

Orange County Board of Education Meeting on July 26, 2022

SPARKS: Okay. I would like to call the meeting to order. Hello, welcome, everybody. We have switched positions a little bit, so welcome today. Ken Williams is going to be a little bit late because he has a commitment in court right now, so we are monitoring when he is going to be able to arrive. Also, our attorney Greg Rolen is in route via a flight that was delayed so that is kind of where we are right now. Given that, what I would like to do is—so I called to order. I would like to, first of all, adopt the special meeting of July 26th. Can I do that first?

BOYD: Roll call.

SPARKS: Oh, I need a roll call. Let's do roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

SPARKS: I would like to go ahead and, in terms of the Agenda, call the special meeting of the July 26, 2022, adoption.

SHAW: I'll move adoption of the Agenda.

BARKE: Second.

SPARKS: Okay. All in favor?

BARKE, SHAW: Aye.

SPARKS: Okay; aye; passes 3-0.

BOYD: At this time, do you want to move the one item?

SPARKS: I would like to do that next, yes. I would like to—I didn't know which since that was above in the order. I didn't know if—

BOYD: It's fine, whichever order.

SPARKS: —which one, okay. Then next—so that passes 3-0 I guess now.

BOYD: Right. You don't need to vote to an item on the agenda.

SPARKS: I don't?

BOYD: You just need to announce it.

SPARKS: Just announce it, okay. Excellent. Then what I would like to do given our two missing folks, I would like to move our item number one of approving professional consulting agreement with David Turch and Associates, I would like to move that down to after our closed session of the appeals, the interdistrict appeals if I could. Do we need a motion for that?

BOYD: No.

SPARKS: Okay.

BOYD: It is at your pleasure.

SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: (Inaudible).

SPARKS: Then we are going to do the invocation and pledge. Yeah.

BOYD: The rationale for that, just for the benefit of those people here, is that you are still waiting on your attorney and your fourth board member. You want them to be a part of that discussion.

SPARKS: Yes. I did say that, but I said it rather quickly. Yes.

BOYD: Okay.

SPARKS: We would like for our attorney Greg Rolen to be present as well as our fourth board member Ken Williams, who is currently in court testifying. He should be here soon, hopefully. Okay. We will do that. Given that, we can start with the invocation and then the Pledge of Allegiance. Were you able to?

SHAW: I didn't.

SPARKS: You didn't get anyone. Would anyone like to volunteer to do our invocation today? Well, I could do the invocation unless—. Yeah, would you like to? That would be great.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sure.

SPARKS: Okay. Why don't you come on up to the podium?

BOYD: You can go to the podium right there.

SPARKS: Thank you for doing that. I appreciate it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have to say “please stand?”

SPARKS: Yes, we can.

BARKE: Sure, we can if you would like.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will everyone please rise? Place your right hand over your heart. Ready? Begin. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you. You may be seated.

SPARKS: Thank you. That was the Pledge of Allegiance and now we also need an invocation, a little prayer of some type. If we don't have volunteers—

BARKE: I can say something off the cuff. I'm a big believer in less is more.

SPARKS: Okay.

BARKE: You are welcome to bow your heads if you want to. I would just say, you know, I would like to pray for this meeting that we all make wonderful decisions, keeping the students and the community in mind and that we always do what is best for them. That we honor our students, putting them first, and honor our parents and their rights, and the community at large. In God we pray.

SHAW, BARKE, SPARKS: Amen.

SPARKS: Thank you. All right. Perfect. At this point, do we have any public comment?

BOYD: We do. Tim?

SHAW: It's for agenda item number one. Do we want to take that now or when we call the item?

BOYD: Would you like to speak now, Judge Riddle, or would you like to wait until the end of the interdistricts?

RIDDLE: I would wait until the people that are all five to vote for this are here.

BOYD: Okay.

SPARKS: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Given that, we will then go on ahead and go into closed session.

BOYD: Actually, the first hearing is open.

SPARKS: Okay. The first one is open. We just have—

BOYD: Spencer.

SPARKS: Spencer, come on up.

SPENCER: Good afternoon, President Sparks, members of the Board, Deputy Superintendent Nina Boyd and Associate Superintendent Renee Hendrick. My name is Spencer Gooch, manager of Student Services in the Learning Supports Unit. This is an interdistrict appeal hearing for Royal Starr who will be in ninth grade in the 2022-2023 school year. The date is Tuesday, July 26, 2022, and the time is 2:09 PM. This is an open hearing. The circumstances of the appeal are as follows: On June 10th, 2022, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District upheld the denial of the interdistrict transfer request for Royal to attend Troy High School, a school in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. The homeschool for Royal is Esperanza High School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. The reasons for the interdistrict transfer are in your materials. Also, the procedures have been provided to all parties. Therefore, we will waive the reading of those procedures since all parties have had a chance to review them. At this time, I would like to introduce the participants of this hearing. Representing the family and appearing virtually, Ryan Starr, parent/guardian; and Frankie Starr, parent and guardian. Good afternoon.

Representing the denying school district, Richard McAlindin, assistant superintendent of Executive Services, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District; Melissa Samson, administrator of Student Services, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District; and Will Truong, assistant principal, Valencia High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Also in attendance, Jeff Riel, general counsel, Orange County Department of Education; Darou Sisavath, executive secretary for the Board; and the Media team who will be facilitating the virtual platform and recording today's hearing.

The County Board has thoroughly reviewed the packet of documentation that the parent and district submitted. Each party has the procedures in front of them and the allotted timeframes for each party to speak. The lighted timer being utilized is located in front of Ms. Sisavath on the dias. Representing the student, Starr family, you may address the Board for up to three minutes.

STARR. R.: Hello, thank you for your time. As you say, you have the materials in front of you, and our case is pretty clearly laid out there. We want Royal to go to Troy so that he could take advantage of offerings that are not available in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. The request was denied. After that denial, more new developments came to light that basically said Valencia would be offering certain A level courses that they were not offering when we made the request. While that goes about halfway to getting Royal the courses that we hope he can take advantage of at Troy, that he can in fact take advantage of at Troy, it doesn't address all of our concerns.

Chiefly left out are the facts that Troy offers first-year calculus in one year, instead of spreading it over two years the way Valencia does. And, Troy offers second-year calculus. Given Royal's

stated intention to go into the sciences, and specifically to more engineering and physics, the more math he can get, the better. It is going to save him time and effort in university. It is going to position him better to get into a university, particularly in the U.K., but even in the U.S. He has taken summer math classes to get to the point he is at in math. He has taken geometry in eighth grade, and he is on track to be able to go all the way through second-year calculus at Troy. Valencia can't offer it. And in fact, in Valencia, his senior year would be spent doing the second part of first-year calculus. The other major factor that is strong to Troy is simply that they have a nationally recognized, Science Olympiad team. Royal has already participated in the Junior Science Olympiad at Bernardo Yorba Middle School here in Placentia-Yorba Linda District. He enjoyed it, but it wasn't taken all that seriously. I inquired specifically about the Science Olympiad team at Valencia and was told that while the Science Olympiad is offered there, it's not exactly nationally or even particularly regionally competitive. We have a lot of friends whose kids are applying or have applied to college this year. We know that it's getting significantly harder for students to get into colleges, and especially good colleges. Any opportunity Royal can have to distinguish himself in high school, we need to take advantage of. Is there anything I'm leaving out?

STARR. F.: Only just that we have a lot of family from both our sides who live in the United Kingdom. Royal lived in the U.K. for a while also. It's our hope that—he has stated that he would like to attend a university in England. As broad and really A levels and the most competitive way to get in, he would be looking at your kind of like Cambridge and Oxfords. I have discussed with an admissions friend of mine who works at Dar University to understand how much of an advantage he would have doing A levels, complete A levels over—

SPARKS: Your time is up. Unfortunately, your time is up.

SPENCER: I'm sorry, your time is up. Thank you.

STARR. F.: Sorry.

SPENCER: Thank you. Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, you may address the Board for up to three minutes.

MCALINDIN: Thank you and good afternoon. The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District provides many educational opportunities for students that reside in the attendance boundaries of the school district. We take pride in offering students a wide range of programs to meet the needs and interest of all students. Parents are afforded a process to transfer schools within our district if a program does not exist in their home school. In this case, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District has denied the request of a transfer for Royal Starr to attend Troy High School, as we believe the same educational opportunity exists in our district. The request for a transfer was first considered by Rick Riegel, administrator of Student Services.

During the initial phone conversations with Mr. Riegel, Mr. Starr spoke about wanting Troy High School and that he attended there as a student. According to the Orange County Board of Education policy, this would be regarded as a preferential issue, not warranting a transfer. The transfer was denied since PYLUSD offers the Cambridge Program at Valencia High School,

providing the same opportunity to Royal. The Starr family then spoke to Mr. Chris Herzfield, principal of Valencia High School on May 23rd. Mr. Herzfield described Valencia's program in detail, and the family seemed very interested in what was available. He was not aware of any concerns raised by the family at that point. The family then opted to meet with me as their final level of appeal, and Mr. Starr stated that his son wanted to attend Oxford College. He was concerned that Valencia's program did not offer A level exams, as he stated, in the sciences, which are his son's primary interest.

At the time of the meeting, Valencia offered AS level exams in science and the A level exams in the languages. As a follow up to our meeting, Principal Herzfield investigated the possibility of adding A level exams in the sciences and will offer it moving forward, so that opportunity does exist for Royal. It should be noted that both parents agreed that if their son was able to take A level exams in the sciences at Valencia, they would not be pursuing a transfer to Troy High School any longer. On July 11th, the district was informed by OCDE staff that the Starr family was now appealing based on Valencia not having A level exams in math. While the subject of math was never brought up in any of the conversations or the appeal meetings with the district, Valencia does offer students the option of taking A level math pathway if Royal chooses to do so.

We will consider releasing students from our district when a student truly needs a specific program that is not offered. In this case, we do not believe that we should release to Troy High School, as the same internationally recognized program with matching curriculum is available at Valencia High School. Royal has attended PYLSD schools since his sixth grade and has flourished within our schools. He has been enrolled in academically rigorous coursework and has done well. We believe he can continue in this equitable program at Valencia High School and can pursue this pathway to success over the next four years. We respectfully request Orange County Board of Education to uphold the district's decision and alliance with OCBE policy to deny the transfer of Royal Starr. He is an outstanding educational opportunity within our district.

SPENCER: Starr family, you have up to two minutes to make your closing statement. I'm not sure if you can see the timer, but I'll let you know when you have 10 seconds to wrap up.

STARR. R.: I appreciate it, thank you. There are a couple of problems with the case just presented by Mr. McAlindin. One is that the denial of our request came through before any mention was made of an A level math course being offered at Valencia, that was only presented to me in the last week. Second was the fact that with my initial application for interdistrict transfer, I made it very, very clear that second-year calculus was a concern and that indeed Royal would be going into engineering. This was also mentioned at the meeting. It's hard to escape the feeling that Mr. McAlindin is being disingenuous and that his interest is keeping Royal in the district. Even in the case he has just presented, he has totally neglected to address the fact that there are better math opportunities at Troy, and I don't think it's such a stretch to assume that higher levels of math would be pretty instrumental to going on to studying engineering.

Engineering is highly dependent on math, physics, and the sciences are highly dependent on math. But more to the point, this was presented both in writing and in person to Mr. McAlindin and nothing has been presented to counter the fact that Troy offers second-year calculus. Troy

offers nationally recognized Science Olympiad team and Valencia offers neither. Beyond that, it's true that Royal has flourished in the district. We are very appreciative to the district. It's not clear however, how the district is acting in Royal's best interest in denying this request. That is our only concern as his parents and it should be the district's only concern. We will yield the time.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SPENCER: That concludes the presentation for the student. Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, you now have up to two minutes to make your closing statement.

TRUONG: Good afternoon. At Valencia High School, we are proud to offer pathways that prepare students to take and succeed on A level exams in all three groups including A level exams in science, which is A Level Physics and A Level Mathematics. The coursework and instructors help students prepare and excel on their Cambridge exam to help them earn the seven credits needed for a Cambridge AICE Diploma. The coursework and preparation for the Cambridge A Level Math Exam includes a second-year calculus course, AP Calculus BC. At Valencia, this is taken during the 12th grade year. Troy's Cambridge Diploma flow chart indicates that students take AP Statistics after AP Calculus BC. This only indicates the sequence students take this course and not that AP Statistics is a higher level math course. The prerequisite to take AP Statistics is Algebra II. While the prerequisite for AP Calculus BC is AP Calculus AB, our first-year calculus course. The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District provides an outstanding education for our students. All four of our comprehensive high schools have received a Golden Bell Distinguished School Award.

Valencia has been recognized with multiple awards for its academic programs. These recognitions have placed it as one of America's top high schools, according to *Newsweek*, and *US News*, and *World Report*. At Valencia, we provide our students with the best opportunity to earn international diplomas including 80 International Baccalaureate Diploma winners in the class of 2022. We are excited to celebrate our first Cambridge Diploma winners in 2024, and know that with our high expectations and nurturing environment, we will be able to provide our students with the same success in our Cambridge AICE Program, as we do with our IB Program. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SPENCER: That concludes the presentation for both parties and completes this portion of the hearing. President Sparks, you are now in charge.

SPARKS: Thank you. And thank you both, the parents and PYLUSD for your presentation. What is clear is that really both school districts are doing a fantastic, amazing job. I commend you all for, you know, increasing your curricular offerings and making it more and more competitive every year. I just see more and more progress every year that I have been involved in all of this. I really appreciate it, because I know that takes a lot of effort. Parents, I appreciate you advocating for your child. Of course, we all want the very best for our children. Fighting for

the very best for your children is very commendable. Given that, I will stop my comments for now and I will turn to my left to ask Mari Barke for her comments or questions.

BARKE: Welcome, everybody. As Dr. Sparks said, I always appreciate parents doing everything in their power to do what is best for their children. Just repeat to me, with the math, with this discussion back and forth and I was trying to follow it all, do you feel that PYLUSD provides the same math offerings that are at Troy?

STARR. R.: No, and I appreciate the opportunity to clarify. What Vice Principal Truong outlined was that, essentially, Valencia offers Calculus AB and Calculus BC as a two-year Cambridge A level sequence. Troy, by contrast, offers Calculus ABC as a one-year class. To complete the A level, it also requires him to do statistics. But beyond Calculus BC, it offers a higher level of calculus that Valencia does not offer and that Royal would be in a position to take advantage of in 12th grade.

SPARKS: Okay, great. And my other question is also, I think the other thing that really stands out is the nationally recognized Olympic science team. That seems like it's very important for getting into college, whether it be here or in the UK. I guess I'll ask now the district. Can you compare with what the family mentions here?

MCALINDIN: Do you want to talk about the science?

TRUONG: We definitely do have a Science Olympiad program. Our program has been recognized as one of the top programs in the region, being able to successfully make it to the state competition in many years.

BARKE: Okay. Although, I think that Troy is nationally recognized. Is that a slight advantage?

TRUONG: There is one school from Southern California that makes it to the National Science Olympiad Competition.

BARKE: And that is Troy? Okay. All right.

TRUONG: In the past few years, yes.

BARKE: Okay. That is all for me. Thank you very much to the district and to the family. Again, I appreciate you being here on behalf of Starr. My colleagues I'm sure will have more questions.

MCALINDIN: Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you, Trustee Barke. I will turn it to Trustee Shaw.

SHAW: Thank you. I wanted to make it clear, normally we have five trustees here. We have one that has resigned our board. Now we are down to four with Dr. Williams not here. Just to be clear, it would require three votes, I guess all three of us to be unanimous here. If the vote happens and it fails to achieve three votes, then—

SPARKS: But I think if there is a tie, I think it goes with the district.

BOYD: Correct.

SPARKS: But there is not going to be a tie with three.

BOYD: Right. It would just be—2-1 would pass it.

SHAW: Okay. Just wanted to clarify that. Thank you for helping me there. I'm just thrilled hearing about a young person wanting to take several years of calculus. That was not me in high school or so. I'm just excited to see someone really, really reaching for the heavens here so that is just wonderful. I commend you for that. You know, Trustee Barke really asked my question. It seems to me the question here is for the family, would they—wanting to have the opportunity to really achieve in math and is that opportunity available in Placentia-Yorba Linda the same as it would be over at Troy? We heard from the family, perhaps the district if you would like to? I know it seems that the family is not satisfied that equal opportunities would be found in your district as at Troy. Just to make sure I heard you correct, would you want to answer that? I know you kind of made the case that there would be availability. But having heard from the dad, what would be your response?

TRUONG: For calculus, for A level math, knowing the teacher who has taught that class for about 30—if she is watching, she is not going to be happy with me. She taught the class for about 39 years. She just recently won an award for being one of the best teachers in the nation. I'm proud to say that is one of the most rigorous and most nurturing math courses in all of Orange County. I think the student would just thrive in that class and be able to go to areas that we may not be able to see yet, but I'm confident that that is there for him. In terms of Science Olympiad, our team is growing. We are looking for really, really, bright young students. We have our team already working on trying to compete at the highest level. Although we are not yet competing at the national level, that is the goal. We would love the opportunity to have Royal as part of the Valencia and PYLUSD family.

SHAW: Okay.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you.

SPARKS: I have a few questions, comments, and so forth. I appreciate it. I did take some statistics, and I actually teach statistics. I appreciate the love of math. However, I'm not a mathematician, but my husband is. He has gone through the entire Italian system, so I do understand the differences in European education and math and sciences relative to American education. I understand that gut feeling about that. The data, you know, kind of speak to that as well. At the same time, I'm so thrilled to hear this amazing teacher you are talking about. I guess she would be upset because she would be embarrassed that you are calling her out, that she is so fantastic?

TRUONG: That I forgot how many years she taught.

SPARKS: Oh, I see.

TRUONG: She is actually my calculus teacher.

SPARKS: Oh, okay. But to have a nurturing math teacher is so rare. We have a few at Chapman University. To have a nurturing math teacher that can lift these kids up is a jewel. It is definitely a jewel. Okay. So those are my comments, but onto questions. I think I understand the Science Olympiad differentiation. What I'm curious about, what kind of data do you have in terms of college placements? I guess Troy—well, I don't know, Troy versus PYLUSD in terms of percentages of students that go on to university as well as the sort of number of students, the frequency counts. And then the levels of going to what we would call the Carnegie, R1 institution or R2 institution. Then of course, European is different. I know that a lot of the education in undergrad is free, which is really, really nice. But I would like to have a sense of what are your placements in your district and how does that compare to—do you have a large percentage going on to university placements at those different levels of R1 and R2?

MCALINDIN: Yeah, I know we don't have the actual data in front, but we could certainly speak anecdotally to the types of universities.

SPARKS: Right, like ballpark, it doesn't have to be precise.

MCALINDIN: Do you want to just talk in general about the university systems that they are getting into?

TRUONG: Yeah, absolutely. Every year our students are well represented in the Ivy Leagues, well represented in the UC system, private schools across the nation and internationally. I think the biggest point to our mission statement is really that high expectation and the nurturing environment. Our academies do extremely—our students find so much success in that. In the highest level of curricula, they have so much success. We had 80, IB Diploma winners this past year, which is, I would confidently say, is the most in Orange County. We are so excited to do that with Cambridge as well.

MCALINDIN: I know that several of our students are getting into top universities, MIT, Stanford University, all the top echelon, internationally, into several universities internationally. They compete head-to-head with any high school in the county. I know a lot of that is, and I think one of the other things that the university, or excuse me, that the school is very proud of is we also have a very robust AVID program. A lot of our students have opportunities across the campus, regardless of their academic background to move into four-year universities. In our AVID class, 100% of the AVID students got into four-year universities, so that opportunity exists regardless of what level you come in at. Obviously, all the more reason why we want to keep nurturing that across our school campuses. Certainly at Valencia High School, there is no exception to that. They have really a wide range anywhere from English language learners, all the way up to the top students in the county, and everything in between. I used to be the principal at Kramer Middle School that fed into Valencia High School. I could say at one point we had

maybe 14 different levels of language arts, just to give you an idea, multiple levels for every student. Really with that intent of really offering them everything that is available to them across all spans of curriculum.

SPARKS: Okay. Thank you. I know that extracurriculars are ancillary. They are not the thing that is going to get the kid into the best college.

MCALINDIN: Sure.

SPARKS: But they are nice to have. They are nice sort of you know, every student has their story to tell to get in the top colleges, so thank you. Thank you. I appreciate you explaining all of that. I have one last question to the district. Do you all need to hire, in these additional classes that you are offering now, the higher level—I have it written in my notes. Now, I don't even know what I wrote. The A level math and calculus classes and so forth, do you need to hire additional expert teachers for those since the family said that they found out about that just recently? How does that work that you suddenly sort of have additional, new advanced offerings?

MCALINDIN: Well the conversations as I met with the family, and lovely family, we talked about their goals. One of the things that they talked about was that we were only in the Cambridge program. We were offering the A Level Exam in the languages, which really wasn't their interest. As a result of that conversation, really wanting to provide that opportunity for their son, because they stated it was an important interest of theirs. We went back to the school to say, what can we do? This is something that is a priority for a family, no doubt for other kids as well. Again, you know, Troy is an outstanding high school. There is no questioning that. But we want to be able to provide the same opportunity for our own families. So we went through the process of having conversations with those department chairs and those teachers that teach it, to say, how do we make that happen? So we offered the science level course, and then later there was an interest in the math level. We said, well, okay, how do we offer that? That is where we came up with the pathway to be able to offer that.

Again, remember in preparation of those exams, it is experience in hitting a bunch of different modules in multiple areas. We mapped out a pathway for, as they go through their four years, how they touch on each one of those modules to make sure that they are well prepared for those exams that they want to take down the road. While our initial meeting with the family was, we only offer it in the languages. Since our conversation, in an interest of continuing to develop that program and offer the same opportunities, added the A Level Exam in sciences and in math because that of course is an interest of the family. We very much do want to keep them in our district for all the reasons that were previously stated. We are always willing to look for those opportunities to enhance our own programs; again, to offer that same opportunity to our best and brightest.

SPARKS: I certainly appreciate that as a former administrator on the university level, really adapting, pivoting, trying to have the best offerings possible. I appreciate your all's efforts along those lines. Okay. Does the family have any last words you would like to say, or do my Board members have any additional questions?

BARKE: No, I would like to make a motion.

SPARKS: Okay. I would like to make a motion in favor of the family. I absolutely think that PYLUSD, I have trouble getting that acronym out, is a fantastic district. I think you are the top in Orange County. I just commend you for coming out here and for changing your program, enhancing your program. But at the same time, I'm a big believer in honoring the families and parental rights, so I'm going to make a motion in favor of the family to accept their interdistrict transfer to Troy.

SPARKS: Do I have a second?

SHAW: I will second.

SPARKS: Call to the vote?

SHAW, BARKE, SPARKS: Aye.

BARKE: It has been granted.

SPARKS: Okay, family.

STARR. R: Thank you very much.

STARR. F: Thank you so, so much

SPARKS: Take full advantage. Good luck.

STARR. R: We will. We really appreciate it.

STARR. F: Thank you.

SPARKS: And thank you to the district.

SPENCER: To repeat, Starr family, the decision of the Board is to grant your appeal. Thank you, parents, district, County Board for your time. This concludes the appeal hearing for the Starr family.

SPARKS: Thank you. Keep up the great work, everyone.

STARR. R: Thank you again.

STARR. F: Thank you everyone.

SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: I just love that British accent.

BARKE: I know.

SHAW: I could listen to it all day.

BARKE: Me too.

SHAW: Just say something else.

BARKE: I know, I know, I'm the same way. I have Scottish neighbors. I don't know how they could ever fight, because you just hear that voice. And it's just, you know.

SPARKS: At this point we will go ahead and clear the room. The Board is going to go into a closed session for our interdistrict appeal hearings. Thank you.

[The Orange County Board of Education goes into closed session, then returns to open session.]

SPARKS: Okay, we are coming out of closed session.

BOYD: Just announce the recess.

SPARKS: We will just be recessing. We intend to come back around 5 o'clock. Okay, we are in recess then. Thank you.

[The Orange County Board of Education takes a recess, then returns to open session.]

SPARKS: All right, I will call the meeting back to order. Welcome, those of you who have been able to stick with us today. We appreciate you hanging around, and welcome, Dr. Williams.

WILLIAMS: Thank you.

SPARKS: Back from, I know you were called to court today, so that is why we had a little delay. We went through our closed session pretty quickly today, quicker than we expected. We will move back to item number one in discussing the potential approval of professional consulting agreement with David Turch and Associates.

WILLIAMS: I'll make the motion for such.

SPARKS: Okay. Do I have a second?

SHAW: I will second.

BARKE: Second.

SPARKS: Okay, Tim.

SHAW: We did have a speaker, but she has departed.

SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: Lynne couldn't—she had an appointment, so she had to leave.

SPARKS: Okay. All right. Thank you. Do we have any other?

WILLIAMS: Madam President, if I can make some remarks?

SPARKS: Yes, please.

WILLIAMS: Historically, or from a historical perspective on this action item here, until the recent years, we had our own federal lobbyist, Mr. Bob Canavan. He worked with us very closely over the years. I remember in the Clinton Administration, the Bush Administration, we used to work with the legislation; working with it and being aware of it as it migrated through the process. In 2017, we had a new administration that supported charter schools and parental choice to a great depth, so it was felt that we no longer needed it for a period of time. I want to make out that historically this board has had and retained federal government affairs experts. What has happened is that we had SB 286 by Senator Min, this department and this board was not aware of legislation, which had been working under the surface, under the radar if I can use that term. We needed to be more thoughtful about what is happening in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

It's rather hard to look at the process, and how legislation occurs, and how it impacts us. I like the idea and concept that we are going to be refocusing on this. There is I think a need for this type of government affairs, government relations expert. One thing that just came to my attention, I'll yield the floor in just a second if anybody else wants to add to it.

SPARKS: Sure.

WILLIAMS: But we were just brought to the attention of this bill by Mr. David Turkin and his associates. I believe it was sent to us about Congresswoman Michelle Steel's bill, H.R. 7525. We didn't know about it until Mr. David Turk—so there is good opportunities to influence legislation and bills. This one by Michelle Steel is very, very important, very close to many of our hearts here. I just wanted to bring that as far as a historical background and how this may be of importance to this board moving forward.

SPARKS: Yeah, I would just add, I learned about that bill just yesterday, or maybe two days ago. It's H.R. 7525, and it is a new bill that Michelle Steel brought forward to protect charter schools against government over regulation by restricting the new regulations that make it difficult for charter schools to access federal funding. It's called the Protecting Charter Schools from Federal Overreach Act of 2022, which would stop the U.S. Department of Education, new red tape mandates, on charter schools for receiving federal aid. That is kind of the crux of the bill.

I echo many of your sentiments there, and I would like to hear from other board members, any additional questions. And in fact, we have Mr. Turch here from Washington, D.C. to answer any additional questions that we may have.

BARKE: Sure. I'll just comment that, of course I fully support Michelle Steele and the bill, and appreciate her efforts in that and the Education Committee in general. I appreciate Mr. Turch bringing this to our attention and looking forward to hearing more.

SPARKS: Okay, wonderful. Tim?

SHAW: I appreciate Dr. William's historical perspective on this. You know, I'm the newest guy here, so I didn't have that historical perspective. I appreciate that, Ken. The other government agencies I've served with typically did have a federal lobbyist. I was on the Orange County Transportation Authority Board for nine years. I asked my old friends there to forward me the contract that they have there at the Orange County Transportation Board. It came out to \$20,000 a month, the retainer there. And, you know, obviously there is a lot of federal dollars in transportation, but obviously that agency really, you know, then needed one. I was on the board over at the Orange County Sanitation District for four years. Also, they have a federal lobbyist. Interestingly, they just renewed also their contract, and that was also in the exact \$10,000 a month, is what the Sanitation District is paying for federal lobbyists as well. To me, the dollars here are in line with what other agencies are paying. There is so much going on with education. I was also reading with interest Congresswoman Steel's bill and thinking about ways we could you know help in that arena or other pieces of legislation. I think it is appropriate for us to be proactive and have a representative, a lobbyist so to speak, representing us, really our board being a county board, you know. It probably takes on a more macro view of things than most, you know. Our local school districts, they are going to be a little more micro. If anyone in our county should have a federal lobbyist, I suppose it should be the county board. We are taking that more macro view. I'm very intrigued with this and appreciate Mr. Turch coming out to be with us. It is great to meet you in person.

WILLIAMS: Madam President, if I can ask if we can have Mr. Turch come to the dias, so we can ask—I have some questions?

SPARKS: Yes, you read my mind. I was going to invite Mr. Turch up to explain to us what services and deliverables you provide. I would note that not all lobbyists are the same. There is quite a bit of significant differences among lobby firms, so I would really like to hear—well, I know you have been in the business a long time from what I understand. I would love to hear more about what you all specialize in, what you could provide for our board.

TURCH: We have been in business for a little bit more than three decades. I think what we really provide are wins for our clients across the board. Our client base really extends from Japan to the E.U., all across the U.S. Certainly, we are the dominant public sector firm in the Los Angeles basin, maybe in all of California. We are very familiar with California rules and regulations. I think the answer is that it isn't so much—because people will ask about the industry and I like to use, for instance, Dyno Nobel as an example. They have been a client off and on for a long time. They are the Nobel of the Peace Prize. I've been able to learn enough

about what in their industry we call energetic materials, then maybe I should really know. Nonetheless, they will always know their industry better than do I. Insurance companies will understand their industry better than do I. What I understand is how to accomplish the goals that they describe to us in working with us. We are careful to explain what can be a federal issue and then some things that just aren't federal issues, and really are local prerogatives. In addition to winning, I would add one thing. We are very conscious of achieving the goals that you have, and you have such an important perspective on education. You ought to be sharing that with the rest of the nation, and we are the vehicle about how you do that.

You can come to Washington and whatever, and you can do it once or twice or three times a year. It's not the same thing as our being there every day. The answer is they are going to like you when you come a whole lot better than they like me, because I'm generally pushing something or another for them. But great emphasis on achieving the goals, and the goals aren't always so obvious. I like to use, for instance, the only time in the history of America that Congress has ordered the FAA to close an airport. Here in California, in Rialto, not so easy that you think. What I did in the statute was take the description of the Rialto Airport and superimpose it over the top of the description of this San Bernardino Airport, effectively closing Rialto for FAA purposes. But you see, that is kind of how legislation gets done, and that is how you write laws, and how you figure out things that aren't always obvious solutions.

I'm flattered to be here with you today. It's always delightful. I haven't been in Orange County since last Friday. Happy to answer any questions you might have.

SPARKS: Thank you for coming out again. I know the flights right now are a little touch and go with all the summer travel, so we really, really appreciate you making effort to come and be here in person to answer any additional questions that our trustees may have.

WILLIAMS: I have lots of questions.

SPARKS: Yeah. All right. We will start with, Dr. Williams. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So, renewal, I see on here that there is a penalty. You called it a drop fee. Is that correct?

TURCH: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Tell me more about that.

TURCH: The answer is we have never exercised the drop fee. I think if you are uncomfortable with it, we can compromise. In 30 years, we have never exercised it. We want to give you the opportunity that if you are not pleased with services, even in a short time into the contract—now, with the caveat that we are dealing with the federal government. If you are looking for results by the end of this week, I'm going to give you the names of my competitors because you should be talking to them. This is the federal government. You understand it is a more long term situation, but we are very front loaded in terms of our expense; correspondingly, in just an effort to kind of cover that. If someone is going to drop after five months or something, we just say, hey, to cover

the expenses we had in the first five months, that is kind of an amelioration. If you are uncomfortable with it, it's never been exercised in 30 years, so I'm not uncomfortable dropping it.

WILLIAMS: Okay. This board is taking a very visible role in protecting the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. We have had many public forums talking about issues that parents have addressed to us. Parents have come in droves of 100. We have had 20/30 speakers on certain hot topic items. In this age of political correctness and wokeism and all these new theories that are expanding, coming down to the K-12 level, I think we would all agree that of particular interest are those bills that would hurt those values. We want to advance and protect parental choice, advancing charter schools. This bill by Michelle Steel, this would be something that we would love to support and see how we can advance it through the process. But by the way, if I can digress a little bit here, is this a bill that has been already heard and entered in? And is this like a one year bill, two year bill? How does that work?

TURCH: The answer is, it appears to be an authorizing bill and correspondingly, it changes the way the government does business going into the future. The other thing I might add is that, I want you to be very conscious that dealing with Washington is very unlike dealing in Sacramento. I have tried to make for joint clients with Sacramento lobbyists, a seamless transition. I think the essence of those discussions is I could never believe how they do business, and they can never believe how I do business. They have been non-productive. One of the things I want to mention is that in each case, talking about the bill, you gave it a number. Ideas matter in Washington, and the number is immaterial. I've watched a single bill change number six times in a day, or the number is preserved, but it becomes an entirely different creature. The motion is to strike all after the enacting clause and insert therein, and this animal suddenly became something entirely different than it was before. That is kind of part of what advocacy in Washington is about. How did those things happen? When did they happen? What are the triggers that caused them to happen? Then, what are the barriers that you create so it doesn't happen to you. Not everything happens overnight.

The chance of any single bill being passed in its entirety, depends. I was going to say marginal, but it doesn't have to be marginal. Sometimes the Congress moves with amazing speed on the right issues, and that can happen here. Just don't know where we are with this yet. But the idea is you talk to friendly members and the members are not necessarily the people who represent Orange County and California; they can be people from Montana, and Maryland, and Mississippi and Maine. Those are people that matter, because one of the essential facts of Washington is we worship at the altar of seniority. If you want to acquire power, you just keep breathing long enough and it comes to you, fact of life in Washington. Is that helpful a little bit in explaining the system and how it works?

SPARKS: Yes, and in fact, the initial bill was introduced April 14 of this year. It was introduced, not only by Mrs. Steele, but also by Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Lesko, and Mr. Jacobs of New York, and Ms. Letlow, introducing this bill that was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

TURCH: Education.

SPARKS: Yeah. In fact, it's not just California, it's not just Michelle Steel. There are others from New York and other places, so I think this will have a lot of national interest as well.

TURCH: It's typical to have co-sponsors, but the essential idea that I want to leave with you about this bill, it's the idea that matters. It doesn't necessarily have to be a bill that goes to the education committees. It can be inserted in other places. It can be inserted in appropriations, and then maybe it doesn't even have to be a bill. It can be a colloquium on the floor. There are just lots of ways. I know it sounds complicated, and it is complicated. But there are many roads to achieve the objective. I would say, my decades of experience hardly ever did I envision a road to victory that in fact was the road that took me there. There were so many details, so many detours, and alternative routes that to get where I wanted to go hardly ever was a straight line.

SPARKS: Yeah. That makes a lot of sense, and being on the ground every day makes a big difference than us hearing from afar. Like I said, I didn't hear wind about this even though it was introduced in April. It's something our board cares very much about. I didn't get wind of it until this week.

WILLIAMS: And we talk with Michelle Steele and see her quite a bit.

SPARKS: A lot, yeah.

WILLIAMS: And another thing, if I can, Madam President? Part of the values that we have on this is that throughout the last several decades in administrations we have seen this increasing role of the federal government in education and how we spend money. That is something that has always been of some trouble to us. We have always felt and it has always been the understanding that education is local and that local decisions should be made locally. However, from Sacramento and Washington, D.C., we continually get all these grants and restrictions upon how money is spent. Is that a prevalent attitude in one certain political party over another or is it in both?

TURCH: Oh, I think it's more prevalent with a single political party than the other, but the ideas kind of continue through. The best solution is you remove some of the contingencies. Well, you still get the cash.

WILLIAMS: Besides this bill, should we again go ahead and approve your contract, you are going to be working with us I hope on other bills that would come up? This is just one that you came up with.

TURCH: Across the board, in the Executive Branch, in the Legislative Branch, we would be carrying out your wishes across the board. I like to use when we are talking about education and having the bill referred to the Committee on Education, I like to point out the committees that have jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security. We think, well, the Department of Homeland Security is here, and Congress looks over them by having a committee. They have 63, and the same thing occurs with education. There is just myriad jurisdictions. If there is one thing we feel strongly about in Washington, it's turf preservation. The biggest fights are about turf preservation, so you just don't have one bite at these apples. You tend to have six or 20 because

different people have different interests and different jurisdictions. You put together the coalition and it works.

WILLIAMS: Looking at the prism or in the future, the ball of wisdom, where do you think we are going to go and head in the next Congress? Are we going to go down the middle? Are we going to go left or right?

TURCH: You are talking to the person who has the record of being the poorest prognosticator of election results in the United States.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay. So the future is unknown to you. Even though we have certain polls that say this and that, we really don't know.

TURCH: Oh, I think we have a pretty good idea where this is going. But yeah, we are wise to stay off of that record. Because remember, you will have friends all over, and you will have friends some places where you don't know they are your friends yet.

WILLIAMS: Interesting. Interesting. Can you give me an example of that?

TURCH: No.

BARKE: I think in general, education is a wedge issue that appeals to everyone.

TURCH: Yes.

BARKE: So that is, you know, broad based. I think that is what you are saying.

TURCH: It's true. Yes.

SPARKS: In fact, our experience with this SB 286 showed us, the Board and the Department, it made us aware of the necessity, but also the opportunities that can happen in having a trained professional in these different spaces from the Sacramento space with the state lobbyist or letting us know about these opportunities. And in fact, the Superintendent clarified these necessities and opportunities at one of our prior meetings. Then I thank Trustee Shaw for giving us some additional context from other agencies and what the ballpark advantages are in terms of help in those arenas. Just as an example, in some of our conversations, just yesterday I think it was, or this week, Mr. Turch sent a federal grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, entitled Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program. It is a funding mechanism opportunity of \$4.8 million. The award ceiling is \$800,000, and the eligibility in fact includes public chartering agencies.

This is something that—I get grants and contracts in my area of research in higher ed from NIH and so forth, but these really would require someone to be sending us this information.

BARKE: I think what Congresswoman Steel's bill is trying to protect us from is losing these opportunities; these opportunities they are fighting to get rid of is my understanding.

SPARKS: Oh yeah. Yeah.

TURCH: Well, that the regulatory strings attached are just onerous to you.

BARKE: Right. Exactly.

TURCH: Let me touch on that. Because I do believe I have perhaps the most sophisticated analysis of money that is being spent by the federal government. I spend a lot of money on that, or let's say multiples of your contract in determining how money comes down from the feds. You will receive or whoever you designate as the recipient, it can be you individually, it can be staff people, or whoever you want, several times a week, probably not every day, but several times a week, here is an opportunity in which we think you may have an interest. And it will be a very cursory description, zip zip zip. Then if you have an interest, you call Mr. Kevin Bosch on my staff, and Mr. Bosch will then tell you everything you want to know about the program, what your chances of getting it are, whether or not the match is honourous, or the paperwork requirement is honourous. And then you decide, that is kind of an ROI, a return on investment. Is it worth your time to make the application? What are the chances of actually getting it? We will work all that through with you?

SPARKS: Well, that is what I was alluding to.

TURCH: Yeah.

SPARKS: Its the idea of the ROI, the return on investment?

TURCH: Yes.

SPARKS: And it seems like an agreement like this, given the deliverables that you are talking about, would end up paying for itself many times over if we took proper advantage of that information.

BARKE: Something else I've been wanting to approach for a long time, I think it's now a year ago that we gave up NSBA. That was an organization that provided some information. But I think we felt that they weren't really working for the same goals as we were. I think somebody like you would be more in alignment with our goals, rather than just a national agency. I have wanted for years to also give up CSBA. I looked up some information in anticipation of this meeting. If we would decide as a group to do that, we currently spend—let's see, when we gave up NSBA, that was about \$13,000. If we chose to do the same with CSBA, that would be over \$20,000 and that is last years. I don't know if that has gone up or not, the \$20,388. But again, I don't often feel that they are aligned with our goals.

I would rather think that that money is better spent having somebody specialized in alignment with us, rather than getting the *Daily Round Up* and things like that. That is my two cents as far as financials that could go towards that cost.

SPARKS: I think we have been very consistent in looking at what entities are serving us and what are maybe not in alignment so that we can make sure that we are able to appropriately represent parent interests and family interests related to education.

SHAW: How will you be communicating with us? Will you be, you know, like giving a monthly newsletter kind of thing, or email, speaking to the Executive Committee? How do you plan—I mean, I'm just thinking about the deliverables in our communications. What do you propose?

TURCH: That will evolve. There is a great divergence in how my clients like to get information, so it depends. One of the difficulties with a regular program if we are going to send you a monthly progress report or whatever, is Washington is pretty dynamic. You may want to know by Wednesday what we did on Monday and not wait until August. On the other hand, maybe nothing much happens in August at all. That is how Washington is. The long and short of that, that will evolve. We will learn the people that you want us to talk to on your end, and we will communicate with you however it is you want. And what's more, we will be here. I'm in, as I said, I haven't been here since last Friday. I'm not a stranger to the place. We have a substantial client base in the LA basin, so I'm here a fair amount of time, as are other members of the firm. And they are at your disposal day and night, seven days a week, all the time. You have a question, we will answer it.

SPARKS: Any additional thoughts? Dr. Williams, do you have additional questions?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, a couple thoughts here. The contract has a line in there that you are willing to dismiss the 15% drop fee. I don't anticipate, listening to you, that we would do anything to drop or terminate the contract. I think one year is what it is going to take to evolve this relationship. If this department and this county can receive some benefit from what Washington D.C. can send back to Orange County, that would be a reasonable goal, as long as there is not too many strings attached to it. I understand that—I recognize that you don't have a crystal ball, and you can't look into the future, and who is going to control things, and so on.

A couple thoughts, one thought is that we lay this—again, there is no formal motion that I'm making. One thought is to bring this back to the next August meeting and have that language changed in the agreement. To lay this on the table, bring it back with the language change, and also at the time have perhaps, and I'm just thinking out loud, Michelle Steel's staff or Michelle herself come out to explain her bill and how important it is. I think we should have a resolution for the August, whatever date that is, the fifth or sixth.

SPARKS: The 17th.

BARKE: The 17th.

WILLIAMS: That is right. We moved it.

SPARKS: I am like, I am not going to be here. Okay. Yeah, it is the 17th.

WILLIAMS: You are going to be here?

SPARKS: The 17th I will, but not next week.

BARKE: The 17th, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Would that be reasonable for you? I'm just trying to create an environment where we have Michelle Steel come up, talk about this, have a resolution supporting it, and get this language changed. Just make it a lot cleaner. I mean, no formal motion has been made, but that is just an option I was thinking of.

TURCH: One of the difficulties with that is that Washington has a real season, and we are really anxious to begin today. The reason for that is we have a relatively short window in which to really begin planting the seeds of the ideas that you have. Now, the Congress goes out of session in August and half of September. When they come back, floor time is very limited, and all of the activities, and remember we have to fund the government by 12:01 AM of October 1st. The focus of the Congress begins to talk about appropriations. Then we are into the election. Then we are into Christmas.

What I'm saying is that in the next few days, we, as a firm, have an opportunity to really begin planting the ideas that you have. See who are our friends, who aren't our friends, and August is for us a delightful time. August is a time when we know who our friends are. But rather than meeting them for the first time, you meet them for the two-hour meeting and they give you that kind of time. And that extends into September. I'm just thinking that in terms of—it's almost like coming to me for an appropriation request in October and saying, gee, why don't we consider this around Christmas time? Why don't you kind of forget about it until next spring because that is the cycle for appropriations and you have already missed the caravan.

WILLIAMS: So timing in this is important.

TURCH: I think timing is just, well, I'm your servant, so I will do whatever you want. One of the things you can do is approve the contract and amend it.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Yeah, because we have reached out to Michelle Steel's office and they are in support of what we are doing. It's just kind of a quick turnaround.

TURCH: Sure.

SPARKS: We feel certain that we will get a lot of support?

TURCH: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What you are saying then with the timing issue is that this will be better approved today so you can get the wheels going?

TURCH: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: And grease the wheels if I can use that axiom.

TURCH: Eloquently stated.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Let's say we approve this today, you got the green light. Because we are going to have to do a subsidiary motion to change the contract because it's in there. That is a real quick parliamentary procedure. But if we approve this going forward today, what is going to be the first thing you do tonight?

TURCH: Sleep.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Tomorrow.

WILLIAMS: Tomorrow.

TURCH: Tomorrow.

WILLIAMS: You know what I'm saying.

TURCH: I do.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

TURCH: I do. The first thing I'll do is to decide which of the staff people we have are going to be best suited to carry out your needs. My best guess tonight is probably Kevin Bosch, but I'll take a look at that. He is a little bit more intellectual, I think in terms of his analysis thing. And remember, you have ideas. You are not looking to fill potholes on Main Avenue for instance. You are after something very much larger than that. I'll have to talk to Kevin, and then we will begin making the contact with whomever it is you want us to be talking to. And certainly those of you who are up here today is where we are going to start.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Well, I have to say, I know you represent a lot of cities in areas in the LA basin including Beverly Hills, Ontario, Imperial, Riverside transit authorities, Stockton, Monrovia, Moreno Valley, Rosemead. I know you have a long list beyond that, but that is just, in talking to you, those are kind of the highlights. And I think, you know, having your expertise would give the Board real time information about federal regulation, agency action, even, you know, behind the scenes action and conversations as well as of course policy direction. That would allow us to have a larger voice and a presence in terms of countering any sort of anti-charter school sentiment that might be floating around or proposed in Congress. And that is I think—I know that is something that is very important to our board. There are other things that we may be interested in. But that is kind of, to me, the first and most pressing issue that, I think, we want to have tackled.

TURCH: Yes. You know it's not just a bill, because Washington is so influenced by things that go way beyond the language of a bill. The colloquies that take place on the floor, the verbiage that is added to bills that is not statutory, and in fact the regulations that are taking place. You want to have a voice in all of those things. Not just alerting you to, hey, somebody just dropped a bill. Then if the bill is there, what are the chances, what kind of ideas are in it, and how do you want to promulgate those ideas over a period of time? Understanding that if that bill passes, great. But unlike Sacramento where things have to be germane, they don't have to be germane to us. I can stick your provisions in the Military Funding Bill. I don't care, and you don't care if your provisions that govern the Department of Education fund the Navy Submarine Program. You don't care, as long as you achieve the objective. On the federal level, you can't always do that; but very many times you can.

WILLIAMS: That is excellent.

SPARKS: Yeah. I mean, in fact, I have experienced where the Department of Defense has funded a lot of educational programs, particularly in higher ed and continual contracts. I know exactly what you are talking about, or not exactly, but I have some experience with what you are talking about. For us to be able to inform and represent our constituents in a much more informed manner because we know what is going on, I think would really be useful to our constituents and families.

WILLIAMS: I like what you said. I like your experience. You can insert anything that is of importance from a governance and public policy perspective of this board in a submarine bill basically. That is pretty interesting. It's way beyond my level of expertise.

TURCH: Well, I think to use the example a little bit earlier of the Rialto Airport. See, we had a great deal of difficulty that under the statute, the FAA is responsible for promoting airports. They can't close them, so the only way we could do that was to figure out something that had the same effect. But under the statute, change the definition of the Rialto Airport so it was super imposed on the San Bernardino Airport, achieved the objective. You just had to figure out how to do it.

WILLIAMS: Good.

TURCH: Oh, and then I would say the other thing is because I had substantial opposition to Chairman Thune who was chairman of the Commerce Committee of the Senate who oversees the FAA when the bill went to the Senate. I asked that it be held at the desk so it never went to committee and was considered only on the floor of the Senate.

WILLIAMS: Wow. That is rare.

TURCH: Umm.

WILLIAMS: You don't see that very much.

TURCH: You can do lots of things.

WILLIAMS: Madam President, and to my Board colleagues, we have this item before us here and this contract. Since we have already had a consent by our good Mr. Turch here, I would like to make a subsidiary motion to remove that to cancellation—

SPARKS: Yes.

WILLIAMS: —language. That would be the first four paragraphs starting at “should,” again, that is page 2 of 4 under compensation. It's under paragraph C; cancellation. It starts at “should” and stops at “will be required.” I would like to amend—

SPARKS: Okay.

WILLIAMS: —through the subsidiary motions, we just—

SPARKS: Do we need a second for that?

WILLIAMS: We need a second for that and we vote for it. Then we go back to the primary.

SPARKS: Okay. I will second that.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

WILLIAMS: We take a vote.

SPARKS: And now we will take that for vote.

WILLIAMS: Right.

SPARKS: All in favor?

WILLIAMS: If I can, just for clarification?

SPARKS: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: So the subsidiary motion from our ABC's of parliamentary procedure, we are voting on amending the primary motion, which is to adopt the contract. We are just removing that negative language here.

SPARKS: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Absolutely.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Do we take that for a vote?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. You have to take that for vote.

SPARKS: Okay.

WILLIAMS: Then we have to go back to the primary motion.

SPARKS: All Right. Do we do a roll call or we just take a vote?

BOYD: You can just take a vote.

SPARKS: All right, so we will take the vote.

BOYD: I.

SPARKS: Yeah.

BOYD: I'm just questioning why you even need "C," because you have a cancellation on page 1 of 3. If you are deleting the first four sentences, which this was really applicable for that information there. The cancellation on page 1 of 3 that it would have—

SPARKS: But I think it has slightly different language, the cancellation.

BOYD: It does have slightly different. But in this, you are still saying that you would pay any necessary or reasonable expenses. I am just bringing that to your attention is all.

WILLIAMS: What further expenses would there be Mr. Turch?

TURCH: None

WILLIAMS: Okay.

TURCH: I don't think we have ever billed—the idea of expense in the beginning, we thought was important. That was decades ago. The answer is that for most of the trips out here, I'm talking to two or three or four different clients, maybe a prospective client, it costs me more money to try to allocate those expenses than it does to just pay them and be finished with it. I can't think of a time when we billed an expense to a client. No copying charges, no telephone charges, no airline bills, nothing.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

TURCH: Now, you can control that in any way you want. You can insert languages to say that we can't spend any money unless you approve it. In three decades of business, what we try to do is to have a simple contract, a simple agreement between you and us. That allows us to do almost everything we can for you, just to cover the broad base of the federal government, the Executive

Branch, the Legislative Branch. We don't get into the courts. We are not lawyers. Even when we are lawyers, we are not practicing law. The end of the story is, in the beginning of the firm's history, they seemed to be important. But they are not important anymore. I can't think of a time when anything ever came up in terms of canceling a contract early, an expense item, we just haven't billed expense items. We just don't do it.

WILLIAMS: So you have reached into the Executive Branch too, huh?

TURCH: Well, we intend to. That is where the Department of Education is. That is where the OMB is. You have to pay attention to them.

WILLIAMS: Okay. I'm not going to change my language. Thank you, Nina for that.

BOYD: You are welcome. The only other thing that I wanted to point out is in expenses. This says that you are going to get billing on the fifth, or thereabouts, of the month. And then you would be paying those expenses before the first day of the calendar, the next calendar month. That is not feasible in terms of your approval process, so I just want to point that out. Typically, if you change it to, you know, net 30 or 45 days, then it's paid in that time. But, just based on your calendar of meetings and approval—

WILLIAMS: What our good Executive Assistant of this board here is saying is that, how we do things as far as payment, you send a bill, it gets paid by her. It doesn't get paid exactly per the terms. Is that correct, Nina?

BOYD: Yes. I just want to make sure that we are transparent so that we are not moving into something and there is an expectation that a payment is going to be made on a certain date that doesn't fit your cycle.

SPARKS: No, I understand that. I would just be comfortable that we have a time certain, like within a 30-day period or a 45-day period, something that is reasonable.

BOYD: Right.

SPARKS: So that there is not a delay in any payment.

TURCH: Actually, that may encumber you in ways that you don't want to be encumbered. Particularly, where we are dealing with public agencies and they are on a fiscal year in California, typically the end of June and then into July.

BOYD: That is us.

TURCH: I was going to say—let's put it this way. Many, if not a majority of our public sector clients, will run two and three months. In some cases, four months while they issue new purchase orders and we get the amendment signed or whatever it was that came up. We don't care. It doesn't matter. It just doesn't matter.

SPARKS: So would you be comfortable within 90 days?

TURCH: I don't care.

SPARKS: Okay.

TURCH: Whatever.

SPARKS: I just don't want to leave it open ended. I want to have something.

TURCH: My position is really easy. We are your servants, what works for you. We know that in the three decades of the firm, we have never had an issue.

SPARKS: Okay.

TURCH: No one has ever skipped out and not paid us in the end, but I'm certain we have had clients that have run as long as six months behind. Just as it is, then I get a big, fat check. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: We are not that behind.

SPARKS: No.

WILLIAMS: It may be 30 days, may be 60 days, but no—

TURCH: Understand that my experience is, this is really common. It's particularly common in California with public sector considerations where you are on a fiscal year and they need new purchase order numbers. It takes time to process all of that. It's common for clients to run behind, and we don't care.

WILLIAMS: Okay. I'm comfortable.

SPARKS: You are comfortable?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

SPARKS: Okay.

WILLIAMS: Mari? Tim?

SPARKS: Tim?

SHAW: Yeah.

SPARKS: Any other questions, Trustee Shaw? Trustee Barke?

BARKE: No.

WILLIAMS: So we vote on the subsidiary, then we go the primary.

SPARKS: Okay. So we will vote on the subsidiary motion. All in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW: Aye.

SPARKS: Okay, that passes 4-0. Then—

WILLIAMS: To the primary.

SPARKS: To the primary.

WILLIAMS: Which is to approve the contract.

SPARKS: To approve the contract.

WILLIAMS: Right.

SPARKS: Do you need to restate that motion or we just go right in for the vote?

WILLIAMS: I can restate it.

SPARKS: Okay. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: As a courtesy.

SPARKS: I would like that.

WILLIAMS: Okay. I make the motion to adopt action item number one, which is the approval of the contract to David Turch and Associates, as is in our board packets.

SPARKS: And I will second that. All in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW: Aye.

SPARKS: It passes 4-0. Excellent.

WILLIAMS: Very good.

TURCH: Thank you very much.

SPARKS: Thank you for your explanations.

BARKE: Thank you for your time.

TURCH: Yes, sir.

SHAW: What do you have to say about George Washington University?

WILLIAMS: That is his alma mater.

TURCH: Mr. Bosch has his master's degree from GW.

SHAW: Hey, I like him already.

TURCH: Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you very much. We really appreciate it.

BARKE: Thank you for your time.

SPARKS: All of your time and coming out, that is wonderful. Okay, I will go back to closing the meeting, which is always fun to do. Are there any last announcements or anything, any Board members want to share?

WILLIAMS: Just for the record, again, excuse me for not being present at the beginning of this meeting here. When we originally made this date, I was due to be an expert witness in a civil trial between two physicians last week. They changed it to this week. The judge said, you will only be there for six days, so I had to go today. That is the reason why I was unable to make the time certain for the interdistrict transfers.

BARKE: Ken, should I bring this up or just show it to Nina after?

WILLIAMS: No, you can talk about it. Yeah.

BARKE: Okay. Nina, this is something I was just going to mention. Somebody called me today, and this is a free gift.

BOYD: I'm sorry. I can't—

BARKE: This is a free gift from a local, actually a local mayor. They have pallets of sanitizer, hand sanitizer. If you are willing to take 26 pallets, they will deliver it? If you want less than that, you can pick it up, very easy freeway access off of Magnolia and Chapman. Apparently, the 26 pallets, it's about a \$10,000 value. It's the same sanitizer that is sold at Walmart. They wanted to, you know, provide it for our students so they are safe and clean. Also, suggested that if you wanted to offer it to every superintendent throughout the county, they would gladly deliver 26 pallets or let them come and pick them up.

BOYD: Okay. If you want to, after the meeting you can give me the information?

BARKE: I'll connect with you by email. Okay.

BOYD: Because there are certain requirements with regards to what type of sanitizer students can have.

BARKE: Yep.

BOYD: If you all might remember, we received a shipment from the state of California and it was adult sanitizer? We could not send it to students. So then we had to wait and get—so we want to make sure we are not accepting something that we can't get to students. Now certainly, if they wanted it for adults, then that would be different. But we are very careful to make sure—

BARKE: Sure.

BOYD: Because of allergies and also what they use, alcohol versus water based, that type of thing.

BARKE: Okay. I'll send you an email.

BOYD: Okay.

BARKE: Yeah, and if you just want it—

BOYD: We will just follow up.

BARKE: Yeah. If you just want it for the staff here, then you can tell them you want, you know, one pallet and go get it or whatever. Okay.

BOYD: We have quite a bit in our back warehouse that we are still getting out.

BARKE: Okay. Okay.

BOYD: As well as COVID test kits, we gave a bunch of those out today. We had our annual charter school meeting with the staff. We gave several boxes, which are about, I think there is 400 test kits in each and many of the charter schools took those back for their students today. All 19 charter schools were represented today, so it was a really good meeting. People were excited to be face-to-face. We talked about the resources that we have available to them; also, in terms of things that they might need for this upcoming year. Just sharing that with you a well.

SPARKS: Okay. Wonderful.

BARKE: All right.

SPARKS: Anybody else?

WILLIAMS: Can I make a motion that we adjourn?

SPARKS: You certainly may.

BARKE: I'll second it.

SPARKS: Let's do it. Boom.