

SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025  
9:38 A.M. - 12:06 P.M.

Court Reporter:  
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- DR. NATHALIE LYNCH-WALSH, Chair
- MR. ROBERT MAYERSOHN, Vice Chair (via Teams)
- MS. PHYLLIS SHAW
- MS. RUTH CARTER-LYNCH
- MR. ANTHONY DE MEO, CPA
- MS. MARY FERTIG
- MR. ANDREW MEDVIN, CPA
- MR. LEW NAYLOR
- MS. B. JILL BARON
- MR. CHRIS UPTON

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR STAFF:

- MR. DAVE RHODES, Chief Auditor
- MS. ALI ARCESE, Audit Director
- MS. JENNIFER HARPALANI, Assistant Director IT Audits
- MS. NAKIA GOULDBOURNE, Acting Manager, Internal Accounts
- MR. GABRIEL CARVAJAL, Manager Property & Inventory Control
- MR. BRYAN ERHARD, System Support Specialist II
- MR. DEREK TILLMAN, Executive Secretary
- MS. OCTAVIA ALLEN-HARDAWAY, Clerk Spec C

DISTRICT STAFF:

- DR. JERMAINE FLEMING, North Regional Superintendent
- DR. ERNIE LOZANO, Chief, SSEP
- LT. CARY VESCO, Broward Schools Police
- CHIEF KEVIN NOSOWICZ, Broward Schools Police
- MR. BRANDON PITMAN, Grounds, PPO
- MR. MIGUEL BONILLA-ROMAN, Director, PPO
- MS. VEDA HUDGE, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
- DR. JODI WASHINGTON, Director, Student Services Initiatives
- DAVID AZZARITO, Executive Director, Human Resources & Equity

INVITED GUESTS:

- MR. TIM BASS, Court Reporter, United Reporting

1 Thereupon, the following proceedings were had:

2 - - -

3 MS. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Good morning  
4 everybody. Our technology has now caught up to  
5 where we are in the meeting. We're on Teams --  
6 we have people on Teams and they can see what  
7 we're doing. So I'd like to call the March 13th,  
8 2025 meeting of the Broward County Public Schools  
9 Audit Committee to order at 9:38. First order of  
10 business is the Pledge of Allegiance. Everybody  
11 please rise and turn to the American flag.

12 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Thank you. All right.  
14 Next up, roll call. Mr. Rhodes?

15 MR. RHODES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just  
16 very quickly, two things. I was notified that  
17 Mr. Oleg Gorokhovskiy will not be here today and  
18 we'll introduce Chris Upton as the new appointee  
19 from Chair Hixon for the audit committee.

20 With that, I will go through the roll call.  
21 Ruth Carter-Lynch?

22 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Here.

23 MR. RHODES: Chris Upton.

24 MR. UPTON: Here.

25 MR. RHODES: Anthony De Meo?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RHODES: Mary Fertig?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. RHODES: Matthew Friedman?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RHODES: Oleg Gorokhovsky?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RHODES: Dr. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh?

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Here.

10 MR. RHODES: Robert Mayersohn?

11 MR. MAYERSOHN: I'm here.

12 MR. RHODES: Andrew Medvin?

13 MR. MEDVIN: Here.

14 MR. RHODES: Lew Naylor?

15 MR. NAYLOR: Here.

16 MR. RHODES: Phyllis Shaw?

17 MS. SHAW: Present.

18 MR. RHODES: And Jill Baron?

19 MS. BARON: Present.

20 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mr. Rhodes, and then the  
21 staff, but I just have a quick note. Someone was  
22 saying the virtual meeting link for Audit is not  
23 working. I don't think that applies to the  
24 members. I think this might be people external  
25 to the group that are trying to get in through

1 the district link.

2 MR. RHODES: Can we link that?

3 MR. ERHARD: The stream is working.

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, they're trying to get  
5 into Teams, to join on Teams.

6 MR. RHODES: Are we able to post that link on  
7 our agenda on the audit website?

8 MR. ERHARD: I can.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It should be on the  
10 district calendar though.

11 MR. RHODES: If there's another way that it's  
12 already being done we don't have to go through  
13 that exercise but how can we instruct the folks  
14 to get to it?

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Like members of the public.

16 MR. ERHARD: Members of the public have  
17 always just watched the stream on the BECON  
18 website.

19 MR. RHODES: So if we want them to have  
20 access to comment, how do we provide that?

21 MR. ERHARD: I could forward them.

22 MS. ARCESE: If you scroll up on the page it  
23 should have a link to the live, watch meeting  
24 live, just towards --

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

1 But, remember, we're looking at it from the  
2 inside out. What I'm telling you is from the  
3 outside in. So you're a member of the public,  
4 right? Okay. So you go to the district website  
5 and look at the calendar, it says audit  
6 committee. That's all you know about audit  
7 committee. You've never heard of it, you're  
8 like, hmm, what's this audit committee business?  
9 And then it takes a minute. Like there should  
10 be -- in theory there's a link on this page and  
11 that is what I think they're saying is not  
12 working. And the link should take them to this  
13 meeting. I can't even get it to -- so, right.  
14 So, meanwhile, mine isn't -- this Internet is  
15 really slow.

16 MS. SHAW: So how do we solve this issue?

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So the thing is --  
18 and we had a similar issue at DAC last night  
19 where the link didn't work, the one that was on  
20 the district calendar. Because the thing is, you  
21 have what's public facing and the public has a  
22 reasonable expectation that if they click on a  
23 Teams link that they should be able to get into a  
24 meeting without all of that having to happen,  
25 because -- if there's a link. If there's not a

1 link, then that's a different issue. I was under  
2 the impression there was a link there. But I  
3 can't even get anywhere on the website. I'm just  
4 scrolling.

5 So, anyway, we'll revisit that, but that's  
6 just sort of an FYI.

7 MR. RHODES: Yeah, I believe this is the  
8 first time that this has come up. So we'll have  
9 to do what we have to do to rectify that going  
10 forward.

11 MR. NAYLOR: There may be a Teams issue  
12 because I know we had an issue with Parent  
13 University.

14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And we had an issue last  
15 night a DAC, so -- right. And right now I can't  
16 even get on-line to that and I haven't heard an  
17 update on the issue.

18 Okay. So lets' see. So the roll call and  
19 then who do we have from staff? And are you  
20 going to continue to introduce staff?

21 MR. RHODES: Yeah, if I may make an update, I  
22 just wanted to note that since roll call Mr. De  
23 Meo and Ms. Fertig have both joined the meeting  
24 with us.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Thank you. I'm

1 getting an update that it's still not working.

2 Wait. Can we check with the members on Teams to  
3 see if they're also having issues?

4 MR. RHODES: I did hear Mayersohn -- I did  
5 hear Mr. Mayersohn chime in during roll call so  
6 he's on.

7 MR. MAYERSOHN: Yeah, I'm not -- I'm not  
8 having an issue because I'm on-line, or on Teams.

9 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes.

11 MR. RHODES: On the audit committee website  
12 that shows the audit committee meetings, at the  
13 top of that page above the area where the meeting  
14 agendas are listed, the link for watch meetings  
15 live, that is available, albeit the ability to  
16 participate via Teams appears to still be a  
17 problem.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. And I just want to  
19 make sure that we're all on the same page. It  
20 could be the website is an issue if they're  
21 trying to get in through the district calendar.

22 Okay. All right. Okay. So are we back to  
23 Mr. Rhodes introducing staff?

24 MR. RHODES: Yes. Today the district staff  
25 that we have present is -- who is confirmed is

1 Ted Toomer, I think I saw Jermaine Fleming out in  
2 the red room, Alan Strauss, Veda Hudge, Jodi  
3 Washington, Ernie Lozano, David Azzarito, Kevin  
4 Nosowicz, Miguel Guzman and Brandon Pitman from  
5 various areas of the district.

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And it'll become clear  
7 which items they're here for as we go through?  
8 Because I'm -- I'm a little confused.

9 MR. RHODES: At the moment my -- my -- I  
10 don't know this for sure, but I believe that the  
11 regional area superintendents, Dr. Washington,  
12 Dr. Lozano, Mr. Azzarito, Kevin Nosowicz are here  
13 to answer anything that may have to do with  
14 either Property & Inventory or the AG report.  
15 And then Mr. Miguel Guzman and Brandon Pitman are  
16 here representing PPO with regard to the MDO  
17 report.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. RHODES: And if I -- if I may add just  
21 are one more thing? As I have made it a habit of  
22 trying to do to manage expectations and  
23 understanding of the audit committee members, the  
24 folks that are here from PPO they've been  
25 employed with PPO for seven months, they have

1 reviewed the MDO report and they're relatively  
2 new employees. I just wanted to make sure that  
3 the audit committee knew that as they were asking  
4 their questions or phrasing their questions.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Now, that's helpful,  
6 because I was in my garage this morning, this is  
7 a report that came to us October 13th, 2022, so  
8 if you just landed here seven months ago and  
9 nobody handed you the original, you may not know  
10 what the issue is. But we'll find out.

11 Okay. So do we have -- we need to -- do we  
12 have approval of the agenda for today's meeting?  
13 I don't think I was going to move anything  
14 around, so I need a motion to approve.

15 MR. NAYLOR: Madam Chair?

16 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, sir?

17 MR. NAYLOR: At some point -- today's meeting  
18 is a little bit shorter than most of ours, I  
19 think, but at some point in the future I would  
20 like to have a discussion about time management  
21 for these meetings. Thank you.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. That would fall  
23 under agenda planning log, actually. Let's see.  
24 So I need a motion to approve the agenda.

25 MR. NAYLOR: So moved.

1 MS. SHAW: Second; Phyllis.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Moved by Naylor  
3 seconded by Phyllis.

4 Any discussion?

5 (No response.)

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All in favor of approving  
7 the agenda say aye.

8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Agenda's approved.

12 Any -- do we have any public comment, Mr.  
13 Rhodes?

14 MR. RHODES: No, we don't, other than what  
15 you were alluding to, which is something that  
16 we're going to have to address moving forward.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right. I think  
18 the person realized that there may not be a link  
19 there. I couldn't verify whether there was. So  
20 they're going to go to the audit committee site.

21 Next up we need to approve the minutes for  
22 the February 13th, 2025 audit committee meeting.

23 MS. SHAW: Motion to approve.

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

25 MR. MEDVIN: Second.

1 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Second.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Second? I heard a second.  
3 Okay. I'll go with you, Mr. Medvin.

4 All right. Any discussion? Anything with  
5 the minutes?

6 (No response.)

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Seeing and hearing none,  
8 all in favor of approving the minutes for the  
9 February 13th, 2025 audit committee meeting say  
10 aye.

11 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Minutes for February  
15 13th, 2025 are approved.

16 Number 6, Housekeeping Items.

17 MR. RHODES: Okay. So this is a little  
18 different than usual. On the meeting two days  
19 ago, regular school board meeting, Item DD-2,  
20 which was an internal funds audit that was being  
21 transmitted, there was a motion to table that  
22 item due to a finding associated with Miramar  
23 Elementary School where there was some  
24 disagreement between the auditors and management  
25 about whether or not that should have been a

1 finding. The -- one of the board members made  
2 the motion and they moved it to the April 15th  
3 school board meeting. I wanted to make the audit  
4 committee aware of that and I wanted to find out  
5 if there's any discussion or any additional  
6 information that the audit committee wants to  
7 share.

8 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So they tabled it  
9 because --

10 MR. RHODES: There was a item that came out  
11 in the way of a follow-up request from Board  
12 Member Zeman asking Legal to look at the item to  
13 determine whether there's a way to remove it from  
14 the audit or to not accept the audit in general.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Is this the finding where  
16 there is the Red Book, which was clear, and money  
17 was moved from money -- money that was intended  
18 for students, they found a way to move it into a  
19 trust fund so that they could do -- they could  
20 buy office furniture with it that the principal  
21 wanted; was that the finding?

22 MR. RHODES: Generally, that is the finding.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So the one where it  
24 seemed clear they had circumvented the intent of  
25 the rule to find a way to use the money for

1 something else, they want -- Zeman requested that  
2 you remove that as a finding?

3 MR. RHODES: Yes. And part of the rationale  
4 that he gave at the meeting was that, A, the --  
5 this would negatively impact the principal of  
6 that school, and, B, that there was three other  
7 levels of authorization to make that purchase by  
8 the director of the business support center, the  
9 area director and area regional superintendent.  
10 So my thought on that is that the Red Book says  
11 that the principal is the one who's responsible  
12 for those funds, and so I don't understand why  
13 those other authorizations would have been  
14 necessary, especially when the Red Book  
15 identifies that this would have been an  
16 inappropriate purpose. Because it would have  
17 been an inappropriate purpose for other reasons,  
18 but this one in particular, it identifies  
19 purchasing furniture is an inappropriate  
20 purchase, period.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So because I don't  
22 think I've ever seen a board member recommend the  
23 chief auditor remove a finding, to me it seems  
24 appropriate -- are we -- because we didn't have  
25 any concerns that were transmitted with that

1       audit report. There was discussion and the  
2       person that did the audit internally explained  
3       their rationale because there was accusations  
4       that these things weren't objective and it was  
5       personal, and I don't remember us saying we had  
6       concerns about the finding.

7               So, for me, I think it would be appropriate  
8       to -- if there are no concerns, we stand by the  
9       transmittal of the audit, or something, so that  
10       the board is aware. Because that was a  
11       discussion where you're trying to remove -- have  
12       the chief auditor remove a finding. Ms. -- Ruth?

13               MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I just want to be clear  
14       so -- so I won't make a mistake in my thought  
15       process. So we're trying to cover up something  
16       that was done illegally by not dealing with it.  
17       Clear it up for me because I'm confused.

18               DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't know if it was  
19       illegal, but it clearly did not follow the Red  
20       Book. And the auditor -- it was, I thought, and  
21       we were all clear, that they shouldn't have done  
22       that, that they basically found a loophole. I  
23       don't believe I used the phrase money laundering  
24       last time, but it kind of is like you washed it  
25       from one account into another. So I don't know

1 that it's illegal, but it definitely didn't  
2 follow the rules and hence the reason for the  
3 audit finding. They wanted to buy office  
4 furniture so they found a way to do that, with  
5 funds that were meant for students.

6 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Okay.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, Mary.

8 MS. FERTIG: I don't think we take any  
9 action. We transmitted the report as it was. I  
10 think that's our role. They do with it what they  
11 want to do. And think that we -- I mean, we did  
12 it, we transmitted the report; right?

13 MR. RHODES: Indeed.

14 MS. FERTIG: What's the issue for us? I  
15 don't think there is one. Did they request that  
16 we look back at it?

17 MR. RHODES: The issue for you is whatever  
18 you would choose for the issue to be for you. I  
19 just wanted to bring this to your attention  
20 because two days ago is when this item was  
21 tabled. It's the first time that I've had that  
22 happen in my career.

23 Also, Mr. Mayersohn has his hand up.

24 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, okay. So I have Shaw,  
25 Medvin and then Mr. Mayersohn.

1 MS. SHAW: So while it may not be anything  
2 that we're able to do because we did our part, I  
3 think we probably need to, I don't know, send a  
4 message to say that removing the item and then  
5 removing -- I have an issue with that. I have an  
6 issue that a violation, it was a violation that  
7 occurred and we're trying to cover up. I have an  
8 issue with that. Because then that stems to  
9 whole other issues, you know, as it relates to  
10 auditing and things that have gone wrong -- have  
11 been done wrong here that we continue to -- to  
12 say that it's okay. That is not okay. Something  
13 occurred, the principal shouldn't have done it,  
14 and the principal was aware of it, and the  
15 principal is ultimately responsible for his or  
16 her school. So in that case, that needs to stay.  
17 That should not -- and I understand it may look  
18 bad on the principal, but that means someone else  
19 or another principal will never do it again.  
20 That's their job.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. I mean, I always  
22 get bashed for criticizing people, but they did  
23 their job and I have no criticism. She very  
24 clearly laid out her argument.

25 Mr. Medvin?

1 MR. MEDVIN: I think we're spinning -- we, as  
2 the committee, reviewed this audit, we discussed  
3 it, we transmitted it. If the board chooses to  
4 question it, that's their prerogative. We've  
5 done our job. I don't know why we should spend  
6 any more time on this.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, we're getting bashed  
8 by board members, ourselves. So I think we at  
9 least need to discuss it. I've never seen this  
10 happen where they table an audit and question an  
11 audit finding. So this tome is unprecedented so  
12 at least deserves discussion.

13 MR. MEDVIN: I don't think the board even  
14 considers what we do. You see the  
15 Superintendent's representative. I haven't seen  
16 a board member here in months and months. So I  
17 don't think they really care. We did our job, we  
18 discussed this at the meeting and we transmitted  
19 it. If they choose to do something else with it,  
20 that's their job, not ours.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Well, we're at least  
22 on record saying we did our job and we don't --  
23 you know, we're not recommending that it be  
24 removed.

25 MR. MEDVIN: We transmitted it. And at times

1 we have a comment or something we add to the  
2 audit. That happens from time to time. So I  
3 think we're done. We did our part. It goes back  
4 to them and it's their prerogative.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. And then these  
6 minutes can be shared back to the board.

7 Mr. Mayersohn? Hello?

8 MR. MAYERSOHN: Yeah, I mean, I'm kind of on  
9 the same page that everybody else is. I mean,  
10 this was an exception, this was a finding. We  
11 transmitted it. If the Board doesn't like the  
12 finding, then they need to get an opinion either  
13 from their attorney or from somebody else or the  
14 auditor general if they have a concern about it.  
15 But as far as I think I'm concerned and what's  
16 been expressed by everybody we've done our job.  
17 So I would move on.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Mr. De Meo?

19 MR. DE MEO: Yeah, in the interest of full  
20 disclosure, Dr. Zeman called me and asked me what  
21 I thought about the matter. So I looked into it,  
22 I looked at the SPB's, I looked at the Red Book,  
23 this is my opinion. I think the auditors did a  
24 good job. I think the SPB that governs this --  
25 first of all, the Red Book did not prohibit it.

1 It talked about school improvements. There's no  
2 definition for that. School improvements to me  
3 could be 42 chairs, could be a table, could be a  
4 conference room, could be a laminator. It  
5 doesn't say for the children's benefit, it says  
6 school improvements. Number two, the SPB's I'm  
7 told are authored, I'm not sure if this is  
8 correct, by Mr. Ryan --

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Smith, the one who hasn't  
10 updated them since he got here.

11 MR. DE MEO: He responded. Mr. Mayersohn  
12 questioned this last time. He responded to the  
13 finding. And they were of the opinion that funds  
14 moved from the general fund to a trust fund must  
15 meet the 15 percent at the time. It did. Each  
16 year there were -- for several years the audit  
17 report said they were moving funds in and in that  
18 year they moved \$2,700. That was less than 15  
19 percent of the general fund balance.

20 The SPB is so inartfully written, it doesn't  
21 say if it's cumulative, which balance do you  
22 compare the expenditure to. So I -- I could see  
23 how reasonable people could take -- have a  
24 different finding. What I expressed to Dr. Zeman  
25 was, I was particularly taken back by the tone

1 and the intensity of the response by the area  
2 superintendent, Mr. Smith, and the principal. I  
3 thought it was overwrought. And so in this  
4 case -- and, you know, we spoke on this.  
5 Generally we accept -- because we know the good  
6 work of the audit department we accept the  
7 auditor's finding unless somebody comes before us  
8 and disputes it. In this case there was a  
9 dispute, there were two letters. We looked at  
10 it. I mean, how much time can we spend? That's  
11 the board's domain in any opinion. If they want  
12 to go ahead and overturn something we found or  
13 that the auditors found, I don't think we have  
14 anything to do with that.

15 We advise and it's their job to take action  
16 or not to take action. That's all I've got to  
17 say on that.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yes, Mary?

19 MS. FERTIG: I just want to add, I think the  
20 board is aware of what we do in that we have sent  
21 a number of motions forward. So we did our job  
22 and I think that they know that we considered it  
23 and moved it forward. Because they've seen us  
24 when we've done the opposite, so I think we just  
25 stand by what we did and we move on so we can,

1 hopefully, do today's agenda.

2 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: My comment is this.  
3 Regardless, to the John Q Public it smells bad.  
4 But that's okay. It can smell bad and we can  
5 move on because we can kill the issue right now  
6 for us; right? Okay. Let's do that.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And since Mr. De Meo  
8 brought this up, because I think this is part of  
9 the issue is the standard practice bulletin, and  
10 that part of the motivation for the response  
11 could be in trying to move the finding off of the  
12 principal. The standard practice bulletins, I  
13 think only one or two have been updated since we  
14 discovered that they were all woefully out of  
15 date.

16 So I -- I'm -- I'm totally on board with the  
17 idea that part of the problem was the standard  
18 practice bulletin, but guess who works with the  
19 principals and is responsible, the business  
20 support center. So that -- there is more to it  
21 and I think we keep asking about the standard  
22 practice bulletins and the status of them being  
23 updated. I'm aware that it confuses principals,  
24 but I don't think it excuses them.

25 So can we get an update, Mr. Rhodes, on the

1 status of the standard practice bulletins?

2 MR. RHODES: Yes, I'll follow up with the  
3 business support center at the end of this  
4 meeting.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Thank you. And I,  
6 as one audit committee member, totally support  
7 the audit finding.

8 All right. So moving on we have -- oh,  
9 Housekeeping, laptops. Speaking of motions, we  
10 passed a motion, I followed the rule, I  
11 transmitted it, I went to the workshop, discussed  
12 the motion, brought it forward. I was, I think,  
13 the only chair that had a motion. The entire  
14 reason that they have now moved audit committee  
15 reports to workshops is so that they will discuss  
16 the motions that are brought forward, the  
17 recommendations. This was about us getting  
18 laptops so we can save trees and, you know, be  
19 more efficient, was not discussed. I think it's  
20 because A is for audit and audit was first and  
21 the board chair forgot to bring it up.

22 I texted her, I said, can you bring a B item  
23 about this? Because now we don't have -- I don't  
24 have anything to report back to the audit  
25 committee. You guys didn't discuss this laptop

1 issue.

2 So now what to do we do? Do we pass the  
3 motion again so it goes to the next workshop?  
4 We're in March. At this point are we advocating  
5 for next year? Because it might take that long  
6 for them to get themselves pulled together to do  
7 anything about this issue. And she said she  
8 wouldn't bring a B item. I go, okay. Well,  
9 you're the one that forgot to bring it up.  
10 Because I did -- I did my part. We did our part.  
11 We made a recommendation. It was communicated to  
12 them both in writing and verbally in the proper  
13 setting, and it was not discussed as it should  
14 have been.

15 So at this point -- I'm not a board  
16 appointee. Nine of the people on this committee  
17 are. This was an issue that started when  
18 Mayersohn was the chair.

19 So if the idea that they want is for us to  
20 lobby board members -- remember, we're a  
21 committee. We make recommendations. But part of  
22 what they want is for us to lobby board members  
23 to see who will bring it as a B item to a board  
24 meeting to vote on it.

25 So I would suggest at this point lobby your

1 board member, because I believe we passed this  
2 unanimously. I'm not a board appointee, Phyllis  
3 is not a board appointee, and actually neither is  
4 Mayersohn.

5 And it sort of undermines the entire point of  
6 doing things as a committee if you then have to  
7 go lobby board members for a committee  
8 recommendation. But that may be the only way to  
9 get the laptops during our lifetime. Because  
10 it's already March, then we've got April, May,  
11 June, and we are into next year.

12 So if you guys want to think about what you  
13 want to do with that. I brought it up to the  
14 board chair, I can bring it up again.

15 Mr. Rhodes, can you follow up on the laptops  
16 with the board chair?

17 MR. RHODES: I will.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Anybody have any  
19 further thoughts on that or we can move on?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MAYERSOHN: Dr. Walsh, can I just chime  
22 in?

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure.

24 MR. MAYERSOHN: So, again, this has been  
25 going on for a while.

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Couple of years.

2 MR. MAYERSOHN: Yeah. The whole point of  
3 this is, you know, if we're going to walk the  
4 walk, we have to talk the talk. When we get, you  
5 know, I'll call it 7,000 pages sent to us by  
6 FedEx and there's a cost to that, versus getting  
7 a laptop. And I know some people like, you know,  
8 paper, but if we're getting into the electronic  
9 age we need to show our leadership in where we're  
10 at. I did have a, albeit a text discussion with  
11 School Board Member Alhadeff about it, she said  
12 she's in favor and support and that either her or  
13 her assistant would get back with me this week  
14 and let me know. But she was in favor of  
15 bringing it as a B item.

16 So, Mr. Rhodes, if you could follow up with  
17 that, with either Monica or Board Member Alhadeff  
18 and just see where it's at, I don't -- you know,  
19 I don't -- I understand, but I don't know where  
20 the process is of getting a B item put forward.

21 As I said, this is more -- it's not that Bob  
22 Mayersohn wants a laptop, it's that, again, you  
23 know, this is an issue of we're wasting paper.  
24 And if we're looking to cut down costs, it's a  
25 lot easier to store it on a district laptop,

1 write your notes and -- you know, even to the  
2 point it doesn't have to be a laptop, it could be  
3 a smart pad or whatever you want to call it, and  
4 just move forward with something that, you know,  
5 again, if we're going to walk the walk, let's  
6 talk the talk.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And, actually, Mr.  
8 Rhodes, when I forward -- I copy you guys on  
9 motions that we pass. If you guys can then  
10 forward the motions to the group?

11 Because, Mr. Mayersohn, you know he would  
12 need to transmit the motion verbatim to Lori  
13 Alhadeff's office.

14 MR. RHODES: Let me make sure I got that  
15 correct. As I receive the motions that have been  
16 submitted by you through the process that the  
17 district has set up, forward that information off  
18 to the audit committee.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, because they won't  
20 have it. Well, it should be in a follow-up  
21 matrix also. Like every month when that gets  
22 updated the motions should be there, too, so that  
23 they have it. But seeing as I have to currently  
24 transmit it via email, just so everyone's aware  
25 it got transmitted, if you can hit forward and

1 send it to the group, they then have the motion,  
2 they can discuss it with their appointing board  
3 member and they have it on record. And then in  
4 this case it would also need to be sent to Lori  
5 Alhadeff's assistant and her office.

6 MR. RHODES: Okay.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right? So we're  
8 good on that?

9 And, now, finally, to the actual business at  
10 hand. Reports for Review & Transmittal, the  
11 first one up, number 7, State of Florida Auditor  
12 General Operational Audit. Let's pull that up.

13 Oh, it's so thin I missed it.

14 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: That's a good thing;  
15 right?

16 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, it means they weren't  
17 looking hard enough. But I did manage to have a  
18 comment.

19 All right. Does anybody have any questions,  
20 comments? Mr. Medvin, you can start us off.

21 MR. MEDVIN: Yeah, I would like to understand  
22 the purpose, the reason for the state doing this  
23 audit and what their full scope was before we get  
24 into the details.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Great question.

1 MR. RHODES: Every three years for matters  
2 such as this an operational audit is performed by  
3 the auditor general's office. They also take a  
4 look at programs and do financial reporting which  
5 we're still waiting on that part of this audit.  
6 Coincidentally, simultaneously they're here again  
7 now to take a look at FTE, FESP and student  
8 transportation. So this is just a part of a  
9 cyclical audit that they perform of the  
10 districts, the 67 districts throughout the state.

11 MR. MEDVIN: So was this audit designed for  
12 the particular points that they had findings on  
13 or was the scope greater than that? I'm not sure  
14 what they were doing.

15 MR. RHODES: That would be better answered by  
16 the folks at the auditor general's office who put  
17 together scope and put together the audit  
18 program. But what I can say is that, from an  
19 operational standpoint, they start at the general  
20 and work their way into the specific and anywhere  
21 where they find violations that are reportable,  
22 that's what this boils down to.

23 MR. MEDVIN: So they weren't auditing  
24 anything financial related, this is operational?

25 MR. RHODES: They are also doing a financial

1 component to this that just has not been  
2 completed yet. So this is one portion of the  
3 work that they've done on this audit.

4 MR. MEDVIN: All right. So this is not the  
5 complete audit that they do every three years?

6 MR. RHODES: This is the completed  
7 operational portion of the audit.

8 MR. MEDVIN: What does operational mean? I  
9 mean --

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: They kind of explain it on  
11 page 5. I don't know why it's buried back there,  
12 but --

13 MR. MEDVIN: And the report was strange  
14 anyway.

15 MR. RHODES: Also, I would be more than happy  
16 to turn those questions over to staff because  
17 they've been living with and surviving this for  
18 the last probably nine months.

19 MR. MEDVIN: So I'm not sure or clear why  
20 they're doing it, so I'm not sure if their  
21 findings are a small part of the whole audit or  
22 their findings are based on a whole audit and  
23 that's what they were looking at only. I really  
24 don't know.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, like what exactly --

1 I mean, it does say on page 5, but to Mr.  
2 Medvin's point, it's pretty broad. Because it  
3 says, evaluate management's performance in  
4 establishing and maintaining internal controls,  
5 including controls designed to prevent and detect  
6 fraud, waste, and abuse, and in administering  
7 assigned responsibilities in accordance with  
8 applicable laws, rules, regulations, contracts,  
9 grant agreements, and other guidelines.

10 Examine internal controls designed and placed  
11 in operation to promote and encourage the  
12 achievement of management's control objectives in  
13 the categories of compliance, economic and  
14 efficient operations, reliability of records and  
15 reports and safeguarding of assets, and identify  
16 weaknesses in those controls.

17 I don't even see Maximo, you know, mentioned  
18 here and I don't know how you miss Maximo for the  
19 trees, but --

20 Identify statutory fiscal changes that may be  
21 recommended to the legislature pursuant to  
22 Section 11.45(7)(h) Florida Statutes and then it  
23 goes on and on, what they did, who they talked  
24 to.

25 But I kind of think I understand where you're

1 coming from. I'm like, this is it?

2 MR. MEDVIN: Yeah. Exactly.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So -- yeah, Ms. Fertig.

4 MS. FERTIG: Well, with that said, can we --  
5 I think there are some important things on here  
6 so can we go to the three findings and discuss  
7 them? An I'd just like to start with finding 1  
8 and -- about the background screenings not always  
9 obtained for district employees and contract  
10 workers. Can we get just kind of some insight  
11 into that? Oh, who's doing that? I'm sorry.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So what was -- so they had  
13 a finding and then a recommendation and then  
14 that's where staff would come in; right?

15 MS. FERTIG: Yeah, I just really would like  
16 to hear a little bit more about that. District  
17 should enhance procedures to ensure, on page 2.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So they had a  
19 finding, the recommendation that they should  
20 enhance procedures to ensure and document that,  
21 for all applicable individuals, required  
22 background screenings are timely obtained and  
23 evaluated. In addition, the District should  
24 perform a review of records supporting employee  
25 and contractor worker background screenings,

1 identify individuals who have not received the  
2 required screenings, ensure that the screenings  
3 are promptly obtained and appropriately  
4 documented, and make decisions based on  
5 evaluation of the screening results.

6 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

7 MS. FERTIG: Because they had a very -- they  
8 did 15 people out of a huge number of employees,  
9 so that kind of makes you wonder what percentage  
10 of employees. That would be kind of where I was  
11 going.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So this is where  
13 staff would come in then.

14 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah.

16 MR. RHODES: I just wanted to say, if it  
17 suits the committee, page 10 summarizes these  
18 recommendations, the District response to the  
19 corrective actions, and that may be the place  
20 where we may want to look at this to have -- to  
21 follow along with District staff's comments.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So for finding  
23 number 1, they have the recommendation, the  
24 response and corrective action plan. I'm not  
25 sure why this is -- why is this in the back? So

1 they do this, too, put stuff -- put the responses  
2 in the back?

3 MR. RHODES: Like the full text or the full  
4 text of management's response.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah. But there's not much  
6 to this. So staff said, Security Clearance will  
7 take the following actions: Enhancing  
8 Procedures: We will review and update our  
9 current procedures to ensure a more efficient and  
10 systematic approach to tracking and documenting  
11 background screenings. This includes  
12 implementing a standardized process for verifying  
13 compliance and maintaining accurate records. And  
14 then a -- that's number 1.

15 Number 2, Comprehensive Review: Security  
16 Clearance will thoroughly review existing records  
17 to identify any individuals who may be nearing  
18 expiration. Any deficiencies found will be  
19 promptly addressed to ensure full compliance.  
20 This will include establishing clear timelines,  
21 automated reminders, and designated personnel  
22 responsible for monitoring compliance.

23 And number 3, Evaluation and Decision Making:  
24 Security Clearance will ensure that screening  
25 results are appropriately evaluated in accordance

1 with applicable policies and state statutes.

2 This is from February 26th, 2025.

3 MS. SHAW: Do we need to read this?

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We all read this?

5 MS. SHAW: Yeah, I read it.

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, I don't -- I don't need  
7 to read them. So does anyone have any questions  
8 for staff, like when this would be implemented  
9 by; what are the applicable policies?

10 MS. FERTIG: I just, again, you had a very  
11 small sample of 15 District employees, 15  
12 contractor workers, that's 30. They found, what,  
13 6 of 30 were not in compliance. If you take that  
14 percentage of 26,154 employees, that would be a  
15 rather large number.

16 Is this representative of -- are these 6  
17 people representative of what you would expect to  
18 find District wide and what's the timeframe for  
19 getting this corrected? Thank you.

20 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: Good morning, Chief Nosowicz  
21 from Broward Schools Police. So as it relates to  
22 the background and security clearance, on a  
23 monthly basis our staff pulls a list of  
24 peoples -- of people that are expiring,  
25 technically, the next month. So we're in March,

1 we're already pulling April. Because every five  
2 years we have to resubmit their fingerprints for  
3 rescreening. Do you follow me on that?

4 I think that's where breakdown was where we  
5 were missing a few people. Because we pull -- we  
6 pull a list from the -- from the state that says  
7 who's expiring and we have to cross-reference  
8 that to make sure that those people are still  
9 active within our system and that's a manual hand  
10 process. So -- and then, basically, we send them  
11 for reprinting. Or not reprinting, but we  
12 resubmit their information to the state to make  
13 sure that they're still in compliance as far as  
14 state statutes and crimes they may or may not  
15 have committed.

16 MS. FERTIG: So do you feel like this is a  
17 representative of about 20 percent of people  
18 would not be in compliance; or do you think that  
19 you had a problem and you already were correcting  
20 it; or -- I'm just trying to get an idea of how  
21 many people would not have been -- have met that  
22 five-year deadline.

23 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: I think it's an isolated  
24 incident just because I know that those people  
25 are pulled on a monthly basis. That list is

1 pulled on a monthly basis to renew everybody's  
2 prints. So as far as I can tell it's an isolated  
3 incident.

4 And to expand on that, the state is changing  
5 their system, that takes effect coming up on  
6 April 7th. So the whole fingerprinting process  
7 for the District, every District employee is  
8 going to need -- coming up will need to be  
9 reprinted and the state has developed a new  
10 system. So it will actually help and mitigate  
11 any of these issues because the state will  
12 automatically be reviewing the background where  
13 we don't even have to do that anymore. We'll  
14 just have to pull that -- that initial list.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I don't think they  
16 addressed part two, which is the timeline for  
17 corrective action. Like all of these  
18 recommendations and the things enhancing  
19 procedure, items 1, 2 and 3, if that's what  
20 Mary's second part to her question was in terms  
21 of the corrective action, what's the timeframe?

22 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: So we've already addressed  
23 with our Security Clearance staff the importance  
24 when we pull these monthly reports to make sure  
25 that they are accurate and that they are getting

1 the resubmissions done on a timely -- in a timely  
2 manner. And that is being double-checked by one  
3 of my supervisors in my office.

4 As far as a plan going forward, we're still  
5 waiting on the state for the April 7th kickoff of  
6 the new program which has been delayed multiple  
7 times through the state. So we are, you know,  
8 optimistic that it will start April 7th. We've  
9 been given like three or four different dates as  
10 it's come up. And once we get into there we can  
11 better look at their new process and our current  
12 process and move forward from there.

13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right. Thank  
14 you. Ms. Shaw?

15 MS. SHAW: And I'm glad you made -- thank  
16 you, good morning everyone. I'm glad you made  
17 the point to say it has been delayed several  
18 times, because that's the point I was going to  
19 make. So my question then is, which it could be  
20 delayed again, what do we have in place, what  
21 procedure did we create? Because one of the  
22 issues, as people move, as staff retire, as folks  
23 leave, then what do we have in place for the next  
24 person to have something to pick up? Because I  
25 have a feeling that the April 7th date probably

1 will be April 7th, 2029, you know. So let's make  
2 sure we put something in place here so we don't  
3 have these isolated events that's taking place.

4 So the question is, have we created a  
5 procedure or a policy to make sure this is  
6 something that's done? What will we be doing? I  
7 understand it's a tedious process to have to  
8 manually check it, but download it into a  
9 spreadsheet and sort it, create a formula and  
10 sort it, so it gives you the date of those coming  
11 up and then have someone put something in place  
12 or check it to put it on their particular list to  
13 get it done.

14 So my question is, what are we going to do?  
15 Because barring the April 7th date -- not only  
16 that, we know that that doesn't necessarily mean  
17 that they will continue to do this because it's a  
18 non-funded mandate.

19 LIEUTENANT VESCO: Good morning, Lieutenant  
20 Cary Vesco with Broward Schools Police. I'm  
21 overseeing that project currently. And what we  
22 have implemented as part of the process of moving  
23 forward with the clearinghouse is to establish a  
24 database of our own. Like the chief was  
25 explaining, this is a very tedious process

1 because it takes two systems that don't  
2 communicate with each other. So we've had to  
3 manually go in there and develop three phases for  
4 this fingerprinting project which will encompass  
5 all of our 26,000-plus employees. And with that  
6 being said, their current fingerprint expiration  
7 date has been added to this by phase, as well as  
8 their next implemented rescreening phase.

9 Because we don't know, as you stipulated, with  
10 any degree of certainty that April 7th will be  
11 the kickoff date, we needed to put these  
12 procedures in place, and that's what we're  
13 actively doing. So this spreadsheet has already  
14 been created, like I said, with the existing  
15 expiration and the fingerprint dates and the  
16 projected re-submittal dates.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

18 Mr. De Meo, are you good for now?

19 MR. DE MEO: I -- I am a little concerned  
20 that 6 out of 30. I don't know how the sample  
21 was selected. And I don't know if they  
22 re-performed the sample if this would get another  
23 50, if we would find 10, but -- and I'm not sure  
24 how critical this is to school board security,  
25 District security, but the audit department -- I

1 don't know, Mr. Rhodes, have we ever audited this  
2 area?

3 MR. RHODES: I would have to refer that  
4 question to Ali. She's the senior most in the  
5 office at the moment. I'm not aware of it.

6 MS. ARCESE: I don't recall that we've ever  
7 had this -- that we've done this audit.

8 MR. DE MEO: So, perhaps, if it is important,  
9 it is something for us to look at, when an  
10 auditor finds results like that, typically, they  
11 expand the sample. And we don't have any sway  
12 with the state, but just to drop it on us without  
13 expanding that sample, I don't understand what  
14 the point of that was.

15 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: So I would like to just  
16 clarify, speaking about the database, so  
17 everybody that is -- that is in the district,  
18 whether they are an employee or a volunteer, have  
19 been fingerprinted and gone through security  
20 clearance. That always stays in the database.  
21 And, typically, now, if somebody -- let's say  
22 somebody gets arrested and they're in that  
23 database, we get notification. So I think where  
24 the issue was lying in the audit was that those  
25 prints were not resubmitted after those five

1 years. So every five years we have to do a --  
2 they have to do a fingerprint resubmission. It's  
3 basically making sure that they're still a  
4 current employee and literally hitting resubmit.  
5 And that goes to the state. So, theoretically,  
6 the state is monitoring, and we -- like I said,  
7 we have notification, anytime somebody gets  
8 arrested, whether it be DUI or, you know, some  
9 sort of offense, our Security Clearance  
10 department gets that from the state. So as far  
11 as a security -- I don't think there's a large  
12 security concern. If somebody does something  
13 outside of, obviously, outside of the school  
14 district we are going to be notified of that.

15 MR. DE MEO: Okay. So thank you for filling  
16 me in on that. The answer -- the question that  
17 in auditing things is, what could go wrong? So  
18 what could go wrong with what -- what was it, the  
19 auditor general? What could go wrong with that  
20 process that found 6 out of 30 security  
21 clearances that didn't have the documentation or  
22 I'm not sure the exact wording, what could go  
23 wrong?

24 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: Go wrong as far as?

25 MR. DE MEO: They pointed out that 6 out of

1 30 items did not -- existing records to identify  
2 any individuals near expiration, what could go  
3 wrong? If we're not living up to that  
4 compliance, what could go wrong?

5 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: If we don't -- if their  
6 fingerprints are not resubmitted in a timely  
7 fashion then the state would have them removed  
8 out of the system. And that means that we would  
9 have to re-fingerprint them.

10 MR. DE MEO: And we wouldn't be notified  
11 then?

12 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: Right.

13 MR. DE MEO: Okay. So, given that, I don't  
14 know what gravity that holds, Mr. Rhodes, and I  
15 know how busy you guys are, but that might be  
16 given some consideration next time we do an audit  
17 plan.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: We're actually going to be  
19 discussing, just from a preliminary standpoint  
20 Risk Assessment, and that would seem to tie into  
21 that discussion perfectly.

22 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah.

24 MR. RHODES: I just wanted to let you know  
25 I've been notified that Mr. Mayersohn had his

1 hand up.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yes, Mr. Mayersohn.

3 And then since I have a question about time  
4 management and this is probably the thinnest  
5 audit I've ever seen, we could at least get to  
6 finding number 2. All of this is very  
7 fascinating, but not necessarily answering the  
8 recommendations.

9 Mr. Mayersohn?

10 MR. MAYERSOHN: Yes. So, for me, and, again,  
11 this identifies communication with the state,  
12 using your legislators, since, obviously, I'm up  
13 here in Tallahassee, planning it with your, you  
14 know, the District's legislative group, is that  
15 to hear that one system doesn't communicate with  
16 the other, but the state is mandating that this  
17 be done and increasing the cost to do that,  
18 because now you're doing it, you know, by hand, I  
19 think that's something that needs to be on a  
20 legislative platform somewhere, where to create  
21 efficiencies, whether it's, you know, the state  
22 aligns with -- again, there are 67 districts, I  
23 don't know if they're all on the same system as  
24 the state, but that's something that needs to be  
25 done so that we create efficiencies and more

1 money can then go to the children not necessarily  
2 worrying about -- and it's important, obviously,  
3 to go through these background checks, but the  
4 time management that it takes for somebody to do  
5 it by hand.

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Thank you. So I had  
7 a follow-up question to that.

8 What are the two databases that don't talk to  
9 each other?

10 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: So it's the state FDLE  
11 database and our inhouse system SAP. So the  
12 state's going to show us a list of who's expiring  
13 in their database and we have to compare that to  
14 SAP to see if those employees, actually, still  
15 work here. Because if they don't work here,  
16 we're not renewing them. So that's two totally  
17 different systems, they don't communicate, and we  
18 have to mesh that data together.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, Ms. Shaw. Let's see  
20 if you pick up the ball.

21 MS. SHAW: Okay. I'm so sorry. Let me see  
22 if I understand this correctly. There could be  
23 people that are in the system that are no longer  
24 working here because when we fired them or when  
25 they left we don't have a process to remove them

1 from the system?

2 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: From the state database?

3 No, they sit in the state database.

4 MS. SHAW: I understand the state database.

5 I guess in my head here's what I'm thinking.

6 Especially, we're talking about folks that we're  
7 handing our children to and my new grandbaby. So  
8 here's what I'm thinking.

9 Someone is no longer working with the  
10 district, I don't care what the reason is, they  
11 were fingerprinted, there is an exit that was  
12 done with someone that says check off, check your  
13 ID, check your parking pass, we close you out,  
14 you're going to get your last paycheck 10 years  
15 from now, whatever the case may be, but there is  
16 something that says, I am no longer here. That  
17 is tied to our state. So it's still in SAP for  
18 some reason because we didn't close that out, but  
19 we also didn't send it to the state to say, hey,  
20 this person no longer works with us, you need to  
21 remove them from the system?

22 I mean, I understand the systems don't talk  
23 to each other, but there should be a paperwork in  
24 place that someone says, principal at  
25 such-and-such a school because, well, you know,

1 I'm going to use Dr. Cendan because that's what  
2 comes to my head, is no longer working here  
3 because she was stealing money and --

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: She wasn't.

5 MR. RHODES: She wasn't, but I'm just saying.  
6 And she's no longer working with us. We don't  
7 have a tracking mechanism in place to remove her  
8 from SAP and then send that to the state to  
9 remove them from the state?

10 CHIEF NOSOWICZ: So the state's always going  
11 to have them, that person in the database. And  
12 then SAP, yeah, they show inactive in SAP. So  
13 we're confirming. So the state has them in the  
14 database, they may or may not work in the  
15 district. Why they left the district, I don't  
16 know, but SAP says, are they a current employee?  
17 No, they retired, maybe they were fired, I don't  
18 know the reason, we are just confirming that in  
19 our database that they are no longer active or  
20 they are active. So if they're active, yes, we  
21 have to update their fingerprints in the state.  
22 If they're no longer active, then we do not have  
23 to resubmit their prints because they're no  
24 longer our employee. I mean, I don't know if  
25 that answers your question.

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So to close  
2 this one out, because there were very specific  
3 recommendations and a response that spoke to  
4 updating procedures, we still don't have a  
5 timeline, I'm not comprehending from an IT  
6 standpoint, when you have two systems, generally,  
7 you create something that allows them to speak to  
8 each other, so it shouldn't have to be manual.

9 To Mr. De Meo's point, the worst that can  
10 happen is that you have somebody who just  
11 committed a crime that the district doesn't know  
12 about but the state does, and that would be the  
13 worst thing that could happen is that we're  
14 unaware of somebody having now committed a crime  
15 who was clear five years ago but not so much now.  
16 That would seem to be a thing.

17 And then I think the auditor general has  
18 dinged us repeatedly for not removing control --  
19 access to employees that are no longer here. I  
20 think we've seen that multiple times. So this is  
21 all part and parcel of a risk, multiple risks  
22 where we have people that we don't know are no  
23 longer here, we have people who may have  
24 committed crimes that we don't know about. So in  
25 terms of internal controls, this sort of turns

1 into a much bigger thing and we could revisit  
2 during our conversation a little bit later about  
3 risk assessment.

4 And that's just finding number 1.

5 So then finding number 2 in the interest of  
6 managing our time, and that's where I have  
7 comments, let me see who has a comment on finding  
8 number 2 in light of the recommendation and the  
9 response from staff.

10 MS. FERTIG: Okay. I had a comment. Both of  
11 these seem to deal with policies and updates in  
12 our policies.

13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Mm-hmm.

14 MS. FERTIG: Who's the person who gets to  
15 talk about that? What's your timeline and how  
16 long is it going to take to get our policies in  
17 compliance with the state?

18 MR. AZZARITO: So we're already working on  
19 that and the timeline is to have it to the board  
20 on or before June 30, 2025.

21 MS. FERTIG: Thank you.

22 MR. LOZANO: And I just, I'm going to puddle  
23 jump back to finding 1, because I think Chief  
24 Nosowicz said it but people didn't understand.  
25 It is critical that our employees who are

1       expiring fingerprinting have them redone and they  
2       have put in process -- so I don't think you  
3       clearly stated to the committee what you've done  
4       to ensure as of right now all our employees who  
5       need fingerprinting, re-fingerprinting are being  
6       re-fingerprinted on time. So that's to -- when  
7       they're asking for the timeline, we've already  
8       put checks and balances in place to ensure right  
9       now all our employees who need to be  
10      re-fingerprinted are re-fingerprinted. So I  
11      don't think that was clearly stated and I don't  
12      want to leave that misconception that we're still  
13      waiting to fix that. When we got that, Chief  
14      Nosowicz and his team immediately put in checks  
15      and balances to make sure there were no current  
16      gaps in ensuring employees who were up for  
17      rescreening are getting rescreened within the  
18      required timeframe.

19             DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

20             MS. FERTIG: Thank you for that  
21      clarification. I just -- if we -- if there's a  
22      plan to put these policies in place by June 30th  
23      and you've got a plan for what you're doing in  
24      the district until the state comes online, I --  
25      I'm just going to make this motion to transmit

1 just so it's out there and you have it and we can  
2 move on as soon as we get the comments.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Are you seconding that,  
4 Phyllis?

5 MS. SHAW: Second.

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So we're in the  
7 middle of discussion so this one -- because we're  
8 just on finding number 2. If no one else has any  
9 other comments on finding number 2, I do have  
10 one.

11 On page 3 it says -- and this is really on  
12 the auditor general because it says, although the  
13 board adopted standards of ethical conduct, and  
14 then there is a footnote, number 8, I went and --  
15 and you go down to number 8 and it says,  
16 mandatory report of child abuse, abandonment,  
17 neglect, or in need of supervision. Is standards  
18 of ethical conduct in there? No, no, there is  
19 not.

20 So I don't know if the auditor general staff  
21 was confused, but I'm looking for -- and it  
22 says -- because what they're saying is that they,  
23 A, adopted standards of ethical conduct which do  
24 not appear in that policy when you go actually  
25 read it. So my first issue is, where are these

1 standards of ethical conduct. And then it says  
2 in response to our inquiry, District personnel  
3 indicated that the requirements were  
4 inadvertently omitted from board policies and  
5 would be included when the policies are updated,  
6 which is presumably, this June date. But I can't  
7 get past, where are these standards to begin  
8 with? I can understand if you left them out of  
9 something, the training, but first we've got to  
10 establish that we have standards. It's pretty  
11 easy to omit something that doesn't exist. So  
12 where are these standards of ethical conduct?  
13 Where would we find those?

14 MR. AZZARITO: So in Policy 5.3. The  
15 auditors from the state said that they found  
16 standards of ethical conduct in 5.3.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, let's go examine  
18 that.

19 MR. AZZARITO: And we can call the auditors  
20 from the state and ask them where they found  
21 them.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So, no, no, that's  
23 where they said they found it. So are you saying  
24 you don't have any?

25 MR. AZZARITO: What we're saying is that,

1       there could be when you call -- so, it is  
2       neglect, in need of supervision, child abuse,  
3       abandonment, that is a form of ethical conduct.  
4       So I believe what they were saying is that there  
5       are some standards of ethical conduct that's in  
6       5.3, but it doesn't specifically talk about  
7       ethical conduct, the words, itself.

8             DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But in the -- the  
9       law says in 1001.42 number 6 that the board --  
10      state law requires the board to adopt policies  
11      establishing standards of ethical conduct for  
12      educational support employees, instructional  
13      personnel, administrative personnel, and school  
14      officers as defined in state law. I do find that  
15      a requirement when we go down to footnote number  
16      5 on page 2, 1001.42, number 6 does say that thou  
17      shalt do this. What I'm saying is independent of  
18      the auditor general, who seems to have dialed  
19      in -- you know, just phoned in, in my opinion,  
20      this report, you guys are responsible for those  
21      standards of ethical conduct. I'm asking you as  
22      the school board employees where would I find  
23      that? Because I don't -- I don't see it in --  
24      well, if we can --

25            MR. AZZARITO: If they're not going to be in

1 5 -- if they're not found in 5.3 they're going to  
2 be revised into that policy or another by June  
3 30th.

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I -- yeah, hold on. It's  
5 very hard to find policies anymore.

6 MS. FERTIG: Well, could we -- could we ask  
7 for the policy? I mean, they're going to be  
8 bringing the policies. Could we ask that those  
9 come as a follow-up item? I mean, we're in  
10 March, they're committing to having this done by  
11 June, and given the length of time it takes to  
12 get things through the process, I don't -- I  
13 don't know that they're going to be able to do  
14 it.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But understand, Mary, that  
16 the auditor general said they have them and the  
17 staff said that they -- that they omitted them.  
18 So you can only omit something that you think you  
19 have. I'm simply asking, donde esta these  
20 standards? So they say they're in 5.3, I'm  
21 having trouble with the District website right  
22 now. I can't seem to get any school board  
23 policies. And you know I have an active mind, I  
24 always think these things are by design.

25 All right. So if someone other than me can

1 look at 5.3 that would be great.

2 MS. FERTIG: The recommendation is the board  
3 should comply with state law by establishing  
4 policies that require and ensure they have the  
5 points that they want done. He's saying, I  
6 think, if I understood him, but maybe I didn't,  
7 he's going to have -- those are going to the  
8 board in June.

9 So I'm just saying, yes, we could ask them to  
10 come as a follow-up to the next meeting or  
11 something. But they're saying, you don't have a  
12 policy, you need to establish these policies.  
13 The school board's response is we're putting it  
14 out in June. I'm not you sure that, other than  
15 the fact, that yes, they should have had them --

16 MR. AZZARITO: As well as the required  
17 training.

18 MS. FERTIG: Okay.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. Right. I'm saying  
20 that they are a policy called mandatory report of  
21 childhood abuse, abandonment, neglect, or in need  
22 of supervision. When I looked at that policy  
23 yesterday there is no list of standards of  
24 ethical conduct. So that would be a standalone  
25 policy that needs to be created. They are, in

1 fact, out of compliance.

2 So what I'm saying to you is that in this  
3 audit it said, in response to our inquiry  
4 district personnel indicated that the  
5 requirements were inadvertently omitted from  
6 board policy, would be included. I don't know  
7 how you say that they're there and then they say  
8 they're inadvertently omitted. How do you  
9 inadvertently omit standards of ethical conduct,  
10 of all things?

11 But, anyway, that was my concern there, and  
12 since I can't pull up the policy, you guys just  
13 -- you can look for it later and trust that it's  
14 not there. So moving on to finding number 3.

15 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

16 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes.

17 MR. RHODES: I looked it up. I'm able to  
18 access it. So you must just have had a  
19 connectivity problem. But it is there and it is  
20 what you just stated the title is.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. But it doesn't have  
22 a list of -- my point being, there's no list of  
23 standards of ethical conduct in that policy.

24 MR. RHODES: My point was only to follow up  
25 on your request that somebody try to access and

1 see if it's there.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: And what's in the policy?

3 MR. RHODES: Oh, I thought you had a printout  
4 of it. Would you like me to read for the record?

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, it's okay. I think  
6 it's a fairly short policy. I'm just saying  
7 everybody go look at 5.3.

8 MR. RHODES: Okay.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I would suggest that it  
10 needs to be a separate policy called standards of  
11 ethical conduct and not be -- yes, if you are  
12 following standards of ethical conduct you  
13 absolutely would understand mandatory report of  
14 child abuse, abandonment, neglect, but the two  
15 are not -- they're conflating things that I don't  
16 understand why they're conflating.

17 So finding number 3, does anybody have any  
18 questions, comments, concerns on the finding,  
19 recommendation or staff follow-up?

20 MS. FERTIG: I'm assuming when he answered  
21 the question about June 30th it included the  
22 policies that are referenced and procedures that  
23 are referenced in recommendation 3.

24 MR. AZZARITO: That's correct. As well as  
25 establishing a director of professional standards

1 overseeing both of those to make sure that we're  
2 in compliance with state law.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Again, I have a question,  
4 actually. Okay. It says, concerning misconduct  
5 investigations, are these SIU investigations or  
6 the misconduct that we've been talking -- that  
7 solely pertains to misconduct related to  
8 children.

9 MR. AZZARITO: This should be any  
10 investigation.

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So it would include SIU  
12 investigations?

13 MR. AZZARITO: Yes.

14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Of any employee?

15 THE WITNESS: Certificated. So those that  
16 are school instructional staff and school  
17 administrators.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Not say, for  
19 example, SIU officers?

20 MR. AZZARITO: No, because they don't have a  
21 certificate.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Is there a policy  
23 that would include SIU officers already?

24 MR. AZZARITO: I'm not sure.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You're not? Would Policy

1 4.9?

2 MR. AZZARITO: 4.9 would include them. But I  
3 know that they also have their -- I know what  
4 you're trying to get at. You're trying to get  
5 into the whole witnesses thing or whatever  
6 happened before. Yeah, 4.9 would include our  
7 own, all of our employees, which includes our SIU  
8 detectives.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yes, I'm trying to  
10 get at we don't do investigations consistently  
11 for all people at all times around here. So I'm  
12 very interested to see what comes to the board in  
13 June. And I hope we're not sitting on those  
14 witness statements. That if they exist they're  
15 turned over. Because there's a public records  
16 request related to those that has to do with the  
17 witnesses that worked for SIU and the District on  
18 10/17/2023 when Debbie Espinoza was arrested.

19 Okay. So no other comments or concerns on  
20 this? We had a motion to transmit by Fertig,  
21 seconded by Shaw, we've had discussion.

22 Any further discussion? We're good?

23 (No response.)

24 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So all in favor of  
25 transmitting the State of Florida Auditor General

1 Operational Audit - Report number 2025-129 to the  
2 board say aye?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hearing none, the motion to  
7 transmit the Auditor General's Operational Audit  
8 is transmitted to the board. Number 7. Thank  
9 you staff.

10 Number 8. This is a follow up to the initial  
11 MDO Asphalt Repair Audit. The initial audit was  
12 from, like I said, October 2022. I've got my  
13 stickies.

14 All right. So how do you guys want to do  
15 this? Do you want to have them walk us down  
16 memory lane or go straight to questions?

17 Straight to questions? Okay.

18 All right. So who's up first?

19 MS. FERTIG: Well, I just -- it looked to me  
20 like they closed all of the allegations. Did I  
21 miss something there?

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well --

23 MS. FERTIG: My question's directed to  
24 whoever, Mr. Rhodes.

25 MR. RHODES: We reviewed the documentation

1 from PPO that had to do with the open findings  
2 and identified that they had taken the corrective  
3 action either that was recommended or that  
4 satisfied the recommendation. We know that  
5 management is not always required to respond  
6 exactly to the recommendation that was made but  
7 just to ultimately address the control issue or  
8 the process, the problem that they had. So we  
9 had identified that they had improved through  
10 their standard operating procedures areas that  
11 were of concern for splitting work orders that  
12 had been found in the course of the original  
13 audit. They updated their standard operating  
14 procedure to make sure that that does not happen  
15 again and that that's a part of their training  
16 and new employee onboarding, as well as refresher  
17 information for their staff, as well as -- we can  
18 go -- would you like to go through them finding  
19 by finding to identify the rationale for those or  
20 just understand that we did go through a very  
21 large population of documents to be able to  
22 ensure that they had met the requirements for us  
23 to be able to close those open findings?

24 MS. FERTIG: That's fine with me. I mean, I  
25 can't speak for everybody, but I just, when I

1 went over this, it looked to me like you had  
2 closed everything.

3 MR. RHODES: Yeah, indeed we did.

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I do have some  
5 questions. Mr. De Meo?

6 MR. DE MEO: Who is -- who is Alan Johnson?

7 MR. RHODES: That was the original  
8 complainant that ultimately led to this audit  
9 finding or this audit being conducted. And we  
10 didn't want to leave that name out because we  
11 were using verbatim out of the original audit and  
12 the verbatim in the original audit identified  
13 that person. Otherwise, we would have found a  
14 more discreet way to identify that person.

15 MR. DE MEO: Do we know anything about Mr.  
16 Johnson?

17 MR. RHODES: I don't. No.

18 MR. DE MEO: Thank you.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So this whole thing  
20 -- didn't this start with the whole sod debacle,  
21 where the FBI had a sting and the person was  
22 caught because they -- they -- this was the whole  
23 PPO sod king and all of that from a few years  
24 ago. So I went and dug up my original notes from  
25 this. And, Lew, did you have a question or a

1 comment?

2 MR. NAYLOR: Well, go ahead, I'll ask my  
3 question when you're done.

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So on page 3, okay,  
5 it says, we recommend the practice of splitting  
6 purchases should not be allowed by the District.  
7 And that's the same thing there. So the District  
8 has policies in place, which is part of internal  
9 controls, for different things, like you -- when  
10 it comes to purchase orders there are rules about  
11 that in policy, which is part of your internal  
12 control structure. A procedure would be part of  
13 your internal control structure. But a practice  
14 starts getting away from that. And so I think I  
15 saw in here that there's a procedure, there's a  
16 letter, but my question is why -- are there  
17 policies governing PPO? Because we've noted on  
18 the Facilities Task Force with staff that there  
19 isn't sort of an overarching Facilities policy.  
20 And my question is, does PPO have policies as  
21 opposed to these SOPs that -- and procedures?  
22 Are there policies in PPO?

23 MR. PITMAN: Good morning. To my knowledge  
24 the SOP that was updated this year is our policy.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So you have procedures,

1 standard operating procedures, so what you're  
2 saying is, no, there is no school board policy.

3 MR. PITMAN: To my knowledge this is all we  
4 have.

5 MR. RHODES: May I just ask that you guys  
6 push the button when you're using your  
7 microphone?

8 COURT REPORTER: And identify yourself? I  
9 have no idea who he is.

10 MR. RHODES: And turn your name tags towards  
11 the stenographer.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Thank you. So that  
13 was one thing. And then -- I found it and then I  
14 lost it.

15 So in this one SOP, it's on page 93, and I'm  
16 trying to see which one this is, standard work  
17 order funding, there's a change history and I'm  
18 just wondering if this happens. On page 93 it  
19 says PPO-102, effective date 4/2/24, it says  
20 revise to incorporate Maximo processes from  
21 COMPASS processes. Because one of the things we  
22 discovered along the way is that the SOPs were  
23 still referencing COMPASS. Is that -- has that  
24 happened, where we've now replaced -- we've  
25 updated the SOPs to acknowledge that we've had

1 Maximo for several years at varying levels of  
2 implementation.

3 MR. PITMAN: Maximo is on the current SOP. I  
4 have a copy of that right here.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Was that included in  
6 here as an exhibit? We have a lot of exhibits  
7 here. So can we get a copy of that? Because  
8 we --

9 MR. PITMAN: Yeah, I have it right here if  
10 you'd like a copy.

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yes, Mr. Rhodes, if  
12 we can just get that forwarded? Because it says  
13 that that was one of the things they did, and  
14 there were a lot of COMPASS references, even a  
15 few years ago, and COMPASS hasn't been here for  
16 several years.

17 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair, on page 93 Change  
18 History Table shows that PPO-102 SOP, effective  
19 date 4/2/24, revise to incorporate Maximo  
20 processes from COMPASS processes and update the  
21 format. And we did have that information in  
22 the -- in the backup documentation as well.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: The actual updated 102?

24 MR. RHODES: Yeah, in fact, in the course of  
25 our conversation with PPO we noted that the only

1 thing that they had to support this change was  
2 the email that is shown on -- let me see if I can  
3 find that page again. It was the email that was  
4 referenced, I think, on page 90 where the former  
5 executive director, Sam Bays, was directing and  
6 instructing staff to not split purchase orders --  
7 or work orders. So when we brought that to their  
8 attention that this is not something that would  
9 be in the packet that staff would be trained on  
10 PPO immediately updated that standard operating  
11 procedure, PPO-102, as is listed on page 94  
12 showing a date of 3/5/25 where they added the  
13 language to steps 8, 9 and 10 regarding project  
14 splitting and work order splitting.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So my -- so what  
16 I'm asking is, is SOP PPO-102 in here? That's  
17 what I'm asking for. Yes, I couldn't find it  
18 either.

19 MR. RHODES: I know that we received a copy  
20 of what it is that they updated, but we received  
21 it late in the process of putting this report  
22 together. It may not have ended up in there.  
23 I'll have to look at that and follow up with you.

24 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. That's why -- yeah.  
25 Can you send it to the group? Because it --

1        yeah, we can see it's referenced, and it's great  
2        in that they on 3/5 added the language, and we  
3        have the flow -- so I don't know if that would  
4        impact this flow chart, because it looks like it  
5        was last revised on 1/1/25. So if they can  
6        update -- if they've updated the SOP, then if we  
7        could get the SOP that's updated and the flow  
8        chart updated, updated flow chart, so that we  
9        don't have revisions that we don't have backup  
10       for. That's all I'm looking for there.

11            MR. RHODES: I'm having one of my staff reach  
12       out to the auditor who performed this to find  
13       out. If it already it's in here, she can point  
14       us to it very quickly.

15            DR. LYNCH-WALSH: It's not.

16            MS. FERTIG: But does this chart accurately  
17       reflect the changes that have been made to  
18       PPO-102?

19            MR. RHODES: Yes.

20            DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But so -- so here's my  
21       concern. We have -- on the same page, on page  
22       94, there's PPO-102 dated 3/5/2025. The flow  
23       chart immediately following says it was last  
24       revised on 1/1/2025.

25            So I know time travel isn't a thing, so it

1 would suggest that the flow chart doesn't reflect  
2 the things that have occurred since the last flow  
3 chart, which would include revise increase  
4 amounts in steps 6 and 8, which the first thing  
5 thought of is, did we increase the amount so we  
6 accomplish the same thing that we were trying to  
7 not split things for, but I have to look at that  
8 some more, and then 3/5/2025. We have a flow  
9 chart dated January and two revisions dated  
10 February and March. That would suggest we need  
11 and updated flow chart.

12 MR. RHODES: Agreed. What we were looking  
13 for was the updated SOP. That would be a part of  
14 what would be in the employee handbook that they  
15 would be trained on when they're onboarded. This  
16 is something that would also likely be in there,  
17 and I don't think that this had been updated  
18 because it quickly updated the SOP in lieu of the  
19 letter that they had provided that was written by  
20 Sam Bays. So we would be able to ensure that it  
21 would be a part of the information that the staff  
22 would be trained on.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

24 MS. SHAW: So there is a -- on page 100  
25 showing that it was updated and what it means,

1 but the actual update is not here. So it was  
2 last updated 12/20 to be effective 1/1/2025. So  
3 could we have that?

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, that's what -- right,  
5 that's what we've asked for now. Right. We can  
6 see that everyone is saying that they've done  
7 these things. What we're not seeing is the  
8 updated version of the things that we've said  
9 we've updated, which would be the SOP and the  
10 flow chart. And that should get us what we need  
11 to be totally up to date.

12 And then, as everyone's noted, the things  
13 have been closed out.

14 MR. RHODES: I have a copy of what we were  
15 talking about and I will forward that to the  
16 audit committee.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Great. Okay. Anybody have  
18 anything else?

19 MS. FERTIG: Motion to transmit.

20 MS. SHAW: Second; Phyllis.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So moved by Fertig,  
22 seconded by Phyllis, any further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hearing none, all in favor  
25 of transmitting the MDO's Asphalt Repair

1 Follow-Up to the school board say aye.

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Hearing none,  
6 the MDO Asphalt Repair Follow-Up Audit passes  
7 unanimously.

8 Moving on to number 9 -- do we need a break  
9 real quick?

10 MS. SHAW: No.

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Number 9 is the Property &  
12 Inventory Audit of Selected Locations. Let me  
13 pull that up.

14 All right. Mr. Rhodes, do you guys want to  
15 introduce this one?

16 MR. RHODES: Yes. I'll turn this over to  
17 Gabriel to introduce and to provide responses to  
18 any questions that the committee has.

19 MR. CARVAJAL: Good morning, Chair. Good  
20 morning, staff. So the Audit of Property &  
21 Inventory Locations, there have been eight audits  
22 that received findings, one had outstanding  
23 findings, a total of six, that's the most so far  
24 this year. Other than that, other audits, there  
25 were seven of them that had audit findings and if

1 there are any questions I'll be here to answer  
2 them.

3 MR. NAYLOR: Madam Chair?

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes.

5 MR. NAYLOR: Not many of these talk about  
6 internal controls being suggested. Are there  
7 internal control options provided to the schools?

8 MR. RHODES: Options?

9 MR. NAYLOR: Meaning how to set up internal  
10 controls?

11 MR. RHODES: I'll answer that by saying, if I  
12 understand the question correctly, we don't get  
13 involved in providing options or anything that  
14 would resemble management. We would assess the  
15 internal controls that they developed and  
16 implemented.

17 MR. NAYLOR: Okay. So there are internal  
18 controls that are provided to the schools?

19 MR. RHODES: Well, by way of business  
20 practice bulletin 0100, and there's some other  
21 guidance that goes along with that, but that's  
22 the primary that they use, and that is really the  
23 kind of how-to guide and what you shall, shall  
24 not, may, may not do. And that is what we audit  
25 to and that's what they monitor their assets

1 from.

2 MR. NAYLOR: All right. Thank you.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, Mr. De Meo?

4 MR. DE MEO: A few questions.

5 First, it appears that the response to the  
6 audit was that some of the items had been  
7 removed. A couple expensive items.

8 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Which -- which ones?

9 MR. DE MEO: The display and I'll have to  
10 find it now. I had it open before.

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I'm looking for big ticket  
12 items.

13 MR. DE MEO: It's the one with 66, it's West  
14 Atlantic.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Page 41.

16 MR. DE MEO: So -- so a couple things struck  
17 me there. Have they had this number of  
18 exceptions in the past, this school, number one;  
19 do we know?

20 MR. CARVAJAL: I would have to look at my  
21 data.

22 MR. DE MEO: Okay. Also there's a police  
23 report that's mentioned. Do we -- are we  
24 privy -- do we have the information -- do we have  
25 a copy of the police report?

1 MR. CARVAJAL: Yes, sir, it should have been  
2 in their response.

3 MR. DE MEO: Oh, I must have missed it.

4 MR. CARVAJAL: So the full response is  
5 towards the -- towards the bottom.

6 MR. DE MEO: 41 or something?

7 MR. RHODES: Do you have a page number,  
8 Gabriel?

9 MS. FERTIG: 41. Sorry.

10 MR. CARVAJAL: Correct, 41.

11 MR. DE MEO: Is the police report there? Did  
12 I miss it? I don't see it.

13 Because are they saying that these items were  
14 stolen? I don't -- that doesn't make a lot of --  
15 I'm a little confused.

16 MR. CARVAJAL: Give me one second, sir, so I  
17 can look.

18 MR. DE MEO: Sure. And while you're looking  
19 I'm going to ask another question.

20 It doesn't seem that they addressed a couple  
21 of dozen computers that are missing, these  
22 MacBook 11s. Now, they're very old and their  
23 value might be small, but do we need them to  
24 address -- I mean, numerous, just, you know --

25 MR. RHODES: There is -- there is an ongoing

1 initiative by management to identify any of these  
2 missing or outdated computers that may have been  
3 a part of the COVID handoff. And so one of the  
4 problems that management has expressed to us is  
5 that there are many computers that are still on  
6 their inventory that they don't have. Management  
7 is looking at the idea of removing those items  
8 from inventory because they're missing, they're  
9 beyond their useful life, and they continue to be  
10 audit findings for an asset that is not and will  
11 never be accounted for again. We are waiting  
12 right now for whatever the final disposition is  
13 by the superintendent. My understanding is that  
14 he's going to ultimately make a decision, issue a  
15 written instructive for those assets to be  
16 removed from the master database, and, therefore,  
17 they would not be picked up by us when we did the  
18 download of the inventory for the various  
19 locations and it would be -- we would no longer  
20 have to be putting out findings for items that  
21 will never be found again.

22 MR. DE MEO: Of course. And that begs the  
23 question, did they follow the procedures in the  
24 first place which would have removed them from  
25 the records and we wouldn't be dealing with that;

1 right?

2 MR. RHODES: The conversations have kind of  
3 gone like this. In the struggle to hand out a  
4 mass number of units for students who were going  
5 to be schooling from home, that, let's say a  
6 student was in fourth grade, fifth grade, they  
7 may have been required to hand back the device to  
8 the location that they were going to school at,  
9 but when they moved on to middle school, or the  
10 same thing to high school, they may have turned  
11 it into the wrong location, and from that point  
12 on the process was completely broken. That has  
13 created the problem that has caused management to  
14 try to look for this resolution and we're  
15 monitoring and giving them advice as to how we  
16 would be able to facilitate that process by  
17 making sure that the items that they choose to  
18 remove from inventory, that it would be  
19 physically removed from the inventory. And,  
20 again, when we pull down our master list of the  
21 inventory by location, those items would no  
22 longer be on there and there would no longer be,  
23 I would call it, a repeat or continuous findings  
24 for these items that are no longer even useful or  
25 viable.

1 MR. DE MEO: Thank you. If I read the report  
2 right there are five such items that were given  
3 to students that are unaccounted for, according  
4 to the principal. So it still leaves the  
5 question of just, I don't know, 40, 50 items.  
6 Lenovo ThinkPad, Promethean, MacBook. What the  
7 heck is going on?

8 MR. RHODES: If I might add to that, just one  
9 thing? When Gabriel came on board and became the  
10 manager of Property & Inventory Audits, he's from  
11 the Marine Corps, and the --

12 MR. DE MEO: Semper Fi.

13 MR. RHODES: -- standard operating procedure  
14 for them is, when they move in and take over an  
15 operation they perform an audit immediately so  
16 that they can identify what was done before they  
17 got there and how things have changed and what  
18 they're accountable for going forward. So we did  
19 the same thing here. And what happened  
20 historically was that Property & Inventory was  
21 accounting for 100 percent of the inventory that  
22 was onsite. Well, as auditors, we look at things  
23 from a sample standpoint. So when you're looking  
24 at the number of items that have you kind of  
25 startled right now, I would only ask that you

1        imagine what that would look like if we were  
2        doing 100 percent as opposed to an 18 to 20  
3        percent sample.

4            MR. DE MEO: I can't imagine. I can't  
5        imagine. We've got to tighten up those  
6        procedures. I don't know.

7            MR. RHODES: I'm sorry, did you have that  
8        information?

9            MR. CARVAJAL: Yeah, so to answer the  
10       question about the police report, it's not in  
11       their corrective action plan, in their response,  
12       but we do have that information in our work  
13       papers.

14           As far as the assets that are on here listed  
15       and why they're missing, it could have been  
16       several reasons why. One of the key things that  
17       we've noticed throughout our audit is that items  
18       that get disposed of back in the past, they were  
19       disposed of but the paperwork for it wasn't  
20       properly documented or kept on file. So now it  
21       looks like the asset just disappeared or, you  
22       know, grew legs and walked away. But there was  
23       at a certain point documentation, but it wasn't  
24       just held at the location or submitted properly.

25           MR. DE MEO: But the exception still raises

1 the issue of the question as to whether or not  
2 the property was improperly removed from the  
3 school.

4 Also, I'd be interested in that police  
5 report, because are they alleging that these  
6 items were stolen? I'd like to know that, too.  
7 I mean, is that part of their response, that the  
8 items were stolen?

9 MR. CARVAJAL: So according to the 0100, any  
10 items that are missing, they have to have a  
11 police report filed. So whether it was stolen or  
12 they just don't know exactly, so that's something  
13 that is being recommended to be adjusted.  
14 Because if something just gets lost or becomes  
15 missing, it doesn't necessarily mean that it's  
16 stolen. It's just lost or missing.

17 MR. RHODES: Camp Pendleton or Parris Island?

18 MR. CARVAJAL: Camp Pendleton. Well, Parris  
19 Island but stationed mainly at Camp Pendleton.

20 MR. RHODES: Me, too, but 500 years ago. We  
21 didn't even have electric then. We had horses.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. I've got Ms. Shaw  
23 and then Ms. Fertig.

24 MS. SHAW: So COVID was -- was -- was -- the  
25 period of COVID was detrimental for all of us and

1 I think we're still reeling from it. So I'm --  
2 I'm in agreement that we kind of need to kind of  
3 take a step back, because I knew of many families  
4 who were like, oh, my child is going to a new  
5 school, what do I do with the computer? And they  
6 end up turning it in. And I'm like, you need to  
7 go pick up that computer and take it back to your  
8 old school. So I think before we can judge a lot  
9 of this we need to first do a -- an assessment of  
10 where -- because they could be at the other  
11 school and they're sitting there like I don't  
12 know what to do with it, you know. So we need --  
13 we need to have that done before we continue to  
14 go through this audit and then it looks so  
15 horrible; number one. Number two, we probably  
16 need to remind folks about reverse records. And  
17 I know someone just mentioned it. And I think a  
18 lot of it, a lot of this stuff that we see, we  
19 had this years ago on this audit committee where  
20 a lot of the information that we thought were  
21 missing wasn't necessarily missing, it was  
22 because folks didn't understand that in  
23 government, I don't care what it is, even if it's  
24 no good, you can't just discard it. You've got  
25 to fill out paperwork so the warehousing office

1 can dispose of it correctly. But I think -- it  
2 looks horrible, but I think a lot of it has to do  
3 with a period when we were struggling, not only  
4 as a district but as human beings trying to  
5 figure out what we need to do, especially when  
6 our children move from one school to the other.  
7 So I think we need to do that first before we  
8 continue to have this discussion and putting it  
9 out there. Because it may not necessarily -- it  
10 may be at somebody's school sitting there because  
11 they're not knowing what to do with it.

12 MR. RHODES: And through the Chair? Me and  
13 my staff have met with the chief information  
14 officer and he is doing a thorough sweep of the  
15 master database that houses these different  
16 assets that were specifically for the COVID  
17 period to identify and try to locate them,  
18 physically, as well as to identify items that the  
19 superintendent and staff have made assertions  
20 that they're willing to accept the risk for  
21 removing the things because of the timeline and  
22 the periods that they were supposed to be  
23 corrected and all these inventories were supposed  
24 to be reconciled but they were not. With  
25 inventories that were not properly reconciled

1 despite their best efforts and their best  
2 intentions it becomes evident to us that we're  
3 not doing a service or adding value to the  
4 District by stating the obvious and pointing out  
5 that these items are missing if we're never going  
6 to see them again. So the CIO working together  
7 with the superintendent and his staff are doing  
8 what it is that you're talking about. They're  
9 trying to do this work to find what it is that  
10 they have that is worth keeping, what it is that  
11 simply needs to be moved off of the inventory, so  
12 that we don't continue to have these findings  
13 that make a report that looks like this  
14 unnecessarily reflects something that's not a  
15 true condition at the school and in many cases  
16 happened three principals ago.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Ms. Fertig?

18 MS. FERTIG: Yeah. Well, I kind of had a  
19 different view of this. We do these all the  
20 time, and, Dave, you know because you did -- you  
21 know they used to be terrible and then you really  
22 focused on it and things got much better. And  
23 most of these reports might have 6, 7, 8, 9  
24 things. This one has 66.

25 So I think someone asked the relevant

1 question, what did the last audit show at  
2 Atlantic West? And the next one I would want to  
3 know, it says there's a police report, I mean, at  
4 a minimum the date of that police report would be  
5 helpful.

6 And -- and so I don't look at this Atlantic  
7 West as typical of what we're seeing in these  
8 audits. And for that reason I think that there  
9 needs to be a little more information before it's  
10 transmitted to the board, and I would just move  
11 to transmit the rest of this without -- you know,  
12 pull Atlantic West out and get the additional  
13 documentation so when the board sees it they can  
14 assess it. Because 66 items is not typical in  
15 any -- in anything that we have seen in the last  
16 five years. And I have to believe that you've  
17 done an audit within that time period which would  
18 have picked some of this up. I mean, the 2015  
19 and 16 computers, for example.

20 So I -- I think you need more information on  
21 this particular audit before moving it forward  
22 that doesn't impact the others.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Well, I'm not  
24 sure that we've ever disaggregated a Property &  
25 Inventory audit. It's either all or nothing.

1 I think it's -- I think getting more  
2 information would be helpful. I do want to point  
3 out a couple of things. One is, remember when  
4 the regional superintendent for the schools with  
5 findings would come to audit committee meetings ?  
6 Last I checked the woman sitting across from me  
7 is Ms. Hudge, not Dr. Fleming. And do you have  
8 anything to do with Atlantic West? Is it part of  
9 the School Transformation Office?

10 MS. HUDGE: No, it's not part of the School  
11 Transformation Office.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Did you draw the short  
13 straw this morning?

14 MS. FERTIG: Mr. Fleming was outside. He may  
15 have had to leave.

16 MS. HUDGE: Yes, he was outside. He had to  
17 leave. He's not here.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. Just checking.

19 So -- because, yes, this is an unusual amount  
20 of items for sure. One of the items I wanted  
21 clarification on, because just by itself it's  
22 18,000 replacement cost, let me make sure I'm  
23 looking at the column. The historical cost, net  
24 book value now zero. Okay. And we have a  
25 replacement cost. What is a Tand -- Tandberg

1 6000 MXP?

2 It's a what?

3 MR. DE MEO: She said -- the principal said  
4 that they took care of that if you read the  
5 exception -- her response.

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

7 MR. DE MEO: Well, I'm not that much  
8 concerned about that as I am --

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, all the -- right.  
10 Well, all the other -- a couple of things  
11 happened during COVID and the former chief  
12 financial officer, or I forget, we'll forego the  
13 title, they were giving the kids some of --  
14 depending on what school you were at you may have  
15 gotten, you know, newer laptops or things that  
16 didn't even perform the functions that they  
17 purported to -- like you couldn't even do  
18 schoolwork on it.

19 MR. DE MEO: Rather than disaggregate, I  
20 think you're right, that's kind of messy, could  
21 we charge the chief auditor with conducting a  
22 subsequent follow-up audit on this, and, you  
23 know, ask some probing questions and find out  
24 what's going on, including what's in the police  
25 report; the date of the report; what -- what was

1 the last audit; what did it show? Because I've  
2 got to believe it's not more than two years ago.  
3 Because this is extraordinary and I think we have  
4 to give the board -- this is what we're here for,  
5 we have to give the board the benefit of  
6 following up and getting more information.

7 That's how I feel about it.

8 MR. RHODES: Through the Chair, may I follow  
9 up with that?

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Sure. And then I just want  
11 to point out serial numbers and ask a question  
12 about how these things are tracked.

13 MR. RHODES: So Ms. Arcese looked up some  
14 information in our database and identified that  
15 the last time that that school was -- had a  
16 property & inventory audit, not including their  
17 semiannual inventories that they're supposed to  
18 do on their own was 2017. In 2017 they had zero  
19 items unaccounted for. So we know that 2017  
20 until now the main difference that happened was  
21 that COVID period. And I'm not saying that's  
22 what accounts for all of these items because --

23 MR. DE MEO: Same principal?

24 MR. RHODES: No, it's a different principal,  
25 as well. So we're looking at -- we're looking at

1 some areas that -- we could actually -- we could  
2 actually update our audit program so that when we  
3 run into locations that have these kinds of  
4 problems we can come back through and take a  
5 different look and a different approach to those  
6 so that we can have additional answers rather  
7 than when we normally would go in and just try to  
8 identify whether they're accounted for and not  
9 accounted for, and if they're not accounted for  
10 do they have the appropriate documentation  
11 showing that it was either transferred to another  
12 location, it was surplus and the proper  
13 paperwork was done or there's a police report for  
14 it; anything that would legitimize the fact that  
15 it's not there.

16 We could go back for these areas if it's the  
17 will of this committee, if you would like us to  
18 do that, we would be more than happy to update  
19 and have an alternative audit program for schools  
20 that meet this profile.

21 MR. DE MEO: Whatever the pleasure of  
22 committee is. I would certainly be in favor of  
23 that.

24 MS. FERTIG: I would, too. I think that's a  
25 great idea, Dave. Yeah.

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So getting back to  
2 internal controls for a second, there are serial  
3 numbers on these items; right? Are there bar  
4 codes on these items?

5 MR. RHODES: So the standard with the  
6 District is that there is a serial number, and  
7 what we do is we have what's called BPI tag that  
8 we affix to the equipment or the micro techs or  
9 the folks at the location affix to the location  
10 so that it is a crosswalk from that BPI tag to  
11 the actual serial number. We don't count on  
12 serial numbers as much as we count on the BPI tag  
13 because there's too much chance of there being a  
14 duplicate in a serial number or the serial number  
15 is being improperly documented by a clerical  
16 error or something, a data entry error or  
17 something like that.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So is the BPI tag a bar  
19 code?

20 MR. RHODES: It's just like this right here  
21 and it has -- it's got its own sku and this  
22 one-to-one relationship to the item.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Can it be scanned?

24 MR. RHODES: Yes.

25 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. That's what I was

1 getting at.

2 So -- so when -- so are all of these  
3 things -- they're scanned in. So, in theory, if  
4 you were looking for a BPI number attached to all  
5 of these, you know, tons of items that could, to  
6 Ms. Shaw's point, be at a different school, if  
7 they stopped thinking about it as just being at  
8 Atlantic West and looked for it there would be a  
9 way to locate it if it pops up in someone else's  
10 inventory?

11 MR. RHODES: Gabriel, please.

12 MR. CARVAJAL: Ma'am, so with the -- with the  
13 inventory tags that Mr. Rhodes was talking about,  
14 so that is a requirement that it's supposed to be  
15 affixed to the property. However, those can come  
16 off easily. So we do verify the actual serial  
17 number on the piece of equipment, the  
18 manufacturer's serial number on the piece of  
19 equipment to make sure that this is the actual  
20 asset? And in some cases, as well, the actual  
21 serial number maybe rubbed off because of wear  
22 and tear. So now, for example, for computers, in  
23 order to find out what the actual serial number  
24 it is, we either have to turn on the computer or  
25 completely disassemble the computer to look for

1 the serial number within the computer, the  
2 physical computer.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. But what I'm  
4 asking, to Ms. Shaw's point is, if people were  
5 returning laptops to the wrong schools, and I  
6 even told my kid who had one, I said, make sure  
7 you take a picture, like verify, have some  
8 evidence that you returned this, because this is  
9 BCPS and God only knows where this is going to  
10 wind up inventory-wise.

11 So my question is, would the BPI tag allow --  
12 because it's scannable, could IT determine that  
13 instead of at Atlantic West it's wherever the  
14 kid's new school is and it's sitting in their  
15 inventory? Or are these things sitting in --  
16 there's supposed semiannual inventories.

17 MS. FERTIG: Can I add a component to that?  
18 I would like to know if the school has extra  
19 computers sitting around. Like you're saying  
20 they all took them to Peters Middle School, if  
21 they are extra computers, is that reported?

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, but that would show  
23 up in their inventory and you wouldn't know that  
24 they got somebody else's. Right; when the  
25 audit's done and when they do their inventory

1 they're going to count -- right; but it would  
2 only be if -- right; if you do an audit and  
3 they're expecting there to be 10 and there's 20.

4 MS. SHAW: Why can't we do a pause for -- I'm  
5 sorry, a pause for across the district and ask  
6 all schools to send a list of everything that  
7 they have sitting there. Because now -- now make  
8 it --

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: They did that.

10 MS. SHAW: Hmm?

11 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I thought they did that.

12 MS. SHAW: Well, maybe it's time to do it  
13 again. Send it to every school and say we need a  
14 list of and have them list. Because let's say  
15 the bar code is removed, then there's other  
16 information that they can use to add it to this.  
17 -- create a list and send it to all schools and  
18 say, please send us -- I work for the City of  
19 Hollywood and we have -- we don't have the amount  
20 of employees but this is my issued tablet. And  
21 even if I move departments the database is going  
22 to show me having this issued tablet regardless,  
23 because there is a -- there is a -- but I'm also  
24 not five years old. I'm also not 10 years old  
25 and switching schools. So there's a huge

1 difference.

2 So I think there needs to be probably a  
3 district-wide event that goes out to every school  
4 that says, we are trying to figure out, we have  
5 an issue, please send us a list of everything  
6 that is sitting at your school. Because by the  
7 time the audit department gets around to auditing  
8 every school, by then it's going to be a mess.  
9 So maybe that's a way of at least starting this.  
10 But at this moment I don't -- I think we should  
11 not -- I think we should ask them to go back and  
12 do not transmit this report and we're spending a  
13 lot of time talking about it.

14 MS. FERTIG: Are you making -- are we moving  
15 to defer this to the next month and are we able  
16 to do that?

17 MR. RHODES: Yeah, we can do that.

18 MS. FERTIG: Okay. And then get the  
19 information that we've requested?

20 MR. RHODES: Based on what you've requested  
21 you're looking for additional information on this  
22 66 items, including police report, date of the  
23 police report, and then the information we  
24 already shared with you that's in the system on  
25 when the last audit was conducted, we already had

1 that taken care of. So we could go back and we  
2 could take a deeper dive into what those -- what  
3 is the reason that there's 66 items on here and  
4 what is the reason that the location may or may  
5 not have properly documented the items that are  
6 unaccounted for.

7 We could do a deeper dive on that for this  
8 school and we could have that information by the  
9 time we come to the next audit committee meeting.  
10 But just one other thing I wanted to mention, and  
11 this is to Ms. Shaw's point, it might be a good  
12 idea for this committee to invite the CIO here to  
13 find out if there's already some steps he's  
14 taking that are in alignment with some things  
15 that you've recommended. Because what I wouldn't  
16 want to do is duplicate a step on information  
17 that he's currently either gathering, conducting,  
18 and he might even have some explanation or some  
19 information that would put your minds at rest  
20 about how this whole thing is happening. But  
21 what I'm trying to do is stay out of what  
22 management is doing and just have an  
23 understanding of what we would do going forward  
24 from an audit perspective.

25 MS. FERTIG: And if we deferred this you

1 could have him at that next meeting.

2 MR. RHODES: The information at Atlantic, we  
3 can dispatch a part of a team even if we have to  
4 alter the schedule that we have going forward so  
5 that we can get out and get those answers.

6 MS. FERTIG: And have the CIO here.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So, but -- but hold  
8 on everybody. We should have an agenda planning  
9 log included in here and April is looking a  
10 little packed. Today might be, in theory, light,  
11 but then I have people wanting to go in a half an  
12 hour, so I'm already looking at tabling a Policy  
13 Review to the 27th. Having said that, a lot of  
14 -- if we transmit it, then it's transmitted. And  
15 in their -- in their management responses they  
16 can be as silo like or as comprehensive as they  
17 make them. So there was nothing stopping  
18 management from getting with the CIO to say how  
19 can we address this issue and get these things  
20 off our books? I -- I wanted to ask the question  
21 whether any of these are in Maximo, because  
22 Maximo is the District's asset management system.  
23 I'm going to hazard a guess that they're not in  
24 Maximo, because very little is actually in  
25 Maximo. But is there any reason that the chief

1 information -- that the management that's  
2 responsible for these responses can't get with  
3 the chief information officer and they provide a  
4 better response to all of these concerns and also  
5 provide the additional information we're looking  
6 for and then we still transmit it and get it off  
7 of our plate, but we get a more comprehensive  
8 response from all of management?

9 MR. RHODES: And that would be appended to  
10 the report before it was sent to the board; is  
11 that the idea?

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: That we're transmitting it  
13 but we'd like a comprehensive response from  
14 management, including the chief information  
15 officer.

16 MR. RHODES: I can certainly do that. That  
17 would be in lieu of the deeper dive that we  
18 talked about because that would help to explain  
19 it from management's standpoint. But I would  
20 still say that the idea of adding the additional  
21 step with the audit program for items that we  
22 might find like this in the future, I think  
23 they're going to go away, I think they're in  
24 large part going to go away once management  
25 finishes off what it's set now to do. So we have

1 a short-term plan, we have a long-term plan, I  
2 just want to make sure I understand what it is  
3 this committee would like to see.

4 MS. FERTIG: I just want to just say that my  
5 concern with seeing this, first of all, if we  
6 were to take audits from the last five years, if  
7 we were to take these audits from the last five  
8 years and we were to look at the number of  
9 exceptions, I see the number of exceptions  
10 growing. And maybe that's because of a pandemic  
11 five years ago. Maybe. I don't know.

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: This is an anomaly.

13 MS. FERTIG: We haven't seen anything like  
14 this in a long time and my concern is, if we  
15 don't get under control what the root causes of  
16 it are we're going to see more of them.

17 And, Dave, you and Mark are the guys that  
18 reformed this before, you're the ones that got it  
19 under control so we didn't see any exceptions  
20 sometimes. I -- I just -- I'm alarmed with this  
21 one report with so many. And I'm also alarmed  
22 there seems to be a growing trend for some.

23 Whatever the solution for that is, great, I  
24 hope you find it quickly. But I think that we  
25 shouldn't minimize the fact that there's so many

1 reports with exceptions.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Yeah, no, I don't  
3 think anyone's minimizing it. I'm just trying to  
4 manage, knowing the list of reports coming in  
5 April, trying to balance that with wanting to dig  
6 in, and we have a mechanism where they can  
7 provide a more comprehensive response addressing  
8 all of our concerns. We can transmit it with a  
9 request that we get additional information and  
10 they provide a more comprehensive response with  
11 all of management in terms of addressing this.  
12 Because, otherwise, we're going to -- we're going  
13 to not have enough time in April for the things  
14 that are already on the agenda that are coming  
15 from the Office of the Chief Auditor before this  
16 was even a thought in our head.

17 MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair?

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So I need a motion to  
19 transmit.

20 MR. DE MEO: Well, before we do that, I think  
21 two things. First, I think we should have a  
22 process where subsequent, where more procedures  
23 are added when there are lots of exceptions. You  
24 can do it in that same audit.

25 And, second, I think this particular

1 exception, West Atlantic, needs to be  
2 investigated.

3 Now, if we transmit the report, that's fine,  
4 we can put a note on it that we're also going to  
5 have this -- this report, a deeper dive. And if  
6 it doesn't get done by April, that's okay.  
7 Because then we can transmit that report when  
8 it's done.

9 So I'm going to make a motion. I'm going to  
10 make a motion that a subsequent follow-up audit  
11 be performed on the Atlantic West Elementary  
12 School based on the extraordinary findings of the  
13 chief auditor's report dated March?

14 MR. RHODES: March 13th.

15 MR. DE MEO: March 13th, 2025, and that the  
16 follow-up audit include such items as probing  
17 questions about what happened to the 50 or more  
18 items that are unaccounted for, the date of the  
19 police report, and what -- what -- what happened  
20 since 2017. I don't know if they can answer  
21 that. Anyways, that's a long motion, but I'll  
22 cut it down, if you want.

23 MS. FERTIG: And you're adding that to the  
24 motion to transmit?

25 MR. DE MEO: No, this is a separate motion.

1 MS. FERTIG: Okay. I'm seconding.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: You're seconding his  
3 motion?

4 MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

5 MR. NAYLOR: You have two motions on the  
6 floor at once.

7 MS. SHAW: You can't have two motions on the  
8 floor.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, we don't have a  
10 motion. I said I need a motion to transmit, but  
11 we didn't actually get one.

12 So he's making a motion, you seconded it.

13 Mr. Bass and AI are picking it up. So I  
14 think he said it pretty clearly. Don't ask me to  
15 repeat it, though.

16 MR. RHODES: And, Madam Chair, as a matter of  
17 possible deciding before it gets transmitted and  
18 voted on, Mr. Mayersohn has his hand up, it might  
19 be relevant to this.

20 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Mr. Mayersohn?

21 MR. MAYERSOHN: Can you hear me?

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes.

23 MR. MAYERSOHN: Okay. So, again, this is my  
24 favorite topic, Property & Inventory. I guess,  
25 you know, I mean, to Mr. De Meo's point, follow

1 up on all of these property & inventory audits  
2 should be done in essence of, you know what, I'm  
3 missing 5 items or I'm missing 50 items, give the  
4 school 30 days to find out where they are. And  
5 then, you know, report back as a follow-up to the  
6 committee, as well as to the chief auditor.

7 Because I -- I tend to think that if we're  
8 heading in the wrong direction, what are you  
9 looking at, the thing where it says I promise  
10 that I'll never do it again and then -- you know;  
11 right. So -- so this is procedural stuff that  
12 should be accomplished. And it's very concerning  
13 when it's here's the report, we know what's  
14 missing, we don't know where they are, we're  
15 going to file a police report after the fact.  
16 But it's -- it's the type of thing that this has  
17 to be taken very seriously because there are  
18 dollars involved. I mean, I don't know what it  
19 costs to replace a 18,000 or 20,000 Tandberg in  
20 today's dollars, but it's missing. Where is it?  
21 I mean, those things just don't walk off by  
22 themselves.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, they do.

24 MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, they don't have legs.  
25 It's not a golf cart that has a motor and can be

1 driven somewhere.

2 But -- but I guess that's the concern, is  
3 that we see some of these things as small as they  
4 are or as large as they are is, everybody gets  
5 trained, everyone knows that they're supposed to  
6 do semiannual audits, this stuff should be caught  
7 six months ago and not wait until the end of the  
8 year.

9 So, you know, my recommendation is to go back  
10 to management and, you know, say, well, how do  
11 you -- how do you address these issues? Because  
12 we see them all the time. And we see the same  
13 responses. And, as you said, you know, some of  
14 these go in silos. This should be shared with  
15 every principal. You know, you could be next,  
16 make sure that you -- you know, this is a  
17 requirement. And, as I said, I just get  
18 frustrated because, you know, we continue to talk  
19 about this, how to improve it and we just  
20 continue to have these challenges.

21 And, look, I get it, COVID hit and a lot of  
22 these laptops just went out to give students an  
23 opportunity to learn, but somebody has to realize  
24 they have value and we need to find out where  
25 they are. So those are my two cents.

1 MR. RHODES: And through the Chair, I just  
2 wanted to follow up with that and to say that I  
3 agree with Mr. Mayersohn's comments specifically  
4 regarding the semiannual audit inventories that  
5 are supposed to be conducted in these locations  
6 per Business Practice Bulletin 0100, because they  
7 know that we're coming. And if they know that  
8 we're coming and they don't want to have reports  
9 that look like this, they either need to identify  
10 these 66 items that are missing and then properly  
11 do the paperwork to either identify that it's  
12 been surplused, it's missing, it's stolen,  
13 whatever happens to be the fact around that over  
14 and above just the fact that we did not provide  
15 the appropriate control to understand and know  
16 where this item is right now or at any time since  
17 the last time this place was audited, there's  
18 going to be some of that kind of stuff. And the  
19 other thing is is that when we go out, we're  
20 simply going out to identify based on a sample if  
21 this item was accounted for within that location  
22 or it's not accounted for in that location. Then  
23 we get to the whys. Those whys are discussed and  
24 also reduced to writing in management's response  
25 to us. So we do already have a management

1 response. I understand that you want a more  
2 comprehensive management response that would go  
3 higher than the principal level for them to opine  
4 on this. I just want to let you know that when  
5 these things go better or worse it's not because  
6 of what audit is doing. It's because of what is  
7 being managed or not properly managed at that  
8 location. We find it after the fact and report  
9 it.

10 MS. FERTIG: And because you've done that,  
11 Dave, you've saved this district millions, and  
12 millions, and millions of dollars with better  
13 practices being put in place. Which is why I  
14 think it's just so important to address this in a  
15 timely fashion. But I support Mr. De Meo's  
16 motion.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So I was looking at  
18 policy, one of our internal control mechanisms,  
19 which we had on the agenda to be discussing.  
20 Follow-Up on Audit Recommendations, I don't  
21 think, having re-read, and it's right next to you  
22 Mr. De Meo, that the rules for a Follow-Up on  
23 Audit Recommendations, I think, do not take the  
24 place of your -- yours is more substantial. This  
25 is based on within 60 days, whatever the

1 recommendations are. You're going further than  
2 the recommendation looking for more.

3 So this process would not satisfy what Mr. De  
4 Meo is looking for based on re-reading this. But  
5 this is a rule that they're supposed to be  
6 following anyway. But I think once we get more  
7 fleshed-out information and additional  
8 recommendations that Mr. De Meo is talking about,  
9 then this 60 days would cut -- would also kick  
10 in.

11 So I'm not sure how all of that comes  
12 together but -- and I did go back and look at  
13 that Tandberg 6000, it says it was removed but  
14 removed for what reason; it's obsolete; or it  
15 went missing? Like sort of more detail there.

16 So we have Mr. De Meo's motion on the floor  
17 for a follow-up audit and we need to vote on that  
18 and transmit.

19 MS. SHAW: I have a question before we -- how  
20 long has Ms. -- how long has Ms. Reynolds been  
21 principal? I think it's Ms. Reynolds; right?

22 MR. RHODES: Did we determine that during the  
23 audit, Gabriel?

24 MR. CARVAJAL: No. No, we did not.

25 MR. RHODES: Okay. That's not a standard

1 question that we would try to get the answer to.  
2 This is a -- this is kind of an extenuating  
3 circumstance that now in retrospect that looks an  
4 important question that we would have wanted to  
5 know.

6 Do we have information that would allow us  
7 to --

8 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Because we do it for  
9 internal funds. The bookkeepers, I mean, they  
10 even go to great lengths to explain how many  
11 months each bookkeeper has been there. So it  
12 would seem to be relevant. Because what's  
13 happened with these audits is the person that  
14 created the mess has disappeared and then the  
15 person that just came in and was thrown the mess  
16 is the name on the report. Meanwhile, they had  
17 nothing to do with the condition -- you know,  
18 what led to the audit.

19 MS. SHAW: And so then my other question is,  
20 is it possible -- and I don't know if we do this,  
21 that an audit or something is done -- and I know  
22 when a principal leaves a school is there any way  
23 that we can do some kind of audit or some kind of  
24 check to see, okay, we have 30 computers and we  
25 have two media boards or whatever the case may

1 be? This way -- because I'm walking into a  
2 school, I'm -- I will not walk in and just take  
3 everything at face value. I'm walking in to say,  
4 this is what I am receiving, sign off on it Mr.  
5 Whoever, Ms. Hudge, sign off on it, here you go.  
6 Because I'm walking into a school and now I'm  
7 responsible for anything that took place before  
8 me. Maybe there's something we need to put in  
9 place. I mean, it may mean that someone may have  
10 to delay starting, but we're putting this thing  
11 out there when we transmit it. And whoever this  
12 principal is may not be responsible for 67 items  
13 missing. And I think, for me -- and I don't know  
14 who she is, but for me, that's an issue that  
15 we're -- we're telling the world that this school  
16 has this issue and there is no reasonable  
17 explanation for this.

18 MR. DE MEO: Madam Chair? I think Ms. Shaw  
19 has an -- that's an excellent suggestion and I  
20 would love to have her put that in the form of a  
21 motion, that when a principal leaves -- I don't  
22 know if you have the time to do it, but that  
23 would be a great thing. Because that sets a  
24 bright line. That would be a good motion.

25 I did want to point out --

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Like a risk assessment;  
2 sounds like something --

3 MR. DE MEO: I did want to point out that  
4 what Mr. Rhodes said, I think we glossed over  
5 that, every six months they do an inventory. If  
6 that principal signed -- is there some kind of  
7 sworn signature testimony about that?

8 MR. RHODES: What's the documentation that  
9 the principal signs or if that doesn't exist  
10 what's the situation with the memorializing their  
11 semiannual inventories?

12 MR. CARVAJAL: So when it comes to the  
13 semiannual they go into BCPS Central and they  
14 document and sign electronically that they have  
15 conducted their semiannual inventory.

16 MR. DE MEO: So it is signed. So that's a  
17 problem. So if months after you sign something  
18 that says my inventory is perfect, and I'm not  
19 sure what it said, but that would be something  
20 for you to compare, and then you have 66  
21 exceptions, that bears investigation.

22 And, you know, Mr. Mayersohn, even though  
23 he's partying every night in Tallahassee, made  
24 some great points. Was he slurring his words?  
25 But I think we should move this.

1 MR. RHODES: Just one question that's  
2 unanswered at the moment that we were asked. We  
3 determined that this principal, the start date at  
4 that location was 1/15 of 2020. So it's not a  
5 new principal regarding those possible --

6 MR. DE MEO: And those MacBooks were bought  
7 in '12 and '13.

8 MR. RHODES: Yeah, so they were --

9 MR. DE MEO: So they were there in '17. What  
10 happened to them? Now, I'm not blaming this  
11 principal, but we've got to be more --

12 MR. RHODES: It's not a matter of blame. I  
13 apologize. It's not a matter of blame, it's a  
14 matter of who is accounting for their stuff  
15 through their semiannual, because it should have  
16 been caught many times.

17 MR. DE MEO: Many times. Many times.

18 MS. FERTIG: So I think your motion's great  
19 and can we just go ahead vote on it? I'm not  
20 calling the question because I don't want to have  
21 to vote on that.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So the motion  
23 on the floor, Mr. De Meo's motion for a follow-up  
24 audit with more procedures, additional  
25 information, more probing questions for Atlantic

1 West Elementary. All in favor?

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Hearing none, motion  
6 passes unanimously and I'll get the exact  
7 verbiage from the recording.

8 MS. FERTIG: Okay. Motion to transmit.

9 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Next up? Next up would be  
10 the motion to transmit. Moved by Fertig.

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

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, Ruth wants to second.  
13 Seconded by Carter-Lynch. Any discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. As we were talking  
16 though --

17 MS. SHAW: All in favor?

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Huh?

19 MS. SHAW: All in favor?

20 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Well, discussion. I just  
21 had one point.

22 MS. SHAW: Oh.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, give me one sec.

24 Because we brought up the BCPS Central, we've

25 seen one of those and we had a couple of things.

1 One, they didn't seem to be doing that for  
2 non-school locations. Can we follow-up on that?  
3 And, two, can we get the most updated version?  
4 Because they -- we're not getting that  
5 automatically. You have to sign in to even  
6 access it. And maybe that could be a link on  
7 your website, so if we ever wanted to go as we're  
8 looking at these audits to go see when they were  
9 last -- you know, what they said, like what did  
10 they sign off on?

11 So those were two things that have come up  
12 before and -- circling the exit audit.

13 All right. So all in favor of transmitting  
14 Property & Inventory Audit of Selected Locations;  
15 aye?

16 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Any opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hearing none, the Property  
20 & Inventory Audit of Selected Locations at the  
21 March 13th meeting has passed unanimously.

22 All right. And that takes us to Old  
23 Business. I don't know about you people, but I  
24 need to run to the facilities real quick.

25 So I don't have in my packet the Follow-Up

1 Matrix. Do you guys have it?

2 MR. RHODES: It's electronically on the --

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So it's here?

4 MS. FERTIG: So we have -- we have 15  
5 minutes, 14 minutes left. I'm wondering, can we  
6 prioritize what we need to get done?

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes, that's what I'm trying  
8 to do.

9 MS. FERTIG: Thank you.

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: But I'm also prioritizing  
11 the fact that I need to run to the restroom so I  
12 can think straight.

13 MS. FERTIG: No, that's fine. I thought you  
14 were following straight down and I --

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No. I'm saying, I don't  
16 know about you guys, but I need to run. What I  
17 was trying to do is then pull up the next item so  
18 that as I run to the restroom you have something  
19 to look at.

20 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay, everybody. We've got  
22 eight minutes.

23 All right. So, getting back to business, the  
24 Follow-Up Matrix, I'd asked for an updated one.

25 This is something we get every month.

1           So this is something we've been getting, I  
2           just -- and they've updated it, so there's not  
3           much more to see here since we talked about  
4           laptops already. So I did my part. We have a  
5           plan for getting, reducing paper. We talked  
6           about DD-2. So that's done.

7           So number 11, there's no way in God's green  
8           earth we're going to have time for that in seven  
9           minutes, so since we have a special meeting for  
10          the Fund Balance, Budget Reports and all of that,  
11          we can discuss that there because we'll be on  
12          Teams. We already have everything pulled. They  
13          have links to it, I believe. So we'll be in  
14          business for that and the Interim Financial  
15          Report. So this is already all pulled for us, if  
16          we just do that on the 27th.

17          So everybody good with deferring that to the  
18          27th.

19          MS. SHAW: Yes.

20          DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right. That  
21          takes us to Risk Assessment and Agenda Planning  
22          Log. One second. Which is -- sorry, I'm still  
23          recovering from last night.

24          So, Mr. Rhodes, let's look at Agenda Planning  
25          and then we'll back into Risk Assessment because

1 -- just so you guys can see what we're looking  
2 at. So we've been working on updating this.  
3 March 27th would then -- we would also, since  
4 we're looking at policy we have Fund Balance,  
5 Interim Financial Statements and now the OCA  
6 related policies.

7 April 10th we have the Internal Audit of  
8 Accounts Payable, Internal Funds, Behavioral  
9 Threat Management. I know you guys can never get  
10 through one of those in less than an hour. The  
11 full-blown discussion on Risk Assessment, and  
12 providing any input for the Chief Auditor's Self  
13 Appraisal, which is due April 30.

14 So, as a you can see, April 10th is going to  
15 be a busy day.

16 MR. DE MEO: NLW; what is that?

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Oh, that's who's respon --  
18 that's who asked for it. I'm NLW; don't you know  
19 that? I think I've been referred to as The NLW  
20 in some places in this district.

21 So we were just -- this is more like us  
22 trying to keep track of who's putting stuff on  
23 the agenda and where the items are coming from.  
24 So Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Tillman and I were trying  
25 to keep ourselves organized. And we didn't have

1 time to create like a public facing document so  
2 you're getting it with sort of all of our notes.

3 MR. RHODES: Madam Chair?

4 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yes.

5 MR. RHODES: One very quick point. There's a  
6 high likelihood that this is going to give you  
7 anxiety, but at the end of March we are expecting  
8 to get the financial report portion of the AG's  
9 work. We've been waiting to hear about that and  
10 find out when that's coming. That's coming then  
11 and that might be something that we might also  
12 either have to put on there or want to consider  
13 putting that on there.

14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: In April?

15 MR. RHODES: I'll -- I'll figure out if  
16 there's any time sensitive stuff associated with  
17 that, but that's the information that we just  
18 received recently.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And we meet in May  
20 though, too; right? We have May 8th and June 5th  
21 also. And then we have these TBA items with  
22 things -- well, Audit Related Policies, that's  
23 what we're trying to get through because it  
24 should be a fairly quick discussion. We started  
25 out trying to create a policy for the audit

1 committee. I would also think we might want to  
2 pause that because I almost have a feeling that a  
3 certain board member might bring a suggestion to  
4 reduce the audit committee to just selecting an  
5 external auditor and then all of this would go  
6 away. I'm just saying. Just based on where  
7 things have been going lately. I would like to  
8 finish that before year end, which we could do,  
9 but we would be looking at doing that in May.

10 So these are all the things that have come up  
11 on this TBA list that have come up as things  
12 we're interested in. The ESE Evergreen Report,  
13 I'm not sure, I thought I put on here the Council  
14 of Great City Schools report. That was five  
15 years ago, the Council of Great City Schools  
16 report was shared with the school board and they  
17 had a three-year plan. So they've had five years  
18 to implement a three-year plan for improving PPO  
19 operations. And FTF has not had an update on  
20 this either. So I thought I threw that on here,  
21 but I don't see it. And then in the TBA we also  
22 have RSM doing the PMOR.

23 So there's a lot coming down the pike before  
24 we even get into us adding anything from this  
25 meeting. So that's what's coming up.

1           And Risk Assessment, we had a few items come  
2 up today. And I think Ms. Shaw's suggestion for  
3 before a principal moves, I think we've had this  
4 come up before, that you have sort of an exit  
5 audit to make sure that their inventory is clean  
6 before they leave so that they're not handing it  
7 off to the next unwitting principal.

8           MS. FERTIG: That seems like such a common  
9 sense.

10          DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So common sense.

11          MS. FERTIG: So let's just add that to the  
12 list.

13          DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right. So -- so that's  
14 what's coming down the pike. So then as far as  
15 Risk Assessment goes, which we'll get more into  
16 that and that almost sounds like -- we have it on  
17 the April 10th meeting, but you know how Ms. Shaw  
18 loves those special meetings, and I think we had  
19 one for Risk Assessment last year, that we might,  
20 if -- Mr. Rhodes just said we might get the  
21 financial equivalent of the operational audit and  
22 hopefully more than, I don't know, the two pages  
23 this one was.

24          MS. SHAW: It's a regular audit.

25          DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Huh?

1 MS. SHAW: It's a regular audit, it's a  
2 financial audit.

3 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Yeah, so that could get  
4 added in here.

5 So anybody have any questions, comments or  
6 concerns that we can handle in one minute?

7 (No response.)

8 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right.

9 MR. MAYERSOHN: Wait, one -- one -- one  
10 thing.

11 MS. SHAW: Is it Audit Committee Member  
12 Comment yet? Because I have one thing.

13 MR. MAYERSOHN: Well, Dr. Walsh, one thing,  
14 which I guess you neglected to put in on the  
15 agenda, Happy Pie Day.

16 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: I'm with Mr. De Meo, he's  
17 having too much fun in Tallahassee.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: I didn't see it before, but  
19 I see it now.

20 MR. DE MEO: He's getting ready for St.  
21 Patty's Day.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. And then Ms. Shaw  
23 said she had an Audit Committee Member Comment?

24 MS. SHAW: I do. Thank you so much.

25 First of all, thank you Mr. Upton for being

1 here. And you don't have to be quiet. I mean,  
2 everybody takes over, but that's the personality  
3 of the audit committee board members. And of  
4 course the same for you, Ms. Baron; number one.

5 Number two, I would like to make a motion  
6 that we have a time end for our audit committee  
7 meetings. I would recommend 12 or 12:30. And  
8 part of -- and if there's someone that could  
9 second it so I can explain the reason?

10 MS. FERTIG: So are you doing 12:30? And  
11 I'll second it. That's three hours.

12 MS. SHAW: Okay. 12:30. One of the reasons  
13 is, we have a lot of fluff. There's things that  
14 we can get through without having to beat it to  
15 death. There are things that, yes, we do need to  
16 discuss ad nauseam because of what it is. But we  
17 also have a lot of information, fluff in between,  
18 that we can get through. All of us need to be  
19 mindful of that, especially since the folks here  
20 have a job and we're requiring them to come to do  
21 their job very well. So if they're spending five  
22 hours on a Thursday plus my favorite virtual  
23 meetings, which they're really not, then that's a  
24 lot of time that they're spending out of the  
25 office, especially during what, you know, audit

1 season. Well, maybe it's audit season for me.  
2 So if we need to run over, which means we just  
3 have to plan our agenda and cut out all of the  
4 noise in between our items, we don't need to  
5 repeat anything that is said before unless, you  
6 know, it's absolutely necessary, I think we can  
7 get through our agendas in a timely manner and be  
8 able to discuss what we need to discuss  
9 thoroughly.

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So what time are you  
11 proposing?

12 MS. SHAW: 12:30.

13 MS. FERTIG: And I seconded it.

14 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. Any discussion on 12  
15 or 12:30?

16 MR. MAYERSOHN: I don't have a discussion on  
17 12 or 12:30, but I think somewhere along the way  
18 the process, and I'll just compare it to what I,  
19 you know, did as a former elected commissioner in  
20 the City of Parkland, we used to have agenda  
21 reviews with the city manager to go over any  
22 concerns or questions so the meetings didn't last  
23 for, you know, 50 hours. So I don't know, Mr.  
24 Rhodes, the time that you have to do that with  
25 all of us, but it might be something to, you

1 know, consider to have a certain framework where  
2 maybe you or Ali or somebody else, you know, if  
3 it's a pending question or concern it's addressed  
4 that way so that we're not continually, you know,  
5 asking 85 million questions, we already have it  
6 going in.

7 MS. FERTIG: Can I -- can I just suggest that  
8 we could probably -- like I should have picked up  
9 that the date of the police report wasn't on  
10 there and called and asked for that. So if we  
11 just make it -- if we try to make a better effort  
12 to get our questions in to Dave in some format.

13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So I'm going to say a  
14 phrase to everybody. Sunshine Law.

15 MS. FERTIG: Well, I wasn't talking about to  
16 you.

17 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: No, no, no, I'm not saying  
18 to me. But the thing is, we still are governed  
19 by Sunshine.

20 MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So it's one thing to say  
22 there's a police report referenced here, can we  
23 have it, versus you start having a whole  
24 conversation with Mr. Rhodes and now you don't  
25 ask a question that you would or have a comment

1 or an observation here. Because this happens  
2 with the school board all the time. We're not  
3 the school board, we're advisory in nature, but I  
4 see this being a slippery slope.

5 However, if this is something missing or that  
6 you need clarity on, absolutely everyone should  
7 be asking him that. So that if it's something  
8 simple like that you can get that response and  
9 then the response is given to everybody.

10 MS. FERTIG: So it's 12:03, do you think we  
11 should vote on our motion?

12 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Probably.

13 MS. FERTIG: For the next meeting?

14 And, by the way, 12:30 -- between 12 and  
15 12:30 is the time that we usually see people  
16 starting to leave, so I think that's good. Thank  
17 you.

18 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. No further  
19 discussion?

20 All in favor --

21 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Yes, I have one.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

23 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Two things can be true at  
24 the same time. I think, speaking to Mary and to  
25 our Tallahassee guy --

1 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Tallahassee Bob?

2 MS. CARTER-LYNCH: Uh-huh. Those of us who  
3 have specific questions, we don't necessarily  
4 have to call Dave. Can we just put it in writing  
5 and send it to him? And that will cut out a  
6 whole lot of stuff. And the answer can be sent  
7 back to everybody by him. And you can still ask  
8 whatever you need to ask here once you get here,  
9 but it's not -- let's not be redundant.

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Right.

11 Okay. All in favor?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

13 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Any opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

16 MS. SHAW: One other thing. I had the  
17 district pleasure of spending my Saturday evening  
18 in Tallahassee with Dr. Bob -- with Mr. Bob.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Tallahassee Bob.

20 MS. SHAW: Tallahassee Bob.

21 MR. MAYERSOHN: Sunday. Sunday, not  
22 Saturday.

23 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: All right. So the official  
24 end time of 12 to 12:30, because that's kind of  
25 how --

1 MS. FERTIG: 12:30.

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: 12:30 for the audit  
3 committee, we've never had an official end time,  
4 I don't think, passes unanimously and now I need  
5 a motion to adjourn at 12:05.

6 MS. SHAW: So said; Phyllis.

7 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay.

8 MS. FERTIG: Second.

9 MR. MAYERSOHN: Wait. Go ahead.

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All in favor?  
11 Wait. Discussion?

12 MR. MAYERSOHN: No, no discussion. I just  
13 want to know if anyone wants to come to Broward  
14 Days next week, they're more than welcome.

15 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. All right. Duly  
16 noted.

17 All right. All in favor; aye.

18 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Any.

19 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Nope? Meeting is adjourned  
22 at 12:06.

23 (Meeting was concluded at 12:06 p.m.)  
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF BROWARD

I, Timothy R. Bass, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes thereof.

Dated this 24th day of March, 2025, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida.



TIMOTHY R. BASS  
Court Reporter

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