

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**OPPOSITION TO
HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PETITION TO
CLOSE PART OF ISOLATED SPARKMAN SCHOOL**

HEARING JULY 14, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

For the second time in two years, Harmony Grove School District No. 1 (“HGSD”) seeks to close all or part of Sparkman School, an isolated school that became part of HGSD in 2005 in a voluntary annexation. In March 2020, this Board voted to deny closing Sparkman, not as a vote against HGSD but instead as a vote to give HGSD and Sparkman a chance to bring creative solutions to the issues facing an isolated school.

As Board Member Charisse Dean said then¹:

So for those reasons I'll be voting that Sparkman continues to stay open. I would encourage the superintendent to be open-minded, look for solutions, pray, ask God for guidance, because I believe there is a way. I believe there is a way to do it and to get it done. We just have to be open and look for solutions. Thank you.

That moment of promise evaporated due to HGSD’s redoubled actions to degrade education in Sparkman, as detailed below. The current Petition would close Sparkman high school in grades 7-12, a move that HGSD described last time as making economies of scale “even worse.” “[I]t just puts the financial end even more out-of-whack.”²

And HGSD has acted in violation of Arkansas law this time. First, HGSD would have closed this part of Sparkman School without even informing this Board if we had not sued HGSD for violating the isolated school law and a Judge had not intervened to enforce that law. Second, to file its Petition in time for this meeting HGSD conducted a regular meeting in violation of Arkansas law requiring 10 days’ notice of regular meetings on the district website. We have raised this to the Court in a supplemental complaint, and the Judge will decide on July 20 whether that unlawful meeting prevents HGSD from closing grades 7-12 next month. Third, even as it seeks to close grades 7-12 next month, HGSD notified adjoining districts that it will close all of Sparkman next year. But a law adopted after HGSD’s last Petition allows those adjoining districts a year to petition this Board to reverse the 2005 voluntary annexation with HGSD and allow Sparkman to be part of their district. HGSD cannot preempt that law by eliminating half of Sparkman School before this process can take place.

The Board should deny HGSD’s Petition primarily because it is the wrong solution to handling this isolated school, but also because HGSD has broken the law to bring this Petition.

¹ Exhibit 1, Transcript, March 12, 2020, p. 117.

² *Id.*, p. 46, in response to question from Board Member Dr. Sarah Moore.

A. HGSD Cannot Show Closing Sparkman School Would Serve the Best Interests of the Students in the School District as a Whole.

In March 2020, this Board entered an Order denying HGSD’s petition to close the entire Sparkman Campus because “closure of the Sparkman campus would not be in the best interests of the students in the school district as a whole.”³ HGSD did not appeal that Order, and it became a final adjudication. *See Walker v. State Board of Education*, 2010 Ark. 277 (2010).

There has been no change since this Board denied HGSD’s petition in March 2020 that would justify a different result now. At that time, HGSD “reasoned that its Sparkman campus must be closed for fiscal reasons, and that its closure would allow the District to better address the academic needs of all District Students.”⁴ HGSD “also stated that transporting Sparkman campus students to the Harmony Grove campus would be done in a manner as to minimize the students’ inconvenience to the fullest extent possible, and would provide those students with enhanced access to academic programs and extracurricular activities.”⁵ As HGSD admitted two years ago, closing grades 7-12 would worsen financial issues for HGSD.

There is no change in the travel distance for the students who reside in Clark and Dallas Counties to the Harmony Grove campus. As a group of citizens, taxpayers and patrons of the Sparkman School pointed out in opposing HGSD’s petition for closure in March 2020, students who reside in Clark and Dallas Counties will have to travel up to four hours and 94 miles each day on a school bus to receive an education at the Harmony Grove campus. The burdens to children in Dallas and Clark Counties have not changed, and HGSD offers no good reason why this Board should let HGSD impose them.

This Board encouraged HGSD to work creatively and in good faith with Sparkman. That did not happen. Yes, COVID intervened (the March 12 State Board meeting was the last public gathering before COVID shut-downs, and the DESE announced district-wide school closures beginning that afternoon).

But there have been other changes wrought by HGSD itself. Rather than work with Sparkman creatively and in good faith, HGSD engaged in retribution to punish Sparkman. Specifically, HGSD targeted Judy Taylor, a Sparkman teacher who spoke at the State Board hearing for a creative new design for Sparkman involving four-day school weeks and a focus on agriculture, as has been done successfully in other districts.

First, she received a mailed threat of a Reduction in Force (“RIF”), which was not legally in effect, and would have eliminated her job. Then, all the algebra textbooks in her classroom were removed and taken to the Harmony Grove campus the week before the start of the 2020-21 school year, forcing her to revise the curriculum at the last minute. This was orchestrated by Jeff Mock, Harmony Grove High School Principal. Mr. Mock also completely changed Ms. Taylor’s schedule mid-year without input from Larry Knight, Sparkman High School Principal, and without advance notice to warn her of the need to revise her lesson plans or make other necessary adjustments. Ms.

³ State Board Order at 3-4 (March 24, 2020).

⁴ State Board Order at 1

⁵ State Board Order at 1-2.

Taylor and her students even went without heat for well over 4 months during the fall and winter months despite her regular requests to have the issue repaired.⁶

HGSD's actions ultimately caused Ms. Taylor to resign from her position at Sparkman School out of concern that her students would be affected by HGSD's retaliation against her for speaking against HGSD before this Board. HGSD did not replace Ms. Taylor. Ms. Taylor is not the first teacher Sparkman School has lost due to HGSD's actions. HGSD often fills openings at the Harmony Grove campus by transferring teachers from Sparkman School without replacing the vacancies at Sparkman. Then HGSD complains about the lack of teachers at the Sparkman campus.

Jeff Mock, Harmony Grove High School Principal, and HGSD Superintendent Dr. Albert Snow drove these actions to frustrate the efforts of Ms. Taylor and the other Sparkman teachers and staff in an effort to drive them away from Sparkman. They installed ineffective leadership at Sparkman School, stripping Mr. Knight, Sparkman Principal, of any real authority, and certainly any authority to improve conditions at Sparkman. Mr. Knight has to spend significant amounts of time driving a school bus and teaching classes instead of being able to focus on his role as principal. Mr. Mock and Dr. Snow rarely visit the Sparkman campus, yet they make decisions for it without any input from Sparkman teachers, students, parents or administrators.

In March 2020, this Board learned to its dismay that HGSD had offered *only* on-line courses through Virtual Arkansas to high school students and had done so since 2017. After the 2020 Board hearing, HGSD continued to offer primarily Virtual Arkansas classes to high school students, with two full-time lab assistants not to teach, but simply to sit in the classroom with the high school students who spent all day online with Virtual Arkansas. This increases expenses at Sparkman without enhancing educational offerings.

All of HGSD's degradations of class offerings, teaching staff and leadership at Sparkman were intended to and did directly harm the children of Sparkman. Rather than discharge its legal duties to provide an adequate education that is the equal of what it offers at Harmony Grove's schools, HGSD's leaders diminished offerings to Sparkman students in an obvious effort to drive those students to Harmony Grove schools and away from Sparkman. Children are not pawns and should not be victimized by the machinations of adults, particularly those adults charged with managing public schools and fostering the educational growth of students.

Despite this increased mistreatment, and despite COVID, which encouraged many students across the state to opt out of attending school altogether in favor of home schooling, Sparkman gained 11 students from 2020 to 2021 and still has a net increase in enrollment over 2020.⁷

⁶ Exhibit 2, Judy Taylor Resignation Letter.

⁷ As of March 12, 2020, 108 students were enrolled in Sparkman School, according to HGSD. Tr. at 18 (March 12, 2020). The 3Q ADM for Sparkman according to myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov shows 109 students at Sparkman in 2021-22 and 119 in 2020-21. HGSD incorrectly says in its Petition for Closure of Grades 7-12 that only 97 students are enrolled in Sparkman School. Petition to the Arkansas State Board of Education for the Closure of Grades 7-12 at 1.

What new reasons does HGSD offer now to close Sparkman high school?

Only one—as of late April 2022, no child had enrolled for Kindergarten at Sparkman. This is what Dr. Snow told the HGSD board on April 26 and is what he repeated under oath at a court hearing on June 8. Of course there is no logical reason why Kindergarten enrollment should result in shutting down all education in grades 7-12.

HGSD recites the legal standard in its Resolution, but it said nothing in its April 26 school board meeting to develop any reasons why closing 7-12 grades at Sparkman would benefit the students of the HGSD as a whole. Likewise, HGSD’s Petition for Closure of Grades 7-12 offers nothing more than conclusory statements and recitations of the legal standard. These unsupported conclusions do not provide this Board plausible grounds to endorse HGSD’s Petition.

What reasons does HGSD NOT say now?

- Nothing about transportation and travel distances to HGSD, because they have not gotten any better.
- Nothing about finances, because Dr. Snow told you under oath in 2020 that closing down the high school would be worse financially for HGSD than keeping Sparkman open in all grades.
- Nothing about the \$3.7 million that HGSD has in unspent ESSER funding,⁸ which by all rights should be spent in Sparkman as well as Harmony Grove and could be a huge source of funds to address the learning losses that Sparkman has suffered during COVID and before, when HGSD imposed online-only education through Virtual Arkansas at Sparkman high school beginning in 2017.
- Nothing about the funding it receives from Dallas and Clark Counties. Combining the Clark County and Dallas County revenue⁹ with the state foundation funding¹⁰ and adding in the isolated school funding of a little more than \$600,000¹¹, and not including categorical funding or other sources, such as ESSER money, HGSD receives over \$1.83 million every year due to the children at Sparkman, every nickel of which should be spent at Sparkman. This works out to \$16,788.99 per child¹².

⁸ Exhibit 3, ESSER Funding Dashboard.

⁹ In 2021, HGSD received \$725,815.52 from Dallas County and \$44,760.13 from Clark County for a total of \$770,575.65. This exceeded the 25-mill URT minimum (which applies against foundation funding) by about \$350,000, adding that excess amount to HGSD’s coffers. Exhibit 4, Dallas and Clark County Tax Records.

¹⁰ HGSD received \$7,018 per student for 119 students according to 3Q 2021 ADM for a total of \$854,658 in state foundation funding for the 2021-22 school year for Sparkman School’s students.

¹¹ HGSD budgeted \$568,256.86 in isolated school transportation funding for Sparkman and should receive \$487 in isolated funding for each of the 119 students at Sparkman, another \$57,953, for a total of \$626,209.86 in isolated school funding for the 2021-22 school year. Exhibit 5, Isolated Transportation Budget.

¹² There were 109 children enrolled in Sparkman School for the 2021-22 school year, according to Sparkman’s 3Q ADM. Dividing \$1.83 million by 109 equals \$16,788.99.

- Nothing about the 55 children from Sparkman who attend school in Harmony Grove rather than Sparkman.¹³ They seek the opportunities that HGSD has systematically cut from Sparkman. Adding those children to the rolls at Sparkman would immediately enhance education at Sparkman. HGSD instead cannibalized this population to enhance its Harmony Grove offerings.¹⁴

Closing 7-12 grades at Sparkman is the wrong answer. Every rural school district in Arkansas faces challenges. Other districts implement creative solutions to provide a quality education to their students instead of focusing their efforts on shutting the school down.

Look at Cossatot River School District, which has recognized that isolated schools, like Umpire in its district, offer a smaller learning environment where teachers and students can get to know each other and develop education plans that can be tuned to the personal growth of each student. Does HGSD consider that? No. Cossatot River seeks to increase enrollment at Umpire, a school smaller than Sparkman, by highlighting the strengths of a small school. Cossatot River has a clear understanding of the challenges that face an isolated school, particularly with its finances, but that district approaches the challenge with an open mind and a plan to embrace the benefits of a small school to attract additional students and reduce financial pressure.¹⁵ Cossatot River says it needs 130 students at Umpire to be successful; we can count more than 160 for Sparkman between those who currently attend Sparkman and who live in Sparkman but attend Harmony Grove schools.

The issues of distance, travel and hardship for children and families at an isolated school do not change, but the opportunities to create a special and close-knit environment at an isolated school are abundant. A quick step in that direction would be encouraging the 55 Sparkman students currently attending Harmony Grove to attend Sparkman by evening out the educational opportunities between the two schools. This would create a foundation to attract even more students to Sparkman.

There is a clear path to a shorter school week with longer days and a focus on agriculture that would be meaningful and relevant to the lives of many in Sparkman. This could save money and increase demand for Sparkman. Judy Taylor presented this plan to this Board two years ago, only to be hounded out of teaching at Sparkman. Why won't HGSD even consider this?

The last 5 years unfortunately show a consistent degradation of educational opportunities of Sparkman students at the hands of HGSD. HGSD betrays a goal to eliminate Sparkman, contrary to its fiduciary duties to support and provide a free and adequate education there. As of now, HGSD has taken all teachers away from Sparkman 7-12 grades, yet Dr. Snow says under oath¹⁶ that HGSD is prepared to have school in those grades beginning in August. For HGSD to make that claim

¹³ Exhibit 6, Student Address Report.

¹⁴ According to DESE's Statewide Information System, HGSD's district-wide 3Q ADM has dropped from a high of 948 in 2017-18, when HGSD began its campaign against Sparkman, to 874 in 2021-22, even as it has moved a third of Sparkman students from Sparkman to Harmony Grove schools. HGSD appears to be rearranging deck chairs at Harmony Grove at the expense of Sparkman.

¹⁵ See Exhibit 7, Cossatot River District's FAQ Document.

¹⁶ Tr. of Proceedings June 8, 2022 at 13.

when it has no teachers for those grades is not credible; HGSD has already dismembered 7-12 grades at Sparkman without waiting on this Board. No one is available to teach those students.

B. HGSD Has Violated Three State Laws Trying to Close 7-12 Grades at Sparkman.

Further, HGSD now ignores and violates Arkansas laws in its rush to eliminate the Sparkman school for Sparkman students.

First HGSD did not intend to file a petition under the isolated school law.¹⁷ Sparkman had to sue HGSD on June 3 under that law. We had a hearing on June 8 in that case, where the Judge noted that it was quite clear HGSD had no intention to follow the isolated school law until our lawsuit was filed. Dr. Snow admitted as much.¹⁸ This is against the backdrop of the 2020 State Board hearing, where Dr. Moore explicitly confirmed with Ms. Freno that the State Board would have to approve a non-unanimous vote to close the high school at Sparkman.¹⁹ Dr. Snow and members of his board were sitting in the audience. They heard that as well as everyone else sitting in that room did. Yet, we had to file a lawsuit to get HGSD to recognize it must comply with the isolated school law in closing grades 7-12 to Sparkman's students.

Second, when HGSD decided to try to comply with the law, it told the Court falsely that it had a regular board meeting set for the next night, June 9. That was false because HGSD's school calendar showed the next regular meeting was June 16, which was not in time to have the meeting and get a petition to this Board 30 days before this meeting. The Judge made it clear that he would prohibit HGSD from shutting down anything at Sparkman unless HGSD filed a petition with this Board by June 14.²⁰

Arkansas law requires that regular meetings be set forth in the district's calendar on its website at least 10 days before the meeting date. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(a)(4)(A). The law also requires that public school districts publish on the district's website a notice of a rescheduled regular board meeting at least 24 hours in advance. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(a)(4)(B). HGSD's school calendar in fact said the next regular meeting was June 16 when HGSD told the Judge it had a regular meeting on June 9, and this was the case when we filed suit on June 3, when we had the hearing on June 8, when HGSD met in violation of that statute on June 9, when HGSD had no meeting on June 16, and when we amended our lawsuit to bring this most recent violation of law to the attention of the Court on June 21. Now, magically, after we brought this violation to the attention of the Court, that June 16 regular meeting date is no longer on HGSD's school calendar on its website.

Because the June 9 regular meeting violated Arkansas law, we have asked the Judge to enjoin HGSD from going forward with this Petition because its meeting and everything HGSD's board did at that meeting are void. School boards cannot act in a way that exceeds their power

¹⁷ Tr. of Proceedings June 8, 2022 at 11.

¹⁸ Tr. of Proceedings June 8, 2022 at 19-20.

¹⁹ Tr. at 77 (March 12, 2020).

²⁰ "If however, they don't have this petition filed within the 30 days before that meeting, Mr. Askew, I would invite you to send me an order, and I will enjoin them from closing the school . . ." Tr. of Proceedings June 8, 2022 at 19.

under the law.²¹ Yet that is what HGSD did in its effort to shut down grades 7-12 to Sparkman students who report for school a little more than a month from now.

The Judge was not able to hear us on that issue until July 20, and we have a hearing then. The violation of law is clear, and we think the consequences of that legal violation are also clear. If the Judge prevents HGSD from shutting down Sparkman high school, then nothing you do on its Petition will be effective. If this Board approves HGSD's Petition against the backdrop of HGSD's multiple violations of state law, then Sparkman will have a right of review under the Administrative Procedures Act. Sparkman is prepared to exercise that right for its students.

Third, HGSD's real plan is to shut Sparkman entirely, not just in grades 7-12. It does not reveal this plan to this Board, but it has already put it in action by giving notice to adjoining districts. This brings up the third legal violation by HGSD.

After the 2020 hearing on HGSD's effort to close Sparkman, the Legislature amended the law on voluntary annexation of small school districts to require the receiving district to provide a notice of at least one year to all school districts adjoining the absorbed district if the receiving district wanted to close a school in the 20 years after the consolidation.²² The law applies to closure of an entire school. HGSD has sent that letter to all the districts surrounding Sparkman, stating it intends to close the entire school at Sparkman in one year.²³

The purpose of the law is to let one of the adjoining districts enter the scene and petition this Board to reverse the annexation into HGSD and annex Sparkman into its district, where the Sparkman students, tax base and funding would be valued and wanted. As is clear, that process would require a year. For this reason, HGSD the law requires that HGSD must wait before it closes Sparkman school to Sparkman students.

HGSD has not waited. It has already hollowed out the high school down to 7th grade by removing all the teachers.²⁴ It seeks to close down those grades permanently.²⁵ By doing this, HGSD dramatically changes the proposition for a neighboring school district in considering whether to seek to reverse the consolidation of Sparkman into HGSD and to take Sparkman and its students into its own district. HGSD does not disclose this critical factor to this Board in its Petition.

Why does HGSD do this? It seems clear that HGSD has had a 5-year plan to shut down Sparkman school, force Sparkman students to travel back and forth to Harmony Grove every day

²¹ Exhibit 8, Brief in Support of Supplemental Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

²² "A receiving district that received an affected district as a result of a voluntary administrative annexation under § 6-13-1601 et seq. shall notify all contiguous public school districts of its intent to close a public school campus that is part of an affected district a minimum of one (1) year before the closure of the public school campus." Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1416(h)(1). "An affected district under subdivision (h)(1) of this section shall have been the result of a voluntary administrative annexation under § 6-13-1601 et seq. that occurred no more than twenty (20) years ago." Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1416(h)(2).

²³ Exhibit 9, HGSD Letter to Contiguous Districts.

²⁴ "Q. So the cupboard's bare when it comes to teachers for Sparkman High School for next year. Right? A. Yes, sir." Tr. of Proceedings June 8, 2022 at 13-14.

²⁵ "[P]etition to the State Board of Education to partially close the Sparkman Campus (grades 7-12)." Petition to the Arkansas State Board of Education for the Closure of Grades 7-12 at 1.

for a public education, and keep the Dallas and Clark County tax bases that go with Sparkman for itself.²⁶ To achieve this purpose, HGSD has systematically degraded the education at Sparkman, removed athletics and programs like Future Farmers of America (“FFA”), and forced children and parents in Sparkman to choose between the meager offerings at Sparkman or opportunities at Harmony Grove. A child from Sparkman who wants to play football, baseball, or cheer has no choice but to go to Harmony Grove or some other district.

By stripping the tax base out of Dallas and Clark Counties and degrading Sparkman, HGSD enriches itself at the expense of the good people of Dallas and Clark Counties and the children of those counties whose education that tax base supports.

The law prohibits this in cases of voluntary annexation. Rather than let the receiving district do what HGSD has done to Sparkman here, the law requires HGSD to give other districts the fair chance to assess and decide whether to take in Sparkman in all its parts, including tax base, community and all students. HGSD violates that law by seeking to shut down half of Sparkman before surrounding districts can even assess the matter. HGSD conceals this from this Board, once again requiring Sparkman to call out HGSD.

There is no good reason why HGSD must be in such a hurry to dismember Sparkman. The law says it cannot act in this preemptive manner. There is no good reason for HGSD to conceal its plan from this Board. HGSD’s Petition to this Board violates the one-year law, and Sparkman is prepared to make this another ground for judicial review under the Administrative Procedures Act if necessary to protect 7-12 grade students.

The situation before this Board is a sad and abysmal one. This Board cannot force HGSD to treat Sparkman’s students, staff, and community with respect and decency, but this Board need not and should not reward HGSD’s harsh and unrelenting mistreatment of Sparkman students and HGSD’s willingness to break the law in its effort to strip out the tax base and revenues from Sparkman while shutting down education for students at Sparkman’s isolated school. HGSD knew Sparkman’s situation when it voluntarily annexed Sparkman and its students by mutual agreement in 2005; now HGSD seeks to change that agreement by depriving Sparkman students their isolated school. HGSD’s conduct is shameful. Sparkman’s students and community deserve better.

CONCLUSION

The legal standard for closing isolated schools is the best interest of the students of the district as a whole. HGSD could not meet that standard two years ago when it sought to close the entire Sparkman School and it cannot meet that burden today. Two years ago this Board gave HGSD an opportunity to find creative solutions to provide the students of Sparkman School with the educational opportunities that they are entitled to receive and which HGSD is required to provide as an adequate education. HGSD did not do that and instead continued its efforts to systematically degrade the education offered to students at Sparkman School. This Board should not condone HGSD for deliberately degrading the education of children who reside in Dallas and Clark Counties.

²⁶ For example, in 2021, HGSD received \$725,815.52 from Dallas County and \$44,760.13 from Clark County for a total of \$770,575.65.

HGSD belatedly seeks permission to shut down the High School at Sparkman one month before students report to school and while adjoining districts assess Sparkman to determine whether to petition this Board to unwind the annexation with HGSD. This Board should provide time for the surrounding districts to assess Sparkman in its entirety. That is what the law requires and that is what is in the best interests of the students in the district. Closing 7-12 grade education to students at Sparkman is not in the best interests of students, and HGSD brought this Petition in violation of Arkansas law. This Board should deny HGSD's Petition and provide Sparkman and its students a fair opportunity to move forward without HGSD.

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In The Matter Of:
DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 12, 2020

Sharon K. Hill, CCR
(501) 680-0888

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARCH 12, 2020
10:00 A.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. DIANE ZOOK, Chairman
MS. CHARISSE DEAN, Vice Chairman
MS. OUIDA NEWTON
DR. FITZGERALD HILL
DR. SARAH MOORE
MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS
MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE (via phone)
MR. BRETT WILLIAMSON (via phone)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

MR. JOHNNY KEY, Secretary of Education
MS. STACEY McADOO, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

DESE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. LORI FRENO	General Counsel
MS. MARY CLAIRE HYATT	Attorney
MS. JENNIFER LINK	Attorney

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EXHIBIT ONE (1)	
Transition Plan	

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(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?

Thank you, Ms. Link.

MS. LINK: Thank you.

A-3: PETITION FOR CLOSURE OF ISOLATED SCHOOL - HARMONY GROVE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Next -- and I'll remind you --
no one signed up ahead of time, like yesterday, to
speak, but we do have some people who signed up
today. So we'll need a motion and a second and a
vote to see whether or not the Board wants to hear
public comment during this session.

MS. NEWTON: I move to hear public comment.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton moved to hear.

DR. HILL: Second.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Second by Dr. Hill.

All those in favor?

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Opposed?

Okay. Thank you.

All right. Ms. Freno, will you come and remind
us?

MS. FRENO: Thank you. Lori Freno, Division of
Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Harmony Grove School District has -- seeks

1 to close its Sparkman K-12 campus, which is an
2 isolated school as defined under Arkansas law. The
3 Arkansas Code Annotated 6-20-602 affords two
4 different ways that an isolated school can be closed:
5 either by a unanimous vote of the local board of
6 directors or, if it's not unanimous, if it is
7 approved by the majority of the State Board of
8 Education. In the present case, the majority of
9 Harmony Grove -- of the Harmony Grove Board of
10 Directors voted to close it, but it was not
11 unanimous; it was only 5-2. That is why this is
12 before you-all today.

13 A local board of directors must file a -- a
14 local board of directors that wants to close an
15 isolated campus must file a petition within 30 days
16 prior to a State Board meeting where they're asking
17 for the State Board to consider the matter. In this
18 case, the Harmony Grove School District has filed
19 that petition and it is before you today.

20 This Board has the authority to approve or
21 disapprove the petition, but only shall approve the
22 petition if it finds that the closure will be in the
23 best interest of the students in the school district
24 as a whole and that the closure will not have any
25 negative impact on desegregation efforts or that it

1 will not violate any federal court -- valid federal
2 court orders. And, again, the Harmony Grove School
3 District has filed a timely petition and has
4 requested a hearing before this Board.

5 And if I may, I will go over the hearing
6 procedures at this time.

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Please.

8 MS. FRENO: All persons wishing to testify
9 should be placed under oath. That does not include
10 the lawyers; just non-lawyers. The spokesperson for
11 the petitioning school district shall have a total of
12 15 minutes to present the school district's remarks.
13 The State Board may allow more than 15 minutes if it
14 deems necessary. The spokesperson for any individual
15 or group of citizens that opposes the petition shall
16 have a total of 15 minutes to present the remarks of
17 the individual or group of citizens. The State Board
18 may allow more than 15 minutes, if it deems
19 necessary. The spokespersons for the petitioning
20 school district shall have a total of 5 minutes to
21 present closing remarks, which may be extended. And,
22 likewise, the -- any -- oh, no -- the spokesperson
23 for the petitioning school district shall have a
24 total of 5 minutes to present closing remarks, and
25 the State Board may grant additional time, as

1 necessary. After that, the Board deliberates upon
2 the matter and will either approve or deny the
3 school's petition. If it deems necessary, the State
4 Board may take the matter under advisement and
5 announce its decision at a later date, provided that
6 all discussions, deliberations, and votes upon the
7 matter take place in a public hearing.

8 And if no one has any questions, I will then
9 turn it over to the petitioning district.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And before you do that, I
11 want to make sure that the people who have signed up
12 know that their time is not within that 15 minutes.
13 That will be after both sides present their case and
14 before we make a final vote on this decision, if we
15 make one today, so --

16 MS. FRENO: That is correct, Ms. Zook.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I also want to
18 acknowledge as we always appreciate our
19 Representatives and Senators for being here. We have
20 Representative Womack and Vaught, and also Senator
21 Maloch, and we do appreciate you being here. And if
22 I have overlooked an elected official at the
23 Legislature, please motion to me and I'll try to
24 acknowledge you as well.

25 MS. FRENO: Okay. Any other questions?

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Is everyone ready? And anybody
2 have any questions of Ms. Freno?

3 Thank you.

4 Okay. Be sure and identify yourself.

5 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And I need to swear you
7 in -- and anyone else who plans to give testimony
8 needs to stand, raise your right hand. Do you swear
9 or affirm that the testimony you're about to give
10 shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
11 the truth?

12 (SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

14 CASE BY THE PETITIONING DISTRICT

15 SUPT. SNOW: All right. My name is Albert Snow.
16 I'm the Superintendent of Education of the Harmony
17 Grove School District, outside of Camden, Arkansas.

18 I'm here today to petition the State Board to
19 close the Sparkman K-12 campus.

20 I've only been onboard as superintendent since
21 July of 2019 -- no, excuse me -- July of 2018; so
22 I've been there a year and eight months now.

23 I started this process last year, in the fall.
24 I had went up to Sparkman and had a meeting with the
25 faculty up there. I told them there were three main

1 issues with the Sparkman campus: test scores -- and I
2 also told them two of them they didn't really have a
3 lot of control over. Test scores was the first one,
4 and that was something that they could control; the
5 second one was enrollment; and the third was teacher
6 retention. Didn't get -- you'll hear a lot about the
7 finances, and there was a good bit of that in your --
8 in the petition packet that you received. That was
9 not my main concern when I started this.

10 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Supt. Snow picks up the
11 remote to begin his PowerPoint presentation.)

12 All right. Somebody might have to show me which
13 one of these -- there we go.

14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: There you go.

15 SUPT. SNOW: All right. My main concern when we
16 started this was the state of academics at the
17 Sparkman campus. As you can see here, for the last
18 three years Sparkman Elementary had an F report card
19 for two years -- an F report card at the elementary
20 school. Sparkman High School has had a D for the
21 past three years. This is the very definition of a
22 failing school. They'd had two F's in a row when I
23 took over. Okay. I went up to the campus and talked
24 to the faculty about what they needed to do with
25 these issues and I made a commitment to help the

1 Sparkman campus as much as possible as long as I was
2 superintendent of a school district, and I will
3 continue to do so. I took advantage of every
4 specialist that I could, worked in conjunction with
5 the co-op. They have math, science, literacy
6 specialists that we were able to use just for the
7 price of being in their consortium; so it didn't cost
8 us a great deal of money. I also contracted with
9 E2E, a consultant firm that I'd used when I was the
10 superintendent at Fordyce -- and, of course, that
11 cost a good bit of money. I made a commitment to
12 give them help. Okay. They did raise their test
13 scores to a C in one year. They got an award from
14 OEP, from the University of Arkansas, for Bridging
15 the Gap and they are to be commended for that.
16 That's true. I am not sure -- well, the high school
17 -- and I'll talk more about it in a little bit -- has
18 made no progress in three years, and that's mostly
19 due to the situation at the high school, and I'll get
20 into that further.

21 As you can see there, Harmony Grove Elementary
22 and Harmony Grove High School, we've been at a B
23 level for years, okay, and we're constantly striving
24 there to get to the A level. A couple of those years
25 we missed being an A by a handful of points, so

1 there's nothing wrong with the academics at the
2 Harmony Grove campus.

3 Now the public comments and probably from the
4 response to me, the official response you'll hear --
5 mostly what you hear is about the finances, how they
6 don't think our figures are right. They're saying we
7 do things wrong, we're misusing money. You'll hear
8 about the Dallas County money. One thing I want to
9 make sure the Board understands is Sparkman was
10 consolidated 15 years ago. There's not been a
11 Sparkman School District in 15 years. So to separate
12 Dallas County money is really not germane to this
13 process. There's Harmony Grove money and taxes and
14 so-on.

15 When you hear public comments, I'm sure you're
16 going to hear a lot of very passionate people. No
17 one wants to lose their community school, and I
18 appreciate that. Okay. I think some of this -- I
19 would've liked to have seen all this passion when we
20 had an F grade at the elementary two years in a row
21 -- okay -- and not a lot of schools in the state will
22 get that kind of grade.

23 The other -- another issue that we talked about
24 was declining enrollment, okay, and that's one of the
25 things teachers don't have a whole lot of control

1 over. These figures are from March 6, for the past
2 three years. Okay. The figure I used for the 33 up
3 there -- the first year that I took over -- after 10
4 days we drop all the no-shows. There were 142
5 students at the Sparkman campus in August of 2018.
6 Today, as of this morning there are 108 students at
7 the Sparkman campus. That's 34 students from a year
8 and eight months. Okay. That's a huge problem, and
9 that's where -- and if you'll look back, it's going
10 down every year. That's not something that's unusual
11 to Sparkman and Harmony Grove district. Okay.
12 That's all over south Arkansas. There's a lot of
13 schools with the same problem. But that's where the
14 financial end raised its head. Okay. You can't lose
15 34 students in a year and remain financially viable.
16 Okay. It started with me talking about this with
17 academics. Now, finance is a big question here.

18 Okay. Now they will argue that 20 of them came
19 to the Harmony Grove campus, and that's true. Okay.
20 My question there is why are the students leaving the
21 Sparkman campus and coming to the Harmony Grove
22 campus. I think that's a sign that they're looking
23 for a better quality education, which can be provided
24 there. They will say differently. Okay. They'll
25 say -- one of the interrogatories we got wanted to

1 know how much money we'd spent on recruiting students
2 from Sparkman. The answer was, "Zero." We don't
3 actively recruit students to Sparkman. Yes, we have
4 things that they don't have on the Sparkman campus;
5 sports is one. A lot of people -- people that do
6 come down even now, some of them come to play sports.
7 We also have more academic opportunities. But like I
8 said, I'll discuss the high school again in a minute.

9 The other problem that I originally talked about
10 was teacher retention. All right. That doesn't look
11 too bad, the numbers there. But when you look at 15
12 certified positions -- the year I came onboard, '18-
13 19, there were five new-hires in the certified
14 positions. That's a third of the faculty. That's
15 why -- one of the reasons was no continuity with the
16 teaching staff and it makes it hard to keep up
17 academic standards when you're constantly bringing
18 new-hires in. And I've been in schools like these
19 before, my previous school. We hire teachers every
20 year. We hire people from Henderson State,
21 Arkadelphia, and they come in and get a year or two
22 of experience, and then they go back home. Hot
23 Springs -- okay, Hot Springs has got a whole lot more
24 to offer than Fordyce, Arkansas, or Sparkman,
25 Arkansas. So what we become is a training ground for

1 other people's schools. We lost four this year.
2 Now, that's -- I did add a new position. We had a
3 music teacher retire and I added another elementary
4 position to do away with a blended class. We had 3rd
5 and 4th grade in the same class, which is not a good
6 situation. I'm going to have to do more of that if
7 the Board chooses to keep it open. I'm going to have
8 to cut finances somewhere and that would be one of
9 the places that I would start.

10 All right. Let's talk about the financial
11 issue. In all the material you've seen from the
12 Sparkman faction, I don't think they say anything
13 about the pay raises coming down the pike. We've
14 been fortunate at Harmony Grove that our pay scale
15 was above the state minimum. Legislature has
16 mandated it be raised to \$36,000 for -- in four
17 years. Now we've been fortunate. Okay. We've been
18 fortunate that we've had above that. All right.
19 For the next two years, we're going to have to raise
20 the pay scale \$1,000 a time. Okay. The State will
21 give us money for that for two years, and then it
22 goes away. Okay. You all heard about the \$60
23 million that they allocated for the teacher pay
24 raises. That goes away in the fifth year. Okay.
25 Harmony Grove is not going to be the only school

1 district with financial problems because of that pay
2 raise. It's kind of like the perfect storm here.
3 The minimum wage increase is going up as well.

4 We -- I talked to Cindy Smith at the Department
5 of Fiscal Services. She may be in the audience
6 tonight. She had a letter that was in my petition
7 saying that she agreed with the figures. Her words
8 were, "Harmony Grove is a stable school district
9 financially right now. But there are glaring issues
10 that must be addressed with the finances." Okay. I
11 know how that works. As soon as you get a little
12 drop in your legal balance, Fiscal Services wants to
13 know what's going on; "You're in early stage alert,
14 fiscal distress." Okay. It's my job as
15 superintendent to see that Harmony Grove never gets
16 there -- okay -- never gets to early
17 intervention/fiscal distress. And you will hear the
18 Sparkman faction say, "He's not taking in the
19 students in Sparkman into consideration." Yes, I am.
20 I'm taking all of the kids in our school district
21 into consideration. Okay. We probably have 70
22 students already from Sparkman that go to our campus
23 every day.

24 All right. My time is running out.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have two-and-a-half minutes.

1 SUPT. SNOW: Okay. This just speaks to the
2 efficiency of the school -- school district.
3 Sparkman Elementary -- and I think this is a powerful
4 slide -- Sparkman Elementary has 56 students in K-6,
5 with seven teachers. Second grade at Harmony Grove
6 Elementary has 69 students in 2nd grade with three
7 teachers. We've got over 75 in 6th grade, with three
8 teachers. The average class size at Sparkman
9 Elementary is eight; average class size in Harmony
10 Grove Elementary is 19. You can see that that's not
11 a very efficient allocation of resources. Sparkman
12 people will say, "Oh, we love the small classes."
13 Well, we do; everybody does. Okay. But we can't
14 have that at Harmony Grove. We don't need to have it
15 at Sparkman either.

16 Another thing you'll hear is the students --
17 well, this is the difference. We're spending more --
18 almost \$2800 more per student to educate students at
19 the Sparkman campus than on students at the Harmony
20 Grove campus. Again, that's not sustainable for the
21 finances of the district.

22 You will hear that Sparkman students will be on
23 the bus for two hours. That's not going to happen.
24 Okay. If you know geography in south Arkansas, you
25 can get to Little Rock in two hours. Okay. We've

1 plotted it out, Google Maps. The farthest household
2 in the Harmony Grove district is 41 minutes from the
3 Sparkman campus. Okay. Now that's driving in your
4 car; a bus route is going to be longer than that.
5 We've been working since this started to figure out
6 the bus routes. Okay. You'll hear that we have no
7 plan. I don't have one on paper, but this discussion
8 has been going on. We do have all the houses plotted
9 out. This discussion --

10 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

11 SUPT. SNOW: -- has been going on.

12 All right.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You'll have 5 extra minutes at
14 the end.

15 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

17 SUPT. SNOW: All right.

18 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Supt. Snow tries to
19 turn off the PowerPoint.)

20 SUPT. SNOW: Well, there we go. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah.

22 CASE BY THE OPPOSITION

23 MR. ASKEW: I'm Jess Askew for the Opponents who
24 are from Sparkman.

25 The Harmony Grove District has the privilege and

1 the duty to provide a fair and adequate education to
2 the children from Clark County and Dallas County, as
3 well as Ouachita County. And that duty includes
4 special money for isolated schools and protections
5 for isolated schools. And we have to have isolated
6 schools protected to prevent the creation of
7 education deserts in locations and places in our
8 state. If we have a place without a school
9 available, then we don't have adequate education,
10 unless we start using helicopters to transport
11 children to schools. We have to keep isolated
12 schools open. That's what the law requires, the
13 constitution requires.

14 Harmony Grove does not account for the \$300,000
15 that we noted. That's the difference between the
16 isolated money that it receives and what it has
17 reported in Dr. Hill's -- Norman Hill's numbers.
18 Harmony Grove does not account for the \$365,000 every
19 year it receives in tax money above URT from Clark
20 County and Dallas County. It punishes Sparkman on
21 this enrollment issue, while admitting that 70
22 students from Sparkman who could cure that problem
23 are at Harmony Grove. I did not hear a single
24 reference to isolated schools from Dr. Snow -- not a
25 single one. Finances, sure. Performance, sure. But

1 this is a special situation for an isolated school;
2 it's in the best interest of all the children in the
3 school district -- I did not hear that. He talks
4 about things that adults and administrators worry
5 about: money, convenience to adults. Well, we know
6 that when administrators start talking about making
7 their lives easier, they may not be rising to the
8 challenge that is required to meet the best interest
9 of our students and our children. It requires
10 creativity, it requires courage, and it requires new
11 efforts. Certainly, I hear Harmony Grove equals "us"
12 and "we." I heard this several times, "we at Harmony
13 Grove," "our people," "our teachers." And then I
14 heard Sparkman, "they," "them." What Dr. Snow has
15 done is impeach his management of his district and
16 the resources that Harmony Grove has given and
17 applied at Sparkman. That is not a basis to wipe out
18 an isolated school and create an education desert.

19 You'll hear from Mrs. Walker, a retired teacher;
20 you will hear from Mrs. Taylor, who's got a creative
21 plan for keeping the Sparkman school open; and you
22 will hear from Senator Maloch, who will talk about
23 isolated schools from his perspective in the General
24 Assembly. We will take questions at the end, if you
25 wish. Thank you.

1 MRS. WALKER: Thanks to the Little Rock School
2 Board of Education for my allotted time to speak on
3 behalf of Sparkman Schools. For thirty --

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. If you will identify
5 yourself.

6 MRS. WALKER: For 39 years --

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: If you will identify yourself.

8 MRS. WALKER: Okay. I'm Bobbie Walker. Yes, I
9 thought I said that.

10 On January 16, 2020, the Harmony Grove School
11 Board voted 5-to-2 to close the Sparkman School in
12 Dallas County and bus its students to the Harmony
13 Grove campus in Ouachita County. Our community is
14 asking for your help in preventing this closure.

15 In every small town, the school is the heart of
16 every community. Friday night ballgames, athletic
17 banquets, homecoming activities are a few of the
18 events that once brought our community together.
19 Without a vision the people perish, and without a
20 school the community loses its identity.

21 We have always been a small school, but we have
22 received recognition academically and athletically.
23 Most important, even though we are small in size and
24 low on resources we've put out some extraordinary
25 fine young people who've gone on to make important

1 contributions in the fields of education, medicine,
2 law, business, journalism, various trades, and the
3 list goes on. Great things have been and can
4 continue to be accomplished in a small school.

5 One big concern and pressing problem our
6 students will encounter if our school is closed is
7 that some of our students will be on the bus for two
8 hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon,
9 leaving home in the dark and returning home in the
10 dark during the winter months; getting up and getting
11 dressed at 5:00 a.m. to ride a school bus leaving at
12 6:00 a.m. According to a national sleep study,
13 children ages 5 through 10 need nine to ten hours of
14 sleep. To each of you, imagine putting your child or
15 your grandchild on a bus at 6:00 a.m. and riding the
16 bus for two hours. For some, a need to use the
17 bathroom; many deprived of enough sleep to function
18 successfully or academically and to pay full
19 attention in class.

20 In addition to a long bus ride twice a day, the
21 youngest of our students do not need to be so far
22 from their parents in case of an emergency and
23 there's a need to be picked up in a hurry. We have
24 special needs students. Many are on medication and
25 many depend on the school to help with their

1 medication, causing some to be forced into a
2 difficult medical schedule that may affect their
3 medical needs.

4 Our teachers are doing a fantastic job. This
5 school year our elementary students ranked second in
6 the state for academic growth. Also, earlier this
7 year, our high school students received recognition
8 from the Office for Education Policy at the
9 University of Arkansas for Beating the Odds in math,
10 Beating the Odds overall, and Beating the Odds in
11 ELA. In a study on rethinking the school closure,
12 Mara Casey Tieken, Associate Professor of Education,
13 has done a study on the negative short-term impact of
14 school closure on students. The evidence is well-
15 documented; students' test scores and grade-point
16 average tend to fall in the year before and
17 immediately after closure. Socially, closure can
18 disrupt students' relationship with peers and
19 teachers and lead to students' confusion, depression,
20 an increase in absenteeism, and parental involvement
21 decrease. Psychological affects on our students is
22 another major concern. For several years now, the
23 threat of closure has hung over the heads of both the
24 faculty and the student body of the Sparkman School.
25 This has led to low morale on campus and resulted in

1 the slow migration of our students to neighboring
2 schools, as Sparkman parents have tried to protect
3 their children from the stress of the uncertain fate
4 of their school.

5 School closing can be destructive economically
6 and socially in many rural communities. It can
7 represent a loss of the community's largest
8 employers. Mara Tieken's study also included a
9 comment by a former resident, and I quote, "When a
10 school closed, it became a ghost town."

11 Finally, one important finding about school
12 closure, closures are not evenly distributed. Most
13 studies show that they disproportionately affect poor
14 communities and communities of color. Low-income
15 residents may not have adequate transportation and
16 finance to get to parent-teacher conferences. And
17 many students rely on schools to provide their daily
18 meals. Making a long bus ride would be really
19 grueling. Current evidence suggests that school
20 closure can often bring more harm than benefits for
21 students and the community.

22 Today, I beg, I plead, and I sincerely pray that
23 each of you will prayerfully consider giving us the
24 opportunity to keep our school with the plan that
25 Mrs. Taylor has to present. "I can do all things

1 through Christ which strengthen me."

2 MS. TAYLOR: Good morning. My name is Judy
3 Taylor and I'm here representing the teachers and
4 staff at Sparkman School.

5 While they would all love to be here today, they
6 are back at Sparkman loving on our students and
7 helping them realize their dreams through education.
8 On behalf of all the faculty and staff at Sparkman,
9 we want to thank you for listening to our plans and
10 for finding value in us and in our students.

11 I'm not from Sparkman; I'm from Harmony Grove.
12 I'm a third-generation Hornet. I'm the first to
13 admit that I took a teaching job at Sparkman as a way
14 to get in at HG -- but what I found at Sparkman was
15 something I couldn't have found there. With the
16 small class sizes at Sparkman I got to really know my
17 students, not just their favorite colors or what they
18 want to be when they grow up, but I got to learn each
19 of their learning styles. I'm able to differentiate
20 instruction for each of my students and help them
21 reach their full potential. This is one of the many
22 reasons we were able to score second in the state
23 last year for growth. I had students who went up as
24 many as seven grade levels in math last year alone.
25 You may be wondering why they were low when I got

1 them. It was a product of decisions made by past
2 administrations to save money. For example, my 6th
3 graders last year had been in a combined grade the
4 year before and solely taught by MobyMax for the two
5 years prior. These decisions to combine grades, have
6 an online curriculum, as well as other decisions made
7 by administrations may have saved on the bottom-line,
8 but it did not help our students.

9 Our school is small and with small schools come
10 inefficiencies. While some of these can't be
11 overcome without changes at the state level, such as
12 providing waivers for faculty or staff to wear
13 multiple hats, there are things that are within the
14 current laws that can be done to make a small school
15 run more efficiently without combining grades.
16 Keeping all of this in mind, we sat down, looked at
17 the certifications our great staff has, and worked
18 out a schedule where we could trim our staff by 14%
19 without combining grades, as well as moving some
20 teachers to the high school for both English and
21 math. This will give our students a teacher in every
22 subject area that is tested, except science. If you
23 were not aware, grades 9-12 at Sparkman are currently
24 using Virtual Arkansas for all of their classes,
25 except music, art, and P.E.

1 Another way we have looked into saving money and
2 helping our students and community is to go to a
3 four-day school week. We feel this would draw
4 students through School Choice and help our families
5 who rely on older students to assist financially by
6 having a job. As you know, Kirby went to a four-day
7 week this year and not only has it been physically
8 advantageous by cutting transportation and food costs
9 by up to 20%, they have also gained over 20 students.

10 When Dr. Snow proposed to close Sparkman, he
11 gave us three reasons:

12 First, he said that if we didn't make changes
13 our costs would be \$1.24 million next year and we
14 would only bring in \$950,000. These figures did not
15 take into account the isolated transportation money
16 that is used district-wide for buses or cars, nor did
17 it take into account the surplus millage that is paid
18 by Dallas and Clark County residents of over \$350,000
19 per year. By making the staff changes and going to a
20 four-day week we would remain profitable, even
21 without the tax or earmarked funds.

22 The second reason given for closure is the low
23 academic scores in the high school. While our high
24 school does have an ESSA score of a D and is ranked
25 257th in the state, Bearden is 256th and Gurdon is

1 242nd. As you see, we're very comparable to our area
2 high schools. Also, our ACT average is 19.1, which
3 is right in line with the state at a 19.3.

4 The third reason given for the closure is our
5 loss of students. In the last year we have lost over
6 20 students, but these students didn't move. Last
7 year Harmony Grove started running buses in Sparkman.
8 Currently, we have 69 students who ride the bus from
9 Sparkman to Harmony Grove.

10 This continued threat of closure, no teachers in
11 the high school, and combined classes are the
12 underlying reasons we have lost students.

13 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

14 MS. TAYLOR: We firmly believe this plan
15 addresses all of these issues and will give parents
16 confidence to re-enroll their children at Sparkman.

17 I'm sure you're aware that Sparkman is isolated
18 --

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Your time is up, and we're going
20 to let the Senator speak. Sorry. I know it's hard
21 when you have multiple speakers to stay in the time,
22 but we are listening.

23 SENATOR MALOCH: Thank you, Madam Chair, Members
24 of the Board. My name is Bruce Maloch. I'm the
25 State Senator for District 12, which includes

1 Sparkman and all of Dallas County. Representative
2 Rich Womack is also here. I appreciate just a couple
3 or three minutes that you would grant to the public.

4 First of all, let me acknowledge the challenges
5 that I know the Harmony Grove District has, both
6 academically and financially, as many of our rural
7 districts around the state have. But it's the
8 responsibility of the State to provide an adequate
9 education, and all of us -- we don't want just
10 adequate; we want an excellent education. And so
11 those we hope are being addressed.

12 We've gone through the years of consolidation,
13 and I know we're not talking about a consolidation
14 here; we're talking about splitting off. But it's
15 still -- or closing a school. But it's still an
16 isolated school. Now when that happened a number of
17 years ago, when they dropped below 350, I don't know
18 whether it was a shotgun wedding or whether it was a
19 celebration, but that's beside the point. We're here
20 and we're having to address some of the issues and
21 the challenges that they have.

22 We're coming to the point though in Arkansas
23 from a policy perspective that the distance
24 challenges that we're going to have on closing some
25 of our rural isolated districts is going to present a

1 challenge. And I think it also affects negatively on
2 the academic performance of these children.

3 Now Dr. Snow mentioned the length of time or the
4 mileage to Harmony Grove. I live in the Emerson
5 School District -- actually now it's Emerson-Taylor-
6 Bradley; so I'm familiar with these consolidations.
7 Now, fortunately, those all have K-12 at each of
8 those locations. Their numbers are a little bit
9 better. My grandchildren live five miles from
10 Emerson School. Their school bus ride is 30 minutes
11 because the bus goes down this road and that road.
12 And so that is an issue that we do have to consider.

13 From a policy standpoint also I think the State
14 is going to have to do more for isolated districts.
15 I know we have isolated funding; I know we have some
16 additional transportation funding. But we're going
17 to get to the point with some of these isolated
18 schools where even our formula is going to have to
19 allow more funds for a lower teacher-to-student
20 ratio, because it's just going to get to the point
21 where we can't keep transporting students. Now
22 following the Lake View ruling in 2003 we had the
23 adequacy study to create the funding formula. Since
24 that time, for the most part -- not exactly, but for
25 the most part we just tweaked that formula based on

1 the Consumer Price Index. That's not exact, but
2 that's basically what we've done. In December of
3 this year, we authorized a new independent study to
4 be done throughout this year -- and I think part of
5 that study necessarily will look at some of these
6 isolated districts, some of the higher costs, and
7 some of the responsibility that the State has to
8 continue to provide an adequate education to
9 students, regardless of where they live.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have about 15 seconds.

11 SENATOR MALOCH: Okay. Some alternatives have
12 been listed, some mentioned. I would ask that you
13 consider those. I know Representative Womack, Rich
14 Womack, Representative --

15 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

16 SENATOR MALOCH: -- Vaught is here. She has
17 rural districts. And other Representatives in the
18 area would ask you to consider those and at least a
19 delay to see if some of these options work. Thank
20 you for your consideration.

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

22 Okay. You have five more minutes.

23 SUPT. SNOW: All right. I am going to respond
24 to some of these that you just heard.

25 I think somebody questioned my courage about

1 taking the easy way out by closing a school. If this
2 is the easy way, I sure don't want to see the hard
3 way. This is a very hard process and it's worn on me
4 for months now. Okay. I don't think I've had a good
5 night's sleep in four or five months.

6 Let's talk about isolated funds a little bit.
7 For this school year we received \$300,000 in isolated
8 transportation funding -- isolated transportation. I
9 cannot spend that on salaries. The school district
10 spends over a million dollars on salaries at
11 Sparkman. Now we do get isolated funding that we can
12 use, and that was about \$120,000. That will pay for
13 about three teachers on that campus. Okay.

14 You heard some things, we were misusing money
15 from Clark and Dallas County. I want to remind
16 everybody for the past -- forever Harmony Grove
17 School District is under Legislative Audit every
18 school year. If we were misusing fund money,
19 Legislative Audit would've told us about it. That's
20 their job. They spend at least six weeks on our
21 campus every year looking for something to tell us
22 we're doing wrong.

23 I do want to mention a little bit of the
24 history. Well, I want to talk about the high school
25 for just a minute. All core classes and most

1 electives in grades 9-12 are taken on computer
2 through an online provider, Virtual Arkansas.
3 Students take seven online classes per day. That
4 means they sit in a computer lab and work online from
5 the time they get to school till the time they leave.
6 I believe high school should be more than that.
7 There is much more to a high school education than
8 sitting in a classroom interacting with a teacher
9 half the state away. Okay. And you can see by our
10 letter grades there it's not working very well. One
11 of the committee members came to me and he said,
12 "Well, it works fine for my kids." Okay. He said,
13 "That's what colleges are doing." Well, colleges
14 mostly are adults by that time. Okay. And I can
15 tell you it does not work for all students; the good
16 students, yes -- but even they tell me it's hard to
17 keep organized when you're taking that many online
18 classes a day. Now for the average student and the
19 below-average student seven online classes is not
20 working real well. Okay.

21 I want to mention Kingsland in Cleveland County,
22 which is a neighboring -- it's close to Dallas County
23 which takes in part of Sparkman. This board closed
24 that school last year. Kingsland Elementary School
25 had 71 students at that time; their letter grade was

1 also a C at that time, and they had even been
2 recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School and had a
3 Milliken scholar teacher at that school. And it was
4 closed last year for reasons much like we're doing.
5 It wasn't exactly the same. Okay. All situations
6 are different. They were already under early
7 intervention alert from Fiscal Services for fiscal
8 distress. All right.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have one minute.

10 SUPT. SNOW: You also heard some things about we
11 could do this or we could do that -- four-day
12 workweek, draw kids in from School Choice. School
13 Choice doesn't save an isolated school. Okay.

14 One proposal was to start an ag program, like
15 they have at Centerpoint. Yes, it's successful.
16 They are drawing kids there at Centerpoint, but
17 they've had that program for a long time and they
18 were not in danger of closing. Okay. So that's not
19 -- there's a lot of other things. We provide a good
20 quality education on the Harmony Grove campus and we
21 will take care of every child. We've already made
22 plans on how -- what we're going to do with the
23 Sparkman children at the elementary school. We're
24 going to make sure we have a buddy system where --

25 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

1 SUPT. SNOW: Anyway --

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: It's all right. You can take a
3 little bit longer --

4 SUPT. SNOW: Does the Board have --

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- because I gave them some
6 time.

7 SUPT. SNOW: -- questions or is that going to be
8 later?

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That will be later.

10 SUPT. SNOW: Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay, Board. Do you want me to
12 start on one end and then -- or do you -- let me
13 start down here.

14 Ms. McAdoo, do you have any specific questions
15 on this? I'll come back to you if you don't.

16 MS. McADOO: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Dr. Moore.

18 DR. MOORE: Will we do public comment after
19 questions?

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Uh-huh.

21 DR. MOORE: Okay. I do have questions specific
22 -- yes. Do you want me to pull up the
23 Superintendent?

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, just pull up whoever you
25 want and then ask the questions. And then after the

1 questions, before we vote we will hear public
2 comment.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay. Superintendent Snow, if you
4 don't mind, I have some questions for you.

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah, and get as close to the
6 microphone as you can please.

7 DR. MOORE: I appreciate you-all being here and
8 providing this information today. I know this is
9 very difficult for everyone involved. And I just
10 want to get a better understanding and some context
11 here. When we're looking at the high school with all
12 virtual courses, when did that switch occur and how
13 was that --

14 SUPT. SNOW: Sometime before I got there.

15 Mr. Mock, do you know when that was?

16 Mr. Mock is my high school principal.

17 MR. MOCK: Three or four years ago is when we
18 made the move to the online classes.

19 SUPT. SNOW: And I will say this: it was a great
20 idea, okay, but the reality of it hasn't worked very
21 well.

22 DR. MOORE: The practice of it. Are there
23 students that are able to come to Harmony Grove for
24 select courses? What do you do about --

25 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

1 DR. MOORE: -- career and technical education
2 courses?

3 SUPT. SNOW: We run a bus every day at noon --

4 DR. MOORE: Okay.

5 SUPT. SNOW: -- and students come to the Harmony
6 Grove campus for various reasons; many of them are
7 for sports, some of them are for classes. There are
8 some students at Sparkman that drive to Harmony Grove
9 to take a class and then go back. So that option is
10 available.

11 DR. MOORE: At what point in time were the
12 extracurriculars and sports cut out from the school?

13 SUPT. SNOW: Again, I was not there.

14 DR. MOORE: Okay. Okay.

15 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Mr. Jeff Mock stands
16 and begins to speak from the audience.)

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I'll need you to come to the
18 microphone. And have you been sworn in?

19 MR. MOCK: No, ma'am, I was not.

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Please let me do that.

21 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're
22 about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth,
23 and nothing but the truth?

24 MR. MOCK: Yes, ma'am.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And identify yourself.

1 MR. MOCK: I'm Jeff Mock. I'm the high school
2 principal at Harmony Grove. I've been there for five
3 years. My history may be a little bit fuzzy on some
4 of it, but I'll try to give you some of the
5 background to it.

6 Just in summary, when the decision was made
7 previously, a previous superintendent and board made
8 the decision to move to online classes there. That
9 was also about the same time basketball and baseball
10 were gradually phased out. Those were phased out
11 because they weren't able to actually form a team or
12 have enough students to continue to manage that. The
13 opportunity was made -- we reformed our schedule at
14 Harmony Grove to where all athletics was in the
15 afternoon to meet that need for those students that
16 were interested to come do that. Currently, either
17 because students are attending vo-tech or coming to
18 athletics, I think there's about 18 to 20 students
19 that arrive on my campus every day at about
20 lunchtime. Several of those students end up --
21 because of not being successful in online courses
22 they are enrolling in -- they're actively in my
23 classes, particularly Algebra I and math courses or
24 things that they're currently -- that they may have
25 failed and they're making a credit up on. We're

1 making those considerations daily. Those things are
2 occurring.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay.

4 MR. MOCK: Yes, ma'am.

5 DR. MOORE: Thank you. That's helpful
6 information to have.

7 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am. Do you want me to
8 stay?

9 DR. MOORE: Yes, I have a couple more, if you
10 don't mind.

11 When these conversations started to occur, were
12 there conversations about phasing it out and maybe
13 just closing the high school first and elementary
14 later on? Or what did that conversation look like
15 with your board?

16 SUPT. SNOW: Okay. There were some
17 conversations. I brought this up at the November
18 board meeting. The same thing you've heard from me
19 here was brought up at that board meeting. There was
20 some discussion about just closing the high school.
21 If you do that -- and by the way, I think -- in our
22 discussions I think we could absorb all of those
23 students into our classes that we already have,
24 possibly -- if everybody came, there's a possibility
25 in certain areas we may need a middle school teacher

1 possibly. But we've been working on master schedules
2 since this process got started. The problem with
3 just closing the high school, then your economy-of-
4 scale is even worse. Okay. Then you're keeping a
5 school open for 56 students. Okay. And you still
6 have to have at least a part-time librarian, a
7 counselor, an administrator, and it just puts the
8 financial end even more out-of-whack. Okay. And I
9 believe that's probably why Cleveland -- excuse me --
10 Kingsland was closed.

11 DR. MOORE: Okay. When your -- I actually meant
12 to ask that. When you're looking at you said that 15
13 positions on campus, does that include certified
14 positions? Does that include the --

15 SUPT. SNOW: Counselor, librarian.

16 DR. MOORE: Counselor, librarian. And do you
17 have a building administrator for K-12?

18 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

19 DR. MOORE: Okay. Okay. Is there some sort of
20 transition plan for what that would look like if the
21 schools were to close?

22 SUPT. SNOW: Okay. Transition plan for --

23 DR. MOORE: For the staff.

24 SUPT. SNOW: Everybody. We've already done our
25 Letters of Intent for this year. Everybody on the

1 Sparkman campus has indicated that they want to come
2 to work for the Harmony Grove campus, if possible.
3 Okay. It's been my experience that that doesn't
4 happen when it becomes finalized. If you were to
5 close the school today, some of those teachers would
6 immediately go out and get other jobs. Okay. So,
7 and we would like to do all of it through attrition.
8 Okay. We replaced -- between certified and
9 classified, we replaced 20 positions last year for
10 the whole district. So if that -- but that's kind of
11 high. If that were to happen this year, depending on
12 who left, it would be close. Okay. Because I've
13 done RIFs before and it's always a traumatic
14 experience, and if -- depending on the number of
15 positions, some of the teachers at Harmony Grove
16 school could be RIF'd; it's not just at Sparkman.
17 Okay. It all depends. First year teachers are at
18 risk on both campuses. Okay. Believe me, I would
19 love for it all to be done through attrition, okay,
20 or retirement. That's just less painful
21 conversations that I have to have with individual
22 teachers. Okay. The RIF policy is non-
23 discriminatory; it is based strictly on years of
24 experience in the District and it goes to a point
25 system if there's a tie. Okay. I plan -- I have a

1 school consultant here with me today, Norman Hill,
2 and he does this on a regular basis. In working in
3 conjunction with him, we will determine how many
4 people have to be RIF'd. Okay. And then, of course,
5 the lawyers get involved and we make sure everything
6 is done legally, okay, before we notify anyone.

7 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you. I think for now
8 I'll let someone else ask more. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Dean?

10 MS. CHAMBERS: I do have questions.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers? Oh, Ms. Dean.

12 No.

13 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes, sir. So what's interesting
14 is that as we've had an opportunity to speak with
15 communities they've seen -- they've got below the
16 threshold of 350.

17 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. CHAMBERS: So initially we had the hard-and-
19 fast, and then it was no, the community gets to come
20 and speak to that. And if they have academic and
21 fiscal strength they can --

22 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. CHAMBERS: Do you know how close you are to
24 the risk of being in any form of fiscal distress if
25 you were to go forward as you are right now?

1 SUPT. SNOW: If we went forward as we are right
2 now -- if it's okay I'd like Mr. Norman Hill to
3 answer that question. Norman is a financial --
4 school financial consultant and he's got 55 years in
5 education, 30 years as a superintendent, 15 as a
6 financial consultant. This is what he does for a
7 living and I've used him in the past. But I'd like
8 for him to answer that question.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Have you been sworn in?

10 DR. NORMAN HILL: No.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do you swear or affirm that the
12 testimony you're about to give shall be the truth,
13 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

14 DR. NORMAN HILL: Yes, ma'am.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Identify yourself and
16 then --

17 DR. NORMAN HILL: I'm Norman Hill, financial
18 consultant, as Dr. Snow said. And your question was
19 how far away you think they are from being in fiscal
20 distress? I have a little bit of hearing problems,
21 so I want to make sure I'm answering what you want to
22 hear --

23 MS. CHAMBERS: That's exactly right.

24 DR. NORMAN HILL: -- in doing that. In my
25 opinion, if things stay exactly like they are now --

1 they're losing students gradually and they're facing
2 the mandated raise for the classified personnel that
3 went from \$8.50 to \$11.00 an hour over two years.
4 Then with the mandated teacher raise by the
5 Legislature put into effect last year -- they don't
6 have to give any raises this year or they will not
7 have to give raises next year; they will start two
8 years from now, in the fourth year. With all those,
9 if nothing changes and they keep operating I think
10 you're looking at the 23-24 school year, which would
11 actually be three to four years out, because they're
12 not losing students to a great extent. Now if the
13 number of students pick up that they're losing, it'll
14 be quicker than that. But if it stays about -- well,
15 if you look at their history there's a gradual loss,
16 but it's picking up, like most south Arkansas and
17 east Arkansas schools. Every year it gets a little
18 worse. It's hard to predict that. But if it stays
19 like it is right now, I think the first year after
20 the mandated raise -- that's assuming the Legislature
21 doesn't increase or find any funds for those raises,
22 both classified/certified -- if they keep losing
23 students and nothing else changes.

24 MS. CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you.

25 I've just got a couple of questions --

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Sure. No.

2 MS. CHAMBERS: And I don't think they're yours.

3 So my next question has to do with the school
4 board and --

5 Oh, I'm sorry. I think we're good. I think
6 we're good on finance. Thank you.

7 DR. NORMAN HILL: Thank you.

8 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you. It's hard to hear in
9 here.

10 SUPT. SNOW: Yeah, it is. Norman and I both
11 have hearing issues, so when we talk it's kind of
12 difficult.

13 MS. CHAMBERS: Me too. Me too.

14 So in terms of the school board that voted 5-2,
15 is the membership of the board representative of
16 Sparkman?

17 SUPT. SNOW: Yes. Yes, ma'am. The two Sparkman
18 members voted against it.

19 MS. CHAMBERS: They did. Okay.

20 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. CHAMBERS: And the three that voted for are
22 in the Harmony Grove?

23 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. CHAMBERS: Okay. Okay.

25 SUPT. SNOW: That's the way the school board

1 breaks down --

2 MS. CHAMBERS: Okay.

3 SUPT. SNOW: -- with the districts.

4 MS. CHAMBERS: So the other thing I'm working my
5 way through right now is trying to distinguish what
6 is a hardship that's associated with consolidation.
7 I'm from a very small town that consolidated a number
8 of years ago, and so I get to live through personally
9 what that community is still going through -- and
10 it's been hard. They did it a number of years ago,
11 and actually they're going to need to consolidate
12 again because there's just not -- it's a rural
13 community. And so I'm trying to understand what our
14 duty is relative to isolated schools and what
15 distinguishes the pain of a lot -- what a lot of
16 communities are going through to consolidate to
17 continue to provide the right kind of services and
18 support --

19 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. CHAMBERS: -- versus it's really unique,
21 this -- the geography and the distance that Sparkman
22 has. Can you help me understand that, or can someone
23 from Sparkman help me understand that?

24 SUPT. SNOW: I'm not sure I understand the
25 question.

1 MS. CHAMBERS: Well, isolated -- this really
2 kind of comes down to what distinguishes what is
3 unique about an isolated school versus lots of
4 communities that have to consider consolidation. And
5 I don't know, some of this is maybe more the duty of
6 the Board. But I was curious what Sparkman or what
7 you had to say about it. What is unique in this
8 situation?

9 SUPT. SNOW: Well, I understand the issues when
10 a community loses its school. Okay. That's what
11 you'll hear, I believe. It is an issue, okay, and it
12 is the end of some communities. Okay. So, yes,
13 ma'am, I understand that. That is an issue. Okay.
14 But one of the things that I'm trying to do is look
15 out for all of the students in this district. Okay.

16 You just heard we were looking at fiscal
17 distress in three to four years. Okay. That's
18 somewhere we don't want to be. And I believe it's
19 still the only thing that -- unless some kind of
20 felony is involved, the only thing a superintendent
21 can be let-go for. Okay. And so it's my job to keep
22 us out of that. Okay. And I know the State does not
23 want to have to step in and dissolve a school board
24 and effect -- and then appoint someone and
25 effectively have them answer to Johnny Key. Okay.

1 The State does not want to do that; they want to
2 avoid that at all cost. And so, yes, ma'am, there
3 are consequences, but it's also my job to worry about
4 the whole district.

5 MS. CHAMBERS: Right.

6 SUPT. SNOW: Okay.

7 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

8 SUPT. SNOW: Do you want me to sit down?

9 MS. CHAMBERS: No, no, no. But thank you. I
10 think Sparkman may be -- have a point of view as
11 well.

12 MS. TAYLOR: As far as isolation goes, we're 25
13 miles from the closest school in any direction. I
14 live in Harmony Grove; I'm about two miles from
15 Harmony Grove school, and it takes me close to 30
16 minutes to get to work each day -- and that's no bus
17 stops along the way. If you want to go to Wal-Mart,
18 you're going to drive 30 minutes either to
19 Arkadelphia or to Camden to get there. We did get a
20 Dollar General this year -- praise the Lord -- but I
21 mean that's all we have in Sparkman. We have three
22 sawmills. Most of our families are single
23 transportation families and so, them having to go
24 that far to pick up their child if they're sick would
25 be a big issue.

1 MS. CHAMBERS: And when was the school board
2 consolidated, the fact --

3 MS. TAYLOR: They were consolidated in 2004.

4 MS. CHAMBERS: 2004.

5 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

7 MS. TAYLOR: Well, it was voted in 2004, so it
8 was 2005 when it was consolidated.

9 MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Hill.

11 MS. McADOO: I had questions. I do have one
12 now.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Wait. Let me go down and
14 then I'll jump back. Okay?

15 Dr. Hill.

16 DR. FITZ HILL: I heard you talking about the --
17 what's the mileage from Harmony Grove to -- from
18 Sparkman to Harmony Grove. What is the mileage?
19 Because I heard you talk about minutes but I didn't
20 never get the mileage.

21 SUPT. SNOW: It's 25 miles to the school. Okay.

22 DR. FITZ HILL: From one school to the other?

23 SUPT. SNOW: Right.

24 DR. FITZ HILL: Okay.

25 SUPT. SNOW: And, you know, we talk about the

1 bus routes and so-on. We're already bringing
2 Sparkman students to our campus, okay, and there's
3 different ways we've done that. And we're looking
4 real hard about how we will do it next year if the
5 school closes. And we're going to try to do it --
6 some of the scenarios we've worked out will even cut
7 down on transportation and cut down on times and so-
8 on. If we start a bus at the very northeast corner
9 of the District, at Dalark, and come this way, it's
10 41 minutes on Google Maps. Okay. That's the very
11 furthest household. We have every household in the
12 District plotted on a map and that's by Google Maps;
13 that's not --

14 DR. FITZ HILL: Yeah.

15 SUPT. SNOW: That's not a bus route. Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

17 SUPT. SNOW: Was that --

18 DR. FITZ HILL: Yeah. I was just trying to
19 figure out what the mileage was. We just talked
20 about the time, but I didn't know what --

21 SUPT. SNOW: Okay.

22 DR. FITZ HILL: -- that would equate to.

23 SUPT. SNOW: I'd like to address somewhat of
24 your last question about -- if I could, about the
25 effects. Okay. Sparkman in the 1980s was a thriving

1 community. Okay. They had grocery stores, they had
2 doctors, and so-on. Okay. Over the last 40 years
3 almost all of that is going away, and I do understand
4 they feel one of the last things they have is this
5 school. I do understand that.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Newton.

7 MS. NEWTON: Would you like to see if Ms.
8 McFetridge has a question, or Mr. Williamson? I know
9 they may be on the line.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh, yeah, I was going to check
11 with Ms. McFetridge --

12 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I didn't want to forget --

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- after Ms. McAdoo.

14 MS. NEWTON: I just didn't want to forget them.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I appreciate that.

18 MS. NEWTON: All right. I have a couple of
19 questions. Dr. Snow, could you answer a question for
20 me please?

21 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. NEWTON: I know we've talked about your 9th
23 and 10th grade and then the 11th and 12th grade there
24 in computer labs all day.

25 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. NEWTON: Let's talk a little bit about the
2 7th and 8th grade. Could you describe to me what
3 their day is like?

4 SUPT. SNOW: Well, it's not the best situation
5 either. Okay. We -- because of numbers and
6 certifications we have one teacher that teaches
7 social studies, science, and English to the 7th
8 grade, three classes, one of each, and they have
9 about six students in each class. And then in the
10 8th grade that same teacher teaches them the same
11 subjects; so she spends six periods a day teaching
12 math, literacy, and science to 7th and 8th grade. We
13 have another teacher who does the math every day.
14 It's not -- it's not an ideal situation.

15 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So are those classes blended
16 or are they separate?

17 SUPT. SNOW: They're not blended.

18 MS. NEWTON: They're not blended. Okay.

19 SUPT. SNOW: No, ma'am.

20 MS. NEWTON: The 9th and 10th grade are blended
21 though in the computer lab. Am I --

22 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. NEWTON: And then the 11th and 12th grade
24 are blended in the computer lab?

25 SUPT. SNOW: The 9th and 10th grade are in one

1 computer lab; the 11th and 12th grade are in the
2 other one. And -- well, I've sat in those classes
3 and it's difficult.

4 MS. NEWTON: And you have a -- what kind of
5 person in that computer lab?

6 SUPT. SNOW: We do not have -- we do not have a
7 certified person in there. We have what we call a
8 DLC, a Distance Learning Coordinator, and they are
9 not a certified teacher.

10 MS. NEWTON: So what does a student do when they
11 need help?

12 SUPT. SNOW: If you can get it over the
13 internet, we -- the principal is a certified math
14 teacher and he does do some help.

15 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I had another question on --
16 it flew out of my mind. Have you ever done that?

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's okay. If you think of it
18 --

19 MS. NEWTON: Well, I've got some other
20 questions.

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

22 MS. NEWTON: I had one more question on
23 academics that I've forgotten.

24 On the finances, can I get someone from the
25 Department maybe to talk --

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Smith, can you come and help
2 Ms. Newton -- or Mr. Rogers or whomever?

3 MS. SMITH: Cindy Smith, Fiscal Services.

4 MS. NEWTON: Thank you. Sometimes we hear
5 different numbers and I want to kind of make sure I
6 understand the correct numbers. How much isolated
7 funding does the District get?

8 MS. SMITH: So total this year they got \$449,649
9 and about \$300,000 of that was specifically for
10 transportation.

11 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So that \$300,000 cannot be
12 spent on anything but transportation?

13 MS. SMITH: Just transportation.

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So \$100,000 is what can be
15 spent on teacher salaries --

16 MS. SMITH: Or anything else. Yes.

17 MS. NEWTON: -- or whatever. Okay. As far as
18 money for the District, does it separate -- I mean --

19 MS. SMITH: No. No. When the money comes in,
20 it is just revenue for the entire district; it's not
21 specified for a campus.

22 MS. NEWTON: Okay. And then, in your
23 estimation, if things went as they are going now
24 would the District be in danger of becoming on fiscal
25 distress?

1 MS. SMITH: So like many districts that are in
2 this situation, they've already had a couple of years
3 of declining fund balances. So third-year is when I
4 really start digging in. And I've already had a
5 conversation with Dr. Snow about, you know, this is
6 something that could happen. We would reach out to
7 them in year-three and say, "What are your plans to
8 remedy this?" Depending on how large the decline was
9 year-three you could potentially go into fiscal
10 distress. We don't like to do that. It's just like
11 state takeover; we'd rather get in there and help and
12 assist and help them find, you know, a resolution to
13 this problem. But at year-five if there is no more
14 money for the teacher raises that could potentially
15 be a year that we would really have to look at the
16 District.

17 MS. NEWTON: So have they already -- you're
18 saying they already had two already?

19 MS. SMITH: They were not huge declines but,
20 yes, it has already started declining.

21 MS. NEWTON: So they're potentially at year-
22 three right now?

23 MS. SMITH: Right. And that does not always
24 mean -- you know, the law does not say year-three
25 you're in fiscal distress. That's just usually if we

1 see a third year of a declining balance we start
2 reaching out to the District and finding out what the
3 problem is and what their resolution is to stop this
4 decline.

5 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

6 SECRETARY KEY: If I may, Ms. Newton, to just
7 make sure two things -- one, that's one indicator of
8 fiscal distress; that is not the sole indicator of
9 fiscal distress. And, two, fiscal distress does not
10 -- it seems that there's a common thought with --
11 around the state that fiscal distress means takeover.
12 We've had a number of districts that went into fiscal
13 distress that did not result in state takeover. So I
14 want to make sure that the Board and audience is very
15 clear that that's not an automatic.

16 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

17 MS. SMITH: And we prefer to do just assistance
18 for early intervention before we get to that. You
19 know, many times that is something that we can do.

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. If you're looking at -- and
21 I know you said it's District money, so it's hard to
22 look at. If you're looking at the finances spent at
23 Sparkman, is more -- are they spending more than
24 they're getting in, I guess is my question.

25 MS. SMITH: So if you look at the report that

1 you can pull online for Harmony Grove Elementary,
2 last year they spent \$8,857 per student, and then
3 Sparkman spent \$12,352 per student. That's just in
4 elementary. And then Harmony Grove High School, they
5 spent \$9,773 per student and Sparkman High School was
6 \$9,911. So they are spending more at Sparkman than
7 they are at Harmony Grove per student.

8 MS. NEWTON: Okay. I guess what I'm asking is
9 are they -- the amount of money that they're getting
10 for the Sparkman campus, are they spending more at
11 Sparkman than they're getting revenue coming in for
12 that campus? Or is there any way to tell that?

13 MS. SMITH: Well, the only way that you could
14 even potentially figure that would be is if you
15 divided how much total revenue the District got by
16 how many students they have at each campus.

17 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

18 MS. SMITH: But that would not necessarily mean
19 -- you know, I mean, if you were doing it by county
20 --

21 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

22 MS. SMITH: -- you could look at it that way or
23 you could do it by student. But there's really not a
24 way that we can say "this money," because it's
25 specifically for the District.

1 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

2 MS. SMITH: It's not for each campus.

3 MS. NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you. That
4 was my question.

5 I thought of my question for Dr. Snow.

6 Going back to academics and the situation at the
7 high school and elementary, so to make sure I
8 understand, 11th and 12th are in one classroom, 9th
9 and 10th are in one classroom, and then 7th and 8th
10 grade have their own classroom, and then K-6 are also
11 there. How close in proximity are let's say
12 kindergarten and 12th grade? Are they in the same
13 building or separate buildings?

14 SUPT. SNOW: Same building.

15 MS. NEWTON: How close? Are they on the same
16 hallway?

17 SUPT. SNOW: Same hallway.

18 MS. NEWTON: Okay.

19 SUPT. SNOW: There's only one hallway.

20 MS. NEWTON: Okay. So they're all right there
21 together in that same --

22 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am. Now there's fewer high
23 school students there in the afternoons because so
24 many of them come to Harmony Grove.

25 MS. NEWTON: Right. Okay. Okay. That was my

1 -- that's all I've got for right now.

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McAdoo. And then, Ms.
3 McFetridge and Mr. Williamson, I'll come to you.

4 MS. McADOO: I hate to make you keep standing up
5 and sitting back down. So my question is about the
6 children. Before your time ran out, you were about
7 to talk about the study for the buddy system.

8 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am. If possible, we're
9 going to bring the principal down, for one thing,
10 from Sparkman to Harmony Grove campus so he would
11 know all the students, if it's closed and they come
12 next year. But that's one thing we're going to do.

13 In the elementary school we're going to make
14 sure in every class that there is at least one other
15 person from Sparkman in that elementary class so they
16 will have at least someone that they know in there.
17 Okay.

18 For those of you that are -- have been involved
19 in consolidations, the students are usually not the
20 problem. Okay. The students tend to make friends
21 very quickly and assimilate into the school very
22 quickly.

23 Did you have --

24 MS. McADOO: Yes.

25 SUPT. SNOW: -- a second question? Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. McADOO: So the other thing that you pointed
2 out was the difference in the letter grade from the
3 schools. What is your plan to get the students all
4 on one accord?

5 SUPT. SNOW: Okay. If possible -- we do have --
6 we do have a full-time literacy consultant on the
7 Harmony Grove campus. She spent a lot of time last
8 year at the Sparkman campus; so there is -- we do
9 have a lot of interventions on our campus. I have to
10 be very careful about my hires next year if the
11 school is closed so that I don't hire too many
12 people; otherwise, I'm not getting a financial
13 benefit. But we are looking possibly at having two
14 full-time math certified teacher interventionists on
15 campus. Like I said, that's going to depend on the
16 numbers that come. Next year is going to be a
17 transition year that we find out who comes to Harmony
18 Grove from Sparkman that is not already coming.

19 MS. McADOO: Okay.

20 SUPT. SNOW: And if we need to add another
21 elementary teacher, we will. If we need to add a
22 middle school teacher, we will. There's no way of
23 knowing exactly how many students come until we get
24 into it.

25 MS. McADOO: Have you started thinking about

1 professional development? You mentioned that the
2 students aren't necessarily the ones who have an
3 issue with transition, which I think that they do; so
4 I do think that you need to think about what the --
5 the emotional impact that it will have and providing
6 services for them. But if your -- what is your
7 professional development plan for the two different
8 teaching staffs?

9 SUPT. SNOW: We've been working with both
10 campuses in doing the same reading training during
11 the summer -- we're using the RISE program -- and
12 most of them should be either in year-three or
13 completed with it. So everybody has had the same
14 training as far as that's concerned, including high
15 school and elementary -- elementary teachers. And we
16 will also look at the time -- the PD time that we
17 have this summer, spending a good bit of time talking
18 about the transition with the faculty.

19 MS. McADOO: And that will include academic and
20 emotional and --

21 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. McADOO: Okay.

23 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am. And, you know, until
24 we finalize the closure and the reduction-in-force
25 we're not sure exactly who the faculty would be.

1 Okay. But like I said, it may involve losing people
2 from both campuses, and everybody on those campuses
3 know that.

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McFetridge?

5 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. My question is about
6 transportation.

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We're having trouble hearing
8 you. Can you get closer to your microphone?

9 MS. McFETRIDGE: Can you hear me?

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Barely, yeah.

11 MS. McFETRIDGE: I was wondering if the \$300,000
12 in transportation money falls off if it was for the
13 Harmony Grove?

14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: She --

15 MS. McFETRIDGE: Do they still qualify for those
16 transportation dollars?

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. She's questioning since
18 Sparkman is isolated and you get the money, the three
19 hundred for that, if that campus is no longer will
20 you continue to get that --

21 SUPT. SNOW: No, ma'am.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- \$300,000?

23 SUPT. SNOW: No, ma'am.

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Was that your question, Ms.
25 McFetridge?

1 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes. Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

3 MS. McFETRIDGE: I also am curious about pre-K
4 education in Sparkman and Harmony Grove. Is there
5 any opportunity to add a pre-K on either campus? Is
6 there a need for that?

7 SUPT. SNOW: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Do you have a pre-K at either
9 campus?

10 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am. We have pre-K. We
11 currently have 50 students at the Harmony Grove
12 campus. It's a combination of the ABC Program and
13 Head Start. They had a program at Sparkman, but it's
14 been closed due to lack of students. We are adding
15 another class for the next year in cooperation with
16 the South Central Co-op. We've made a commitment to
17 add another pre-K class on the Harmony Grove campus.

18 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And this is 3 and 4 year olds?

19 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Anything else, Ms.
21 McFetridge?

22 MS. McFETRIDGE: No, that's all I have. Thank
23 you.

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

25 Mr. Williamson?

1 MR. WILLIAMSON: No. No questions at this time.

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. WILLIAMSON: (inaudible) questions, that's
4 what I was looking for.

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Ms. Dean.

6 MS. DEAN: You may have already stated this, but
7 I don't know if you did or not. But with your
8 financial advisor have you all considered what the
9 cost would be of leaving the virtual model, where the
10 students are in computer labs, and going back to the
11 teacher model? Is that -- because I don't remember
12 hearing the budget for that, what that would -- what
13 the cost of that would be. It seems that that's a
14 huge issue of why --

15 SUPT. SNOW: We would have to add at least -- I
16 think we would have to add at least four teachers to
17 do that. And it's not an exact science, depending on
18 years of experience. But if we added four teachers
19 we're looking at at least \$200,000 in salary.

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Correct me if I'm wrong, but
21 since Virtual Arkansas is a charter that money per
22 pupil goes to the charter. So if you no longer used
23 it, does -- that per pupil money would come to your
24 district? Is that -- am I --

25 SECRETARY KEY: Madam Chair, let me make sure --

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

2 SECRETARY KEY: -- we're on the same page.
3 Virtual Arkansas is not the same as Arkansas Virtual
4 Academy.

5 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah.

6 SECRETARY KEY: So I think you're referring to
7 Arkansas Virtual Academy. Virtual Arkansas is
8 through the Arch Ford Co-op and helps provide digital
9 learning opportunities across the state.

10 SUPT. SNOW: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: But they do get money to do
12 that?

13 SECRETARY KEY: Well, they -- so they get grant
14 funding from the Department and then they -- there is
15 a fee schedule that they charge districts as well.

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

17 SUPT. SNOW: I think, yes, the money -- we do
18 have students on Virtual Arkansas at the Harmony
19 Grove campus, but it's not all day. And we will
20 still be contracting with Virtual, but it won't cost
21 us as much money as we were putting out at Sparkman
22 now.

23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

24 SUPT. SNOW: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean.

1 MS. DEAN: I don't have a question, but I do
2 have a comment.

3 I was in M-to-M. I was an M-to-M student, which
4 means Majority-to-Minority -- Minority-to-Majority.
5 And I lived in Little Rock and I went to school at
6 Oak Grove, which is -- I think it may have been like
7 25, 30 minutes away. Fortunately, I was the last
8 stop -- or the last stop on the bus route to school,
9 and that was still a long bus ride.

10 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. DEAN: And I was the first stop back. But I
12 had the experience of being the last one, one time,
13 and that was a really -- that was a really bad bus
14 ride. That was a really bad bus ride. It was hours
15 before -- it was a couple of hours before I got home.
16 I didn't have time to do homework, my mother had to
17 leave dinner for me on a plate, and it just gave me
18 an experience of what all of my other schoolmates
19 have to go through on a daily basis. And I don't
20 think -- if there's any way that we can prevent any
21 child from having to experience that on a day-to-day
22 basis -- my parents didn't come to -- hardly came to
23 anything that I went to because we had one car.

24 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. DEAN: My parents were pastors. My mom was

1 a stay-at-home mom. High school was not a very fun
2 experience for me. Most of the students that I knew
3 lived around Oak Grove; I was the only one that lived
4 in my area. I had no friends to hang out with after
5 school. Everyone I went to school with went to
6 school in Little Rock. So I understand from a very
7 personal point-of-view what it does to a child's
8 psyche and what it does to their emotional wellbeing.

9 [CHORUS OF AMEN'S FROM THE AUDIENCE]

10 MS. DEAN: So if there's any way that we can
11 prevent that -- and I understand it's going to be
12 three -- I'm glad you asked that question because I
13 was thinking the same thing: it'll be three to four
14 years out before we hit that really critical point.
15 If there are some ways that you-all can make some
16 adjustments -- it's devastating, and I can't even
17 imagine what it would be -- what it would do a whole
18 community -- just my small experience. And that's
19 not -- like I said, that doesn't even include the bus
20 route. I was the first one to get off the bus; I was
21 the first one -- last one to get on. But I got to do
22 that bus ride one time and it was not a very good
23 one.

24 It also opens the doors for bad experiences on
25 the bus ride. It just leaves students in a very

1 vulnerable position to be on a bus, a school bus full
2 of kids where the only authority is trying to drive
3 the bus.

4 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. DEAN: There's so many scenarios that are
6 just -- could just go wrong here. And I know you're
7 trying to do your job, I understand that.

8 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. DEAN: I'm just trying to give you my
10 perspective --

11 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. DEAN: -- and --

13 SUPT. SNOW: When I mentioned 41 minutes, you
14 know, that's in a car.

15 MS. DEAN: Yeah.

16 SUPT. SNOW: But one stop, that very farthest
17 stop with that -- if those -- if they're not riding
18 the bus or if they're driving their car to school, it
19 cuts time off of that bus route. And we're already
20 transporting a lot of students from Sparkman, so we
21 are doing this on a regular basis.

22 MS. DEAN: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Does anyone have a
24 question or are you ready for comments?

25 DR. MOORE: No, I want to ask a question of the

1 Department attorneys --

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

3 DR. MOORE: -- if that's okay. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Freno.

5 DR. MOORE: Thank you for coming up. I just
6 want to check a couple of things.

7 Based on my understanding, Harmony Grove
8 participates in School Choice. Those students can
9 choose in or out of the district. Is that correct?

10 MS. FRENO: Harmony Grove -- Lori Freno.

11 Harmony Grove participates in School Choice, so
12 students can choice out. The only restriction is
13 with regard to Camden-Fairview; that is one -- that's
14 the ongoing litigation in the 8th Circuit. Students
15 from Camden-Fairview cannot choice into Harmony
16 Grove.

17 DR. MOORE: Can Harmony Grove students choice
18 into Camden?

19 MS. FRENO: Harmony Grove could choice into
20 Camden-Fairview. Yeah.

21 DR. MOORE: Okay. And Harmony Grove could
22 choice into any of a number of other districts
23 around?

24 MS. FRENO: Harmony Grove could choice into any
25 of the surrounding districts. Yes.

1 DR. MOORE: Okay. Based on my research, it
2 looks like Sparkman and Harmony Grove was a forced
3 consolidation in which it wasn't pre-agreed upon
4 before the State --

5 MS. FRENO: It was -- I mean it was an Act -- it
6 was a consolidation under Act 60. Yes.

7 DR. MOORE: Okay. What -- and I guess we don't
8 know. Has -- what authority do we have over boundary
9 lines? And what does that look like? You know, if
10 you're looking at the map and you're looking at
11 logistically what makes sense when you're factoring
12 in transportation, potentially there are areas where
13 if the boundary was changed to be in another district
14 it would be easier. What is --

15 MS. FRENO: The State --

16 DR. MOORE: -- our authority for that?

17 MS. FRENO: The State Board has some authority
18 over boundary lines. They can change boundary lines.
19 Usually what you will see -- what you'll see come
20 before the State Board are like there will be two
21 school districts that are in agreement that they want
22 to change a boundary line and they'll come before the
23 State Board. And those are the only cases I really
24 have -- I can recall that there's ever been a change
25 in a boundary line.

1 DR. MOORE: Okay. So they have to come to us in
2 order for that to happen?

3 MS. FRENO: There has to be --

4 DR. MOORE: It can't be initiated by the State
5 is what I'm saying, I guess.

6 MS. FRENO: That's my understanding.

7 DR. MOORE: Okay.

8 MS. FRENO: Yes.

9 DR. MOORE: Okay. And I guess then I want to
10 bring back up the Superintendent.

11 MS. NEWTON: I have one question for Ms. Freno
12 before she leaves.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

14 MS. NEWTON: Would that be okay?

15 Ms. Freno, in our decision-making today --

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Microphone.

17 MS. NEWTON: In our decision-making today, the
18 only decision that we can make is stay open or not
19 stay open. Is that correct?

20 MS. FRENO: That is correct. Yes.

21 MS. NEWTON: So we can't -- can we -- you know,
22 if we hear a plan or have a plan, we can't tell the
23 District to do a particular thing?

24 MS. FRENO: No. It is -- I mean under the law
25 it's you either accept or reject the petition.

1 MS. NEWTON: Okay. That was my question. All
2 right. Thank you.

3 DR. MOORE: Actually, I have one more from that
4 then.

5 So we cannot accept part of the -- like accept
6 just high school and not elementary; we take it as a
7 whole?

8 MS. FRENO: That is correct, because that would
9 -- the local board of directors has to make the
10 initial determination. And in this case they made
11 the initial determination and they filed the
12 petition; that's the only reason that it gets to you.

13 DR. MOORE: Okay. If this was just the high
14 school or just the elementary closing, would the
15 State Board still hear this case?

16 MS. FRENO: If it was an isolated school --

17 DR. MOORE: Okay. So --

18 MS. FRENO: -- and there was not a unanimous
19 decision --

20 DR. MOORE: Okay.

21 MS. FRENO: -- the State Board would have to
22 hear -- would hear the case. Yes.

23 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. FRENO: Sure.

25 DR. MOORE: Yes, for the Superintendent, if you

1 don't mind.

2 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

3 DR. MOORE: I know in the era of School Choice
4 there are times where you are losing students or
5 gaining students. How does that play a role in your
6 decisions? And have you had any boundary line
7 discussions with districts in the area, discussing
8 whether it would make more sense for a student to go
9 -- for a segment to go to another district than stay
10 in Harmony Grove because of transportation?

11 SUPT. SNOW: I wasn't quite sure about the
12 question about School Choice, the beginning of that.

13 DR. MOORE: Yes.

14 SUPT. SNOW: What was your question?

15 DR. MOORE: So how many students choice into
16 your district?

17 SUPT. SNOW: How many students choice into our
18 district?

19 DR. MOORE: Do you know?

20 SUPT. SNOW: I'm going to say about 20.

21 DR. MOORE: Okay.

22 SUPT. SNOW: That's just off the top of my head
23 though. Okay. We get some -- School Choice in
24 Arkansas is very seldom about academics,
25 unfortunately.

1 DR. MOORE: Yeah.

2 SUPT. SNOW: School Choice in rural areas -- and
3 there are people that will dispute this with me -- is
4 usually because they've gotten mad at the
5 administration or a teacher and they decide the grass
6 is greener on the other side, or to play sports or
7 so-on. Okay. Now, do they have School Choice? The
8 little community of Dalark is the furthest point
9 northwest in this district. Okay. Those students
10 already, some of them, school-choice to Arkadelphia.
11 Okay. In fact, the Arkadelphia bus passes the
12 Harmony Grove bus every morning. Okay. So that does
13 already take place.

14 Okay. What was the second part of your
15 question?

16 DR. MOORE: Boundary line changes -- have there
17 been any discussion as to whether changes should be
18 made?

19 SUPT. SNOW: I've heard some things about it,
20 but all of them are predicated on keeping the school
21 open. The ones I've heard are predicated on keeping
22 the school open at Sparkman. And I know one district
23 didn't want to talk about it because of the financial
24 end of it.

25 DR. MOORE: Okay.

1 SUPT. SNOW: So -- and now the others, I don't
2 know.

3 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.

4 I guess I want to hear from the other side as to
5 whether they've had discussions with other districts
6 and what that looks like. Thank you.

7 MR. ASKEW: I can speak to that. I'm Jess
8 Askew. But I was not at the most recent board
9 meeting with the Gurdon School District where that
10 has been discussed. And it has been discussed also
11 with Ouachita County Schools. There needs to be
12 time. This is a complicated issue. And Harmony
13 Grove would have to agree to it; the receiving school
14 district would have to agree to it. It would have to
15 make sense from an isolated school standpoint,
16 because it doesn't make Sparkman any closer to Gurdon
17 or Arkadelphia or Bearden or Harmony Grove. So it's
18 complicated, and I think that's a reason why this
19 should not happen this year. And there's time for
20 things to fall into place, including this legislative
21 study.

22 And your point about boundary lines is a great
23 one because if you were to shutdown Sparkman the
24 logical thing to do would be to create this parameter
25 around Sparkman and draw pie-shaped wedges into

1 Sparkman. And the kids in Dalark and Clark County
2 would not be part of the Harmony Grove School
3 District, but be part of perhaps Arkadelphia School
4 District. There's no provision under the law that
5 I'm aware of that allows exploding a former school
6 district or part of a current school district into
7 different areas to avoid the School Choice or the
8 isolated school problem, which is why we have
9 isolated schools.

10 DR. MOORE: Thank you.

11 MR. ASKEW: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Are y'all ready for public
13 comment?

14 Okay. One thing that we do ask is that you
15 limit your comments to 3 minutes. And if the
16 comments become repetitive, then we ask you, if
17 somebody has already said what you were going to say
18 -- the number of people that speak is not as relevant
19 as what you have to say. And so if you understand
20 that -- this is the first time many of you have been
21 here, but we have had lots of emails and
22 conversations and we do listen to everything that's
23 said. So I'm going to go in the order that people
24 signed up. And if you choose to pass when it's your
25 turn, then we assume that they've said what you

1 wanted us to hear.

2 Valerie --

3 MS. BARBARITA: Barbarita.

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Barbarita. Good for me. Good
5 for you. I love those phonetically good last names.

6 Okay. If you'll identify yourself and then give
7 your comments.

8 VALERIE BARBARITA

9 MS. BARBARITA: I'm Valerie Barbarita. I'm a
10 parent of one of the children in our beautiful
11 school, Sparkman. Good morning, and thank you
12 graciously for not only listening but truly hearing
13 the pressing concerns of our community today.

14 I have never spoken on such a large platform
15 before, but I take strength from advice my late-
16 father shared with me as a youth. He told me to
17 never miss out on an opportunity, due to being
18 afraid, to ask a question, because by not asking the
19 answer was already no. So today I stand before you
20 asking you for a yes -- yes to a chance to prove our
21 value and yes to our children's future.

22 I am a parent of a 3rd grader at Sparkman
23 Elementary and also a two-year resident of Sparkman.
24 My daughter has attended this school since November
25 of 2018. Our family had moved here from Bentonville,

1 where my daughter was struggling in all aspects of
2 study since kindergarten. I was pressed by her
3 previous school to retain her in kindergarten and
4 again in 1st grade. By 2nd grade, she was leaving
5 her homeroom twice a day for intervention, which
6 became highly upsetting to her because she was
7 embarrassed that there were only a few children from
8 each of the five 2nd grade classes being pulled for
9 extra help. These were all at full capacity, all of
10 these classes. When we moved to Sparkman in November
11 of 2018, we immediately began seeing improvements in
12 her grades and, more importantly, in her self-
13 confidence. Within two short months, all of her
14 scores, including standardized testing, improved
15 tremendously. She made the Honor Roll for the first
16 time last year and her last report card revealed
17 straight A's. Her last STAR report shows my precious
18 3rd grader reading at a 5th grade level. I am beyond
19 proud. There's absolutely no doubt that these
20 monumental changes occurred due to how incredible our
21 Sparkman School is. This brings to mind the proverb,
22 "Good things come in small packages."

23 Our teachers are dedicated to facilitating
24 learning and have positively impacted my daughter's
25 path beyond words. Not only would it be devastating

1 to our community, but also personally agonizing to
2 have our school closed and our children bussed so far
3 away. I honestly believe it will be truly
4 detrimental for my child's learning, as well as her
5 self-esteem. So please consider the massive negative
6 impact that closing our school would have on each of
7 our children, our community, and our families, as
8 well as my sincere feelings towards this life-
9 changing matter. Thank you and God bless.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

11 Brady Harmon. And the next person after that --
12 is it Bobbie Walker or Bookie Walker?

13 Okay, that'll be -- you'll be next.

14 BRADY HARMON

15 MR. HARMON: Hello. My name is Brady Harmon.
16 And my wife is a teacher at Sparkman and my four
17 children -- excuse me -- three children -- hopefully
18 my fourth next year will be enrolled at Sparkman.
19 I'm from Arkadelphia. I graduated there and I own a
20 business in Arkadelphia. I bleed Badger blue and
21 red, but my heart is in Sparkman and that's my
22 community.

23 And the reason I wanted to talk today is because
24 I just feel like within the last 15 years we really
25 have not received a fair shake.

1 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Chairman Zook indicates
2 to Mr. Harmon that he pull the microphone closer.)

3 MR. HARMON: Excuse me. I don't believe we've
4 received a fair shake in the last 15 years, since
5 consolidation. And the reason for that is because,
6 you know, decisions were made -- you know, some of
7 them before Dr. Snow's time -- that I feel like all
8 led us to this point. You know, we -- when we
9 started off we lost our -- six years ago -- or three
10 years ago, excuse me, we lost our sports, we lost our
11 agri. You know, that started the decline. People
12 wanted to play sports, so they started moving their
13 kids to other districts. And we lost agri; that
14 affected us. Then, you know, the District decided
15 that the best thing to do to save costs on teachers
16 was to put all of the elementary on MobyMax. And my
17 wife, being an elementary teacher, you know, she was
18 told, "This is great. MobyMax is going to be
19 fantastic. It's going to help you. You're not going
20 to have to worry about lesson plans as much" -- and
21 it was really built up to Sparkman as this fantastic
22 thing. What they found out was that it was not what
23 was best and our kids fell behind, and those numbers
24 up there show it. The numbers that were put on the
25 screen were the years that those kids went on

1 MobyMax. The minute that -- excuse me -- after that,
2 classes were consolidated; that caused another mass
3 exodus. You know, parents of elementary kids didn't
4 even want to think about their 1st and 2nd grader
5 being in the same class. My wife, being one of those
6 teachers, will tell you that she learned a whole lot
7 about her-self while having to teach two grades and
8 make sure standards were covered, you know, on both
9 sides. That also was a decision that caused a lot of
10 people to leave. With the State's help, like Dr.
11 Snow said, they came in and said, "No, this isn't
12 working. You've been set-up to fail." You know, Ms.
13 Rocci Malone came and observed my wife's classroom
14 and told her, "Look, don't worry, this is not your
15 fault; you were set-up for failure. This is never
16 going to work." Those decisions we're now being
17 punished for, you know. And the thing that I feel
18 like hasn't been brought to light like it should is
19 that rise in the elementary score that was second in
20 the state was when those programs were finally
21 removed. That's when those programs were removed and
22 teachers were allowed to teach.

23 [TIMER BELLS RINGS]

24 MR. HARMON: And so I just want you guys to look
25 at not punishing us for the things that had been

1 decided for us to make things better that have now
2 failed. We have a system we feel like we could go to
3 and improve on a lot of those things. We feel like
4 if the high school was able to get some teachers,
5 like our plan calls for, those grades would excel,
6 just like the elementary did.

7 And so I don't envy you guys. I know this is a
8 hard decision. I can't imagine having this job of
9 being on this Board. But I just hope and pray that
10 y'all look at this from every single angle and truly
11 make a decision about what's best for our kids.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

14 Mr. Walker.

15 BOBBIE WALKER

16 MS. WALKER: It is Bobbie Walker, and my time is
17 -- is the mayor -- is Mayor Ricky Craig on your
18 agenda? Mayor Ricky Craig of Sparkman, is he on your
19 agenda?

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: No.

21 MS. WALKER: Okay. My time will go for him --

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

23 MS. WALKER: -- if that's okay.

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Tupa. Oh, here comes Mayor
25 Craig. Sorry. And then Tupa will be next.

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MAYOR RICKY CRAIG

MAYOR CRAIG: Good afternoon. My name is Ricky Craig, Mayor of the City of Sparkman. I'm here with prayers in my heart because our children is our greatest asset. Farming is our business down that way, and timberland. I just want to let you know that rural areas provide food for the cities; we raise the beef, the pork, the poultry. We get the logs out of the woods; we manufacture the lumber at our sawmills, which we have three. Mr. White is here. They cut the best lumber in the United States -- Ray White Lumber Company. So I just want to let you know that we provide the food for the Little Rock area; we provide the building material. Our children, we train them to be farmers, the agri -- in agri.

So these rural areas are vital to keep open so that we can have people that will supply the materials you need to live the life you live. When you destroy our lifestyle and our children's lifestyle, putting them on a bus at 5:00 in the morning -- I heard what Mr. Snow said. It's a 50-minute drive from the county line, farthest point, to Harmony Grove in my car on a good day, good conditions. Now the bus is going to stop. When you

1 put young children on that bus early in the morning
2 you're going to -- they're not going to learn
3 anything; they're going to have wet pants and
4 everything when they get to school probably.

5 So I'm begging and I'm praying that someone will
6 hear our plea and save our children because they are
7 our most valuable asset.

8 And I want to let you know that Sparkman,
9 Arkansas has produced some of the most brilliant
10 people in the world -- doctors, lawyers,
11 psychiatrists, engineers, IBM CEO's. So we could
12 just go on down the line; many, many professional
13 people come out of the rural area.

14 When I went to school -- and I just want to say
15 this and I'm going to get down -- when I went to
16 school we had raggedy books, didn't have a cover --
17 they was hand-me-downs -- because I went to school
18 back in the 50s and the 60s. I went in the Marine
19 Corp in 1969, moved to Michigan. Let me tell you, a
20 rural area is the best place to live. I lived in
21 California and Michigan; I moved back to Arkansas,
22 and I moved back to rural. I have horses and cows
23 and I cut hay. I love that. And these children down
24 there love that. But we produce what you need, so
25 don't destroy the rural -- because if you do, you're

1 going to destroy yourself one day, because we produce
2 what the world needs: food. We plant the soybeans.
3 We're farmers. And our children, we grow them up to
4 be farmers. And we don't have drive-by shootings.
5 We teach our children morals down in Sparkman,
6 Arkansas, and in the rural areas.

7 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

8 MAYOR CRAIG: So we don't have drive-bys.

9 So I'm just praying and begging that you give us
10 a chance to -- and the County Judge is here, Dallas
11 County Judge. Mayor Clark, he's here. My goal is to
12 rebuild Sparkman. I talked to a man yesterday about
13 building about 15 or 20 new homes there. We're going
14 to try to build our community back up. Yes, it went
15 down, but we're going to rebuild our county and our
16 community. If you remove our school, there will be
17 one school left in the entire Dallas County. So
18 please think about this seriously. When you have a
19 county as large as Dallas County, one school --
20 that's a disaster. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

22 And just so that y'all know, we are -- this
23 group as a whole is not from Little Rock; we're all
24 from rural areas, so -- not that there's anything
25 wrong with being from Little Rock, but we get it.

1 Ms. Tupa -- yeah, Ms. Tupa. And then, after
2 that, Nowlin -- Nowlin, yeah.

3 CODIE JO TUPA

4 MS. TUPA: Hello. My name is -- can y'all hear
5 me good?

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Say your name.

7 MS. TUPA: My name is Codie Jo Tupa, and I'm a
8 senior at Sparkman High School; I'll graduate this
9 year. And --

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Congratulations.

11 MS. TUPA: Thank you. And I'm going to graduate
12 with 30-plus college credit hours, and that's because
13 I had Virtual Arkansas.

14 Sparkman has been put through a lot of tests and
15 we haven't had a chance to relax and grow -- I'm
16 sorry, I'm nervous.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's okay.

18 MS. TUPA: And Virtual Arkansas is a challenge.
19 It's taught me how to be dependent on myself, taught
20 me how to grow-up and understand that my work comes
21 from hard work and from understanding it.

22 I drive to Harmony Grove. I drive 3rd period
23 and I arrive 4th period, and I take plain
24 trigonometry. I take that because I've taken all of
25 the college classes that are available at Virtual

1 Arkansas, and I did not want to take a class that was
2 not useful. And it has been a real challenge to
3 adjust. I'm a real outgoing person in my group, but
4 since I arrived at Harmony Grove I did not talk to
5 anyone except for the person in the sign-in office
6 for about five weeks. And -- sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: That's fine. You're doing a
8 good job.

9 MS. TUPA: Anyway, Sparkman has been --
10 basically been given the scraps. So like whenever
11 the school gets money for new buses and other stuff
12 like that we get the older buses. We get -- you
13 know, we get all the hand-me-downs, it feels like.
14 We get isolated and we get bullied on. I'm a 12th
15 grader and I have to be walked to the bathroom every
16 day. We get two minutes to go to the bathroom, three
17 periods. I'm sorry; this is just nerves.

18 Even through the challenges, the presentation
19 that Dr. Snow showed of the high school grades of
20 being a D, we haven't dropped. It hasn't been -- it
21 has been a real adjustment and really hard, but we've
22 stayed in there; we haven't dropped a grade. And I
23 think with more adjustment and allowing kids to grow
24 up and realize that they have to grow up and
25 understand how to do their own work that it will

1 help. There are changes that need to be made. Like
2 the financial aid person said that if it keeps going
3 like it is that -- then Sparkman is going to be in
4 financial distress. But that's if nothing changes.
5 There's been many things that have been proposed to
6 help the changes and help the students in the
7 community, and I think it just really needs to be
8 looked at. And there's also been -- I'm sorry --

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You have about 15 seconds.

10 MS. TUPA: Okay. I'd just say thank you. We
11 just -- we need a chance because it is a hard change.
12 Especially if y'all decide not to keep our school
13 open, it's going to be really hard on students. And
14 we've just been through change after change after
15 change, and I don't think we've been given the
16 opportunity to grow and to learn --

17 [TIMER BELL RINGS]

18 MS. TUPA: -- how to take this. And I sent
19 y'all an email about it. I'm much more adequate at
20 writing than I am at speaking. But thank you for
21 your time and thank you for listening.

22 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: The timer bell
23 continues to ring.)

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Does anybody know how to turn
25 that off? Here he comes.

1 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Secretary Key turns off
2 the timer bell.)

3 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Now, then.

4 KATELYN NOWLIN

5 MS. NOWLIN: My name is Katelyn Nowlin, and I'm
6 a 7th grader at Sparkman School. I have attended
7 Sparkman School for five years, from 3rd grade to
8 7th, and hopefully on to 12th.

9 When I was in the 4th grade, Harmony Grove
10 School District made the decision to put students in
11 Sparkman on computers in a program called MobyMax.
12 This was a very poor decision. I did not benefit
13 from the way I was being taught. The website for
14 MobyMax states that MobyMax helps struggling learners
15 quickly catch-up grade levels and closes learning
16 gaps. It sounds great; right? Well, it did not do
17 that for me. In fact, it did the opposite.

18 My 5th grade year, the District again made a
19 poor decision that negatively affected my academics.
20 On top of being on MobyMax throughout each day, the
21 5th and 6th grade, along with other grades, were
22 combined into one classroom where once again the
23 teachers were not able to provide appropriate
24 education.

25 After two years on MobyMax and one year in a

1 combined class, I entered the 6th grade last year
2 with a 2nd grade reading level and my math was at the
3 3rd grade level. So I guess it is safe to say
4 MobyMax did not close my learning gaps.

5 Thankfully, last year I was not in a combined
6 grade and the teacher, seeing the negative outcome
7 caused by MobyMax, decided to stop using it. Last
8 year I was able to get hands-on learning that I
9 needed for the first time since 3rd grade and I
10 automatically excelled. In a little over a year, I
11 learned I can do hard things. My reading level has
12 jumped up two grade levels and my math score is now
13 greater than 10th grade.

14 On top of all of this, about a year ago my birth
15 mother abandoned me and my brother. This was around
16 the time that I started truly excelling. For most
17 kids my age this would have negatively affected every
18 area of my life. In my case, however, the teachers
19 in Sparkman encouraged me and constantly reminded me
20 that God has a plan for my life. My 4th grade
21 teacher and her husband even stepped up and fought
22 for custody over me and my brother. Sparkman School
23 has truly shown me love like I've never known before.

24 I simply want to ask you today to do the same
25 thing for Sparkman as it has done for me over the

1 last year. Please just give Sparkman a chance to
2 gain stability, a chance to prosper, and a chance to
3 have a hope and a future. Thank you for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

5 Stracener, Christian S-t-r-a-c-e-n-e-r.

6 Okay. Franks.

7 LAUREN FRANKS

8 MS. FRANKS: If I could pass my -- oh, sorry.
9 I'm Lauren Franks. I'm a mom, parent, whatever.
10 But I would like to give my time to Ms. Taylor, who
11 has the plan that she wasn't able to share earlier
12 about a way to do it, if that's okay to give my time.

13 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We typically don't --

14 MS. FRANKS: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- give time.

16 MS. FRANKS: And that'll be fine.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah.

18 MS. FRANKS: I'll just go ahead --

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yeah.

20 MS. FRANKS: -- and respect y'all's time. Thank
21 you for the consideration.

22 Good morning. I mentioned that while ago.
23 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to y'all. I'm
24 from our community; I've lived there my entire life.
25 And I'm real nervous because I'm a Nurse

1 Practitioner, so I'm normally one-on-one, so -- with
2 the patient. While a little more about me may not
3 make a difference today, it does tell the story of
4 the importance of Sparkman School and the community
5 and in my life. I graduated in 2002, with 17 people.
6 Of those, half have graduated with a bachelor's
7 degree and several with a master's degree. I'm
8 currently in my last semester of Nurse Practitioner
9 school and my goal is to open a clinic in Sparkman to
10 hope that it will grow.

11 You may be thinking what does this have to do
12 with the school. But it's because of the small
13 school that helped me to become a caring,
14 compassionate, educated and driven person I am today.
15 Then and now, the teachers knew something -- knew if
16 something were going on in our lives and they would
17 try to help us. They gave emotional, mental,
18 educational support because we were not one-on-one --
19 a one-of-25. Two teachers you heard from previously,
20 Ms. Bobbie Walker was my 5th grade teacher; Ms.
21 Taylor is my son's 6th grade teacher, and he hates
22 math but in one year -- in one semester he went from
23 a 5th grade math level to greater than 9th grade and
24 loves math. I'm thankful for them being here and
25 thinking outside of the box, because the students do

1 matter and they love them.

2 I'm also a children's minister at Sparkman First
3 Baptist Church where I get to see many of these
4 students on a weekly basis. I also drive the church
5 van and for five miles it's real hard sometimes. For
6 some of them, they lack basic life needs at home.
7 But at this small school their needs are met because
8 of the teachers and the other staff that see their
9 needs.

10 I pray that you will help us to continue to stay
11 open with the new plan that Ms. Taylor has. We're
12 just asking for the chance to continue to make
13 educated, caring individuals.

14 In closing, we have always been known as the
15 Mighty Raiders. But it was not for the numbers; it
16 was for hearts and believing in doing what was
17 impossible. Mr. Rogers once said -- and I love Mr.
18 Rogers -- "Anyone who does anything to help a child
19 in his life is a hero." Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

21 Clint Waller.

22 [AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]

23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Is that not good?

24 MR. WALKER: It's Walker.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

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CLINT WALKER

MR. WALKER: My name is Clint Walker. I'm a citizen of Sparkman and a parent. There's just something special about small towns, the closeness, the slower pace of life. And a small town is a place where most of us call home; it's a place you always want to be able to go back to; it's a school where the teachers know you and love you, as your own parents do. It's still that way in Sparkman. My family, as well as others, moved back to the -- with the intent to raise their family, just as our parents did. We want a place to call home, to provide for our family. We want a reason for our kids to move back.

As you all know in your positions that your decisions affect our town in a much deeper way than just the school. You have the ability to uphold or condemn an entire community right now. We have an amazing school at Sparkman, as you can see -- small town, big heart. Our kids are educated well -- and with the ability to make a few adjustments, like we have, we could do even better. If Harmony Grove fought as hard to keep us open as they have to close us, we would be in good shape right now.

I work in Arkadelphia, and on my way to work I

1 drive by the school at 6:00 each morning, right after
2 6:00, and there's a Harmony Grove bus sitting right
3 there at the school to pick up our kids. He says
4 we're not going to have a two-hour ride, but it's
5 already happening. They pick them up, they -- two
6 hours one way, two hours back. That makes a 10-hour
7 day for students -- 10 hour days. I can't even
8 handle that on a workday. This will create an
9 educational desert, as Dr. -- as Mr. Askew said. The
10 kids will have to travel 25 to 30 miles in each
11 direction and that should almost be considered
12 educational neglect. That is not the guarantee of
13 equal access to public education, as mentioned in our
14 state constitution. After all, Arkansas has
15 described itself as the Land of Opportunity. What
16 kind of opportunity is that providing?

17 I don't feel like this is a Sparkman-specific
18 problem. With the minimum wage increase and the
19 mandated teacher salary raises, this is just the tip
20 of the iceberg for rural Arkansas. A solution has
21 got to be found. It's not sustainable. I hope you
22 will allow our school to stay open until this
23 solution is found. And you know what's crazy about
24 this? We're not even in the red right now; we're in
25 the black, and this is all about shutting our school

1 down before it's -- we're given a chance. Right?
2 What's the rush? This is an irreversible decision.
3 And we ask that you leave our doors open for now,
4 because once the doors are closed, the doors are
5 closed. They're not coming back.

6 A viable plan has been presented to Harmony
7 Grove in the past and they don't listen. They're too
8 self-focused.

9 [TIMER BELLS RINGS]

10 MR. WALKER: I pray that you have compassion on
11 us when making your decision.

12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

13 Mr. Sivens [sic].

14 MR. GIVENS: Givens?

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: S-i-v-e-n-s.

16 MR. GIVENS: Well, that's a G.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Oh.

18 ED GIVENS

19 MR. GIVENS: I'm Ed Givens. Can you hear me?

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We can.

21 MR. GIVENS: My dad graduated from Sparkman High
22 School about 1938. I graduated from Sparkman High
23 School in 1962. I've spent almost 76 years in that
24 area, with the exception of going to school and the
25 military. When I was a senior in high school I had

1 no intention of going to college, but I was fortunate
2 enough some way to win a scholarship for \$1,000 from
3 GP to go to Arkansas A&M, which is now UAM, to study
4 forestry. I did that, and after the first year I
5 said, "I'm not quitting now. I'm going to get it."
6 So I ended up spending the balance of that \$1,000
7 scholarship to buy books for the sophomore year.
8 Times have changed. I have two sons that graduated
9 from Sparkman High School in the early 1990 era.
10 Both of them went to Henderson; one graduated with a
11 bachelor's, one with a master's.

12 Back to my 1962 time, I have two brothers and
13 three sisters that graduated from Sparkman High
14 School. One brother graduated from UAM, degree in
15 forestry, decided he wanted to teach; he went to SAU
16 and then to the University to get his teaching
17 degree. I have three sisters; one graduated from
18 UAM, two graduated from Henderson. I have numerous
19 nieces, nephews, and maybe great-nieces and nephews
20 -- I don't know how that goes -- that have gone and
21 are going to Sparkman schools. I think we have
22 produced a pretty good educational system, and I
23 think if given the credits that we'll continue to
24 produce good students. I would like for you, the
25 Board, to check into the situation of the Kingsland

1 consolidation and see who Kingsland was consolidated
2 with and check the distance between those schools.

3 And then I'll run out of time on this one -- the
4 demise of small schools started many years ago, when
5 the school district boundaries was allowed to be lax.
6 And if you check the students, the bulk of the
7 students that's going to Harmony Grove School, and
8 some even to Bearden, they live in a corner of the
9 county that's about equal distance from the three
10 schools -- Harmony Grove, Bearden, and Sparkman.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

13 [TIMER BELLS RINGS]

14 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Deborah Lewis. Then, the last
15 one will be Candace Williams.

16 DEBORAH LEWIS

17 MS. LEWIS: My name is Deborah Lewis. My
18 daughter was caught up in the bad decisions -- the
19 bad decisions that Mr. Snow wasn't a part of it, but
20 he did come back and give us a teacher. She was
21 caught up in 1st grade with MobyMax; she was caught
22 up in 2nd grade with combined classes; she was caught
23 up in 3rd grade with combined classes. So she's had
24 only one year of a teacher in all these years. When
25 she got to 3rd grade, we had Ms. Harmon -- amazing

1 woman. He stepped in, he gave us all kinds of help;
2 it was awesome. But she was still in a combined
3 class. The teacher was having to teach two different
4 grades, but she was at a 1.2. This year she had Ms.
5 Taylor and Ms. Pennington. She has three teachers --
6 and Ms. Carroll. She is at a 3.8 to a 4.5 grade
7 point average now on her reading. But this is the
8 first year she actually got to do it, she's actually
9 had a teacher, she's actually got to thrive.

10 So Harmony Grove, their students have never been
11 through this. They weren't put in a combined class;
12 they weren't put on MobyMax -- so there's no data for
13 their score to our score.

14 I started at Sparkman -- I was a P.E. aid --
15 anyway, and I started when the -- in the combination,
16 when they did all this consolidation. And we've
17 always been their stepchild; we've always been "they
18 had to take us" -- and as a result, some of the
19 decisions to save money has hurt our kids. Now we
20 just want the opportunity to let them grow. We don't
21 have to close this year. Give them a chance, because
22 most of these students my daughter started with have
23 left because of the combined classes, because of
24 these decisions. And everybody kept saying, "All
25 you've got to do is just leave and go to Harmony

1 Grove." That's not the answer. Our teachers are not
2 our problem. Our administration who implemented
3 these decisions that they thought was the best thing
4 to save money for Sparkman is what hurt our child;
5 not that -- not the students. Our teachers -- last
6 year in the 3rd grade they actually did tutoring.
7 They tutored these kids after school and was not paid
8 for it; they did it on their own dime. They stayed
9 after to help our kids, to put our kids back to where
10 they need to be, because they saw what happened and
11 they went out of their way.

12 And so I just want you to think about it and
13 give the opportunity to let us stay open for another
14 year and just see where we go. But anyway -- but
15 thank you so much.

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

17 And Ms. Williams.

18 CANDACE WILLIAMS

19 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. The last one, I guess
20 -- I'm Candace Williams with Rural Community Alliance
21 and I just -- I sent an email to you-all.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Yes.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: I just want to publicly show our
24 support to Sparkman.

25 The bill that you referenced earlier, Act 377 of

1 2015, we advocated for that for 10-plus years. In
2 2015, Governor Hutchinson heard us. We had Cozart
3 and Clark, you know, on our side, and we were finally
4 able to get schools some relief from that 350,
5 feeling like there was a nail in the coffin. And as
6 mentioned earlier, Kirby, they've been before you-all
7 and they're making it work. They've gone to four
8 days. This can work. So the census, 2020 census
9 will show us what we already know: everything below
10 Little Rock is -- you know, we have a few pockets
11 where it's growing but other than that, we're losing
12 population. So people are still there. Even with my
13 personal experience -- I'm from the Elaine community,
14 our school district -- I was part of the last
15 graduating class from that school. And like you
16 said, a community never heals from that. Nothing
17 hurts a community -- a rural community like losing
18 the heart or the nucleus of that community like
19 closing our doors.

20 So if at all possible, if you all could work
21 some kind of way from the state point, the local
22 point to really address not just today, Sparkman, but
23 there are other Sparkman's out there. There are
24 other schools that are in fear because of the teacher
25 increase, the salary. We need that. We know we need

1 that. But schools are literally like grasping at
2 their pearls because they're scared of their
3 financial state when the money from the State runs
4 out. So I don't think this could've happened at a
5 better time with the adequacy study going on. Like
6 Senator Maloch mentioned, we really need to look at a
7 better way to fund our more rural schools.

8 So I just want to publicly show our support to
9 Sparkman. Thank y'all.

10 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Thank you.

11 BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Do you have any further
13 comments or questions, Ms. Newton?

14 MS. NEWTON: I guess I just have some comments
15 that -- so we can kind of hear where the struggle has
16 been.

17 First of all, I want to thank the community for
18 your turnout and just to see how much you care and
19 you love your kids and your community. And just no
20 matter what happens I hope that y'all will continue
21 to do that and to speak up and stand for your kids.

22 This is a very, very difficult decision that
23 we're faced with, and I want y'all to realize that
24 we're not taking it lightly. We understood, and I'm
25 sure the rest of the Board, like I have, have made it

1 a matter of prayer, to pray about it, to think about
2 it, and to study, and to ask questions.

3 And so some of my concerns are -- I see the
4 progress that the elementary has made, but I know
5 that we have a responsibility to make sure that every
6 student in that district has a free and appropriate
7 public education. And I don't know if all of you
8 realize this but I took the time to go down and visit
9 the Sparkman campus and to see for myself what was
10 going on, and the elementary teachers were working
11 so, so hard. And to me, that would've been a dream
12 job because every class, you know, less than 10 kids;
13 you can give them the one-on-one attention that they
14 need. And I don't have a doubt about the rise in
15 scores that you're going to see from that because
16 you're able to spend so much time with those kids,
17 catching them up and getting them on grade level, and
18 it's a -- that's a great situation. But once I got
19 to the 7th and 8th grade and the 9th and 10th and
20 11th and 12th, I'm going to be honest, my heart broke
21 for those kids; you know, it's not a good situation.
22 It's not what those kids need. And, you know, they
23 may get the academics they need, but there's more to
24 education than sitting and getting knowledge put into
25 you -- you know, learning communication skills,

1 learning to communicate, learning to work with a
2 team, learning to get along with others, being in a
3 situation of a group of peers and knowing how to
4 communicate, being involved in extracurricular
5 activities. I can go on and on. All of you that
6 have been in high school, you know what all of those
7 things are. So that's concerning to me.

8 The other thing that I think about is, you know,
9 the progress that has been made at the elementary
10 level. Several of you have said it's because this is
11 the first year that we've had an opportunity for
12 those kids to have a teacher. That breaks my heart
13 again. You know, that's -- you know, what have we
14 done to those students that they didn't have that
15 opportunity? And then I look and hear them talking
16 about finances and saying, "Well, if it stays open,
17 then we're going to have to go back and do blended
18 classes. We're going to have to go back and do those
19 things." And then -- but then you've got a plan, but
20 our hands are tied. We can't make anybody do
21 anything. All we can do is say, "Yes, you're going
22 to stay open" or "no, you're not." And so I hope you
23 see the struggle that I'm having with this. You
24 know, my total mindset is what is best for those
25 students, and that's how I'm going to make my

1 decision; you know, how do I balance what I'm hearing
2 on both sides, you know, and how do we get to where
3 we need to be. You know, because this is not only
4 affecting the kids, but it affects the adults. But
5 I've got to keep my focus on the kids and I hope you
6 realize that I've got to keep my focus on what is
7 best for those students, what is going to give them
8 the best opportunity whenever they leave high school,
9 whenever they leave -- some of them are going to stay
10 in the Sparkman community, but some of them are not.
11 Some of them are going to go find opportunities
12 elsewhere in the world. What is going to give them
13 the best opportunity to succeed in the world as they
14 go out?

15 So those are the things that I'm mulling over.
16 Those are the things that I'm thinking about and
17 wrestling with as we talk about this. And I hope
18 some of the other board members will kind of give me
19 your thoughts and what you're thinking --

20 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

21 MS. NEWTON: -- along those lines also.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Mr. Williamson, did you have any
23 further comments?

24 MR. WILLIAMSON: No, ma'am, not right now.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. And, Ms. McPetridge, did

1 you?

2 MS. McFETRIDGE: Yes, ma'am.

3 I have to say also I am very concerned about how
4 we're educating the high school students. I think
5 we're doing them a huge disservice. And we have to
6 think about their future employability in this global
7 community. I'm just very concerned. I think that's
8 my comment at this point.

9 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

10 Dr. Hill, did you have anything further?

11 DR. FITZ HILL: I just want to -- Ms. Newton
12 said she has visited.

13 Do you think the progress though will be seen
14 when you're looking at the -- this is 10 years of
15 consolidation now -- how long?

16 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Fifteen.

17 DR. FITZ HILL: Fifteen. All right. And the
18 students in the pipeline -- do you think the learning
19 will be enhanced because of the elementary school now
20 with those students moving on? Because the
21 foundation that they're getting, those other kids did
22 not get.

23 MS. NEWTON: The elementary students this year

24 --

25 DR. FITZ HILL: This year, yes.

1 MS. NEWTON: -- those -- you know, 8 to 10
2 students in each grade, those kids are getting what
3 they need. But once you hit 7th grade, all the way
4 up --

5 DR. FITZ HILL: But I'm saying --

6 MS. NEWTON: Yeah.

7 DR. FITZ HILL: -- do you think that that cycle
8 will be enhanced though because of the foundation of
9 the elementary kids --

10 MS. NEWTON: Well --

11 DR. FITZ HILL: -- in the future?

12 MS. NEWTON: -- if --

13 DR. FITZ HILL: I'm asking --

14 MS. NEWTON: Okay, I know. And I guess what I
15 will say to that is if the situation in 7 through 12
16 as far as the instructional methods stay the same,
17 then no.

18 DR. FITZ HILL: No. Okay.

19 MS. NEWTON: I don't think you're going to see
20 progress if everything stays the same.

21 DR. FITZ HILL: Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Chambers, anything else?

23 MS. CHAMBERS: I want to make sure that I
24 understood. If a child in junior high or middle
25 school -- junior high or high school in Sparkman

1 wanted -- for all the reasons that you just
2 mentioned, Ms. Newton -- to have more services and
3 more amenities, could they choose into Harmony Grove?

4 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. NEWTON: They're not -- this is not a
6 separate district; this is -- they wouldn't have to
7 choice. They're part of the Harmony Grove district,
8 so they can -- they are -- they have I think -- was
9 it 70-something students that are going there now?

10 MS. CHAMBERS: Right.

11 MS. NEWTON: So they can do that. Yes.

12 MS. CHAMBERS: So one of the things I was really
13 listening for -- and it goes back to the threshold,
14 the law that was previously set with the 350 -- and
15 I'm a numbers person. And it's very compelling,
16 looking at the numbers as a means of judging the
17 efficacy, the efficiency of a dollar spent in the
18 state on a student, because we're trying to make sure
19 -- we have a duty of care to make sure every student
20 -- you know, and we could all maybe agree that we're
21 going to disagree on the definition of what it means
22 to provide an adequate education. But I have to
23 admit that over the years in this role getting a
24 chance to hear communities come and make their
25 statement about that threshold -- and that's only one

1 threshold, but it's the rural community threshold;
2 right -- small school? And obviously this isolation
3 element is -- geographically dispersed communities is
4 a different issue. But the point is I've come to
5 fully -- even more fully appreciate the importance of
6 vital communities for a school. And I do sense -- I
7 hope -- we can't have pride in the existence of a
8 community being the justification of keeping a school
9 open that maybe is not able to provide for our
10 children. I don't hear that from you. I hear that
11 you're -- because I was really lucky to be raised by
12 -- if I was out on the street doing something I
13 shouldn't have been doing, my mother and father would
14 be sure to hear about it. So the community was a
15 part of my upbringing and what it meant to be -- what
16 a good person looked like. And so I think that's a
17 really, really important part of an education in
18 growing up.

19 As in most things in life, there are two sides
20 to this story. I so appreciate what Harmony Grove,
21 what the superintendent and the board are trying to
22 do and what they're thinking about in terms of the
23 numbers.

24 So in terms of signaling kind of my current
25 thoughts, I'm not voting against Harmony Grove but I

1 am voting for Sparkman having a chance. This is not
2 going to last indefinitely, not to make a pun. This
3 isolated school is not an isolated issue for the
4 state; it's a much broader issue for us. And I'm
5 hopeful that this study and work that we'll continue
6 to do will help us understand the longevity of having
7 a viable school that's not near an urban area or an
8 easily annexed situation. The one thing I would ask,
9 if you could -- because I do think the vote is
10 interesting, the 5-to-2, and where those were --
11 those folks were, what they were representing. I did
12 hear a lot of "we/they" today, and that's not good
13 for the community, whatever you do. And so I'm very
14 hopeful if it's one more year -- because the finances
15 will catch up with this -- changes will have to be
16 made. But I'm hopeful that the communities can take
17 advantage of this time to come together and really be
18 a "we" in maybe a way that the earlier consolidation
19 did not cause, so that whatever decision you make,
20 even though it may be difficult -- it will be
21 difficult; that's just where -- where will you choose
22 your difficulties, but that you make the decision
23 together.

24 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. Dean, any more?

25 MS. DEAN: I agree with everything that's been

1 said so far, so I won't repeat it. My same struggle
2 -- it's my same struggle: it looks like the students
3 at the elementary school are finally getting an
4 opportunity to thrive, and the junior high and high
5 school students are really facing a challenge.

6 I can speak from my own experience once again.
7 I have four children -- two girls, two boys. One of
8 my girls does great with online courses, and my
9 oldest child, who's very bright, always been very
10 studious, always been advanced, she cannot do online
11 courses. I don't know why, but she can't. She
12 doesn't do well with online courses. But you put her
13 in a classroom, she excels. So I think forcing
14 students to have to learn from one way, that's not
15 fair and it doesn't -- that's not the way to do
16 education.

17 I think I agree I did hear a lot of "we/they."
18 And I think as well you have an opportunity to
19 actually bring some unity with the time allotted.
20 Because I agree, I'm not voting against Harmony
21 Grove, but I think Sparkman deserves an opportunity
22 to do what is best for their students and do what's
23 best for their kids.

24 And as I spoke to earlier, I -- this kind of hit
25 home for me, it kind of pulled on heartstrings for me

1 because it took me back to my childhood and that
2 experience being so far away from -- going to school
3 so far away from home was not a good experience. My
4 mom went -- who was a homemaker and a pastor's wife
5 went from being the homeroom mom who was at the
6 school almost every day -- everybody knew Ms. Camp --
7 Mrs. Camp. She went from being a very active
8 participant in being involved as a parent to hardly
9 ever stepping foot on campus ever again. And not
10 only was that hard for me, it was hard for her as
11 well when you want to be -- you want to be involved.
12 And if I take this from the community and parental
13 involvement aspect, this does not -- this is not
14 conducive for what I'm trying to do while I'm on the
15 State Board, which is help parents to be more
16 involved, to be more engaged, help the community to
17 be more engaged. This works against that.

18 So for those reasons I'll be voting that
19 Sparkman continues to stay open. I would encourage
20 the superintendent to be open-minded, look for
21 solutions, pray, ask God for guidance, because I
22 believe there is a way. I believe there is a way to
23 do it and to get it done. We just have to be open
24 and look for solutions. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Dr. Moore.

1 DR. MOORE: Yes. In echoing the difficult
2 decision that we have at hand, I think we as a board
3 are weighing our responsibilities under law and from
4 the General Assembly of providing an excellent
5 education for all students in the state. And one
6 thing that just keeps echoing in my mind is the idea
7 that all high school students should have -- every
8 high school needs to have 38 courses for all
9 students. And I believe that all students should
10 have access to those 38 courses and four teachers is
11 not going to do that. Now, obviously, they will
12 still have 38 courses, but they'll be online. But
13 this is not just a Sparkman issue; this is a greater
14 issue in the state of how are we as a state
15 supporting rural communities that aren't able to
16 staff to that. But, again, echo a hard decision, and
17 appreciate all the comments that have been said
18 today.

19 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Ms. McAdoo.

20 MS. McADOO: I just wanted to let the students
21 know that I am so very proud of you for having the
22 courage and the strength to get up here and speak
23 from your heart. I think you represented your
24 community, your parents, the State of Arkansas very
25 well. So, thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I've lived through two or three
2 of these. I think I keep coming back to the fact
3 that it's been a 15-year consolidation, so there has
4 been some time. I too, as a former teacher, am
5 concerned about high school students doing online.
6 There might've been some courses -- math and science
7 and English -- that would've worked well for me. I'm
8 not so sure if social studies would, but you never
9 know.

10 The facilities, we didn't talk about that. Are
11 the facilities similar or are there issues or
12 whatever with the facilities? I know when Violet
13 Hill and Oxford consolidated they picked a central
14 place for their high school. But are your facilities
15 similar, equal, unequal, maybe -- yeah, please, come
16 -- yeah, I'm asking you. And if you will, come to
17 the microphone.

18 SUPT. SNOW: Basically, the Sparkman campus is
19 in one building and there is no issues with that
20 building.

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: They're warm, safe and dry?

22 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

23 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay.

24 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

25 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: And Harmony Grove is as well?

1 SUPT. SNOW: Yes, ma'am.

2 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

3 And the capacity?

4 SUPT. SNOW: We're going to have to rearrange
5 some things but, yes, we do have the capacity.

6 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

7 Anybody else?

8 Do I have a motion?

9 MS. CHAMBERS: I'm happy to make a motion, but
10 I'm trying to figure out what the --

11 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: You'll make a motion to -- okay,
12 go ahead.

13 MS. CHAMBERS: So I would make a motion to deny
14 closing Sparkman K-12 at the end of the 2019-20
15 school year.

16 MS. DEAN: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I have a -- do -- I have a
18 motion by Ms. Chambers, a second by Ms. Dean.

19 We need to take a roll-call on this -- no, I
20 mean we have to.

21 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Moore.

22 DR. MOORE: No.

23 SECRETARY KEY: Mr. Williamson.

24 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

25 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. McFetridge.

1 MS. McFETRIDGE: No.

2 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Dean.

3 MS. DEAN: Yes.

4 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Chambers.

5 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

6 SECRETARY KEY: Dr. Hill.

7 DR. HILL: Yes.

8 SECRETARY KEY: Ms. Newton.

9 MS. NEWTON: No.

10 SECRETARY KEY: Four votes for the motion, three
11 against.

12 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Motion passes. Sparkman will
13 not be closed this coming year.

14 [AUDIENCE CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I will say this to the community
16 -- and I have been a school administrator, as well as
17 a teacher. There are a lot of things that -- doing
18 school is hard and there are a lot of things
19 administrators have to consider in addition to just
20 the day-to-day, one-on-one instruction, all-be that
21 is the most important. But they have to look at the
22 finances, they have to look at the facilities, they
23 have to look at the transportation. And it has been
24 my experience that in those districts where, for lack
25 of a better analogy, the Band-Aid was ripped off

1 quickly everybody then began to heal, and it took
2 time. But to delay what may be inevitable may or may
3 not be in the best interest.

4 And I'm sorry; I just realized that --
5 Representative Womack, you were wanting to speak?

6 REPRESENTATIVE WOMACK: No longer necessary, but
7 I appreciate it.

8 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: Okay. I'm sorry. I saved you.
9 Anyway, if you want to leave, then you're
10 welcome to do so. And we understand the frustration
11 on both parts.

12 Board and those of you who are in the audience
13 for other --

14 [CHAIRMAN ZOOK BANGS HER GAVEL TO QUIETEN THE ROOM]

15 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: -- and those of us -- those of
16 you who are in the audience for other items that are
17 on the morning agenda, we are going to break for
18 lunch now and we will be back at 1:20; so if you will
19 plan around that.

20 Sorry, but these are not easy or decisions that
21 can be made quickly.

22 (LUNCH BREAK: 12:37 - 1:22 P.M.)

23 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: The Board reconvened at
24 1:22 p.m., with the exception of Dr. Fitz Hill who
25 left the meeting during the lunch break.)

1 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: We were supposed to reconvene at
2 1:20. The Governor is going to have a press
3 conference at 1:45; so we will wait until after that
4 to convene, but we will finish up the schedule as
5 scheduled today. I apologize to those of you who
6 have come in from a distance. This is strange times
7 and unusual. And so we will listen to the Governor's
8 press conference; we will not listen to the part when
9 the press asks questions because most of the time you
10 can't hear their questions anyway. But we will live-
11 stream it in here. If you want to stay in here or go
12 out in the lobby, or if you have something you need
13 to do in the next 40 minutes, then -- I apologize
14 again, but we're all just doing the best we can on
15 the fly.

16 (OFF THE RECORD - 1:23 P.M.)

17 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: The Board and audience
18 viewed the Governor's press conference re:
19 Coronavirus and school closings.)

20 (BACK ON THE RECORD - 2:02 P.M.)

21 CHAIRMAN ZOOK: I'll call the meeting --
22 afternoon session of the State Board of Education
23 meeting to order. And our first item from this
24 morning -- and thank you for your patience and
25 continue to remember these people that are making

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 12, 2020, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: March 22, 2020.

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
 Certificate No. 670

From: Judy Taylor <judytaylor44@yahoo.com>
Date: February 25, 2021 at 7:57:40 AM CST
To: benfewfriend@gmail.com
Subject: Resignation Letter

To Whom It May Concern:



I am writing to tender my resignation from the Harmony Grove School District. While I have enjoyed many things about my time at the Sparkman campus, I feel I have been left with little to no choice but to resign. My last day to teach will be Monday, March 1st due to numerous actions I feel were directly related to my support of maintaining the Sparkman campus.

A bit of background on my decision - last November, when our superintendent announced plans to close our campus for "financial reasons", I was heartbroken. I knew our students' best interest were not being taken into consideration nor the consideration of employees of Sparkman school. After encouragement from other teachers and discussions with staff I advocated on the behalf of both faculty and students to both the local and ultimately the state board who listened, and for the first time I am aware of, did not agree with a superintendent's desire for consolidation of a smaller school.

Unfortunately, since that time, there have been many obstacles placed in my path by administration. First was the mailed threat of a RIF, which was not legally in effect, and would have eliminated my job. Thankfully the school board recognized this and stood up to the superintendent. Then this year all of my students' algebra books were taken to HG campus the week before school started, forcing to revise the curriculum at the last minute. Then my schedule was completely changed mid-year with no advance warning for lesson planning or other considerations. To the lack of providing heat in my room until a couple of weeks ago when it was finally repaired well after 4 months of asking for it during fall/winter.

Then the most recent news where I was told that our superintendent is planning to bring the same motion to the board again - combining grades and further hurting our students. This lack of concern for Sparkman students is both despicable and not providing students an equal access to education, all while being no cost to the HG system as enrollment has grown at Sparkman. The combining of grades is also a concern as we have over 20 SPED students on our campus, yet we only have one part time SPED teacher. I have had parents call me wanting to know why their students in this category get one on one services at HG, the larger campus, and get minimal services on our campus. This is not providing equal access to education, and neither is busing kids from over an hour away back to HG.

It should also be noted the superintendent, who decided to change our schedule right before Christmas break without any input from our principal, is planning to further reduce staff. He has only been on our campus once in 2021 and it was for less than an hour. How is he able to determine classes need to be changed without 1st hand knowledge of what is occurring? We have 1/10 of the district's students on our campus, but we are left to fend for ourselves while those in the Administrative office continue to disregard and treat us as if we are less because of where we are located. When I signed my contract for this school year, I had no intention of leaving before it ended. However, the apparent retaliation for me advocating for our teachers and students is now affecting the students, and is why I am stepping down. Hopefully my absence will encourage

Administration to take a fresh look at the school and identify ways for the school to be improved rather than running it into the ground with the hopes of closing the doors.

I thank you for your understanding and pray that you look into the treatment of everyone affiliated with all of the HG schools and in particular the Sparkman campus. I would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

Best wishes and God Bless,

Judy Taylor



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

ESSER Transparency Dashboard

Overview

The ESSER funding dashboard provides the public an opportunity to access information about how much of the funds have been used so far to improve student learning, address lost learning opportunities, support students' mental health and wellbeing, and more.

The dashboard shows spending under all three rounds of ESSER funding – through the CARES Act in May 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in January 2021, and the American Rescue Plan in March 2021.

There are two (2) levels of Dashboard:

- 1. By ESSER Program
- 2. By ESSER Category

For more information, please visit the [ESSER Funding](#) site.





ADE - Division Of Elementary & Secondary Education
ESSER Transparency Dashboard

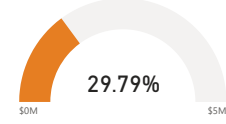
Last update
 May 14, 2022

Select Entity: HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Select Program: AB

Total Expense by Program



% of Funds Received



Total Allocation: \$4.56M
 Total Expense: \$1.36M
 Remaining Balance: \$3.2M

Category	LEA	LEA Name	Allocation	Total Expense	Remaining
ARP ESSER	5205000	HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT (OUACHITA)	\$3,009,396.75		\$3,009,396.75
ESSER I	5205000	HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT (OUACHITA)	\$211,419.15	\$211,415.20	\$3.95
ESSER II	5205000	HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT (OUACHITA)	\$1,339,023.25	\$1,146,880.58	\$192,142.67
Total			\$4,559,839.15	\$1,358,295.78	\$3,201,543.37

ESSER Recovery Funding Timeline At-A-Glance



Spending Priorities	Safely Reopen Schools, Address Learning Loss, Address Specific Needs (mental health services and supports, provision of technology and connectivity, etc.)		
Period of Availability	March 13, 2020-Sept. 30, 2022	March 13, 2020-Sept. 30, 2023	March 13, 2020-Sept. 30, 2024
FY21 Application Timeline	Deadline: April 15, 2021	Application Opened: May 7, 2021 Deadline: Sept. 30, 2021	Assurances Deadline: May 7, 2021 Application Opened: July 30, 2021 Deadline: Sept. 30, 2021
FY21 EGMS Application	Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act	ESSER II	ESSER III-ARP
FY22 Continuation Application Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEAs may close out their FY21 applications as early as Oct. 1, 2021, through the end of December 2021 LEAs can complete their FY22 application as soon as their FY21 closeout report is approved in EGMS 		
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application & Reimbursements Additional Data per Federal Reporting Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous Education Plan Application & Reimbursements Additional Data per Federal Reporting Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous Education Plan Application & Reimbursements Additional Data per Federal Reporting Requirements

Information Technology (IT) and Information Systems Involved

The award and expense information system are pulled from ADE’s Financial district data warehouse which is based on IBM Cognos Analytics platform. The financial office performs the regular data cleansing and formatting of the files and dumps them into SQL server database (See below file format) for us in aggregated form. This structure forms the back end of the dashboard. The data is updated once a month. The transactional accounting platform we use is eFinancePLUS. Arkansas is fortunate and planned over the years to ensure we have a uniform financial and student management system in the form of eFinancePLUS and eSchoolPLUS respectively. This makes our IT lives much easier and helps us build agile and scalable education information system quite seamlessly and quickly.

The entire work is handled by in-house ADE Office of Information Technology Staff. We use IBM Cognos Analytics 11 on the financial district data warehouse end and then MSFT Power BI Pro on the front-end for the ESSER Dashboard display.

Esser ID Category LEA LEAName Allocation Student Support Technology Systemic Procedures Food Security Facilities Total Expense Remaining LastUpdatedDate



LEA Insights



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**COUNTY TREASURER'S
AD VALOREM TAX REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIFORM RATE OF TAX CALCULATION
(For Reporting Purposes Only)**

COUNTY DALLAS

DISTRICT HARMONY GROVE

LEA # 5205

YEAR 2021

January 1 - December 31

1	96% HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT (7004)	112,451.55
2	GROSS CURRENT TAXES (7201)	568,597.48
3	GROSS DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES (Penalties, Costs & Interest included) (7202)	17,587.00
4	GROSS DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES (Penalties & Costs included) (7203)	22,962.26
5	GROSS STATE LAND REDEMPTIONS (Penalties, Costs & Interest Included) (7210)	5,765.61
6	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR EXCESS COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTED (7213 8703)	270.01
7	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR INTEREST EARNED DISTRIBUTED (7501)	
8	ADJUSTMENTS (PLUS OR MINUS)	
9	LESS TREASURER'S COMMISSION CHARGED	1,818.39

TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX 725,815.52

9	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE OF DISTRICT	<u>45.8000</u>
	SCHOOL MILLAGE RATE	<u>25.00</u>
	URT SHARE OF MILLAGE RATE	<u>0.545852</u>
	RATIO (Minimum of 6 decimal places)	

NET URT REVENUES 396,187.85

Louann Clayton
TREASURER SIGNATURE

870-352-2333
PHONE NUMBER

January 7, 2022
DATE



**COUNTY TREASURER'S
AD VALOREM TAX REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIFORM RATE OF TAX CALCULATION
(For Reporting Purposes Only)**

COUNTY **DALLAS**

DISTRICT **HARMONY GROVE**

LEA # **5205**

YEAR **2020**

January 1 - December 31

1	96% HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT (7004)	111,427.28
2	GROSS CURRENT TAXES (7201)	538,923.55
3	GROSS DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES (Penalties, Costs & Interest included) (7202)	17,353.87
4	GROSS DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES (Penalties & Costs included) (7203)	24,822.59
5	GROSS STATE LAND REDEMPTIONS (Penalties, Costs & Interest Included) (7210)	5,079.98
6	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR EXCESS COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTED (7213 8703)	238.95
7	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR INTEREST EARNED DISTRIBUTED (7501)	
8	ADJUSTMENTS (PLUS OR MINUS)	
9	LESS TREASURER'S COMMISSION CHARGED	1,744.02

TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX **696,102.20**

9	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE OF DISTRICT	
	SCHOOL MILLAGE RATE	45.8000
	URT SHARE OF MILLAGE RATE	25.00
	RATIO (Minimum of 6 decimal places)	0.545852

NET URT REVENUES **379,968.78**

Louann Clayton
TREASURER SIGNATURE

870-352-2333
PHONE NUMBER

December 29, 2020
DATE

**COUNTY TREASURER'S
AD VALOREM TAX REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIFORM RATE OF TAX CALCULATION
(For Reporting Purposes Only)**

COUNTY DALLAS

DISTRICT HARMONY GROVE

LEA # 5205

YEAR 2019

January 1 - December 31

1	96% HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT (7004)	108,203.45
2	GROSS CURRENT TAXES (7201)	558,649.61
3	GROSS DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES (Penalties, Costs & Interest included) (7202)	15,364.95
4	GROSS DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES (Penalties & Costs included) (7203)	21,248.94
5	GROSS STATE LAND REDEMPTIONS (Penalties, Costs & Interest Included) (7210)	8,203.66
6	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR EXCESS COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTED (7213 8703)	219.84
7	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR INTEREST EARNED DISTRIBUTED (7501)	
8	ADJUSTMENTS (PLUS OR MINUS)	(1,748.15)
9	LESS TREASURER'S COMMISSION CHARGED	1,779.36

TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX 708,362.94

9	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE OF DISTRICT	
	SCHOOL MILLAGE RATE	45.8000
	URT SHARE OF MILLAGE RATE	25.00
	RATIO (Minimum of 6 decimal places)	0.545852

NET URT REVENUES 386,661.33

Louann Clayton
TREASURER SIGNATURE

870-352-2333
PHONE NUMBER

January 14, 2020
DATE

**COUNTY TREASURER'S
AD VALOREM TAX REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIFORM RATE OF TAX CALCULATION
(For Reporting Purposes Only)**

COUNTY **DALLAS**

DISTRICT **HARMONY GROVE**

LEA # **5205**

YEAR **2018**

January 1 - December 31

1	96% HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT (7004)	109,132.01
2	GROSS CURRENT TAXES (7201)	552,753.32
3	GROSS DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES (Penalties, Costs & Interest included) (7202)	16,015.04
4	GROSS DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES (Penalties & Costs included) (7203)	27,452.58
5	GROSS STATE LAND REDEMPTIONS (Penalties, Costs & Interest Included) (7210)	5,834.28
6	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR EXCESS COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTED (7213 8703)	163.75
7	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR INTEREST EARNED DISTRIBUTED (7501)	
8	ADJUSTMENTS (PLUS OR MINUS)	
9	LESS TREASURER'S COMMISSION CHARGED	1,777.97

TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX **709,573.01**

9	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE OF DISTRICT	
	SCHOOL MILLAGE RATE	45.8000
	URT SHARE OF MILLAGE RATE	25.00
	RATIO (Minimum of 6 decimal places)	0.545852

NET URT REVENUES **387,321.85**

Leslie Nutt	870-352-2333	December 17, 2018
TREASURER SIGNATURE	PHONE NUMBER	DATE

**COUNTY TREASURER'S
AD VALOREM TAX REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIFORM RATE OF TAX CALCULATION
(For Reporting Purposes Only)**

COUNTY **DALLAS**

DISTRICT **HARMONY GROVE**

LEA # **5205**

YEAR **2017**

January 1 - December 31

1	GROSS CURRENT TAXES	557,949.50
2	GROSS DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES (Penalties & Costs included)	21,943.72
3	GROSS DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES (Penalties, Costs & Interest included)	14,440.65
4	96% HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT	110,389.16
5	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR EXCESS COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTED	165.67
6	TREASURER AND COLLECTOR INTEREST EARNED DISTRIBUTED	
7	GROSS STATE LAND REDEMPTIONS (Penalties, Costs & Interest Included)	3,495.27
8	ADJUSTMENTS (PLUS OR MINUS)	(84.66)
9	LESS TREASURER'S COMMISSION CHARGED	1,770.75
TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX		706,528.56

9	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE OF DISTRICT	
	SCHOOL MILLAGE RATE	45.8000
	URT SHARE OF MILLAGE RATE	25.00
	RATIO (Minimum of 6 decimal places)	0.545852

NET URT REVENUES **385,660.03**

Leslie Nutt	870-352-2333	January 10, 2018
TREASURER SIGNATURE	PHONE NUMBER	DATE

CC: Arkansas State Treasury
Arkansas Department of Education
Assessment Coordination Department
School Superintendent

urt@artreasury.gov
john.kunkel@arkansas.gov
amy.gilbert@acd.state.ar.us

Ledger Transactions by Fund, Date

Funds 6703-6703 Items 1 - 9999 Dates 01/01/2017- 12/31/2017 Plus Minus Receipts VRec Checks VChecks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date Fund-Item Description Warrant Check Receipt Transaction Received From / Check To Text or Description Plus Minus Running Balance

6703 Harmony Grove School District # 13D - Starting Balance **\$0.00**

01/05/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TaxTrans	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	December 2016 Delinquent Real Estate Tax	25.06	0.00	25.06
01/05/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.06	25.00
01/05/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				TaxTrans	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	December 2016 Delinquent Personal Taxes	245.03	0.00	270.03
01/05/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.61	269.42
01/12/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	1,742.93	0.00	2,012.35
01/12/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	4.36	2,007.99
02/01/2017	6703-8703 Excess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer	6000-8914 Treasurer's Com->6703-8703 Harmony Grove S	CC2017-05 Excess Treasurers Commission	32.29	0.00	2,040.28
02/13/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	651.96	0.00	2,692.24
02/13/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.63	2,690.61
02/13/2017	6703-7213 Excess Collector's Commission				Transfer	6001-8501 Collector's Com->6703-7213 Harmony Grove S	CC2017-04 Excess Collectors Commission	992.67	0.00	3,683.28
02/13/2017	6703-8812 Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer	6703-8812 Harmony Grove S->1000-8601 County General	CC2017-03 2016 Assessors Salary And Expe	0.00	3.32	3,679.96
03/07/2017	6703-7210 State Land Redemption				TaxTrans	6007-9105 State Land Rede->6703-7210 Harmony Grove S	State Land Redemption	238.41	0.00	3,918.37
03/07/2017	6703-7210 State Land Redemption				Comm < Transfer	6007-9105 State Land Rede->6703-7210 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.60	3,917.77
03/13/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	593.44	0.00	4,511.21
03/13/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.48	4,509.73
04/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes For March 2017	1,894.97	0.00	6,404.70
04/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	4.74	6,399.96
04/06/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				TaxTrans	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Personal Taxes For March 2017	387.80	0.00	6,787.76
04/06/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.97	6,786.79
04/10/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	674.95	0.00	7,461.74
04/10/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.69	7,460.05
05/05/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	4,425.72	0.00	11,885.77
05/05/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	11.06	11,874.71

Ledger Transactions by Fund, Date

Funds 6703-6703
Items 1 - 9999
Dates 01/01/2017 - 12/31/2017
Plus
Minus
Receipts
VRec
Checks
VChecks
Transfers
Tax Transfers
Commission

Date	Fund-Item Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From / Check To	Text or Description	Plus	Minus	Running Balance
05/05/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				TaxTrans	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Personal Taxes For April '17	225.81	0.00	12,100.52
05/05/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.56	12,099.96
05/10/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	686.71	0.00	12,786.67
05/10/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.72	12,784.95
06/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	3,036.80	0.00	15,821.75
06/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	7.59	15,814.16
06/09/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief	684.58	0.00	16,498.74
06/09/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.71	16,497.03
07/10/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	1,015.84	0.00	17,512.87
07/10/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	2.54	17,510.33
08/07/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	450.51	0.00	17,960.84
08/07/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.13	17,959.71
09/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	969.41	0.00	18,929.12
09/06/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	2.42	18,926.70
10/04/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	5,396.87	0.00	24,323.57
10/04/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	13.49	24,310.08
10/04/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TaxTrans	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes	413.88	0.00	24,723.96
10/04/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.03	24,722.93
10/04/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				TaxTrans	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Personal Taxes	74.26	0.00	24,797.19
10/04/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	0.19	24,797.00
11/08/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Taxes	13,591.58	0.00	38,388.58
11/08/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	33.98	38,354.60
12/07/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TaxTrans	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes	1,642.34	0.00	39,996.94
12/07/2017	6703-7202 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6005-9103 Delinquent Real->6703-7202 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	4.11	39,992.83
12/07/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				TaxTrans	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Delinquent Personal Taxes	585.09	0.00	40,577.92

Ledger Transactions by Fund, Date

Funds 6703 - 6703 Items 1 - 9999 Dates 01/01/2017 - 12/31/2017 Plus Minus Receipts VRec Checks VChecks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date	Fund-Item Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From / Check To	Text or Description	Plus	Minus	Running Balance
12/07/2017	6703-7203 Delinquent Personal Taxes				Comm < Transfer	6004-9102 Delinquent Pers->6703-7203 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	1.46	40,576.46
12/11/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				TaxTrans	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Property Tax Relief Final Settlement	2,724.05	0.00	43,300.51
12/11/2017	6703-7004 Property Tax Relief				Comm < Transfer	6003-9108 Property Tax Re->6703-7004 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	6.81	43,293.70
12/12/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				TaxTrans	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Current Tax Final Settlement	6,463.98	0.00	49,757.68
12/12/2017	6703-7201 Local Property Taxes-Current				Comm < Transfer	6002-9101 Collector's Una->6703-7201 Harmony Grove S	Commission from Transfer	0.00	16.16	49,741.52

6703 Harmony Grove School District # 13D - Ending Balance								\$49,866.94	\$125.42	\$49,741.52
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Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2018)

6/27/2022 3:01 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018

Plus Only Minus Only Receipts Checks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D									0.00
1/11/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	2,636.56	0.00	2,636.56
1/11/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	6.59	2,629.97
2/5/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	214.50	0.00	2,844.47
2/5/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.54	2,843.93
2/5/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	56.03	0.00	2,899.96
2/5/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.14	2,899.82
2/9/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	755.48	0.00	3,655.30
2/9/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.89	3,653.41
2/26/18	6703-8703	Exess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	Excess Treasurers Com	34.85	0.00	3,688.26
2/26/18	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	Assessors Salary And E	0.00	10.99	3,677.27
2/27/18	6703-7213	Excess Collector's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6001-7213 Collector's	Excess Collectors Com	1,137.85	0.00	4,815.12
3/6/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	28.79	0.00	4,843.91
3/6/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.07	4,843.84
3/6/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	446.38	0.00	5,290.22
3/6/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	1.12	5,289.10
3/9/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	686.25	0.00	5,975.35
3/9/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.72	5,973.63
4/10/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	696.91	0.00	6,670.54
4/10/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.74	6,668.80
4/10/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	1,635.25	0.00	8,304.05
4/10/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	4.09	8,299.96
4/10/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	131.06	0.00	8,431.02
4/10/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.33	8,430.69
4/10/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	205.19	0.00	8,635.88
4/10/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.51	8,635.37
5/4/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	385.64	0.00	9,021.01
5/4/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.96	9,020.05
5/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	6,486.16	0.00	15,506.21
5/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	16.22	15,489.99
5/10/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	717.38	0.00	16,207.37
5/10/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.79	16,205.58

Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2018)

6/27/2022 3:01 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018

Plus Only Minus Only Receipts Checks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	1,223.06	0.00	17,428.64
6/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	3.06	17,425.58
6/7/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	172.06	0.00	17,597.64
6/7/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.43	17,597.21
7/9/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes For June	1,196.93	0.00	18,794.14
7/9/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes For June	0.00	2.99	18,791.15
8/7/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	132.97	0.00	18,924.12
8/7/18	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.33	18,923.79
8/13/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	487.48	0.00	19,411.27
8/13/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	1.22	19,410.05
9/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	1,067.14	0.00	20,477.19
9/7/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	2.67	20,474.52
10/4/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	6,374.06	0.00	26,848.58
10/4/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	15.94	26,832.64
11/8/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Transfer In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current taxes	14,762.23	0.00	41,594.87
11/8/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current taxes	0.00	36.91	41,557.96
11/8/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	86.10	0.00	41,644.06
11/8/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.22	41,643.84
12/6/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	November 2018 Delinqu	155.65	0.00	41,799.49
12/6/18	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	November 2018 Delinqu	0.00	0.39	41,799.10
12/13/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Final tax settlement Ad	2,109.09	0.00	43,908.19
12/13/18	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Final tax settlement Ad	0.00	5.27	43,902.92
12/13/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Final Current tax settlem	4,782.24	0.00	48,685.16
12/13/18	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Final Current tax settlem	0.00	11.96	48,673.20
6703	Harmony Grove School District # 13D								48,803.29	130.09	48,673.20

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Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D									0.00
1/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	140.09	0.00	140.09
1/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.35	139.74
1/10/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	3,520.36	0.00	3,660.10
1/10/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	8.80	3,651.30
2/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	230.39	0.00	3,881.69
2/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.58	3,881.11
2/8/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	720.05	0.00	4,601.16
2/8/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.80	4,599.36
2/14/19	6703-8703	Exess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	Excess Treasurer's Com	46.79	0.00	4,646.15
2/14/19	6703-8703	Exess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	Excess Treasurer's Com	(46.79)	0.00	4,599.36
2/14/19	6703-8703	Exess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	CC2019-06 Excess Trea	46.79	0.00	4,646.15
2/28/19	6703-7213	Excess Collector's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6001-7213 Collector's	CC2019-13 Excess Coll	1,078.69	0.00	5,724.84
3/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	587.43	0.00	6,312.27
3/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	1.47	6,310.80
3/8/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	642.40	0.00	6,953.20
3/8/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.61	6,951.59
4/8/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	1,583.54	0.00	8,535.13
4/8/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	3.96	8,531.17
4/9/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	334.65	0.00	8,865.82
4/9/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.84	8,864.98
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Transfer In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	81.23	0.00	8,946.21
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.20	8,946.01
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Transfer In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	(81.23)	0.00	8,864.78
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	(0.20)	8,864.98
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	81.23	0.00	8,946.21
4/9/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.20	8,946.01
5/6/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	6,385.29	0.00	15,331.30
5/6/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	15.96	15,315.34
5/6/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	496.08	0.00	15,811.42
5/6/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	1.24	15,810.18
5/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	166.56	0.00	15,976.74

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5/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.42	15,976.32
6/5/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Currnet Taxes	1,567.93	0.00	17,544.25
6/5/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Currnet Taxes	0.00	3.92	17,540.33
6/5/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	253.29	0.00	17,793.62
6/5/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.63	17,792.99
6/17/19	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	CC2019-34 Assessor's	0.00	0.12	17,792.87
7/8/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	June 2019 Delinquent R	43.92	0.00	17,836.79
7/8/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	June 2019 Delinquent R	0.00	0.11	17,836.68
7/8/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	June 2019 Delinquent P	196.86	0.00	18,033.54
7/8/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	June 2019 Delinquent P	0.00	0.49	18,033.05
7/9/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	June 2019 Current Taxe	1,927.62	0.00	19,960.67
7/9/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	June 2019 Current Taxe	0.00	4.82	19,955.85
8/7/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current taxes for Julu 20	530.25	0.00	20,486.10
8/7/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current taxes for Julu 20	0.00	1.33	20,484.77
9/6/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	August 2019 Current Ta	843.07	0.00	21,327.84
9/6/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	August 2019 Current Ta	0.00	2.11	21,325.73
9/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	August 2019 Delinquent	165.65	0.00	21,491.38
9/6/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	August 2019 Delinquent	0.00	0.41	21,490.97
10/7/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current taxes for Sept 2	5,471.63	0.00	26,962.60
10/7/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current taxes for Sept 2	0.00	13.68	26,948.92
10/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	168.25	0.00	27,117.17
10/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.42	27,116.75
10/16/19	6703-8601	Assessor's Salary and Expense				Transfer In	Transfer from 1000-8601 County Ge	CC2019-50	0.24	0.00	27,116.99
11/7/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Deliquent Real Estate fo	533.57	0.00	27,650.56
11/7/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Deliquent Real Estate fo	0.00	1.33	27,649.23
11/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	56.49	0.00	27,705.72
11/7/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.14	27,705.58
11/8/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Transfer In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	October 2019 Current T	15,680.33	0.00	43,385.91
11/8/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	October 2019 Current T	0.00	39.20	43,346.71
12/4/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	November 2019 Delinqu	1,788.20	0.00	45,134.91
12/4/19	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	November 2019 Delinqu	0.00	4.47	45,130.44
12/4/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	November 2019 Delinqu	308.39	0.00	45,438.83
12/4/19	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	November 2019 Delinqu	0.00	0.77	45,438.06

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Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
12/16/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Taxes In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Final Property Tax Relie	2,944.19	0.00	48,382.25
12/16/19	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Final Property Tax Relie	0.00	7.36	48,374.89
12/16/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Final Current Tax Settle	2,137.00	0.00	50,511.89
12/16/19	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Final Current Tax Settle	0.00	5.34	50,506.55
6703	Harmony Grove School District # 13D								50,630.43	123.88	50,506.55

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Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D									0.00
1/7/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	December 2019 Delinqu	26.79	0.00	26.79
1/7/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	December 2019 Delinqu	0.00	0.07	26.72
1/10/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	4,385.98	0.00	4,412.70
1/10/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	10.96	4,401.74
2/7/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	January 2020 Delinquen	140.77	0.00	4,542.51
2/7/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	January 2020 Delinquen	0.00	0.35	4,542.16
2/10/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	773.73	0.00	5,315.89
2/10/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	1.93	5,313.96
3/3/20	6703-8703	Exess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	Excess Treasurer's Com	36.89	0.00	5,350.85
3/5/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	21.77	0.00	5,372.62
3/5/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	0.05	5,372.57
3/5/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	February 2020 Delinqu	486.39	0.00	5,858.96
3/5/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	February 2020 Delinqu	0.00	1.22	5,857.74
3/5/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	February 2020 Delinqu	17.56	0.00	5,875.30
3/5/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	February 2020 Delinqu	0.00	0.04	5,875.26
3/5/20	6703-7213	Excess Collector's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6001-7213 Collector's	Excess Collectors Com	1,043.84	0.00	6,919.10
3/5/20	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	Excess Assessors Salar	0.00	9.74	6,909.36
4/8/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes for March	558.16	0.00	7,467.52
4/8/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes for March	0.00	1.40	7,466.12
4/8/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate f	483.92	0.00	7,950.04
4/8/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate f	0.00	1.21	7,948.83
4/8/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Txe	549.76	0.00	8,498.59
4/8/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Txe	0.00	1.37	8,497.22
5/6/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	April 2020 Delinquent P	90.39	0.00	8,587.61
5/6/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	April 2020 Delinquent P	0.00	0.23	8,587.38
5/7/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	April 2020 Current Taxe	7,099.57	0.00	15,686.95
5/7/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	April 2020 Current Taxe	0.00	17.75	15,669.20
5/7/20	6703-7210	State Land Redemption 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6007-7210 State Land	State Land Redemption	100.38	0.00	15,769.58
5/7/20	6703-7210	State Land Redemption 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7210 Harmony Gro	State Land Redemption	0.00	0.25	15,769.33
6/9/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	May 2020 Current Taxes	1,788.95	0.00	17,558.28
6/9/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	May 2020 Current Taxes	0.00	4.47	17,553.81

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Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6/9/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	May 2020 Delinquent R	223.03	0.00	17,776.84
6/9/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	May 2020 Delinquent R	0.00	0.56	17,776.28
6/9/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	May 2020 Delinquent Pe	129.01	0.00	17,905.29
6/9/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	May 2020 Delinquent Pe	0.00	0.32	17,904.97
7/9/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	1,615.89	0.00	19,520.86
7/9/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	4.04	19,516.82
7/9/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	June 2020 Delinquent P	40.91	0.00	19,557.73
7/9/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	June 2020 Delinquent P	0.00	0.10	19,557.63
8/6/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes for July 2	722.59	0.00	20,280.22
8/6/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes for July 2	0.00	1.81	20,278.41
8/6/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	July 2020 Delinquent Pe	64.27	0.00	20,342.68
8/6/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	July 2020 Delinquent Pe	0.00	0.16	20,342.52
9/2/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	current taxes	943.43	0.00	21,285.95
9/2/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	current taxes	0.00	2.36	21,283.59
9/2/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	August 2020 Delinquent	161.37	0.00	21,444.96
9/2/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	August 2020 Delinquent	0.00	0.40	21,444.56
10/8/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	6,499.81	0.00	27,944.37
10/8/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	16.25	27,928.12
10/8/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	September 2020 Delinq	74.35	0.00	28,002.47
10/8/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	September 2020 Delinq	0.00	0.19	28,002.28
10/9/20	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	Excess Assessors Salar	0.00	(9.74)	28,012.02
10/9/20	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	CC2020-45	0.00	5.65	28,006.37
11/6/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	16,360.28	0.00	44,366.65
11/6/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	40.90	44,325.75
11/6/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	October Delinquent Real	282.89	0.00	44,608.64
11/6/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	October Delinquent Real	0.00	0.71	44,607.93
12/4/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	November Delinquent R	215.24	0.00	44,823.17
12/4/20	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 1/2 Mil				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	November Delinquent R	0.00	0.54	44,822.63
12/4/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	November Delinquent P	210.50	0.00	45,033.13
12/4/20	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes 1/2 Mill				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	November Delinquent P	0.00	0.53	45,032.60
12/11/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Taxes In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief Fina	3,027.79	0.00	48,060.39
12/11/20	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief Fina	0.00	7.57	48,052.82
12/11/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax Final Settle	3,456.69	0.00	51,509.51

Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2020)

6/27/2022 2:58 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

Plus Only
 Minus Only
 Receipts
 Checks
 Transfers
 Tax Transfers
 Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
12/11/20	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax Final Settle	0.00	8.64	51,500.87
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D							51,632.90	132.03	51,500.87

Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2021)

6/27/2022 2:57 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021

Plus Only Minus Only Receipts Checks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D									0.00
1/5/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	December 2020 Delinqu	279.81	0.00	279.81
1/5/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	December 2020 Delinqu	0.00	0.70	279.11
1/5/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	December 2020 Delinqu	246.83	0.00	525.94
1/5/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	December 2020 Delinqu	0.00	0.62	525.32
1/11/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Taxes In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Jan 2021 Property Tax	4,707.11	0.00	5,232.43
1/11/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Jan 2021 Property Tax	0.00	11.77	5,220.66
2/2/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	January 2021 Delinquen	389.72	0.00	5,610.38
2/2/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	January 2021 Delinquen	0.00	0.97	5,609.41
2/11/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Property Tax Relief	813.09	0.00	6,422.50
2/11/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Property Tax Relief	0.00	2.03	6,420.47
2/11/21	6703-8703	Excess Treasurer's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6000-8703 Treasurer's	Excess Treasurers Com	43.66	0.00	6,464.13
3/2/21	6703-7213	Excess Collector's Commission				Transfer In	Transfer from 6001-7213 Collector's	Excess Collectors Com	1,157.90	0.00	7,622.03
3/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes for Febru	7.12	0.00	7,629.15
3/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes for Febru	0.00	0.02	7,629.13
3/4/21	6703-8812	Transfer From Taxing Entities				Transfer Out	Transfer to 1000-8812 County Gene	CC2021-10 Assessors S	0.00	6.91	7,622.22
4/6/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes for March	573.86	0.00	8,196.08
4/6/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes for March	0.00	1.43	8,194.65
4/6/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	84.04	0.00	8,278.69
4/6/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	0.21	8,278.48
4/6/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	329.62	0.00	8,608.10
4/6/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.82	8,607.28
5/4/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	6,282.50	0.00	14,889.78
5/4/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	15.71	14,874.07
5/4/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	April Delinquent Real Es	323.16	0.00	15,197.23
5/4/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	April Delinquent Real Es	0.00	0.81	15,196.42
5/4/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	April Delinquent Person	149.12	0.00	15,345.54
5/4/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	April Delinquent Person	0.00	0.37	15,345.17
6/8/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes	4,350.10	0.00	19,695.27
6/8/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes	0.00	10.88	19,684.39
6/8/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	May Delinquent Persona	51.44	0.00	19,735.83
6/8/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	May Delinquent Persona	0.00	0.13	19,735.70

Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2021)

6/27/2022 2:57 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021

Plus Only Minus Only Receipts Checks Transfers Tax Transfers Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
7/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current tax	1,292.86	0.00	21,028.56
7/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current tax	0.00	3.23	21,025.33
7/2/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Transfer In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	82.58	0.00	21,107.91
7/2/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	0.21	21,107.70
8/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	July Current Taxes	885.97	0.00	21,993.67
8/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	July Current Taxes	0.00	2.21	21,991.46
8/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	July Current Taxes	(885.97)	0.00	21,105.49
8/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	July Current Taxes	0.00	(2.21)	21,107.70
8/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Taxes--Correcte	797.37	0.00	21,905.07
8/3/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Taxes--Correcte	0.00	1.99	21,903.08
9/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax for August	1,025.75	0.00	22,928.83
9/2/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax for August	0.00	2.56	22,926.27
10/4/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	September Delinquent	83.04	0.00	23,009.31
10/4/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	September Delinquent	0.00	0.21	23,009.10
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	6,568.71	0.00	29,577.81
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	16.42	29,561.39
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	(6,568.71)	0.00	22,992.68
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	(16.42)	23,009.10
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Current Tax	6,568.71	0.00	29,577.81
10/5/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	Current Tax	0.00	16.42	29,561.39
11/8/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	October Current Tax	15,391.75	0.00	44,953.14
11/8/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7201 Harmony Gro	October Current Tax	0.00	38.48	44,914.66
11/8/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	October Delinquent Pers	312.04	0.00	45,226.70
11/8/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	October Delinquent Pers	0.00	0.78	45,225.92
12/6/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6005-7202 Delinquent	Delinquent Real Estate	1,653.62	0.00	46,879.54
12/6/21	6703-7202	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7202 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Real Estate	0.00	4.13	46,875.41
12/6/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				Taxes In	Transfer from 6004-7203 Delinquent	Delinquent Personal Tax	1,428.21	0.00	48,303.62
12/6/21	6703-7203	Delinquent Personal Taxes				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7203 Harmony Gro	Delinquent Personal Tax	0.00	3.57	48,300.05
12/13/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				Transfer In	Transfer from 6003-7004 Property T	Final Property Tax Relie	2,006.73	0.00	50,306.78
12/13/21	6703-7004	Property Tax Relief Funds				TR Com Out	Transfer to 6703-7004 Harmony Gro	Final Property Tax Relie	0.00	5.02	50,301.76

Fund Ledger Transactions By Fund (FY2021)

6/27/2022 2:57 PM
Report Code: 2 By Fund

From 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021

Plus Only
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 Commission

Date	Fund-Item	Description	Warrant	Check	Receipt	Transaction	Received From/Check To	Info	Plus	Minus	Balance
12/13/21	6703-7201	Local Property Taxes-General				Taxes In	Transfer from 6002-7201 Collector's	Final Current Tax Settle	(5,541.63)	0.00	44,760.13
6703		Harmony Grove School District # 13D							44,890.11	129.98	44,760.13

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK
DATE: 05/19/2022
TIME: 11:57:50

HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
DETAIL EXPENDITURE STATUS REPORT

PAGE NUMBER: 31
EXPSTA11

SELECTION CRITERIA: orgn.orgn2 between '001' and '013'
ACCOUNTING PERIOD: 13/21

SORTED BY: FUND,BUDGET UNIT,ACCOUNT
TOTALLED ON: FUND,BUDGET UNIT
PAGE BREAKS ON: FUND

FUND - 2228 - ISOLATED SPECIAL TRANS

ORGANIZATION / ACCOUNT / TITLE	BUDGET	PERIOD EXPENDITURES	ENCUMBRANCES OUTSTANDING	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE
TOTAL FUND - ISOLATED SPECIAL TRANS	568,256.86	.00	.00	339,827.54	228,429.32



Physical Address/Mailing Address Comparison Report

Building: Harmony Grove Elementary

Student Name	Grade	Student Physical Address
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	02	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	04	6 Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	02	Camden, AR 71701
	02	? Hampton, AR 71744
	03	? Hampton, AR 71744
	05	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG
	KF	Loop Road Camden, AR 71701
	03	Loop Road Camden, AR 71701
	KF	6 Camden, AR 71701
	KF	Loop Road Camden, AR 71701
	04	Loop Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	01	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	02	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	05	7 Camden, AR 71701
	02	4 Camden, AR 71701
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Hampton, AR 71744
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	01	Camden, AR 71701
	05	4 Camden, AR 71701
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	05	4 Camden, AR 71701
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	05	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG

Employee



05	Camden, AR 71701
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03	Camden, AR 71701
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03	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
06	Camden, AR 71701
02	Sparkman, AR 71763
01	Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
01	Camden, AR 71701
02	7 Bearden, AR 71720
05	Bearden, AR 71720
05	Hampton, AR 71744
03	Hampton, AR 71744
01	143 Bearden, AR 71720
05	Sparkman, AR 71763
02	Sparkman, AR 71763
02	Sparkman, AR 71763
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01	East Camden, AR 71701
04	Jary Sparkman, AR 71763
04	Bearden, AR 71720
06	452 Camden, AR 71701
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06	Camden, AR 71701
04	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
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06	Sparkman, AR 71763
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05	Camden, AR 71701
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KF	Sparkman, AR 71763
03	7 Bearden, AR 71720
03	Camden, AR 71701
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03	Bearden, AR 71720
KF	Bearden, AR 71720
01	Camden, AR 71701
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06	Hampton, AR 71744
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05	Bearden, AR 71720
02	2 Camden, AR 71701
KF	Hampton, AR 71744
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05	Hampton, AR 71744
KF	Hampton, AR 71744
04	Hampton, AR 71744
01	Camden, AR 71701
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KF	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Bearden, AR 71720
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06	st.13 Camden, AR 71701
04	7 Camden, AR 71701
02	Camden, AR 71701
04	6 Camden, AR 71701
01	Bearden, AR 71720
KF	6 Camden, AR 71701
02	Camden, AR 71701
04	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
03	1 Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
06	Camden, AR 71701
01	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
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06	Bearden, AR 71720
01	et Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
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05	Camden, AR 71701

04	Camden, AR 71701
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01	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
06	Camden, AR 71701
05	Hampton, AR 71744
04	Camden, AR 71701
03	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
KF	Camden, AR 71701
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03	Camden, AR 71701
06	Camden, AR 71701
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03	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
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01	Camden, AR 71701
06	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
03	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
03	Camden, AR 71701
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KF	Camden, AR 71701
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KF	1208. Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
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04	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
01	Camden, AR 71701
02	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
01	Bearden, AR 71720
05	Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
05	Camden, AR 71701
03	Camden, AR 71701
KF	Camden, AR 71701
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	04	Camden, AR 71701
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	01	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Bearden, AR 71720
	03	Bearden, AR 71720
	06	Camden, AR 71711
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	05	Camden, AR 71701
	01	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
	03	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
	06	Camden, AR 71701
Padilla	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	02	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
	01	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
e	04	Camden, AR 71762
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	03	Camden, AR 71701
ey	02	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	06	Camden, AR 71701
	KF	Camden, AR 71701
	04	Camden, AR 71701
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	05	Bearden, AR 71720
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	06	Sparkman, AR 71763 <i>HG</i>
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Physical Address/Mailing Address Comparison Report

Building: Harmony Grove High School

Student Name	Grade	Student Physical Address
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	10	Sparkman, AR 71763 HG
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	12	CAMDEN, AR 71701
	07	Fordyce, AR 71742
	09	Camden, AR 71701
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09	2 Camden, AR 71701
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Introduction

Final enrollment and finance numbers for school districts are provided a year behind. This means districts do not learn exactly how their previous school year ended until after the new school year begins. Student enrollment is a major funding source for school districts. At the start of the most recent 2021-2022 school year, the district learned that Umpire had declined to an enrollment of 87 students. Umpire did not operate efficiently the year before with over 100 students. It certainly cannot operate efficiently with an enrollment of under 100. Umpire needs to aim for an enrollment of at least 130. Thus, this past year, leadership at the district reacted to Umpire's declining enrollment by dedicating resources to promote Umpire through various channels in hopes of both retaining and acquiring students. Earlier this month, a form was available to Umpire staff and community members to submit questions about finances at the Umpire campus. The form was emailed to staff, posted on social media, and sent to Umpire parents and guardians via the school text alert system. There is no agenda to close Umpire at this time. The question form was provided simply to provide answers to common questions. The following are answers to questions submitted by staff and community members:

How much money does the Umpire/Athens area bring in property taxes each year?

The fiscal year 2021 tax revenue for the Umpire area was \$611,944. Of that, the amount of property taxes charged to collect for the school was \$264,248.68. Umpire also received state foundation funding per student totalling \$849,178.00.

Can Umpire community members petition where to send property tax funds if the Umpire campus ever closes?

No. This would require both the CRSD and the receiving school district boards agreeing to that, and the Secretary of Education and the State Board must approve it. This has rarely been done, if ever. Under that scenario, a district looking to acquire an isolated campus would first analyze the finances of the isolated campus before even requesting to negotiate for the campus. The only conceivable reason a district would consider accepting an inefficient isolated campus is to close it and keep the tax base. The goal of CRSD is to gain more enrollment at Umpire so it does not have to close it at any point in the future.

How is declining enrollment money figured? Is it so much per lost student?

Declining enrollment is figured at \$3,591. That is half the amount of the foundation funding per student.

CRSD receives isolated funding for transportation. After Umpire uses the buses, they are taken to other campuses and Umpire gets new buses. When the buses are sold, is that money returned to Umpire? If not, why not?



Generally, the district sells buses when they are no longer in good working order. This is usually 8 to 10 years. Buses usually sell for nominal amounts of money. This is the norm for districts with isolated campuses. The district does not limit Umpire's support to only the isolated funds. In any case, sales from used buses are not the key. Enrollment is where the majority of funding comes from, so we need to increase enrollment at Umpire.

Can CRSD reallocate funds so that Umpire does not operate on a negative balance? Umpire supplies CRSD with money to buy buses, so can CRSD not help Umpire in closing the expense gap?

Reallocating funds to an isolated campus in the negative is not sustainable. The district purchases the buses because it is required to use the isolated transportation money on transportation, and districts with isolated campuses typically buy buses to meet this requirement. In the absence of the isolated transportation funding, the district would simply budget for buses every 8 to 10 years and/or buy used buses like districts without isolated campuses do. The supply of buses each year is a luxury, but it is not one that the district depends on. Ultimately, the financial analysis at Umpire includes all funding, including all isolated funding, so at the current enrollment, what is being supplied in isolated transportation funding by Umpire is still leaving it with a negative balance, leaving the district as a whole to cover the gap. That gap is enough to purchase buses on its own. The solution is more enrollment at Umpire.

Many of the students who live in Umpire that choose to go to other schools do so for sports. To draw them back, what options are available to play sports at Cossatot High School while attending classes at Umpire?

The district supports Umpire students coming to CRHS to play sports as Umpire students. A few Umpire students did this in recent years. The complication is scheduling between Umpire and CRHS. Umpire seniors are more likely to be able to play at CRHS because they may have fewer credits to complete and thus have the free periods to travel between the two campuses. Parents/guardians of Umpire athletes interested in playing for a CRHS team should contact Umpire administration to see if their child's specific schedule would accommodate playing at CRHS. Students have the option of enrolling as a CRHS student also.

Explain why more money is being spent on transportation than what is being brought in. How can you expect Umpire to fund the entire transportation portal for the CRSD?

Umpire does not fund the entire transportation budget for the district. Umpire is provided a set amount of isolated transportation funding by virtue of being an isolated campus. There are restrictions on how the isolated transportation funding can be used, and the district uses it as required and within the norm of what other districts with isolated campuses do. Regarding any discrepancy between what isolated transportation is provided and what is spent, there is often a lead time between when a bus is ordered and when it is invoiced, which can cause the isolated

transportation funds to be allocated more in some years than others. Funds are being allocated and spent in accordance with standards. Enrollment is where the focus needs to be.

Conclusion

In summary, the district is committed to the success of Umpire. Both Umpire and the district as a whole benefit when Umpire enrollment is where it needs to be. The district has partnered with media outlets, sanctioned special events, and launched social media campaigns to showcase Umpire in hopes of maintaining and acquiring students. Through attrition, the district has worked to ensure Umpire is operating with efficient staff numbers, but Umpire needs more enrollment. The most recent significant enrollment decline at Umpire occurred prior to losing any sports teams, so the solution does not rest only in athletics. The current agenda is to do the best we can to retain and acquire students at Umpire so that both it and the district can benefit.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

LAVAR HUGHES; MARVIN RANDLE;
DOMINGO VEGA; KENNETH FARRIS;
JAIME MARTIN; *et al.*

PLAINTIFFS

vs.

Case No. 52CV-22-104

HARMONY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

DEFENDANT

**BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF SUPPLEMENTAL
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 8, 2022, this Court heard Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction to enjoin Harmony Grove School District 1 (“HGSD”) from shutting down the High School Campus at Sparkman School next school year. HGSD admitted that it had not complied with Arkansas law governing the closure of isolated schools or parts thereof, but argued it had adequate time to obtain a motion from its board to close part of Sparkman School and petition the State Board of Education for its approval. Specifically, HGSD stated that the school board would vote on the matter at a “regular” meeting on June 9, 2022. Therefore, HGSD argued it had time to petition the State Board by June 14, 2022, the latest possible date to do so before the start of next school year. Based on this argument, the Court held it would be premature to issue an injunction.

HGSD violated Arkansas law governing the setting of regular school board meetings for the June 9, 2022 meeting. HGSD had previously noticed a regular board meeting for June 16, 2022 under the process required by statute, and HGSD never amended that legally required notice. The school board meeting on June 9, 2022 and HGSD’s resolution at that meeting to petition the State

Board were unlawful, ultra vires, invalid and void. Accordingly, HGSD's petition to the State Board dated June 10, 2022 is also unlawful, ultra vires, invalid and void.

June 14, 2022 was the last possible date on which HGSD could file a petition at the State Board. The time for HGSD to comply with the law governing closure of part of Sparkman School for next school year has expired. This Court should immediately (a) declare the June 9, 2022 HGSD board meeting void and the actions taken there void and ultra vires, and (b) enjoin Defendant from carrying out the plan to close part of Sparkman School next school year.

II. LAW AND ARGUMENT

Injunctions and restraining orders are controlled by Ark. R. Civ. P. 65. A party seeking a preliminary injunction must show that: (1) irreparable harm will result in the absence of injunctive relief; and (2) the moving party is likely to succeed on the merits. *AJ & K Operating Company, Inc.*, 355 Ark. at 517, 140 S.W.3d at 480 (quoting *Three Sisters Petroleum, Inc.*, 348 Ark. at 175, 72 S.W.3d at 100)).

A. Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits.

Likelihood of success on the merits requires the movant to show a "reasonable probability of success in the litigation." *Three Sisters Petroleum, Inc.*, 348 Ark. at 176, 72 S.W.3d at 101. Plaintiffs clearly meet this burden because Defendant has not satisfied the legal requirements necessary to close part of an isolated school next school year and the time to do so has expired.

Arkansas law provides procedural safeguards to ensure decisions as significant as closing an isolated community school and requiring students to travel up to two hours twice per day to receive an education are made with care, transparency and accountability. Because HGSD's board did not adopt a motion to close all or part of Sparkman School by a unanimous vote, Defendant is prohibited from closing part of Sparkman without a petition and order approving the closure by

the State Board of Education. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b). At the hearing on June 8, 2022 HGSD admitted that it had not complied with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b).

HGSD held a school board meeting on June 9, 2022 to attempt to comply with the procedure outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b). HGSD stated that the June 9 meeting was a regular meeting.

However, HGSD's meeting on June 9, 2022 violated the law governing regular meetings of public school boards. No less than ten days before a regular school board meeting, a public school district must publish on the district's website a notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(a)(4)(A). The law also requires that no less than twenty-four hours before a rescheduled regular school board meeting, a public school district must publish on the district's website a notice of the change in the date, time, or place of the regular meeting. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(a)(4)(B).

HGSD did not publish on its website notice of a regular meeting or a rescheduled regular meeting for June 9, 2022. To the contrary, on June 8, 2022, June 9, 2022 and June 16, 2022, HGSD's website published that a regular meeting of the school board would be held on June 16, 2022, two days after HGSD's deadline of June 14, 2022 to file a petition and request a hearing before the State Board. HGSD's board meeting on June 9 violated Arkansas's statutes governing regular meetings of school boards.

At the meeting on June 9, HGSD presented, for the first time, an amended agenda that mentioned a vote to close the High School Campus at Sparkman School. HGSD had provided a different agenda to school board members by mail on June 3, 2022. The agenda provided on June 3 made no mention of a vote to petition the State Board to close part or all of the Sparkman School under the isolated school law. This is in line with the fact that HGSD admitted it had no intention

to comply with the isolated-school law before Plaintiffs filed their Complaint on June 3, the day the original June 9 agenda went out.

At least one HGSD school board member requested and received a copy of the meeting agenda on the morning of June 9, 2022. That agenda did not include any mention of a vote to close part or all of the Sparkman School under the isolated school law. A member of the school board objected to a vote to close the High School Campus at Sparkman School because the board did not receive notice of the addition to the agenda at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

The HGSD regular school board meeting on June 9, 2022 was unlawful, ultra vires, invalid and void. The resolution adopted by HGSD's school board on June 9, 2022 to petition the State Board is likewise unlawful, ultra vires, invalid and void, as is HGSD's petition to the State Board dated June 10, 2022. It is not possible for HGSD to complete the isolated-school closure procedure required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b) before the start of next school year. Plaintiffs have a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their claim.

B. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm without immediate injunctive relief.

Irreparable harm is “the foundation of the power to issue injunctive relief.” *Wilson v. Pulaski Ass'n of Classroom Teachers*, 330 Ark. 298, 302, 954 S.W.2d 221, 224 (1997). Harm is irreparable when it cannot be adequately compensated by monetary damages or redressed in a court of law. *Manila School Dist. No. 15 v. Wagner*, 356 Ark. 149, 153, 148 S.W.3d 244, 247 (2004).

At the hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, the Court found that Plaintiffs had not yet suffered irreparable harm because, based on the dates provided by counsel and HGSD Superintendent Dr. Snow's testimony, it appeared that there was still time for HGSD to seek to comply with the isolated school procedure required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b). Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b)(2)(B)(i), HGSD must petition and request a hearing on the

matter before the State Board of Education no less than thirty days before a regularly scheduled State Board meeting. July 14, 2022 is the last opportunity for the State Board to hear a request to close Sparkman in part at a regularly scheduled State Board meeting before the start of next school year. Accordingly, to close part of Sparkman School for the next school year, HGSD had to petition and request a hearing before the State Board by June 14, 2022.

At the hearing on June 8, 2022, the Court asked HGSD whether it had a school board meeting scheduled between June 8, 2022 and June 14, 2022 at which the board could approve an isolated school closure petition to the State Board. HGSD stated that there was a regular school board meeting scheduled on June 9, 2022. As discussed above, HGSD's meeting on June 9, 2022 was not a regular meeting scheduled or conducted in compliance with Arkansas law, and at least one board member objected to the irregularities in HGSD's conduct of that meeting with respect to closing part of Sparkman School. The regular school board meeting on June 9, 2022, the resolution adopted by HGSD's school board on June 9, 2022 and HGSD's petition to the State Board dated June 10, 2022 are unlawful, ultra vires, invalid and void.

Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy available at law because it is not possible for HGSD to complete the isolated-school closure procedure required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b) before the start of next school year. Therefore, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm without immediate injunctive relief.

This is not a matter for the State Board to determine, because HGSD's June 9 meeting violated Arkansas law, and it is for this Court to determine and remedy violations of law. HGSD's June 9 meeting, and all actions taken during and pursuant to that unlawful meeting, are void as a matter of Arkansas law because they violated the statute governing regular meetings of school boards. HGSD's resolution to petition the State Board under the isolated school law is void and

ultra vires due to HGSD's violation of the regular-meeting law. It is for the courts to determine questions of law. The State Board of Education is not a court of law and is not even composed of lawyers.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiffs have a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their claim and they will suffer irreparable harm without immediate injunctive relief. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court issue a preliminary injunction prohibiting Harmony Grove School District No. 1 from carrying out the plan to close Sparkman School in part by eliminating the 7-12 educational programs next school year and for all other just and proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

KUTAK ROCK LLP

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 21, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing using the Court's electronic filing system, which shall send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Jess Askew III
Jess Askew III

Harmony Grove Public Schools

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401 Ouachita Road 88
Camden, Arkansas 71701
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Fax (870) 574-2765

Dr. Albert L. Snow, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mr. Matthew Nutt President
Mr. Jerry Wilson, Vice-President
Ms. Wendi Nix, Secretary
Mr. Jeremy Anderson, Member
Mr. Chris Garcia, Member
Ms. Brenda Lea, Member
Ms. Paulette Sullivent Member

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May 25, 2022

Camden Fairview School District
625 Clifton Street
Camden, Arkansas 71701

Gurdon School District
#1 Go-Devil Road
Gurdon, Arkansas 71743

Arkadelphia Public Schools
700 Clinton Street Dawson Building #3
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923

Ouachita School District
166 Schoolhouse Rd.
Donaldson, Arkansas 71941

Hampton School District
455 East Main, Po Box 1176
Hampton, Arkansas 71744

Bearden School District
100 Oak Ave
Bearden, Arkansas 71720

Fordyce School District
P.O. Box 706
Fordyce, Arkansas 71742


Re: Harmony Grove (Camden) School District
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1416(h)

To Whom It May Concern:

Under Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-13-1416(h), the Camden Harmony Grove School District ("District") is required to notify all contiguous public school districts of intent to close a public school campus that resulted from an annexation. In approximately 12 months, this District plans to close its Sparkman campus.

In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1416(h), this letter shall serve to notify all contiguous Districts.

Sincerely,


Albert Snow
Superintendent
Harmony Grove School District

EXHIBIT

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