that they approve and there be some language that says I reviewed the reports?

MRS. MARTE: That's the best practice.

That's the way the system was set up in

Miami-Dade.

MR. DE MEO: Can we do that?

MRS. MARTE: We can, but we have to reconfigure the way SAP is set up.

MR. DE MEO: I would recommend that.

MS. FERTIG: I agree.

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MR. DE MEO: Because then you've got the principal doing their job and if they decide not to look at the report it's on them. Either way the report can't be submitted to payroll.

Anyways, I'm not going to make a motion, but I --

MS. FERTIG: Go ahead and make it.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, I think it needs, yeah, go ahead and make the motion.

MS. FERTIG: To reconfigure SAP to ensure that the principal has approved the payroll on time.

MRS. MARTE: Prior to submitting.

1 MS. FERTIG: Prior to submitting.

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MR. DE MEO: What she said.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Didn't we have a motion on the floor already?

MR. DE MEO: The only language I would add to that is that it cannot be submitted without the principal's approval.

MS. FERTIG: Right.

DR. PHILLIPS: If I may, just real quick? Sorry to jump in, but you might just want to modify, instead of saying SAP.

MRS. MARTE: Say your name.

DR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry, Dr. Joe Phillips,
Chief Information Officer. Instead of naming the
system it might be more than one system that
needs configuration so we might just want to say
IT systems or something like that.

MR. DE MEO: Sure.

MS. FERTIG: IT instead of SAP; okay.

Did you get that?

Okay. So we're moving -- is there a second?
Who seconded this?

MS. DAHL: Me.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Rebecca seconded it.

So we have moved to reconfigure the IT system

so that the principal must approve -- sign and approve the payroll before it can be submitted.

Okay. Any discussion?

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MR. DE MEO: I was going to include that form that Dr. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh talked about, but apparently you've got it in that big omnibus one; right? Or should we --

MS. FERTIG: Let's go ahead and do this one.

Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion carries.

Okay. Anything else, Dr. Lynch-Walsh? Oh, I thought you had another point.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, I'm just --

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Mr. Turso?

MR. TURSO: So I did have a quick question. When we look at the principals that are having these issues, are they -- do they appear to be across all three regions or are they more gravitating towards one region? Has anybody

23 looked at that?

DR. WANZA: I mean, I look at it and I can tell you that it's not just one region.

1 MR. TURSO: Is it more heavily in one region?

DR. WANZA: So the three with observations -I'm sorry, the four with observations, three of
them are in one region and one is in another;

MR. TURSO: Which one is the one that has the three?

DR. WANZA: The south region.

MR. TURSO: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

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yeah.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to transmit.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Is there a second?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Second.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. We are transmitting

Number 9. We've done 10, 11 and 12. We're down

to 13, Proposed Audit Committee Meeting Dates.

Just to give you a time check, that was supposed

to start at 10:50 and we are almost at 11:40.

So Proposed Audit Committee Meeting Times and Dates for Fiscal Year 2024.

Yes, Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I -- we need to make sure these dates don't conflict with other meetings, because I should be in a central area meeting right now, but I can't be and there shouldn't be advisory meetings scheduled at the same time.

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MR. JABOUIN: If I can kindly describe the logic to these meetings?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Honestly, I understand the logic, we've had this discussion before. I'm just saying, have we checked? So I would like to actually probably defer this until everybody can look at a master calendar because that's what we don't do and we end up piling multiple meetings on top of each other.

MS. FERTIG: And the other thing that I would like to bring up, if it's okay with everybody, because I know I'm chairing, but I notice that you're meeting August 3rd, and we ran into this last year, that is when the school district is on break. And I just feel there has to be a way to work around that. I looked at this and when I looked at it last night I saw that we had a late February, no March and April meeting. I would relook at those August dates and not -- not put us in the position of that's when school's out so

1 that's when we've gone on vacation.

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MR. JABOUIN: Well, part of the reason,
Chair, is that the committee has asked for more
dates and so we've put in more dates. But we
need to also space out the meetings and then
there are some dates that are very solid dates
because there's regulatory reports.

MS. FERTIG: I understand all of that. I understand all of that. But I think what we're asking, and maybe we defer this to the next meeting, is to look at those two conflicts and see if there's a way to resolve them.

MR. JABOUIN: If I can just ask the committee members to let me know if there are conflicts so I can process them.

MS. STRAUSS: I don't know what I'm doing tomorrow. I mean --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: They haven't set a date yet. We're kind of getting ahead here.

MS. STRAUSS: It's right here.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no, the other -- so all the other advisories, there needs to be a master schedule, and we don't have that yet. So that's why I'm saying, if we defer this to June to address that conflict and the conflict -- to

the extent possible, but there's been at least three times when this has been scheduled at the same time as the central area meeting, which is a major advisory.

MS. FERTIG: And I think one reason is because, typically, many of us meet on like the third Thursday of the month or the, you know, first Monday, whatever. But we don't always have that here.

I just wanted to raise that concern about summer. I think that impacts a lot of people, both -- you know, both staff and -- and volunteers. It affects everybody.

MR. JABOUIN: We could push it back, but then we run into some issues in December and November and then we end up -- I mean, may I suggest potentially removing one; is that a possibility?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't -- I can't vote on this today without --

MS. DAHL: I mean, I just -- I mean no offense or anything, but every time we bring this up that's your answer to everything, because of dates and so on and I can't push it back and all that kind of stuff.

All we're asking is that you go back and look

at when, like the central area advisory, you know, what is it the third Thursday of every month?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, and the thing is, too, sometimes they meet in the evening when it falls on the third Thursday. So if -- now that I have these dates I can check with them. But if we set it in stone, then it's harder to change. So all I'm saying is I need a month to get with central area advisory. Because there may be some flexibility there, too. But until everybody's looking at what dates they meet, they may be able to switch something to the evening so there isn't a conflict.

MS. STRAUSS: Hold on. I'm sorry. The people in this room, do you all not work in the summer? I don't know how that goes.

MRS. MARTE: No, we work all year.

MS. STRAUSS: All right. So then why -- I mean, I work. We all work. I mean, or not work, retired or whatever. But, like, why do we skip July and August and, like, try to cram it in?

Like --

MS. FERTIG: The answer to that is, first of all, in July the school board is not meeting; are

they?

MRS. MARTE: Oh, they are. They're meeting one meeting statutorily.

MS. FERTIG: One time.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, no, actually, Mary that's when they do all of the budget. That's when all of that stuff really gels.

MS. FERTIG: I know, but there is a period of time when they don't. And for the volunteers on this -- I can only speak for myself. The only time we can ever go on vacation is when extended school year and school year are not in session. So if you have another schedule, I think that's fine. But for most parents in this district who either have to -- who have children involved in summer programs, that's when they're going to be on vacation. And the school system is routinely setting things during those times when they know -- I mean, I would --

MS. STRAUSS: I'm just saying as an option.

And if we can't get quorum, then we won't have a meeting. But I don't think that we need to take it off. I mean, this is a year-round commitment. I don't operate on a school year, unfortunately. I wish I did, but I don't.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And I don't disagree. 1 2 Facilities Task Force always has a meeting. 3 MR. JABOUIN: My understanding is, there are 4 no July meetings. 5 MS. FERTIG: Can you pull up and tell us what 6 -- what's the meeting in July? What's the date? 7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We know there's going to be 8 more. 9 MRS. MARTE: It's generally the last week in July because the board does try to take about a 10 11 three-week recess. But they do have a July 12 meeting. It's not the budget meeting. 13 budget meeting this year is August and it was the 14 last several years. 15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But there is workshops? 16 MRS. MARTE: The last workshop is June but 17 they have a regular board meeting in July because 18 statutorily they must. 19 MS. STRAUSS: And then when do you know 20 school starts in August? 2.1 MS. FERTIG: School starts in later August. 22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I just want to 23 point out, we're eating up time and this SDA

MS. FERTIG: All right. Well, do you want to

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audit is critical.

1 -- you could move to defer.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I did. I said I would like to defer -- I'll put the word "remove" in there.

MR. DE MEO: Second.

MS. FERTIG: All right. All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Just one other thing, I guess, administratively. It was discussed about having our next meeting earlier.

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, please.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Can we make that decision at this point as opposed until waiting until 12:30?

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

MR. TURSO: I would --

MS. FERTIG: The June, the June --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Our next meeting.

MR. JABOUIN: June 22nd at 9:30.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Let's finish this motion deferring this.

MR. MAYERSOHN: We already did.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We did. You said all in favor and we said, aye.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And all opposed?

24 (No response.)

MS. FERTIG: I'm sorry, but just

20 Yes?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Motion to move it to the

June meeting.

Audit Plan.

MR. JABOUIN: I have a comment for the

24 committee, please.

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

Thank you.

MR. JABOUIN: I just wanted to mention that the -- it is important to have a plan at the start of the year in July.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And the board can approve it, will approve it in July. Per the contract, they have until July to approve it. So if we discuss it again in June we have time. Even if they have to add it to a special -- wherever they need to shove it, the contract says July.

Because I went and pulled it up and checked.

I'm aware of it.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So I made a motion to move it because we have 45 minutes and I can promise you we will not get through the SDA Audit of the three agreements and the audit plan in 45 minutes.

So if I have to choose, I would pick the one -- I would pick this one, the SDA Audit.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So we have a motion to defer and a second.

All in favor?

MR. JABOUIN:

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. We're now on Number --

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH:

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MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I'm getting there. Number 15, SDA. Number 15 is the Independent Auditor's

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Report Performance Audit of Broward County Public

5 Schools Employee Separation Payments Related to

Three Employees Referenced in the Supreme Court

of Florida Case Number SC19-240. We have Ms.

Batista joining us and we have -- oh, yes, hi.

Let me have you introduce our people from -- hi.

MS. LEWIS: Good afternoon everyone. Annette Lewis, S. Davis & Associates.

MS. MUNNINGS: Faye Munnings. S. Davis & Associates.

MR. JABOUIN: And the gentleman to -- if you could just please state your name?

MR. ALVAREZ: My name is Raul Alvarez. I work with Trimerge Consulting Group, a CPA firm.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you. And I believe we have one public speaker, Mr. Travis.

MR. TRAVIS: Yes, hello.

Hi, my name is Scott Travis and I'm a reporter with the South Florida Sun Sentinel.

So on the separation pay issue I have some questions about it. I emailed Chief Auditor Jabouin and General Counsel Batista, Chief

Communications Officer John Sullivan and Auditor Shaun Davis yesterday and hadn't gotten a response yet. And I say that not to complain, I know people get very -- are busy and don't have much time, but I just wanted to see if, maybe, I could get some of my questions answered here today, either in the discussion that you're having or if someone could speak to me afterwards.

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So, anyways, my first question is this. Why did the auditors recommend a non-disclosure which recommends the district consider -- well, yeah, which -- the Florida Statute 215.425 governs these kind of payouts and at the very end it says, separation agreements, quote, may not include provisions that limit the ability of any party to the agreement or contract to discuss the agreement or contract.

So another question is why the district lawyers say that non-disclosure agreements may be considered on a case-by-case basis? What cases would allow you to violate what appears to be a violation of state law?

And I may have missed this in the audit, and I apologize if I did, but I could not find a

written narrative explaining why the recommendation was made to have a non-disclosure part in there. And usually I see that when I'm reading these types of audits.

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Another question I have is, why did the auditors consider a finding for a relatively minor issue which was that Mr. Moquin may have been paid maybe a day later than -- or a day earlier than what he was supposed to, but they did not consider the finding that he received more than two months of sick pay without a doctor's note, which, according -- which the audit notes is a violation of district policy, that you can only be out for three days of sick days and then after that you would have to have a medical or you'd have to have a doctor's excuse?

So my next question is that I saw that the auditor general's office would not opine on the legality of this. So have they said whether they will conduct their own audit on the payments?

I've seen them audit these types of agreements for many other government entities, so I was wondering if they considered -- if they contacted the district about reviewing it.

Next, the State Department of Education's

Office of Inspector General ordered this audit, so I was wondering if they have weighed in on that, if they're satisfied with the results or if they plan to take further actions.

And, finally, I wanted to find out how much the district pays, is paying S. Davis & Associates for this audit.

I have some copies of the email with the questions and I'm happy to distribute copies, however is appropriate.

So thank you so much for your time.

MS. FERTIG: Thank you. Actually, ironically, I have many of those questions, I'm sure other members do, but if you want to distribute your email, if we can -- can we have somebody distribute it for us?

Okay. Thank you very much.

Any other public speakers on this?
(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. We are ready to begin. How do you want to proceed? Do you want to introduce --

MR. JABOUIN: Yes. So we do have the auditors from S. Davis & Associates who performed this work for us. They've performed many audits

for us, as well, throughout the decades. We have, as she introduced herself, Annette Lewis and Fay Munnings are here, and I recommend that the committee just proceed to their questions.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you. We are receiving the questions that were submitted from public comment and I would -- I would like to suggest on this one that on each of the areas of the audit we get all the comments on that area and then move to the next section, if that's okay. I know sometimes I get frustrated because I want to comment on something and then I'm coming back three items later. So, if we're good with that, I'm just going to start with the beginning and we have the findings, we have the recommendations, and then just the general discussion.

Does anybody have anything that they want to begin -- I have a long list here, so if anybody wants to begin I will defer to them and --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I have plenty, but I'm still trying to compose myself.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Well, I'm just going to start. I just wanted to verify with the auditors, in the general discussion on this

project you stated that you did not communicate with any of the former employees.

MS. LEWIS: That is correct.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. And you also wrote that you handled the settlement payments by submitting an insurance claim.

MS. LEWIS: Per discussion with Risk, they indicated that it was handled through the -- a claim, one claim that was put in for the three persons.

MS. FERTIG: So my question on that would be, this was a separation agreement with three employees, how was that handled through insurance?

MS. LEWIS: From my general knowledge of working for government, typically, there would be communication --

MS. DAHL: Can you speak up just a little bit?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, is it possible to have her at the table because we have a couple of empty seats? Because we're all -- because those of us -- she's behind us.

MR. JABOUIN: Ms. Lewis, you could move next to Dr. Phillips. There are two chairs there.

MS. FERTIG: And Ms. Shaw is not here so we do have a chair over there.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I was thinking if we shuffled, because that way all of us could see.

MS. FERTIG: Well, Mr. Bass is there.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Not Mr. Bass. Mr. Bass is the most important person in the room.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

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MR. MAYERSOHN: And he didn't get a certificate of appreciation.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'll make him up one.

MS. FERTIG: So, if I understand, you got the response from staff, I'm just gonna -- maybe I'm better directing this to staff, asking the question. You settled this by submitting an insurance claim. How is that how you handle a separation of employees? Or maybe Ms. Batista?

MS. BATISTA: So good afternoon. Good morning. I guess it's still morning.

So the way that these particular claims went forward, as I understand it, is that because there were settlements of claims that the employees were threatening against the district, it was a settlement -- it was just like a settlement of a case. So it went through the

1 risk management process.

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MS. FERTIG: So, actually, in here it states that Florida Department of Education dated September 7th to Dr. Cartwright indicated that it was a follow-up of September 1st and stated that they found the district still had officials from the previous administration who guided failed decisions on school safety. If I go down to the bottom of that page, on or about September 8th they informed the three named employees to resign or go on leave while being investigated. In response employees executed separation agreements the next day in the case of two of them and four days later in the case of another.

So I guess -- I guess I really didn't pick up on this insurance part until I read this audit. It just seems an unusual way. Typically, when you deal with employees being investigated or something you're going through a 4.9 or one of the other policies and I'm just wondering how it evolved to this.

MS. BATISTA: So the best that I can explain is that it was a decision by the operations, by the superintendent to move through that process, and -- you know, because of the nature of the

separation agreement. So it wasn't -- you know, it didn't go through an investigation process. It didn't go through 4.9. It basically came about as a request, I would say, from the Department of Education via letter, and then the superintendent was placed in a position where, you know, she needed to take immediate action. And she chose to do that by, you know, asking the employees to resign and enter into an agreement. So they waived -- in those separation agreements they waived all kinds of claims against the district which would be tantamount or similar to when you enter into a settlement agreement after a case is settled, you know, a case that is filed in court.

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MS. FERTIG: Right, I understand that. And then I don't see those agreements attached. So I -- I'm assuming you looked at their agreements because you made comments about non-disclosure agreements.

MS. LEWIS: Yes, we did.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So I would just say, as we get into these findings and the other things, one thing that stood out to me is, this wasn't handled through the normal process where you

these employee -- 4.9 where you would handle an employee investigation. And I'm wondering if that triggered some of the other things that could have been recommended in this audit.

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MS. BATISTA: That is potentially correct. I think it was a sense of urgency that, number one, to take -- I think immediate and swift action is what the letter called for from the superintendent. Obviously, if you go through the 4.9 process that takes a long time and the results are not guaranteed. You're not going to be able to ascertain at the beginning of the investigation whether or not at the end of the investigation the employees will be recommended for termination or not, whether there will be enough basis or evidence to show that they, in fact -- there is just cause to terminate.

So I think to put to bed all of those concerns, that's why the reason why this was done the way it was done, you know, in a settlement -- in a separation agreement type of document.

MS. FERTIG: So one thing that I didn't see noted in here was that we didn't follow the process that the district had established for and I just wanted to call it to everybody's attention

that the district does have processes to handle matters like this, typically, and that this did not follow any of those adopted processes that are in policy.

And I'm saying that because some of the recommendations are talking about policy changes, and, in fact, this didn't.

Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Before I get into all my other stuff, I just wanted to have Ms. Batista clarify, you said they were threatening the district, the three employees that were separated.

MS. BATISTA: I know that -- that, you know, they raised the issue of fighting against the district for potential violation of their employment rights.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And they would have said that instead of taking 4.9?

MS. BATISTA: They would have, I suppose, said that. And, again, you know, I'm a little -- I did not participate in the negotiations with the employees, so that would have been the superintendent.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And just to be clear, we do

not mean Dr. Smiley, this was Dr. Cartwright.

MS. BATISTA: Correct.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Just to clarify for everybody listening, that was not Dr. Smiley, she was not here, had nothing -- and it was not Dr. Wanza. It was Dr. Cartwright in response to thou shalt get rid of people mentioned in the grand jury report and she quickly picked three, and within -- was it even 24 hours that they had to decide? Which brings words like duress to mind.

So I'm trying to -- so I'm just trying to clarify -- I'm trying to clarify. So you're saying that they raised the issue of wrongful termination?

MS. BATISTA: Yes. I believe some of them did; yes.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, there's only three of them so --

MS. BATISTA: Well, I mean, I -- that's what I understood from Dr. Cartwright.

MS. FERTIG: So we could presume that three people raised a question of wrongful termination.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And also to clarify, just so we lay the groundwork in terms of what happened before we even get this to this report,

so they were told they were under investigation?

MR. AZZARITO: I can answer.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, please do, Mr. Azzarito.

MR. AZZARITO: How are you doing? David
Azzarito, Executive Director of HR.

I met with two of the individuals, I did not meet with all three. The conversation with the two that I met -- I believe there were conversations that were happening before I stepped in. When I stepped in it was, there is a possible investigation directed by that letter that came in from the state. There are other options if you wanted to resign. One of the individuals had enough years to retire, so we talked about that.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So you never told any of them that there was an investigation that had been initiated?

MR. AZZARITO: I told them, as far as I knew, at that point, there was no investigation that had been initiated.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So there would not have been anything from you verbally or in writing telling any of them that an investigation has

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MR. AZZARITO: Correct. There is nothing in writing that says that I said.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That was much less signed by you.

MR. AZZARITO: I did not say they were under investigation.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: This letter is to inform you that an investigation has been initiated regarding your involvement in findings from the grand jury report. You signed this.

MR. AZZARITO: At the time there was not an investigation; as far as I knew.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But that's what you put in writing on September 8th, 2022.

MR. AZZARITO: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The second sentence, please be advised you are immediately suspended with pay for the duration of this investigation pending board approval but effective immediately.

MS. AZZARITO: Unless they resigned.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You are directed to not enter any school board owned facilities nor attend any school-related activities or functions as a representative of Broward County Public

Schools. You are immediately to turn in your badge, your ID, blah-blah-blah, key, laptop, phone and all other BCPS property. You will be contacted to provide a statement regarding these allegations. You are entitled to have a representative of your choice at the meeting. Signed, David Azzarito.

MR. AZZARITO: As far as I -- I signed the letter but there was not an investigation, as far as I knew, underway.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So were they -- I'm sorry, I have to interrupt you.

So were they suspended pursuant to 4.9 or were -- I mean, were they -- yeah, were they suspended pursuant to 4.9 or -- I'm trying to -- I'm trying to understand what school board policies came into play here. Because the only ones I'm aware of that we have spent years in the public working on as well as is 4.9. I know there's another one here, I have it, about employees have to self report if they've been arrested, but none of these individuals were arrested, charged or cited, as stated in the other policy which I can pull out.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So -- so how much time --

so this is September 8th. I'm looking at an employee separation agreement for another person dated September 9th.

So I just want everyone to understand the lack of time that passed here --

MS. DAHL: Yeah.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- in terms of when they were told that they were to get out, and I believe one of them was escorted out, and another one was circled like a piranha and trotted downtown.

And when they signed these, and I think one of them, because they were old enough to retire had extra time to look it over, and then they had to sign this. So to answer your question, it doesn't sound like 4.9 was --

MR. JABOUIN: Well, the auditors have included this in their report that it was September 8th and then September 9th and September 12th.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I just wanted to add some clarity as to -- because when they said they were threatening the district, if anyone was being threatened, it sounds like the three employees were being threatened, which I don't

know that that's in here. And then I have a packet of questions and comments.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Can I -- Can I --

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

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MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I have a question. I want to get back to, is there a possibility -- because I'm trying to understand how it became an insurance issue.

MS. FERTIG: I was just going to go back to that. Thank you so much.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I just -- that just does not sit well with me and are we -- is that going to come back and haunt us down the line? Because it doesn't appear that the rules were followed, the policy, the school policy for separation was followed. And we're here talking about it's an insurance issue. That -- I'm just lost. So can somebody clue me in?

MS. FERTIG: And can I just add on to that? Would there be paperwork to substantiate the insurance claim?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: And I just was stunned to read this, because I don't know see how this is an insurance issue.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And just from a housekeeping standpoint, you mentioned you didn't see the separation agreements. Why weren't those included and why wasn't the state statute that gets quoted, unless I missed it in here and it may be, but I don't think so, which is, what is it, 21.425, not included in backup?

I mean, I would think that those are four very relevant things, the three separation agreements and the state statute. Because one of the biggest things, the most pages in here is the district tap dancing around why it's not severance, which I've got to applaud, when BCPS goes down, they go down hard.

So far, no other state auditor general finding regarding severance, which normally they cited other districts because they gave them too much severance, no other district ever tried to claim hush money wasn't, that it wasn't severance. We're the only district that spent, and I've got to tell you, it was a great masterful job in this letter as to why it's not severance, but then what is it, so they don't come back and sue us, or, as I once characterized it, hush money? Because all the other districts

that got into trouble, they're like, oh, well, we gave them 20 weeks when it should have been six or our policy allows for six months when it should have been six weeks and they got dinged for -- but they freely admitted it was severance.

This is the only district that bypassed 4.9, made them sign like this and then argued with the attorney -- you know, argued to say that it's fine because it's not severance, it's money so that they wouldn't sue us for emotional harm and other things. But, again, why would you not attach the employment agreements and the state statute?

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That I would like Mr. Jabouin to answer because it seems a really obvious thing to have given but he didn't.

MS. FERTIG: Oh, okay. You can provide those backup materials?

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, these were provided to S. Davis. I think they can be provided. I'll check. But I think that they were -- they may have already been made public already.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: They've been public for a long time.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So let me just ask this question. Was the insurance claim submitted to you?

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MS. LEWIS: We only have the checks that were issued from.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: From the insurance company?

MS. LEWIS: From the insurance company.

MS. FERTIG: And the school board's self-insured?

MS. LEWIS: Yes, I believe so. I'm not sure.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: You guys are self-insured; right?

MS. BATISTA: Yes, we are.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Okay. So there was no backup? That's what we're asking for; right?

MS. FERTIG: We're asking to --

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I want to see what the --what initiated the insurance claim. How can you get an insurance check without an insurance claim? So I haven't seen the claim.

MS. LEWIS: They did submit a claim. I'll go back to Mr. Mackey and ask him for the documentation that was, that was submitted to him in order for the insurance company to process it.

MR. DE MEO: I have a few questions.

MS. FERTIG: Sure.

2.1

MR. DE MEO: So I'm not sure who can answer this. Did the district, and I'm not sure that this should be aired in public, but I'll ask, did the district determine that a settlement was expedient as opposed to fighting their wrongful termination claims?

MS. FERTIG: Can I ask you to clarify "did the district"? Do you mean did the administration or did the school board?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The school board had no knowledge. They never brought this to the school board.

MS. FERTIG: No, I think he's trying to get these answers on the record.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, no, I understand why he's asking.

MR. DE MEO: So who -- somebody sat down and made a determination that we should offer this money to these people because they've asserted some claims, I guess wrongful termination claims, and when you do a settlement sometimes an insurance company will tell you, look, there may be no merit to these claims but for 150 or

\$200,000 you're better off settling, it will cost much more to litigate. And if you don't take this settlement, then the insurance company, if you lose, they don't pay you.

So what I'm trying to find out is, was there that process? I'm sure there was that process where somebody said, yeah, either these claims are meritless, but it doesn't make sense to move forward because of the cost to fight it or there was merit and this is -- this is a good settlement, is that -- is that anywhere documented?

MS. BATISTA: If I may?

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

2.1

MS. BATISTA: So my understanding in the conversations that I had with Dr. Cartwright, it was that type of a thought process that was utilized. And I think the -- to Dr. Lynch-Walsh's point, I think the separation agreements are extremely germane to this whole process. Because I think it is important to note that they -- all three employees waived many, many rights that they would have had. So when -- when any individual but an employee waives rights that they normally would have, the

district or the employer or whoever they're doing the agreement with has to pay something in consideration. So the consideration for those waivers were the payments that they received.

You know, you can -- you can turn it into something else, but the reality is that they are giving up the right to apply to the district again; they're giving up the right to potentially speak under the first amendment and disparage the district; they're giving up their rights under Title 7; the Florida Civil Rights Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Family Medical Leave Act; Equal Pay; Chapter 448; the Constitution of the state and the United States; executive orders; common-law. And so it's a pretty robust waiver of many rights, including indemnifying the district, the results of the indemnification clause in the agreement.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. If -- go ahead.

MS. FERTIG: Can I just break in? So what you're saying is, the rationale for an insurance payment would be that they would have persevered on a wrongful termination -- if they had sued the district for wrongful termination they would have persevered and that's why the insurance paid? Am

1 I understanding that?

MS. BATISTA: Right. So there was a decision made by -- by --

MR. DE MEO: Or the settlement amount would be less than the cost to litigate. That doesn't mean there was merit, but in a wrongful termination, I mean, they probably gave up a lot for a little.

Does the separation agreement provide for severance pay?

MS. BATISTA: No.

MR. DE MEO: No? Okay. And the recommendation -- you know, the auditors did a nice job on the report. I agree with Dr. Lynch-Walsh though, it would have been very helpful to have those documents she mentioned, the separation agreement, the law. And -- and I have a question for you. Did the state, and I don't recall, name these individuals?

MS. LEWIS: In the report, yes, they did.

MR. DE MEO: They did.

MS. LEWIS: Correct.

MR. DE MEO: And your recommendation to -seems to say that maybe the district, and I think
it's probably a good idea, should provide in any

employment agreement as a condition of employment that if they are removed by some action by the state or the county or any authority over the school district that removes people by name, that there will be no separation -- or severance pay or that they acknowledge, as, you know, like liquidated damages that the district is free and clear. Is that what your recommendation is?

2.1

MS. LEWIS: Well, the recommendation now that the district -- I'm sorry, our recommendation based on the experience that the district had was potentially, you know, look at having some sort of policy in terms of how to deal with, whether it included putting it in a contract agreement or a separate policy, for instance, like 4.9. I mean, it would be something that would build over time considering this is something that's fairly new to the district and it's not day-to-day operations.

MR. DE MEO: I think that's a good idea. I also want to --

MS. FERTIG: Can we -- can I just suggest that we go through the recommendations. Are we finished with the first part of this? Because -- DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What's the first part?

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MS. FERTIG: The first part is the Introduction which is where we found out they paid by insurance.

2.1

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The Executive Summary I have a couple more highlights here.

MS. FERTIG: Do you mind if we wait on your next question?

MR. DE MEO: Well, this is related to the insurance, too.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Because there's -- I think there are going to be a lot of questions on the non-disparagement.

MR. DE MEO: Oh, yeah. No, I'm not going there. Well, to follow up on the insurance, does the state have any culpability with regard to these claims? In other words, can we go back to the state, because they recommended it, and say, look, this is a cost that we had as a result. Does anybody know the answer to that or is that suicide?

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: That's suicide. And I'm still on what's the -- where is the paper trail?

MS. DAHL: Yep.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: That's my question.

MS. FERTIG: Now we know there is one, so I

guess we'll be able to get that.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Okay. I would like to see the paper trail, because I'm trying to make sure that even though we can say all day long that they gave up this, they gave up that, you can sue anybody for anything, so it doesn't matter what they gave up. But I just want to make sure that we're covered as a district in everything that we've done. And they only made recommendations. We actually carried out the act.

MS. FERTIG: So is there -- so I guess you're adding that to the list of documents that we would like to have provided.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So in the Executive Summary I'm going to have to add some clarification so we don't go down wrong roads here.

All right. So around the middle of I, the letter from FLDOE addressed to Dr. Cartwright had more than just the three names. But just to be clear, the person -- so key members of the prior superintendent's leadership team, staff directly named in the grand jury report and procurement

staff, the procurement staff person was above that, apparently Cartwright put into the Office of Safe Schools here and that got removed because that person is not named in the grand jury report because that person is a whistleblower for the grand jury report. So the three people were compromised to not remove the fourth person that is named in the grand jury report who remains employed here. So just to be clear, on II it gets to the single payment check and the auditors write, it is our understanding single payments were not subject to specific formulas or components that had a defined value that was negotiated and agreed upon by the parties. result we were not able to perform a recalculation for these amounts and were not privy to the negotiations.

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Okay. But you know the guy who negotiated, the Executive Director of HR is available; correct?

MS. LEWIS: Yes, and we spoke with him.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So how did they arrive at the different amounts above and beyond accrued vacation and in the case of Ron Morgan sick time?

MS. LEWIS: Based on our understanding it was negotiated. And as we said in our report, we didn't have any privy to how that number was derived.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But you could speak -- would negotiated, who was in negotiations with the three individuals?

MR. AZZARITO: I was in negotiation with two of them, Moquin and Morgan.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm sorry?

MR. AZZARITO: Moquin and Morgan.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And there was no negotiation with Watkins.

MS. AZZARITO: I did not speak with Dr. Watkins.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Who did?

MS. BATISTA: I believe Dr. Doyle did the negotiations with Mr. Watkins.

MR. JABOUIN: Dr. Doyle is not in today.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That's just -- I just can't even. So we sent the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning to -- who, as far as I know, has zero law, legal acumen, expertise, to negotiate --

MR. JABOUIN: Dr. Doyle represented to me

when I asked her questions that she did not negotiate, that she had some instructions that she followed on that end.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Who gave her the instructions?

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MR. JABOUIN: That was her $\operatorname{\mathsf{--}}$ I asked her the question and $\operatorname{\mathsf{--}}$

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Who gave her the instructions?

MR. JABOUIN: I'm not aware of who gave her the instructions, but I asked her if she negotiated.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: I just want to get on the record that Ms. Batista has said that it was not her. But she said that down there, I just -- and it wasn't you, so somebody else.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm very concerned that we don't have an understanding of, because as to your point earlier, they gave up a lot and got very little in return. But, also, to point out again, that this was all done within the space of like 24 hours, which is, from my perspective, what we call under duress.

MS. FERTIG: Can I just -- can I just ask,

because I thought of it while someone was asking that last question, who were the two individuals that signed within 24 hours and who was the one that signed on the 12th.

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MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Moquin signed on the 12th.

MR. AZZARITO: On the 12th was Morgan. Mr. Morgan signed on the 12th because I met him at Benefits. He was retiring.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And the other two individuals had 24 hours, basically.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Just to be clear, because of his age, Morgan was legally able --

MS. FERTIG: Able to retire.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, not the retirement, the time. Because it is a law, and correct me if I'm wrong, but because of his age he was allowed more time to decide. But it was still essentially a duress-esque situation.

MS. AZZARITO: Mr. Morgan asked in an email to get more time to talk to legal counsel?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. But he's allowed to because of his age.

MR. AZZARITO: It wasn't because of his age. He asked. I mean, it might be, but he asked and I said, okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So can I continue? Because I still have the floor.

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MS. BATISTA: If I may, Dr. Lynch-Walsh, would you like an explanation on the age issue?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure.

MS. BATISTA: So all three employees were above the age of 40, so, therefore, all of them were entitled to additional time under the Age Discrimination Act. And, in fact, all three -- well, at least two of the agreements contain language that allows them to, even though it was a very short period of time in which they considered and signed these agreements, there is language in the agreements that states that if they wish to revoke the agreement they have seven days to revoke or seven days to consider and 21 days to revoke. They do not have to use the entire period of time but they did sign those agreements that contained that language.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay Roman numeral III, the use of sick time to extend an employee's date of departure is not specifically addressed in the districts policies or state law. Mr. Moquin in his letter of resignation indicated that he will utilize his sick time for any and all workdays

between September 12th and December 2nd, 2022.

This as a point of negotiation was accepted and agreed to by the district. And that relates and

I am going to pick up Scott's list here.

MS. FERTIG: Well, if we could -- could I ask -- could I ask that we do this finding, by finding, recommendation by recommendation?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I'm still on the Executive Summary.

MS. FERTIG: I know. I just, there's a specific non-finding on this and I thought that might be a good place.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I can come back to that.

In their recommendations it mentioned, again, including a non-disclosure clause, which is in direct conflict with the statute. And I'm kind of curious why auditors would recommend something that is prohibited by statute.

And then finally -- no, I think that's all on the Executive Summary. And we're going to definitely need more time.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So I'm going to just now start on page 4, if everybody wants to, with Task 1, request documentation to gain an

understanding, the circumstances and decisions made relative to the payment. And are there comments on that page? There's no finding; no recommendation; no management response.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I think we actually just discussed that.

MS. FERTIG: At length; yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, but there's no finding and no recommendation.

So what I just recounted here about the nature and timing, were you aware that, in fact, Mr. Morgan had been given a letter, I don't know if the other two were, stating that he was under investigation?

MS. LEWIS: No, we did not.

MS. FERTIG: You did not receive that backup material?

MS. LEWIS: Correct.

MS. FERTIG: Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And so was anything that I just related to you -- because it says request documentation to gain an understanding of the circumstances and decisions made relative to the payment. Yeah, so I don't know if the thing that's shocking is that there's no finding, no

recommendation, no management response.

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MS. STRAUSS: Yeah, and to that, I would like to go to Mr. Travis's final question. Since there was no finding, no recommendation, no management discussion, how much were you all paid for this audit?

MS. LEWIS: Our fee was \$45,000.

MS. STRAUSS: \$45,000. How many hours did this take you.

MS. LEWIS: I would have to go back into our system, but it did take some time simply because of the research and having to speak with folks and understanding all of the documentation.

MS. STRAUSS: And how many staff were working on this audit?

MS. LEWIS: Two.

MS. STRAUSS: Two. Hmm. Okay.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So do you want to continue with your documentation? So that's a document you did not have on this.

MS. LEWIS: Right.

MS. FERTIG: You did not have the document that she said about the --

MS. LEWIS: No, we didn't.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You didn't ask if the

district for any -- like everyone here is asking for paper trails and you didn't ask about what evidence that they were threatening to sue the district or anything that the district had spoken to them about?

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MS. LEWIS: We weren't aware of any of those discussions. We dealt primarily with HR, the -- it's the accounting department that does the payroll, Mr. Jabouin.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So you guys were construing this to strictly mean the payment not the way by which they got to the payment? For Task 1.

MS. LEWIS: For Task 1 in our conversations we asked for everything that could help us in terms of understanding the whole situation and then from the DOE letter how we got to the amounts that were paid, the agreements, and, again, it wasn't until very late in the process that we realized that claim was put in when we asked for copies of the checks that were written to each employee.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So then shouldn't they -- you said you realized late in the process that a claim was put in. Shouldn't they have told you

that if you were asking them for everything that could help you?

MS. LEWIS: I believe so.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So is that a finding that they withheld that? I mean, maybe because I glossed over the insurance --

MS. FERTIG: Well, let's stick to --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So we'll get to that. So if nobody has anything on Task 1, my questions start after that, unless --

MS. FERTIG: All right. Well we're going to number 2 now, which is -- hang on. I just wanted to write down "documentation", so when we get to the end of this we can make a list.

Okay. Task 2, conduct interviews, gather requisite information from departments and district personnel who have required documentation, knowledge of policies, procedures, rules and references to federal and state laws.

Departments/Sections including but not limited to Human Resources & Equity, Payroll and Accounting. And there are no findings, no recommendations, no management response.

Any comments on this one? On Task 2.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: It appears to me -- it

appears to me that a lot of their information that we're getting from the audit is based on the fact that they didn't have the information.

That's what it appears to me. Because I think, had they been given everything that they were asked for, they could have probably done a more comprehensive audit on these different tasks.

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MS. FERTIG: Well, let's follow through the rest of it and let's see what recommendations we might have.

So we have nothing on Number 2.

Number 3 we have, based on the board BB-1

Item of December 13th, 2022 regular meeting

agenda, prepare a request for a legal opinion

from either the Florida Auditor General or the

Florida Attorney General regarding the separation

agreements that were recently negotiated and

executed by district administration. The opinion

should provide a determination if the three

agreements collectively were in compliance with

state law.

I have a couple comments on this but I'll defer to anybody else that wants to go ahead and ask them. There were no findings, no recommendations, no management response.

So does anybody have a comment on this section?

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I just want to make sure I make the comment on the right section because later on there is an observation about maybe they should have requested the opinion before doing the action. It's sort of like maybe they should know that water is wet. But SDA contacted the Florida Auditor General's office about requesting an opinion, we spoke with blah-blah-blah. In his reply to one of our emails he indicated that while section 11.45 Florida Statutes authorizes the Auditor General to perform audits of state and local governments, the Auditor General is not authorized to issue legal opinions. He declined to answer.

So how -- so this is the task where you're looking at whether they were in compliance with state law with the separation agreement. I guess there is a lot of commingling, so it's hard for me to -- because the thing about state law says you cannot prohibit people from speaking, Florida Statute 215.425. And yet there's no finding. Because, again, there's no finding, no recommendation, no management response.

MS. FERTIG: This is specifically on the Auditor General and the Attorney General, so my question is, first of all, they said -- my understanding, they didn't -- it was -- since the district had already taken the --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Action.

2.1

MS. FERTIG: -- action, they were not going to give you advice on whether it could be taken or not, but the other part of that question is, did they indicate in any way that they were investigating the actions of the district in making those payments?

MS. LEWIS: No, they did not.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And that would be true with both Auditor General and -- in the Auditor General's report are they going to be doing any further investigation of this?

MS. LEWIS: Based on our discussions with them at the time; no.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Thank you. Yes?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So you guys agreed to do Task 3. So does that mean you were unaware that the Florida Attorney General does not opine on actions already taken?

MS. LEWIS: That's what was stated in their

1 response to the request for opinion.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no. But that's one of the tasks that is part of the scope of this engagement. You were to -- because based on the Board Item BB-1 prepare a request for a legal opinion. The opinion should provide a determination if the three agreements collectively were in compliance with state law. This is a task that you were -- that you did as part of the engagement?

MS. LEWIS: That's correct. And based on our observations the Attorney General would not opine based on the actions already being completed in the sense that the agreements were executed and the payments were already made.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So I think what Dr.

Lynch-Walsh is asking, why wouldn't that be a recommendation moving forward, is that you can't -- I mean, again, the attorney is saying that's -- that's their protocol, they're not going to give you an opinion on something that happened already. So why wouldn't the recommendation be that in the future, if the district is looking for to audit or to make recommendations, they do that prior to creating

an action; would that be a recommendation based upon what you were provided?

MS. LEWIS: I can agree with that.

MS. FERTIG: Well, that's on Task 3, that you would --

MR. MAYERSOHN: So would you include that in the audit? Would you amend your audit to include that in there?

MS. LEWIS: Yes, we can.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. That's on Task 3.

MR. JABOUIN: Don't you have something on that subject?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's on page 18 as an observation, but it doesn't make it to the level of a finding or a recommendation, which you have fixed. But I'm just saying, it isn't that they don't know that they should have done it before, but they just didn't put it where it should have been.

MS. LEWIS: Well, on page 18 of the report I think we had already spoken about this where we recommended that a policy be implemented by the board.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But that's in response to Task 6 as opposed to -- essentially, understand

that what -- what happened in Task 3 is you kind of engaged in asking for an opinion after they already did something instead of -- and so, basically, it's like you were led down the garden path that you could actually get an opinion on a past action.

MS. FERTIG: So what you're saying -- so what Mr. Mayersohn said and I think you're echoing is that perhaps it could have been indicated, that, and then made a recommendation to seek an opinion prior to action in the future.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I'm going beyond that to say, as auditors, I'm not clear on why they didn't have an understanding that the Auditor General -- the Florida Attorney General is unlikely to opine on something you already did because usually they're looking for guidance on something rather than a justification of your past action. Which that gets into in their letter itself. So I'm good with Task 3. I'm good with Task 3.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Mr. Mayersohn, and I'm keeping track of these, and maybe not doing a great job, I was going to suggest one motion at the end, but we can do them finding by finding if

you want to. What's the preference? Do you want to go ahead and make a motion on that?

MR. MAYERSOHN: I will.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So you're asking -- go ahead.

MR. MAYERSOHN: So I'm asking the auditors to make a recommendation that, again --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Have a finding first and then a recommendation.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, a finding that, again, what was clarified is that the Attorney General doesn't opine on items that have occurred, that if the district is looking in the future to have the Attorney General opine, that it should be prior to performing an action.

MR. JABOUIN: I just want to make a point,
Mr. Mayersohn. So, obviously the former
superintendent is not here at this meeting and a
lot of the things that occurred happened under
the direction of the former superintendent. So
in this type of a finding, who would respond to
it? Like somebody here at the district would
probably say that they would consider it in the
future, but had the former superintendent been
here that would be the expectation from that

1 person is what I think.

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MS. FERTIG: Well, I would disagree with that.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I would suggest, again, that the attorney would weigh in on that. I mean, he or she would be the one that would have that information, that experience, that knowledge.

And there are times that the board may or may not overrule that, but I would -- the superintendent may not understand the legal ramifications.

MS. FERTIG: And plus, aren't we trying to prevent some of these things from happening in the future so we just have a clear recommendation that under anybody, 20 years from now, if they want an opinion, they seek it before they take the action rather than after they take the action.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And it shouldn't matter who the superintendent is.

MR. DE MEO: You know, I think there's some confusion here. First Dr. Cartwright was cited for not acting and then it looks like with some haste she acted; okay. So that's number one. How do you seek an advisory legal opinion on something from the state, you know, it's going to

take months, when you have a sense of urgency? I think this recommendation also points out that they should get legal counsel either from within the district or outside counsel to opine on the proposed settlement. I think that would be sufficient. I don't know why you would go to the state for such an opinion in any case. But if that wasn't followed I do have some concern about that. Why wouldn't you seek counsel's advice on the proposed settlement? Are we saying there was no consultation with legal counsel with regard to these agreements?

2.1

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Can I interrupt everybody for a second? I have to leave. I don't have a choice. Can I -- can I call in to continue listening?

MS. FERTIG: Do we have a quorum?

MR. JABOUIN: We do. I believe that we have room in the dialing number. Ms. Marquardt can give you that number.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Okay. That would be great.

MR. DE MEO: So is -- is -- I'll follow up.

Was legal counsel, either internal, I don't know if Ms. Batista can answer that, or external

legal counsel consulted with regard to these settlement agreements?

MS. LEWIS: My understanding is that it was done internally.

MR. DE MEO: So legal counsel of some sort was consulted.

MS. LEWIS: That's correct.

MS. FERTIG: Let's just hear it from Ms.

Batista; if you don't mind.

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MR. DE MEO: Sure.

MS. BATISTA: So, yes, the answer is yes. At some point I did consult and I looked at the agreements; yes.

MS. FERTIG: But you weren't involved in the initial discussions?

MS. BATISTA: I wasn't involved in any of the negotiations or discussions that I know the superintendent did have before Mr. Azzarito became involved, I know she did have discussions with the employees. I -- I was not involved in any of those discussions. I was involved in ultimately reviewing Mr. Morgan's and Mr. Moguin's agreements.

MR. DE MEO: So I don't understand what the big concern here is. I'm not even sure I

understand the recommendation.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: There was no recommendation.

MR. DE MEO: It was to consult, I thought to consult --

MS. FERTIG: Well, Mr. Mayersohn's made a motion that in the future if they are going to seek the Attorney General or the -- now that that's been pointed out to the district, in the future if they're going to seek an opinion from either the Attorney General or the Auditor General that they seek that opinion before they take action. It doesn't mean they have to seek an opinion, it just means that if they do seek it they should be in compliance with what we now know to be the case.

MR. MAYERSOHN: I mean, there are times that a board may turn around in consultation with their own attorney and decide that they're going to go forward but they want to seek action from a -- whether it's the state attorney or whomever it may be, with the understanding -- this would kind of put that understanding to the board in saying that, well, if you perform the action you're seeking -- your opinion is not going --

1 you're not going to get an opinion.

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MS. FERTIG: So we have 20 minutes left, so I'm going to just -- can we vote this up or down, is that okay, and then move to the next thing?

And this is on Task 3.

Do you all need us to repeat the motion, which is simply that you would ask for the opinion before the action?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, I think it was to amend.

MS. FERTIG: It's to amend the report to include that as a recommendation.

Yes, ma'am.

MS. LEWIS: I want to bring to your attention, again, on page 18 we have it as an observation and a recommendation that the board contemplate, in hindsight, the district's administration should have considered requesting an independent opinion from the Office of Attorney General or Special, slash, outside counsel, as well as notify the district board members prior to the execution of the agreements. Our recommendation was that the board should contemplate establishing a policy or policies for the administration to create and implement

procedures to address occurrences similar to the Florida Supreme Court Case SC19-240 now that the district has had that experience. The policy should require administration to create a process memo to document, in general terms, the methodology and rationale used in the negotiation of settlement terms.

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MS. FERTIG: So I guess the question is, could that have been put on -- on -- on number 3?

MS. LEWIS: Initially, we had it as a finding, but after some discussion, we decided to put it in a separate section.

MS. FERTIG: After discussion --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Discussion with whom?

MS. LEWIS: Internally with the -- internally with the firm as well as Mr. Jabouin.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, there it is.

MS. STRAUSS: There we go.

MS. FERTIG: Can we just take -- can we just take that section and move that to Task 3? So can that be your new motion; withdraw your other motion?

MR. MAYERSOHN: So I'm withdrawing my 20 other million motions.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, then you can repeat,

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MR. MAYERSOHN: Right. I would like to take the additional observation on page 18 and move it to Task 3.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 3 as a finding --

MR. MAYERSOHN: Correct.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- and repeat the recommendation.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Correct.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Second.

MS. FERTIG: All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Great. We're on Task 4, gain an understanding of personnel/position status and contract requirement related to employer group, example ESMAB --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: ESMAB.

MS. FERTIG: I'm sorry. Calculate and conclude if the contract -- I think we're about to lose our quorum. Are we about to lose our quorum?

MS. STRAUSS: And I'm leaving.

1 MR. JABOUIN: Six out of 11 is still quorum.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Calculate and conclude if the contract portion of the payouts relating to separation are mathematically correct in accordance with federal and state laws. And on this particular one they do have findings. It was noted that a non-disclosure clause was not included. And while this is not necessary in this situation the district should consider the use of it.

Okay. And then we did get responses. The district will take this recommendation into consideration from Human Resource and Equity and from legal. I think they're raising some questions about it in terms of Florida statute.

So, yes, go ahead.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, this is where we have a problem, a couple of -- and I'm just trying to keep all these tasks straight, because we have vacation, so this one was about vacation and the non-disclosure. So blah-blah-blah. I thought you said "non-disclosure".

MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, okay. Finding, it was noted that a non-disclosure clause was not

included in the separation agreement. Okay. Can you explain why that was a finding when it's specifically prohibited in Statute 215.425.

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MS. LEWIS: Based on the General Counsel'S office 215.425 did not apply to this situation in terms of severance. 215.425 specifically addresses severance.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It also covers vacation pay.

MS. LEWIS: And, again, there was no -- we found no policies, we found no state laws, we found nothing other than 1001, which covers schools that limits or determines that it cannot be a part of an agreement with a negotiated contract.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: There's a conflict here.

MS. FERTIG: So you're saying this was not severance, this was an insurance settlement is what you're saying?

MS. LEWIS: I'm not saying that. I'm saying that an insurance settlement based upon the General Counsel's writing and opinions to me and us, that that section does not apply because this is not being characterized as severance.

MS. FERTIG: Right. Okay. Thank you.

MR. DE MEO: So does the counsel agree? 1 2 MS. BATISTA: So I absolutely agree that the 3 agreements, the separation agreements, are not 4 severance pay, and, therefore, they do not invoke 215,425. 5 MR. DE MEO: Can I follow up with that? 6 7 MS. BATISTA: Uh-huh. 8 MR. DE MEO: Isn't it generally desirable to 9 have non-disclosure and non-disparagement as part 10 of any separation agreement or almost part of 11 anything? 12 MS. FERTIG: We're going to take a 13 five-minute pause. I'm sorry. Go ahead. 14 I just had a request to adjourn for five 15 minutes. 16 (A brief recess was taken.) 17 MS. FERTIG: Okay. Are we ready to go back 18 on? 19 Okay. We're going to start again. 20 microphone working? Can you not hear me? 2.1 MR. TURSO: I can hear you but your mike is 22 not on.

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So we were on separation pay, number 5, are

Here we are.

Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

We are reconvening now.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Four.

MS. FERTIG: Determine if it was timely and in accordance with established rules. And on this one there seemed to be concern, I'm going to summarize because we're running out of time, with the fact that the check was delivered one day early, but I felt like there were -- I personally felt like the explanation was sufficient on this. Just, you know, you put it in overnight mail and who knows when it will get there anymore, like five or six weeks later.

Anyways, okay, yes. Did you want to go back to 4?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no, on 5 I find it interesting, the fact that he got it, what was it a day early or something?

MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is a finding --

MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- but then on 6 --

MS. FERTIG: Which we're going to now.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. Is not a finding.

MS. FERTIG: Any other comments on 5?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. We're going to go to number 6. Investigate whether the use of sick time can be used to extend the last day of separation in light of other documents, i.e., resignation, retirement and termination.

Okay. There's no finding, no recommendation, no management response.

Dr. Lynch-Walsh did you say you had a comment?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, I have practically the whole page highlighted.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, just to back up, because this entire argument hinges upon the assertion that none of this is severance. It's all about so they don't -- they gave up their rights so they don't sue the district and nothing we gave them was severance. So I now have the question, and, yes, they were named in the grand jury, but so was somebody else who has not been terminated, and this was all about, you know, a certain mutually separated superintendent keeping her job and so she threw three to the wolves, and -- as quickly as she could, and that's why, yes, she acted quickly, but she did have time.

MS. FERTIG: We just only have a couple --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, I know.

MS. FERTIG: -- so get to the point. Thank you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So sick leave, I get all the tap dancing, but what I'm having trouble trying to get around is that Policy 4400 says that for sick leave for more than three consecutive days requires the attending physician's medical statement verifying the illness or situation of the individual involved. In the case of Mr. Moquin a medical statement was not provided by a physician. The use of sick time after the resignation date was a negotiated item that is part of the single payment section of the separation agreement.

Okay. There's no getting around it, there is a policy that they did not comply with, and that's not even a finding here.

MS. LEWIS: Again, based on the separation agreement not being subject to Florida Statute
215 --

MS. FERTIG: Can I just add to that question so she can answer it all at one time? Was the sick leave paid out of another account or was it

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paid out of insurance dollars?

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MS. LEWIS: Everything was -- well, you know what, I'm not sure. I'm not sure about that. But going back to Task 5 pretty quickly, the task required whether the payments were made timely, so that's why that was a finding because of the task.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. But on this one you're questioning why a policy wasn't followed in getting a note past three days and then also was this all paid out of the insurance fund or was it paid out of -- was the district sick leave paid out of district funds?

MS. LEWIS: The single payments were paid from insurance. This other payment, we presume, and I can double-check with -- with the accounting department as to whether it was from general funds.

Okay. I want to restate my DR. LYNCH-WALSH: question because I want to make sure I'm getting an answer. The policy requires after three -for more than three consecutive days that you get a note verifying the illness. This was like two months' worth of sick leave that was used. is that not a Policy 4400 violation for which

there should have been a finding and a recommendation? Please help me out.

2.1

MS. LEWIS: Because it was tied to the separation agreement.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It doesn't matter. He's using sick leave.

MR. DE MEO: I took this to -- I read it to -- it says it was negotiated. Therefore, it's not pursuant to any policy. It's like maybe you guys put too much in there and it gives the impression that this policy was violated. I certainly -- I had to read it several times, but if it were negotiated it's not subject to any policy. That's the way I read it.

MS. FERTIG: And that, I think, raises a question, an interesting question of whether or not you can negotiate away policies.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And negotiate say sick leave after you leave. Because nobody else, you use it -- I mean, maybe I'm misunderstanding. Is sick time not something you use it or lose it around here?

DR. WANZA: No.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, you what?

DR. WANZA: So let me state for the record, I

have nothing to do with any of this. I'm only answering the question about sick leave. I'm only answering the question about sick leave.

Your sick leave rolls and you can cash it in when you retire and you use it as you need it or you can use it as you need it.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The retire I get. I saw that. Mr. Morgan retired. I get that.

DR. WANZA: It is vacation earning employees that on June 30th of each calendar year, if you are over the cap of hours, you lose those hours. So right now, I'll use myself as an example, we can only have 480-something or 60-something on June 30th, because I'm going to go 62.5 days that you can have annually. Right now I have 557 hours of vacation time because I never take off. So whatever I don't use over that cap, on June 30th I essentially lose, vacation only. That's the extent of anything I know about any of this.

MS. FERTIG: Dr. Wanza, do you want to have a negotiated agreement?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So the sick leave that he got is the accrued sick hours?

MS. BATISTA: That is correct.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So then why on Table

5 on page 12 does it not show that he got paid for sick hours?

MS. FERTIG: I thought I saw that. But I thought the question was whether you had to have a doctor's note to justify that or whether they're allowed to negotiate it? I think that's the question.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But this is very screwy. Because the issue is whether sick time can be used. So there's two issues. They used sick time to extend the last day of separation. So he stopped being the chief of staff on September 9th but his date of separation is December 2nd. This, as a negotiated item, was necessary because a payout of approved sick leave, under the existing circumstances, is not permissible under SBBC's policies.

So is that why I don't see it on the this table because they couldn't pay him out? And I guess then my question is, why is it not permissible?

Further, despite not being subject to Florida Statute 215.425, a negotiated payment of sick leave, especially in excess of six weeks, gave way to questions as to applicability, which was

one of the initial reasons for the request to obtain an opinion.

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Okay. So we're getting conflicting messages, because either he -- it says here that he would utilize his accrued sick leave for any and all work days from September 9th to December 2nd. So I need now clarification, because in the table you're saying he did not receive sick time, because the real issue is that they extended his separation date and used his --

MS. FERTIG: And they utilized sick days to get there.

Okay. So, I'm sorry, I take away my question about who paid for it. Now we know.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right, they paid for it in time, and so since he was still an employee, that's where the doctor's note becomes necessary, and, yes, he might have negotiated that, but you're literally saying that they can't do a payout of accrued sick leave under the circumstances. I don't know what the circumstances are because you don't explain that and -- what were the circumstances? Why could he get the accrued sick leave.

MS. LEWIS: Accrued sick leave, unless you're

a part of a bargaining unit like Morgan and he retired, that allowed him to get paid out for sick leave.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Because he's in ESMAB he doesn't get the accrued sick time. Okay. That's an important distinction and is that correct?

MS. BATISTA: That is correct unless he terminates employment, then he would be entitled to all the sick leave that is accrued through retirement.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Even if you're ESMAB, if you retire you get your accrued sick leave?

MS. BATISTA: Yes.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But --

MS. FERTIG: Do you want to make a motion on this? Because we're running out of time.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: To expand time?

MS. FERTIG: To do a motion -- well, our problem is the room. So if we're going to do something with this, if you want to make a motion, there's no finding, no recommendation, no management response, are you suggesting anything be added into this on Task 6?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That they review and come

Page 190

up with a finding and a recommendation and a 1 2 management response. Because they're essentially 3 saying he couldn't get it. They don't answer the 4 question. And then there's an observation. Ι 5 don't understand how they don't have a finding, a 6 recommendation, or a management response. 7 Because he went clearly more than three 8 consecutive days and they're saying that it 9 didn't apply because it was negotiated, but I 10 don't think you can, like you said, negotiate 11 your way out of adherence to policy. 12

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Make a motion that they go back and review and amend --

MS. FERTIG: Task 6.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: -- Task 6.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Is there a second?

I'll second it. MS. DAHL:

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any further discussion?

(No response.)

MS. FERTIG: All in favor?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. Now we're down to the last two things in this report. Does anyone want to comment on the final observation or the final recommendation? And then I think I'll go back to my notes, but I think we're about ready to vote.

MR. JABOUIN: I just want to confirm the list of documents with the committee. It's the paper trail for the insurance payments that was asked for Ms. Carter-Lynch, the separation agreements, also the investigation letter. So those are the three documents that I have.

Okay. Thank you.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. I think -- I think here on the observation, the district should consider revising existing policies and create one in absence of any to address similar occurrences in the future goes to the point that we made on the -- on the Attorney General and all. We've moved that.

The district should have considered requesting an opinion. We've got that.

And I know we say this was a unique situation, but perhaps the potential for creating a policy is noted in here. Any comment on any of those? And then I think we move this recommendation to where we felt it belonged more

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and where you originally did, too.

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So are there any further comments and are we ready for a motion?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hold on. So the Auditor General wouldn't opine on it, but are they going to conduct their own audit of the separation agreements and payments?

MS. FERTIG: And she had already answered, I asked that a while ago, and she said that when they talked to them they did not see that they were going to.

> DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

MS. FERTIG: I'm not putting words in your mouth.

> MS. LEWIS: That's right. That's right.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Did the OIG, are they satisfied with the results or have they not been -- have they not gotten this audit yet?

MR. JABOUIN: They do have the audit but they have not responded to me yet.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No response yet.

MS. FERTIG: And, also, Ms. Lewis said when they contacted them they also did not get a feeling on what they were going to do with it.

Okay. Anything else?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, so getting back -because, again, this all hinges upon it being
severance or not severance and the sick leave
kind of smells like severance because he wasn't
actually here. I think we may have to refer it
back to the Auditor General. You know, sometimes
you've got to prod them. Because when you look
at all the severance rules, the settlement may
not -- it's a settlement of an employment
dispute. This sure sounded like an employment
dispute, but somehow none of it is severance.

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And I guess my final question is, were they not entitled to severance or is that not in policy either? Is there no policy governing severance around here?

MS. BATISTA: That is correct. There is no policy governing severance. So they would not have been entitled to severance.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Does anyone get severance when they leave?

MS. BATISTA: Only if you have negotiated agreements with the board, which would mean that it would be the three direct reports, there is a provision in the agreement with the direct reports to the board for severance provisions.

MS. FERTIG: And I think this goes to what they have recommended on that final observation, which is that a policy be created to deal with this.

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So I would like to move that we refer this matter to the Auditor General to conduct their own -- to conduct an audit of the separation agreements and payments.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Any second on that? (No response.)

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So is there a motion to transmit.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to transmit as --

MS. FERTIG: With all of the recommendations made; okay. And we don't have to spell those out in the motion, you can pick them up.

MR. JABOUIN: I do have them, unless you'd like me to read them.

MS. FERTIG: Okay.

MR. JABOUIN: Okay.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay, you want him to read them?

MR. JABOUIN: That's providing the documents which are the paper trail and the insurance payments, the separation agreements and the

investigation letter. We did have a motion to amend the report to make the observation on page 18 a finding and then to review whether or not the sick leave issue on Task 6 would be a finding, and then a policy on severance, and then the last comment that was added was to refer the matter to the Auditor General for audit.

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MS. FERTIG: But that did not receive a second. The rest of them the board had agreed on. That last one we did not.

MR. JABOUIN: That last one was pending, so I included that.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, we didn't -- there was no motion on that. The rest of them there were.

Is everybody good with this? Yes?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, we have the -- you've got everything.

Because the Task 6 reference was a little -- was a little stronger than that came across just now, so -- but we have a transcription.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, we do.

Okay. So there's a motion to dismiss -- to dismiss -- to transmit with all of the recommendations that the audit committee has made.

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1 Is there a second? Yes.

2 MR. TURSO: Second.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. And now we are ready to vote. All in favor?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I just want to say that this audit, for me, left Recordex and Lenovo in the dust in terms of the stench.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. All in favor again?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. FERTIG: Opposed? Okay. Unanimous.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You know what, no, I oppose.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So there is one nay, which is Dr. Lynch-Walsh and the rest of us are, yes, let's get this to the board.

And thank you very much.

MR. TURSO: Are you dismissing or --

MS. FERTIG: No, I was thanking them. We're on to the next thing.

MR. TURSO: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MS. FERTIG: So we have finished down to

Number 16, which you wanted deferred, Dr.

Lynch-Walsh, until the next meeting. I think we did that.

And we have the Chief Auditor's report. Can

that hold or can you send it to us in writing?

MR. JABOUIN: I can discuss it at the next meeting.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. Is there anything in the written report that anybody wants to talk about?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Which written report?

MS. FERTIG: On the Chief Auditor's Comments.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I haven't read them.

But on the Policy 3202, that they need to -the Chief Auditor needs to review the minutes
from the June 2nd, 2022 meeting to ensure that
what -- that the discussion and the motion that
resulted from it.

MR. JABOUIN: That was done.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No.

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, it was.

MS. FERTIG: All right. Well, let's not get into the back and forth because we're not doing it today anyway.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no, so that we get, they need to review the motion.

MR. JABOUIN: Done. Done.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because that is not what we

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MR. JABOUIN: Done.

MS. FERTIG: We're down to Audit Committee Member Comments, anybody?

MR. TURSO: Yeah, I have a comment.

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As one of the newer appointees, all the other new ones aren't here and the room is looking sparser and sparser. I'd like that to be noted, sadly.

I have a question, and I am in no way minimalizing or trivializing any of the things that we discussed today, obviously, internal funds to a school are important, obviously determining how we part ways with people who may or may not be in the best interest of the district are most certainly important, however, when I look at the budget for Broward County Public Schools overall, which, obviously, everybody knows here is in the billions, my question is, how do we arrive at dedicating the time and resources? We have Dr. Wanza, we have a board of very involved administrators, parents, community members, how -- and maybe this is just a formality that I'm not cognizant of, but how do we arrive at determining, yeah, we're going to look at the 14,000 and the 40,000 and the \$38,000 line items, for lack of a better word, instead of

looking at things that could conceivably have a much larger consequential impact on our community and on our schools? I mean, I'll give you one example, I recently watched a school board meeting and they gleaned over a 10 million, \$10 million contract that was going to a roofing company and it went by so fast -- faster than the Brightline. It just zoomed right by. Nobody's looking. And how did we determine, as this committee, that, no, we're going to look at these three people that got severance? Again, not marginalizing it, but how did we get to this where we're allocating so much time for this but not that?

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MS. FERTIG: I think those are great questions. So, first of all, I'm going to tell you how important the audit plan for next year is, because we do have input on that. On the why did we have an audit from -- from Davis & Associates? Because the board asked for it. And when it's done it has to come through us as an audit committee. Why did we have an audit on the individual schools? Because it's required.

So I would tell -- and I would just tell you that when I first started this committee you

can't even imagine what those reports looked I mean, it was millions of dollars. through the focus of the audit department and the audit committee, through our focus those reports become really almost -- we almost never had an exception. Today was the exception to no exceptions and it was the first time in a long time I've seen that. So sometimes just by reviewing it you prevent it from happening and they can put procedures in place. Mr. De Meo has been here a long time, too. Actually, all of us We're all getting old. So a lot of these have. things are required and they have to be done. And there's a reason. That's so we stop the -you know, we make sure people are complying. And other things we can suggest, so what you're suggesting about roofing --

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MR. TURSO: Well, I'm not specifically stating -- I don't want the roofing association to come at me, but --

MS. FERTIG: But that's a really good question.

MR. TURSO: But my question is, so it's interesting that you say these things are required, so I guess maybe I'm being a little

cynical when I say, if we're being directed to look at things that are -- again, I'm not marginalizing them, I'm just saying they're not as -- you know, if we could find a way to look at the budget and look at things where we're spending millions and millions versus complaining about how whether or not maybe we did or didn't do a severance, but we're not calling it a severance --

MR. JABOUIN: Mr. Turso, I guess the key thing is, the board members are the ones who determine what gets audited.

MR. TURSO: The board members. Ah, okay, now I'm learning.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no, don't get that excited.

MR. TURSO: No, I'm not.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, that's not exactly -- that's a misleading statement.

MR. JABOUIN: Ultimately --

MS. FERTIG: Well, they vote on the final. We have input.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm trying to -- and, yes, and you already said it, Mary. So, Peter, the audit plan, which we deferred to June today, and

if you haven't been sent the bylaws and policies for the Chief Auditor's office and the bylaws for this committee you need to be sent that because all of that stuff you just mentioned is under our purview, but doesn't always make it into the audit plan. The audit plan is supposed to be approved by the audit committee and then goes to the board. So they had it at a workshop, we've discussed it, we made suggestions, you need to talk to your appointing board member, and then we're going to discuss it in June and then they'll approve it in July.

MR. TURSO: Well, that's conflicting, though, hang on a second.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: What's conflicting?

MR. TURSO: I was told that we're required to audit those things, but you're also saying that we get to decide, so I guess what I'm asking you

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Additional things. You can't knock off -- I mean, obviously, you can't knock off things that are required.

MR. TURSO: Sure, you have to do the required ones.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: However, the choices being

made, like vending machines is a popular one that comes out of the Chief Auditor's office and gets put on an audit plan. So it's on us to strongly agree, disagree, vote, make a motion on, if we want something prioritized or not. And then we can also make requests for additional reviews or audits and you do a motion and then the board approves it after the fact.

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However, the board does not have to approve. If we pass a motion in here to look at something, that is supposed to happen.

MR. JABOUIN: So an individual board member cannot request an item to be added. It has to be done --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Nobody said that.

MR. JABOUIN: It's actually documented in the procedures on that end. So an individual board member cannot, themselves, approach me and say, go audit this. It requires a public workshop in order to get to that.

MR. DE MEO: I think Mr. Turso has made a point. I think that we -- we have limited time and resources and we should try to focus on -- and allocate our time according to the impact of those items.

MR. TURSO: That's exactly what I was trying to say and you said it with much more brevity.

MR. DE MEO: We tend to get involved in minutia --

MR. TURSO: Correct.

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MR. DE MEO: -- myself included and micromanagement, when our role is, not only the dollars, but the internal control over the dollars, which sometimes we don't spend enough time on. But it's easy to get that impression in a few meetings. Unfortunately, for example, the audits of the -- and we raised this last time, \$14 million of accounts over 265 schools is not considered material for auditing purposes. It is not even audited by our auditors. Yet we spend hours and days and weeks and these guys because there's a state law that requires it. So some of this, you know, it takes some patience.

MR. JABOUIN: If it wasn't a state law we would probably just identify the key schools to go ahead and take a look at. Typically, we even have historical findings and so forth. So there could be a school with a very low balance, no history of issues and so forth, but the law requires us to do it.

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But we actually have to leave.

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you. You can dream and you can ask for anything. That's what we're telling you. MR. TURSO: So I'm going to leave my comments

MS. FERTIG: Let me say one last thing to

with that. Perhaps I stepped into it in the middle of these quote/unquote required audits and moving forward --

MS. FERTIG: And, listen, I want you to leave with some hope. We've done audits on roofing and construction --

No, guys, please don't -- I'm MR. TURSO: using that as an example.

MS. FERTIG: We have brought forward ideas and that's what I guess we're all saying to you. Some things are required. But we have this audit plan and if we have an area that we feel really needs to be looked at, it's up to us to articulate that at this meeting and get the consent of it. And we're glad you're here.

MR. DE MEO: And we need a perspective like yours. We really do.

MS. DAHL: Yeah, we need new people.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And just as an FYI, the Chief Auditor's evaluation was due to the board

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1	in May and they will be evaluating his
2	performance. So make sure you talk to the board.
3	MR. TURSO: Thank you.
4	MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to adjourn.
5	MS. FERTIG: Can we have a motion to adjourn?
6	MR. MAYERSOHN: Motion to adjourn.
7	MR. TURSO: Second.
8	MS. FERTIG: All in favor?
9	COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.
10	MS. FERTIG: See you next month.
11	(Meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.)
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