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| 2 | VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION |
| 3 | DUE PROCESS HEARING |
| 4 | |
| 5 | REDACTED , by and through her Next Friends, her Parents, REDACTED |
| 6 | and REDACTED , |
| 7 | Petitioner, |
| 8 | vs. VDOE Case No. 22-84 |
| 9 | CHESTERFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, |
| 10 | Respondent. |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | DAY 8 |
| 14 | TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS |
| 15 | BEFORE SARAH S. FREEMAN, ESQ., HEARING OFFICER |
| 16 | |
| 17 | March 30, 2022 |
| 18 | 9:00 a.m 10:47 a.m. |
| 19 | Midlothian, Virginia |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | Job No. 47232 |
| 25 | REPORTED BY: LORI A. BOEDING, CCR |

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| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
| 25 | | |

| 1 | ALSO PRESENT: |
|----|--|
| 2 | April Lennox, CCPS Dyslexia Specialist |
| 3 | REDACTED , Parents |
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| 1 | INDEX |
|----|---|
| 2 | WITNESS |
| 3 | WIINESS |
| 4 | REDACTED |
| 5 | Rebuttal Direct Examination by Mr. Ratner 2,003 Rebuttal Cross-Examination by Mr. Andriano 2,050 |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
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EXHIBITS

| 2 | PARENTS | ADMITTED | OFFERED & REJECTED |
|----|---|----------|-----------------------|
| 3 | Parents No. 33 | 2,069 | |
| 4 | Parents No. 51, Pages 000626 and 000627 | 2,031 | |
| | 000027 | 2,031 | |
| 6 | Parents No. 125 | | 2,074 |
| 7 | Parents No. 126 | 2,009 | |
| 8 | Parents No. 127 | | 2,014 |
| 9 | Parents No. 128 | 2,024 | |
| 10 | Parents Exhibit Volumes 1 through 4, Exhibit Nos. 1 through 124, | | |
| 11 | offered and rejected, except | | |
| 12 | for Parent Exhibits individually admitted | | 2,075 |
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| 1 | (9:05 a.m.) |
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| 2 | |
| 3 | PROCEEDINGS |
| 4 | |
| 5 | (Court reporter previously sworn.) |
| 6 | |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to go on the |
| 8 | record now. We are going to begin. I think this |
| 9 | is the eighth day, if I'm not mistaken, the eighth |
| 10 | day of REDACTED v. Chesterfield County Public |
| 11 | Schools or School Board. |
| 12 | And when we left yesterday, which was the |
| 13 | seventh day, I believe, the School System had |
| 14 | rested and counsel for the Parents had asked for an |
| 15 | opportunity and this was earlier before school |
| 16 | counsel rested, and I think it was right at the |
| 17 | time that Mr. Ratner rested with the Parents' case |
| 18 | that Ms. Ratner[sic] would like or he advised me |
| 19 | that Ms. Ratner[sic] would like to make some |
| 20 | commentary. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: Mrs. REDACTED. You said, |
| 22 | Ms. Ratner. |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me. Mrs. REDACTED. |
| 24 | I did it again. |
| 25 | And I'm going to give her latitude to say |

| 1 | whatever she thinks that I need to hear. So I'm |
|-----|--|
| 2 | not going to I'm not going to listen to too many |
| 3 | objections. I do want her to be able to speak |
| 4 | freely, but this is your opportunity to tell me |
| 5 | what you think I need to know. |
| 6 | MR. RATNER: Great. So we would like to call |
| 7 | her on rebuttal. |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And you recall that you |
| 9 | were sworn earlier? |
| 10 | MRS. REDACTED: Yes. |
| 11 | MS. OWENS: Ms. Freeman, to the extent that |
| 12 | testimony that's going to be offered opens new |
| 13 | doors, then the School Board would |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I understand that. I |
| 15 | didn't mean that there weren't going to be any |
| 16 | rules. What I mean is I'm going to give her great |
| 17 | latitude. If she goes into an area that you feel |
| 18 | is objectionable, then just tell me. |
| 19 | MS. OWENS: Thank you. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But I do want her to |
| 21 | feel comfortable enough to tell me what she thinks |
| 22 | I need to know with latitude. |
| 23 | MR. ANDRIANO: But Ms. Freeman, we would just |
| 24 | state for the record, Mrs. REDACTED has already |
| 25 | testified, I think, for four hours or so and also |
| u l | |

| | - | |
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| | 1 | had an opportunity to provide a soliloquy, if you |
| | 2 | will, at one point in this hearing, so just point |
| | 3 | that out. |
| | 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for pointing |
| | 5 | that out. And for the record, I believe that her |
| | 6 | testimony or I know her testimony was at the |
| | 7 | initial stage of the hearing, and we've had a lot |
| | 8 | of testimony. That's why when I started out, I |
| | 9 | said that I'm viewing her testimony as rebuttal, |
| | 10 | first of all. But during the rebuttal, I'm going |
| | 11 | to ask her I'm going to tell you that I'm going |
| | 12 | to give her latitude. So I want her to be able to |
| | 13 | testify as freely as she wants within the confines |
| | 14 | of opening up new areas, objectionable statements, |
| | 15 | statements that are not appropriate or proper based |
| | 16 | on the evidence, and on other objections I've |
| | 17 | already ruled on. So that I would say would be the |
| | 18 | limitations. |
| | 19 | Having said that, go ahead. |
| | 20 | MR. RATNER: Thank you. Just before I get |
| | 21 | started, I would encourage you, if you have |
| | 22 | questions that you feel haven't been answered, |
| | 23 | please ask because we don't want this to end with |
| | 24 | you having unanswered questions. |
| | 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I understand. Thank |
| - 1 | | |

| 1 | you. |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | REDACTED , |
| 4 | having been previously sworn, |
| 5 | testified further as follows: |
| 6 | |
| 7 | REBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 8 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 9 | Q So Mrs. REDACTED, just to sort of set the stage, |
| 10 | you've been here every day of this hearing? |
| 11 | A Yes. |
| 12 | Q And you've listened to every witness who has |
| 13 | testified, correct? |
| 14 | A Correct. |
| 15 | Q And you've following along in the documents |
| 16 | as well, correct? |
| 17 | A Correct. |
| 18 | Q So have you heard in the course of this |
| 19 | hearing either statements or seen documentary evidence |
| 20 | that you either feel is inaccurate or incomplete that |
| 21 | you would like to address now? |
| 22 | A Yes. |
| 23 | Q So I'm going to be try to be targeted about |
| 24 | this but don't feel so boxed in. As the Hearing |
| 25 | Officer said, she wants you to have a full opportunity. |

| | Jz Due Hocess Hearing - Day 6 61 6 5,60/2 |
|----|--|
| 1 | I'd like to just start with Mr. Lawson. I |
| 2 | think that's going back to Tuesday of last week. |
| 3 | Do you recall a conversation, or excuse me, |
| 4 | an exchange in his testimony where he indicated that he |
| 5 | never communicated with you directly about REDACTED and her |
| 6 | education? |
| 7 | A Yes. |
| 8 | MR. ANDRIANO: Objection. Ms. Freeman, this |
| 9 | is |
| 10 | MS. RATNER: This is rebuttal. |
| 11 | MR. ANDRIANO: I think here's where we're |
| 12 | going to have our objection, Ms. Freeman. |
| 13 | Mr. Lawson was Mrs. ^{Redacted} 's witness. Mr. Lawson |
| 14 | wasn't the School Board's witness. So how can one |
| 15 | rebut one's case? |
| 16 | MS. RATNER: What rule precludes rebuttal of a |
| 17 | statement by one's own witness? |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Are you aware of one? Because |
| 19 | I'm not. |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: Well, there's no particular |
| 21 | rule |
| 22 | MS. RATNER: Right, there's no rule. |
| 23 | MR. ANDRIANO: that addresses rebuttal or |
| 24 | surrebuttal other than rebuttal is supposed to be |
| 25 | focused in on rebutting the defendant's evidence, |
| u | |

not their own evidence. 1 2 Well, first of all, he's their MR. RATNER: 3 witness in terms of he's a CCPS employee. But, 4 again, to try to expedite this, I don't intend to 5 have her give big statements or give a lot of 6 commentary on this document. We would like to get 7 a document in the record for you to read. THE HEARING OFFICER: Which document is it? 8 9 It's not in the books yet because MR. RATNER: 10 we didn't anticipate him saying something. So the 11 first question is -- and you haven't ruled on their 12 objection yet. 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, as I said, I'm 14 going to give them latitude. I've noted your 15 objection. But I think we need to have a 16 limitation on going into all of your witnesses, and 17if I recall correctly, I don't believe you 18 identified your witnesses as possibly adverse 19 witnesses. We did not know --20 MS. RATNER: 21 MR. RATNER: I mean, I thought that that was 22 implied if they worked for the defendant. 23 MR. ANDRIANO: But, Ms. Freeman, it was their 24 If they wanted to go into emails and such witness. 25 with Mr. Lawson or try to contradict --

| 1 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's why I'm going to |
|----|--|
| 2 | limit the testimony. So you can tell me a response |
| 3 | to that question, and then we're going to move on. |
| 4 | Is there a document? |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: There is. |
| 6 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 7 | Q But the first question is, did you ever |
| 8 | communicate directly with Mr. Lawson about REDACTED 's |
| 9 | education? |
| 10 | A Yes. |
| 11 | Q Okay. I have a document. It's been |
| 12 | previously produced. It was not in our book because we |
| 13 | did not anticipate Mr. Lawson I'm going to show it |
| 14 | to you first. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: Would you like a copy? |
| 17 | I'm not going to hand it to Mrs. REDACTED until |
| 18 | you give me permission to, Ms. Freeman. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Have you-all looked over |
| 20 | this document? |
| 21 | MR. ANDRIANO: No. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: Again, to perhaps cut off some of |
| 24 | the consternation, I'm just going to ask her to |
| 25 | identify this as an email exchange between |
| Ш | I |

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| 1 | Mr. Lawson and herself. You can certainly read it |
|----|---|
| 2 | for yourself, but we think it should be in the |
| 3 | record because it goes directly to the credibility |
| 4 | of the testimony. It may be an innocent mistake. |
| 5 | I'm not saying he lied. I just think it's |
| 6 | important to show he did not have complete recall. |
| 7 | MR. ANDRIANO: That's our point. You needed |
| 8 | to refresh if you wanted to first of all, if |
| 9 | you wanted to introduce this into evidence, it |
| 10 | needed to be in your evidence book five days prior |
| 11 | to. |
| 12 | Second of all, if you wanted to cross-examine |
| 13 | Mr. Lawson on his recollection, you needed to do it |
| 14 | when he was on the witness stand, not in rebuttal. |
| 15 | MR. RATNER: I'm not cross-examining |
| 16 | Mr. Lawson on his recollection. I'm asking |
| 17 | Mrs. REDACTED if he made a misstatement. That's |
| 18 | number one. |
| 19 | Number two, the rules and, again, there's |
| 20 | been a lot of very interesting interpretations of |
| 21 | the rules in this case. The rules are very |
| 22 | clear |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I am cutting off |
| 24 | editorial commentary on my rulings. |
| 25 | MR. RATNER: I said I was talking about |

| 1 | Mr. Andriano's interpretation. I'm not sure why |
|----|--|
| 2 | every time I say something you immediately think |
| 3 | it's about you. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We need to stop |
| 5 | the commentary. As I've said, you need to stop |
| 6 | commenting on my rulings, on Mr. Andriano's |
| 7 | objections, on Ms. Owens' objections. Just make |
| 8 | the objection, and it will be ruled upon. |
| 9 | MR. RATNER: Great. So the rule is very clear |
| 10 | that you have authority to exclude documents that |
| 11 | aren't in your book. It is not an absolute that |
| 12 | you must. I think that's an important point. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for clarifying |
| 14 | that for me. |
| 15 | MR. RATNER: The last point I would make is |
| 16 | that I don't know how we could put every document |
| 17 | in the book because I didn't know Mr. Lawson would |
| 18 | deny having communications. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I understand that. |
| 20 | What I was going to do is accept the document |
| 21 | because it's offered in rebuttal, even though the |
| 22 | School System feels that rebuttal in this case is |
| 23 | inappropriate because Mr. Lawson was your witness. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: Great. So I would like to offer |
| 25 | that into evidence as Parents' 126. |

| | 1 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to accept the |
|----|----|--|
| | 2 | document in response to the question about whether |
| | 3 | or not Mr. Lawson made the statement that, I |
| | 4 | believe, statement to the effect of that there was |
| | 5 | no communication between Mr. Lawson and Mrs. REDACTED. |
| | 6 | Is that right? |
| | 7 | MR. ANDRIANO: I haven't seen this, first of |
| | 8 | all. Then, obviously, if he's trying to indicate a |
| | 9 | statement from Mr. Lawson, that's going to be |
| | 10 | hearsay. |
| | 11 | MR. RATNER: I've already said very clearly, |
| | 12 | all I want is it in the record. It's in the |
| | 13 | record. |
| | 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: It's apparently to show |
| | 15 | me that Mr. Lawson is somehow not credible, even |
| | 16 | though he was your witness and he testified on your |
| | 17 | behalf, but I will accept it, and as a rebuttal |
| | 18 | document. |
| | 19 | |
| | 20 | (Parents' Exhibit No. 126 admitted.) |
| | 21 | |
| | 22 | MR. RATNER: So I'd like to move to another |
| | 23 | subject, if I may. |
| | 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Good. Go ahead. |
| | 25 | MR. RATNER: Thank you. |
| 11 | | |

| 1 | BY MR. RATNER: |
|----|--|
| 2 | Q You've heard some discussions about whether |
| 3 | or not REDACTED had a dyslexia diagnosis and what that |
| 4 | means, during the course of the hearing, did you not? |
| 5 | A Correct. |
| 6 | Q Did you ever have any communications with any |
| 7 | employee of Chesterfield County Public Schools about a |
| 8 | dyslexia diagnosis? |
| 9 | MR. ANDRIANO: Objection. Ms. Freeman, we |
| 10 | already have a stipulation on the record addressing |
| 11 | this. |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Addressing the |
| 13 | diagnosis? |
| 14 | MR. ANDRIANO: That there is no diagnosis. We |
| 15 | stipulated to that. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I remember that. |
| 17 | MR. ANDRIANO: So why are we wasting time? |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I was the one who broke |
| 19 | the rule by bringing up dyslexia. |
| 20 | MR. RATNER: First of all, the wasting time, |
| 21 | there's |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't understand why |
| 23 | you're referring to it as wasting time. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: That's what Mr. Andriano just |
| 25 | said. He asked why I'm wasting time. It's going |

| 300 # 4 | |
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| 1 | to take less than five minutes. We have all day. |
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: You were getting ready |
| 3 | to go into dyslexia when we already have a |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: No, I'm not. I just want to show |
| 5 | that the School Board's own personnel, the dyslexia |
| 6 | specialist, is the one who wrote to Mrs. REDACTED |
| 7 | dyslexia is a medical diagnosis, and to the extent |
| 8 | the School Board is attempting to imply that it had |
| 9 | impact on whether she was eligible for special |
| 10 | education services, I would like to make sure it is |
| 11 | clear that they had previously advised in writing |
| 12 | it is not. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: What dyslexia is |
| 14 | you're saying may I see the document? |
| 15 | MR. RATNER: You certainly may. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But there has been a |
| 17 | stipulation that dyslexia is not an issue. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Well, that's not the stipulation. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Or that there has been |
| 20 | no medical I don't have the note specifically in |
| 21 | front of me, but from my recollection, it was that |
| 22 | dyslexia that there has been no medical |
| 23 | diagnosis of dyslexia. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: That is correct. And this is |
| 25 | completely consistent with that. I just think it's |

| 1 | important to have it in the record. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. RATNER: And there's an important dispute |
| 3 | as to whether that matters, and there was a long |
| 4 | discussion between us and Mr. Andriano who said |
| 5 | that it does matter. What this shows is that |
| 6 | Ms. Lennox represented to Mrs. REDACTED that the |
| 7 | School Division had she come in with some |
| 8 | neurologist's report that said dyslexia, that would |
| 9 | have made no difference at all, because that is not |
| 10 | what they considered. |
| 11 | MR. ANDRIANO: Second line? |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: Second page after the italics. |
| 13 | You can look at the whole thing, but this is what |
| 14 | I'm interested in. |
| 15 | And Ms. Freeman, while you're reading that, I |
| 16 | will note it was not in our book, but it was |
| 17 | previously produced. That's why there's a Bates |
| 18 | number on it. It was produced before the five-day. |
| 19 | MS. OWENS: Ms. Freeman, there's been no |
| 20 | there's nothing here that would indicate that this |
| 21 | is a rebuttal document. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I didn't want to speak |
| 23 | out of turn here, but I just don't see how this is |
| 24 | any different than what the testimony has been from |
| 25 | the School System. |

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| 1 | MR. RATNER: I mean, that's very possible. |
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Maybe I'm not getting |
| 3 | something here. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: Or maybe I'm not getting |
| 5 | something, but we think it's an important document. |
| 6 | I can have Mrs. REDACTED identify it. I don't think |
| 7 | there's any dispute that |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: It came from the School |
| 9 | System. |
| 10 | MR. RATNER: And we would like it in the |
| 11 | record, please. |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Do you have any |
| 13 | objection? |
| 14 | MR. ANDRIANO: It's not rebuttal evidence. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: They say that this was |
| 16 | in their documents before. |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: That's correct, in response to a |
| 18 | subpoena is what I'm saying. They subpoenaed us, |
| 19 | and we produced this. That's why it has a Bates |
| 20 | number on it. |
| 21 | MS. OWENS: So, again, Ms. Freeman, this is |
| 22 | not rebuttal evidence. |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't see the purpose |
| 24 | for which it's being offered. We had a stipulation |
| 25 | that there has been I don't have it in front of |

| 1 | me, again, word for word, but I believe it was to |
|----|---|
| 2 | the effect that there has been no medical diagnosis |
| 3 | of dyslexia, and that was a stipulation. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: That's right. Then yesterday, I |
| 5 | believe, there was a fairly long discussion about |
| 6 | whether or not dyslexia is a specific learning |
| 7 | disability, and that's what had led to the |
| 8 | stipulation. So, again, I understand if you don't |
| 9 | see the purpose. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't see the purpose. |
| 11 | I'm going to give it back to you. |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: That's fine. I would just like |
| 13 | to note we offered it as Parents' Exhibit 127. |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And I will note your |
| 15 | exception. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: Thank you. |
| 17 | MS. RATNER: Todd, do you want to read out the |
| 18 | Bates numbers so the transcript's clear? |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: Yes. Thank you. |
| 20 | It's a two-page document, Bates number |
| 21 | REDACTED 000496 and 497 and we offered it as Parents' |
| 22 | 127 and it was not accepted. |
| 23 | |
| 24 | (Parents' Exhibit No. 127 offered and |
| 25 | rejected.) |
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| 1 | |
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| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me just say |
| 3 | something on the record. When I asked those |
| 4 | questions of the psychologist, Ms. McCarthy, |
| 5 | dyslexia, first of all, I completely forgot, again, |
| 6 | that we had a stipulation that there was no medical |
| 7 | diagnosis of dyslexia. And from what I recall, she |
| 8 | explained and I had confusion about |
| 9 | orthographic the orthographic piece |
| 10 | MR. RATNER: Yes. |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: from what her report |
| 12 | said, and that's why I was comparing I think I |
| 13 | said something to the effect of wouldn't it be easy |
| 14 | to confuse orthographic reasoning or the |
| 15 | orthographic piece of it for dyslexia itself. She |
| 16 | was explaining that the orthographic part of |
| 17 | dyslexia is included in dyslexia, but it's not |
| 18 | dyslexia has so many variations and parts of it. |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: I understand that very much. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But I brought that my |
| 21 | point is, I brought that up. |
| 22 | MR. RATNER: That's right. |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Not counsel. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: But it was addressed and I |
| 25 | personally thought it might be helpful and |

| 1 | please do not take this as a criticism in any |
|----|---|
| 2 | way |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm not taking anything |
| 4 | as a criticism. |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: There's been a lot of documents, |
| 6 | there's been a lot of testimony, there was a |
| 7 | stipulation, which may not be fresh in your mind, |
| 8 | and I thought it might be helpful that you have a |
| 9 | document in front of you that says exactly what we |
| 10 | said. |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Again, I |
| 12 | think we have all our documents in tow. They are |
| 13 | in the exhibit books, and I will probably somehow |
| 14 | get all of them out of here and back to my office |
| 15 | and look over all the admitted |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: You just gave that one back to |
| 17 | us, so I want to give you a chance to ask for it if |
| 18 | you change your mind. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let's go on to the next |
| 20 | part. |
| 21 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 22 | Q Two points from Ms. McCluskey's testimony |
| 23 | yesterday, one had to do with the MAPs testing, and I |
| 24 | believe it was the very conclusion of Ms. McCluskey |
| 25 | my examination of Ms. McCluskey. |

| 1 | And, again, Mr. Andriano is looking at his |
|----|--|
| 2 | watch. If he's concerned about the time, I would note |
| 3 | I was supposed to have latitude without objections. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't even know if |
| 5 | my watch is wrong, so I have to look at my phone. |
| 6 | So let's go ahead. But if I recall correctly, |
| 7 | I believe you did say approximately 20 minutes. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: That was an estimate. |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Somebody else is going |
| 10 | to have to keep track because my watch is not |
| 11 | right. |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: That was after you said you |
| 13 | wanted objections to be limited. I can't control |
| 14 | all this other stuff. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Let me get |
| 16 | out my phone so I know. I think we've been going |
| 17 | now for, what, about 10, 12 minutes or so. |
| 18 | So go ahead. |
| 19 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 20 | Q I asked Ms. McCluskey about the MAPs in the |
| 21 | fall the 2020. Do you recall that testimony? |
| 22 | A Yes. |
| 23 | Q And her testimony was, as I understand, that |
| 24 | REDACTED could take the MAPs with all the accommodations |
| 25 | that were in her IEP; she just chose not to. Do you |
| u | |

| 1 | recall that testimony? |
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| 2 | A Yes. |
| 3 | MS. OWENS: I object. That's |
| 4 | mischaracterizing Ms. McCluskey's testimony "that |
| 5 | she chose not to." |
| 6 | MR. RATNER: What's your recollection of what |
| 7 | she said then? |
| 8 | MS. OWENS: That's not what she stated. She |
| 9 | stated that she stated that it was her what I |
| 10 | recall is that the Parent indicated that she did |
| 11 | not want she couldn't recall the specifics, but |
| 12 | she believes that the Parent may have indicated |
| 13 | that she did not want REDACTED to take the MAP. |
| 14 | MS. RATNER: Then this rebuts that even more. |
| 15 | MR. RATNER: We have a disagreement with |
| 16 | Ms. Owens, so you are going to have to decide that. |
| 17 | We have a document, same situation, previously |
| 18 | produced in response to our subpoena but not in our |
| 19 | exhibit book because we did not realize we would |
| 20 | have to rebut this. |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Let the |
| 22 | record reflect then that counsel has handed me an |
| 23 | email from REDACTED , and the subject the date |
| 24 | of it was October 1st, 2020, and the subject is |
| 25 | math MAPs or the MAP, I believe, exam is what |

| 1 | you were I don't know if it's proper to call it |
|----|--|
| 2 | an exam |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: I think assessment is probably |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Assessment. Thank you. |
| 5 | And Mrs. REDACTED says, I will try it with her again |
| 6 | when I get home from work tonight. I would like |
| 7 | the math ones to get done, if at all possible. |
| 8 | Is that what you said in response to whether |
| 9 | or not REDACTED would take the MAP? |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: Yes. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: There's some additional |
| 12 | information within this document. I would like to |
| 13 | make sure you highlight |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry, I interrupted |
| 15 | you. |
| 16 | From Christine McCluskey to Mrs. REDACTED and it |
| 17 | says, I just spoke with the administration or the |
| 18 | admin and because there is a MAPs window |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: I don't mean to interrupt, but it |
| 20 | goes from the bottom to the top if you want to go |
| 21 | in time order. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Let me start |
| 23 | again. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: So it starts on September 30. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: September 30. |
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| 1 | [As read] I'm so sorry. I just heard you ask REDACTED |
| 2 | to do the MAPs. This was from Mrs. REDACTED to, |
| 3 | I assume, to Ms. McCluskey. I just heard you ask |
| 4 | to do the MAPs. As I stated in her IEP, she |
| 5 | needs a teacher to assist her with these. I tried |
| 6 | the other day, and it was an epic fail. Please let |
| 7 | me know how we should proceed. Thank you. |
| 8 | Did you say that? |
| 9 | MR. RATNER: I just wanted to clarify and |
| 10 | again, I'm not fussing, but it doesn't say "as I |
| 11 | stated in her IEP" as you read it. It says "as |
| 12 | stated in her IEP." |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. I |
| 14 | didn't have my glasses on. |
| 15 | Right. So then after September 30, we have |
| 16 | another email from Mrs. REDACTED to |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: It's actually Ms. McCluskey |
| 18 | responding to Mrs. ^{REDACTED} in the middle of the page. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. [As read] I just |
| 20 | spoke with the administration because there is a |
| 21 | MAPs window. She will miss the fall MAPs |
| 22 | testing this is from Ms. McCluskey. She will |
| 23 | miss the fall MAPs testing if she doesn't take the |
| 24 | math this week, but she can take it in the winter. |
| 25 | Her IEP states that she will have verbal prompting |
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| 1 | to keep her focused, which you can do, if you'd |
|----|--|
| 2 | like, and read it to her and she does have the |
| 3 | extra time if she wants, as well as the ability to |
| 4 | use her dry erase board if you want to give math a |
| 5 | try again this week. Again, if not, no biggie. We |
| 6 | will do her winter MAPs. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: So the point I wanted to make |
| 8 | sure was clear that there's an accommodation, |
| 9 | according to Ms. McCluskey, that REDACTED will have |
| 10 | verbal prompting to keep her focused, and |
| 11 | Ms. McCluskey said that Mrs. REDACTED could provide |
| 12 | that if she likes. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Any objection to this |
| 14 | document? |
| 15 | MR. ANDRIANO: I don't believe it's a complete |
| 16 | document. I mean, I would have to ask |
| 17 | Ms. McCluskey. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And Ms. McCluskey is not |
| 19 | here. |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: We will find out before we |
| 21 | leave today because I'm sure there was a response |
| 22 | to this. |
| 23 | MS. RATNER: What makes you sure there was a |
| 24 | response to this? |
| 25 | MR. ANDRIANO: Because knowing Ms. McCluskey, |
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| 1 | she responded to Mrs. REDACTED 's email at the top. |
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| 2 | But we are going to check. |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: Great. We've got all day. |
| 4 | We'd like to offer this as Parents 128, |
| 5 | please. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And you object because |
| 7 | you feel that this is not necessarily the complete |
| 8 | document and that it's taken out of context? |
| 9 | MR. ANDRIANO: I do. I do believe |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: It does color her |
| 11 | testimony yesterday. |
| 12 | MR. ANDRIANO: I don't know that it colors her |
| 13 | testimony. She testified, I believe, that the MAPs |
| 14 | assessment the winter MAPs assessment because |
| 15 | they were virtual at that point in time, they |
| 16 | weren't doing them in school. They were doing them |
| 17 | from home. That it was available and |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: With the accommodations, that's |
| 19 | correct. We agree with that. That's what |
| 20 | Ms. McCluskey said. |
| 21 | MS. OWENS: There's nothing in this document |
| 22 | that would indicate as far as who would be |
| 23 | providing the accommodations during a virtual |
| 24 | session because of a global pandemic. |
| 25 | MS. RATNER: Correct. |
| u | |

| 1 | MR. RATNER: That's right. That's our point. |
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| 2 | She's very clearly said, we are not going to |
| 3 | provide this accommodation. |
| 4 | MS. OWENS: That's not what it says at all. |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: You're free to provide verbal |
| 6 | prompting to her. |
| 7 | MR. ANDRIANO: We don't know the context |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: Ms. Freeman, I am so sorry, but |
| 9 | we're offering evidence. If they have other |
| 10 | evidence it's not objectionable to say that |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: They are saying that |
| 12 | they don't know if there were additional comments |
| 13 | by Ms. McCluskey because they don't have any way to |
| 14 | know. |
| 15 | MS. RATNER: Yes, they do, because they |
| 16 | produced every email |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: They produced emails to us. It's |
| 18 | not our burden to show them you may recall a lot |
| 19 | of discussion from Mr. Andriano, for example, about |
| 20 | emails they produced to us that they weren't sure |
| 21 | if it was a complete document or not. It is not |
| 22 | the Parents' burden to satisfy every curiosity they |
| 23 | have. If they think there's an additional email, |
| 24 | they are welcome to find it. If it's not been |
| 25 | produced, we can deal with all that. This is |

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| 1 | clearly a complete thread. There may have been |
| 2 | things that happened after October 1st at 9:24 a.m. |
| 3 | That is not a reason that is not a proper |
| 4 | objection or a reason to exclude. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll overrule the |
| 6 | school's objection to this document and take it. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: Thank you. |
| 8 | |
| 9 | (Parents' Exhibit No. 128 admitted.) |
| 10 | |
| 11 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 12 | Q Mrs. REDACTED, do you recall the statements from |
| 13 | Ms. McCluskey about REDACTED lying instead of doing her |
| 14 | work? |
| 15 | A Correct. |
| 16 | Q Okay. And I'd like to go to School Board |
| 17 | Exhibit 29 excuse me, 28. My apologies. This was a |
| 18 | document that Ms. McCluskey testified about yesterday, |
| 19 | correct? |
| 20 | A Correct. |
| 21 | Q And this was the document in which she |
| 22 | acknowledged that she, Ms. McCluskey, wrote that she, |
| 23 | REDACTED, will lie instead of doing her work, correct? |
| 24 | A Correct. That's what it says. |
| 25 | Q And do you see the date of the interview at |
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| 1 | the top right of the page? |
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| 2 | A Yes. January 21, 2021. |
| 3 | Q Did Ms. McCluskey, prior to that IEP meeting |
| 4 | or the eligibility meeting when you reviewed these |
| 5 | documents, had Ms. McCluskey ever expressed to you a |
| 6 | concern about REDACTED lying to avoid work? |
| 7 | A Not to my recollection. |
| 8 | Q Okay. And, in fact, did you had a |
| 9 | communication with her just a few days later in which |
| 10 | she seemed to indicate just the opposite? |
| 11 | A Yes. |
| 12 | Q Okay. I'd like you to turn in the Parents' |
| 13 | book, I believe it's Volume 2 and Exhibit 51 and |
| 14 | specifically pages 626 and 627. Tell me when you have |
| 15 | that. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Wait a minute. What |
| 17 | page are you? |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: 626 and 627. I think it's the |
| 19 | last two pages in that tab. |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: Which tab number? |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: 51. |
| 22 | MR. ANDRIANO: Binder 2? |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: I think one of the issues is you |
| 24 | didn't necessarily put them in the same volumes I |
| 25 | did. You just printed them out, but it's tab 51. |
| | |

| 1 | MS. OWENS: Which Bates number? |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. RATNER: It's not the Bates number. It's |
| 3 | the Parents Exhibit Number 626 and 627. It's the |
| 4 | very last two pages. |
| 5 | Do you have it, Ms. Freeman? |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's what I'm looking |
| 7 | for. I thought you said page 621. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: 626 and 627, should be the last |
| 9 | two pages. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. And this is |
| 11 | the email from REDACTED dated January 27, 2021, |
| 12 | 11:18 in the morning, and it's to Mr. Mueller. |
| 13 | MR. RATNER: Right. Again, you recall you |
| 14 | have to read from the bottom up. So she forwarded |
| 15 | a communication that she had with Ms. McCluskey to |
| 16 | Mr. Mueller. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: So you've got to read from the |
| 19 | end to the beginning. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me go back here. |
| 21 | But Mr. Mueller was the prior attorney, wasn't he? |
| 22 | MR. RATNER: That's right. We're not |
| 23 | interested in the Mr. Mueller part. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, okay. But you just |
| 25 | directed me to 626. |

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| 1 | MR. RATNER: And 627. |
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: So where do I start |
| 3 | again? |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: It goes from the back to the |
| 5 | front. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let's see. Tuesday, |
| 7 | January 26, 2021, 11:31 a.m., REDACTED wrote, |
| 8 | I'm working from home today in an effort to support |
| 9 | REDACTED . |
| 10 | MS. OWENS: Ms. Freeman, this email has come |
| 11 | from Mr. Mueller and was forwarded, and there's no |
| 12 | way for the School Board to know that this is the |
| 13 | full exchange between the Parent and Ms. McCluskey. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: Again, that's not a proper basis |
| 15 | for objection or exclusion of evidence. It's |
| 16 | not |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I believe it is. It's |
| 18 | not a complete document. |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: Then we can ask Mrs. REDACTED, she's |
| 20 | right here, instead of saying we don't know so it |
| 21 | should be excluded. Mrs. REDACTED 's testimony is |
| 22 | evidence. |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. |
| 24 | MS. OWENS: So the dilemma that the School |
| 25 | Division is having with this whole process, |

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| 1 | Ms. Freeman, is that this is not rebuttal. This is |
| 2 | really not rebuttal evidence. Certainly, if there |
| 3 | were questions about in an effort to challenge |
| 4 | the testimony provided by any School Board witness, |
| 5 | this would have been an appropriate document to |
| 6 | show to Ms. McCluskey and say to, Ms. McCluskey, do |
| 7 | you recall sending this email to the parent. |
| 8 | Now we don't have the benefit of |
| 9 | Ms. McCluskey's testimony, and we have an |
| 10 | interpretation of a document that an exchange |
| 11 | between the parent and Ms. McCluskey, and this is |
| 12 | not this is not a rebuttal document. This is |
| 13 | simply an email that could have been shown to |
| 14 | Ms. McCluskey during the course of her examination |
| 15 | yesterday. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: If I could just be heard briefly. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Mrs. REDACTED is on the email. It |
| 19 | is a communication between Mrs. REDACTED and |
| 20 | Ms. McCluskey. They seem to want always say this |
| 21 | is the only witness we can ask about this; this is |
| 22 | the only witness we can ask about. Mrs. REDACTED is a |
| 23 | part of this email. She is a proper witness to |
| 24 | authenticate it. She is a proper witness to |
| 25 | describe the information. You can interpret it. |

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| 1 | If they feel they need to call Ms. McCluskey to |
| 2 | rebut something now that Mrs. REDACTED says, by all |
| 3 | means they are free to do so. But the idea that |
| 4 | this email, in which Ms. McCluskey says, "I never |
| 5 | doubt that she is not working hard, but it is |
| 6 | confusing to try to understand what she is |
| 7 | thinking" is not rebuttal, then I guess I don't |
| 8 | understand what rebuttal is. |
| 9 | MS. OWENS: That's not rebuttal. This is not |
| 10 | a rebuttal document. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: I mean, again |
| 12 | MS. RATNER: On what legal basis are you |
| 13 | saying that? |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: Right. Ms. Owens can say it all |
| 15 | she wants. That doesn't make it so. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. The document |
| 17 | is in the evidentiary record; however, |
| 18 | Ms. McCluskey is not here so I have not read |
| 19 | this document, so I have no idea what you're |
| 20 | talking about. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: And we would like you to. Right. |
| 22 | So that's why I would like to ask Mrs. REDACTED about |
| 23 | it. She's part of this email exchange, and she's |
| 24 | here to talk about it. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: This is to Mr. Mueller. |

| 1 | Mr. Mueller is not testifying. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. RATNER: There's no substance to |
| 3 | Mr. Mueller. It was forwarded. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: I would be delighted to explain |
| 5 | that to you. This is a communication between |
| 6 | Mrs. REDACTED and Ms. McCluskey that Mrs. REDACTED |
| 7 | thought was significant, so she forwarded it to |
| 8 | Mr. Mueller. We are not asking you about |
| 9 | Mr. Mueller. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: We are asking you about the |
| 12 | communication between you can cross out where |
| 13 | she forwarded it to Mr. Mueller. We're not |
| 14 | interested in that. We could have redacted that, |
| 15 | perhaps. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'll accept it |
| 17 | with the caveat that you could have asked |
| 18 | Ms. McCluskey about this document if you were going |
| 19 | to present it to me and give her a chance to |
| 20 | explain it. For now, I'm going to accept the |
| 21 | document into the record, but I don't really need |
| 22 | any I don't need any additional |
| 23 | |
| 24 | (Parents' Exhibit Tab 51, Pages 000626 and |
| 25 | 000627 admitted.) |
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That's all we were going to ask. 1 MR. RATNER: 2 I just ask that you read the entire exchange. 3 That's all. 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, this technically 5 is not rebuttal, but because -- as I said, your 6 witness -- you had a chance to present your case, 7 and this witness had one -- at least one lengthy 8 opportunity to testify so --9 So the only person I can ask MR. RATNER: 10 about an email that contains multiple parties is 11 the person they want me to ask about? 12 THE HEARING OFFICER: No. 13 MS. OWENS: This document is not rebuttal 14 evidence. 15 And furthermore, it's hearsay. To the extent that Mr. Ratner is asking Mrs. REDACTED to interpret 16 17or to tell you what Ms. McCluskey has stated. 18 THE HEARING OFFICER: That's not what I'm 19 going to let him do is interpret. 20 MR. RATNER: I'm not asking that. You can read the entire exchange, and you can interpret for 21 22 yourself. 23 THE HEARING OFFICER: You have it in your 24 exhibit book and you've directed my attention to it 25 and I'm going to read it over, but we don't need to Г

| 1 | go into it any further. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. RATNER: I don't intend to. They keep |
| 3 | talking about it. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Let's move on. |
| 5 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 6 | Q The last thing I would like to address with |
| 7 | you, Mrs. REDACTED, are REDACTED 's grades. You've heard a lot |
| 8 | of testimony over the last seven days about how REDACTED |
| 9 | made straight A's at the end of the fourth grade; do |
| 10 | you recall that? Excuse me. The end of fifth grade, I |
| 11 | apologize. |
| 12 | A Yes. |
| 13 | Q Okay. And did you have reasons to doubt the |
| 14 | validity of the grades that the school was giving? And |
| 15 | I'm not asking you to explain why, but were you |
| 16 | concerned about that? |
| 17 | MS. OWENS: Objection. This witness cannot |
| 18 | testify with regard to the so-called validity of |
| 19 | grades. One, she has not she does not have the |
| 20 | expertise. She has not been identified as an |
| 21 | expert witness. |
| 22 | MR. RATNER: Ms. Freeman, I'm going to jump in |
| 23 | here. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Don't interrupt |
| 25 | Ms. Owens. |

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| 1 | MR. RATNER: I didn't ask her these questions. |
| 2 | That's why we have had so many long objections. |
| 3 | MS. OWENS: Mr. Ratner |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: The basic rule is we |
| 5 | have to be polite, and we can't speak over each |
| 6 | other. The main reason for that is so that the |
| 7 | court reporter can get all of our communication. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: I very much understand that. But |
| 9 | what has happened for the last seven days is |
| 10 | Ms. Owens objecting |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, commentary. |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: No, not commentary. Ms. Owens |
| 13 | has objected to questions I haven't asked, and |
| 14 | we've ended up spending 30 minutes or so just |
| 15 | like now where I wasn't going to ask any more |
| 16 | questions. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let her say what her |
| 18 | objection is just for the purpose of getting it on |
| 19 | the record, and then you can say whatever you like. |
| 20 | MS. OWENS: I will just point out that I |
| 21 | waited until Mr. Ratner finished his question. |
| 22 | My objection remains that this witness is not |
| 23 | an expert witness. She lacks any foundational |
| 24 | knowledge to determine whether grades are so-called |
| 25 | valid, as Mr. Ratner claims. So there's no basis |

| 1 | for any testimony offered by this witness with |
|----|--|
| 2 | regard to the validity of grades. |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: Right. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I wrote down and then |
| 5 | I think I heard the objection are grades, and I |
| 6 | thought you said the word "valid." |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: I did. But I'm not asking her if |
| 8 | she's authorized or has the |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: You said, are the grades |
| 10 | valid. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: That's not what I said. If I can |
| 12 | please finish. I asked if she had reason to |
| 13 | suspect the grades were not valid. And sometimes, |
| 14 | as I'm sure Ms. Freeman can understand, there's |
| 15 | more than offering it for the truth of the matter |
| 16 | asserted. She has a suspicion the grades were not |
| 17 | valid, and it explains the behavior she took next |
| 18 | that I think is relevant. It doesn't have anything |
| 19 | to do with whether or not her opinion about the |
| 20 | grades were valid is accurate or not. |
| 21 | There's important information that is relevant |
| 22 | to this case that does not require her to be an |
| 23 | expert about whether the grades are valid to |
| 24 | explain what she did to investigate those grades, |
| 25 | and it is relevant to this case. You have said you |
| uL | |

| 1 | would give us latitude, and I don't understand why |
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| 2 | she's not being able to explain to you the efforts |
| 3 | she made to look into the grades. It doesn't mean |
| 4 | she's right that they weren't valid. But it is |
| 5 | relevant why she wanted to look into the grades, |
| 6 | and that's what I would like to explain. |
| 7 | And, again, to Ms. Owens' point, I hope you |
| 8 | understand now, none of what she said has anything |
| 9 | to do with the question I asked. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Originally I asked you |
| 11 | if your question was and I believe you said that |
| 12 | you had not finished the question. But I said, did |
| 13 | you just ask her if the grades were valid. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: Right. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: V-A-L-I-D, so we're not |
| 16 | misunderstanding. |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: No. Let me be very clear. You |
| 18 | asked if I said the word valid with the grades. |
| 19 | And I said, Yes, I did. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: But I'm not asking her if she's |
| 22 | an expert on whether the grades were valid. It's |
| 23 | whether she had a concern about it and what she did |
| 24 | because of that that is relevant, whether or not |
| 25 | she's right that they are valid or invalid. Am I |

making sense? 1 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: You're making sense. 3 However, we go back to the original premise. 4 Whether or not grades are valid is the subject that 5 an expert witness testifies about. 6 But she's not testifying whether MR. RATNER: 7 grades are valid. She's testifying about --8 THE HEARING OFFICER: You just asked her if 9 the grades were valid. 10 MR. RATNER: I didn't. I didn't. That's what 11 I'm trying to be clear about. I'm asking her if 12 she had a reason to suspect that they were not 13 valid, and then I will ask what she did in response 14 to that. I'm not asking her to tell you that. You 15 shouldn't listen to the grades; you don't have to 16 listen to anything about that. There is 17information about her asking for grades from the 18 school that is relevant to this, whether or not 19 they are valid or not. I don't know how I can say 20 it any more clearly. This has nothing to do with her ability to challenge the validity of the 21 22 grades. It has to do with her personal belief and 23 what she did as a result of that belief. 24 THE HEARING OFFICER: This is what I'm going 25 to say, I told you originally I would give you

| 1 | latitude. However, I'm going to and I |
|-----|--|
| 2 | understand counsel's objection that she's not in a |
| 3 | position to tell me whether or not grades are |
| 4 | valid. I'm not |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: And I'm not going to ask her to. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I understand where |
| 7 | you're |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: I just want to |
| 9 | MS. OWENS: Please let the Hearing Officer |
| 10 | respond. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: I'm so sorry, what was that? |
| 12 | MS. OWENS: I wanted to hear what |
| 13 | Ms. Freeman's position is on the objection. |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: However, I'm going to |
| 15 | listen to what she tells me about what she |
| 16 | suspected, but I'm going to when I go back and |
| 17 | consider all of the evidence, I'm going to apply |
| 18 | the rule that is a very long-standing rule that |
| 19 | experts testify about the validity of grades and |
| 20 | they did. I will apply that precept to the to |
| 21 | your statement. However, I'm going to listen to |
| 22 | what she says or what she suspected. |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: To be clear, that's all I've ever |
| 24 | been asking. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But, again, counsel's |
| u l | |

| 1 | objection is extremely compelling. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. RATNER: Okay. I respectfully disagree, |
| 3 | but I appreciate the latitude. |
| 4 | MS. OWENS: Please note our objection, |
| 5 | Ms. Freeman. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I'm going to note |
| 7 | counsel's objection to my ruling. |
| 8 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 9 | Q Did there come a time when the School Board, |
| 10 | anyone from Chesterfield County Public School, |
| 11 | indicated to you that REDACTED 's grades had improved |
| 12 | markedly once she came back to school in person? |
| 13 | A I guess I'm not understanding. During this |
| 14 | process? |
| 15 | Q Do you recall that at the beginning of fifth |
| 16 | grade she had F's and D's? |
| 17 | A Yes. |
| 18 | Q And at that point did you begin the process |
| 19 | of requesting a private placement for REDACTED with |
| 20 | Chesterfield County Public Schools? |
| 21 | A Yes, in November. |
| 22 | Q Okay. And that was the November 2020 IEP |
| 23 | Amendment meeting that we've discussed at length, |
| 24 | correct? |
| 25 | A Correct. |

| 1 | Q Okay. And after that meeting at some point, |
|----|--|
| 2 | did REDACTED 's grades improve, according to the School |
| 3 | Board? |
| 4 | A Yes. |
| 5 | Q Had REDACTED at any time prior to that point in |
| 6 | her Chesterfield County Public School career received |
| 7 | straight A's? |
| 8 | A No. |
| 9 | MS. OWENS: Objection. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to note a |
| 11 | continuing objection to this testimony. |
| 12 | MS. OWENS: Thank you. |
| 13 | MR. RATNER: The report cards are in the |
| 14 | record. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: The report cards are in |
| 16 | the record. I'm going to let Mom tell what she |
| 17 | suspected. However, noting a continuing objection |
| 18 | to this testimony from the School System, which I |
| 19 | sustained. |
| 20 | MS. OWENS: I will note Mr. Ratner |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I sustained your |
| 22 | objection. |
| 23 | MS. OWENS: Okay. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: I thought you said I could ask |
| 25 | her questions. |

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I'm saying, I'm 2 giving you latitude to do that even though I 3 sustained their objection. Because that's what I 4 meant by when I asked you whether -- I discussed 5 with you whether or not she is the proper witness 6 to identify the validity of the grades. 7 I'm not trying to do that with MR. RATNER: 8 That's not -her. THE HEARING OFFICER: 9 That's what I meant by 10 latitude. I'm going to take their objections to this testimony because they are valid objections 11 12 regarding the grades and whether or not they 13 were -- I don't know exactly what she's going to 14 tell me. 15 MR. RATNER: That's part of the issue. 16 THE HEARING OFFICER: But I'm going to apply 17 the rule about expert testimony when I consider 18 this. And I'll listen to your testimony. I'm 19 still sustaining their objection for the record. 20 MR. RATNER: Thank you. 21 THE HEARING OFFICER: But I want the record to reflect that I did give her the opportunity to tell 22 23 me what her suspicion was. 24 May I just give one --MS. RATNER: 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: I know that sounds

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convoluted but --

MS. RATNER: May I give one hypothetical to show kind of what we're trying to get at? Because I don't think you need an expert to say Mom received a grade of A and there's a list of ten assignments and nine of them are not even turned in at all. That doesn't seem like you need an expert to say -- it's not a scientific -- it's like a basic math or a fact that any parent would know and be concerned about, and this is what -- I mean, it's torturous to try to get to it, but this is what she was trying to say.

She -- suddenly REDACTED is making A's after 13 14 Mom is, like, I'm shocked. I haven't making F's. 15 I don't know what this is based seen this work. She asked the teacher, where -- how did **EDACTED** 16 on. make an A on X? How did she make an A plus on the 17 18 ocean motion or particular assignments? And then 19 no records are provided, or it is stated to her, 20 didn't turn that in. So I don't think an 21 expert is needed to say giving somebody an A for 22 something that wasn't done is questionable as to 23 whether that's a valid grade. Ms. Ratner, I understand 24 THE HEARING OFFICER:

that that's your premise, that that's your

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| 1 | hypothesis, if you will. However, I think we've |
|----|--|
| 2 | had quite a bit of testimony from both parties |
| 3 | regarding the grades, the validity of grades, |
| 4 | whether or not this occurred as you said or you |
| 5 | proffered that it occurred and that's what |
| 6 | MS. RATNER: This is what she's trying to |
| 7 | testify about. |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to go back and |
| 9 | look at all of the documents. However, I did |
| 10 | sustain an objection to school counsel's motion |
| 11 | that expert witnesses describe the validity |
| 12 | after they are certified, after they are qualified |
| 13 | in particular topics, they are able to tell us what |
| 14 | those variations are. If that's credible or not is |
| 15 | what I'm going to have to decide. Okay? So |
| 16 | that's that's my quagmire is when I go back and |
| 17 | look at all of the documentation within those |
| 18 | boundaries. So that's what I'm saying. |
| 19 | I'm going to give Mrs. ^{REDACTED} an opportunity to |
| 20 | tell me what she wants to tell me but because I |
| 21 | think that to have a fair hearing, you need to be |
| 22 | able say what you think. |
| 23 | THE WITNESS: I understand. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But I have to do my job |
| 25 | as well and apply the rules when I go back. |
| | |

| 1 | THE WITNESS: And I understand. I will try to |
|----|---|
| 2 | stick to facts. I understand. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead. |
| 4 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 5 | Q So I think you understand the question that |
| 6 | I'm getting at. |
| 7 | Did you try to get information about REDACTED 's |
| 8 | grades after you heard that they had improved? |
| 9 | A Yes. So we know REDACTED was failing in the |
| 10 | fall, and when she was receiving much higher marks, A's |
| 11 | and B's, I emailed and questioned Ms. Houston because I |
| 12 | was surprised and had not seen school work. So I |
| 13 | wanted to |
| 14 | Q Let me stop you just right there. |
| 15 | MR. RATNER: Ms. Freeman, there are lots of |
| 16 | pages in the book that address this. What I would |
| 17 | like is Mrs. REDACTED to tell you in her own words |
| 18 | what she recalls rather than going to pages and |
| 19 | pages of the hearing book because that's when it |
| 20 | seems to all get muddled with it's not complete, |
| 21 | who is it from. We have been trying to get this |
| 22 | evidence to your attention this entire time. I |
| 23 | would like her to have an opportunity to tell you |
| 24 | interrupted. So I'm not going to direct her to |
| 25 | those pages. |

| 1 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's fine. That's why |
|----|--|
| 2 | I told you within certain confines |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: Right. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to let her |
| 5 | tell me something. I don't want to interrupt you, |
| 6 | Mr. Ratner, but let me hear from her. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: Right. But I just wanted to |
| 8 | say |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And there's a continuing |
| 10 | objection from the School System about her |
| 11 | testifying at all again. So go ahead. |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: There are emails in the book if |
| 13 | you would like to see them. I would prefer not to |
| 14 | address them, if that's okay. |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. That's fine. |
| 16 | Go ahead. |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: So I asked Ms. Houston because I |
| 18 | was curious what made what changed and what made |
| 19 | up the grades. And her response I asked her |
| 20 | MS. OWENS: I'm going to object the hearsay, |
| 21 | any hearsay testimony provided. |
| 22 | MR. RATNER: Again, she's not offering it for |
| 23 | the truth of the matter asserted. She's a party to |
| 24 | the conversation. This is every classic hearsay |
| 25 | exception. |
| | |

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Who is "her"? Oh, I'm 2 sorry. 3 Ms. Mottley and Ms. Houston. MR. RATNER: 4 THE WITNESS: Communicated emails that are in 5 here to me. 6 Right. Again, we're not offering MR. RATNER: 7 it for the truth of the matter asserted. 8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Overruled. Let's just 9 get to it. 10 THE WITNESS: I requested copies of work. She 11 could not produce them and directed me to --12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Who is "she could not"? 13 Ms. Houston could not THE WITNESS: Sorry. 14 produce them. She directed me to Canvas, which is 15 the module that a lot of the assignments are in and 16 told me I could find them there. I looked in 17Canvas, and I told her I'm extremely confused and 18 cannot find anything. To which she responded that 19 she had archived all of the work; that's why I Then she directed me to REDACTED 's 20 couldn't see it. 21 Google drive. I additionally said, this is confusing because the title of the documents does 22 23 not line up with her parent view grades. Maybe 24 they are titled something different. 25 I spent hours trying to go through any

| 1 | paperwork, digging into the three platforms online. |
|----|---|
| 2 | So I sent her a spreadsheet; these are the |
| 3 | assignments, these are the grades. Can you produce |
| 4 | what is missing? |
| 5 | She printed what she had, and it still did not |
| 6 | make sense. Then we had our meeting in February. |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: The IEP meeting? |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: Correct. |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: On 2/19? |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: That's correct. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: That's exactly right. |
| 12 | MR. ANDRIANO: Ms. Freeman, just to add again, |
| 13 | this is improper rebuttal. She's trying to rebut |
| 14 | Ms. Houston's testimony. Ms. Houston was their |
| 15 | witness. She wasn't our witness. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: I think we've already covered |
| 17 | that. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I will note a continuing |
| 19 | objection to all of this testimony. Go ahead. |
| 20 | That was the 2/19 IEP meeting? |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Correct. And I continued to ask |
| 22 | for documentation, her school work to be produced. |
| 23 | I then informed Ms. Mottley that I was looking for |
| 24 | this work. She assured me that the school work |
| 25 | that had been archived could be retrieved from |
| u | |

| 1 | archive. I continued to request it, and it was not |
|----|--|
| 2 | received. My final request was June or July, to |
| 3 | which Ms. Mottley responded that I could get the |
| 4 | school work through FERPA and FOIA. So I had to |
| 5 | pay to receive this school work. What I received |
| 6 | via FOIA was a large number of documents from |
| 7 | Canvas, many of the assignments were not completed |
| 8 | that she received grades on. |
| 9 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 10 | Q And just as a to close that out, if you |
| 11 | could look at School Board 54, the second page, which |
| 12 | is page 258 that's already in evidence. I can help you |
| 13 | get there if you need assistance. |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Which exhibit were you |
| 15 | talking about? |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: School Board 54 and the second |
| 17 | page of 54. |
| 18 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 19 | Q Is this the letter from Ms. Mottley advised |
| 20 | you that you can receive the documents you asked for |
| 21 | through FOIA and FERPA? |
| 22 | A Yes. |
| 23 | Q Okay. And you actually subsequently received |
| 24 | documents in response to this, right? |
| 25 | A Yes. |

| 1 | Q Do you remember approximately how much you |
|----|--|
| 2 | had to pay to receive those records related to your |
| 3 | child? |
| 4 | MS. OWENS: Objection. Relevancy. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, I've noted a |
| 6 | continuing objection. I'll let her go on. |
| 7 | What is it that you were we're still on 54, |
| 8 | right? |
| 9 | MR. RATNER: Well, I just wanted to make clear |
| 10 | that this was the letter in which Ms. Mottley |
| 11 | advised her she could receive the information. |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: This is the FERPA |
| 13 | request letter. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: That's right. That's it. It's |
| 15 | in the record already. Just trying to connect it |
| 16 | up. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. |
| 18 | BY MR. RATNER: |
| 19 | Q So Mrs. ^{REDACTED} , I believe that concludes |
| 20 | everything that I wanted to cover with you. Thank you |
| 21 | so much. But there is one more area. |
| 22 | You were here yesterday when Ms. McCarthy |
| 23 | described her observation of REDACTED? |
| 24 | A Correct. |
| 25 | Q And did you hear Ms. McCarthy say that based |

| 1 | on her observation REDACTED was called on in a general |
|-----|---|
| 2 | education class 25 times in a 30-minute period? |
| 3 | A Yes. |
| 4 | Q Have you ever discussed with REDAGLED what makes |
| 5 | her anxious in the school environment? |
| 6 | A Yes. |
| 7 | Q Okay. When you heard Ms. McCarthy's |
| 8 | testimony, did you have any thoughts about how that |
| 9 | would affect REDACTED ? |
| 10 | A Yes. |
| 11 | Q Please share that with Ms. Freeman. |
| 12 | A Yes, REDACTED is very anxious about her peers |
| 13 | seeing her deficits, and I think that being called on |
| 14 | 25 times in 30 minutes would create a lot of anxiety. |
| 15 | Q Was that a concern you had expressed to |
| 16 | Ms. McCluskey and Ms. Houston previously? |
| 17 | A Yes. |
| 18 | Q Okay. Anything else that I failed to address |
| 19 | with you? |
| 20 | A I don't think so, no. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: Okay. Ms. Freeman, that |
| 22 | completes my questioning. I appreciate the |
| 23 | opportunity. |
| 24 | And since this will probably be the last time |
| 25 | I talk to you, I would just like to say it's really |
| u l | |

| n | |
|----|--|
| 1 | been an honor to represent you and Mr. REDACTED, so |
| 2 | thank you. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mrs. REDACTED n. |
| 4 | It's been a joy. And Mr. REDACTED. |
| 5 | Although, do we have any cross-examination? |
| 6 | MS. OWENS: Yes, ma'am. |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead. |
| 8 | MR. ANDRIANO: Can we just take a short break? |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Sure. Go ahead. |
| 10 | |
| 11 | (Break taken.) |
| 12 | |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: So we're back on the |
| 14 | record now with the testimony which will be the |
| 15 | cross-examination of REDACTED , who is the mother |
| 16 | of REDACTED . |
| 17 | |
| 18 | REBUTTAL CROSS-EXAMINATION |
| 19 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
| 20 | Q Good morning, Mrs. ^{REDACTED} . I just have a few |
| 21 | follow-up questions for you in response to the |
| 22 | questions that you answered from Mr. Ratner. |
| 23 | If I could direct your attention to School |
| 24 | Board Exhibit Number 54, particularly the second page |
| 25 | of that document, which would be page 258. |

| 1 | A Okay. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Q Remember this letter you were referencing? |
| 3 | A Yes. |
| 4 | Q If you could just take a look at the first |
| 5 | sentence in the second paragraph, please. |
| 6 | A Uh-huh. |
| 7 | Q Doesn't it indicate that REDACTED 's education |
| 8 | record is available for your inspection and review at |
| 9 | no charge to you? |
| 10 | A I'm sorry, the second paragraph? |
| 11 | Q Yes, ma'am, second paragraph, very first |
| 12 | sentence. |
| 13 | MR. RATNER: We'll stipulate to what the |
| 14 | letter says. That's not an issue. |
| 15 | MR. ANDRIANO: Okay. Is that okay, |
| 16 | Ms. Freeman? |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Because the third paragraph kind |
| 19 | of contradicts that statement. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: This is School Board |
| 21 | Exhibit 54, both parties agree to stipulate that |
| 22 | this is in the record and to the statements that |
| 23 | were made in the email. |
| 24 | MR. RATNER: It's not in the email. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Where are you now? |

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| 2 MR. RATNER: Page 258. 3 MR. ANDRIANO: First sentence. 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, 258. I thought you 5 said 57. 6 MR. ANDRIANO: I'm sorry, School Board 54. 7 MR. RATNER: You're in the right place. 8 There's an email that says, Please see attached 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. 17 I have a follow-up, which could also perhaps |
|--|
| 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, 258. I thought you 5 said 57. 6 MR. ANDRIANO: I'm sorry, School Board 54. 7 MR. RATNER: You're in the right place. 8 There's an email that says, Please see attached 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: Content 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 5 said 57. 6 MR. ANDRIANO: I'm sorry, School Board 54. 7 MR. RATNER: You're in the right place. 8 There's an email that says, Please see attached 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: """" 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| MR. ANDRIANO: I'm sorry, School Board 54. MR. RATNER: You're in the right place. There's an email that says, Please see attached letter, and then we're talking about the letter, which is 258. THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 258. MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of the sentence under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act: """" 's education record is available for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 7 MR. RATNER: You're in the right place. 8 There's an email that says, Please see attached 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: ****** 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 8 There's an email that says, Please see attached 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: Example's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 9 letter, and then we're talking about the letter, 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: Maximum 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 10 which is 258. 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: Concert's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry. Okay. So 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: Control 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 12 258. 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: EDACTED 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 13 MR. RATNER: We stipulate to the accuracy of 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: REDACTED 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 14 the sentence under the Family Education Rights and 15 Privacy Act: REDACTED 's education record is available 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 15Privacy Act:REDACTED's education record is available16for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| 16 for inspection and review at no charge to you. |
| |
| I have a follow-up, which could also perhaps |
| |
| 18 be dealt with similarly, which is that at the first |
| 19 sentence of the third paragraph says, Further, to |
| 20 the extent you are requesting, quote, classwork |
| 21 archived in Canvas for the 2020-2021 school year, |
| 22 such records, if any, may not constitute an |
| 23 education record. Then it goes on to say, Those |
| 24 records would have to be requested pursuant to |
| 25 FOIA. |

| 1 | Do you agree with that? |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. ANDRIANO: Correct. As long as we're |
| 3 | agreeing to the exact wording of the letter, I have |
| 4 | no concerns. |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: Exactly. No characterizing. |
| 6 | Just her to take a look at it. |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. You both |
| 8 | MR. ANDRIANO: That exhibit is already in |
| 9 | evidence. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: You agree to the content |
| 11 | of the letter it's on Old Hundred Elementary |
| 12 | School stationary as Exhibit Number 258 page |
| 13 | number 258 out of Exhibit 54, and both parties want |
| 14 | me to look with particular deference to the |
| 15 | contents of this letter, specifically regarding the |
| 16 | FOIA and the FERPA all the information that's in |
| 17 | here. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Correct. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Right? |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: Yes, ma'am. |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Which both parties |
| 22 | stipulate is accurate. |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: Yes, ma'am. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Next. |
| 25 | |

| 1 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
|----|--|
| 2 | Q Mrs. ^{REDACTED} , if you could take a look at |
| 3 | School Board 37, please. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: I understand Mr. Andriano hasn't |
| 5 | asked a question yet, but this seems like it might |
| 6 | be beyond the scope because we definitely did not |
| 7 | talk about this document. |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm so sorry to |
| 9 | interrupt you. What is the Exhibit Number? |
| 10 | MR. ANDRIANO: 37. |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: 37. Okay. I'm looking |
| 12 | at the IEP. And what is the question about it? |
| 13 | MR. ANDRIANO: I'm sorry, what was |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: What was your question |
| 15 | about it? |
| 16 | MR. ANDRIANO: I haven't asked it. I was just |
| 17 | simply directing her. |
| 18 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
| 19 | Q Mrs. REDACTED, this is the IEP from February 19, |
| 20 | 2021, correct? |
| 21 | A Correct. |
| 22 | Q And you were there? |
| 23 | A Yes. |
| 24 | Q REDACTED family attorney was there? |
| 25 | MS. RATNER: Objection. Beyond the scope. |

| | 232 Due 1100033 Hearing - Day 0 01 0 |
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| 1 | MR. ANDRIANO: It's not beyond the scope. |
| 2 | Mr. Ratner specifically asked her about the |
| 3 | February 19, 2021, IEP. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: Ms. Freeman, if you recall |
| 5 | yesterday |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Hold on. Let me |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: I did ask about the meeting. I |
| 8 | agree with that. |
| 9 | MR. ANDRIANO: Then he opened the door, and |
| 10 | I'm entitled to walk through it. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: I'm so sorry, if I could finish, |
| 12 | please. |
| 13 | We had a very clear colloquy on this yesterday |
| 14 | where Ms. Owens asked about MAPs testing, and then |
| 15 | there was a discussion about because she didn't ask |
| 16 | about a specific data point on the MAPs testing |
| 17 | that that question was beyond the scope. This has |
| 18 | to be applied consistently. Either it's beyond the |
| 19 | scope if you talk about it or it's not. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, commentary will |
| 21 | not be permitted and |
| 22 | MS. RATNER: Well, we don't know how we can |
| 23 | make objections, and we need our objections to be |
| 24 | preserved. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. That's fine. I |
| | |

| 1 | do remember that this morning that you asked |
|----|--|
| 2 | Mrs. REDACTED about the IEP. |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: That's inaccurate. I asked about |
| 4 | the meeting. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: You asked about the |
| 6 | meeting that occurred at the 2/19 IEP meeting? |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: Right. That's different than |
| 8 | asking about an IEP. |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Was your question to do |
| 10 | with the IEP meeting? |
| 11 | MR. ANDRIANO: Yes and no. He asked her about |
| 12 | this meeting because grades were discussed. I'm |
| 13 | simply going to follow up on the grade discussion |
| 14 | that, again, he opened the door to. If he didn't |
| 15 | want me to ask about this document, he shouldn't |
| 16 | have brought up. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm noting your |
| 18 | exception and moving forward. Ask the question. |
| 19 | Overruled. |
| 20 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
| 21 | Q Mrs. ^{REDACTED} , does it say ^{REDACTED} family attorney |
| 22 | was present at that meeting? |
| 23 | A It does. |
| 24 | Q And doesn't it indicate that a family |
| 25 | advocate was present at that meeting? |

| 1 | A It does. |
|-----|---|
| 2 | Q Thank you. If you could please turn to page |
| 3 | 162 of that document, and I'd like to direct your |
| 4 | attention to the very first paragraph, last two |
| 5 | sentences of that paragraph. |
| 6 | A Give me a minute. Can you give me my |
| 7 | glasses? |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: Again, Ms. Freeman, we will |
| 9 | stipulate to the documents saying what it says. If |
| 10 | Mr. Andriano wants to highlight to you sentences he |
| 11 | would like you to look at, I don't have any |
| 12 | problem. |
| 13 | MR. ANDRIANO: And that's fine with us, |
| 14 | Ms. Freeman. I just want to make it clear that the |
| 15 | increasing grades were discussed at the |
| 16 | February 19, 2021, IEP meeting and that Mrs. REDACTED |
| 17 | consented to this IEP. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me get that down. |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: I'm so sorry. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's okay. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: I will agree to both of those |
| 22 | points independently, yes, the grades were |
| 23 | discussed; yes, she subsequently consented to it. |
| 24 | I don't believe they are necessarily connected. |
| 25 | That will be an inference you will have to draw |
| L I | |

| 1 | yourself. Is that fair with you? |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. ANDRIANO: It is except the increase in |
| 3 | the grades |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: The increase in the grades. |
| 5 | MR. ANDRIANO: were discussed at the |
| 6 | February 19, 2021. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: She said that already. |
| 8 | MS. RATNER: And I'm sorry |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: This is the subject of |
| 10 | Mrs. REDACTED what she testified to just now, that |
| 11 | that was her concern were that the grades |
| 12 | increased. |
| 13 | MS. RATNER: She did not I have to correct |
| 14 | my husband on something. I'm sorry. She did not |
| 15 | consent to the accuracy of the IEP. She and you |
| 16 | can argue that makes no legal difference, which I'm |
| 17 | sure you will. But she signed the IEP subject to |
| 18 | express conditions and reservations of rights that |
| 19 | are memorialized in the exhibit. |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: Nothing about grades. |
| 21 | MS. RATNER: She that is a fact whether |
| 22 | or not information in the IEP so let me ask you |
| 23 | this, Patrick, you're saying that a parent who |
| 24 | signs an IEP to get services for their child, that |
| 25 | necessarily is an admission that every factual |
| u | |

statement and every section of the IEP is accurate? 1 2 MR. ANDRIANO: My point is she was there with 3 her attorney, with her advocate. They were part of 4 the team that developed this document. If she had 5 concerns with the grades at this particular 6 meeting, I don't know why she would have signed 7 consent to it. 8 We have a tape recording that MS. RATNER: shows her and her advocate and her attorney 9 10 expressing all of these concerns that has been excluded. So the idea -- the idea and several of 11 12 your witnesses have testified to how long the 13 The idea that everything discussed meeting it was. 14 in the meeting is memorialized in writing in that 15 IEP is false. I understand your position. 16 MR. ANDRIANO: 17 And I am just making -- and I agree with 18 Mr. Ratner's stipulation. If we agree, it says 19 what it says, and it indicates that they were 20 present at the meeting. 21 THE WITNESS: I think the Hearing Officer 22 should just look at the signature page. If you 23 look at it, just so you know what we're talking 24 about. 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there a note there?

THE WITNESS: 1 Yes. 2 MR. ANDRIANO: It just say, s, with conditions. 3 It doesn't indicate anything about there was a 4 disagreement with the grades. 5 That's fine. MR. RATNER: Again, there's a 6 recording that hasn't been played, but you can draw 7 whatever conclusions you want. THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't think we ever 8 9 got to the finality of the ruling on -- at least I 10 don't recall that there was finality on whether or not that recording would be accepted. 11 12 We considered it final because we MS. RATNER: 13 were asked to provide it to them again, and we 14 object to that, because we have evidence that we 15 provided it timely, that it was downloaded by 16 Mr. Andriano --17THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I remember that 18 discussion. 19 MS. RATNER: But it was accepted -- the word 20 that it wasn't provided, we didn't see anything we 21 could do to change that, if it's not going to be 22 accepted that we have. I don't know. Maybe we'll 23 get an affidavit from the document company. So we 24 did not -- there was nothing in any of the 25 discussion or the ruling that we heard as an

| | 52 Due 1 100033 meaning - Duy 0 01 0 5,00/24 |
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| 1 | ambiguity that we could continue arguing that |
| 2 | point. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: So what's the last thing |
| 4 | you said? |
| 5 | MS. RATNER: We interpreted the decision as |
| 6 | final. |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I thought we were in the |
| 8 | process if I recall correctly, there was a lot |
| 9 | of discussion about whether or not the recording |
| 10 | would be admitted, and I think at the conclusion, |
| 11 | if I remember correctly, but that was last week, I |
| 12 | believe at the conclusion of the discussion, School |
| 13 | counsel and Parents' counsel agreed to discuss |
| 14 | whether or not it would you would stipulate that |
| 15 | this was a recording of the meeting, and I don't |
| 16 | know if that was just never finalized because you |
| 17 | didn't agree? |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: We were never able to reach an |
| 19 | agreement. |
| 20 | MS. RATNER: We had no agreement reached. |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's where I was left |
| 22 | with it. |
| 23 | MS. RATNER: And they object to it on multiple |
| 24 | grounds, including the statement that they did not |
| 25 | receive it. |
| ш | |

Did the Hearing Officer receive 1 MR. ANDRIANO: 2 it? 3 THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't know. 4 MS. RATNER: The Hearing Officer did receive 5 it, and we can produce, as I offered to do last 6 week, documentation of it being produced, the 7 email. 8 THE HEARING OFFICER: If you sent it to me, then I received it. 9 10 MS. RATNER: Right. Yes. Thank you very much 11 for saying that. I appreciate that. 12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm inclined to 13 take it and listen to it. 14 Thank you. MS. RATNER: Great. 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: So it's admitted. 16 However, if I interpret the meeting, when I listen 17 to it, to be stilted or maybe I get an idea that 18 information has been manipulated, then I'm going to 19 stop listening to it. 20 MR. ANDRIANO: That is our position, as you know, Ms. Freeman, first of all, it was -- and I 21 22 believe Mr. Ratner even said this, it was not a 23 complete recording of the meeting. 24 Is that what you said? THE HEARING OFFICER: 25 The recording began a few minutes MS. RATNER:

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| 1 | into the meeting. However, there is nothing |
| 2 | altered for the portion of the meeting it is, |
| 3 | which is about ten minutes in until the conclusion |
| 4 | of the meeting. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: It's just missing ten |
| 6 | minutes? |
| 7 | MS. RATNER: From the beginning. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: I don't even know that it's that |
| 9 | long. |
| 10 | MS. RATNER: It may be five minutes. It may |
| 11 | be two minutes. I don't know. Maybe Mrs. REDACTED |
| 12 | knows. But the remainder of the recording has not |
| 13 | been altered, has not been stopped and started. It |
| 14 | is a genuine recording |
| 15 | MR. ANDRIANO: How does she know? |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: Again, I find that a little bit |
| 17 | offensive because Mrs. REDACTED is under oath. |
| 18 | MR. ANDRIANO: You weren't there. How would |
| 19 | you know? |
| 20 | MR. RATNER: Mrs. REDACTED is under oath. And my |
| 21 | impression was when we had this discussion that if |
| 22 | the School Board had a full recording, there |
| 23 | wouldn't be any concerns about alterations. |
| 24 | MR. ANDRIANO: Right. |
| 25 | MR. RATNER: And how would we know? |

| 1 | MR. ANDRIANO: Because there was no recording. |
|----|---|
| 2 | The School Board didn't record that meeting. |
| 3 | MR. RATNER: If you did, we weren't allowed to |
| 4 | question the authenticity of it or whether it had |
| 5 | been manipulated. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Have you listened to it? |
| 7 | MR. ANDRIANO: No, we have not. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: He downloaded it on March 4th. |
| 9 | If he's never listened to it, that's on him. |
| 10 | MR. ANDRIANO: But as we indicated |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: But it was provided to |
| 12 | you is my problem. |
| 13 | MR. ANDRIANO: We assume so. I don't know. |
| 14 | But, again, it's not a business record. It was a |
| 15 | surreptitious recording. |
| 16 | THE HEARING OFFICER: You don't know that if |
| 17 | you haven't listened to it. |
| 18 | MR. ANDRIANO: How could it Ms. Freeman, |
| 19 | does the parent |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: How do you know it's |
| 21 | surreptitious if you haven't listened to it? |
| 22 | MR. ANDRIANO: But we pointed you to the |
| 23 | letters that indicated that the School Board did |
| 24 | not record the meeting. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I remember that. |

| 1 | MR. ANDRIANO: And that in the future |
|----|--|
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: They need to request |
| 3 | permission. |
| 4 | MR. ANDRIANO: The attorney that was |
| 5 | representing them needs to notify the School |
| 6 | Division in advance. It's not a business record. |
| 7 | It's not a business record unless the School |
| 8 | Board |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Who took the recording? |
| 10 | MS. RATNER: The then attorney. |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Mueller? |
| 12 | MS. RATNER: Correct. |
| 13 | MR. RATNER: Correct. Mrs. REDACTED was present. |
| 14 | MS. RATNER: And there's a dispute as to |
| 15 | whether the we know the School District says |
| 16 | they weren't informed. Mrs. REDACTED says they were. |
| 17 | As we said before, with the VAC, the remedy for not |
| 18 | telling in advance that you're recording a |
| 19 | meeting again, I'm not conceding she didn't |
| 20 | tell. She did. But hypothetically if she did not, |
| 21 | the remedy for that is to provide a recording. The |
| 22 | recording was provided after the fact. Every bit |
| 23 | of the recording that exists was provided in its |
| 24 | completeness. In fact, it goes on at the end, |
| 25 | Mr. Mueller is on a phone call with some other |

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| 1 | person and forgot to turn off the recording, and we |
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| 2 | left it in there to make sure there was no so he |
| 3 | started it I think he was a few minutes late to |
| 4 | the meeting, started it a few minutes late, but I |
| 5 | stayed in my place as an officer of the court, |
| 6 | member of the bar, that recording has not altered. |
| 7 | It has not been or anything removed from it. |
| 8 | Every bit of it that exists was provided. And |
| 9 | Mr. Andriano downloaded it on March 4, 2022. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: How do you know he |
| 11 | downloaded it? |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: We showed you. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, you did. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: I sent the link to you. I sent |
| 15 | it to him, and it shows that he downloaded it. I |
| 16 | showed it to you, and I would be happy to show you |
| 17 | again. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to accept it |
| 19 | over your objection. I'm going to note your |
| 20 | exception to the ruling, but I'm going to accept it |
| 21 | and listen to it. And the reason for that is I |
| 22 | understand that surreptitious recordings and they |
| 23 | can be altered and all that sort of thing, but |
| 24 | Ms. Ratner did point out one important point that I |
| 25 | completely neglected to consider, which was that it |

| 1 was taken by she says, and I believe her, that 2 it was taken by the record was taken the 3 audio recording was taken by Mr. Mueller, who is an 4 attorney is he presently a member of the 5 Virginia State Bar? 6 MR. RATNER: He is. 7 THE HEARING OFFICER: He's not here to testify 8 about the authenticity but rules are relaxed. 9 MR. ANDRIANO: Ms. Freeman 10 THE HEARING OFFICER: I am just going to 11 listen to it, and I will say, I've listened to 12 recordings by advocates because, as you know, the 13 advocates take recordings of IEP meetings, of all 14 sorts of meetings, and I don't know exactly what 15 they say when they go in to record, but I would 16 imagine that the school system always records for 17 the reason that we're arguing about right now, 18 authenticity. But if your representation to me, 19 Ms. Ratner, is that the recording was taken by a 20 Virginia attorney, then I will take it. 21 MS. RATNER: Thank you. That is my 22 represent | | |
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| 24 court. | 22 | representation. |
| | 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: As an officer of the |
| 25 MR. ANDRIANO: Ms. Freeman, one last point | 24 | court. |
| | 25 | MR. ANDRIANO: Ms. Freeman, one last point |

Just a minute. 1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Hold on. 2 Another thought just occurred. 3 When I listen to this -- and I believe you-all 4 said that it was about three hours long, but I'll 5 listen to the whole thing -- the whole recording. 6 I don't want to refer to it as a thing. But the 7 whole audio recording, if when I'm listening to it, however, it's evident that I can't hear people; 8 that there's so much confusion that there's no 9 10 point in listening to it, that people are speaking over each other, which happens guite a bit at --11 12 That was actually a very MS. RATNER: 13 civilized and polite meeting, so I don't think --14 but I understand what you're saying. 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you. 16 MR. ANDRIANO: Just one last point on it 17again, I'm not questioning Ms. Ratner's veracity. 18 What I'm saying is she's -- she has a recording 19 from a third party. I know it's unusual. 20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ι 21 And I'm going to note your exception. know. But 22 I'm going to listen to the recording unless when I 23 get into it, it appears that I shouldn't be 24 listening to it. 25 Understood. Thank you for your MR. ANDRIANO:

| 1 | consideration. |
|----|--|
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. So are we |
| 3 | so we've addressed then the audio recording, which |
| 4 | is accepted with limitations. |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: So that's Exhibits 33, |
| 6 | Parents' 33. |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Parents' 33. All right. |
| 8 | |
| 9 | (Parents' Exhibit No. 33 admitted.) |
| 10 | |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Where are we? |
| 12 | MR. ANDRIANO: I have just one or two more |
| 13 | questions, and then we can let Mrs. REDACTED go. |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. |
| 15 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
| 16 | Q Mrs. REDACTED, could you turn to School |
| 17 | Board 53? |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Mr. Andriano, 53? |
| 19 | MR. ANDRIANO: Yes. |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: 53 of? |
| 21 | MR. ANDRIANO: School Board 53. |
| 22 | BY MR. ANDRIANO: |
| 23 | Q This is REDACTED 's fifth grade report card, |
| 24 | correct, Mrs. REDACTED? |
| 25 | A Correct. |

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Q And you and Mr. REDACTED received this document? |
| 2 | A Correct. |
| 3 | Q If you could please turn to the second page, |
| 4 | which is Bates 256. |
| 5 | Do you see that page, ma'am? |
| 6 | A Yes. |
| 7 | Q If you look down in the bottom right-hand |
| 8 | corner, do you see the statement Parent-teacher |
| 9 | conference requested? |
| 10 | A Yes. |
| 11 | Q And that box is not checked, is it? |
| 12 | A This isn't the one I received. This is the |
| 13 | end of the year. So, no, on the end-of-the-year one, |
| 14 | it is not. You know, without seeing the first quarter |
| 15 | report card, second quarter record card or third |
| 16 | quarter report card, I cannot say whether or not I |
| 17 | checked it. |
| 18 | Q I understand, ma'am. But this document right |
| 19 | here, the box is not checked for a parent-teacher |
| 20 | A Is this the one that |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: We will stipulate. |
| 22 | MS. RATNER: We will stipulate to it. |
| 23 | MR. ANDRIANO: All right. Great. Thank you. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. |
| 25 | MR. ANDRIANO: Thank you, Mrs. REDACTED. |

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. 1 Do we have 2 any more questions? 3 One second, please. MR. RATNER: 4 No, we don't have any more. Thank you. 5 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. We may have 6 some motions. Do you want to take those up now 7 while we're still on the record? As far as -- I've allowed Mrs. REDACTED to make her -- finish her 8 9 testimony, and you may be dismissed. You can qo 10 back to your seat, and thank you very much. So now we're going to do motions. 11 We'll do 12 them on the record or not? 13 MR. ANDRIANO: The School Board doesn't have 14 any motions. 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Do you have any motions? 16 The Parents would like to MR. RATNER: We do. 17 move into evidence all of the exhibits that were 18 provided in advance, so that is Volumes 1 through 19 4, Exhibits 1 through 125, and then we had a few 20 additional ones today that have already been --Which I've handed over 21 THE HEARING OFFICER: 22 to the court reporter --23 THE COURT REPORTER: I don't have those 24 exhibits. 25 Actually, I took those THE HEARING OFFICER:

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| 1 | back. |
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| 2 | MR. RATNER: So the one point of clarification |
| 3 | is with respect to Exhibit 125. Although |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Is that yours? |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: It is Parents' 125. It is on our |
| 6 | list. It is in the electronic version of the |
| 7 | documents. I believe it is in Mr. Andriano's book. |
| 8 | I kept it out because I was going to hand it up |
| 9 | when we actually discussed it. It is a comparison |
| 10 | of the two service logs that we've asked you to |
| 11 | note, and so I want to make sure we are offering |
| 12 | this as well. I'll show it to Mr. Andriano first. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: This was 125. |
| 15 | MR. ANDRIANO: I do remember that. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: So we would like all |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there any objection? |
| 18 | MR. ANDRIANO: Yes, ma'am. Again, the ruling |
| 19 | in this case, and this was discussed at the |
| 20 | prehearing conference, the very last one, that |
| 21 | exhibits were to be introduced individually. The |
| 22 | School Board had lots of objections to the Parents' |
| 23 | exhibits. This is rebuttal. This is not the |
| 24 | Parents' case in chief. So any exhibits that were |
| 25 | to be introduced should have been introduced with |

| 1 | the witness who was on the witness stand to lay the |
|----|---|
| 2 | proper foundation and hear objections. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. So this |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: Let me make just one brief |
| 5 | comment, and then I will let you rule. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Go ahead. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: So I agree with most of what |
| 8 | Mr. Andriano said, but you will recall specifically |
| 9 | before we rested, I said, I have additional |
| 10 | documents I'd like to get in; we can do it today |
| 11 | or I just don't want them to make a motion to |
| 12 | dismiss. So I disagree with his point about this |
| 13 | is rebuttal and the wrong time. We don't need to |
| 14 | argue it anymore. We are offering all these. You |
| 15 | certainly can reject them, but we are offering them |
| 16 | all into evidence. I don't think we need any more |
| 17 | discussion on it. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me read it. So you |
| 19 | object to this document being admitted? |
| 20 | MR. ANDRIANO: Yes, ma'am. There's been no |
| 21 | foundation for that document. |
| 22 | MS. OWENS: Or who created it. |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: It's really that particular |
| 24 | one is really just for your benefit as you a |
| 25 | compare the logs. You can decide for yourself if |
| u | |

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|-----------|--|
| 1 | it's accurate or not. But to be clear, that's not |
| 2 | the only document we're offering. We are offering |
| 3 | every single exhibit. |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Any objection to let |
| 5 | me go over this one. As counsel has stated, |
| 6 | there's been no foundation for this document. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: I'm sorry, what was that? |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: This service log was |
| 9 | provided by a Mr. Gonzalez, who is the assistant |
| 10 | principal. That's what it says. |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: It was handed one of the |
| 12 | service logs was handed to Mrs. REDACTED by |
| 13 | Mr. Gonzalez. That was the testimony. No one is |
| 14 | saying he prepared it. But in any event, just to |
| 15 | fully identify it for the record, it is a document |
| 16 | identified as Parents' Exhibit 125, and the Bates |
| 17 | numbers are Parents' 002378 through 2388. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I have no idea where |
| 19 | this document came from. I don't know what it is |
| 20 | supposed to tell me. There's been no foundation. |
| 21 | MR. RATNER: Well, there has been. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to reject it. |
| 23 | |
| 24 | (Parents' Exhibit No. 125 offered and |
| 25 | rejected.) |
| | |

| 1 | |
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| 2 | MR. RATNER: That's fine. I don't want it |
| 3 | back. I think it's supposed to be part of the |
| 4 | administrative record. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there any objection |
| 6 | to him introducing or the Parents introducing |
| 7 | all of these documents? And the basis is that |
| 8 | these documents all of these documents were not |
| 9 | necessarily addressed during the hearing? |
| 10 | MR. ANDRIANO: They absolutely were not. |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: So what I'm going to do |
| 12 | is accept all the documents that were introduced, |
| 13 | according to the court reporter. She's the one who |
| 14 | keeps the record of all of that. She's going to |
| 15 | give me a list of all those documents, and that's |
| 16 | what is admitted. |
| 17 | However, I'll take all your books with me so I |
| 18 | can pull the documents out. |
| 19 | |
| 20 | (Parents' Exhibits Volumes 1 through 4, |
| 21 | Exhibit Nos. 1 through 124 offered and |
| 22 | rejected, except for Parent Exhibits |
| 23 | individually admitted.) |
| 24 | |
| 25 | MS. RATNER: And the ones rejected, our |

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| 1 | understanding is they are still part of the record. |
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: They are. |
| 3 | MS. RATNER: They are not admitted, but they |
| 4 | are still in the record. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah. Anything that's |
| 6 | rejected just generally, she keeps, "she" meaning |
| 7 | the court reporter, keeps a record of it and she |
| 8 | will have a list of the items that were admitted |
| 9 | and then items that were rejected. |
| 10 | MR. RATNER: If I could just clarify on |
| 11 | that |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: The other things I did |
| 13 | accept today, I think there was a couple of emails. |
| 14 | MR. RATNER: There were. But I think there |
| 15 | was one you rejected and gave back to me. |
| 16 | MR. ANDRIANO: That's the November 6, 2019. |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: Just for clarity, it's a two-page |
| 18 | document REDACTED 496 and 497. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Are there any more |
| 20 | motions? |
| 21 | MR. ANDRIANO: Nothing from the School Board. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Any motions from you? |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: Just one moment. I don't think |
| 24 | so. |
| 25 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Just so you know, I'm |
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| 1 | going to get my technology assistant to pull up the |
| 2 | three-hour approximately recording, and I'll listen |
| 3 | to it. |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: Yes. And if you have any |
| 5 | difficulty with that, please let me know. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I will. |
| 7 | MR. RATNER: Because we have |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I shouldn't if she pulls |
| 9 | it up. |
| 10 | MR. RATNER: What deadline would you like us |
| 11 | to provide |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let's go over that. |
| 13 | Thank you for bringing that up. |
| 14 | So I think I mentioned in the prehearing |
| 15 | report how long the closing document is to be; that |
| 16 | there's supposed to be double spacing in it and |
| 17 | including footnotes; if I recall correctly, it |
| 18 | can't be any longer than 20 pages. |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: That's consistent with my |
| 20 | recollection, but I will defer to the order. |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: What it says in the |
| 22 | prehearing report is the way it's supposed to be. |
| 23 | MR. RATNER: Yes, ma'am. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And did you have any |
| 25 | questions about that? |
| L L | |

| 1 | MR. ANDRIANO: We do not. |
|----|---|
| 2 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And the index for all |
| 3 | the cases and the cases will be in there? |
| 4 | MR. RATNER: That's right. So the question is |
| 5 | when would you like it? |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let's see. Let me pull |
| 7 | my calendar out. |
| 8 | MS. OWENS: Yesterday you indicated a weak |
| 9 | before your decision was due. |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah, it just has to be |
| 11 | to me before my decision is due. I'm thinking |
| 12 | about a week before. |
| 13 | MS. RATNER: It can't be like the day. |
| 14 | THE HEARING OFFICER: We've already had the |
| 15 | discussion, unless you want me to go over it again, |
| 16 | about when the transcripts are going to be |
| 17 | provided. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: We've got that, yes. |
| 19 | THE HEARING OFFICER: We do. Okay. |
| 20 | MS. OWENS: Your decision is due on |
| 21 | April 16th. |
| 22 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's what my |
| 23 | recollection is, but I'm going to recount the days |
| 24 | because sometimes I will do the day after instead |
| 25 | of the day of and I always go over it again, but |
| u | |

| 1 | I think it's the 16th of April. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. OWENS: Yes, ma'am. So if it's due a week |
| 3 | before, would that mean it's due the 9th of April? |
| 4 | That's a Saturday. Both are Saturdays. |
| 5 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, no, we don't have |
| 6 | anything due on Saturday. So I'll give you to the |
| 7 | following Monday, if that's all right. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: Or maybe the previous Friday so |
| 9 | you have more time with the briefs? |
| 10 | THE HEARING OFFICER: What do you-all prefer? |
| 11 | Do you want Monday or Friday? |
| 12 | MS. OWENS: Since, you know, since the School |
| 13 | Board is the respondent in the case, if the Parents |
| 14 | could provide their response their closing brief |
| 15 | by the 8th and the |
| 16 | MS. RATNER: No, we object to that. That was |
| 17 | decided. They are going to be simultaneous. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: We are going to do it |
| 19 | simultaneously. I think that makes it easier, and |
| 20 | it actually gives you a lot less work, I think. |
| 21 | All sides have done so much work on this case. |
| 22 | MS. OWENS: So the 11th then, Ms. Freeman, is |
| 23 | what I'm hearing? That's the Monday. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That sounds good. |
| 25 | Is that okay with you? |

| 1 | MR. RATNER: Fine with us. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MS. RATNER: By 5 p.m. or by end of the day, |
| 3 | 11:55? |
| 4 | THE HEARING OFFICER: End of the day. That |
| 5 | last second sometimes is so important. |
| 6 | MR. RATNER: Just to clarify |
| 7 | THE HEARING OFFICER: When closings are due? |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: Yes. |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: The 11th. And |
| 10 | everyone that's acceptable to both sides, right? |
| 11 | MR. RATNER: Yes, ma'am. If we have a lot of |
| 12 | case law, which I expect we will, it will probably |
| 13 | be too big to email directly and we will have to |
| 14 | send a link like we did with our exhibits. |
| 15 | MR. ANDRIANO: I thought she just wanted an |
| 16 | index of cases. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I just wanted an index. |
| 18 | MR. RATNER: Oh, you |
| 19 | MS. RATNER: I thought you |
| 20 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And the actual cases. |
| 21 | MR. ANDRIANO: Oh, you want the actual case? |
| 22 | I'm sorry. I thought you just wanted an index of |
| 23 | cases. |
| 24 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't want to spend my |
| 25 | whole time looking |

| 1 | MR. ANDRIANO: Right. So you want an index |
|----|--|
| 2 | plus the actual cases. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: If that's no problem. |
| 4 | MR. ANDRIANO: No, ma'am. |
| 5 | MR. RATNER: It may have just have to be a |
| 6 | link to download instead of a direct email. If you |
| 7 | have trouble downloading it, just let us know. |
| 8 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Is everybody comfortable |
| 9 | just giving me a link where I can connect to the |
| 10 | case? Is that better for everybody? Is that |
| 11 | easier? |
| 12 | MR. RATNER: It just depends on how big of a |
| 13 | document it turns out when we're done. There's a |
| 14 | limit on |
| 15 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me give you the |
| 16 | ability to do both. How about that? |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: Sure. That's great. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That doesn't mean that |
| 19 | you have to do both. It means you can do one or |
| 20 | the other. |
| 21 | MR. ANDRIANO: One being the link. |
| 22 | MR. RATNER: Either email it directly |
| 23 | THE HEARING OFFICER: If I can press a button |
| 24 | and it just comes up for me, it's so much easier |
| 25 | than my having to figure out where it is and get |
| u | |

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| 1 | ahold of the case. That takes up a lot of time. |
| 2 | MR. RATNER: And the issue is simply there's a |
| 3 | technological if it's bigger than 25 megabytes, |
| 4 | not to get into too much detail, the email won't go |
| 5 | through. So it just depends how big it is. |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I will have to consult |
| 7 | my technology assistant on a megabyte. |
| 8 | MR. RATNER: That's all I'm saying, Patrick. |
| 9 | Electronic delivery either as an attachment to an |
| 10 | email or a link. |
| 11 | MR. ANDRIANO: Got it. |
| 12 | THE HEARING OFFICER: That's fine. Either way |
| 13 | is fine. |
| 14 | MR. ANDRIANO: And Ms. Freeman, just for |
| 15 | clarity, that's due on the same date as the closing |
| 16 | brief, right? |
| 17 | MR. RATNER: It is the closing brief. |
| 18 | THE HEARING OFFICER: I would say so, yeah. |
| 19 | MR. RATNER: We're considering it all one in |
| 20 | the same, and it will be prior to midnight. |
| 21 | THE HEARING OFFICER: We could get the closing |
| 22 | in on Friday, the written in that Friday that |
| 23 | precedes what was that? The 8th, I believe. |
| 24 | And then get the case links maybe on Monday. If |
| 25 | that would make it easier for you, we could do |

| 1 | that. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. RATNER: No difference to us. |
| 3 | THE HEARING OFFICER: It doesn't make a |
| 4 | difference to you. |
| 5 | Would that be easier for you? |
| 6 | MS. RATNER: I mean, the cases are going to be |
| 7 | cited in the brief, so I was just thinking of that |
| 8 | as all at the same time. |
| 9 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, it might be easier |
| 10 | to some to do that. |
| 11 | MR. ANDRIANO: I would rather just do it all |
| 12 | on the 11th, if that's okay. |
| 13 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. All on the 11th |
| 14 | is fine. You can make your own time arrangements |
| 15 | about submitting. |
| 16 | MR. RATNER: Yes, ma'am. |
| 17 | THE HEARING OFFICER: And if you submit |
| 18 | earlier, that's wonderful. |
| 19 | Okay. Now, as far as I know, the written |
| 20 | decision will be done on or before the 16th. Then |
| 21 | that's the end of the case. And then if there is |
| 22 | an appeal, the appeal rights will be noted at the |
| 23 | end of the decision about where to appeal, what to |
| 24 | do, all that kind of thing. |
| 25 | Unless there are any more motions thank you |

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| 1 | to the observers for being respectful and being | |
| 2 | quiet, and I appreciate it. Thank you so much. | |
| 3 | All right. Are there any more motions? Anything | |
| 4 | else to do? | |
| 5 | MR. ANDRIANO: Nothing from the School Board. | • |
| 6 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you to everyone | |
| 7 | for being as respectful as possible. | |
| 8 | MR. ANDRIANO: Thank you, Ms. Freeman, for | |
| 9 | your service. | |
| 10 | MS. OWENS: Thank you, Ms. Freeman. | |
| 11 | THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | (Hearing concluded at 10:47 a.m.) | |
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| 1 | COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to wit: |
|----|---|
| 2 | I, Lori A. Boeding, CCR, Notary Public in and for |
| 3 | the Commonwealth of Virginia at Large, and whose |
| 4 | commission expires August 31, 2024, do certify that I |
| 5 | was the court reporter at the aforementioned |
| 6 | proceedings and that the foregoing is a true, correct, |
| 7 | and full transcript to the best of my knowledge and |
| 8 | ability of the proceedings herein. |
| 9 | I further certify that I am neither related to |
| 10 | nor associated with any counsel or party to this |
| 11 | proceeding, nor otherwise interested in the event |
| 12 | thereof. |
| 13 | Given under my hand and notarial seal at |
| 14 | Richmond, Virginia, this 8th day of April, 2022. |
| 15 | |
| 16 | |
| 17 | |
| 18 | Lori A. Boeding, CCR |
| 19 | Notary Registration No. 239861 Commonwealth of Virginia at Large |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
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| WORD | 2,014 1999:8 | 11 | 2027:7 | 2044:14 | agreeing |
|---|--|--|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| INDEX | 2,024 1999:9 | | 2084:13 | 2049:18 | 2053:3 |
| | 2,031 1999:5 | <4> | ability 2021:3 | addressed | agreement |
| < 0 > | 2,050 1998:5 | 4 1999:10 | 2036:21 | 2015:24 | 2061:19,20 |
| 000496 | 2,069 1999:2 | 2066:9 | 2081:16 | 2069:3 2075:9 | ahead |
| 2014:21 | 2,074 1999:6 | 2071:19 | 2085:8 | addresses | 2002:19 |
| 000626 | 2,075 1999:12 | 2075:20 | able 2001:3 | 2004:23 | 2009:24 |
| 1999:2 | 2/19 2046:9, | 47232 1995:24 | 2002:12 | addressing | 2017:6, 18 |
| 2030:24 | 20 2056:6 | 496 2076:18 | 2035:2 | 2010:10, 12 | 2028:17 |
| 000627 | 20 2017:7 | 497 2014:21 | 2042:13, 22 | admin | 2043:3 |
| 1999:5 | 2077:18 | 2076:18 | 2061:18 | 2019:18 | 2044:11, 16 |
| 2030:25 | 2019 2076:16 | 4th 2064:8 | absolute | administration | 2046:19 |
| 002378 | 2020 2017:21 | | 2008:11 | 2019:17 | 2050:7, 9 |
| 2074:17 | 2018:24 | < 5 > | absolutely | 2020:20 | 2072:13 |
| 207 1117 | 2038:22 | 5 2080:2 | 2075:10 | administrative | 2073:6 |
| <1> | 2020-2021 | 51 1999:2 | accept | 2075:4 | ahold 2082:1 |
| 1 1999:10 | 2052:21 | 2025:13, 21, | 2008:20 | admission | allowed |
| 2071:18, 19 | 2032 .21 2021 2025:2 | 25 2030:24 | 2009:1, 17 | 2058:25 | 2064:3 2071:8 |
| 2075:20, 21 | 2026:11 | 53 2069:17, | 2030:16, 20 | ADMITTED | alterations |
| 10 2017: <i>17</i> | 2020:11 | 18, 20, 21 | 2056:18, 20 | 1999:2, 12 | 2063:23 |
| 10 2017.17 10:47 | 2027.7 2054:20 | 54 2047:11, | 2000.18, 20 | 2009:20 | altered |
| 1995:15 | 2054.20 | <i>16, 17</i> 2048:7 | 2075:12 | 2009.20 | 2063:2, <i>13</i> |
| 2084:13 | 2055:5 | 2050:24 | acceptable | 2010.15 | 2066:6, 23 |
| 102 1996:5 | 2057:10 | 2050.24 2051:21 | 2080:10 | 2024.9 | ambiguity |
| 102 1990.5 11:18 2026:12 | 2038.0 2022 1995:15 | 2051.27 2052:6 | accepted | 2030.25 | 2061:1 |
| 11:31 2027:7 | 2066:9 | 2052:0 | 2014:22 | 2062:15 | Amendment |
| 11:55 2080: <i>3</i> | 2085:14 | 57 2052:5 | 2014.22 | 2069:9 | 2038:2 <i>3</i> |
| 11.35 2080.5 1111 1996:15 | 2003 .14 2024 2085:4 | 37 2052.5 | 2000.11, 19, 22 2069:4 | 2009.9 | ANDERSON |
| 11th 2079:22 | 2024 2003.4 21 2025:2 | < 6 > | accommodatio | 2075:16, 23 | 1996:14 |
| 2080:9 | 21 2023.2 22-84 1995:8 | 6 2076:16 | n 2021:8 | 2076:3, 8 | ANDRIANO |
| 2083:12, 13 | 23219 1996:16 | 621 2026:7 | 2023:3 | advance | 1996:20 |
| 12 2017: <i>17</i> | 23219 1996:6 | 626 2025:14, | accommodatio | 2065:6, 18 | 1998:5 |
| 12 2017.17 124 1999:10 | 23220 1990.0 2388 2074:17 | 18 2026:3, 8, | ns 2017:24 | 2003.0, 18 | 2001:23 |
| 2075:21 | 239861 | 25 | 2022:18, 23 | adverse | 2001.25 |
| 125 1999:6 | 2085:19 | 627 2025:14, | accuracy | 2005:18 | 23 2005:23 |
| 2071:19 | 2400 1996:15 | 18 2026:3, 8 | 2052:13 | advised | 2006:21 |
| 2072:3, 5, 14 | 25 2049:2, <i>14</i> | 2027:1 | 2052:15 | 2000:18 | 2000.27 |
| 2072:3, 5, 14 | 2082:3 | 2027.1 | accurate | 2011:11 | 2009:7 |
| 126 1999:7 | 256 2070:4 | <7> | 2034:20 | 2011:11 | 2010:9, 14, 17, |
| 2008:25 | 258 2047:12 | 7201 1996:5 | 2053:22 | 2047:17 | 24 2012:4, 11 |
| 2009:20 | 2050:25 | 7201 1770.5 | 2059:1 2074:1 | advocate | 2013:14 |
| 127 1999:8 | 2050:25 | < 8 > | acknowledged | 2056:25 | 2013:14 |
| 2014:13, 22, 24 | $12 \ 2052.2, 4, 10, 12 \ 2053:12, 13$ | 8 1995: <i>13</i> | 2024:22 | 2059:3, 9 | 2017.1 2021:15, 20, |
| 128 1999:9 | 26 2027:7 | 804.648.1636 | Act 2052:15 | advocates | 25 2022:9, 12 |
| 2022:4 2024:9 | 20 2027.7 27 2026:11 | 1996:17 | actual | 2067:12, 13 | 2023:7, 19 |
| 162 2057: <i>3</i> | 27 2020.11 28 2024:17 | 804.665.1040 | 2080:20, 21 | affect 2049:9 | 2025:20, 22 |
| 162 2037.3 16th 2078:21 | 29 2024:17 29 2024:17 | 1996:7 | 2080.20, 21 2081:2 | affidavit | 2025.20, 22 2046:12 |
| 2079:1 | | 8th 2079:15 | add 2046:12 | 2060:23 | 2040.12 |
| 2073.1 | < 3 > | 2082:23 | additional | aforementione | 2050:8, 19 |
| 19 2054: <i>19</i> | 30 1995:15 | 2082:25 | 2019:11 | d 2085:5 | 2051:15 |
| 2055:3 | 2019:24, 25 | 2005.17 | 2013.11 2023:12, 23 | agree | 2053:2, 8, 20 |
| 2055:5 | 2019.24, 25 | < 9 > | 2023.12, 23 | 2022:19 | 2053.2, 8, 20 2054:1, 4, 10, |
| 2057:10 | 2020.15 | 9:00 1995:15 | 2030.22 2071:20 | 2022.19 | 13, 16, 18 |
| 1st 2018:24 | 2033.14 2049:14 | 9:05 2000:1 | 2071:20 | 2053:1,10 | 2055:1,9 |
| 2024:2 | 30-minute | 9:03 2000.7 9:24 2024:2 | additionally | 2055:8 | 2055:1,9 |
| 2027.2 | 2049:2 | 9:24 2024.2 9th 2079:3 | 2045:21 | 2053.8 | 2050.11, 20 |
| < 2 > | 31 2085:4 | 701 2019.3 | address | 2057:21 | 2057:10, 15 |
| 2 2025:13, 22 | 31 2083.4 33 1999:2 | < A > | 2003:21 | 2059:17, 18 | 2058:2, 5, 20 |
| 2 2023:13, 22 2,003 1998:5 | 2069:5, 6, 7, 9 | am 1995:15 | 2003:27 | 2073:7 | 2059:2, 10 |
| 2,003 1998:3 2,009 1999:7 | 37 2054:3, 10, | 2000:1 | 2032:0 | agreed | 2060:2, 10 |
| 4,007 1777./ | <i>31</i> 2034.3, <i>10</i> , | 2000:1 2024:2 | 2043.10 | 2061:13 | 2062:1, 20 |
| | 1 | 1 2024.2 | 1 | 2001.13 | 2003.13, 10, |

| 24 2064:1,7, | anxiety | asked | 2043:22 | 2026:1,2 | 2000:11 |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 10, 13, 18, 22 | 2049:14 | 2000:14 | 2050:23 | 2070:4 | 2001:13 |
| 2065:1,4 | anxious | 2010:25 | 2057:4 | 2074:16 | 2011:8 |
| 2066:9 | 2049:5, 12 | 2015:3 | attorney | began 2062:25 | 2021:4 |
| 2067:9, 25 | anymore | 2017:20 | 2026:21 | beginning | 2024:16 |
| 2068:16, 25 | 2073:14 | 2030:17 | 2054:24 | 2026:19 | 2027:12 |
| 2069:12, 15, | apologies | 2033:13 | 2056:21 | 2038:15 | 2028:4 |
| 18, 19, 21, 22 | 2024:17 | 2034:12 | 2059:3, 9 | 2063:7 | 2038:9 |
| 2070:23, 25 | apologize | 2035:9, 10, 18 | 2065:4, 10 | behalf | 2039: <i>3</i> |
| 2071:13 | 2032:11 | 2036:8 | 2067:4, 20 | 2009:17 | 2047:11,16 |
| 2072:12, 15, | apparently | 2040:4 | audio 2067:3 | behavior | 2050:24 |
| 18 2073:8, 20 | 2009:14 | 2041:16 | 2068:7 2069:3 | 2034:17 | 2051:20 |
| 2075:10 | appeal | 2044:17, 19 | August 2085:4 | belief | 2052:6 |
| 2076:16, 21 | 2083:22, 23 | 2047:20 | authenticate | 2036:22, 23 | 2054: <i>3</i> |
| 2078:1 | APPEARANC | 2054:5, 16 | 2028:24 | believe | 2063:22 |
| 2080:15, 21 | ES 1996:1 | 2055:2, 14 | authenticity | 2000:13 | 2064:2, 23 |
| 2081:1, 4, 21 | appears | 2056:1, 3, 5, | 2064:4 | 2002:5 | 2065:8 |
| 2082:11, 14 | 2068:23 | 11 2060:13 | 2067:8, 18 | 2005:17 | 2069:17,21 |
| 2083:11 | applied | 2072:10 | authority | 2009:4 | 2071:13 |
| 2084:5, 8 | 2055:18 | asking | 2008:10 | 2014:1,5 | 2072:22 |
| Andriano's | apply | 2007:16 | authorized | 2016:24 | 2076:21 |
| 2008:1,6 | 2037:17, 20 | 2030:8, 11 | 2034:8 | 2017:7 | 2079:13 |
| 2072:7 | 2040:16 | 2031:16, 20 | available | 2018:25 | 2084:5 |
| REDACTED | 2042:25 | 2032:15 | 2022:17 | 2021:15 | Board's |
| 1995:5 | appreciate | 2034:7 | 2051:8 | 2022:9, 13 | 2004:14 |
| 2000:10 | 2038:3 | 2035:21 | 2052:15 | 2025:13 | 2011:5 |
| 2004:5 | 2049:22 | 2036:11, 14, | avoid 2025:6 | 2027:17 | BOEDING |
| 2010:3 | 2062:11 | 17 2037:24 | aware | 2035:11 | 1995:25 |
| 2017:24 | 2084:2 | 2056:8 | 2004:18 | 2048:19 | 2085:2, 18 |
| 2018:13 | appropriate | asserted | | 2057:24 | book 2006:12 |
| 2019:9 | 2002:15 | 2034:16 | < B > | 2061:12 | 2007:10 |
| 2020:1,4 | 2028:5 | 2044:23 | back 2004:2 | 2062:22 | 2008:11,17 |
| 2021:9 | approximately | 2045:7 | 2014:11 | 2067:1 | 2012:16 |
| 2024:13, 23 | 2017:7 | assessment | 2016:14, 16 | 2068:3 | 2018:19 |
| 2025:6 | 2048:1 2077:2 | 2019:3, 4 | 2026:20 | 2072:7 | 2025:13 |
| 2027:9 | April 1997:2 | 2022:14 | 2027:4 | 2082:23 | 2031:24 |
| 2032:8 | 2078:21 | assignments | 2036:3 | believes | 2043:16, 19 |
| 2038:19 | 2079:1, 3 | 2041:6, 18 | 2037:16 | 2018:12 | 2044:12 |
| 2039:5 | 2085:14 | 2045:15 | 2038:12 | benefit | 2072:7 |
| 2041:13, 16, | archive | 2046:3 2047:7 | 2042:8, 16, 25 | 2028:8 | books 2005:9 |
| 20 2043:9 | 2047:1 | assist 2020:5 | 2050:13 | 2073:24 | 2016: <i>13</i> |
| 2048:23 | archived | assistance | 2071:10 | best 2085:7 | 2075:17 |
| 2049:1, 4, 9, | 2045:19 | 2047: <i>13</i> | 2072:1 | better 2081:10 | bottom |
| 12 2050:16 | 2046:25 | assistant | 2075: <i>3</i> | beyond | 2019:20 |
| REDACTED | 2052:21 | 2074:9 | 2076:15 | 2054:6, 25 | 2026:14 |
| 2006:8 | area 2001:17 | 2077:1 2082:7 | bar 2066:6 | 2055:1, 17, 18 | 2070:7 |
| 2032:7 | 2048:21 | associated | 2067:5 | big 2005:5 | boundaries |
| 2038:11 | areas 2002:14 | 2085:10 | based | 2080:13 | 2042:18 |
| 2039:2 | argue | assume | 2002:15 | 2081:12 | box 2070:11, |
| 2043:7 | 2058:16 | 2020:3 | 2041:15 | 2082:5 | 19 |
| 2045:20 | 2073:14 | 2064:13 | 2048:25 | bigger 2082:3 | boxed 2003:24 |
| 2051:7 | arguing | assured | basic 2033:4 | biggie 2021:5 | break 2050:8, |
| 2052:15 | 2061:1 | 2046:24 | 2041:9 | Binder | 11 |
| 2069:23 | 2067:17 | attached | basis 2027:14 | 2025:22 | brief 2073:4 |
| answered | arrangements | 2052:8 | 2029:12 | bit 2042:2 | 2079:14 |
| 2002:22 | 2083:14 | attachment | 2033:25 | 2063:16 | 2082:16, 17 |
| 2050:22 | A's 2032:9 | 2082:9 | 2075:7 | 2065:22 | 2083:7 |
| 2030.22 | | attempting | Bates | 2066:8 | briefly |
| anticipate | 2039:7 | attempting | | | |
| | 2039:7 2041: <i>13</i> | 2011:8 | 2012:17 | 2068:11 | 2028:16 |
| anticipate | | | 2012: <i>17</i> 2013: <i>19</i> | 2068:11 BOARD | 2028: <i>16</i> briefs 2079:9 |

| | | | uning buy o or o | | 0,00,20 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| bringing | 2028:2 | classwork | communicatio | 2061:10, 12 | continue |
| 2010:19 | 2073:15 | 2052:20 | n 2009:5 | 2063:3 | 2061:1 |
| 2077:13 | certified | clear 2007:22 | 2025:9 | conclusions | continued |
| broke 2010:18 | 2042:12 | 2008:9 | 2026:15 | 2060:7 | 2046:21 |
| brought | certify 2085:4, | 2011:11 | 2028:19 | conditions | 2047:1 |
| 2015:20, 21 | 9 | 2011:11 | 2020:17 | 2058:18 | continuing |
| 2015.20, 21 2056:16 | challenge | 2014.78 | 2030.5, 12 2033:7 | 2058.18 | 2039:11, 17 |
| | 5 | | | | |
| B's 2043:11 | 2028:3 | 2035:17 | communicatio | conference | 2044:9 |
| burden | 2036:21 | 2036:11 | ns 2008:18 | 2070:9 | 2046:18 |
| 2023:18, 22 | chance | 2037:23 | 2010:6 | 2072:20 | 2048:6 |
| business | 2016:17 | 2048:9 | company | confines | contradict |
| 2064:14 | 2030:19 | 2055:13 | 2060:23 | 2002:13 | 2005:25 |
| 2065:6, 7 | 2031:6 | 2057:14 | compare | 2044:2 | contradicts |
| button | change | 2074:1 | 2073:25 | confuse | 2051:19 |
| 2081:23 | 2016:18 | clearly | comparing | 2015:14 | control |
| | 2060:21 | 2009:11 | 2015:12 | confused | 2017:13 |
| < C > | changed | 2023:2 | comparison | 2045:17 | conversation |
| calendar | 2044:18 | 2024:1 | 2072:9 | confusing | 2004:3 |
| 2078:7 | characterizing | 2036:20 | compelling | 2029:6 | 2044:24 |
| call 2001:6 | 2053:5 | close 2047:10 | 2038:1 | 2045:22 | convoluted |
| 2019:1 | charge | closing | complete | confusion | 2041: <i>1</i> |
| 2019.1 | 2051:9 | 2077:15 | 2007:6 | 2015:8 2068:9 | copies |
| | | | | | - |
| 2065:25 | 2052:16 | 2079:14 | 2021:15 | connect | 2045:10 |
| called 2049:1, | check 2022:2 | 2082:15, 17, 21 | 2022:7 | 2048:15 | copy 2006:16 |
| 13 | checked | closings | 2023:21 | 2081:9 | corner 2070:8 |
| Canvas | 2070:11, 17, 19 | 2080:7 | 2024:1 | connected | correct |
| 2045:14, 17 | CHESTERFIE | colloquy | 2027:18 | 2057:24 | 2003:13, 14, |
| 2047:7 | LD 1995:9 | 2055:13 | 2043:20 | consent | 16, 17 2010:5 |
| 2052:21 | 2000:10 | color 2022:10 | 2062:23 | 2058:15 | 2011:24 |
| card 2069:23 | 2010:7 | colors 2022:12 | completed | 2059:7 | 2013:17 |
| 2070:15, 16 | 2038:10, 20 | come 2012:7 | 2047:7 | consented | 2022:19, 25 |
| cards | 2039:6 | 2027:10 | completely | 2057:17,23 | 2024:15, 19, |
| 2039:13, 15 | chief 2072:24 | 2038:9 | 2011:25 | consider | 20, 23, 24 |
| career 2039:6 | child 2048:3 | comes | 2015:5 | 2037:17 | 2038:24, 25 |
| Case 1995:8 | 2058:24 | 2081:24 | 2066:25 | 2037:17 | 2046:8, 10, 21 |
| 2000:17 | chose | comfortable | completeness | 2046:25 | 2048:24 |
| 2000.17 2004:15 | 2017:25 | 2001:2 <i>1</i> | 2065:24 | consideration | 2048.24 |
| | | 2001.27 2081:8 | | | |
| 2007:21 | 2018:5 | | completes | 2069:1 | 2054:20, 21 |
| 2008:22 | Christine | comment | 2049:22 | considered | 2058:13 |
| 2031:6 | 2019:16 | 2073:5 | conceding | 2012:10 | 2065:12, 13 |
| 2034:22, 25 | REDACTED | commentary | 2065:19 | 2060:12 | 2069:24, 25 |
| 2072:19, 24 | 1995:6 1997:3 | 2000:20 | concern | considering | 2070:2 2085:6 |
| 2079:13, 21 | cited 2083:7 | 2005:6 | 2025:6 | 2082:19 | correctly |
| 2080:12, 21 | civilized | 2007:24 | 2035:23 | consistent | 2005:17 |
| 2081:10 | 2068:13 | 2008:5 | 2049:15 | 2011:25 | 2017:6 |
| 2082:1, 24 | claims | 2033:11, 12 | 2058:11 | 2077:19 | 2061:8, 11 |
| 2083:21 | 2033:25 | 2055:20 | concerned | consistently | 2077:17 |
| cases 2078:3 | clarification | commenting | 2017:2 | 2055:18 | COUNSEL |
| 2080:16, 20, | 2072:2 | 2008:6 | 2032:16 | consternation | 1996:1, 11, 22 |
| <i>23</i> 2081:2 | clarify 2020:9 | comments | 2032:10 | 2006:24 | 2000:14, 16 |
| 2083:6 | 2076:10 | 2023:12 | concerns | constitute | 2015:23 |
| | 2078:10 | | 2053:4 | 2052:22 | 2013:23 |
| caveat | | commission | | | |
| 2030: <i>17</i> | clarifying | 2085:4 | 2059:5, 10 | consult 2082:6 | 2061:13 |
| CCPS 1997:2 | 2008:13 | COMMONWE | 2063:23 | contains | 2074:5 |
| 2005:3 | clarity | ALTH | concluded | 2031:10 | 2085:10 |
| CCR 1995:25 | 2076:17 | 2085:1, 3, 19 | 2084:13 | content | counsel's |
| 2085:2, 18 | 2082:15 | communicate | concludes | 2053:10 | 2037:2, 25 |
| certain 2044:2 | class 2049:2 | 2006:8 | 2048:19 | contents | 2038:7 |
| | classic | communicated | conclusion | 2053:15 | 2042:10 |
| certainly | Classic | communicateu | | | |
| certainly 2007: <i>1</i> | 2044:24 | 2004:5 2045:4 | 2016:24 | context | COUNTY |

| 2000:10 | 2078:13, 24, | different | dismissed | 2057:9 | 2006:9 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2010:7 | 25 2080:2, 4 | 2012:24 | 2071:9 | 2072:7 | 2011:10 |
| | | | | | |
| 2038:10, 20 | 2085:14 | 2045:24 | dispute | 2073:10 | 2049:2 |
| 2039:6 | days 2007:10 | 2056:7 | 2012:2 | 2075:7, 8, 12, | 2051:7 |
| couple | 2025:9 | difficulty | 2013:7 | 15, 18 | 2052:14, 15, 23 |
| 2076:13 | 2032:8 | 2077:5 | 2065:14 | doing | effect 2009:4 |
| course | 2033:9 | digging | District | 2022:16 | 2014:2 |
| 2003:18 | 2078:23 | 2046:1 | 2065:15 | 2024:13, 23 | 2015:13 |
| 2010:4 | deadline | dilemma | Division | door 2055:9 | effort 2027:8 |
| 2028:14 | 2077:10 | 2027:24 | 2012:7 | 2056:14 | 2028:3 |
| Court 2000:5 | deal 2023:25 | Direct 1998:5 | 2027:25 | doors 2001:13 | efforts 2035:2 |
| 2033:7 | dealt 2052:18 | 2003:7 | 2065:6 | double | eighth 2000:9 |
| 2066:5 | decide | 2043:24 | document | 2077:16 | either |
| 2067:24 | 2018:16 | 2050:23 | 2005:6, 7, 8 | doubt 2029:5 | 2003:19, 20 |
| 2071:22, 23 | 2042:15 | 2057:3 2081:6 | 2006:4, 11, 20 | 2032:13 | 2055:18 |
| 2075:13 | 2073:25 | directed | 2008:16,20 | download | 2081:22 |
| 2076:7 2085:5 | decided | 2026:25 | 2009:2, 18 | 2081:6 | 2082:9, 12 |
| cover 2048:20 | 2079:17 | 2031:24 | 2011:14 | downloaded | electronic |
| covered | decision | 2045:11, 14, 20 | 2012:21 | 2060:15 | 2072:6 2082:9 |
| 2046:16 | 2061:5 | directing | 2012:21 | 2064:8 | Elementary |
| create | 2078:9, 11, 20 | 2054:17 | 2013:5 | 2066:9, 11, 15 | 2053:11 |
| 2049:14 | 2078.9, 11, 20 2083:20, 23 | directly | 2014:20 | downloading | eligibility |
| created | defendant | 2004:5 | 2010.9 | 2081:7 | 2025:4 |
| 2073:22 | 2005:22 | 2004.5 2006:8 | 2018.17 2019:12 | draw 2057:25 | eligible 2011:9 |
| credibility | defendant's | 2000.8 2007:3 | 2019.12 2021:14, 16 | 2060:6 | email |
| 2007: <i>3</i> | 2004:25 | 2007.3 2080:13 | 2021:14, 10 | Drive 1996:5 | 2006:25 |
| | | | | | 1 |
| credible | defer 2077:20 | 2081:22 | 2023:21 | 2045:21 | 2018:23 |
| 2009:15 | deference | disability | 2024:6, 18, 21 | dry 2021:4 | 2020:16 |
| 2042:14 | 2053:14 | 2014:7 | 2027:18 | D's 2038:16 | 2022:1 |
| criticism | deficits | disagree | 2028:5, 10, 12 | DUE 1995:3 | 2023:16, 23 |
| 2016:1,4 | 2049:13 | 2038:2 | 2029:10, 16, | 2078:9, 11, 20 | 2026:11 |
| cross 2030:12 | definitely | 2073:12 | 19 2030:18, | 2079:2, 3, 6 | 2027:10 |
| Cross- | 2054:6 | disagreement | <i>21</i> 2031: <i>13</i> | 2080:7 | 2028:7, 13, 18, |
| Examination | delighted | 2018:15 | 2050:25 | 2082:15 | 23 2029:4, 23 |
| 1998:5 | 2030:4 | 2060:4 | 2054:7 | Dyslexia | 2031:10 |
| 2050:5, 15, 18 | delivery | discuss | 2056:15 | 1997:2 | 2051:23, 24 |
| cross-examine | 2082:9 | 2061: <i>13</i> | 2057:3 | 2010:3, 8, 19 | 2052:8 |
| 2007:12 | deny 2008:18 | discussed | 2059:4 | 2011:3, 5, 7, | 2062:7 |
| cross- | DEPARTMEN | 2038:23 | 2060:23 | 13, 17, 22, 23 | 2080:13 |
| examining | T 1995:2 | 2040:4 | 2070:1, 18 | 2012:8 | 2081:6, 22 |
| 2007:15 | depends | 2049:4 | 2073:19, 21 | 2014:3,6 | 2082:4, 10 |
| curiosity | 2081:12 | 2056:12 | 2074:2, 6, 15, | 2015:5, 7, 15, | emailed |
| 2023:22 | 2082:5 | 2057:15, 23 | 19 2076:18 | 17, 18 | 2043:11 |
| curious | describe | 2058:5 | 2077:15 | | emails |
| 2044:18 | 2028:25 | 2059: <i>13</i> | 2081: <i>13</i> | < E > | 2005:24 |
| cut 2006:23 | 2042:11 | 2072:9, 19 | documentary | earlier | 2023:17, 20 |
| cutting | described | discussion | 2003:19 | 2000:15 | 2044:12 |
| 2007:23 | 2048:23 | 2012:4 | | 2001:9 | 2045:4 |
| | detail 2082:4 | 2014:5 | documentation | 2083:18 | 2076:13 |
| < D > | determine | 2023:19 | 2042:17 | easier | REDACTED 1995:5 |
| data 2055:16 | 2033:24 | 2055:15 | 2046:22 | 2079:19 | 1997:3 |
| date 2018:23 | developed | 2056:13 | 2062:6 | 2081:11, 24 | 1998:4 |
| 2024:25 | 2059:4 | 2060:18, 25 | documents | 2082:25 | 2003:3 |
| 2082:15 | diagnosis | 2061:9, 12 | 2003:15 | 2083:5, 9 | 2018:23 |
| dated 2026:11 | 2010:3, 8, 13, | 2063:21 | 2008:10 | East 1996:15 | 2020:2 |
| DAY 1995:13 | 14 2011:7, 23 | 2003:21 | 2013:16 | easy 2015:13 | 2026:11 |
| 2000:9, 10, 13 | 2014:2 2015:7 | 2078:17 | 2015:10 | editorial | 2020:11 |
| 2000.9, 10, 15 | difference | discussions | 2010.5, 12 2025:5 | 2007:24 | 2027.7 2050:15 |
| 2003.10 | 2012:9 | 2010:2 | 2023.5 | EDUCATION | employee |
| 2011.7 2020:6 | 2012.9 | dismiss | 2042.9 | 1995:2 | 2005:3 2010:7 |
| 2020:0 | 2038:10 | 2073:12 | 2045:22 2047:6, 20, 24 | 2004:6 | 2005.5 2010.7 |
| 2022.3 | 2003.2,4 | 2013.12 | 2047.0, 20, 24 | 2004.0 | |
| L | | | | | |

| encourage | exception | expedite | 2043:10 | 2015:5 | 2026:5 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2002:21 | 2014:15 | 2005:4 | false 2059:15 | 2051:4, 11 | 2027:10 |
| ended 2033:14 | 2044:25 | expert | Family | 2052:3, 18 | 2028:1 |
| end-of-the- | 2056:18 | 2032:21 | 2052:14 | 2057:4 | 2032:22 |
| year 2070:13 | 2066:20 | 2033:23 | 2054:24 | 2062:21 | 2034:14 |
| entire 2031:2, | 2068:21 | 2033:23 | 2056:21, 24 | 2070:14 | 2034.14 |
| <i>21</i> 2043:22 | exchange | 2034.25 | far 2022:22 | 2070:14 | 2038.5 |
| entitled | 2004:4 | 2035:22 | 2071:7 | five 2007:10 | 2045:12 |
| 2055:10 | 2004.4 2006:25 | 2030.5 | 2071.7 2083:19 | 2011:1 | 2040.12 |
| environment | 2008:23 | | | 2011:1 2063:10 | 2049:11, 21 2051:16 |
| | | 2041:4, 7, 21 | February | | |
| 2049:5 | 2028:10 | 2042:11 | 2046:6 | five-day | 2055:4 |
| epic 2020:6 | 2029:23 | expertise | 2054:19 | 2012:18 | 2057:8, 14 |
| erase 2021:4 | 2031:2, 21 | 2032:20 | 2055:3 | focused | 2062:21 |
| ESQ 1995:15 | exclude | experts | 2057:16 | 2004:25 | 2064:18 |
| 1996:9, 10, 20, | 2008:10 | 2037:19 | 2058:6 | 2021:1, 10 | 2067:9, 25 |
| 21 | 2024:4 | expires 2085:4 | feel 2001:17, | FOIA 2047:4, | 2079:22 |
| estimate | excluded | explain | 21 2002:22 | 6, 21 2052:25 | 2082:14 |
| 2017:8 | 2027:21 | 2030:4, 20 | 2003:20, 24 | 2053:16 | 2084:8, 10 |
| event 2074:14 | 2059:11 | 2032:15 | 2022:7 2029:1 | follow | Freeman's |
| 2085:11 | exclusion | 2034:24 | feels 2008:22 | 2056: <i>13</i> | 2037:13 |
| everybody | 2027:15 | 2035:2,6 | FERPA | following | fresh 2016:7 |
| 2081:8, 10 | Excuse | explained | 2047:4, 21 | 2003:15 | Friday |
| evidence | 2000:23 | 2015:8 | 2048:12 | 2079:7 | 2079:8, 11 |
| 2002:16 | 2004:3 | explaining | 2053:16 | follows 2003:5 | 2082:22 |
| 2003:19 | 2024:17 | 2015:16 | fifth 2032:10 | follow-up | Friends |
| 2004:25 | 2032:10 | explains | 2038:15 | 2050:21 | 1995:5 |
| 2004:25 | Exhibit | 2034:17 | 2069:23 | 2050:21 | front 2011:21 |
| 2005:1 2007:9, 10 | 1999: <i>10</i> | express | figure 2081:25 | footnotes | 2013:25 |
| 2007.9, 10 | 2009:20 | 2058:18 | final 2047:2 | 2077:17 | 2015:25 |
| | | | 2060:12 | | F's 2038:16 |
| 2013:14, 22 | 2014:13, 24 | expressed | | foregoing 2085:6 | 2041:14 |
| 2023:9, 10 | 2016:13 | 2025:5 | 2061:6 | | |
| 2027:15, 22 | 2018:19 | 2049:15 | finality | Forest 1996:5 | full 2003:25 |
| 2028:2 | 2024:9, 17 | expressing | 2060:9, 10 | forgot 2015:5 | 2027:13 |
| 2031:14 | 2025:13 | 2059:10 | finalized | 2066:1 | 2063:22 |
| 2037:17 | 2026: <i>3</i> | extent | 2061:16 | forward | 2085:7 |
| 2043:22 | 2030:24 | 2001:11 | find 2021:20 | 2056:18 | fully 2074:15 |
| 2047:12 | 2031:24 | 2011:7 | 2023:24 | forwarded | further |
| 2053:9 | 2047:14 | 2031:15 | 2045:16, 18 | 2026:14 | 2003:5 |
| 2060:14 | 2050:24 | 2052:20 | 2063:16 | 2027:11 | 2032:1 |
| 2071:17 | 2051:2 <i>1</i> | extra 2021:3 | fine 2014:12 | 2030:3, 7, 13 | 2052:19 |
| 2073:16 | 2053:8, 12, 13 | extremely | 2044:1, 15 | foundation | 2085:9 |
| evident | 2054:9 | 2038:1 | 2055:25 | 2073:2, 21 | furthermore |
| 2068:8 | 2058:19 | 2045:17 | 2057:13 | 2074:6, 20 | 2031:15 |
| evidentiary | 2069:9 | | 2060:5 | foundational | fussing |
| 2029:17 | 2072:3 | < F > | 2075:2 | 2033:23 | 2020:10 |
| exact 2053:3 | 2074:3, 16, 24 | fact 2025:8 | 2080:1 | four 2001:25 | future 2065:1 |
| exactly | 2075:21 | 2041:9 | 2082:12, 13 | fourth 2032:9 | |
| 2016:9 | EXHIBITS | 2058:21 | 2082:12, 15 | free 2023:5 | < G > |
| 2010.9 | 1999: <i>1</i> , <i>11</i> | 2053:21 | finish | 2029:3 | general |
| 2046:11 | 2069:5 | facts 2043:2 | 2034:12 | freely 2001:4 | 2049:1 |
| 2046:11 2053:5 | 2009:5 2071:17, 19, | factual | 2054:12 | 2002:13 | |
| | | | | | generally |
| 2067: <i>14</i> | 24 2072:21, | 2058:25 | 2071:8 | FREEMAN | 2076:6 |
| exam 2018:25 | 23, 24 | fail 2020:6 | finished | 1995:15 | genuine |
| 2019:2 | 2075:20, 22 | failed 2049:18 | 2033:21 | 2001:11, 23 | 2063:14 |
| Examination | 2080:14 | failing 2043:9 | 2035:12 | 2004:8, 12 | getting |
| 1998:5 | exists | fair 2042:21 | first 2002:10 | 2005:23 | 2011:2 |
| 2003:7 | 2065:23 | 2058:1 | 2005:2, 11 | 2006:18 | 2013:2, 4 |
| 2016:25 | 2066:8 | fairly 2014:5 | 2006:7, 14 | 2010:9 | 2033:18 |
| 2028:14 | expect | fall 2017:21 | 2007:8 | 2012:15, 19 | 2043:6 |
| example | 2080:12 | 2020:21, 23 | 2009:7 | 2013:21 | give 2000:25 |
| | | 1 | 2010:20 | 2023:8 | 2001:16 |

| 2002:12 | 2019:20 | grades | 2034:5 | 20, 25 2052:4, | 2027:8 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2002:12 2005:5, 14 | 2017:20 | 2032:7, 14, 19 | 2034.5 | $11 \ 2053:7, 10,$ | honor 2050:1 |
| | | | | | |
| 2006:18 | 2052:23 | 2033:24 | 2049:7 | 19, 21, 24 | hope 2035:7 |
| 2014:11 | 2065:24 | 2034:2, 5, 9, | 2060:25 | 2054:8, 11, 14 | hours |
| 2016:17 | going 2000:7, | 13, 16, 20, 23, | HEARING | 2055:6, 20, 25 | 2001:25 |
| 2021:4 | 8, 25 2001:2, | 24 2035:3, 5, | 1995:3, 15 | 2056:5, 9, 17 | 2045:25 |
| 2030:19 | 12, 15, 16 | 13, 18, 22 | 2000:7, 23 | 2057:18, 20 | 2068:4 |
| 2035:1 | 2002:10, 11 | 2036:4, 7, 9, | 2001:8, 14, 20 | 2058:9 | Houston |
| 2036:25 | 2003:23 | 15, 17, 22 | 2002:2, 4, 7, | 2059:21, 25 | 2043:11 |
| 2040:22, 24 | 2004:2, 12 | 2037:3, 19 | 25 2003:10, | 2060:8, 17 | 2044:17 |
| 2041:2 | 2005:14, 16 | 2038:11 | 19, 24 2005:8, | 2061:3, 7, 21 | 2045:3, 13 |
| 2042:19 | 2006:1, 3, 13, | 2039:2 | <i>13</i> 2006: <i>1</i> , <i>15</i> , | 2062:1, 3, 4, 8, | 2046:14 |
| 2057:6 | 17, 24 | 2040:6, 12 | 19, 22 | 12, 15, 24 | 2049:16 |
| 2075:15 | 2008:20 | 2040.0, 12 2042:3 | 2007:23 | 2063:5 | |
| | | | | | Houston's |
| 2079:6 | 2009:1,9 | 2043:8 | 2008:4, 13, 19 | 2064:6, 11, 16, | 2046:14 |
| 2081:15 | 2010:25 | 2044:19 | 2009:1, 14, 24 | 20, 25 2065:2, | Hundred |
| Given 2085:13 | 2014:11 | 2045:23 | 2010:4, 12, 16, | 9,11 2066:10, | 2053:11 |
| gives 2079:20 | 2017:9, 16 | 2046:3 | 18, 22 2011:2, | 13, 18 2067:7, | husband |
| giving | 2018:16 | 2047:8 | 13, 16, 19 | 10,23 2068:1, | 2058:14 |
| 2032:14 | 2022:2 | 2056:12 | 2012:22 | 15, 20 2069:2, | hypothesis |
| 2040:2 | 2023:2 | 2057:15, 22 | 2013:2, 8, 12, | 7, 11, 14, 20 | 2042:1 |
| 2041:21 | 2030:18, 20 | 2058:3, 4, 11, | 15, 23 | 2070:24 | hypothetical |
| 2081:9 | 2030:10, 20 | 20 2059:5 | 2014:10, 14 | 2071:1, 5, 15, | 2041:2 |
| glasses | 2031:1, 19, 25 | 2060:4 | 2014.10, 14 | 21, 25 2072:4, | hypothetically |
| 2020:14 | 2032:22 | Great 2001:6, | 23 2016:3, 11, 20, | 13, 17 2073:3, | 2065:20 |
| 2020.14 | 2035:15 | <i>16</i> 2008:9, 24 | 19 2017:4, 9, | 6, 18 2074:4, | 2005.20 |
| | | | | | . T. |
| Glen 1996:5 | 2037:1, 5, 14, | 2022:3 | 15 2018:21 | 8, 18, 22 | <i></i> |
| global | 16, 17, 21 | 2062:14 | 2019:4, 14, 22, | 2075:5, 9, 11 | idea 2029: <i>3</i> , |
| 2022:24 | 2038:6 | 2070:23 | <i>25</i> 2020: <i>13</i> , | 2076:2, 5, 12, | <i>19</i> 2059: <i>11</i> , |
| go 2000:7 | 2039:10, 16 | 2081:17 | <i>19</i> 2021: <i>13</i> , | 19, 22, 25 | 13 2062:17 |
| 2002:19 | 2040:10, 13, | grounds | 18 2022:6, 10 | 2077:6, 8, 12, | 2074:18 |
| 2005:24 | 16 2042:8, 15, | 2061:24 | 2023:11 | 21, 24 2078:2, | identified |
| 2009:24 | 19 2043:18, | guess 2029:7 | 2024:5 | 6, 10, 14, 19, | 2005:18 |
| 2011:3 | 24 2044:4, 20 | 2038:13 | 2025:16 | 22 2079:5, 10, | 2032:20 |
| 2016:19 | 2056:13 | | 2026:6, 10, 17, | 18, 23, 24 | 2074:16 |
| 2017:6, 18 | 2060:21 | < H > | 20, 24 2027:2, | 2080:4, 7, 9, | identify |
| 2019:20 | 2062:18 | hand 2006:17 | 6, 17, 23 | 17, 20, 24 | 2006:25 |
| 2024:16 | 2066:18, 19, | 2072:8 | 2028:17 | 2081:3, 8, 15, | 2013:6 |
| 2026:20 | 20 2067:10 | 2085:13 | 2029:16, 25 | 18, 23 2082:6, | 2040:6 |
| 2028:17 | 2068:21, 22 | handed | 2030:10, 16 | 12, 18, 21 | 2074:15 |
| 2032:1 | 2071:11 | 2018:22 | 2031:4, 12, 18, | 2083:3, 9, 13, | IEP 2017:25 |
| 2036:3 | 2072:8 | 2071:22 | 23 2032:4, 24 | 17 2084:6, 11, | 2020:4, 11, 12, |
| 2030.5 | 2072.8 | 2074:11, 12 | 2033:4, 11, 17 | 17 2084.0, 11, | 25 2025:3 |
| 2037.10 | 2074.22 | happened | 2033.4, 11, 17 | hearsay | 2038:22 |
| 2042:8, 70, 23 | 2075:11, 14 | 2024:2 2033:9 | | 2009:10 | |
| | 2077:1 | | 2035:10, 15, | | 2046:7, 20 |
| 2044:11, 16 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | happens | 20 2036:2, 8, | 2031:15 | 2054:12, 19 |
| 2045:25 | 2079:17, 18 | 2068:11 | 24 2037:6, 9, | 2044:20, 21, 24 | 2055:3 |
| 2046:19 | 2083:6 | happy | 14,25 2038:6 | help 2047:12 | 2056:2, 6, 8, |
| 2048:6 | Gonzalez | 2066:16 | 2039:10, 15, | helpful | 10 2057:16, |
| 2050:7,9 | 2074:9, 13 | hard 2029:5 | 21 2040:1, 9, | 2015:25 | 17 2058:15, |
| 2067:15 | Good | hear 2001:1 | 16, 21, 25 | 2016:8 | 17, 22, 24 |
| 2069:13 | 2009:24 | 2037:12 | 2041:24 | higher | 2059:1, 15 |
| 2071:9 | 2050:20 | 2044:6 | 2042:8, 21, 24 | 2043:10 | 2067:13 |
| 2072:13 | 2079:24 | 2048:25 | 2043:3, 19 | highlight | imagine |
| 2073:6 | Google | 2068:8 2073:2 | 2044:1, 4, 9, | 2019:13 | 2067:16 |
| 2074:5 | 2045:21 | heard | 15 2045:1, 8, | 2057:10 | immediately |
| 2077:12 | grade 2032:9, | 2003:18 | 12 2046:7, 9, | Hold 2055:6 | 2008:2 |
| 2078:15, 25 | 10 2038:16 | 2010:2 | 18 2047:14 | 2068:1 | impact 2011:9 |
| 2070:15, 25 | 2041:5, 23 | 2010:2 | 2048:5, 12, 17 | home 2019:6 | implied |
| goes 2001:17 | 2041.5, 25 | 2028:16 | 2050:3, 7, 9, | 2022:17 | 2005:22 |
| 2007:3 | 2069:23 | 2028.10 | 13 2051:17, | | imply 2011:8 |
| 2007.5 | 2007.25 | 2032.7 | 10 2001.17, | I | mpr y 2011.0 |

| important | individually | introducing | 22 2029:2, 22 | knowledge | limitation |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 2007:6 | 1999:12 | 2075:6 | 2030:6 | 2033:24 | 2005:16 |
| 2008:12 | 2072:21 | invalid | 2031:16 | 2085:7 | limitations |
| 2012:1,2 | 2075:23 | 2035:25 | 2032:7 | knows | 2002:18 |
| 2013:5 | inference | investigate | 2042:19 | 2063:12 | 2069:4 |
| 2034:21 | 2057:25 | 2034:24 | 2043:17 | | limited |
| 2066:24 | information | issue 2011:17 | 2048:19 | < L > | 2017:13 |
| 2080:5 | 2019:12 | 2040:15 | 2050:1, 3, 4, | lacks 2033:23 | line 2012:11 |
| impression | 2019:12 2028:25 | 2051:14 | 15, 16, 20 | LARANA | 2045:23 |
| 2063:2 <i>1</i> | 2028:25 | 2082:2 | 2054:2, 19, 24 | 1996:21 | link 2066:14 |
| improper | 2034:27 | issues 2025:23 | 2054.2, 19, 24 2056:2, 21 | large 2047:6 | 2080:14 |
| 2046: <i>13</i> | 2030.17 2043:7 | italics 2023.23 | 2050.2, 21 2057:16 | 2085:1, 3, 19 | 2080.14 2081:6, 9, 21 |
| | 2043:7 2048:11 | items 2012.12 | 2057:10 | | 2081:0, 9, 21 2082:10 |
| improve | | 1 tems 2070.8, 9 | | late 2066:3, 4 | |
| 2039:2 | 2053:16 | - | 2063:11, 17, | latitude | links 2082:24 |
| improved | 2058:22 | its 2065:23 | 20 2065:13, | 2000:25 | list 2041:5 |
| 2038:11 | 2062:18 | - | <i>16</i> 2069: <i>13</i> , | 2001:17, 22 | 2072:6 |
| 2043:8 | informed | < J > | 16,24 2070:1, | 2002:12 | 2075:15 |
| inaccurate | 2046:23 | January | 25 2071:8 | 2005:14 | 2076:8 |
| 2003:20 | 2065:16 | 2025:2 | 2074:12 | 2017:3 | listen 2001:2 |
| 2056:3 | initial 2002:7 | 2026:11 | 2076:18 | 2035:1 | 2036:15, 16 |
| inappropriate | innocent | 2027:7 | REDACTED | 2037:1 | 2037:15, 21 |
| 2008:23 | 2007:4 | Job 1995:24 | 2004:13 | 2038:3 | 2040:18 |
| inclined | inspection | 2042:24 | 2022:1 | 2040:2, 10 | 2062:13, 16 |
| 2062:12 | 2051:8 | joy 2050:4 | 2027:21 | LAW 1996:4 | 2066:21 |
| included | 2052:16 | July 2047:2 | know 2001:5, | 2080:12 | 2067:11 |
| 2015:17 | intend 2005:4 | jump 2032:22 | 22 2002:6 | Lawson | 2068:3, 5, 22 |
| including | 2032:2 | June 2047:2 | 2005:20 | 2004:1,13 | 2077:2 |
| 2061:24 | interested | | 2008:16,17 | 2005:25 | listened |
| 2077:17 | 2012:14 | < K > | 2017:4, 16 | 2006:8, 13 | 2003:12 |
| incomplete | 2026:23 | keep 2017:10 | 2019:1 | 2007:1, 13, 16 | 2064:6, 9, 17, |
| 2003:20 | 2030:14 | 2021:1, 10 | 2020:7 | 2008:17, 23 | 21 2067:11 |
| increase | 2085:11 | 2032:2 | 2022:12 | 2009:3, 5, 9, 15 | listening |
| 2058:2, <i>4</i> | interesting | keeps | 2022:12 2023:7, 12, 14 | lay 2073:1 | 2062:19 |
| increased | 2007:20 | 2075:14 | 2023:7, 12, 14 | learning | 2068:7, 10, 24 |
| 2058:12 | interpret | 2076:6, 7 | 2027:12, 20 | 2014:6 | little 2063:16 |
| | 2028:25 | kept 2072:8 | 2030.19 | leave 2021:21 | log 2074:8 |
| increasing 2057:15 | 2028.25 2031:16, 19, | kind 2041:3 | | led 2014:7 | logs 2074.8 |
| | , , | | 2041:9, 15 | | 0 |
| independently | 21 2062:16 | 2051:18 | 2043:9 | left 2000:12 | 2073:25 |
| 2057:22 | interpretation | 2083:24 REDACTED | 2055:22 | 2061:21 | 2074:12 |
| INDEX | 2008:1 | | 2059:6, 23 | 2066:2 | long 2012:3 |
| 1998: <i>1</i> | 2028:10 | 1995:5, 6 | 2060:22 | legal 2029:12 | 2014:5 |
| 2078:2 | | 1997: <i>3</i> | 2061:16 | 2058:16 | 2033:2 |
| 2080:16, 17, | interpretations | 1998:4 | 2062: <i>3</i> , <i>21</i> | length | 2053:2 |
| <i>22</i> 2081: <i>1</i> | 2007:20 | 2000:10, 21, | 2063:8, 11, 15, | 2038:23 | 2059:12 |
| indicate | interpreted | <i>23</i> 2001: <i>10</i> , | 19, 25 | lengthy | 2063:9 |
| 2009:8 | 2061:5 | 24 2003:3, 9 | 2064:13, 16, | 2031:7 | 2068:4 |
| 2012:20 | interrupt | 2006:17 | 20 2065:15 | Lennox | 2077:15 |
| 2022:22 | 2019:19 | 2007:17 | 2066:10 | 1997:2 2012:6 | longer |
| 2025:10 | 2032:24 | 2009:5 | 2067:12, 14 | letter 2047:19 | 2077:18 |
| 2051:7 | 2044:5 2054:9 | 2011:6 | 2068:20, 21 | 2048:10, 13 | long-standing |
| 2056:24 | interrupted | 2012:6 | 2070:14 | 2051:2, 14 | 2037:18 |
| 2060:3 | 2019:14 | 2013:6 | 2074:19 | 2052:9 | look 2012:13 |
| indicated | 2043:24 | 2014:21 | 2076:25 | 2053:3, 11, 15 | 2016:15 |
| 2004:4 | interview | 2018:23 | 2077:5 | letters | 2017:5 |
| 2018:10, 12 | 2024:25 | 2010:23 | 2079:12 | 2064:23 | 2017.5 |
| 2018.10, 12 | introduce | 2019.5, 10 | 2079.12 2081:7 | lie 2024:23 | 2033.3, 3 |
| 2058.11 2064:10, 23 | 2007:9 | 2020.2, 10, 18 2021:11 | 2081.7 2083:19 | lied 2007:5 | 2042.9, 17 |
| 2064:10, 23 | introduced | 2021:11 2024:12 | | likes 2007:5 | 2047:11 2051:4 |
| | | | knowing | | |
| indicates | 2072:21, 25 | 2026:11 | 2021:25 | limit 2006:2 | 2053:6, 14 |
| 2059:19 | 2075:12 | 2027:7, 19 | | 2081:14 | 2054:2 |
| | | 2028:18, 19, | 1 | | 2057:11 |

v Chesterfield County Public Schools Due Process Hearing - Day 8 of 8

| 2059:22, 23 2070:7 | 2018:25 2019: <i>1</i> 8 | 2081: <i>18</i> 2083:6 | mischaracteriz ing 2018:4 | < N > | noting 2039:17 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| looked | 2020:2, 4, 21, | meaning | missing | necessarily | 2056:17 |
| 2006:19 | 23 2021:6 | 2076:6 | 2046:4 2063:5 | 2022:7 | November |
| 2000.19 | 2022:13, 14 | means 2010:4 | misstatement | 2022:7 | 2038:21, 22 |
| | 2022.13, 14 2055:14, 16 | 2029: <i>3</i> | 2007:17 | 2023.24 2057:24 | 2038.21, 22 |
| ooking | | 2029:5 2081:19 | | | |
| 2017:1 | March | | mistake | 2058:25 | number |
| 2026:6 | 1995:15 | meant 2040:4, | 2007:4 | 2075:9 | 2007:18, 19 |
| 2046:23 | 2064:8 2066:9 | 9 | mistaken | need 2001:1, | 2012:18 |
| 2054:11 | markedly | medical | 2000:9 | 5, 22 2005:15 | 2013:20 |
| 2080:25 | 2038:12 | 2011:7, 20, 22 | misunderstand | 2008:4, 5 | 2014:20 |
| LORI | marks | 2014:2 2015:6 | ing 2035:16 | 2029:1 | 2025:20 |
| 1995:25 | 2043:10 | meeting | module | 2030:21, 22 | 2026:1, 2, 3 |
| 2085:2, 18 | math 2018:25 | 2025:3,4 | 2045:15 | 2031:25 | 2047:6 |
| lot 2002:7 | 2019:7 | 2038:23 | Mom 2039:16 | 2041:4,7 | 2050:24 |
| 2005:5 | 2020:24 | 2039:1 | 2041:4, 14 | 2042:21 | 2053:12, 13 |
| 2007:20 | 2021:4 2041:9 | 2046:6, 7, 20 | moment | 2047:13 | 2054:9 |
| 2016:5, 6 | matter | 2010:0,7,20 | 2076:23 | 2055:23 | numbers |
| 2010.5, 0 | 2012:5 | 2056:4, 6, 10, | Monday | 2055:25 | 2014:18 |
| | 2012.5 | | 2079:7, <i>11</i> , <i>23</i> | 2003.2 | 2014:18 |
| 2032:7 | | 12, 22, 25 | | · · · · | 2074:17 |
| 2045:15 | 2044:23 | 2057:16 | 2082:24 | needed | |
| 2049:14 | 2045:7 | 2059:6, 13, 14, | morning | 2007:7, 10, 13 | < 0 > |
| 2061:8 | matters | 20 2061:15 | 2026:12 | 2041:21 | oath 2063:17 |
| 2079:20 | 2012:3 | 2062:16, 23 | 2050:20 | needs 2020:5 | 20 |
| 2080:11 | McCarthy | 2063:1, 2, 4 | 2056:1 | 2065:5 | object 2018:3 |
| 2082:1 | 2015:4 | 2064:2, 24 | mother | neglected | 2022:6 |
| lots 2043:15 | 2048:22, 25 | 2065:19 | 2050:15 | 2066:25 | 2044:20 |
| 2072:22 | McCarthy's | 2066:4 | motion | neither 2085:9 | 2060:14 |
| lowens@sands | 2049:7 | 2068:13 | 2041:18 | neurologist's | 2061:23 |
| anderson.com | McCluskey | meetings | 2042:10 | 2012:8 | 2073:19 |
| 1996: <i>19</i> | 2016:24, 25 | 2067:13, 14 | 2073:11 | never 2004:5 | 2079:16 |
| lying 2024:13 | 2010:24, 25 | megabyte | motions | 2029:4 | objected |
| 2025:6 | 2017:20 | 2082:7 | 2071:6, 11, 14, | 2029.4 2061:16, 18 | 2033:13 |
| 2023.0 | | | | | |
| | 2020:3, 17, 22 | megabytes | <i>15</i> 2076:20, | 2064:9 | objecting |
| < M > | 2021:9, 11, 17, | 2082:3 | 22 2083:25 | new 2001:12 | 2033:10 |
| ma'am | 18, 25 | member | 2084:3 | 2002:14 | Objection |
| 2050:6 | 2022:20 | 2066:6 2067:4 | Mottley | nine 2041:6 | 2004:8, 12 |
| 2051:11 | 2023:13 | memorialized | 2045: <i>3</i> | Nos 1999:10 | 2005:12, 15 |
| 2053:20, 23 | 2024:13, 18, | 2058:19 | 2046:23 | 2075:21 | 2008:8 |
| 2070:5, 18 | 22 2025:3, 5 | 2059:14 | 2047:3, 19 | notarial | 2010:9 |
| 2072:18 | 2026:15 | mentioned | 2048:10 | 2085:13 | 2013: <i>13</i> |
| 2073:20 | 2027:13 | 2077:14 | move 2006: <i>3</i> | Notary | 2021:13 |
| 2077:23 | 2028:6, 11, 14, | middle | 2009:22 | 2085:2, 19 | 2024:4,6 |
| 2079:2 | 20 2029:1, 4, | 2020:18 | 2032:4 | note 2011:20 | 2027:15 |
| 2080:11 | 18 2030:6, 18 | Midlothian | 2071:17 | 2012:16 | 2032:17 |
| 2080.11 2081:4 | 2031:17 | 1995:15 | moving | 2012.10 | 2032:17 |
| 2083:16 | | | U U | | · · · |
| | 2049: <i>16</i> | midnight | 2056:18 | 2017:2 | 2034:5 |
| Main 1996:15 | McCluskey's | 2082:20 | muddled | 2038:4, 6 | 2037:2, 13 |
| 2033:6 | 2016:22 | mind 2016:7, | 2043:20 | 2039:10, 20 | 2038:1, 4, 7 |
| making | 2018:4 2028:9 | 18 | Mueller | 2046:18 | 2039:9, 11, 17 |
| 2036:1,2 | mean | minute | 2026:12, 16, | 2059:25 | 22 2040:3, 19 |
| 2041:13, 14 | 2001:15, 16 | 2025:16 | 21, 23 | 2066:19 | 2042:10 |
| 2059:17 | 2005:21 | 2057:6 2068:1 | 2027:11 | 2068:21 | 2044:10 |
| nanipulated | 2013:1 | minutes | 2029:25 | 2072:11 | 2046:19 |
| 2062:18 | 2019:19 | 2011:1 | 2030:1, 3, 8, 9, | noted | 2048:4,6 |
| 2064:5 | 2019:19 | 2017:7, 17 | <i>13</i> 2065: <i>11</i> , | 2005:14 | 2054:25 |
| MAP 2018: <i>13</i> , | 2021:10 | 2017.7, 17 2033:14 | 25 2067:3 | 2003.14 2048:5 | 2054.25 |
| | | | 25 2067.5 multiple | | |
| 25 2019:9 | 2035:3 | 2049:14 | - | 2083:22 | 2072:17 |
| MAPs | 2041:10 | 2062:25 | 2031:10 | notify 2065:5 | 2074:4 2075: |
| 2016:23 | 2079:3 | 2063: <i>3</i> , <i>6</i> , <i>10</i> , <i>11</i> 2066: <i>3</i> , <i>4</i> | 2061:23 | | objectionable 2001:18 |
| 2017:20, 24 | | | | 1 | . (1()(1 1() |

Page 9 3/30/2022

| 2002:14 | 18, 22 2011:2, | 10, 13, 18 | 2083:12, 13, 19 | 2037:9, 12 | 2023:22 |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2023:10 | 13, 16, 19 | 2067:7, 10, 23 | Old 2053:11 | 2038:4 | 2024:9 |
| objections | 2012:22 | 2068:1, 15, 20 | once 2038:12 | 2039:9, 12, 20, | 2025:12 |
| 2001:3 | 2013:2, 8, 12, | 2069:2, 7, 11, | ones 2019:7 | 23 2044:20 | 2026:3 |
| 2002:16 | 15, 23 | 14,20 | 2071:20 | 2048:4 | 2030:24 |
| 2008:7 | 2014:10, 14 | 2070:24 | 2075:25 | 2050:6 | 2061:13 |
| 2017:3, 13 | 2015:2, 11, 20, | 2071:1, 5, 15, | one's 2004:15, | 2055:14 | 2069:6, 7, 9 |
| 2033:2 | 23 2016:3, 11, | 21, 25 2072:4, | 17 | 2073:22 | 2071:16 |
| 2040:10, 11 | 19 2017:4, 9, | 13, 17 2073:3, | online 2046:1 | 2078:8, 20 | 2072:5, 22, 24 |
| 2055:23 | 15 2018:21 | 6, 18 2074:4, | opened | 2079:2, 12, 22 | 2074:16, 17, |
| 2072:22 | 2019:4, 14, 22, | 8, 18, 22 | 2055:9 | 2084:10 | 24 2075:6, 20 |
| 2073:2 | 25 2020:13, | 2075:5, 11 | 2056:14 | 2001.10 | 2079:13 |
| observation | <i>19</i> 2020:13, <i>19</i> 2021:13, | 2076:2, 5, 12, | opening | < P > | Parent- |
| 2048:2 <i>3</i> | 18 2022:6, 10 | 19, 22, 25 | 2002:14 | pm 2080:2 | teacher |
| 2048.23 | 2023:11 | | | p m 2080.2 page 2012:12 | 2070:8, <i>19</i> |
| | | 2077:6, 8, 12, | opens 2001:12 | | , |
| observers | 2024:5 | 21, 24 2078:2, | opinion | 2020:18 | part 2015:16 |
| 2084:1 | 2025:16 | 6, 10, 14, 19, | 2034:19 | 2025:1, 17 | 2016:20 |
| obviously | 2026:6, 10, 17, | 22 2079:5, 10, | opportunity | 2026:7 | 2026:23 |
| 2009:8 | 20, 24 2027:2, | 18, 24 2080:4, | 2000:15 | 2047:11, 12, | 2028:23 |
| occurred | 6, 17, 23 | 7, 9, 17, 20, 24 | 2001:4 | 17 2050:24, | 2029:23 |
| 2042:4, 5 | 2028:17 | 2081:3, 8, 15, | 2002:1 | 25 2052:2 | 2040:15 |
| 2056:6 2068:2 | 2029:16, 25 | 18, 23 2082:6, | 2003:25 | 2053:12 | 2059:3 |
| ocean 2041:18 | 2030:10, 16 | 12, 18, 21 | 2031:8 | 2057:2 | 2075:3 2076:1 |
| October | 2031:4, 12, 18, | 2083:3, 9, 13, | 2040:22 | 2059:22 | particular |
| 2018:24 | 23 2032:4, 24 | 17 2084:6, 11 | 2042:19 | 2070:3, 5 | 2004:20 |
| 2024:2 | 2033:4, 11, 17 | Oh 2026:24 | 2043:23 | Pages 1999:2 | 2041:18 |
| offensive | 2034:4,9 | 2045:1 | 2049:23 | 2025:14, 19 | 2042:13 |
| 2063:17 | 2035:10, 15, | 2052:4 | opposite | 2026:4, 9 | 2053:14 |
| offer 2008:24 | 20 2036:2, 8, | 2060:17 | 2025:10 | 2020:1, 5 | 2059:5 |
| 2022:4 | 20 2030.2, 8, 24 2037:6, 9, | 2066:13 | order | 2043:16, 18, | 2073:23 |
| OFFERED | 14, 25 2038:6 | 2000.13 | 2019:21 | 19, 25 2077:18 | particularly |
| | | | | | |
| 1999:2, 11 | 2039:10, 15, | 2080:18, 21 | 2077:20 | pandemic | 2050:24 |
| 2001:12 | 21 2040:1, 9, | Okay | original | 2022:24 | parties |
| 2008:21 | 16, 21, 25 | 2006:11, 15 | 2036:3 | pandriano@sa | 2031:10 |
| 2013:24 | 2041:24 | 2008:4 | Originally | ndsanderson.c | 2042:2 |
| 2014:13, 21, | 2042:8, 24 | 2020:13, 19 | 2035:10 | om 1996:18 | 2051:21 |
| 24 2034:1 | 2043:3 | 2024:16 | 2036:25 | paperwork | 2053:13, 21 |
| 2062:5 | 2044:1, 4, 9, | 2025:8, 12 | orthographic | 2046:1 | parts 2015:18 |
| 2074:24 | 15 2045:1, 8, | 2026:24 | 2015:9, 14, 15, | paragraph | party |
| 2075:21 | 12 2046:7, 9, | 2027:23 | 16 | 2051:5, 10, 11, | 2044:23 |
| offering | 18 2047:14 | 2030:16 | overrule | 18 2052:1, 19 | 2068:19 |
| 2023:9 | 2048:5, 12, 17 | 2032:4, 13 | 2024:5 | 2057:4, 5 | 2085:10 |
| 2034:15 | 2050:3, 7, 9, | 2035:20 | Overruled | Parent | PATRICK |
| 2044:22 | 13 2051:17, | 2038:2, 22 | 2045:8 | 1999:11 | 1996:20 |
| 2045:6 | 20, 25 2052:4, | 2039:1, 23 | 2056:19 | 2018:10, 12 | 2058:23 |
| 2072:11 | $11 \ 2053:7, 10,$ | 2039.1, 25 2042:15 | OWENS | 2018.10, 12 2027:13 | 2082:8 |
| 2072:11 | 19, 21, 24 | 2042.13 | 1996:21 | 2027.13 | |
| | | | | | pay 2047:5 2048:2 |
| 2074:2 | 2054:8, 11, 14 | 2047:23 | 2001:11, 19 | 2041:9 | |
| office 2016:14 | 2055:6, 20, 25 | 2049:7, 18, 21 | 2008:7 | 2045:23 | PC 1996:14 |
| OFFICER | 2056:5, 9, 17 | 2051:1, 15 | 2012:19 | 2058:23 | peers 2049:12 |
| 1995: <i>15</i> | 2057:18, 20 | 2052:11 | 2013:21 | 2064:19 | people 2068:8 |
| 2000:7, 23 | 2058:9 | 2053:7, 24 | 2018:3, 8, 16 | 2075:22 | 10 |
| 2001:8, 14, 20 | 2059:21, 25 | 2054:11 | 2022:21 | Parents | period 2049:2 |
| 2002:4, 25 | 2060:8, 17 | 2055:25 | 2023:4 | 1995:5 | permission |
| 2003:25 | 2061:3, 7, 21 | 2057:20 | 2026:1 | 1997:3 | 2006:18 |
| 2005:8, 13 | 2062:1, 3, 4, 8, | 2062:12 | 2027:10, 24 | 1999:2, 6, 7, 8, | 2065:3 |
| 2006:1, 15, 19, | 12, 15, 24 | 2070:24 | 2029:9, 14 | 9,10 2000:14, | permitted |
| 22 2007:23 | 2063:5 | 2073:3, 6 | 2031:13 | 17 2008:25 | 2055:21 |
| | 2064:6, 11, 16, | 2078:19 | 2032:17, 25 | 2009:20 | person |
| 2008:4. 13. 19 | L 2004.0. 11.10 | | , | | I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I |
| 2008:4, <i>13</i> , <i>19</i> 2009:1, <i>14</i> , <i>24</i> | | | 2033.3 10 12 | 2014.13 21 | 2031.9 11 |
| 2008:4, 13, 19 2009:1, 14, 24 2010:12, 16, | 2004.0, 11, 10, 20, 25, 2065:2, 9, 11, 2066:5, | 2079:25 | 2033: <i>3</i> , <i>10</i> , <i>12</i> , 20 2035:7 | 2014: <i>13</i> , 2 <i>1</i> , 24 2022:4 | 2031:9, 11 |

| 2038:12 | pointed | printed | 2023:3, 5 | questioning | <i>22</i> 2033: <i>1</i> , <i>3</i> , |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2066:1 | 2064:22 | 2025:25 | 2060:13 | 2049:22 | 8, 12, 21, 25 |
| personal | pointing | 2046:5 | 2065:21 | 2068:17 | 2034:3, 7, 11 |
| 2036:22 | 2002:4 | prior 2007:10 | 2077:11 | questions | 2035:14, 17, |
| personally | points | 2025:3 | 2079:14 | 2002:22, 24 | 21 2036:6, 10 |
| 2015:25 | 2016:22 | 2026:21 | provided | 2015:4 | 2037:5, 8, 11, |
| personnel | 2057:22 | 2039:5 | 2028:4 | 2028:3 | 23 2038:2, 8 |
| 2011:5 | polite 2033:5 | 2082:20 | 2041:19 | 2033:1, 13, 16 | 2039:13, 20, |
| Petitioner | 2068:13 | Privacy | 2044:21 | 2039:25 | 24 2040:7, 15, |
| 1995:7 | portion | 2052:15 | 2060:15, 20 | 2059:23 | 20, 24 2041:2, |
| 1996:11 | 2063:2 | private | 2064:11 | 2069:13 | 24 2042:6 |
| phone 2017:5, | position | 2038:19 | 2065:22, 23 | 2071:2 | 2043:4, 15 |
| <i>16</i> 2065:25 | 2037: <i>3</i> , <i>13</i> | probably | 2065:22, 25 | 2077:25 | 2044:3, 6, 7, |
| piece 2015:9, | 2059:16 | 2016: <i>13</i> | 2071:18 | quiet 2084:2 | 12, 22 2045:3, |
| <i>15</i> | 2062:20 | 2010:15 | 2074:9 | quite 2004.2 | 6 2046:11,16 |
| place 2052:7 | possible | 2019:3 | 2074.2 | 2068:11 | 2047:9, 16, 18 |
| 2066:5 | 2013: <i>1</i> | 2049:24 | providing | quote 2052:20 | 2048:9, 14, 18 |
| placement | 2019:7 2084:7 | problem | 2022:23 | quote 2052.20 | 2049:21 |
| 2038: <i>19</i> | possibly | 2057:12 | psychologist | < R > | 2049.21 |
| platforms | 2005:18 | 2064:12 | 2015:4 | RATNER | 2050.22 |
| 2046: <i>1</i> | precedes | 2004.12 2081:3 | Public | 1996: <i>4</i> , <i>9</i> , <i>10</i> | 2051:15, 24 |
| played 2060:6 | 2082:23 | proceed | 2000:10 | 1998:4, 9, 10 | 2052:2, 7, 15 2053:5, 18, 23 |
| | | 2020:7 | 2000.70 | | |
| please 2002:23 | precept 2037:20 | | 2010:7 2038:10, 20 | 2000: <i>17</i> , <i>21</i> , 22 2001:6 | 2054:4, 25 2055:2, 4, 7, |
| 2002:23 | precludes | proceeding 2085:11 | 2038:10, 20 2039:6 2085:2 | 2002:20 | |
| | - | | | 2002:20 | 11, 22 2056:3, |
| 2016:1 | 2004: <i>16</i> | PROCEEDIN | pull 2075:18 | | 7 2057:8, 19, |
| 2020:6 | prefer | GS 1995:14 | 2077:1 2078:6 | 2004:10, 16, | 21 2058:4, 7, |
| 2022:5 | 2044:13 | 2085:6, 8 | pulls 2077:8 | 18, 22 2005:2, | 8, 13, 21 |
| 2034:12 | 2079:10 | PROCESS | purpose | 9, 20, 21 | 2059:8 |
| 2037:9 | prehearing | 1995:3 | 2013:23 | 2006:5, 6, 16, | 2060:5, 12, 19 |
| 2038:4 | 2072:20 | 2027:25 | 2014:9, 10 | 23 2007:15, | 2061:5, 18, 20, |
| 2049:11 | 2077:14, 22 | 2038:14, 18 | 2033:18 | 25 2008:9, 15, | 23 2062:4, 10, |
| 2051:5 | premise | 2061:8 | pursuant | 24 2009:11, | 14, 22, 25 |
| 2052:8 | 2036:3 | produce | 2052:24 | <i>22, 25</i> 2010: <i>1</i> , | 2063:7, 8, 10, |
| 2054:3 | 2041:25 | 2045:11, 14 | put 2008:16 | 20, 24 2011:4, | 16, 20, 25 |
| 2055:12 | prepared | 2046:3 2062:5 | 2025:24 | 15, 18, 24 | 2064:3, 8 |
| 2057:2 | 2074:14 | produced | | 2012:2, 12 | 2065:10, 12, |
| 2070:3 | PRESENT | 2006:12 | < Q > . | 2013:1, 4, 10, | 13, 14 |
| 2071:3 2077:5 | 1997: <i>1</i> | 2012:17, 18 | quagmire | <i>17</i> 2014: <i>4</i> , <i>12</i> , | 2066:12, 14, |
| plus 2041:17 | 2030:19 | 2013:19 | 2042:16 | 16, 17, 19 | 24 2067:6, 19, |
| 2081:2 | 2031:6 | 2018:18 | qualified | 2015:10, 19, | 21 2068:12 |
| point 2002:2 | 2056:22, 25 | 2023:16, 17, | 2042:12 | 22, 24 2016:5, | 2069:5, 18 |
| 2007:7 | 2059:20 | 20, 25 | quarter | <i>16</i> , <i>21</i> 2017:8, | 2070:21, 22 |
| 2008:12, 15 | 2065:13 | 2046:22 | 2070:14, 15, 16 | 12, 19 2018:6, | 2071:3, 16 |
| 2015:21 | presently | 2062:6 | question | 14, 15 2019:3, | 2072:2, 5, 14, |
| 2021:7 | 2067:4 | proffered | 2005:11 | 11, 19, 24 | 16 2073:4, 7, |
| 2022:15 | preserved | 2042:5 | 2006:3, 7 | 2020:9, 17 | 23 2074:7, 11, |
| 2023:1 | 2055:24 | prompting | 2009:2 | 2021:7, 23 | 21 2075:2, 25 |
| 2033:20 | press 2081:23 | 2020:25 | 2033:21 | 2022:3, 18, 25 | 2076:3, 10, 14, |
| 2035:7 | previous | 2021:10 | 2035:9, 11, 12 | 2023:1, 5, 8, | 17, 23 2077:4, |
| 2038:18 | 2079:8 | 2023:6 | 2043:5 | 15, 17 2024:7, | 7, 10, 19, 23 |
| 2039:1,5 | previously | proper | 2054:5, 12, 14 | 11 2025:18, | 2078:4, 13, 18 |
| 2055:16 | 2000:5 | 2002:15 | 2055:17 | 21, 23 2026:2, | 2079:8, 16 |
| 2059:2 | 2003:4 | 2019: <i>1</i> | 2056:9, 18 | 8, 13, 18, 22 | 2080:1, 2, 6, 8, |
| 2061:2 | 2006:12 | 2024:3 | 2064:4 2078:4 | 2027:1, 4, 14, | 11, 18, 19 |
| 2066:24 | 2011:11 | 2027:14 | questionable | 19 2028:16, | 2081:5, 12, 17, |
| 2067:25 | 2012:17 | 2028:23, 24 | 2041:22 | 18 2029:11, | 22 2082:2, 8, |
| | 2018:17 | 2040:5 2073:2 | questioned | 12, 14, 21 | 17, 19 2083:2, |
| 2068:10, 16 | | | | | |
| 2068:10, 16 2072:2 | 2049:16 | provide | 2043:11 | 2030:2, 4, 11 | 6, 16 |
| | 2049: <i>16</i> principal | provide 2002: <i>1</i> | 2043:11 | 2030:2, 4, 11 2031:1, 9, 16, | 6, 16 Ratner[sic |

| Ratner's | rebutting | 2051:8, 22 | 2075:22, 25 | requesting | 2025:1 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2059:18 | 2004:25 | 2052:15, 23 | 2076:6, 9, 15 | 2038:19 | 2026:10, 13, |
| 2068:17 | recall 2001:8 | 2064:2, 14, 24 | related | 2052:20 | 17, 22 |
| reach 2061:18 | 2004:3 | 2065:6, 7 | 2048:2 2085:9 | require | 2027:20 |
| reached | 2005:17 | 2067:2, 15 | relaxed | 2034:22 | 2029:14, 16, |
| 2061:20 | 2007:6 | 2070:15 | 2067:8 | reservations | 21 2030:10 |
| read 2005:7 | 2015:7 | 2071:7, 12 | Relevancy | 2058:18 | 2034:3 |
| 2007:1 | 2017:6, 21 | 2074:15 | 2048:4 | respect 2072:3 | 2035:4, 14, 25 |
| 2014:17 | 2018:1, 10, 11 | 2075:4, 14 | relevant | respectful | 2043:14 |
| 2020:1, 11, 19 | 2023:18 | 2076:1, 4, 7 | 2034:18, 21, | 2084:1,7 | 2044:3, 7, 15 |
| 2021:2 | 2024:12 | recording | 25 2035:5, 24 | respectfully | 2045:6 |
| 2026:14, 18 | 2026:13 | 2059:8 | 2036:18 | 2038:2 | 2046:11 |
| 2029:18 | 2028:7 | 2060:6, 11 | remainder | respond | 2047:24 |
| 2031:2, 21, 25 | 2032:10 | 2061:9, 15 | 2063:12 | 2037:10 | 2048:8, 14, 17 |
| 2073:18 | 2038:15 | 2062:23, 25 | remains | responded | 2052:7 |
| reading | 2055:4 | 2063:12, 14, | 2033:22 | 2022:1 | 2053:19 |
| 2012:15 | 2060:10 | 22 2064:1, 15 | remedy | 2045:18 | 2056:7 |
| ready 2011:2 | 2061:8 | 2065:9, 18, 21, | 2065:17, 21 | 2047:3 | 2062:10 |
| realize | 2073:8 | 22, 23 2066:1, | remember | Respondent | 2063:24 |
| 2018:19 | 2077:17 | 6 2067:3, 19 | 2010:16 | 1995:10 | 2067:17 |
| really 2028:2 | recalls | 2068:5, 7, 18, | 2010:10 | 1996:22 | 2068:15 |
| 2030:21 | 2043:18 | 22 2069:3 | 2051:2 | 2079:13 | 2069:2, 7, 14 |
| 2049:25 | receive | 2077:2 | 2056:1 | responding | 2009.2, 7, 14 |
| 2073:23, 24 | 2047:5, 20 | recordings | 2050:17 | 2020:18 | 2070.18, 25 |
| 2075.25, 24 reason | 2047.5, 20 | 2066:22 | 2061:17 | response | 2071.3 |
| 2024: <i>3</i> , <i>4</i> | 2048.2, 11 2061:25 | 2067:12, 13 | 2064:25 | 2006:2 | 2078:4 |
| 2024.3, 4 2033:6 | 2061:23 | records | 2004.25 | 2000.2 2009:2 | 2079.7 2080:10 |
| 2033:0 | received | 2041:19 | | 2009:2 2013:17 | 2080.10 |
| | | | removed | | |
| 2036:12 | 2039:6 | 2048:2 | 2066:7 | 2018:18 | 2082:16 |
| 2066:21 | 2041:5 | 2052:22, 24 | report 2012:8 2015:11 | 2019:8 | 2084:3 |
| 2067:17 | 2047:2, 5, 8, | 2067:16 | | 2021:21, 24 | right-hand |
| reasoning | 23 2062:9 | recount | 2039:13, 15 | 2036:13 | 2070:7 |
| 2015:14 | 2070:1, 12 | 2078:23 | 2069:23 | 2044:19 | Rights |
| reasons | receiving | redacted | 2070:15, 16 | 2047:24 | 2052:14 |
| 2032:13 | 2043:10 | 2030:14 | 2077:15, 22 | 2050:21 | 2058:18 |
| rebut | recollection | refer 2068:6 | REPORTED | 2079:14 | 2083:22 |
| 2004:15 | 2007:13, 16 | referencing | 1995:25 | rested | rule 2004:16, |
| 2018:20 | 2011:21 | 2051:2 | reporter | 2000:14, 16, | 21, 22 2008:9 |
| 2029:2 | 2018:6 | referring | 2000:5 | 17 2073:9 | 2010:19 |
| 2046:13 | 2025:7 | 2010:23 | 2033:7 | result 2036:23 | 2033:4 |
| rebuts | 2077:20 | reflect | 2071:22, 23 | retrieved | 2037:18 |
| 2018:14 | 2078:23 | 2018:22 | 2075: <i>13</i> | 2046:25 | 2040:17 |
| Rebuttal | record | 2040:22 | 2076:7 2085:5 | review | 2073:5 |
| 1998:5 | 2000:8 | refresh 2007:8 | represent | 2051:8 | ruled 2002:12 |
| 2001:7 | 2001:24 | regard | 2050:1 | 2052:16 | 2005:11 |
| 2002:9, 10 | 2002:5 | 2032:18 | representation | reviewed | 2008:8 |
| 2003:7 | 2005:7 | 2034:2 | 2067:18, 22 | 2025:4 | rules 2001:16 |
| 2004:10, 16, | 2007:3 | regarding | represented | Richmond | 2007:19,21 |
| 23, 24 | 2009:12, 13 | 2040:12 | 2012:6 | 1996:6, <i>16</i> | 2042:25 |
| 2007:14 | 2010:10 | 2042:3 | representing | 2085:14 | 2067:8 |
| 2008:21, 22 | 2012:1 | 2053:15 | 2065:5 | right 2000:16 | ruling 2038:7 |
| 2009:17 | 2013:11 | Registration | request | 2004:22 | 2060:9, 25 |
| 2012:21 | 2015:3 | 2085:19 | 2047:1,2 | 2006:22 | 2066:20 |
| 2013:14, 22 | 2018:22 | reject | 2048:13 | 2009:6 | 2072:18 |
| 2028:1, 2, 12 | 2029:17 | 2073:15 | 2065:2 | 2014:4 | rulings |
| 2029:7, 8, 9, | 2030:21 | 2074:22 | requested | 2015:22 | 2007:24 |
| 10 2031:5, 13 | 2033:19 | REJECTED | 2045:10 | 2016:11 | 2008:6 |
| 2046:13 | 2039:14, 16 | 1999:2, 11 | 2052:24 | 2017:11, 15 | |
| 2050:18 | 2040:19, 21 | 2014:25 | 2070:9 | 2019:22 | < S > |
| 2072:23 | 2048:15 | 2074:25 | | 2019:22 | SANDS |
| 2073:13 | 2048.15 | | | 2023:1 | 1996: <i>14</i> |
| | | 1 | | | 1//011 |

| SARAH | 2046:22, 24 | 2043:12 | similarly | specifics | stipulation |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1995:15 | 2047:4, 5, 11, | send 2080:14 | 2052:18 | 2018:11 | 2010:10 |
| 1996: <i>10</i> | 16 2049:5 | sending | simply | spend 2080:24 | 2011:17, 18 |
| satisfy | 2050:23 | 2028:7 | 2028:13 | spending | 2013:24 |
| 2023:22 | 2051:20 | sense 2036:1, | 2054:17 | 2033:14 | 2014:3, 8 |
| Saturday | 2052:6, 21 | 2 2046:6 | 2056:13 | spent 2045:25 | 2015:6 |
| 2079:4,6 | 2053:12 | sent 2046:2 | 2082:2 | spoke | 2016:7 |
| Saturdays | 2054:3 | 2062:8 | simultaneous | 2019:17 | 2059:18 |
| 2079:4 | 2061:12 | 2066:14 | 2079:17 | 2020:20 | stop 2008:4, 5 |
| say,s 2060:2 | 2063:22 | sentence | | spreadsheet | 2043:14 |
| saying | 2064:2, 23 | 2051:5, 12 | simultaneously | 2046:2 | 2062:19 |
| 2005:10 | 2065:5, 7, 15 | 2052:3, 14, 19 | 2079:19 | stage 2002:7 | stopped |
| 2007:5 | 2067:16 | sentences | single 2074:3 | 2003:9 | 2063:13 |
| 2011:14 | 2069:16,21 | 2057:5, 10 | situation | stand | straight |
| 2013:18 | 2071:13 | September | 2018:17 | 2007:14 | 2032:9 2039:7 |
| 2023:11 | 2072:22 | 2019:24, 25 | so-called | 2073:1 | Street 1996:15 |
| 2027:20 | 2076:21 | 2020:15 | 2032:18 | start 2004:1 | stuff 2017:14 |
| 2029:13 | 2079:12 | service | 2033:24 | 2019:22 | subject |
| 2040:1 | 2084:5 | 2072:10 | soliloquy | 2027:2 | 2009:23 |
| 2042:18 | Schools | 2074:8, 12 | 2002:1 | started | 2018:23, 24 |
| 2057:9 | 2000:11 | 2084:9 | Somebody | 2002:8, 21 | 2036:4 |
| 2058:23 | 2010:7 | services | 2017:9 | 2063:13 | 2058:9, 17 |
| 2062:11 | 2038:20 | 2011:10 | 2017:2 | 2066:3, 4 | submit |
| 2068:14, 18 | school's | 2058:24 | sorry 2019:14 | starts 2019:24 | 2083:17 |
| 2074:14 | 2024:6 | session | 2020:1 | state 2001:24 | submitting |
| 2082:8 | scientific | 2022:24 | 2023:8 | 2067:5 | 2083:15 |
| says 2016:9 | 2041:8 | set 2003:9 | 2023.0 | stated 2018:8, | subpoena |
| 2019:5, 17 | scope 2054:6, | seven 2032:8 | 2045:2, 13 | 9 2020:4, <i>11</i> , | 2013:18 |
| 2020:11 | 25 2055:1, 17, | 2033:9 | 2051:10 | 12 2031:17 | 2018:18 |
| 2023:4 | 19 | seventh | 2051:10 | 2041:19 | subpoenaed |
| 2024:24 | seal 2085:13 | 2000:13 | 2052:0, 11 2054:8, 13 | 2074:5 | 2013:18 |
| 2029:2, 4 | seat 2071:10 | share 2049:11 | 2055:11 | statement | subsequently |
| 2037:22 | Second | shocked | 2057:19 | 2004:17 | 2047:23 |
| 2051:14 | 2007:12 | 2041: <i>14</i> | 2058:8, 14 | 2009:3, 4, 9 | 2057:23 |
| 2052:8, 19 | 2012:11, 12 | short 2050:8 | 2074:7 | 2037:21 | substance |
| 2057:9 | 2047:11, 16 | show 2006:13 | 2080:22 | 2051:19 | 2030:2 |
| 2059:18, 19 | 2050:24 | 2007:6 | sort 2003:9 | 2059:1 | suddenly |
| 2065:15, 16 | 2050:27 | 2009:14 | 2066:23 | 2061:24 | 2041:13 |
| 2067:1 | 2051:3, 10, 11 | 2011:4 | sorts 2067:14 | 2070:8 | Suite 1996:5, |
| 2074:10 | 2070:3, 15 | 2023:18 | sounds | statements | 15 |
| 2077:21 | 2071:3 2080:5 | 2028:6 | 2040:25 | 2002:14, 15 | support |
| SCHOOL | section 2059:1 | 202010 | 2079:24 | 2003:19 | 2027:8 |
| 1995:9 | see 2011:14 | 2066:16 | spacing | 2005:5 | supposed |
| 2000:11, 13, | 2012:23 | 2072:12 | 2077:16 | 2003.5 | 2004:24 |
| <i>15</i> 2001: <i>13</i> | 2012:23 | showed | speak 2001:3 | 2024.12 | 2004.24 |
| 2004:14 | 2013:20 | 2066:12, 16 | 2012:22 | states 2020:25 | 2074:20 |
| 2008:22 | 2014.9, 10 | shown | 2012:22 | stationary | 2074:20 |
| 2011:5, 8 | 2027:6 | 2028:13 | speaking | 2053:12 | 2077:16, 22 |
| 2011:3, 0 | 2027:0 | shows 2012:5 | 2068:10 | stayed 2066:5 | sure 2008:1 |
| 2012:7, 25 | 2044:15 | 2059:9 | special 2011:9 | stick 2043:2 | 2011:10 |
| 2013.0 | 2043.20 | 2066:15 | Specialist | stilted | 2019:13 |
| 2022:10 | 2060:20 | sides 2079:21 | 1997:2 2011:6 | 2062:17 | 2019.13 |
| 2027:12, 24 | 2070:5, 8 | 2080:10 | specific | stipulate | 2023:20 |
| 2028:4 | 2078:6 | signature | 2014:6 | 2051: <i>13</i> , <i>21</i> | 2023.20 |
| 2032:14 | seeing | 2059:22 | 2055:16 | 2052:13 | 2050:9 |
| 2036:18 | 2049:13 | signed | specifically | 2052:15 | 2058:17 |
| 2038:9, 10, 12 | 2070:14 | 2058:17 | 2011:20 | 2053:22 | 2056:2 |
| | seen 2003:19 | 2059:6 | 2011.20 | 2061:14 | 2000.2 |
| /// 19.7 / 1 / 7 | | | 2053:15 | 2070:21, 22 | 2072.11 2081:17 |
| 2039:2, 6, 18 2042:10 | 2009.7 | significant | | | |
| 2042:10 | 2009:7 | significant | | | |
| | 2009:7 2041:15 | significant 2030:7 signs 2058:24 | 2055:2 2073:8 | stipulated 2010:15 | surprised 2043:12 |

| surrebuttal | 2029:20 | 2002:6, 8, 9 | think 2000:8, | 2010:17, 20, | 2021:5 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2004:24 | 2032:3 | 2004:4 | 16 2001:5, 25 | 23, 25 2017:2 | 2029:6 |
| surreptitious | 2047:15 | 2006:2 | 2004:2, 11 | 2019:21 | 2041:11 |
| 2064:15, 21 | 2052:9 | 2007:4 | 2005:15 | 2021:3 | 2043:1, 7 |
| 2066:22 | 2059:23 | 2012:24 | 2007:2, 5 | 2022:15 | trying 2009:8 |
| suspect | tape 2059:8 | 2016:6, 22 | 2008:2, 12 | 2038:9 | 2036:11 |
| 2034: <i>13</i> | targeted | 2010:0, 22 2017:21, 23 | 2011:25 | 2039:5 | 2040:7 |
| 2036:12 | 2003:23 | 2017:21, 23 | 2011:25 | 2043:22 | 2041:3, 12 |
| suspected | teacher | 2022:11, 13 | 2015:12 | 2049:24 | 2042:6 |
| 2037:16, 22 | 2020:5 | 2022:11, 13 | 2015:12 | 2073:13 | 2042:0 |
| 2039:17 | 2020:5 | 2028:4, 9 | 2017:16 | 2079:9 | 2045:25 |
| suspicion | team 2059:4 | 2020:4, 9 2032:8 | 2019:3 | 2080:25 | 2045:23 |
| 2034:16 | technically | 2032:0 | 2013:23 | 2080:25 | 2048:15 |
| 2040:23 | 2031:4 | 2039:11, 18 | 2025:18, 23 | 2083:8, 14 | Tuesday |
| sustain | technological | 2040:11, 17, | 2023.10, 23 | timely | 2004:2 2027:6 |
| 2042:10 | 2082: <i>3</i> | 18 2042:2 | 2034.5, 18 | 2060:15 | turn 2012:23 |
| sustained | technology | 2044:21 | 2041:4, 20 | times 2049:2, | 2025:12 |
| 2039:19, 21 | 2077:1 2082:7 | 2044:21 | 2042:1, 21, 22 | 14 | 2023:12 2041:20 |
| 2039.19, 21 2040:3 | tell 2001:4, | 2040.14, 19 2049:8 | 2045.5 | title 2045:22 | 2041.20 |
| sustaining | 18, 21 | 2049.8 | 2049:13, 20 | titled 2045:24 | 2066:1 |
| 2040:19 | 2002:11 | 2050.14 2071:9 | 2049.13, 20 | today | 2069:16 |
| sworn 2000:5 | 2002.11 2006:2 | 2074:13 | 2059.21 2060:8 | 2021:2 <i>1</i> | 2009.10 |
| 2001:9 2003:4 | 2000.2 2025:14 | testing | 2061:10 | 2021:21 | turned 2041:6 |
| System | 2023.14 2031:17 | 2016:23 | 2066:3 | 2027.8 | turns 2081:13 |
| 2000:13 | 2036:14 | 2010:23 | 2068:13 | 2073:10 | two 2007:19 |
| 2008:22 | 2030:14 | 2020:22, 25 | 2073:16 | 2076:13 | 2016:22 |
| 2012:25 | 2039:16 | Thank | 2075:3 | TODD | 2010:22 |
| 2012:23 | 2040:14, 22 | 2001:19 | 2076:13, 14, | 1996:9 | 2026:4, 9 |
| 2039:18 | 2042:13, 20 | 2002:4, 20, 25 | 23 2077:14 | 2014:17 | 2057:4 |
| 2044:10 | 2043:17, 23 | 2006:15 | 2079:1, 19, 20 | todd ratner@r | 2063:11 |
| 2067:16 | 2044:5 | 2008:13 | thinking | atnerplc.com | 2069:12 |
| 2007110 | 2065:20 | 2009:25 | 2029:7 | 1996:8 | 2072:10 |
| < T > | 2074:20 | 2014:16, 19 | 2078:11 | told 2036:25 | two-page |
| tab 2025:19, | telling | 2018:21 | 2083:7 | 2044:2 | 2014:20 |
| 20, 25 2030:24 | 2065:18 | 2019:4 | thinks 2001:1, | 2045:16, 17 | 2076:17 |
| take 2011:1 | tells 2037:15 | 2020:7, 13 | 21 | tonight 2019:6 | |
| 2016:1 | ten 2041:5 | 2024:7 | third 2051:18 | top 2019:20 | < U > |
| 2017:24 | 2063:3, 5 | 2039:12 | 2052:19 | 2022:1 2025:1 | Uh-huh |
| 2018:13 | terms 2005:3 | 2040:20 | 2068:19 | topics 2042:13 | 2051:6 |
| 2019:9 | testified | 2048:20 | 2070:15 | torturous | unanswered |
| 2020:23, 24 | 2001:25 | 2050:2, 3 | thought | 2041:11 | 2002:24 |
| 2024:6 | 2003:5, 13 | 2057:2 | 2005:21 | tow 2016:12 | understand |
| 2040:10 | 2009:16 | 2062:10, 14 | 2015:25 | track 2017:10 | 2001:14 |
| 2050:8 | 2022:13 | 2067:21 | 2016:8 | | 2002:25 |
| 2051:4 | 2024:18 | 2068:15, 25 | 2026:7 | TRANSCRIPT | 2008:19 |
| 2053:6 | 2058:10 | 2070:23, 25 | 2030:7 | 1995: <i>14</i> | 2010:22 |
| 2054:2 | 2059:12 | 2071:1, 4, 10 | 2034:6 | 2085:7 | 2014:8 |
| 2062:13 | testifies | 2077:13 | 2039:24 | transcripts | 2015:19 |
| 2067:13, 20 | 2036:5 | 2083:25 | 2052:4 | 2078: <i>16</i> | 2017:23 |
| 2071:6 | testify | 2084:2, 6, 8, | 2061:7 | transcript's | 2029:6, 8 |
| 2075:17 | 2002:13 | 10, 11 | 2068:2 | 2014:18 | 2033:8 |
| taken 2022:8 | 2031:8 | thereof | 2080:15, 19, 22 | tried 2020:5 | 2034:14 |
| 2050:11 | 2032:18 | 2085:12 | thoughts | trouble | 2035:1,8 |
| 2067:1, 2, 3, 19 | 2037:19 | thing 2012:13 | 2049:8 | 2081:7 | 2037:2, 6 |
| takes 2082:1 | 2042:7 2067:7 | 2032:6 | thread 2024:1 | true 2085:6 | 2041:24 |
| talk 2029:24 | testifying | 2061:3 | three 2046:1 | truth 2034:15 | 2042:23 |
| 2049:25 | 2030:1 | 2066:23 | 2068:4 | 2044:23 | 2043:1, 2, 5 |
| 2054:7 | 2036:6, 7 | 2068:5,6 | three-hour | 2045:7 | 2054:4 |
| 2055:19 | 2044:11 | 2083:24 | 2077:2 | try 2003:23 | 2059:16 |
| talking | testimony | things 2024:2 | time 2000:17 | 2005:4, 25 | 2066:22 |
| 2007:25 | 2001:12 | 2076:12 | 2008:2 | 2019:5 | |
| | , | | | , | |

| 2068:14 | 2075:20 | way 2016:2 | 2021:6 | wrong 2017:5 |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 070:18 | vs 1995:8 | 2023:13 | 2022:14 | 2073:13 |
| nderstanding | | 2027:12 | wit 2085:1 | wrote 2011:6 |
| 038: <i>13</i> | < W > | 2077:22 | WITNESS | 2024:22 |
| 076:1 | Wait 2025:16 | 2082:12 | 1998: <i>1</i> | 2027:7 2034:4 |
| nderstood | waited | weak 2078:8 | 2003:12 | |
| 068:25 | 2033:21 | week 2004:2 | 2004:13, 14, | < Y > |
| nusual | walk 2055:10 | 2020:24 | 17 2005:3, 24 | Yeah 2076:5 |
| 068:20 | want 2001:3, | 2021:5 | 2007:14 | 2078:10 |
| e 2021:4 | 20 2002:12, | 2061:11 | 2008:23 | 2082:18 |
| | 23 2009:12 | 2062:6 | 2009:16 | year 2052:21 |
| V > | 2011:4 | 2078:12 | 2019:10 | 2070:13 |
| AC 2065:17 | 2012:22 | 2079:2 | 2028:4, 21, 22, | yesterday |
| alid 2033:25 | 2014:17 | welcome | 23, 24 2031:6, | 2000:12 |
| 034:6, 10, 13, | 2016:17 | 2023:24 | 7 2032:17, 21 | 2014:4 |
| 7, 20, 23 | 2018:11, 13 | well 2003:16 | 2033:22, 23 | 2016:23 |
| 035:4, 13, 18, | 2019:20 | 2004:20 | 2034:1 | 2022:11 |
| 2, 25 2036:4, | 2021:4 | 2005:2 | 2036:5 | 2024:18 |
| 9, 13, 19 | 2028:20 | 2011:18 | 2040:5 | 2028:15 |
| 037:4 | 2031:11 | 2021:3 | 2042:23 | 2048:22 |
| 040:11 | 2037:8 | 2042:25 | 2043:1 | 2055:5, 13 |
| 041:23 | 2040:21 | 2048:9 | 2044:17 | 2078:8 |
| -A-L-I-D | 2044:5 | 2055:22 | 2045:4, 10, 13 | you-all |
| 035:15 | 2053:13 | 2072:12 | 2046:8, 10, 15, | 2006:19 |
| lidity | 2056:15 | 2074:21 | 21 2051:18 | 2068:3 |
| 032:14, 18 | 2057:14 | 2083:9 | 2059:21 | 2079:10 |
| 34:2 | 2060:7 | we're | 2060:1 2073:1 | |
| 036:21 | 2068:6 | 2004:11 | witnesses | |
| 037:19 | 2071:6 | 2006:3 | 2005:16, 18, | |
| 040:6 | 2072:11 | 2023:9 | 19 2042:11 | |
| 042:3, 11 | 2073:11 | 2026:22 | 2059:12 | |
| riations | 2075:2 | 2030:13 | wonderful | |
| 015:18 | 2078:15 | 2035:15 | 2083:18 | |
| 042:14 | 2079:11 | 2041:3 | word 2014:1 | |
| DOE 1995:8 | 2080:21, 24 | 2045:6 | 2034:6 | |
| racity | 2081:1 | 2048:7 | 2035:18 | |
| 068:17 | wanted | 2050:13 | 2060:19 | |
| rbal | 2005:24 | 2052:9 | wording | |
| 020:25 | 2007:8, 9, 12 | 2053:2 | 2053:3 | |
| 021:10 | 2017:13 | 2059:23 | words | |
|)23:5 | 2020:9 | 2067:17 | 2043:17 | |
| ersion | 2021:7 | 2071:7, 11 | work 2019:6 | |
| 072:6 | 2035:5 | 2074:2 | 2024:14, 23 | |
| ew 2045:23 | 2037:12 | 2081:13 | 2025:6 | |
| ewing | 2043:13 | 2082:19 | 2041:15 | |
| 002:9 | 2044:7 | we've 2002:7 | 2043:12 | |
| IRGINIA | 2048:9, 20 | 2017:16 | 2045:10, 19 | |
| 995:2, 15 | 2080:15, 17, 22 | 2022:3 | 2046:22, 24 | |
| 996:6, 16 | wants | 2033:14 | 2047:4, 5 | |
| 067:5, 20 | 2002:13 | 2038:23 | 2079:20, 21 | |
| 085:1, 3, 14, | 2003:25 | 2042:1 | worked | |
|) | 2021:3 | 2046:16 | 2005:22 | |
| rtual | 2029:15 | 2069:3 | working | |
| 022:15, 23 | 2042:20 | 2072:10 | 2027:8 2029:5 | |
| olume | 2057:10 | 2078:14, 18 | writing | |
| 025:13 | wasting | window | 2011:11 | |
| olumes | 2010:17, 20, | 2019:18 | 2059:14 | |
| 999: <i>10</i> | 23, 25 | 2020:21 | written | |
| 025:24 | watch 2017:2, | winter | 2082:22 | |
| | | 2020:24 | 2083:19 | |
|)71: <i>18</i> | 5,10 | = 2020.24 | 200.7.19 | |