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SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 11:04 A.M. - 12:32 P.M.

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 1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
 2 MR. ANDREW MEDVIN, CHAIR
  MS. MARY FERTIG, VICE CHAIR
 3 MS. RUTH CARTER-LYNCH
  MS. REBECCA DAHL
 4 MR. ANTHONY DE MEO
  MS. ITOHAN IGHODARO
 5 DR. NATHALIE LYNCH-WALSH
  MR. ROBERT MAYERSOHN
 6 MS. JACLYN STRAUSS
  MR. PETER TURSO
 7
 8 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR STAFF:
 9 MR. JORIS JABOUIN, Chief Auditor
  MR. BRYAN ERHARD, System Support Specialist II
10 MS. MICHELE MARQUARDT, Executive Secretary
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   INVITED GUESTS:
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  MR. TIM BASS, Court Reporter, United Reporting
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- MR. JABOUIN: Mr. Robert Mayersohn?
- 2 MR. MAYERSOHN: I'm here.
 - MR. JABOUIN: Mr. Andrew Medvin?
- 4 MR. MEDVIN: Here.

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- 5 MR. JABOUIN: Ms. Phyllis Shaw is excused.
- 6 Ms. Jaclyn Strauss?
- 7 (No response.)
 - MR. JABOUIN: And Mr. Peter Turso?
- 9 MR. TURSO: Present.
- 10 MR. JABOUIN: I'm Joris Jabouin. I'm the
- district's chief auditor. I just want to
- 12 acknowledge, Ms. Michele Marquardt is in the
- meeting, she is my assistant. And then Mr. Brian
- 14 Erhard is our IT person, as well as our court
- 15 reporter, Tim Bass.
- 16 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: This is Ruth Carter-Lynch,
- 17 I'm on as well.
- 18 MR. JABOUIN: Thank you.
- 19 Thank you, Mr. Medvin. This is the roll
- 20 call.
- 21 MR. MEDVIN: Okay. Do you have
- 22 administrative matters to discuss?
- 23 MR. JABOUIN: Yes, please. Thank you.
- 24 So this is a special informational meeting of
- 25 the audit committee of the School Board of

Broward County. It has been properly noticed and advertised. No quorum is required for this meeting and no business will be conducted. No motions will occur and no votes are needed as well.

The primary purpose that the chair called this meeting is for Agenda Item Number 5, which is the Audit Plan Forecast and to obtain any comments from the audit committee members with respect to the forecast that will eventually lead to the audit plan pending audit committee and school board member comments.

This meeting is being recorded and it is being streamed. There were no public speaking comments in accordance to the requirements on the agenda.

I also wanted to mention to the audit committee members, and, thank you, Ms. Strauss, who has joined the meeting.

MS. STRAUSS: Present.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you, Ms. Strauss.

For the May 18th audit committee meeting, the items that were to be on the April 13th audit committee meeting that was cancelled will roll into the May 18th meeting. Those where the audit

reports on internal funds of schools as well as the audit reports of payroll of schools.

The audit plan document that will be discussed today, that will be updated by the time of the May 18th audit committee meeting because there are likely to be comments at this meeting as well as the board workshop. The 9:30 a.m. start is asked for for the May 18th meeting because we will have those items on the agenda as well as other reports that we are planning to finish as well as a presentation from Finance as well.

I also wanted to mention to the audit committee members that there may be administrative matters that the committee members may wish to speak about. I am the audit committee liaison and I am the person who you should reach out to if you have any questions. It is possible that I can answer your questions. It is also possible that I may need to liaise with the chair on your questions. Your questions may have issues that will be discussed at a future meeting and we may need to postpone your questions then. Because I want to remind the committee members that conversations with the

audit committee members should be in a public setting, such as this meeting as well as our in-person meetings. So, if you do have a question, that question may need to go to the next audit committee meeting; it may be a question that I can respond to; it may be a question that I can liaise with the chair on. But I do want to make sure that we don't run into any risks with respect to any of the sunshine laws.

Obviously, the agenda for the meeting is determined by the audit committee chair. Any questions that come up, throughout, in between meetings, I'll discuss them with the chair.

Emails that you send, if you can please send them directly to me. We shouldn't run into any risk that it would be a conversation that is not within the view of the public. This is done by many of you already. I do want to thank you for doing so. I just want to ensure that going forward that we do so.

I do see, Chair, that we have a question from Dr. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh.

MR. MEDVIN: Dr. Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, thank you.

So we need to clarify, what is a question. Ι just responded to a task force member who was asking about being provided with dates and an agenda. That is not something we vote on, whether somebody should be provided with something that they're entitled to. Likewise, if you're asking a question for an update on something that came before that hasn't been presented yet and you're merely asking where is it in the pipeline, that is not -- you're not having a discussion that would run you afoul of sunshine law. So we need to distinguish between someone asking a question -- I'll give you an example of what would be problematic with sunshine law. You send the chair or another member a question saying, what do you think of so and so for our next chair? That's a sunshine law violation. What time is our next meeting or do you known whatever happened to that update that Judith Marte was supposed to bring back in October is not a sunshine law violation, unless we then down the road start having a conversation after you answer the initial question about what we think about the actual matter.

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So we need to be very clear. Because if I

was nonresponsive to that question that someone asked, which was a simple housekeeping question, which is what my question was and that's why we're having this conversation again, I can't, as the chair, ignore a member and wrap them up in bureaucracy because I have some insane fear of sunshine law or people have led me to believe that something is a violation when it isn't. So we need to be very clear.

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But I also, personally, in the past have asked questions of the chief auditor such as that and have been told, and I can produce the multitude of emails, that he does not respond to individual requests from individual committee members. So we're going to have to be very clear to whom, and this should apply to everybody, because the first time I send an email where I get that response that we don't respond to individual committee member's requests, we're going to have a problem, and I have no problem taking my problems to board meetings or workshops so we can get clarification. But I also did a public records request the last time I was told that the chief auditor doesn't respond to individual committee member's requests that

showed that he does, in fact, respond to some people's emails because I have them in the public records response.

So we need to be very, very clear.

MR. MEDVIN: Just so you know, I contacted the attorney, Mr. Vignola, of my own volition about responding to anybody's emails and he advised me that any response can be considered a violation of the sunshine law. So any email -- just listen to me. Any email I receive is to be forwarded to Mr. Jabouin so he's aware of it and I can discuss the contents of it with him, like your question as an example, but the response back to you is considered a violation of sunshine.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, that's -- I'm sorry, that's not necessarily -- but, Mr. Medvin, I got zero response until I started calling the audit department. No response from anybody. Not from you. So you may be unaware, but after you forwarded it to Mr. Jabouin, I got no response until I started calling to get your phone number to try to understand why in three weeks nobody said, we're looking into this, we'll get back to you. Nobody said that until I started -- until I

started pursuing it. So does that sound reasonable?

MR. MEDVIN: Well, the fact is that your question was passed on to him by me.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But how would I know that?

I'm a lot of -- Mr. Medvin, I'm not psychic. I

know I may seem to be, but I'm simply not

psychic. So in three weeks, if someone doesn't

say within two days, you know, got it, looking

into it, 48 hours is considered a relative

standard in terms of responding to people.

Nobody responded, not in 48 hours, not in four

days. And it took a few weeks and me pursuing it

again.

So unless you want to create the impression that there is some different treatment that I am subjected to in terms of people responding, we need to have a standard moving forward that applies to everybody.

If you want me to send an email to Mr.

Jabouin, despite everything I've experienced in the past, I will do that. But then I expect some sort of response and it cannot be that we do not respond to individual committee member's questions. Is that clear?

MR. JABOUIN: I would like to mention that, please, respond to me. Please send your email requests to me.

Now, remember, that based on your request and how it's evaluated, I may, talking to the chair, deem that this is something that needs to be presented at the next meeting.

Now, with respect to Dr. Lynch-Walsh's requests, she did call my staff and my staff was responsive and then I also responded.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: After three weeks. After three weeks. Don't mislead people, Mr. Jabouin. After -- I can send all the emails. After. I called after I received no response to my second request.

MR. JABOUIN: Why don't we talk about how to deal with it going forward? If the committee members can go ahead and go forward in the way that we described, we'll be able to proceed. So if you have a question I will evaluate it to see if there's a possibility that your question can be answered.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. No, that's -- let me be clear. There is a courtesy, so when you receive something, so that someone knows that

you've at least gotten the email, somebody, and it doesn't need to be you, it can be, we send it to you, copy Michele Marquardt, and she responds, received, thank you, working on it.

Now, if it's something that was a follow-up, I am no longer digging -- I'm not the chair or vice chair, I am not digging through, minutes taking my time to dig through minutes to find out what meeting it was and what a staff member committed to. That's the job of the chair, the vice chair or the chief auditor and staff. I'm not doing it. Because, otherwise, I would have sent screenshots, like I have in the past, showing the item, which is an item pertaining to warehouses, it could have been B-stock, where Ms. Marte said she would bring an update, I think it was last October, it's now April.

So that is -- I don't need you evaluating it.

I'm giving you something to do that is part of
your job. But at the very least I expect a
response so I know it didn't fall into the back
hole of the Internet.

MR. JABOUIN: We'll send you a response, and thank you for your comments.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Thank you. That's all I am

1 asking for.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you, Dr. Lynch-Walsh.

Mr. Medvin, I see that Ms. Fertig has her hand up.

MR. MEDVIN: Ms. Fertig?

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, can you all hear me? I've had some problems with Teams and audio in the past.

I don't know exactly what Dr. Lynch-Walsh is referring to, but maybe we can keep a log of questions and it may be that what she asks may be relevant to somebody else. I agree -- I totally agree with Mr. Vignola, we should send our questions to you, but I also agree that if we can just get an answer on a simple question it would probably expedite some of this.

So, all right, Nathalie, I wasn't quite sure which question you were referring to, but --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because you don't have it because I only send it to Medvin, I was trying not to send it for once to everybody, because, as you know, as you've seen, Mr. Jabouin has been inconsistent in responses to me. So I sent it -- and if Mr. Medvin didn't want it, he said he referred it to Mr. Jabouin, but I sent it on

April 4th and then I sent it again a few weeks later and still didn't get a response. So then I started calling the office. And that's when everybody suddenly started responding.

MS. FERTIG: Just to make this clear to everybody, can we just have a concise written statement from you, Mr. Jabouin, after this meeting about what the requirements are for submitting questions and getting answers?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: A procedure.

MS. FERTIG: Yes.

MR. JABOUIN: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Fertig.

I also wanted to mention to the audit committee members that School Board Policy 1070, that was the former Policy 1.7, it's now called 1070, District Committees and Their Memberships, it was passed on October 11th of 2022. I'm going to email that to the committee members because it changed a good amount since Policy 1.7. And then also the school board on December 13 approved Policy 1700 for the Office of the Chief Auditor. I'll also email to the committee members.

Mr. Medvin, this concludes the administrative comments that I had. And, as Ms. Fertig indicated, at the end of the meeting I'll talk

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about the process for audit committee questions in between the meetings. Thank you.

MR. MEDVIN: Thank you. I want to thank everybody for attending in the middle of the day. I'm happily sitting in my office the first day after the flood, and I hope everyone, if they had damage or inconveniences, came through it successfully and okay.

At this point I want to turn the meeting over to Mr. Jabouin to present the plan.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you, again, committee members.

So this serves -- the document that I have in the agenda, which was a document that was sent to you on April 6th in advance of the April 13th meeting is the audit plan forecast. So this serves as the initial document that will likely change as a result of comments that you'll have today, as a result of comments that the board will have at their May 3rd workshop, as a result of comments that you will possibly have at your May 18th.

MS. MARQUARDT: Correction. It's the May 2nd workshop, not May 3rd.

MR. JABOUIN: May 2nd. Thank you very much.

So Policy 1700 and sections 3 and 4 states that the initial audit plan will be provided to the school board for consideration at a workshop in May of each year for potential approval at the school board meeting the following July of each year. So this audit plan working document will be discussed at their workshop on May 2nd.

So the original plan was to present it at the April 13th audit committee meeting and provide the audit committee members time to make their comments so that they could be imbedded into the May 2nd workshop. However, we know that the meeting was cancelled, so I am very grateful that the committee members were able to join this meeting.

So we do have a document that the school board will look at May 2nd. What I will do is gather audit committee comments at this meeting so that I can prepare a separate document for the school board members at their May 2nd workshop.

Ultimately, the school board, they direct the chief auditor and they will approve the final audit plan. And as it also states in Policy 1700, ultimately, whatever gets added or deleted, any topics for the audit plan, those are up to

the school board members. The members, themselves, can't make any adjustments during discussions with the chief auditor unless it's at a workshop, and that's also discussed in the policy.

So regarding the document, itself, I just wanted to point out a few things. Now, the scope of the work that's done by this office is to test the adequacy and effectiveness of the district's internal controls, the quality of district staff in being able to perform their assigned responsibilities as well as the vendors.

The work of this office has to be in accordance with government auditing standards. We do get peer reviewed, as we will next year in accordance with the Association of Local Government Auditing Standards.

Our work has to plan -- our team members have to be proficient to do the work that needs to be done. Our work within the department has to be reviewed by management of the individuals doing the fieldwork and ultimately by me. I am also seeking to do continuous improvement of our team to make sure that we are a better audit function. So the comments that I get from audit committee

members throughout as well as during the meetings are very valuable to me as I move our audit plan forward.

There are, with respect to the work, the assurance that we provide is reasonable assurance. We don't provide absolute assurance. And that's because our audits, we test samples, we test periods of time, and we're not able to look at everything all at once even though we are aware of the different aspects of different things that are going on throughout the district.

In future years it is my goal to be able to put some more antifraud type of controls and make sure that we are more efficient in being able to do our work.

There are a good number of uncertainties that are out there as there have been over the previous audit plans, and we don't know, our staff, whether or not we will have turnover. We know that there has been turnover in a variety of areas in the district. We are dependent on being able to hire a facilities audit manager as we have been trying to do the last few years. That is a key position of ours. We hope to be able to come to a conclusion on that very soon. We have

to be able to fill our other open positions.

The projects, themselves, have overruns, usually because we sometimes don't get the response and the action plans that we deem sufficient to be able to cure the issues for management. In that case we send the issues back. We don't want to come to an audit committee meeting without a viable action plan because we know that the committee members will demand that. So we strive to address those ahead of time to make sure that there are solutions to these issues that we find in these audits. We don't know what the auditor general, what the inspector general or outside areas will, you know, will deem to be important to them.

We do know that our audits cover some of the key risk areas of the district. We do have audits that cover some of those areas, such as information technology, such as construction, contracts and procurement. Requirements of the auditor general, discipline, behavioral threat assessments, maintenance contracts and payroll. Our plan does have projects that go over each of those areas.

And then our staffing. I have had a chance

to talk to the managers in our area and we think that this plan, although it is aggressive, it is one that is reasonable for us to be able to achieve as we -- as our team is right now. But, at the same time, like I mentioned, there are some unknown areas, and there's also areas that the committee does not have visibility and are part of our plan. There are projects that we do that involve some outside law enforcement individuals and I'm not at liberty to talk about some of the things that we are doing. So there are a good amount of things that are not there for the committee to take a look at, but we do present the reports that we to at these meetings.

Chair, this is what I wanted to do as far as introducing the document. The committee members have had it since April 6th. So I'm assuming that they've read it. Chair Medvin, I would imagine that we could go to the committee questions that they may have on the document that I have provided.

MR. MEDVIN: Dr. Lynch-Walsh, you're first?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Thank you. My questions have to do with last year -- with the current year's audit plan and what's rolling over from

It's probably easier to have the current year's audit plan up because I have questions about multiple items on there and their status. The first one is number 17. And, again, unless somebody pulls it up, I don't have the ability to I have the document or can share a document. find it, but I don't have the ability to share, so it can't be me. Number 17 on page 13 of the current year's audit plan was Physical Plant Operations, PPO Maintenance Contract Payment, I don't know what the status is. Was that completed? It included, it was the effectiveness and compliance wit District polices and procedures and follow up on certain Council of Great City Schools report findings.

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And the reason that I bring that up is it, actually, ties into the item that Mrs. Marte was supposed to bring back because of the recommendations from the Council of Great City Schools as far as warehouse space.

So has that audit been completed? It's number 17 on the current year's list.

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, so that audit is ongoing and it is in fieldwork and it is the current audit number 17 that is on page 13 of this agenda

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DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So it's on page 13 of -MR. JABOUIN: The current document. It is
project number 17 on page 13.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. Okay. Sorry, because these two look exactly the same. That's this year. Let me go back to last year. So on last year, page -- that item was actually number 25 on page 29. There was also number 26 on page So it's ongoing, but there seems to be items that dropped off in the detail under the broad book activity scope. So they're -- in fact, so there's two from last year. Because what I'm trying to understand is, what did we have on the list from last year that is either completed -because before we add on, when we haven't even finished something, it seems like we should close something out. So number 25 from last year had a laundry list of things having to do with controls, current practices, leading practice bid product specifications and then the other two items and that was on contract procurement. was number 25. It says, audit report issued. Okay, I don't know if it was issued. It says it is.

So if we're still -- we're still in fieldwork. And when do we plan to be done with fieldwork?

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MR. JABOUIN: Dr. Lynch-Walsh, every year the audit plan is presented, the committee and the board can choose to go ahead and make modifications. It's always a new plan every year. We need to be able to adjust to the changing risk of the district.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So let me put it The workshop where the Council of this way. Great City Schools recommendations were first presented to the board was on January 27th, 2020. It is now April 25th, 2023. So the Council of Great City -- follow up on certain Council of Great City Schools report findings is on the current year's audit plan and now proposed for next year's audit plan. But my question is, at what point do we ever get that audit completed? Because it's now three years later and I assure you all of the recommendations from the Council of Great City Schools are timely and tie in to long range planning, a lot of them. So one of them is estimating the fiscal impact of building closures and removing portable classrooms.

one that pertains to warehouses has to do with restructuring how warehouses are done.

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So I think it may be -- which is utilizing one central maintenance warehouse with staging areas in each zone versus the current practice of employing multiple warehouse locations. FTF did a site visit to a multitude of warehouses and there do appear to be opportunities for consolidation, especially with all of the empty schools. So I don't know if those are ones that they're looking at. There were a lot of things in terms of the inefficiency, but I think it would help the committee to have the recommendations so that we have an understanding when we're looking at this audit, because we don't know what follow up on certain Council of Great City Schools report findings, actually, means in an operational sense without seeing the engagement letter.

MR. JABOUIN: So Dr. Lynch-Walsh, your questions are on page 13, item number 17. And you are asking about what that means as far as follow up?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Specifically. Yes, specifically.

MR. JABOUIN: So this is a plan, this is not a scoping document. And we don't go over the scope documents at these meetings.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But that's the problem. We never go over the scope documents because we don't know what's in the scope. So I'm asking to see what's in the scope because it was the same scope last year when we -- or, well, this year, technically, the current year. We don't know what follow up on certain Council of Great City Schools report findings actually means because we have not seen the engagement letter.

MS. FERTIG: Can I break in?

MR. MEDVIN: Yeah, Mary?

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I also had questions on this -- on this particular -- well, I had noted this item. As Nathalie points out, the report that it references is several years old and I know we don't have an update -- time for an update on that in May, but perhaps in June you can schedule an update, but I think this has been an ongoing area for concern probably as long as I've been on the audit committee. There are different aspects. So I know you're saying this isn't a scoping, but this seems just a little

vague to me. I think this is an important area and one that we need to definitely follow up on this year. And I don't know how you prioritize these to make sure that we're doing them. But looking back at the report from three years ago is important looking forward and looking at what's happening right now is also important. And I -- I share her concern. I had noted this on my list as something that I hope you will pursue sooner rather than later.

MR. JABOUIN: So noted, Ms. Fertig.

One of the things that I wanted to mention to the committee members is, as you look at that report, there are certain comments and findings from the Council of Great City Schools that are specifically audit related, it talks about data, it talks about controls. But there are also a few recommendations that are management completed but not audits.

So, for example, there's a finding regarding the hiring of a chief facilities officer. So that's not an audit item, they've either done it or not, but then there are some specific internal control items. And that's why we mentioned certain -- so, obviously, when the time comes,

I'll reconcile that to the committee and mention to them which ones will be audited and which ones are the management findings from that reported.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And when would that be seeing as the audit plan is coming back on the 18th? We can't vote today but we can certainly have questions and make requests for documents. For instance, I have the Council of Great City Schools recommendations. It's publically available. I don't have the engagement letter. And I would really not like to have to do a public records request for the engagement letter with CRI. But I will if you are going to not produce that document in time for the May 18th meeting.

MR. JABOUIN: No, the engagement letter has not been prepared for that yet. This is in the plan, but it's not --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, it's from last year. Last year, number 26, on page 30, Physical Plant Operations, PPO Maintenance Contract Payment, follow up on certain Council of Great City Schools report finding, Consultants, CRI. If they're in fieldwork, how in the world are they conducting fieldwork on two different audit

plan items that mention the Council of Great City
Schools report findings without an engagement
letter of some sort so that they know what to
conduct fieldwork on?

Maybe I'm not understanding audit anymore and how that works. I didn't think that you could start conducting fieldwork without knowing where you are going. It's sort of like trying to drive to a destination with no map.

MR. JABOUIN: Obviously, the committee members that were here throughout the year know that there are items that were in the plan, but we've had other projects that were put on that were not in the plan. So, for example, work regarding the education management software, those were items that, you know, that came up and they took a lot longer. So Carr, Riggs, Ingram, who is the firm that is doing that work, they ended up spending much of their time on that. And that's part of the reason why some of these projects roll over.

So the audit team is always working and we're always working on audit projects. It just comes down to what we're working on. And those particular projects took longer. They also had a

larger amount of issues. There were dollars that were involved with that. And then there's the follow-up to that that also is taking a good amount of time. And all those impact the timing and the work as well.

So, regarding your question, the -- we're still working on the engagement letter with Carr, Riggs, Ingram on this particular project. So they'll finish that during the year.

Now, we also have them also doing some cap and gowns work already because we've got the graduation season that's coming. So those are all part of it, though.

But I don't anticipate, Dr. Lynch-Walsh that the engagement letter will be specific on and reconcile each of the findings that are on the Council of Great City Schools report, but I understand the importance of that and will, obviously, liaise with the audit committee.

MS. STRAUSS: Hi, can I say something here?

MR. MEDVIN: Ms. Strauss, go ahead.

MS. STRAUSS: Thank you very much.

Look, at the end of day, all this time going back and forth and basically having these pissing matches is really, really not necessary.

I think that we need to focus on the facts, make decisions, move forward for the greater good, try to make changes. Because whatever was happening, before, obviously, was not yielding a maximum ROI or doing the best by this district.

So how do we just stop all of this and move forward?

Enough is enough.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I still have my hand up.

MS. STRAUSS: Mr. Turso has his hand up.

It's like enough already. Come on.

MR. MEDVIN: Mr. Turso?

MR. TURSO: Yeah, so I really applaud Ms. Strauss for stating that. I was going to do something even more so at the in-person meeting that got cancelled. But I ask you for just a moment to consider, as a new member of this group, what I saw at the last meeting and what I see at this meeting is extraordinarily just dysfunctional. We're supposed to be here to make sure that policies are in place, to stop the waste, and to funnel as much resources as we can towards the children and towards academics and towards our community. And that is not what we're doing here.

I understand, you know, who's emailing who, who's not replying to who, who believes this, who believes that. Guys, we are in the middle of a massive, massive problem HB 1 is coming. Kids are leaving our district. Enrollment continues to go down and the quality of the service continues to plummet. And I wish you could hear it as a new person, the banter. It's horrific, guys.

So if you're not going to hear it from me, at least hear it from Ms. Strauss, we need to shift gears and we need to start looking at things that's going to enrich these children and make people want to come back to Broward, because HB 1 is going to make a lot of people look for this -- looking for jobs at Broward County Public Schools. You can live in denial, but that's what's going to happen until we as a group come together and end this and work together. Thank you.

MR. MEDVIN: Thank you. The purpose of this meeting, as I understand it, is to review this plan and to assist Mr. Jabouin in preparing his report and the plan for his workshop with the board next week. So to go arguing over specific

items I don't think is really, as Mr. Turso said, helping us out at all.

So, please, direct your comments to the generalness of this. I have a couple, and I'm sure we all do, and let's try to assist Mr.

Jabouin in doing what he has to do to get this plan approved by the board and then we can get involved in specifics that are important to discuss.

Ms. Fertig?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I still have my hand up everybody.

MR. MEDVIN: Okay. Ms. Fertig?

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I just was going to -okay. I do have some other things that we've
talked about in the past and they're on the Long
Range Audit Plan list, and one was a technology
follow-up that we had talked about doing. We
talked about it several times, but I see it on
the long range plan.

Does that mean, Mr. Jabouin, that you're not including it in next year's plan but pushing it off another year?

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, so, Ms. Fertig, we -- we -- just due to the items, like, for example,

we added Title 1, the board has asked for the additional projects with respect to educational case management, but we have -- what happens with some of these technology projects, Ms. Fertig, is that, due to the subject matter, there are certain areas that are exempt because they cover certain technology areas, you know, with respect to some of the software, so that visibility is not always there, but we are proceeding. You're referring to those Tony Hunter projects, and some of them also involve working with some individuals that are in the law and so you don't have that particular visibility with respect to that.

MS. FERTIG: So we left it, last year I thought we were going to, and you've made the comment, we can't keep looking backwards, we have to look at where we are now, which I think kind of pertains to what we just said about PPO, but also to this. So I'm just taking -- I'm not -- I don't want to use the word Recordex, but just the whole general area of technology purchases, I think we've had a lot of problems with that in the past, we were going to revisit it to see if things were better. And while I'm on this, we

had a very robust conversation about changes that need to be paid with purchasing two meetings ago and I would just like to see -- I know this isn't on the audit plan, but I would like to see the follow-up of where you are with that chart of what's going to be done at the -- if you cannot do it at the May meeting then definitely as an agenda item on the June meeting.

I think the follow-up on some of these items is as important as the regular to make sure that we're making progress with the implementation of the recommendations.

I really kind of hope that we find a way to summarize, one, to get an update where we are with a lot of the suggestions that were made for improving processes, and also to incorporate some kind of a review on technology purchases in the upcoming audit plan. I think it's critically important. It's a lot of money and it's very important to make sure that we're maximizing that for our schools.

Thank you.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you, Ms. Fertig.

So regarding, this is the project that was on the chief information officer, two chief

information officers ago, we are moving forward with looking at those. We did have a meeting with some law enforcement individuals regarding one of those projects on the list, but this also falls into some of the category of items that, once we speak to certain people it's not -- I don't have the -- it's their project that they're leading with to assist me on. So we are moving forward with that. I think I get the picture that I need to find a way to articulate that to the committee and I will do so.

MS. FERTIG: Yeah, and I'm not going to necessarily suggest that we go back to our 2016-17 purchases, but that we look forward from where we left at to see if we're having any of the same problems. Because those were really significant.

MR. JABOUIN: Yes.

MS. FERTIG: And so I'll leave it at that. I just see it on a Long Range Audit Plan and I'm just envisioning 10 years from now we're going to look back and find out that we never corrected the problems we found in 2017, '18, '19.

MR. JABOUIN: We have looked at some more recent purchases that -- that we presented to the

board with respect to that and I think I need to be able to capture that for the committee. The reason why it's on there like that, Ms. Fertig, is that we'll continue to do so because there was a good number of projects. I think, ultimately, we are focusing on the larger dollar ones though.

MR. MEDVIN: Mr. De Meo?

MR. DE MEO: Yeah, did you -- did you call on me?

MR. MEDVIN: Yes, sir.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Thank you. Two items.

First, could you summarize, briefly, the scope and how it was determined which items would be included and how you prioritize them? So scope, including how you prioritize -- you know, I'm getting at audit risk assessment here. Could you summarize that for us? And then I have a follow-up on that.

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, sure. So one of the things that's important in this process is the different comments that we get, Mr. De Meo. Some of them will be at these meetings here where a committee member may have a suggestion of something that needs to be audited. And so those get put aside as well. There's also comments

from the board members that are made. Sometimes it's in my with one-on-one meetings with them and sometimes it's at the dais. Those, I stay in constant touch with regarding those areas of interest. Because, ultimately, we have a certain pool of resources and we also, even with the outside individuals that we engage, I still need to manage them and my team still needs to manage the engagements, and we need to set up the meetings, and we need to make sure that they're getting what they need. So, ultimately, there's only a certain amount of available resources that we have.

Taking into account some of that, Mr. De Meo, we take a look at different factors regarding some of the different subject areas, such as the school, such as the department, such as the processes, such as the contracts. And those may be taking a look at them from a dollar standpoint. Also, maybe taking a look at them as far as when is the last time this was audited? Were there any issues the last time they were audited? Have there been any new changes in any regulations; any requirements; any laws; any policies any procedures? As it pertains to some

of the schools, have there been any changes to the principals? Which may go either one way or another, because sometimes a change in principal which will require a need for an audit, but sometimes if the principal has been there for a long time, that provides a different type of risk as well.

So taking those into account, we then have the auditor general and what are some of the things that they want us to take a look at as well. And those become very important.

Requirements with respect to charter schools; requirements with respect to the internal funds; all of those types of things are evaluated to be able to come up with what our plan would be and then now we move forward, taking into account some of the comments here, some of the comments at the board, the board needing to make certain types of decisions regarding either our head count or how much we want to spend for outside resources which will determine the final plan.

Now, when the audits happen, and the audits are going on during fieldwork, we have to let the audit, itself, drive whether or not we pursue a matter further. Because we want to make sure

that the auditors are cognizant to not just the audit plan but to be able to look around to make sure that there's no other issues that are there.

So those, ultimately, Mr. De Meo, will determine the recommendation that I have with the plan.

MR. DE MEO: So do you discuss -- you perform a risk assessment for your own benefit; right?

Okay. And do you discuss that or share that with anyone; the board; or anyone; or your staff; or --

MR. JABOUIN: So I had to discuss that with the auditor general during their audit on that end. So during my risk assessment meetings I do have a discussion with the individuals as far as what the purpose of the meeting is, we're trying to get their perspective with respect to audit risks so we can develop the plan.

MR. DE MEO: Are the highest risk items that you've assessed included in this plan for current year? In other words, everything that you've assessed as a highest risk, I'd like to know if that's included in this plan.

MR. JABOUIN: So, yes. So what are the highest risk areas? Information technology, yes;

construction, yes; contracts and procurement,
yes; auditor general regulatory items, yes;
discipline, behavioral threat assessments, yes;
maintenance contracts, yes; payroll, yes.

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Now comes the, what are the specific areas within those higher risk areas? Because, obviously, there are many contracts. Which ones get chosen? Well, the ones that have been discussed here in these type of meetings. have been comments with respect to vendors. There have been comments with respect to certain services. And once we come up with those risk areas, let's just go ahead and identify which ones within that. And I think that there should be an opportunity to make some of those specific selections as the year goes on. Because we can become aware of an issue probably a month from now or a week from now or tomorrow that we don't know today. Or just the risk factors just change over the course of the year. If time permitted, and in some organizations that I've worked at, we've actually done a quarterly risk assessment and modified the audit plan accordingly. Something that maybe we can move to a more frequent readjustment of the audit plan in this

1 organization at some point.

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MR. DE MEO: Okay. And, lastly, on the Long Range Audit Plan, on page 24, there are two items IT Security - Cyber Security, Logical Access, Assessment (Re-Audit of Prior Audit) and Information Technology Identity Management Follow Up, why aren't those at the top of the list every single year and why aren't they included in this year?

MR. JABOUIN: So we had to substitute a project that is in here. This was originally into our plan and we ended up having to put project number 11, the education management software one in place of that. You can see, I do have some colors, the purple means our IT Audit Manager, Jennifer Harpalani, is the one that works with CRI on this one. We were going to have her work with RSM on that particular one. So at the end of the day, Mr. De Meo, as we look into the Long Range Audit Plan we can make shifts and if that is a -- if that is your thought, I'm taking note of that so that way we can go ahead and put that into the board meeting. If that is -- the items that are on page 24, to put them in, and I do think that those are each areas that

need to be looked at, then something would have to come out in the preceding pages.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Well, I'd like the committee to consider that because I consider those two areas extremely -- I consider them, in terms of risk assessment I would consider those high risk and --

MR. JABOUIN: I'll make note of that, sir.

MR. DE MEO: And, also, could you just explain to us one more time why you can't share your risk assessment with us?

MR. JABOUIN: So, particularly, Mr. De Meo, as it relates to the areas that we look at with respect to some of the critical applications, particularly as it pertains to our software, our security, those are particular areas that -- that are part of the assessment.

MR. DE MEO: But for those, you can share your risk assessment with us?

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, it's because of that particular reason, sir.

MR. DE MEO: So if we asked you to redact those items on a risk assessment matrix that you could provide us listing the specific areas and assessing the risk, assigning risk, could you do

that? Could you provide us with something like that?

MR. JABOUIN: I could take a look into that, sir.

MR. DE MEO: It would be good because then we could compare it with what the plan shows and it would -- truthfully, I feel that we're at a disadvantage in that we're not able to discharge our responsibility as an audit committee without seeing am audit risk matrix. And, although I have a lot, lot of confidence in your area, in your department, and your past and what you've done for us, it's hard as a committee member to approve or to endorse an audit plan without having a comprehensive audit risk assessment.

So I'll leave it there. But if you could provide us with anything, even redacted areas, that would be great.

MR. JABOUIN: Would you -- in order to assist you, yourself, with your responsibilities, sir, would you, Mr. De Meo, have a conversation with me to give you further understanding as to -- as to the plan? Because we have to keep in mind that if there are areas of interest to the committee, this is the opportunity to bring them

up, now, so that way they can make their way into either the current plan or a future plan. And I do have your comments with respect to -- with respect to those two areas.

MR. DE MEO: Okay. Yeah, this would obviously be helpful for me.

MR. JABOUIN: I failed to mention, the identity management is on its way right now, though. One of my team just mentioned that to me.

MS. FERTIG: I just would like to say, I find Mr. De Meo's comments very helpful and I actually concur with him on what he said about the IT and so forth. So if you're having -- you know, I think it's helpful to have these conversations in the course of the meeting so that we can all benefit from the collective knowledge that we have on the committee, so -- I'm not saying don't have a meeting, but I am saying that I think it's important to have that conversation here.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. Medvin, should I just jump in whenever I feel like it?

MR. JABOUIN: Everyone is going to get their.

Ms. Carter-Lynch.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Okay. I have a question.

Because we spend an awful lot of time on going over things. My question is this, and if anybody that's an expert in sunshine, please chime in, is there a possibility, Mr. Jabouin, for us to send, after getting the materials, copiously perusing them, that we can send you a list of questions and we can get the answers to those questions before the next board -- audit committee meeting so we won't spend a whole lot of time? All we would need you to do is give us answers. Is that a possibility?

MR. JABOUIN: So this would be like some of the questions that we're getting now, whether or not you can send them. So we send out the package before -- a week before the meeting. As you read them you may have some questions that I would accumulate and then we would need to go over them at the meeting, Ms. Carter-Lynch.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: That's fine. That's not the answer to my question. The answer I want to my question is, one, is that a possibility, that -- and that's a yes or a no.

The second part of it is --

MR. JABOUIN: I do think that that's a possibility to all members, that as you read the

document that you could send me some questions ahead of time and I could include them in the meeting.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: And I know that you said, I mean you talk about the resources, the limited resources of people, but I think it would behoove us to have that done -- to have to be able to do that, even if that means that we receive the packages a little earlier so we can get that back to you so you can have time to get the answers. Because I think we spend an awful lot of time, unproductive in my estimation, on things that we should already have answers to.

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, the issue, Ms.

Carter-Lynch, is we struggle to get the packages done a week ahead of time. Trying to put the report together is -- is a bit of a challenge.

In fact, there has been a few times that some reports are not ready and we send them a day or two afterwards. So we can't get them done earlier because we're sometimes waiting for management responses. So that is a little bit of a challenge on that front.

MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Well, you know, one thing

I -- let me just say this, we've got to find a

better way to do this. We really have to. And we have to work together to do it. This is the first committee I've ever been on in my life that it takes all day to get through an agenda. And, for me, it bothers me. And I -- and I'll leave with those comments.

MS. STRAUSS: Amen.

MR. TURSO: Amen, again.

MR. MEDVIN: Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, thank you.

Okay. So I concur with Mr. De Meo, and there are times when committee members may have something that's confidential that you have to keep confidential as committee members, and I've certainly had that on the Facilities Task Force where we're not allowed to share certain documents. If there is -- if there are items that you'd have to redact the level of risk on, although, I would do it from a general sense given the nature of it, not an actual sense, so let's say the internal controls over a certain area are extremely weak and you don't want to advertise that to the world, it would still be something that's high risk without advertising to the world that you have weak internal controls.

I'm pretty sure the world is aware of the district's weaknesses in terms of internal controls for the most part, but I concur with having a risk assessment. Because I think that several years ago there was one and it kind of dropped off. And to Mr. De Meo's point, we are at a disadvantage because we don't know what's the highest and if we have to pick and choose. But related to that, the idea of having to pick and choose, I am sure that if something were critical and the board agreed it was critical, instead of removing something else that's critical, they would approve additional funding if we can't find something to pull off the audit plan.

So the idea that we have to choose which baby to keep and which one to dispose of just doesn't sit well with me because all items on this tend to matter.

I don't know that I got an answer -- my question that started this whole meeting off about, I think it was B-stock or warehouses, I wasn't clear on whether we would have an answer. I think I read between the lines, and it sounds as though there was a line item from the current

year's audit plan that CRI is -- that we're so far behind on that the fieldwork hasn't started even though we started out saying the fieldwork has started, but it hasn't started because there isn't even an engagement letter. And that would be on PPO Council of Great City Schools report findings. So if I did a request for an audit engagement letter there wouldn't be one because you haven't even gotten to it even though it was on the current year's plan and is now on this year's plan again. So -- and I don't want people to get lost in there.

The audit committee bylaws and also even the chief auditor's policy, because it's important to know we're the audit committee and we do have rights and responsibilities, and the chief auditor's office has responsibilities to us as well, we still have to approve the audit plan. That was not removed. Although, it was watered down a bit. And our bylaws repeatedly mention looking at, and one of the items is to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the internal audit plan from the standpoint of how effectively the Office of Chief Auditor's available time is being utilized and make

appropriate recommendations to the superintendent and the board. That's one mention. There's another one at the beginning of the bylaws.

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So it is important to tear through this report and we are, in part, evaluating the effectiveness of the chief auditor and the office, specifically, in this area.

I also wanted to share with everybody that PCG will be back once again. The board specifically directed the chief auditor to -- to include the prior contract and contracts in what CRI was looking at. Because CRI admitted at our last meeting, I believe, that they had been limited to the current year's contract. He tried to have the current one now looked at. multiple board members, and we'll all remember the number 58-132E, that was the contract that was with PCG prior to the one that was audited and it had four or five amendments, and so he's been instructed to have them go look at that. Because they weren't looking at that contract, a lot of their conclusions were done in a vacuum with a blindfold on. So I just wanted to share that because that came out at the last meeting.

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And I think that is all my items.

Let's see.

Although, wait, no, I take that back.

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I agree on the stuff on page 24 that's on the future plan. There are things on here that aren't going to keep. Because if we're doing long range planning, inspecting portables and other relocatables is part of that, so that can't The district was supposed to be inspecting wait. portables, so I'm not sure if we're auditing the inspection process or trying to inspect portables. And then there's a mention of inspection process; stadiums, grandstands and bleachers. The good news is the athletics department pretty much already compiled a list of which schools even have those things and much less the condition of them. But there will be another needs assessment that will look at that.

And I agree on all the technology. If you don't ever fix the internal control issues that existed in prior years, you don't know if you're making the same mistakes moving forward.

So that's all I have right now. Thank you.

MR. MEDVIN: If I may, I have a general comment. And I don't know if Mr. Jabouin can convey it to the board directly or maybe it's the responsibility of the committee. It's obvious to

have me in listening to many of the comments is that we have an extensive plan here and we've had an extensive plan in the past and not everything has, obviously, been completed. There's stuff that is carried over and there's stuff that should have been completed and it isn't. And I think one of our roots of the problem is back to our budget and what resources Mr. Jabouin and his office has to work with. And I think the board should be strongly encouraged and made aware that in order for this to be effective we need additional resources or budget to retain outside auditors. And I think it's the responsibility of the committee to transmit that. Because I think a lot of the problems we're having is just you can't do it all at once. And I think we should consider that and I hope Mr. Jabouin can convey that in his workshop meeting.

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I see Mr. Mayersohn has his hand up.

MR. JABOUIN: Yeah, if I can please comment, Mr. Medvin, on what you mentioned. One of the things that I'm planning on exploring going into next year is to have additional audit workshops. And so that means that after the board approves the plan, I can give them a snapshot as to how

we're looking. So that way things that get added, maybe, like in September because we weren't aware of a risk, they'll know that this is happening in place of this particular project.

MR. MEDVIN: As of right now, every time there's a potential change we don't have resources so something else has to be dropped. It's really being almost untenable at times.

Mr. Mayersohn?

MR. MAYERSOHN: Yeah, just a couple of things.

Number one, I agree with the comments from Mr. De Meo about trying to get lists. That, I think would be greatly appreciated, so I hope we can accomplish that.

The other thing is, you know, I think as Mr. Medvin had mentioned, status and the progress of current audits that we have. So we're doing a plan, but we don't know where we're at on the current follow-up process. So if there's somewhere in there to give us a timeline of, we're 50 percent complete, we're 80 percent complete, so at least we have an idea of how much time, you know, the Office of the Chief Auditor is going to be spending time on it or, you know,

1 outside consultants.

The other thing, and this is just some of the things on internal controls, are these ongoing?

Because I looked at here, number 34, I think Mr.

Jabouin we've been talking about this since you got started, especially with property and inventory. So I don't know where we're at on that or if there's a progress. I mean, I'm not looking for an answer today, but, again, just something that, you know, we know where we're at or we haven't started yet or we haven't engaged in it, but, you know, it's on the list.

The other thing is also on a timetable for some of these audits, when they might be starting. So if -- you know, again, just my mind from a processing, if we're going to be doing 80 of these audits in the first quarter, is that going to lock us in to we have no ability to be flexible? Or are we going to do 10 the first quarter, another 10 the second quarter, at least start, so based upon that risk is that we can then look at and figure out, you know, at least have that template of what may work and what may not work.

Then the other two things, and this is just

on, I guess, the long range plan, I know there's a single audit regarding IDEA funding. I guess my question that I have -- because I believe that matrix funding was at one point in time audited from the district and maybe you want to put that on a long range plan somewhere along the way.

So for those of you who weren't familiar, students with disabilities get not only IDEA funding from the feds, but they also get a matrix funding depending upon how they're ranked on their IEP from the state.

Sometimes the district has not been in compliance with the higher levels of fours and fives as opposed to one, two and three, and the numbers or whatever may have changed, but my concern is that those funds are, actually, going where they're supposed to be going and not going where, historically, we've had somebody who has been paid through a matrix fund who has been doing bus duty. So somewhere on the long range plan, maybe, take a look at that.

Those are my comments.

MR. MEDVIN: Ms. Fertig?

MS. FERTIG: Thank you. I feel like we're going back and forth because we're not answering

in the same timeframe, but I just -- I just wanted to, again, say I concur with what Mr. De Meo said about moving that onto the audit plan. You mentioned that you're continuing with educational software management. Where are you moving with that and are we getting an update in June? And so does that have to be carried over to the next year as opposed to some of these other things?

And then Dr. Lynch-Walsh mentioned the PCG, so that's going to be added onto this or you've already incorporated it?

MR. JABOUIN: No, I haven't, Ms. Fertig, because this document was prepared before the April 11th meeting. So if you go to page 9 of the current document that's in your package, the Application Patch Management is going to be reflected the next time you see this on contract 58-132E. But we are in the process right now of developing the -- this plan and this is where this one is going to fit in.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. And which one? Can you say that again, which number?

MR. JABOUIN: Page 9. If you go to item number 6. So the patch management will be

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changed to 58-132E. So the one that Dr.

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Lynch-Walsh was talking on with respect to that.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. So that will be going in

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that spot and education management, software 4

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management, I'm getting that all gobbled up, but

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where do you have that?

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MR. JABOUIN: Yes. One moment as I flip

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through the pages.

months.

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MS. FERTIG: Because I was hoping that we

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would get an update on our conversation that

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we've already had on it. It's been several

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MR. JABOUIN: Hold on one second here.

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So the -- so the -- I mean, obviously, we can

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have a conversation on how things are proceeding,

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longer to do. Let me look at item number 11 on

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page 10 that follows it, Ms. Fertig. That's

but the actual audit is going to take a bit

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going to be the follow-up to the current project

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as well as the new contract that the board signed

21 22 in January of 2023. So that one will be the new contract and the follow-up to the findings on the

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current one and then the one on number 6 on page

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9 is going to be the 58-132E.

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MS. FERTIG: Okay. So I guess my -- I'll

just put this another way. From the long range page there's stuff we've been carrying for years, so I just would like to see, if possible, when you bring this document back, if we could see where you're going to incorporate the various technology issues that have been raised today in this year's audit plan.

MR. JABOUIN: It's going to be -- of course, I will do it based on what the board comments, but just like we did before, just now, we're moving the patch management one, we will also need to move something out. Like to address Mr. De Meo's comments, as far as the cyber security, we had initially considered it, but we don't have the room for it.

So part of the interesting aspect of it is, it's good that we're able to have a very healthy list so we can identify the areas we want to focus on, now comes the challenges to be able to get them all done along the lines of what Mr. Medvin is saying.

Now, ultimately, getting an outside organization to look at certain areas is still taxing on me and my team because we have to assist them in being able to get their work done,

their requests set, scheduling the meetings, making sure that management is responsive to them.

Also, sometimes the data quality of the request that they have needs to be looked at because there are a lot of inaccuracies sometimes with some of the reports that come out.

So there is a good amount of work that needs to be done even when we outsource it, but, Ms. Fertig, ultimately, we do -- I mean, there are areas on that page, on page 24, that we really would like to get to but we have to make some -- some choices.

MS. FERTIG: Okay. It just appears, I know we can't vote on anything today, but it seems like there are a lot of people that have -- that are reaching consensus around that one issue, or I'm going to make it multiple, because there's numerous things on page 24 that really -- that relate to technology. But it seems like there's a lot of consensus around IT security, so I hope you'll mention that to the board --

MR. JABOUIN: So noted.

MS. FERTIG: -- as something that -- you know, you're having your meeting with them, then

you're coming back to us, and -- and so I think it's important for them to know.

And I also wanted to mention, to Mr. Medvin's point, this is not something we can do today, but nearly every year we have asked the board for a larger budget to do this because there are so many issues that need to be pursued, so that may be something we want to consider in our May meeting, having our chair move forward with that.

Okay. Thank you.

MR. MEDVIN: Dr. Lynch-Walsh?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, the longer this goes on the more I find.

Accounts payable was a problem on the PCG not-quite-an-audit audit. So that's under long term. And accounts payable and the slowness with which vendors get paid is also a problem on the construction side of the house. So -- and whether the accounts payable process is in the 21st century. So that's something I don't think we can wait for 10,000 years to audit, especially since it's been an issue. It was absolutely part of the problem with PCG. And I can tell you that it continues -- the process and the paper-based minutia that is the accounts payable system in

Broward Schools is problematic on the construction side.

And then I see payroll and I have a question about payroll. Does that include pensions? Have pensions been audited at all? And would that be included? Because that would be the place I would think to find it. Number 12 on page 11.

MR. JABOUIN: So if an individual leaves the district -- can you please ask me what are you referring to as far as payroll? Because when we take a look to see --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Pensions. Pensions.

MR. JABOUIN: To see whether or not their pension is appropriately calculated; is that your question?

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, whatever. Whether that's calculated; whether everything that they're being paid is appropriate. Because I don't see the word "pension" in here.

MR. JABOUIN: Okay. So, yes, they're being paid appropriately. The thing about the pension is that this is something that FRS would be involved in. I just wanted to make sure that I understood you.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Uh-huh.

1 MR. JABOUIN: So --

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, is there any reason pensions can't be included? And where are we on the payroll as far as this particular item if we go back to last year?

MR. JABOUIN: Maybe I'll have to speak to you to understand what is your question regarding payroll, itself. Because the -- the pension is something that's calculated outside of the district. Obviously, the proper amount has to be taken off the employee's paycheck to be given to FRS, but I need a better understanding as to what your question is.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So there's no way that people could be getting pensions and a salary at the same time?

MR. JABOUIN: If they're getting a pension and a salary? So there are requirements as far as if an employee can be reemployed by the district after they leave. So if that's the point we can certainly take a look at that, because regulators had -- I recall that there was an issue with respect to that when I first started. So I understand that point and I can absorb that piece of it in.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And do people get cash bonuses ever as part of a pension package?

MR. JABOUIN: So the sample is taken out of the departments that are looked at, but I can look at it from a holistic standpoint, as well, as we make our selections. I don't have that answer to that question.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I'll bring it up again on the 18th.

MR. MEDVIN: Mr. De Meo?

MR. DE MEO: I believe, Dr. Nathalie
Lynch-Walsh, that the pension plan has to be
audited; is that correct, Mr. Chief Auditor?
It's audited by an external auditor, so --

MR. JABOUIN: Yes.

MR. DE MEO: Have we ever seen those audit reports? It might be good. It might help us that have questions about what's going on with the pensions. It might be good just to present those audit reports to us.

MR. JABOUIN: I'll take a look to see how that's done. I mean, probably, just like your background -- by the way, we missed the first part of your question because the screen froze, but I think I understood the question.

Well, actually, for the purpose of the record would you mind repeating the question?

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MR. DE MEO: Yeah, I believe the DOL requires that pensions over a certain size, and certainly we have more than 100 people, are required to be audited, and -- by a certain time and by an external qualified auditor. So if you could share those reports with us I think that might eliminate some of the questions we have about pensions.

MR. JABOUIN: Let me take a look at that. I'm familiar with what you're talking about, but the Florida Retirement System is the one that manages it, so they do get their own audit, I assume. So this isn't a situation where an organization has like its own separate pension plan on the side where they're working with the investment advisor and some of that gets audited in accordance with DOL requirements. here we participate with other municipal organizations into the Florida Retirement System. There are some municipalities that don't participate, and I think that's kind of where you're headed, but let me try to get an understanding of that so I can go ahead and

describe that to the committee on the 18th because that may not exist or it exists at the FRS level.

MR. DE MEO: It probably exists at the FRS level.

MR. JABOUIN: That's what I'm assuming.

If I -- if I may, since I don't see any more questions, Mr. Medvin, can I please ask the committee to please go back and look at page 24?

I, obviously, have some comments from Ms. Fertig and from Mr. De Meo regarding the IT.

Can I, please, ask the committee to just take a look at that list, but also -- and this is where I really need the value of the committee.

Do you think that there are other areas that you want to communicate to me that we didn't capture?

That's what I would like to know, because I'd like to be able to tap onto the background here.

And I see Ms. Fertig has a question.

MR. MEDVIN: Ms. Fertig?

MS. FERTIG: Thank you. I don't really have a question, I have an observation. There was a time when we kept a continual chart of follow-up items and that would be our first agenda item, would be to kind of see -- and I'm not suggesting

that this should take hours, but to see that there's continual progress going on suggestions we've made, whether it's on things that might be happening through the RSM audits or the many suggestions that were made about purchasing and all this year.

So I think it would be helpful for us and maybe resolve some of these ongoing things on this list if we just had that follow-up list at the beginning of a meeting. And it was a chart, Mr. De Meo and Mr. Medvin. And somebody can comment on it, but it was a chart so that we could see that they were being followed up on and what things had been resolved. And I think that might save some of the conversations here and some of the duplicative work.

With that said, once we've done that, then, you know, obviously, you would be looking to a follow-up item, follow-up audit to make sure that it's actually happening. And that might be a different area. It might not even be the same area.

So I just wanted to make that comment.

There's been a lot of questions about how things are being followed up on, and, hopefully, just

having a chart would make it simple to go through it at meeting. Thank you.

MR. MEDVIN: I do remember the chart.

Ms. Carter-Lynch?

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Well, I just want to MS. CARTER-LYNCH: concur with Ms. Fertig. That would probably -because I was going to make that same suggestion, that everything that -- all of the questions that Dr. Walsh-Lynch [sic] and everybody has asked about, because I keep hearing, going back to next year, going back to the year before or two or three years, if we could just have a list of everything that has been -- the questions that were asked prior to this particular meeting, if we have that list first, and let's go over that and get answers, then we won't have to keep going back to it. Or if there aren't any answers, then we'll get that, too. So I totally agree with that and let that be our first agenda item.

MR. MEDVIN: I believe that's how it used to be. That's not a bad idea at all.

Okay. Dr. Lynch-Walsh, I think your hand's up.

DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It is. Actually, follow-up is part of the chief auditor's policy. There is

a -- there are certain things that are supposed to happen in terms of follow-up. I can't say that that's been happening.

But, also, on page 11 of this current audit plan and page 12, you may recall that the deliverables that are being audited, a couple of months ago or whenever we had the last one, the 12-month look ahead in the staffing plans were not being done by AECOM because nobody noticed that they weren't getting done in terms of they were providing staffing plans, but not from the standpoint of a 12-month look ahead. And people in charge should have noticed that those were not getting done.

And those are important because, depending on where the program is, that dictates how much staffing they need to have. And, actually, when we wrote the RFQ that led to AECOM coming on board, it was an RSM recommendation to ensure that they did a 12-month look-ahead and then also quarterly did a look-ahead, so that they never have more staffing, whether it be their staff or subs, than what was needed to execute the projects that were moving forward. And in lieu of that -- and that was because during Heery, the

Heery years that never happened. And when AECOM came on board we had to hit reserves for, I believe, 47 million because in the project budgets during the Heery period all the overhead was depleted. And so in order to pay the new program manager they needed to pull 47 million out of reserves.

The three-year period for AECOM is drawing to a close and they're looking at renewals. And this dates back -- so, if it's three years, that dates back to 2020. I was not on the selection committee when AECOM came on board. They committed to 45 percent M/WBE even though the district's requirement is 29 or 30 percent. And that should have never happened. And nor is it realistic, necessarily, because, again, you have the scalable staffing plan. So you may not at some point have 45 percent worth of work. You would effectively need to inflate invoices or create work in order to maintain that level.

They also have two subs that are not M/WBE that provide staff augmentation. The level of their involvement may change. So, actually, the task force is going to be looking, we've been trying to get to staffing because the org chart

comes out in May and we knew that their contract was coming up. So next week, actually, we'll be discussing their contract and looking at staffing in particular.

But in terms of deliverables we're not clear on who's choosing which deliverables to look at in terms of what RSM is doing, and then, also, they haven't looked at subs in a while. They only looked at one sub, and I don't know why they only looked at one firm when they did look at subs. So I would like to see that revisited.

And also we have two program managers, we have AECOM and we have Atkins, and more often than not it's all AECOM and never Atkins. Atkins does cost and program controls, AECOM is running the SMART program.

It seems like they should both be getting reviewed, but also we need to have more clarity on which deliverables and services. So just like I wanted to know the scope of work for the Council of Great City Schools, on May 18th I want to know what are we proposing for number 13, 14, 15 and 16, what -- and I know it can change if things come up, but what deliverables and services are proposed to be examined? Because we

were missing kind of a critical one, the staffing, prior to this.

MS. STRAUSS: I'm sorry. Wasn't this supposed to end at noon? It's now 12:30.

MR. MEDVIN: We had a lot to talk about. The timing is at the point that it's getting kind of late for some of us. I think it's time to bring the meeting to a close.

Mr. Jabouin, you'll be presenting all these comments at the workshop next week?

MR. JABOUIN: Yes, I will be, sir.

And thank you everybody. I realize we went past time and I appreciate the committee's comments as we make the program better.

MR. MEDVIN: Okay. Our next scheduled meeting is May 18th, 9:30 in the school board building. Hope to see you all there. And thank you so much for your participation today.

MR. JABOUIN: Thank you.

MR. TURSO: Thank you.

MR. MAYERSOHN: Thank you.

MS. IGHODARO: I don't know if attendance was taken, but Itohan was on the phone. Thank you.

(Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.)

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 2 STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF BROWARD 3 4 I, Timothy R. Bass, Court Reporter and Notary 5 Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did 7 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and 8 that the transcript is a true and complete record of 9 my stenographic notes thereof. 10 Dated this 3rd day of May, 2023, Fort 11 Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida. 12 13 14 TIMOTHY R. BASS Court Reporter 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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