Page 1 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 KHADIDJA ISSA, ET AL ) 5:16-cv-03881-EGS AM SESSION VS. ) August 19, 2016 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ) Allentown, PA ) 9:32 a.m.-12:19 p.m. LANCASTER 6 7 HEARING ON PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BEFORE THE HONORABLE EDWARD G. SMITH, 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 9 APPEARANCES: 10 For Plaintiffs: ERIC J. ROTHSCHILD, ESQ. KATHLEEN A. MULLEN, ESO. 11 PEPPER HAMILTON LLP 18th and Arch Streets 12 3000 Two Logan Square Philadelphia, PA 19103 13 KRISTINA MOON, ESQ. 14 MAURA L. MCINERNEY, ESQ. EDUCATION LAW CENTER 15 1315 Walnut Street Suite 400 16 Philadelphia, PA 19107 17 MOLLY M. TACK-HOOPER, ESQ. ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA 18 P. O. Box 60173 Philadelphia, PA 19102 19 WITOLD J. WALCZAK, ESQ. 2.0 ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER 21 313 Atwood Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213 22 Philadelphia, PA 19103 23 Veritext National Court Reporting Company Mid-Atlantic Region 24 1801 Market Street - Suite 1800 Philadelphia, PA 19103 25 1 - 888 - 777 - 6690

Page 2 APPEARANCES, CONTD: 2 For the Defendant: SHARON O'DONNELL, ESQ. MARSHALL, DENNEHEY, 3 WARNER COLEMAN & GOGGIN 100 Corporate Center Dr. 4 Suite 201 Camp Hill, PA 17011 5 ECRO: JAIME KULICK 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 Veritext National Court Reporting Company Mid-Atlantic Region 24 1801 Market Street - Suite 1800 Philadelphia, PA 19103 25 1-888-777-6690

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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- THE CLERK: All rise.
- 3 (Call to Court)
- 4 THE COURT: You may be seated, thank
- 5 you and good morning.
- 6 The Court is called to order. All
- 7 parties previously present are once again present.
- 8 The plaintiffs were at the point of some housekeeping
- and then they were going to rest I believe; is that
- 10 correct?
- MR. WALCZAK: Potentially, Your Honor,
- 12 that's how -- first of all let's -- if we could take
- 13 care of the documents. There are a number of
- documents that were introduced through Ms. Marshall
- that have not been moved, so I'd move those into
- evidence and let me go through the numbers here.
- 17 15, 23, 27, 34, 46, 47, 48, 50, 64, 66,
- 18 74, 78, and 82. Those are the Dr. Marshall exhibits.
- 19 I have some others.
- THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, do you
- 21 have any objection to the admission of these
- documents?
- MS. O'DONNELL: I do not.
- THE COURT: Very well, without
- objection, Plaintiff's Exhibits 15, 23, 27, 34, 46,

1 47, 48, 50, 64, 66, 74, 78, and 82 are admitted into

- evidence.
- 3 (Plaintiff's Exhibit Nos. 15, 23, 27, 34, 46, 47,
- 4 48, 50, 64, 66, 74, 78, and 82 received)
- MR. WALCZAK: We then have two
- exhibits, Your Honor, that are Plaintiff student
- 7 records that are not yet in evidence. One is Exhibit
- 8 49, which is a document that Ms. O'Donnell produced a
- 9 little bit later, not with the first records. It
- involves Mr. Hassan so that's Exhibit 49. And the
- other is the school records for Alembe Dunia, which is
- really just the enrollment denial, it's a very small
- 13 file.
- 14 So 49 and 51, we would move into
- evidence.
- 16 THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, is
- there any objection to Plaintiff's Exhibits 49 and 51?
- MS. O'DONNELL: No.
- 19 THE COURT: Very well. Without
- objection, Plaintiff's Exhibits 49 and 51 are admitted
- into evidence.
- 22 (Plaintiff's Exhibit Nos. 49 and 51 received)
- MR. WALCZAK: Okay. Then we have --
- there's a number of School District of Lancaster
- policy documents which are not yet in evidence. So

they are 6, 22, 61, 62 and 92 and I'm happy to discuss

- if there's any disagreement.
- THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, is
- there any objection to Plaintiff's Exhibit 6, 22, 61,
- 5 62 and 92?
- MS. O'DONNELL: No.
- 7 THE COURT: Without objection, those
- 8 exhibits are admitted into evidence.
- 9 (Plaintiff's Exhibit Nos. 6, 22, 61-62 and 92
- 10 received)
- MR. WALCZAK: Okay. And then we've got
- two more -- three more groupings. So there's -- we
- have Exhibits 89 and 93 which are screen shots of
- 14 content. One is of a Camelot website and one is a
- School District of Lancaster website.
- 16 THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, is
- there any objection to Plaintiff's Exhibits 89 and 93?
- MS. O'DONNELL: No.
- 19 THE COURT: Without objection,
- 20 Plaintiff's Exhibits 89 and 93 are admitted into
- evidence.
- 22 (Plaintiff's Exhibit Nos. 89 and 93 received)
- 23 MR. WALCZAK: And then there's a number
- of exhibits that were not introduced by Dr. Marshall
- but were -- they were discussed or relied upon by her.

1 They are all part of her document list in her report.

- Those are 59, 60, 63, 65, 67, 79, 84, 85 and 80 also
- 3 her CV.
- THE COURT: And that was 80?
- MR. WALCZAK: 80, yeah.
- 6 THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, is
- 7 there any objection to these exhibits?
- 8 MS. O'DONNELL: I don't have an
- 9 objection to No. 80, but I don't know what the other
- exhibits are that he's referring to. Maybe if he just
- describes them for the record, I can make a
- determination as to whether those documents are
- objectionable.
- 14 THE COURT: Certainly.
- MR. WALCZAK: So 59 is data analysis of
- the access or I guess it's the district analysis of
- the access test. 60 is ELL grade 6 through 12
- monitoring. 63 is the ESL department's internal
- review. 65 is the ESL department's internal review.
- 20 67 is ESL instructional visit form. 79 is teacher
- Natalie's Swackhammer's (ph) 9-12 ESL matrix. 84 is
- 22 Camelot list of accredited schools. And 85 are the
- 23 SMI/SRI test scores for Anyemu Dunia and that
- 24 (indiscernible).
- THE COURT: Okay. Attorney O'Donnell,

- any objection to these exhibits?
- MS. O'DONNELL: No.
- THE COURT: Very well. Without
- objection, Plaintiff's Exhibits 59, 60, 63, 65, 67,
- 5 79, 84, 85 and 80 are admitted into evidence.
- 6 (Plaintiff's Exhibit Nos. 59-60, 63, 65, 67, 79-
- 7 80, 84 and 85 received)
- 8 MR. WALCZAK: One last exhibit is the
- 9 Heisey recommendation for Ms. Rivera that was
- testified to yesterday regarding that. That's Exhibit
- 11 No. 91.
- 12 THE COURT: Very well. Attorney
- O'Donnell, do you have any objection to Exhibit 91?
- MS. O'DONNELL: No.
- 15 THE COURT: Without objection, Exhibit
- 91 is admitted into evidence.
- 17 (Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 91 received)
- 18 MR. WALCZAK: Your Honor, with that we
- are able to rest because all of our exhibits are, in
- fact, in and it's --
- THE COURT: Very well, thank you.
- MR. WALCZAK: And then the only other
- housekeeping issue we would raise is that we have not
- got -- I don't believe we've gotten definitive order
- for the witnesses today, so I'm wondering if we might

- get that. It'd be extremely helpful.
- THE COURT: Attorney O'Donnell, do you
- have the schedule of your witnesses?
- 4 MS. O'DONNELL: I sent that e-mail to
- 5 Eric Rothschild this morning, but I guess if they need
- 6 to hear it again. Amber Hilt, Damaris Rau, Jeff
- 7 Blackman, Aura Heisey, Megan Misnik, Arthur
- 8 (indiscernible).
- 9 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. WALCZAK: I appreciate that, thank
- 11 you, Your Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: Certainly. And the
- plaintiff having rested, is the defense prepared to
- 14 proceed?
- MS. O'DONNELL: We are.
- 16 THE COURT: Very well, Counselor, you
- may call your first witness.
- 18 MS. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, I'd like to
- 19 call my first witness, Amber Hilt.
- 20 THE CLERK: Please remain standing and
- 21 raise your right hand.
- 22 AMBER HILT, WITNESS, SWORN
- THE COURT: Thank you very much, ma'am,
- you may be seated. And good morning.
- THE WITNESS: Good morning.

1 THE COURT: And you may -- would you

- 2 please state your full name, spelling your last name
- 3 for the record.
- THE WITNESS: Sure, it's Amber R. Hilt,
- 5 H-i-l-t.
- THE COURT: Thank you very much, ma'am.
- 7 Counselor, you may proceed.
- 8 MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very much.
- 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 10 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 11 Q. Good morning, Ms. Hilt.
- 12 A. Good morning.
- Q. Why don't we start your testimony by
- 14 identifying yourself relative to the School District
- of Lancaster. Are you employed?
- 16 A. Yes, I am employed.
- 17 Q. In what capacity?
- 18 A. Currently I'm the coordinator of K through
- 19 12 ESL and world language.
- 20 Q. And what does that mean?
- 21 A. That means that I oversee ESL for our scope
- in sequence which is K through 12 and the world
- language departments which traditionally were called
- 24 foreign languages.
- 25 Q. So what's the difference between ESL and

- world language?
- 2 A. So ESL is when a student who speaks a
- language other than English comes into our schools.
- 4 And world language is when an English speaking student
- is learning another language, such as many of us may
- 6 have learned Spanish or French in middle school or
- 7 high school.
- 8 Q. Thank you. Would you give us a brief
- 9 description of your educational background?
- 10 A. Sure. So I started at Malijeleh University
- 11 (ph). I have a bachelors in communication arts 7
- through 12, and I have also my ESL from Millersville
- as well as a certificate in urban education.
- O. Okay. Do you have a master's?
- 15 A. Yes, I do. I have a master's from Karena
- 16 College (ph) in education. I have some time in the
- 17 reading specialist program, but then I transferred
- into a principal certification program.
- 19 Q. Okay. So did you ever -- were you ever
- employed as a principal?
- 21 A. I was employed as the coordinator of ESL and
- world language at the McCaskey campus for about three
- and a half years, where I acted as an assistant
- 24 principal in many of my duties.
- Q. What were your duties as an assistant

principal or acting as an assistant principal at

- 2 McCaskey?
- 3 A. Yeah. So we would meet the students every
- morning as they walked in, say hello, meet with
- 5 parents. We would have assigned duties such as lunch
- duty, other duties around the school. We would handle
- 7 discipline, also meeting with parents, and then
- 8 providing professional development and observing
- 9 teachers.
- 10 Q. Let's just right into discipline.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. How were you involved in that?
- 13 A. I was involved in the day-to-day, so we have
- 14 referrals from teachers that would come, but then I
- was also involved in anything that may have been an
- 16 urgent matter.
- 17 Q. Okay. And so can you give me an example of
- an urgent matter?
- 19 A. Sure. So one time we had an individual
- 20 student who was having a situation where he was cause
- of harm to self or others.
- 22 **Q.** Okay.
- A. And we actually had to stop the flow of
- traffic because it happened between classes, and it
- took our SRO and two hall monitors to physically

1 restrain that student until he was able to be escorted

- out in a police car.
- 3 O. And what does the physical restraint
- 4 involve?
- 5 A. It involves, you know, hands on. At that
- time, it was face to the ground, body on the ground,
- one person had the knees or the legs, the other person
- had the upper torso, and the cop was there also
- 9 managing.
- 10 **Q.** Okay. What is an SRO?
- 11 A. It's a school resource officer, they're
- employed by the city, the City of Lancaster, and we
- have one in each building.
- 14 Q. So when we say school resource officer, are
- they actually police officers?
- 16 A. Yes, they're actually police officers for
- the Lancaster City Police.
- 18 O. Don't you just use hall monitors?
- 19 A. No. We do have hall monitors. We have
- about four or five in each building, and they assist
- with transition, and they assist if students need to
- be taken out of class and in the lunchroom, but we do
- have an SRO in both buildings at either time.
- Q. Okay. So what are the difference in
- responsibility levels between a hall monitor and an

- 1 SRO?
- 2 A. So a hall monitor is there to assist with
- maybe any de-escalation, build relationships with the
- students, so that if there is maybe just a situation
- that could turn into something that would escalate,
- 6 they could talk with them and try to escort them into
- 7 a safer place. But if there is again an urgent need,
- 8 they would restrain if needed.
- 9 Q. And then as far as the SRO, what's the scope
- of their authority? It's a police officer walking
- around a public school building.
- 12 A. Correct, so they can cite and arrest.
- 13 **Q.** And are they armed?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 **O.** With what?
- 16 A. The same as a police officer, tasers, guns,
- a baton.
- 18 Q. Okay. And have you -- to your knowledge,
- have they ever had to use one of those weapons?
- A. Yes, they used a taser.
- Q. How recently?
- A. I believe within the last school year.
- Q. Okay. Is that the same type of de-
- escalation techniques that are used at the Phoenix
- 25 Academy?

- 1 A. No, they do not have SROs.
- 2 Q. They don't have SROs?
- A. Correct.
- $\mathbf{Q}$ . Tell me a little bit about yourself. Are
- you a member of any committees or groups, community
- 6 groups in your role as the coordinator K to 12 with
- 7 ESL and world language?
- 8 A. Sure. So I'm a member of CAL, sometimes
- 9 pronounced CALI, it's the Center for Applied
- 10 Linguistics. I also subscribe to an administrative
- membership that I'm forgetting the name of right now,
- but it's for principals K through 12. And there is a
- 13 -- the Bridging Youth, which is a monthly update and
- the MPI, which is a Migration Policy Update that I
- review monthly.
- 16 We have an internal refugee working group
- 17 where we have teachers that teach ESL and schools that
- have high populations of refugee students, as well as
- 19 some student service members, nurses, grant writers,
- et cetera, we meet monthly just to discuss how we can
- 21 further support the refugees and their families coming
- in our school.
- I'm active with the refugee community
- center, which if you're not familiar, is at our
- 25 Reynolds Middle School. And it has access for all

families that are refugees that might need health

- services, but they also provide ESL on site, they
- provide counseling, they might review documents with
- 4 families or give case management.
- Q. Is that just for students?
- 6 A. No. That's for families as well.
- 7 Q. So are students welcome to come as well as
- 8 their parents and siblings?
- 9 A. Yes, yes.
- 10 Q. Does it matter whether or not the siblings
- 11 are enrolled in school?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. So when you say you give ESL support through
- 14 the refugee center, does that mean you give ESL
- support to students who are not enrolled through the
- 16 refugee center?
- 17 A. Primarily it's adult ESL support, but there
- is an after school cohort that supports ESL students
- 19 as well.
- Q. Okay. So you're actually teaching, you're
- 21 actually providing a basis to teach English to adults,
- 22 adult refugees that come into the city --
- A. Correct.
- Q. -- through the refugee center.
- A. Uh-huh.

- 1 Q. Okay. I understand.
- 2 Have you been given any awards or other
- types of accolades for your work at the district?
- A. Sure. I was asked to come back and present
- 5 at the Philadelphia Urban seminar as a success story
- 6 because I went through their program. And I also
- 7 received the Unsung Hero award from the School
- 8 District of Lancaster.
- 9 Q. Why is that?
- 10 A. Because I went above and beyond my call of
- duty when I was an ESL teacher at Hand Middle School,
- and unfortunately I wasn't there to receive it because
- I was providing professional development for others,
- but I heard it was just a great accolade, I was happy
- to receive it.
- 16 O. Have you been involved in other
- 17 administrative projects, such as grant writing?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And are you a primary grant writer or
- do you assist?
- 21 A. I assist.
- Q. And with respect to the grants that are --
- the grant monies that are received by the district for
- 24 funds -- pardon me.
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

Q. With respect to the funds that are received

- from the grants applicable to the ESL programs and the
- refugee programs, can you tell me whether you were
- 4 involved in any of those?
- 5 A. Yes. I am directly involved in those.
- 6 Q. Okay. And then any other administrative
- 7 projects that we didn't cover that are relevant to
- 8 these refugees or the ESL program?
- 9 A. I was working closely with Pam Smith and
- forgive me, I'm not sure of her title, but she worked
- in community partnership. She has moved on to another
- job. But as part of that, we were working with
- 13 quarterly refugee meetings that happened involving the
- local refugee agencies and other initiatives around
- 15 refugees.
- 16 O. So when you talk about the community
- partnerships with the refugee agencies, were you
- attending meetings with the folks that have testified
- 19 here in this case?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Okay. So that would include Sheila Mastro
- 22 Pietro?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And Elyse Chesson?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Anyone else from those organizations? Megan

- 2 Brown?
- 3 A. Yes. I've been in meetings with Megan
- Brown, Tim Purcell, they're from Lutheran. I've also
- been in meetings with Madap and Willis (ph) from
- 6 Lutheran. And a Laura and her last name escapes me,
- 7 it starts with a P, she was from Lutheran. And I've
- 8 also been in meetings with Valentina Ross from Church
- 9 World Service and Stephanie Gromick (ph). We -- she's
- from Church World Service, we actually presented
- together on May 4th at the CAIU on refugees.
- 12 Q. So is it true that you generally have a
- collaborative relationship with your community
- 14 partners in a particular refugee settlement agency
- workers?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. So what happens here, why are we in
- 18 court?
- 19 A. I believe that there were some communication
- concerns that just, in my opinion, they -- my
- understanding is that we said we were going to look
- into it and get back and have a discussion, and
- certain individuals didn't wait for us, even though
- they confirmed that that would be okay.
- Q. Okay. So I guess we'll get to that --

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- more in-depth.
- Tell us what the beginning of school year
- 4 looks like with refugee students. How does the
- 5 district handle the influx?
- 6 A. So we do our very best at enrollment to make
- 7 sure all of these students have a scheduled time for
- 8 their WAC, which is their assessment from WEDA. And
- from there, we provide that information in our
- electronic kum (ph) folders as well as to their direct
- 11 teacher at their school.
- 12 **Q.** Okay.
- A. And on the first day of school, just like
- any student, we're out there, we're welcoming, we're
- getting students on and off the bus especially at the
- 16 elementary ages, because that's such a unique
- 17 experience for them. But unfortunately we do have
- sometimes refugee students who maybe take the wrong
- bus, or maybe shouldn't have gone on the bus at all.
- We had a young 3 or 4-year old who got on
- the bus this year and had no identification, and so we
- spent multiple hours with the police and with our
- local partners trying to find out where this young
- kiddo belonged and we did.
- 25 **Q.** Okay.

1 A. But generally sometimes we have those

- 2 hiccups.
- 3 Q. What about the students who are named
- plaintiffs in this lawsuit, do you know any of them
- 5 personally?
- 6 A. I do.
- 7 Q. Okay. And who are they?
- 8 A. Qasin Hassan and Khadidja Issa.
- 9 Q. And what do you know about Qasin, did you
- 10 have a meeting with Qasin?
- 11 A. Yes, I've been in a few meetings with Qasin.
- 12 Q. Okay. Can you just give us a brief
- chronology of your history with Qasin?
- 14 A. Sure. So I was in the meeting where he came
- in with Megan Brown and potentially another case
- worker, Mr. Blackman, himself, I believe his brother
- and his mother. And he -- that was the meeting
- discussed previously that he did not approach the
- 19 table or engage in conversation.
- I was in another meeting at Phoenix when we
- discussed the bullying plan with him, and we asked him
- to come into a contract where he could identify
- individuals that he felt safe talking to, and he did,
- in fact, say he felt very safe talking to his ESL
- teacher, and we laid forth that plan with he and his

- 1 mother, and the other representatives in the room.
- Q. So let's talk about those two meetings. And
- initially the first meeting you said was attended by a
- 4 gentleman by the name of Tim Purcell.
- 5 A. Tim Purcell was his advocate. I don't
- 6 recall if Tim Purcell was at that meeting. But he was
- 7 his advocate from the agency that said that he was
- 8 unable to get TANF and that they were requesting that
- 9 we would reconsider.
- 10 Q. So is that the -- was that the first concern
- that they brought to the district in terms of getting
- this child enrolled?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And when did -- when if ever did the focus
- change to the value of education?
- 16 A. At the meeting regarding the bullying at
- 17 Phoenix.
- 18 O. Okay. So the first meeting was all about
- 19 TANF.
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. Would you explain to us in more detail if
- you will what that means, and what that meant to you
- 23 at the time?
- A. Sure. So my understanding is it's
- 25 government assistance and that by having Qasin or

general in general enrolled in school, that the parent

- would receive more assistance.
- O. Okay. And, in fact, Qasin -- okay. So what
- 4 was your understanding or what was your interpretation
- of Qasin's refusal to participate with the group at
- 6 the table to get him enrolled?
- 7 A. Uh-huh. My understanding was that he was
- desiring to not come to school, but that his mother
- 9 was desiring him to so she could get her benefits.
- 10 Q. Okay. And at some point that eventually
- changed so that Qasin then expressed an interest in
- 12 coming to school?
- 13 A. Yes, at the meeting at Phoenix a few months
- later.
- 15 Q. Okay. What happened between those two
- meetings? Was Qasin eventually enrolled?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And where was he placed?
- 19 A. At Phoenix.
- Q. Okay. Do you know why he was placed at
- 21 Phoenix?
- 22 A. So that he could attain enough credits for
- 23 graduation.
- Q. Okay. Do you know how old he was?
- A. At that time we did know he was 17, but

1 there was question about the birthdate in months

- 2 prior.
- Okay. So at the time he came in and was --
- 4 reluctant to sit down at the table with all of you,
- what did you understand his age to be at that time?
- 6 A. 19.
- 7 Q. Okay. And did you have an understanding of
- 8 what his goals were at that time?
- 9 A. To work.
- 10 Q. Okay. Did Qasin come to school to your
- 11 knowledge?
- 12 A. Once enrolled in Phoenix, he did not have
- very good attendance.
- 14 Q. Okay. And then was there a point in time
- when his attendance became a serious issue?
- 16 A. Yes, and that was when the meeting was held
- about the bullying.
- 18 O. Do you have -- would it have been under your
- jurisdiction, if you will, to send out someone to his
- home to talk to him and his mother about whether his
- intention was the same in terms of coming back for an
- 22 education?
- 23 A. So because of a district, Phoenix is part of
- our ESL team. They did consult with me. And so while
- I didn't make that decision, but they did consult with

1 me specifically around how to receive translation, I

- 2 gave them information for a language line and an
- access code, because it was a rather kind of quick
- $^4$  hey, we're out, and we also need to go see this
- individual, so I just gave them my code for that day.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what did they report back to you,
- 7 what was your understanding of how successful that
- 8 meeting was?
- 9 A. So my understanding is the home school
- visitor, left some documentation, and then received a
- 11 phone call from Elyse that was rather aggressive.
- 12 Q. Is that Elyse Chesson?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. And what was your understanding of
- aggressive, what did that mean to you?
- 16 A. To me it would mirror the previous meetings
- 17 I had with her, where she became very physically, you
- 18 know, red-faced, kind of rambling, very upset, leaning
- into the table in an aggressive way. So my frame of
- reference was that she probably was speaking the same
- 21 way on the phone.
- 22 **Q.** Okay.
- A. And not willing to hear the other side of
- the story or an explanation.
- Q. What was her concern? I mean, why was she

- 1 upset to your knowledge?
- 2 A. I believe that she thought we were kicking
- 3 him out of school.
- 4 Q. Okay. Was -- do you know whether she knew
- 5 that he was not attending?
- 6 A. I do not know. At our meeting in Phoenix --
- 7 **Q.** Yes.
- 8 A. -- she did state that she was attempting to
- get him to come back, and she did know he was not
- 10 attending. So likely, I would say yes.
- 11 Q. She found out eventually.
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Did there come a time when you organized a
- meeting again with the family to discuss his
- 15 attendance?
- 16 A. We were -- the meeting at Phoenix --
- 17 **Q.** Okay.
- 18 A. -- we set forth a plan, but Qasin did not
- 19 come back to school.
- Q. Tell us the circumstances giving rise to
- 21 that meeting.
- A. Okay.
- 23 Q. So was that to be also at county's
- assistance or was that meeting just --
- 25 A. That meeting was just for Qasin and around

- 1 his bullying.
- Q. Okay.
- A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. How did you get the complaint that Qasin
- 5 felt bullied?
- A. From Elyse Chesson.
- 7 Q. Oh, is that when she called and she was
- 8 upset, and she said that --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- Qasin was being bullied.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And so your response was what?
- 13 A. So we held the meeting with members of the
- 14 LRS organization, Qasin, Balahl and then it was
- myself, Ms. Heisey and Mr. Blackman.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 A. And we discussed a plan with him. We asked
- him several questions like, you know, trying to elicit
- why he didn't let anybody know that things were
- happening, you know, that's why we were saying who he
- could go to. We explained that unfortunately
- sometimes situations happen where maybe we don't
- understand, but we need to go to someone that he feels
- that he can talk to.
- 25 Q. Did you ask him to choose one person?

- 1 A. We asked him to choose five.
- Q. Well, what's the point of choosing five
- 3 people?
- 4 A. Well, I explained it to him actually in the
- 5 meeting, because you never know what the circumstances
- 6 might be, what if you can't find that other person.
- 7 So my rule of thumb especially when I was at McCaskey
- 8 as well, I would say you need to choose five, because
- 9 maybe that teacher is on their lunch and they're not
- in the building and you have a situation.
- 11 Q. Okay. So you have back up.
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. And what was your understanding of Qasin's
- reaction and response to that suggestion?
- 15 A. He told us that he could talk to anybody,
- that he felt comfortable.
- 17 O. Okay. Is that different than what Elyse
- 18 conveyed during her telephone conversation?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Okay. She felt like he couldn't talk to
- 21 anyone?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. So then what happened? You have a
- 24 personal commitment to come back, or you had a
- commitment to come back?

1 A. We had a commitment that he was going to

- come back and try, and we were going to institute the
- 3 plan which also included I believe like a buddy or a
- 4 mentor friend, the five individuals he identified, and
- then there was some discussion around academics like
- 6 getting him photocopies so he could take things home
- 7 and study. I think those were the three main points
- 8 of the plan.
- 9 O. And what about the complaints of bullying?
- 10 Did anyone look into that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Who did?
- 13 A. The head behavioral interventionist. I
- think his name is Scott, but I'm not recalling his
- last name.
- 16 Okay. And did you come to learn the results
- of that investigation?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And what did you learn?
- 20 A. That they were unfounded. He interviewed a
- lot of students and some teachers, and some other
- behavioral specialists, and unfortunately there was no
- findings, and they discussed at the meeting that it
- was again important that he let us know so we could
- look into these things in a timely manner.

- 1 **Q.** Okay.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, move to
- 3 strike, hearsay.
- 4 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 5 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 6 Q. Once you received the results of that
- 7 investigation, was that formally communicated to
- 8 anyone, to your knowledge?
- 9 A. I believe it was communicated to Ms.
- 10 Chesson, but it was also communicated to the mother
- and Oasin.
- 12 Q. Okay. And is that something that you're
- aware of, whether the district consulted legal
- 14 counsel?
- 15 A. I'm not aware of that, I'm sorry.
- 16 Q. You don't know, okay, that's fine.
- 17 What about the other folks that worked for
- the agencies below and Sheila Mastro Pietro, have you
- 19 had interactions with those folks?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And generally with respect to Qasin
- or with other students as well, and again I'm trying
- to limit it to the folks that are the plaintiffs in
- 24 this lawsuit.
- A. Sure. So we had discussions about Qasin,

but at the time Sheila, she works for Church World

- 2 Service, so she was not involved with Qasin's case.
- 3 So she and I discussed concerns about Phoenix.
- q. Okay. And what were her concerns at the
- 5 time?
- 6 A. Well, I met with Valentina first.
- 7 O. Okay. And who is Valentina?
- 8 A. Valentina Ross works for Church World
- 9 Service. And I met with her, because after we met
- with Lutheran Services and a meeting with Madab and
- 11 Willis and Elyse and Jack Blackman, myself and Dr.
- 12 Abram, we felt it was important to reach out to our
- other partner, Church World Service and just see if
- they had similar concerns. Just put on the table
- we're reaching out to discuss.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 A. And --
- 18 Q. What was the response?
- 19 A. The response was that she thanked me for
- explaining to her a little further about Phoenix, and
- 21 I believe she stated that she intended to make herself
- familiar with, you know, continue familiarizing
- 23 herself with Phoenix.
- 24 Q. Okay. So do you have binders in front of
- you?

- 1 A. Yes.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Sharon, is this your
- 3 binder that you're using?
- 4 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm using your binder.
- 5 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 6 Q. I'd like you to review some of the student
- 7 records now and I'd like to start with Qasin's. You
- 8 want to go to the Plaintiff's day 2 binder and look at
- 9 tabs 48 and 49, please.
- 10 Are you there?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. What are you looking at presently?
- 13 A. The first page is something translated that
- I believe was signed by Qasin and his mother.
- 15 Q. Okay. And if you'd flip to the third page,
- are we now looking at enrollment documents?
- 17 A. Yes. This is what we would call the I-94
- document, uh-huh.
- 19 Q. Okay. And is that something you're familiar
- 20 with?
- 21 A. Yes.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Your Honor, I
- 23 apologize for the interruptions. The binder we have
- doesn't have the pages that -- these are our binders,
- so I don't want to -- I'm not suggesting Ms. O'Donnell

did anything wrong, I just want to make sure we've got

- 2 --
- THE COURT: Day 2 binder, index 48.
- 4 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Day two. Can you just
- give us the LSD numbers, refer to it, and I've got
- 6 another copy so then I can --
- 7 THE WITNESS: It's 056 are the last
- 8 three.
- 9 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you. I
- apologize for the interruption.
- 11 THE COURT: Not at all. Counselor, you
- may proceed.
- 13 BY MR. O'DONNELL:
- 14 **Q.** So do you have any involvement in preparing
- 15 an I-94?
- 16 A. I do not.
- 17 Q. Do you know why the district has one of
- 18 those?
- 19 A. Yes, they're part of their cumulative files,
- similar to a birth certificate or social security
- identification. It's their means of identifying
- themselves when they enroll.
- O. Okay. And who within the district would be
- the person who receives or requests the I-94?
- 25 A. The enrollment office through Marsha

- 1 Riddick.
- Q. Okay. If you'd turn to the next page and
- would you just tell me what that is, and your
- 4 observations.
- A. Yes, this is from our E-school system, which
- is our electronic database and it's giving information
- 7 basically about his demographics.
- Q. Okay. And is that something -- what is that
- 9 typically input through the enrollment office?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Upon a student's initial arrival.
- 12 A. Correct.
- Okay. What's the next document?
- 14 A. It looks like vaccinations.
- 15 Q. Okay. Is that also part of enrollment?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. Okay. The next document?
- 18 A. Again, dental, that's part of enrollment.
- 19 Q. Okay. Would you flip to the next document
- when you would directly be involved that's not
- 21 enrollment, please?
- A. Yes, that would be document 60.
- Q. Okay. Where (indiscernible).
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. What is that document?

- 1 A. This is our oral language observation.
- Q. Okay. And why is that significant to you
- and your role with that?
- 4 A. Sure. So we need to complete these twice a
- year, once at the beginning and once at the end of the
- 6 school year.
- 7 Q. Okay. And does that happen after or at the
- 8 time of enrollment?
- 9 A. It would happen after the school site.
- 10 Q. And what does it say for Qasin, what are
- 11 your observations?
- 12 A. It states that in December he was at an
- 13 entering level.
- 14 O. Okay. And what does that mean to the rest
- of us? Is that --
- 16 A. Absolutely. So it means two things. So the
- 17 entering level is the very first level of ESL as
- 18 explained yesterday.
- 19 **Q.** Okay.
- 20 A. But I also note that a student just coming
- in, research shows they have a one to three year
- period which we commonly call the silent period where
- they respectfully are allowed to not produce orally.
- 24 **Q.** Okay.
- 25 A. If again, going back to yesterday's

- testimony that effective filter. If they're feeling
- at all uncertain and they're allowed to that, they may
- not produce as much as they cognitively are
- 4 understanding.
- 5 Q. So is this a researched based theory that's
- 6 implemented and accepted by the Pennsylvania
- 7 Department of Education?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Are you allowed to allow them this silent
- period and not to produce orally?
- 11 A. Yes. In fact, if you deny them that silent
- period, that could be detrimental.
- 13 Q. Okay. Let's move to the next document and
- tell me whether or not that's significant in your role
- as the coordinator of ESL.
- 16 A. It does not look to me like it's important.
- 17 O. Okay. What's the next document?
- 18 A. It is our writing prompt from the beginning
- and end of the year.
- 20 Q. What is a writing prompt and why do you need
- 21 it?
- 22 A. Sure. So this is actually modeled off of
- 23 Access and Access has in all four domains, reading,
- 24 writing, listening, and speaking, pictures that are
- animated, they're not visual photographs. And it

walks students through steps so that they can achieve

- 2 up to the level that they are able to, meaning at a
- higher level, for example, expanding, this prompt
- 4 would have more questions.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, stay there.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Is that document, and let's -- give me the
- 8 Bates stamp number.
- 9 A. 62.
- 10 Q. 62. Is that document appropriate for a
- 11 student of Qasin Hassan's age?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And why?
- 14 A. Well --
- 15 Q. It's rather childish don't you think?
- 16 A. Well, no, this is what our Access exams look
- 17 like. Again, they use drawn pictures, they don't use
- 18 photographs. And we have a word bank because that's
- what's appropriate for the level. And there are
- 20 multiple questions, such as what are they doing, who
- is doing it, what are they eating, because that is
- 22 appropriate at the entering and beginning level, it
- goes back to that basic interpersonal communication
- skills.
- So they're able to use very basic, we call

them the five W's, who, what, where, when, how, why.

- Q. Who, what, when, where --
- A. I threw how in there.
- **Q.** Okay.
- A. Who, what, where, when, why, how.
- 6 Q. Okay. Very good. Would you turn to the
- 7 next page of this.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And this would be Bates stamped 63.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And is this a document that's significant to
- you in your role as the coordinator of the ESL?
- 13 A. Yes. This is the WAPT (ph) results.
- 14 O. And what does that mean?
- 15 A. So the WAPT is the placement test that
- 16 accompanies Access from the WEDA.
- 17 **Q.** Okay.
- 18 A. And it states level upon entering.
- 19 Q. Okay. So you just said accompanies Access
- upon WEDA.
- A. Okay.
- Q. What does that mean?
- A. Sure. So WEDA is the organization spoken
- about yesterday that 41 states are part of the
- consortium. Pennsylvania is one of those. So WEDA is

our state mandated way of assessing ELLs. And we do

- it in two ways. We do it with the Access, which
- happens for about six weeks from the end of January to
- beginning of March, and then we do that with the WAPT,
- which is upon entrance they must take this exam.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what does WAPT tell us?
- 7 A. WAPT tells us their ESL level.
- 8 Q. There's a level?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. And what was Qasin's level in the
- 11 WAPT?
- 12 A. It states here that he was entering.
- 0. Okay. And that's consistent with his
- 14 Access? You read us a document before that showed
- that he was entering.
- 16 A. Well, that's consistent with his internal
- 17 writing assessment that his teacher gave --
- 18 Q. Okay. All right.
- 19 A. -- and his oral assessment.
- 20 Okay. And the next document that is
- significant to you in your role as the coordinator?
- 22 A. Would you like me to --
- Q. On ESL. Yes, please, turn to the next
- document and tell us what Bates stamp you're using.
- 25 A. 67.

- 1 Q. Okay. And what is that?
- 2 A. So this is a document that if a student is
- unable to write in English at all on that prompt we
- 4 just discussed --
- 5 **O.** Yes.
- 6 A. -- that they are given the chance to write
- 7 in their native language. Because of the transfer
- 8 theory, the transfer theory is like an iceberg. If
- 9 you think of two icebergs, you would see the tip of
- the icebergs and if you were driving a boat or a ship,
- 11 you might say, oh, I can sail right between those two
- icebergs, right.
- 13 **Q.** Okay.
- 14 A. But that's because you don't realize
- potentially that there's so much underneath. I use
- that visual because that in research is what they use.
- 17 That underneath iceberg --
- 18 **O.** Yes.
- 19 A. -- is actually transfer theory. You can
- transfer what you know in your native language into
- your second language, that's why the bottom of the
- iceberg is so large and so important.
- 23 **Q.** Okay.
- A. In that visual.
- 25 Q. So using the transfer theory as applied to

- Qasin, what does this writing sample tell you?
- A. Well, this tells me he has some ability to
- 3 write in his native language.
- 4 Q. Okay. And is he capable of transferring his
- understanding of how to learn a language to English?
- A. I would say yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And is that based on a transfer
- 8 theory or something else?
- 9 A. I would say that's based on transfer theory.
- 10 Q. Okay. All right. Would you turn to the
- 11 next significant document?
- 12 A. There is WAPT, which is the actual test that
- was given.
- 14 **o.** Okay.
- 15 A. So there are some pages of that.
- 16 **Q.** And are we -- again, are we agreeing that at
- this point in time, at the time he took it, which
- would be in the first quarter of 2016, he was still at
- 19 entering level?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Mr. Rothschild?
- 22 MR. ROTHSCHILD: That mischaracterizes
- the date on this. It says October 23rd, 2015.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, I guess the
- witness could have corrected me.

1 THE COURT: What Bates number is this?

- 2 MR. ROTHSCHILD: I'm looking at --
- looks like 68 and that was true on an earlier page as
- 4 well, 63.
- 5 THE COURT: Very well, do we agree that
- 6 the date is different?
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: We all agree.
- 8 THE COURT: Very well, you may proceed,
- 9 Counselor.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 11 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 12 Q. So as of October of 2015, he was at an
- 13 entering level?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Very good. The next document that's
- 16 significant to you in assessment of this student,
- 17 student record?
- 18 A. Is number 71.
- 19 **Q.** Okay.
- 20 A. So this is our home language survey we must
- give to any student enrolling, any student and their
- family. This home language survey, this indicates to
- 23 me that he speaks Somali and that that is the primary
- language of the home
- Okay. So, for example, if there was going

to be a document translated and sent home to his house

- or his mother, what language would that letter be
- 3 translated into?
- 4 A. It would be sent in Somali.
- Q. And is that because that document says it?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Thank you. Were you also aware that
- Qasin has some ability to speak another language?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you know what that other language is?
- 11 A. Arabic.
- 12 Q. And do you know which he uses more, Somali
- or Arabic?
- 14 A. I believe in speaking with him, he says he
- uses both.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 A. But he can read and write in Arabic.
- 18 **Q.** Okay.
- 19 A. A little bit.
- 20 Q. Thank you. And again, in your assessment of
- the student record, can you tell me what the next
- document is?
- A. This is a transcript.
- 24 Q. Okay. And what does that transcript tell
- you?

- 1 A. It has grades for Qasin.
- 2 Q. And what are his grades and classes?
- A. D's and C's.
- 4 Q. Okay. And what was the schedule that was
- 5 prepared for him?
- 6 A. Sure, it's counseling, fitness, art,
- 7 international school ESL, intensive reading and skills
- 8 prep.
- 9 Q. Okay. And which if any of those classes
- does he actually earn credit towards graduation?
- 11 A. All.
- 12 Q. Even for counseling?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Skills prep?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Intensive reading?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. Are there any content classes there?
- 19 A. Well, my understanding would be that the
- international school ESL is an ESL teacher who is
- 21 providing ESL instruction, so learning English as a
- second language, but also infusing the content.
- Q. Okay. Why is that schedule appropriate for
- 24 a student (indiscernible)?
- A. Well, it looks like he's receiving two to

- three hours of literacy support.
- 2 **Q.** Okay.
- A. Because skills prep, intensive reading and
- 4 international school are all forms of literacy
- support.
- 6 Q. Okay. Are you aware of whether or not Qasin
- 7 came in with any prior education or credits for prior
- 8 education?
- 9 A. My understanding is he did not.
- 10 Q. Okay. And is that schedule appropriate for
- someone who has no evidence of prior education?
- 12 A. Yes. One of the things that we do is we
- look at trying to get some classes where the students
- will be in emergent, immersed but that are more
- accessible and sometimes a little more fun.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 A. Not as stressful such as art or fitness.
- 18 Q. Okay. And is -- that's when -- to encourage
- 19 him one way or another?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And how would that encourage him?
- 22 A. So some of the students that we speak to
- would talk a lot about how they like to play sports
- 24 and soccer and different activities. And also brain
- research shows that it's really important to reset

your brain throughout the day, and one of the ways to

- do that is through physical exercise.
- Also part of the credits you need to
- $^4$  graduate are art and gym. So it's just a -- I don't -
- 5 I'm trying to think of another word other than fun,
- but a way to get that brain break, get the activity
- out, switch gears, be immersed with English speaking
- 8 peers and get the credits you need.
- 9 O. Okay. Were you aware that Qasin had
- testified that he was not encouraged by this schedule
- and he felt that he wanted to learn and not play
- basketball? Would that surprise you?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 0. What's the next document that's significant
- to your assessment?
- 16 A. I believe there's a double document, so I'll
- skip that. The document 74.
- 18 O. Okay. And what is that?
- 19 A. This is a screen that shows all of excused
- or unexcused absences.
- Q. And why is that significant?
- 22 A. Because it shows that he's had a lot of
- excused absence, which would cause gaps in his
- 24 availability to learn and earn credits.
- 25 Q. Okay. We heard a term used so far this week

- 1 called seat time. Do you know what refers to?
- 2 A. So to me that refers to needing to be in
- class in order to earn your credits that are needed
- 4 for graduation.
- 5 Q. Okay. And do you know whether or not just
- 6 sitting there in the seat is useful to a student in
- 7 order to earn a credit?
- 8 A. No, it's certainly not just seat time. It
- 9 has to be active participation and it has to be, you
- 10 know, in class assignments, and so on and so forth,
- engaging in a lesson, but you need to be present to do
- 12 all of those things.
- 13 Q. To do those things. Can you tell me based
- on that attendance record when, if at all, Qasin first
- started school at the Phoenix Academy?
- 16 A. I'm not sure it would tell me when he
- 17 started, but I see the first parent excused is
- 18 February 4th.
- 19 Q. Okay. So that means he was obviously
- enrolled by that February 4th.
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And what is the last day on that
- printout or that screenshot regarding his attendance?
- A. June 7th.
- Q. Okay. All right. Thank you.

1 Are you aware of whether or not Qasin

- 2 expressed an interest in coming back to school as of
- 3 the last date on that screenshot?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Okay. What would his schedule look like at
- 6 McCaskey?
- 7 A. His schedule would look like one period 48
- 8 minutes of ESL instruction, one period 48 minutes of
- 9 CA instruction with an ESL teacher, and one period 48
- minutes of skills prep or it could be an art or a gym,
- depending on the semester.
- 12 Q. Okay. And that would be through the
- international school?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And how long would he stay in that setting,
- in the international school setting?
- 17 A. He would only stay until he tested as a
- beginner or one year.
- 19 Q. Okay. So didn't you say that he was a
- beginner to start with in that language assessment?
- A. He was entering.
- 22 Q. And what's the difference between entering
- 23 and beginning?
- A. So entering is your very basic foundation.
- 25 So there could be one word utterances, or there could

- be no word utterances. Beginning is where you're
- starting to form sentences, but they are very basic
- 3 sentences.
- 4 Q. So does it mean that after a year if he's
- able to form a basic sentence, then he's finished with
- 6 the international school?
- 7 A. Correct, and it could be before a year. We
- 8 have students that every marking period transfer out
- of the international school once they're attaining at
- that beginning level.
- 11 Q. So it's only about their ability to speak
- 12 English at a beginning level that determines when they
- leave the international school program?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And then what happens, are they immersed
- right back into the regular curriculum?
- 17 A. So once someone is a beginning level
- 18 student, they receive two hours, again 48 minutes of
- 19 ESL and 48 minutes of CA with an ESL teacher, and
- they're in regular education classes throughout the
- 21 rest of the day.
- 22 Q. Okay. And would they also be eligible to
- get ESL support throughout the regular classes?
- A. No. We would have support with the ESL
- teacher, potentially supporting the classroom teachers

with just informal discussions, strategies, lesson

- 2 plans.
- O. Okay. Are you aware of whether or not the
- 4 district had any consultants review the international
- 5 school program?
- A. Yes, we had a few consultants during my
- 7 time. Our most recent was Vivian Feolo (ph) and she's
- from New York. That was this past year. We had for
- the prior two years, we had Secora Herrera (ph) who
- came in and not only consulted with us, but provided
- 11 professional development for our teachers several
- 12 times throughout the year --
- 13 **Q.** Okay.
- 14 A. -- on culturally relevant and biography
- driven instruction. And before that, or actually
- during that time, we also had Anastams Daley-Pena (ph)
- 17 who was through Batan (ph). We have advisors from
- 18 PDE, they're called technical assistance advisors,
- 19 Paula Zucker is one of those, and we also had
- assistance from PDE with the migrant and refugee
- 21 population.
- 22 Q. Okay. Just taking some of that backwards,
- when you referenced Batan, what is that, what do you
- 24 mean by that?
- 25 A. That's like a subset from PDE that provides

1 mostly professional development and ESL and special

- education and differentiation.
- 3 O. Okay. And what does differentiation mean?
- 4 A. Differentiation means that you are
- 5 accommodating all the levels of students within your
- 6 classroom.
- 7 Q. Okay. And you mentioned a very long term
- and I know I said yesterday, but it's not coming to
- 9 me. Biology --
- 10 A. Oh, biography, culturally relevant biography
- driven.
- 12 Q. What does that mean?
- A. Sure. So it means that you're using the
- story of self, you're honoring the story of self, in
- order to bring that into the English language learning
- and the content that's being taught.
- 17 Q. And why is that important?
- 18 A. That's important because it values the
- student, and it values their story, and it also helps
- with that transfer theory because it's a very strong
- connection. There's connection to world, connection
- to self, and there's one other connection that I'm
- forgetting, but it's about those connections, and how
- that then helps them access content or English.
- 25 Q. And is that a research based theory?

1 A. Yes, the consultant talked about culturally

- 2 relevant yesterday.
- Q. Okay. What about consultants for the
- Phoenix? Have you -- was the Phoenix program also
- 5 included within these consultations?
- 6 A. Yes. Our ESL department is for the entire
- 7 school district including Phoenix, even including YEK
- 8 (ph) which is our alternative placement, we have that
- 9 ESL teacher involved in all of our professional
- development.
- 11 O. And I heard someone refer to Phoenix as a
- magnate school. What does that mean?
- 13 A. So a few years ago, maybe two, we had
- discussions about Phoenix being a magnate school, and
- it had to do with the way that the state is evaluating
- schools and our student school performance profile,
- 17 SPP.
- 18 O. I'd like to discuss with you if I can the
- 19 substance of Dr. Marshall's report. Have you read Dr.
- 20 Marshall's report?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 **Q.** Okay.
- MS. O'DONNELL: I'm not quite sure,
- 24 Counsel, what number that is tabbed in your binder.
- 25 Can you help me with that?

1 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Just a moment.

- THE WITNESS: It's 81.
- 3 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 4 Q. 81? Thank you.
- A. You're welcome.
- 6 Q. If you would turn to Exhibit 81 in the day 2
- binder and specifically to page 3.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Are you there?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Drawing your attention to the Roman numeral
- 12 heading methodology and information considered, do you
- 13 see that?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Have you read this paragraph before
- 16 now?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. Are you aware of whether or not
- 19 personally Dr. Marshall sought to obtain information
- from the school district administration?
- 21 A. She did not.
- 22 **O.** What about the school district staff?
- A. She did not.
- Q. What about the school district students,
- other than the students who are plaintiffs in this

- 1 case?
- 2 A. She did not.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, calls for
- 4 speculation.
- 5 THE COURT: There's an objection.
- 6 Response?
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: I -- the question was
- 8 to her knowledge.
- 9 THE COURT: The objection is overruled.
- 10 I believe Dr. Marshall herself indicated that she did
- 11 not consult --
- MS. O'DONNELL: Just confirming that
- through this witness.
- 14 THE COURT: You may continue,
- 15 Counselor.
- 16 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 17 Q. And with respect to the consultations that
- 18 you had with Dr. Herrera and others, can you tell me
- 19 how often you personally, if at all, met with them?
- A. Each consultant was at least, I'm going to
- say six to eight times a year.
- 22 Q. Okay. And what input did you give to those
- 23 consultants?
- A. We reviewed our entire program, including
- 25 materials, including curriculum, including the variety

- of demographics, our parent involvement.
- 2 Q. And what's the point of having a consultant
- come in? Is it to just tell you what a great job
- 4 you're doing?
- 5 A. No, it's to -- we use the word glows and
- 6 grows a lot. So it's to show us our glows what we're
- doing well, and maybe what we should continue to do or
- 8 expand upon, and then it's to show where we need to
- 9 grow.
- 10 **Q.** Okay.
- 11 A. Excuse me, on what we could do better. It's
- certainly always cyclical, because we need to keep
- growing, and it's just good to have a set of eyes that
- bring expertise to the table.
- 15 Q. And why is it good to be able to -- why do
- 16 you need to keep growing? What's the driving impetus
- to growth?
- 18 A. Sure. Well, the first driving force is the
- students, but secondly, we need to per PDE.
- 20 Okay. So what challenges do the students
- bring to the district, and especially to your group?
- A. Well, they bring challenges as far as
- emotional, social, you know, based on their background
- and then based on trying to acculturate to our
- community. They bring a variety of needs in that way,

and then they bring your basic needs, you know,

- 2 clothes, shelter, food.
- 3 Q. And so with respect to language --
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- what have your consultants told you about
- 6 providing like for example, one of those rare students
- 7 who only speaks Swahili, how do your consultants
- 8 advise you to handle something like that, something so
- 9 rare?
- 10 A. So our consultants would say and PDE would
- say that within the classroom, you're using best
- strategies, you're not using a dual immersion approach
- or translation within the classroom.
- 14 O. Stop there and tell us what dual immersion
- means.
- 16 A. So there's many methods of dual immersion,
- 17 that was spoken to yesterday as well, but the most --
- 18 THE COURT: What is that word?
- 19 THE WITNESS: Dual immersion, like to
- 20 be immersed, yes. So the most common method is when
- you have 50/50, so you have 50 native English
- speakers, sorry 50 percent, not 50 individuals, 50
- percent native English speakers, 50 percent non-
- native, and then you teach in both languages.
- So, for example, if we were saying

1 Spanish, you would teach in Spanish and you would

- 2 teach in English.
- BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- Q. But you need a 50 percent homogenous group
- on both sides to have two teachers, right?
- 6 A. Yes. And --
- 7 Q. Well, what would happen if you have
- 8 something like the Phoenix Academy where you have a
- 9 percentage of students who are native speakers and
- then a percentage of students that have a mix of other
- languages?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor,
- lacks foundation, I'm not sure whether she's saying
- what she thinks or the expert told them, which would
- make a difference for my next objection.
- 16 THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection,
- to the extent you can lay a foundation to in
- 18 relationship between that question and the prior
- 19 question and the prior answer.
- MS. O'DONNELL: I'll do that.
- BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 22 Q. Are you aware of whether or not the Phoenix
- 23 Academy has classrooms that contain English speakers
- and speakers of other languages?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And would the dual immersion theory be in

- terms of teaching be appropriate for something of that
- 3 nature?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Why not?
- 6 A. Because there are such a variety of
- 7 languages and some of them only have one or two
- 8 students, because they're marginal languages, so you
- 9 could not set up the classroom in a 50/50 setting, and
- 10 also the resources as well as the certified teachers
- in both languages would be extremely difficult. And
- budgetary concerns, the state does not allow you to
- use funding through Title III to support those
- programs.
- 15 Q. So what about interpreters? Are you able to
- 16 use interpreters for those students that speak the
- 17 rare languages?
- 18 A. That's not considered best practice in ESL.
- 19 Q. According to whose theory?
- A. So according to a lot of theorists, it's
- about the strategies you bring into the classroom. So
- if it's an entering level student, you use visuals,
- you would use gestures, you might use songs and
- chants, and that's the way that you access the
- language, it's not through interpretation of exactly

what's going on in the classroom throughout the whole

- 2 period.
- 3 O. So has interpretation ever been considered
- since you've been in your role as a methodology to
- 5 assist with teaching students of other languages?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Okay. Is it anything that you would ever
- 8 consider bringing into your programs, interpretation,
- 9 anything that you would consider bringing into your
- 10 programs in order to assist the students?
- 11 A. Not within the classroom setting.
- 12 **Q.** Okay.
- 13 THE COURT: And that is to be
- distinguished from translation, even if it's through
- technology the idea that a child speaks one language,
- 16 can he not use something to translate so that he can
- understand easier than just trying to figure it out
- 18 from pictures or otherwise?
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. In fact, we do
- provide one-to-one dictionaries, I'm sorry, one-to-one
- meaning word-to-word, so the student could look up,
- let's say in Swahili the word for bread and then they
- would see the word in English. We provide them for
- 24 all students upon enrollment, and then we have those
- electronic ways as well.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Excuse my

- interruption, Counselor.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Oh, not at all, Your
- 4 Honor.
- 5 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 6 Q. So what type of electronic devices or
- 7 technologies are available to the students at both the
- 8 international school at McCaskey and at the Phoenix
- 9 Academy to your knowledge?
- 10 A. Yes. So we have some netbook cards, which
- are like small computers and we have I-Pads and then
- we have computer labs.
- 13 Q. Okay. And have these students that are
- 14 plaintiffs in this lawsuit had access to all of that
- 15 technology?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And are they shown how to use it?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. Do you know whether the students at
- the McCaskey International School have those, have
- been shown how to use those devices as well?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 **Q.** Okay.
- MS. O'DONNELL: I may be finished.
- Q. I'd like to draw your attention to page 9.

1 And I'll set this question in context so it makes

- sense to the rest of the room. On page 9, Dr.
- 3 Marshall was talking about the acceleration and credit
- 4 recovery program at Phoenix. Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And she says that the entering level ELLs,
- 7 which is a terminology I think you used as well,
- 8 that's entering --
- 9 A. It's English learner -- English language
- learner is the traditional term. It is now changing
- to English learner or sometimes DLL, dual language
- 12 learner.
- 13 Q. Okay. So "The ELLs are placed in
- 14 accelerated grade level classes and expected to
- 15 understand and master the curriculum at twice the
- 16 normal pace in a program designed for native speaking
- 17 students who have lived their entire lives or most of
- it in this country and its school system." Do you see
- 19 that?
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. Then she says, "this is being done with no
- evidence of adaptation of content or accommodations,
- such as instruction by dually certified teachers in
- the subject area and ESOL in all classes through the
- use of ESOL versions of materials used for class." Do

- 1 you see that?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Do you agree with that?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Okay. Why not?
- A. There's a few pieces. So the one piece is
- 7 we do have teachers that are dually certified. In
- 8 order to be highly qualified in the State of
- 9 Pennsylvania, you must in fact, have your CA
- 10 certification.
- 11 **O.** What does that mean?
- 12 A. That means communication arts, that is also
- changing to ELA.
- 14 **o.** Okay.
- 15 A. But you must have that certification we will
- say in English and in ESL in order to be highly
- 17 qualified.
- 18 Q. Okay. So she says there's -- this is being
- done with no evidence of adaptation of content. What
- do you think about that?
- 21 A. I was never consulted and I don't believe
- that there is evidence that there's no accommodations,
- if lesson plans weren't reviewed and class
- observations were not made.
- Q. Okay. So do you find that there's no basis

- for this conclusion?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 O. Do you think classroom observations are
- 4 important to get a feel for what's going on in a
- 5 classroom?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And do you know how long typically
- 8 observations last?
- 9 A. The whole period generally.
- 10 Q. Okay. So a teacher is put on the spot when
- someone walks in and makes a general observation?
- 12 A. Yes, we do informal observations daily but a
- true observation where you're sitting down and looking
- to get the most feedback about the depth of the lesson
- planning, the delivery of the lesson, and the student
- 16 engagement, and then there's other factors as well,
- you would want to stay the period.
- 18 O. Do you from time to time do teacher
- 19 observations?
- 20 A. Yes, I do.
- 21 Q. Have you done any observations at Phoenix?
- 22 A. I have.
- Q. Okay. And what did you find in those --
- well, let me ask you this. Recently?
- 25 A. Yes, in the summer program I did just

- 1 recently.
- Q. Okay. And what goes on during the summer
- program in class?
- 4 A. Well, I observed the art class, the math
- 5 class, and the communication arts class, which is ESL.
- 6 And the one day the students were doing an art
- 7 project, but they also learned in context about a
- 8 culture that that art project had come from.
- 9 They had a -- actually that day they had a
- 10 guest artist who was teaching them. So they also did
- some biography I guess on that guest artist back to
- that biography driven, why it was important to her to
- be an artist. They were engaged in the activity and
- the teacher was walking around facilitating, that was
- 15 art class.
- 16 In CA class, there was two teachers and I
- 17 believe they were working on basic English. I believe
- maybe verb agreement and there were sentence frames on
- 19 the board. Again, the teachers were walking around.
- 20 Some students were working in pairs, some were working
- in groups, some were individual. That indicated to me
- that they had a station rotation model, where
- differentiation could occur. Those are just some
- examples.
- 25 Q. Did you happen to notice any of the

1 plaintiffs in this lawsuit at the summer school

- program?
- 3 A. Yes.
- **Q.** And who were they?
- A. I believe Sue.
- 6 **Q.** Sui?
- 7 A. Sui, thank you. And Anyemu.
- Q. Anyemu.
- 9 A. Thank you, my goodness. And I believe --
- oh, Khadidja's sister Norsham was there, she was
- working one-on-one with the teacher.
- 12 Q. Now, again to speak very briefly of
- something called sheltered immersion, what does that
- 14 mean?
- 15 A. Sheltered immersion?
- 16 **Q.** Yes.
- 17 A. So sheltered immersion is when students are
- 18 placed in a classroom with English speaking peers, and
- they're provided the supports through the lesson
- 20 planning and delivery of the lesson for their ESL
- 21 needs. So they're immersed in the classroom, but
- still receiving the ESL support they need.
- 23 Q. And did any of these plaintiffs have
- sheltered immersion at Phoenix Academy this past year?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And in what classes specifically are

- you able to -- do you know off the top of my head?
- A. No, I would not.
- 4 Q. For example, is communication arts one class
- where they would all get sheltered immersion?
- 6 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection. Withdrawn,
- 7 Your Honor.
- 8 THE COURT: Objection, withdrawn? You
- 9 may proceed, Counselor.
- THE WITNESS: That would not be
- 11 sheltered immersion.
- 12 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 13 **Q.** Okay.
- 14 A. That would be content because they are with
- their peers that are of the same English level and
- they're receiving CA, which is the PDE standards for
- 17 CA, as well as the ESL ELPS, the English Language
- 18 Proficiency Standards with a ESL highly qualified
- 19 teacher.
- Q. Give me an example of how these plaintiffs
- could have sheltered immersion, what type of class
- would that happen in?
- A. Sure, potentially a math class, or the art
- 24 class that I described earlier.
- Q. Okay. What about homework? I know that

1 homework was an issue for -- at least that was brought

- 2 up this week. Are you aware that students at Phoenix
- Academy do not bring books home?
- A. I'm aware.
- 5 Q. Okay. And is that something that's
- 6 acceptable to the school district, according to its
- 7 policies?
- 8 A. Yes. We have many schools that have their
- own procedures on books, especially the middle school
- and high school expensive large textbooks. They stay
- as a classroom set in the classroom.
- 12 Q. Is that something that's allowed by the
- Department of State -- Department of Education?
- 14 A. It's my understanding, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Do you under -- well, we talked a
- little bit about the Phoenix Academy classes. Do you
- know how long the classes are?
- 18 A. Eighty minutes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And do you know how long of a class
- day each of the students have to participate?
- 21 A. They have extended after school that is an
- opportunity for them, but I'm going to say same as
- other schools, it's about 7:30 to 3:30 --
- 24 **Q.** Okay.
- A. -- for secondary schools.

1 Q. And how many classes would the students at

- Phoenix Academy have per day?
- 3 A. I have to do math on the spot. I'd say
- 4 probably five or six and lunch.
- 5 Q. Okay. And were you here for Dr. Marshall's
- 6 testimony that she did not feel it was appropriate to
- 7 teach these English language learners within that time
- 8 frame?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. Do you agree with that?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 **Q.** Why not?
- A. Because 80 minutes, if you are having
- 14 multiple classes with an ESL teacher, those minutes
- 15 accrue to your two to three hours that are needed per
- the state.
- 17 Q. Okay. So the state -- according to the
- Pennsylvania Department of Education, so that I just
- 19 understand your testimony --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- tells us as a guideline that English
- language learners should have two to three hours of
- 23 English instruction a day; is that what you're saying?
- A. For the entering level, for the beginning
- level and then developing is one to two, expanding is

one or as needed, and then as you continue to move

- forward, it's as needed.
- Q. Okay. So even if at the international
- school, a student was exited from the -- from that
- program at the beginning level, does that mean they're
- 6 exited -- at the time of being exited they are no
- 7 longer receiving two to three hours of instruction?
- 8 A. If a student leaves the international school
- because they have attained a beginning level, they
- 10 will receive two hours of ESL and CA. It's a
- 11 combination class.
- 12 Q. Okay. When does that -- and then they have
- to test out in order to have their English language
- instruction reduced to one hour; is that correct?
- 15 A. As they continue to attain on the language
- 16 proficiency on the access exam, then yes, they would
- decrease the amount of ESL support they receive until
- they're able to exit from the programs.
- 19 Q. Were you here when Dr. Marshall said that
- she felt like the 80 minute block education format was
- 21 actually causing student's progress to deteriorate and
- I believe she used the terminology retard their
- 23 progress?
- 24 A. Yes.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor,

- 1 I think that mischaracterizes her testimony.
- THE COURT: And I remember her using
- 3 the term retard. I don't remember if it was about the
- 4 80 minute classes, so it's hard for me to rule on that
- objection. Counselor, do you recall that was what her
- 6 testimony was?
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: That is my
- 8 recollection, but I can rephrase it, I would certainly
- 9 \_\_
- THE COURT: Certainly, Counselor.
- MS. O'DONNELL: And again, I'm asking
- 12 for the witness' recollection.
- 13 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 14 O. So do you recall Dr. Marshall's testimony
- when she stated that she felt that the educational
- program, the accelerated model, which includes the 80
- minute block classes actually starts to retard the
- child's education as opposed to allow it to progress?
- 19 A. Yes, I do.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: Now I do recall what she
- 22 said. She said that this idea of trying to get them
- more credits quickly was exactly opposite of what they
- needed, they needed slower, the runway, and so it did
- retard their progress.

1 MS. O'DONNELL: So my question is okay

- 2 then?
- THE COURT: I think so. Do you
- 4 understand the question?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 6 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 7 Q. Do you understand the question?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can you answer?
- 10 A. Yes, I recollect her saying that.
- 11 Q. Okay. And do you agree with it?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 **Q.** Why not?
- 14 A. Because in those 80 minutes using best
- strategies as needed, we call them the can do
- descriptors, that's per PDE and WEDA. What the
- 17 student can do at that language level, and then what
- is the next goal that they have in that candor
- descriptor, and that is what used for lesson planning
- for all student that are ELLs within that 80 minutes.
- So acceleration in discussing it, would
- include content and curriculum that's appropriate for
- their language levels. So essentially they're there
- for 80 minutes if we're just talking about that one
- class.

- 1 Q. Right.
- A. And they would be receiving content and
- instruction that's appropriate to their language level
- within those 80 minutes, opposed to McCaskey where
- 5 they get 48 minutes.
- 6 Q. Now, does that consider -- now, let's just
- say that you have a classroom where you have a couple
- 8 of quick learners.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you have a couple of slow learners.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. With respect to the differentiated
- instruction, how does one assess whether a single
- curriculum over that 80 minutes is appropriate for
- this class of mixed learners?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor,
- 17 I'm not sure what the terms quick and slow learners
- 18 mean. If this is referring to Dr. Marshall's
- 19 testimony, I'm not sure this is a term of art that has
- any bearing on this case.
- THE COURT: Response, Counselor?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Counsel has -- I'm not
- sure what his problem is? He doesn't understanding
- what a quick or a slow learner is generally, is that
- the objection?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: I think, Your Honor,

- 2 throughout this case, we've talked about -- and Ms.
- 3 Hilt has talked about levels, which is a technical
- term and during et cetera, and quick and slow, I think
- 5 could mean something entirely different than the
- 6 issues in this case.
- 7 THE COURT: Is it your concern that we
- 8 not insult the students by suggesting they're slow
- 9 learners are that they have more challenges in
- learning because of their background and their lack of
- language?
- 12 MR. ROTHSCHILD: I think the terms are
- vague and the meaning of the answers if we're not
- 14 precise about terminology is going to create a
- confusing record. Your concern is also a good one.
- 16 THE COURT: Thank you. So the term
- 17 slow learners, Counselor, what do you mean by slow
- 18 learners?
- 19 MS. O'DONNELL: Well, how about I allow
- 20 --
- THE COURT: Someone who has challenges?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, there's someone
- who's obviously able to look down and learn from what
- they're seeing and others may take more time to
- process.

1 THE COURT: So based on what you

- suggested of these plaintiffs, some might be slow
- learners, and some might be fast learners?
- 4 MS. O'DONNELL: Yes. Yes.
- 5 THE COURT: Okay. Could you rephrase
- 6 the question?
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: Sure.
- 8 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 9 Q. When you have a class that needs
- differentiated instruction, what is the differentiated
- instruction based upon? What's the need for
- 12 differentiated instruction?
- 13 A. It's based upon the -- if it's ESL, the
- language level would be assessed, but it also could be
- based on other abilities, for example math abilities,
- if it was a lesson in math.
- 17 **Q.** Okay. Let's take a reading class.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. Do you find in your -- have you ever taught?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And have you ever taught ESL?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So explain to me how you would go
- about a differentiated instruction when you have
- children of various learning abilities?

1 A. So one of the ways is definitely what we

- 2 call the station rotation model, where students are
- 3 rotating through groups. Sometimes it could be an
- electronic, computer based group. Maybe a group where
- there's some individual work, and then there's always
- a group with the teacher. So it's instead of doing a
- 7 whole group lecture, for example, because we don't
- like that in education, not the way I was taught but
- 9 now, we know that's not right, so we would have a
- smaller group where the teacher is instructing the
- whole group, but to maybe only four students, and so
- it's a very much one-on-one interaction. That's one
- 13 way.
- 14 But within those rotation models, you would
- have various leveled texts. You may have things like
- 16 we saw before, like word banks, or visuals, based on
- the language level of the student, or if it was a
- student with an IEP need, similar differentiation.
- 19 Q. Okay. So is it possible that some of these
- 20 students could be traveling around at Phoenix Academy
- or at the International School in a cohort, and I say
- some of these students, I mean the plaintiffs. Is it
- possible for the same aged students to be in the same
- 24 cohort?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Yes. And is it possible that they could be

- learning at different speeds or they have different
- 3 learning abilities?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Same objection, Your
- 6 Honor. I think we're really getting confused with the
- 7 terminology here in terms of how the international
- 8 school students are grouped, Phoenix students grouped,
- 9 and I don't think it has a lot to do with who's
- 10 brighter or clearer.
- 11 THE COURT: It was a pretty general
- question, pretty general information and it's pretty
- intuitive, so I'll overrule the objection.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 15 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 16 **o.** Okay. Did you understand my question?
- 17 A. Could you repeat?
- 18 O. Sure. I'm interested to know whether the
- individuals in this lawsuit that are the same age, the
- 20 17-year olds --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- would be traveling in a cohort at either
- 23 Phoenix or the International School regardless of
- their ability and pace to learn?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And is that because they are provided

- with differentiated instruction in each class?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. What do you think about the student
- 5 to teacher ratio at Phoenix? Is it -- in your
- 6 estimation as the coordinator of ESL for the district,
- 7 is that an appropriate ratio for those students to be
- 8 educated appropriately?
- 9 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection, Your Honor,
- 10 calls for expert testimony.
- 11 THE COURT: She sounds pretty much like
- an expert to me, even though she hasn't been --
- MS. O'DONNELL: Qualified.
- 14 THE COURT: -- accepted as one. I'm
- going to overrule the objection and allow her to
- 16 testify to that, it goes more to the weight of the
- 17 evidence whether she's satisfied with the ratio. She
- actually put this program together to a large extent,
- 19 correct?
- 20 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- THE COURT: And obviously she's very
- proud of the program that she's supervising. I'm
- going to allow her to testify to that.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: And, Your Honor, the
- only other thing I'd say is that if she could lay some

foundation about what that ratio is, otherwise we're

- just getting her --
- THE COURT: And I do agree with that.
- 4 Lay the foundation about exactly what the ratio is as
- well as why she believes that's sufficient, how it
- 6 compares to what they would get at the International
- 7 School or at McCaskey in general, if she knows.
- 8 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 9 Q. So do you know the ratio at the Phoenix
- 10 Academy?
- 11 A. Yes, I do.
- 12 Q. And do you know the ratio at McCaskey
- 13 International School?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
- 15 O. Okay. Let's talk about the International
- 16 School first, what is the ratio teacher to student at
- the International School?
- 18 A. So if I could talk about McCaskey. The
- 19 student/teacher ratio for McCaskey in regards to ESL
- is 13 ESL teachers --
- 21 **Q.** Okay.
- 22 A. -- to about 525 students, which makes it
- 23 about 40 to 1 --
- 24 **Q.** Okay.
- 25 A. -- as far as their case load.

- 1 Q. Okay. And what does --
- THE COURT: 525 ESL students?
- THE WITNESS: At McCaskey, yes.
- q. And at the Phoenix Academy, what is the
- 5 ratio?
- 6 A. There's about 90 students that are ESL to 3
- 7 ESL teachers, so that's about 30 to 1.
- 8 Q. Okay. Thank you. And you believe that both
- 9 are appropriate?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. I think I'm going to allow you to
- answer cross-examination questions now. Thank you.
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 THE COURT: Thank you very much,
- 15 Counselor. Mr. Rothschild, you may cross-examine the
- witness.
- 17 (Pause)
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Does the witness need
- 19 a break?
- 20 THE WITNESS: No.
- THE COURT: Mr. Rothschild, do you need
- 22 a break?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: I don't mind a break.
- 24 Sorry.
- THE COURT: Very well. We'll recess

- 1 for 15 minutes.
- THE CLERK: All rise.
- 3 (Recessed at 10:48 a.m.; reconvened at 11:00
- 4 a.m.)
- 5 THE CLERK: All rise. The United
- 6 States District Court is again in session. The
- 7 Honorable Edward G. Smith presiding.
- 8 THE COURT: You may be seated. Thank
- 9 you. The Court is called to order. All parties
- 10 previously present are once again present. The
- witness is on the witness stand.
- Mr. Rothschild, you may proceed with
- your cross-examination.
- 14 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 17 Q. Ms. Hilt, you spoke about the example of
- discipline and restraint that occurred at McCaskey.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 **Q.** That isn't demonstrated to the students
- 21 entering McCaskey for the first time at their
- orientation; is that right?
- A. No, they're provided with a handbook that
- has all of our guidelines and disciplinary procedures.
- 25 Q. But they don't have to watch a member of the

faculty or staff model the restraint on another

- student including a physical restraint?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And students at McCaskey, they aren't patted
- down every morning; is that right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. That just happens at Phoenix?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And the demonstration of restraint in
- orientation I talked about, you know that happens at
- 11 Phoenix, right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. Was there an interpreter at the
- 14 meeting with Qasin when his bullying allegations were
- 15 discussed?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Who provided that interpreter?
- 18 A. We did.
- 19 Q. Okay. And one of the things you said about
- that meeting was that District staff was trying to
- 21 convey that maybe he was misunderstanding some of the
- behaviors by some of his students maybe because of
- some cultural differences.
- A. I don't believe I said that.
- 25 Q. Okay. Did you tell him that he might have

been misunderstanding some of the encounters that he

- 2 characterized as bullying?
- A. I don't believe I said that.
- 4 Q. Okay. You said you did not use interpreters
- for the education of the students at Phoenix, right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Or McCaskey?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Is that true for tests, as well?
- 10 A. It depends on statewide exams. There are
- certain regulations but outside of statewide exams,
- 12 yes, that is true, we do not.
- 13 Q. Okay. And why is that?
- 14 A. Because it's not considered best practice
- 15 for ESL.
- 16 **Q.** The consultants you referred to, did they
- 17 deliver any work product to you that described their
- glows and what was the other term you used?
- 19 A. Grows.
- Q. And grows?
- 21 A. Yes. Yes, they did.
- 22 Q. Okay. And is that something you maintain in
- your files?
- A. Yes, at the District level in a binder.
- 25 Q. You were part of the group of District staff

that pulled together documents that were requested by

- counsel both in the right to know request and then in
- 3 the litigation?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Did you produce those documents in that?
- 6 A. Not that document, I did not.
- 7 Q. Okay. But you have that in your files?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And you talked about observations of
- teachers, the ESL teachers.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You do some?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. Anybody else do any for your -- of ESL
- teachers for the District?
- 16 A. Principals would do observations.
- 17 Q. And in terms of your observations of Phoenix
- 18 teachers who are teaching ESL Phoenix, you don't keep
- any formal record of that, do you?
- 20 A. Correct. I do not.
- 21 Q. You talked about the observations you did
- during the summer program.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Summer program is not required for Phoenix
- or McCaskey students, right?

- 1 A. Correct, it's not required.
- 2 Q. And Phoenix and McCaskey students go
- 3 together --
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- for those classes? And that's actually
- funded by a separate grant different from the
- 5 budgeting --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- for that district. And I know you're
- trying to be helpful, but if you could just wait for
- my questions to finish.
- 12 A. No problem.
- 13 Q. I think you've anticipated most of them but
- 14 it don't --
- 15 A. No problem.
- 16 O. -- make the record easier. You said that --
- 17 excuse me. You described the ratios of faculty --
- students to ESL teachers at McCaskey, right, ESL
- 19 students to ESL teachers?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 **Q.** And said it was 40 to 1?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 O. That's all ESL teachers who are certified?
- A. That is the 13 ESL teachers who are hired by
- 25 the District ESL staff list.

1 Q. And are all of those teachers teaching ESL

- 2 classes?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You don't decide who goes to Phoenix, do
- 5 you?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 O. That's Mr. Blackman's decision?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. The last year or so he invited you to
- 10 participate in his evaluations and meetings with some
- of the refugee students, right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And what was your understanding of why he
- 14 did that?
- 15 A. So I could be there to try and provide a
- 16 culturally relevant warm demeanor, calm environment
- 17 with their families and as well as I was working with
- the resettlement agency so I knew a lot of the case
- workers that were coming in.
- Q. And one of the things you've talked about
- 21 and I think you're aware is that these students come
- in with -- some having had pretty traumatic
- experiences.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And all of them are coming in having been

dislocated from where they were to a new country,

- 2 right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And most of them with very limited English
- 5 proficiency; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 O. But Mr. Blackman's decision about whether a
- 8 student goes to Phoenix is not based on language
- 9 proficiency, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And you don't make any recommendations to
- 12 him about what's the best school or program for ELLs
- based on their language proficiency?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. Since November of 2015 you've had primary
- 16 responsibility for delivery of ESL services in the
- 17 District?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And it's a pretty important job.
- There's a lot of ELLs in the District, right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. How many?
- 23 A. About 18 to 1900.
- Q. Okay. And how many in high school?
- 25 A. About 525.

1 Q. And they are at all different levels, right?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. And when we talk about levels --
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- you've used some terms, entering, I think
- 6 you used beginner, that might be also called emerging.
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Okay. And then there's higher levels, more
- 9 proficient levels beyond that.
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And that's something that's measured right
- with the WAPT test and the ACCESS test?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 0. Okay. And so that's very different than
- whether a student is smarter or less smart or quicker
- or slower. This is something that you actually have a
- 17 rigorous way of accessing.
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And the strategies for teaching ELLs varies
- depending on their level; is that right?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. And a lot of work has been done by experts
- in teaching ESL to understand the students and their
- 24 needs and to develop strategies so that they can learn
- and of course access their subject matter classes,

- 1 right?
- 2 A. Correct.
- O. Okay. You studied that kind of work at
- Millersville. I can tell you remember a lot of it.
- 5 And you've actually continued to read experts in the
- field so that you're -- you can do your job, right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you also have any education specifically
- on ESL during your Master's at Cabrini?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You sat -- as you indicated, you sat through
- Dr. Marshall's testimony, right?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. And you would agree she is the kind of
- expert whose work you studied during your time at
- 16 Millersville.
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. The kind of expert whose articles you still
- read today, right?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. Could you turn to your day one binder,
- 22 Exhibit 23? Is Exhibit 23 a document that came from
- your files?
- A. I am not certain. It may have.
- 25 Q. You were involved in gathering the documents

that were produced to the Plaintiffs in this

- 2 litigation, right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And you were -- were you the only ESL
- 5 staff who did that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And what is this article?
- 8 A. This is about engaging ELLs with SLIFE
- 9 concerns.
- 10 Q. And that's what?
- 11 A. Limited and interrupted formal schooling.
- 12 Q. We all know what that is.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. That's what Dr. Marshall talked about
- 15 yesterday.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. That's what she's really an expert in.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So this is an example of the kind of
- articles that come to you and that you try and keep
- abreast of to do your job?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And Exhibit 27 in the same binder, that's a
- WEDA bulletin on SLIFE students, right?
- A. Yes, it is.

1 Q. Also from the District's files?

- A. I believe so.
- Q. Do you regularly read the WEDA bulletins?
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. So you have a very good understanding of
- 6 SLIFEs as a distinct group of ELLs?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you listened to Dr. Marshall talk about
- 9 the various strategies for teaching ELLS, right?
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. And I -- is that a yes?
- 12 A. Yes. I'm sorry.
- 13 Q. That's all right. Everybody violates it.
- 14 A. Sorry.
- 15 Q. And I know you have disagreements about her
- opinion specifically about Phoenix but in terms of her
- 17 description of the various modes of ESL delivery are -
- those were all familiar terms to you, right?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. And she described them accurately?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. Ms. Hilt, you agree that direct English
- language -- under Pennsylvania guidelines, direct
- 24 English language instruction may not take place during
- other content classes which are required under the

- 1 Pennsylvania code?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So when we're counting how many ESL hours a
- student receives, that's got to be ESL hours not being
- 5 taught by an ESL certified teacher in a content class?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Could you look in your day one binder at
- 8 Exhibit 8? This is a document entitled "School
- 9 District of Lancaster Services for English Language
- 10 Learners", right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And it's dated June 20th, 2016?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. So am I correct in understanding that this
- is the most up to date description of ESL services
- that Lancaster School District provides?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And it's pretty detailed, right? It
- 19 actually talks about a lot of the models that we heard
- 20 about from
- Dr. Marshall and some of which you talked about today,
- 22 right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And I think I remember you saying at your
- deposition you didn't create this document.

- 1 A. Can you repeat that?
- 2 Q. You didn't create this document, right?
- A. Did not, correct.
- 4 Q. So you inherited it in your position?
- A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And have had no occasion to change it.
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. So the first paragraph, could you just read
- that and the first sentence in the first paragraph
- under services, could you read that into the record?
- 11 A. Yes. "English language learners receive ESL
- services to develop English language proficiency to be
- successful in the core education program and
- 14 participate in activities of interest. Parent
- involvement in the school program is a key component
- to the success of ELLs and is strongly encouraged."
- 17 Q. You read two sentences but --
- A. Oh, I'm sorry.
- 19 Q. That's quite all right. And these are the
- right objectives for an ESL program, right?
- A. Correct.
- 22 Q. And you agree that participation in
- 23 activities of interest is actually really helpful for
- 24 a new student, a SLIFE student to become integrated in
- his or her school community?

1 A. Yes, it's helpful for any student, sure.

- 2 Q. And including helpful for new immigrant and
- 3 refugee students.
- $^4$  A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Maybe the best way for them to do that while
- 6 they're learning the language, right?
- 7 A. Could you restate that?
- 8 Q. I said that may be one of the best ways to
- 9 do it while they're otherwise learning English perhaps
- in classes just with other ELLs.
- 11 A. I'm sorry. I'm not following --
- 12 **Q.** Sure.
- 13 A. What is the best way?
- 14 **o.** In terms of a student becoming acclimated to
- his or her new school, participation in
- 16 extracurricular activities is actually really one of
- 17 the best ways that they can become acclimated and
- integrate with their fellow students while they may be
- 19 getting instructed in their classes in a group that's
- just comprised of ELLs.
- 21 A. Sure.
- 22 Q. Okay. And you would agree that McCaskey has
- 23 pretty much all the extracurricular that a student
- 24 could want?
- 25 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. Phoenix does not.
- 2 A. Any extracurricular at McCaskey is available
- 3 to Phoenix students.
- Q. Okay. And to do that they've got to take a
- 5 bus over, right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And is a bus provided to Phoenix students
- 8 every day so that they can take part in sports, in
- 9 plays, in the newspaper, in yearbook?
- 10 A. I believe so, yes, transportation is.
- 11 Q. Okay. And do you participate in
- orientations of new ELLs that are starting at Phoenix?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. You don't. All right. The second page of
- the document describes the service delivery models,
- 16 right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And this is a pretty good description of
- 19 what Lancaster School District offers, right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 O. Okay. And it's consistent with kind of the
- 22 national and state standards for -- what are the
- understood and accepted methods of ESL delivery?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And there's a description for

- sheltered instruction program?
- 2 A. Yes.
- O. Okay. And that's indicated it's for ELLs at
- 4 lower English proficiency levels.
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And then there's two models down in
- 7 structure English emersion?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You used a term on direct, sheltered English
- 10 emersion, right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. But that's not a term that's used
- 13 here?
- 14 A. Correct. That was probably just a misspoken
- 15 term.
- 16 Okay. So there's not actually something
- 17 called sheltered English emersion?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. It's structured English emersion.
- A. Correct.
- 21 **Q.** Okay.
- A. I apologize.
- 23 Q. That's quite all right. I'm glad we don't
- have to tussle about that.
- A. We have lots of acronyms in ESL.

1 Q. Okay. And one of the things that makes a

- sheltered instruction program sheltered is the
- students at the same level are in classes together,
- 4 not grouped with higher level students or English
- 5 language speakers, right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. And sheltered instruction means that
- 8 students do their ESL with students of the same level?
- 9 A. I'm sorry. I believe you said sheltered
- 10 instruction again. Can you --
- 11 Q. I am speaking of sheltered instruction.
- 12 A. Okay. Can you restate that?
- 13 Q. Yes, sure. Sheltered instruction means that
- the students do their ESL together with students of
- the same level?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And they do their core subjects with
- students at the same level.
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. And that is how they -- that's what they do
- in International School at McCaskey, right?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. All the entry level students are together
- all day for their ESL and their core subjects?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And there's a reason for that, right? It's

- 2 hard entering ELLs to access core content if a lot of
- the teaching is done with a pace and with methods more
- 4 appropriate for more advanced English speakers or
- 5 native English speakers.
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. So then we have this other -- we've got the
- 8 same term now, structured emersion. That's another
- 9 mode of delivery used by the District, right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 O. And in that model students do their core
- subjects in mainstream classes with a mixed group of
- 13 ELL levels and native speakers, right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And at Phoenix, that is what happens in the
- 16 core subjects, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Then at the bottom of the page it says
- "Service Delivery By Site"; do you see that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And site means school, right?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And that service delivery models are not the
- same for each school.
- 25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Some schools are listed as using structured

- 2 English emersion and some are not, right?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Some sheltered, some not, right?
- A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And it looks like in terms of shelter
- instruction there's actually one school at each level;
- 8 Washington Elementary, Reynolds Middle School,
- 9 McCaskey Campus, right?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And is there a reason for that that, you
- 12 know, you have just one elementary school out of
- multiple or one middle school out of multiple that --
- 14 A. Well, as I look at this, this is -- there
- are some that are not correct on here.
- 16 **Q.** Okay. So some --
- 17 A. There's some terminology that -- it changes
- 18 every year based on your cohort of kids. Sometimes
- even in the middle of the year it may change --
- 20 **Q.** Okay. And --
- 21 A. -- based on those incoming students.
- Q. This is dated June 20th so it's the most up
- 23 to date --
- 24 A. I understand that.
- Q. Fair enough. And in any case, McCaskey

1 (indiscernible) sheltered English instruction, right?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. And that's done through the International
- 4 School?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And we don't see Phoenix listed here but
- 7 under alternative ed it says Cyber, Dash, Camelot and
- 8 sheltered English instruction is not listed.
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And Camelot, does that refer to both Camelot
- schools, Burghley and Phoenix?
- 12 A. That would be my understanding, yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And what is Dash?
- 14 A. Dash is a, my understanding, is a special
- education placement based on IEP needs.
- 16 **Q.** And Cyber?
- 17 A. Cyber School.
- 18 Q. Yes. And so that means you're -- just for
- 19 the -- I want to make sure I understand exactly what
- that is.
- 21 A. Sure.
- 22 O. I think we all have an intuition but I want
- to make sure I understand correctly.
- 24 A. Yes. I'm sorry. What do you -- you want me
- to explain it?

1 Q. What is a Cyber School? How is --

- A. Okay.
- 3 Q. How are students taught in the Cyber School?
- A. So they're taught on the computer. It's a
- 5 computer-based -- we do have a location they can come
- into. We have ESL staff there that can support them
- 7 in that but basically they do all of their learning
- 8 online.
- 9 Q. And that's actually right next to Phoenix,
- 10 right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. And students who are at Phoenix, including
- the Plaintiffs in this case, they don't do their
- computer-based learning over there, it's the Cyber
- 15 School?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And Camelot, we've mentioned the schools but
- that's the for-profit company that runs Phoenix and
- 19 Burghley, right?
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. Does it also run the Cyber School?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. So the International School is described on
- page 1 in this document, right?
- A. Oh, I'm sorry. I was waiting to see if you

needed me to -- something further. Yes, it's

- described on the document.
- 3 Q. And it's an accurate description?
- A. May I have a moment to read it one more
- 5 time?
- 6 **Q.** Sure.
- 7 A. Okay. Yes.
- 8 Q. And the International School was actually
- 9 developed to meet the needs of new ELLs, right?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. And students whose background is like
- the Plaintiffs in this case, putting age aside.
- 13 A. Some, but not all students in the
- 14 International School are SLIFE.
- 15 Q. Okay. But all SLIFEs -- fair to say that
- 16 all SLIFE students that go to McCaskey are placed in
- the International School?
- 18 A. Unless they have matriculated through our
- 19 system and our no longer entering level ELLs that are
- 20 SLIFE.
- Q. Okay. They've progressed.
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. International School is good at progressing
- 24 them.
- 25 A. Or they may have started before high school.

1 Q. Okay. You would agree the International

- School is good at progressing SLIFEs?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And this is actually a great example of the
- 5 District adopting best practice recognized nationally
- 6 for how educate ELLs?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. If an ELL is enrolled at McCaskey, who
- 9 decides whether he or she goes to the International
- 10 School?
- 11 A. It's based on their language level so their
- 12 entering level status would put them in the
- 13 International School.
- 14 Q. And that's -- is that your decision using
- the WAPT scores?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. You're hesitating.
- 18 A. I did hesitate because I'm no longer there.
- 19 There was a time when I was physically there and that
- was my decision.
- 21 **Q.** Okay.
- 22 A. But, yes, it is ESL programming's decision.
- Q. Okay. And so there was a time when you were
- 24 directly responsible --
- 25 A. Correct.

1 Q. -- for placement in the International

- 2 School?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And you were actually responsible for
- administering -- administering the International
- 6 School (indiscernible).
- 7 A. Oh, administering as an assistant principal.
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. Yes. I'm sorry. I thought you meant
- 10 administering the exam.
- 11 Q. Pretty proud of your time at the
- 12 International School?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. It was successful?
- 15 A. I would say so.
- 16 **Q.** And do your consultants have nice things to
- say about the International School?
- 18 A. As a matter of fact, they told me many grows
- 19 that we needed to look at but of course there are
- qlows, as well.
- Q. Okay. Good. And the criteria that you used
- when you were placing students there is based on the
- level you've determined from their WAPT scores?
- 24 A. Correct. So a student who came into
- 25 McCaskey that was an entering level would go to the

1 International School until they reached the beginning

- 2 level.
- 3 Q. The second line of that paragraph towards
- 4 the end of the second line says, "This unique small
- learning community introduces new cultural values and
- 6 beliefs while respecting the cultural diversity
- 5 brought by the students, right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that's what the International School
- 10 does, right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And that's best practices, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Actually incredibly helpful to having the
- students succeed in learning.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Could you turn to Exhibit 65 which is, I
- assume, in the day two binder.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do you recognize this document?
- 21 A. Yes, I do.
- 22 O. Okay. And this is -- it's titled "ESL
- 23 Department Internal Review Survey."
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So that's the year that just finished?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. And at the bottom there's a name, Katelyn
- 5 Bartlett. Who is that?
- 6 A. That's the previous coordinator so this is
- 7 just her time and date stamp on the document.
- 8 Q. What is she doing now?
- 9 A. She's literacy intervention specialist.
- 10 Q. For the school district?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. And when did she leave her -- she was in
- your current position?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And you reported to her?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And when did she change from that position
- 18 to the new --
- A. August/September.
- 20 **Q.** Of 2015?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. And so this is a survey -- it says 2015/'16
- in handwriting on the top.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Is that -- whose handwriting is that?

- 1 A. That's mine.
- Q. Okay. Does that mean this was prepared by
- 3 Ms. Bartlett?
- 4 A. No.
- **Q.** Okay.
- A. This was prepared by an ESL teacher or
- 7 potentially myself, I don't remember because I was in
- 8 transition, but it represents the 2015/'16 school
- 9 year.
- 10 Q. And do you know what time -- when that was
- 11 done?
- 12 A. These are done in October.
- 13 Q. So it would have been October 2015?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And right at the top under purpose there is
- something that makes me happy. It's a citation to a
- 17 legal case, Castenada v. Pickard, do you know why
- 18 that's there?
- 19 A. Yes, because that's one of the two most
- 20 pertinent laws or cases that reflect in our law in
- 21 practice in ESL.
- Q. And so -- I'm sorry. I interrupted.
- A. In ESL.
- 24 Q. And even though you're not a lawyer,
- congratulations, you actually have to make yourself

- 1 aware of certain laws --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 -- to do your job?
- A. correct.
- 5 Q. And one of the key things that's required by
- this case and that is reflected here is that there has
- 7 to be an assessment of the school's programs -- ESL
- 8 programs to make sure that they're working for the
- 9 students, right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. That's a legal requirement.
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And regardless of whether you prepared this,
- 14 you reviewed this, right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. And you made sure it was accurate?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And if you could look at the bottom of the
- 19 page and it says, "Sheltered English Instruction".
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And this is for McCaskey. It says,
- "Entering and emerging levels are instructed within
- 23 this model", right?
- A. Correct.
- 25 Q. Entering levels use a (indiscernible) base

- 1 model wherein the student is traveling cohorts to
- their core classes; science, math, and social studies.
- 3 Can you explain what that means?
- 4 A. So those students who are at the entering
- level, because I must say that it's not emerging
- levels, it's only entering for the International
- 7 School, but they travel to math, science, and social
- 8 studies as a cohort of same language ability with
- 9 their peers.
- 10 Q. So it's accurate for the entering level, not
- 11 for the emerging.
- 12 A. Correct, yes.
- 13 Q. And then if you could go to the next page,
- the second line says that these entering level
- 15 students, they receive three hours of ESL instruction
- as well as three hours of core, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. Okay. And that's right also, isn't it?
- 19 A. Well, the three hours of ESL, one is a
- skills prep so it's not direct ESL instruction as you
- 21 mentioned earlier.
- 22 O. I'm not sure I mentioned but --
- A. Oh, I'm sorry. Some --
- Q. But two -- that's all right.
- A. Someone mentioned earlier, yes.

1 Q. So two hours of ESL instruction and then an

- 2 hour of skills prep --
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. -- for each of these entering level
- 5 students.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And that skills prep class is taught by who?
- 8 A. It's taught by an ESL teacher.
- 9 Q. Okay. And that is not their, for example,
- their communications, arts, or English class?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. It's a third hour of ESL with a different
- 13 name?
- 14 A. Skills prep is a course where students may
- work on assignments they need support with. They may
- 16 review grades. Similar to Phoenix's counseling so
- they might review grades with their teachers and other
- things like go to the library, et cetera, in that
- 19 class.
- 20 Q. But at McCaskey that third hour is with an
- 21 ESL teacher?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And that's not true for Phoenix, for
- example, the counseling or skills prep that you just
- described?

A. I don't know about skills prep, but

- counseling, no, that would be with a counselor.
- Q. Okay. And then it says emerging ELLs
- 4 receive three hours of ESL instruction and that's true
- 5 also, right?
- 6 A. Emerging ELLs receive two hours of ESL
- 7 instruction and one hour of skills prep unless they
- 8 have an elective --
- 9 **Q.** Okay.
- 10 A. -- which could be a semester-based change.
- 11 Q. Okay. So that's accurate with your caveat
- that skills prep is included in the ESL hour.
- 13 A. Correct, and this is for emerging so that's
- 14 also called beginning --
- 15 **Q.** Okay.
- 16 A. -- and they're out with the rest of their
- peers during the day.
- 18 Q. Right. That's your correction from the
- 19 previous sentence that said that they were with their
- 20 same level --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- for the core classes.
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And would you agree that's the
- appropriate amount of ESL for the entering students,

- what's described in this document?
- A. As long as it's two to three hours, it would
- 3 be considered appropriate.
- 4 Q. And part of what you're saying, I think, is
- that that's meeting state requirements, right?
- 6 A. Correct. That's state requirements.
- 7 O. And I'm also asking, as someone who has
- 8 working in this field, do you think that's what's
- 9 appropriate for these students?
- 10 A. I think two to three hours based on need.
- 11 As the expert said yesterday, varying levels, even
- within, for example, the entering level of language
- ability.
- 14 O. But here District makes sure these students
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Could you turn in the day one binder -- I'm
- 18 sorry. I'm going to ask you to switch to Exhibit 25.
- 19 A. Can you repeat that?
- 20 Q. I'm sorry. Day one binder, Exhibit 25.
- 21 A. 25. Yes. I'm here.
- 22 O. Okay. And this document, it starts with an
- email from Barbara Lombardo to I think it's Pam, I'm
- going to mispronounce it probably, Kalaga (ph).
- A. That's correct.

1 Q. All right. And Barbara Lombardo is somebody

- who is a grant writer for the District?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Is that her whole job?
- A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I'm not suggesting that's not a big job, but
- 7 you help with this, right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that's because you were one of the
- 10 District employees who had more expertise in ESL.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And so were you the primary writer for all
- this ESL content or just providing --
- 14 A. She wrote it. She conferred with me but
- there was a lot of rollover from year to year. We've
- had the grant for several years since 2009.
- 17 Q. Could you turn to the Bates stamped page
- marked 2749 down in the corner?
- 19 A. Oh, yes, the first one.
- Q. And that's page -- it has page 2 in the
- right-hand corner and entitled "Abstract", right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And it's really a description of the
- District's refugee student initiative, right?
- A. Correct.

1 Q. And it describes many ways in which the

- 2 District serves the refugee population.
- A. Correct.
- Q. So on the bottom paragraph it says, "When
- our high school refugee students first arrive, they're
- 6 enrolled in our International School at McCaskey East
- 7 where they receive academic supports to obtain English
- 8 fluency and maintain their grades", right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And that sentence is not qualified by age,
- 11 right?
- 12 A. Correct, that sentence is not.
- 13 Q. Okay. And it goes on to say the goal is to
- 14 have these students exit the International School and
- 15 enter another small learning community on the McCaskey
- 16 campus or, if they are a certain age, enroll at
- 17 Phoenix Academy or High School for overage students,
- 18 right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. That's not what happened for the Plaintiffs
- in this case, right?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. They didn't start at the International
- School and then potentially go to Phoenix after they
- had acquired more English mastery.

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. That's what should have happened, right?
- A. Based on this document, yes.
- Q. Okay. Based on this document that you
- 5 helped prepare?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And this was a document submitted to the
- 8 state in support of a request for funds, right?
- 9 A. Yes, but as I stated in my deposition, I
- didn't read it thoroughly before it was submitted.
- 11 Q. But you did read it?
- 12 A. Yes, I skimmed it.
- 13 Q. Okay. And so are you telling the Court that
- 14 Ms. Lombardo just had the information wrong and it
- wasn't caught by you?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Putting aside what is happening, it's what
- should happen, isn't it?
- 19 A. Can you repeat that?
- 20 Q. Putting aside what is happening in the
- 21 Lancaster School District, what's described in this
- 22 paragraph is what should be happening for these new
- 23 ELLs entering the school district?
- A. I don't believe so.
- Q. Which of the Plaintiffs -- I'm sorry. Let

1 me ask you a few more questions about the document.

- 2 Could you turn to page 13?
- A. Okay.
- $\mathbf{Q}_{\bullet}$  So in the second -- in the, well, I guess,
- 5 the first full paragraph, more discussion of the
- 6 International School, right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. And it says the targets addressed
- 9 include language acquisition, adapting to new cultural
- norms, and familiarization with a different education
- 11 system.
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. Right? And those are all things that new
- 14 ELLs need when they enter the Lancaster School
- 15 District, right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And then it says the overarching goal of the
- 18 International School is to prepare students as much as
- 19 possible in one year for effective participation in
- 20 mainstream classes.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. That's the right goal, right?
- A. Correct.
- 24 Q. And it talks about the sheltered instruction
- model, right? Or the sheltered --

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. -- instruction observation protocol?
- A. Yes, it does.
- 4 Q. And it says observation but that is actually
- 5 the delivery method, right, and it says so.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And it says, you know, this method of
- 8 delivering education to these new ELLs is aligned with
- 9 current research and instruction for English language
- 10 learners, right?
- 11 A. I'm not following where you are so I don't
- want to comment yes or no.
- 13 Q. I apologize for that. So if you could look
- at the bottom of the page, it talks about the
- 15 (indiscernible) program. It says this -- it's got
- 16 components and it's aligned with the current research
- and instruction for English language learners.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And you agree with that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. If you could turn to page 14.
- A. Okay.
- 23 Q. It says in the middle of the page, really
- about halfway down, it says older refugee students, 19
- 25 plus, will be enrolled in Phoenix Academy, a small

learning environment for students with specific needs

- 2 related to credit recovery, right?
- A. Correct.
- Q. But that's not fully accurate. This
- description and statement, that's not fully accurate
- either, is it? Younger students go to Phoenix.
- 7 A. I'm not certain of your question.
- 8 Q. This says older refugee students, 19 or
- over, will be enrolled in Phoenix Academy.
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 O. But that doesn't describe the entire
- 12 population --
- 13 A. Of Phoenix.
- 14 O. Right.
- 15 A. No.
- 16 **Q.** Students as young as 17 are sent to Phoenix.
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Including some of the Plaintiffs.
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. If you could turn to page 15, and so that
- statement was not an accurate representation either?
- 22 A. I'm just not sure I understand the question.
- 23 So this statement to me would be, yes, that we send
- students 19 plus to the Phoenix Academy, a small
- learning environment, et cetera.

Okay. So it's not necessarily comprehensive

- but it's accurate.
- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And then if you could turn to page
- 5 15.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Maybe this will help. If you go six lines
- down, you see there's a sentence that starts
- 9 "students".
- 10 A. On page 15?
- 11 Q. 15, that's right, and six lines down.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Students must be at least 18 years old and
- have earned at least five credits to be enrolled in
- this program, right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And the program is Phoenix, right?
- 18 A. That's what it states, yes.
- 19 Q. And again, that's not comprehensive or even
- accurate in terms of who is being sent to Phoenix.
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. And this isn't just whether the precise
- words are accurate, right? This is suggesting that
- the students should actually have acquired some
- knowledge and have had some experience in the school

- before they go to Phoenix, right?
- 2 A. The way I read this is that the grant writer
- believed that to be true but it's not accurate.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then at the bottom of the page
- there's discussion about translators, do you see that?
- 6 A. No, I don't see anything on translators.
- 7 Q. I'm sorry. Not the bottom of the page, I
- 8 apologize, bottom of the paragraph. It says,
- 9 "Additionally, translators".
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And it says that they will be contracted to
- assist in oral and written communications to aid
- students in testing, right, and then it goes on.
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And you just told me at the beginning of my
- 16 examination that that's not best practices.
- 17 A. We don't do that unless it's a statewide
- 18 exam.
- 19 Q. Okay. So that wouldn't refer to just your
- 20 regular classes?
- 21 A. Correct, that would be statewide exams.
- 22 Q. Fair enough. I think you said that you were
- familiar with two of the students who are Plaintiffs
- in this case from --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- from having met with them?
- 2 A. One of them, yes.
- O. Okay. That was Qasin.
- A. Qasin, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. And you mentioned at the beginning of
- 6 your examination with Ms. O'Donnell that you were
- familiar with Khadidja but I guess you haven't met
- 8 her?
- 9 A. Yes, I don't believe I met her but I was
- 10 familiar with her file because I was asked by Tim
- 11 Purcell and I believe Bilahl maybe about Khadidja.
- 12 That's how I know her file.
- Q. So before she -- and you know her now,
- 14 right, and not just because you've seen her in this
- 15 courtroom? I mean, you know her as someone --
- 16 A. I know her as a student, more so her sister
- than she.
- 18 **Q.** Okay. Had you ever met her before?
- 19 A. I don't believe so.
- Q. Okay. You've never observed a class she was
- 21 in?
- A. No, I had not.
- 23 Q. Never spoken with her or tried to assess how
- she was doing at school?
- A. I don't believe so, no.

1 Q. And I understand you may not do that for

- every student but you were --
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. -- familiar with her. So the only one you
- 5 interacted with personally was Qasin?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And prior to him starting school at Phoenix,
- that was a meeting in December of 2015, right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. That you testified about that on direct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you did not at any time, and the
- District did not at any time before Qasin started
- 14 Phoenix assess his language proficiency, right?
- 15 A. I believe we would have with the WAPT exam
- and then his teacher would have upon enrollment with
- those other writing and oral assessments.
- 18 Q. Okay. And I appreciate the correction
- because that was actually that October 23rd, 2015?
- 20 A. Correct. Yes.
- 21 Q. And so is that the norm that a student is
- 22 taking the WAPT test before -- at the time when they
- 23 first try to enroll or before they're actually put in
- 24 a school?
- 25 A. It depends. So it depends on the enrollment

1 specialist who does the testing and if there is time

- in the schedule. So we do our best to try and
- 3 coordinate that with the appointment but sometimes it
- might happen later or it may happen the day of if she
- 5 has space in her schedule.
- 6 Q. So October 23rd, 2015, that's basically
- 7 marking when Qasin and his family were trying to get
- 8 him enrolled, right?
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. And he didn't get a meeting with Mr.
- 11 Blackman which I know you also attended until December
- 12 10th?
- A. That would be my understanding, yes.
- 14 O. So that's waiting approximately six weeks or
- so when he's not going to school before the decision
- 16 maker -- before a decision is going to be made about
- where he's going to go to school?
- 18 A. My understanding is there was issues with
- immunization and also with a birth date.
- 20 **Q.** And your understanding with the issues with
- the birth date, what did do to determine whether there
- actually was an issue with the birth date?
- A. I believe that Tim Purcell, upon asking for
- his meeting, said that the birth date was in fact
- incorrect and then I believe we looked at the I-94 to

- find the correct birth date.
- Q. Well, Tim Purcell didn't reach out to the
- District until after that December 10th meeting,
- 4 right?
- 5 A. I don't know. I mean, he and I were in
- 6 contact about a lot of clients so I'm not sure.
- 7 Q. Okay. But in any event the District's best
- 8 resource for the date is not Tim Purcell, right? It's
- 9 the information that's provided to the District when
- it enrolls a student, right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. And you talked about looking at the
- 13 I-94 and if you could return back to that, that's
- Exhibit 48, right?
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 O. And that's the document you spent some time
- talking about with O'Donnell, right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And she showed you the I-94, right?
- A. I'm sorry. Who is she?
- 21 Q. Ms. O'Donnell.
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And that actually gives a birth date
- of Qasin of September 1998?
- A. Yes, it does.

1 Q. And so at the time of that December 2015

- meeting he -- your records showed that he was 17,
- 3 right?
- 4 A. Our records in e-school which was our
- database that's in here, the very next page, did not
- 6 indicate that birth date. It indicated a different
- 5 birth date so that's the record that was used.
- 8 Q. And so that's the next page, No. 57?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And the version I'm looking at says
- 11 September 1st, 1998, correct?
- 12 A. Right. That's because I worked with Tim to
- 13 get it corrected.
- 14 O. Okay. So you're saying that the birth date
- that the school district entered was different than
- 16 what was on the I-94 that had been provided to the
- school district when he enrolled?
- 18 A. Based on my recollection, we believe there
- was a typo, I think.
- Q. Okay. And that's a data entry issue by
- 21 enrollment staff?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. At that meeting with Qasin and his family,
- what did you do to clear that up?
- A. I'm sorry. About the birth date?

- 1 **Q.** Yes.
- A. Not much. We just -- I'm sorry. Can you
- explain which meeting you're talking about? There's
- 4 been several.
- 5 Q. The December 10th meeting, the first time
- 6 that you met with Qasin in person.
- 7 A. You are correct that at that meeting we
- 8 thought the birth date was different. It was after
- 9 that meeting that then we were able to clean that up.
- 10 Q. Did you communicate to Qasin and his mother
- that that was what you thought his birth date was?
- 12 A. We did discuss age, yes. I'm not sure that
- we discussed exact birth date --
- 14 **Q.** Okay.
- 15 A. -- but we discussed age.
- 16 O. And did you tell -- did you or Mr. Blackman
- tell Qasin and his mother that he couldn't enroll?
- 18 A. We didn't discussed going to the literacy
- 19 council with him.
- 20 **Q.** And did you tell him he couldn't enroll?
- 21 A. I don't recall.
- 22 Q. And you agree with me that regardless of
- whether he's age 17 or age 19, that should not have
- 24 been an impediment to his enrolling in the Lancaster
- 25 School District and receiving his free education?

1 A. Well, I believe the literacy council is a

- 2 robust program that supports individuals in learning
- 3 English. So depending on what his goal was then it
- 4 could have been a good option for him.
- 5 Q. But that's not -- that doesn't answer my
- 6 question about what his --
- 7 A. Okay.
- 8 Q. -- legal right was to an education.
- 9 A. Can you ask it again then, please?
- 10 Q. Yes. He had a legal right, regardless of
- whether he was 17 as he actually was at the time or 19
- as maybe was misapprehended, to go to get a free
- education in the Lancaster School District?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And am I correct in understanding age was
- not the only issue that caused Mr. Blackman to deny
- 17 Oasin enrollment?
- 18 A. Correct, transcripts and credits were
- 19 evaluated.
- 20 Q. But those transcripts and credits were not a
- reason not to enroll him either, right?
- 22 A. I mean, that's what was looked at and
- discussed.
- Q. Right. But even if he had no transcript and
- no credits and was 19, he was entitled to a free

- public education --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- at the school district? But that -- the
- other issue that came up there and one of the reasons
- that Mr. Blackman refused to enroll him was because of
- 6 how he was behaving, right?
- 7 A. Yes. He was not sitting at the table with
- 8 us and interacting, yes.
- 9 O. And did you know at the time what Qasin's
- background was?
- 11 A. No, I didn't know much about him.
- 12 Q. Okay. And did you try to find that out --
- 13 A. Yes, we did.
- 14 Q. -- in that meeting?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. And did you find out the
- 17 circumstances of his coming to the United States and
- where he'd come from and what he'd been through?
- 19 A. Not much, no.
- Q. And Qasin was not acting disruptively,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. He wasn't acting out physically?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. He wasn't yelling?

- 1 A. No.
- Q. He was pretty silent, right?
- A. He stood in the corner.
- 4 Q. And for a student whose had Qasin's
- experiences, it's not necessarily that surprising that
- 6 he would act in a way that we might perceive as
- 7 inappropriate including being standoffish like that?
- 8 A. Sure. We did our best to invite him to the
- table and interact and engage him in the conversation.
- 10 Q. I mean, even some of our own teenagers might
- 11 act like this, right?
- 12 A. Certainly.
- 13 Q. And we wouldn't say that they can't enroll
- in school for that reason, right?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 O. But that is what happened to Qasin, right?
- 17 A. Well, we presented the literacy council as
- an option for him as a best pathway based on what we
- got from the meeting which was that he was
- disinterested and wanted to work and his mom was more
- interested in school.
- 22 Q. So you got from -- his mom was more
- interested in school; is that right?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And Qasin was more interested in work.

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. Even though he was silent?
- A. He didn't say much but that is what he
- 4 presented.
- 5 O. Isn't the best indication of whether a
- student whose entitled to free and public education by
- 7 the Lancaster School District whether they want to
- 8 attend school that they have actually enrolled to go
- 9 to school?
- MS. O'DONNELL: I'm going to object to
- the form. Could Counsel please repeat the question?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Certainly.
- 13 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 14 O. Isn't the best indication of whether a
- student and the student's family wants that student to
- go to school that he enrolled to go to school?
- 17 A. My understanding is that it's an obligation
- of the resettlement agency to do so with the family.
- 19 Q. And you feel like it's within the District's
- discretion to override the judgment that is reflected
- in that enrollment effort and make your own
- determinations about how he or she can be best
- educated?
- A. I don't work in placement but I believe that
- that's why we have those discussions and try to

formulate a plan that the student would be successful

- 2 at graduation.
- 3 Q. And does graduation follow from going to
- 4 literacy council?
- A. Yes, you can obtain a GED that can be
- 6 transferred into our diploma.
- 7 Q. You have to get a GED?
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. If you'd just turn to page 57 of this
- document, Exhibit 48.
- 11 A. I'm there.
- 12 Q. And this is the enrollment form we looked at
- before and it actually has -- we talked about the WAPT
- test being October 23rd, 2015 but it actually has
- District enrollment date, state enrollment date, U.S.
- 16 enrollment date, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. So that's actually the record of Qasin's
- official enrollment, right?
- A. That would be my understanding, yes.
- 21 Q. That is a reporting, for example, to the
- 22 state and the Federal Government that we have a
- student who is now enrolled in our school district.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And there's actually money that flows as a

- 1 result of that, right?
- A. I don't know much about that but I would
- 3 assume yes.
- 4 **Q.** Okay.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Your Honor, I just
- 6 want to make sure my watch hasn't stopped and I'm not
- 7 going too long. I'm fine going on. I just want to
- 8 make sure I've got the right time.
- 9 THE COURT: That's fine.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Okay.
- 11 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 12 Q. If Qasin had been placed at McCaskey,
- enrolled in McCaskey, you would have placed him in
- 15 A. Yes, that's where he would have been sent.
- 16 I didn't physically place students there but his WAPT
- 17 exam would have sent him into the International
- 18 School.
- 19 THE COURT: Excuse me. How old was he
- 20 again?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: How old was he?
- THE COURT: Yes.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: He was 17. So --
- THE COURT: I thought the arbitrary
- line was 17 and above went to Phoenix, 16 and below

- 1 went to --
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: I'll ask a better
- 3 question.
- 4 THE COURT: Because I'm finding a
- 5 critical issue here.
- 6 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Yes.
- 7 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 8 Q. If that line did not exist, there wasn't a -
- 9 and you agree with me that there is a policy that
- 10 the District implements that every new ELL that comes
- into the District who's age 17 or older who is under
- credited for their age level is assigned to Phoenix?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. Okay. And it doesn't matter what their
- language proficiency is?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And if that -- and so I'm giving you a
- hypothetical here, this 17 year old student, if that
- rule didn't exist, and I know this wouldn't be your
- decision, but if the decision was made for whatever
- reason the student is going to McCaskey, he would have
- been placed by either you or somebody subordinate to
- you at the International School to start?
- A. I just want to make sure I understand. I
- was trying to follow. So you're saying --

1 Q. It was a lot of words. I hope it was not a

- word salad but it was a lot of words.
- 3 A. You're saying a student who is high school
- age, is your hypothetical you're asking me.
- 5 **Q.** Yes.
- 6 A. A student who is high schooled aged that
- 7 came in, took the WAPT exam, got an entering level and
- 8 was going to McCaskey, would they be in the
- 9 International School, is that your question?
- 10 **Q.** Yes.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And that would have been true for Qasin
- absent the age rule, the age credit rule?
- 14 A. Yes, if he was high school aged, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. And we know now he was 17.
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 O. And then that would be true for all of the
- 18 Plaintiffs, right, that if age was not a criteria or
- if they were placed at McCaskey for reasons that you
- would have nothing to do with, all of them would have
- started in the International School, right?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Object as to form.
- THE COURT: I'm going to overrule
- because it's a rhetorical question. Obviously the
- answer is yes.

MS. O'DONNELL: (Indiscernible)

- 2 testimony is that it was age and credits. So --
- THE COURT: Well, I think the --
- 4 MS. O'DONNELL: -- the question is
- 5 (indiscernible).
- 6 THE COURT: Right. I think the point
- 7 here is very clear and I want to make sure I have it
- 8 right. The position of Mr. Rothschild is that these
- 9 individuals who are beginners when they're tested or
- entry level, entering, when they're tested, if under
- 11 normal circumstances, if there was not this arbitrary
- distinction between 17 and above goes to Phoenix and
- 13 16 and below goes to the International School, the
- older children would go to the International School.
- I think that's the point he's trying to make.
- I think the point that the school
- district is trying to make is if they don't have
- enough credits to graduate they're going to be sent to
- 19 Phoenix because it's an accelerated program and
- sending him to the International School would deny
- them those accelerated credits that would give them
- the diploma within the period of time before they age
- 23 out.
- MS. O'DONNELL: And therefore
- 25 (indiscernible). However, that was -- I did not hear

- that that was Counsel's question. So --
- THE COURT: It probably wasn't.
- Whatever his question was, it seemed very rhetorical
- 4 to me. Like the answer was so intuitive and clear
- that it was easy. The one issue that's going to come
- 6 up about this whole aging out, and I'll just tell you
- 7 that because I've heard this, is this idea that
- 8 somehow when I look at 24 Pennsylvania Statues
- 9 Annotated Section 13, Tag 1301, that that age 21 is
- 10 conditioned on you being special ed, because you've
- 11 mentioned that, Counselor.
- I see the law as saying 21 is 21, that
- you have a right to a public education until your 21.
- 14 But I see the one boy and I can't remember his name or
- even if I could, I couldn't pronounce it. He ended up
- 16 graduating at 19 after 16 months of schooling when --
- and he was sent to Phoenix to do that when it appears
- that we had an extra year we could have sent him to
- 19 the International School, still send him to Phoenix,
- and he still could have graduated before he aged out
- 21 with the benefit of the International School as well
- as the accelerated credits and I'm sure that's going
- to be explained.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, that definitely
- will be explained but he also would have had a choice.

THE COURT: Would have had a choice to?

- MS. O'DONNELL: To transfer to
- McCaskey. Right? Well, he wouldn't have gone to
- 4 International School. If he transferred -- if he had
- 5 gone to Phoenix and --
- 6 THE COURT: But if he's --
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: -- acquired those
- 8 credits and wanted to continue.
- 9 THE COURT: But if he had started at
- the International School, which I think is Mr.
- 11 Rothschild position that he should have started at the
- 12 -- and then if transferring him over to Phoenix made
- sense to get those accelerated credits, he still would
- have done it before he aged out because he ended up
- 15 graduating this week at the age of 19. He still --
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Actually 18, Your
- 17 Honor. Sorry to interrupt but --
- 18 THE COURT: So he clearly had many more
- 19 years that he could have gotten additional schooling
- including the very first year being in what sounds
- like a wonderful program at the International School.
- 22 But I'm saying this only so you all know throughout
- the whole course --
- MS. O'DONNELL: Right.
- THE COURT: -- how I'm interpreting the

- testimony that I'm hearing.
- MS. O'DONNELL: We'll here more
- 3 testimony directly.
- 4 THE COURT: And you've put on a very
- 5 compelling witness here, I will say.
- 6 MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: Mr. Rothschild, you may
- 8 continue. Excuse me my interruption. I threw you
- 9 completely off track.
- 10 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 11 Q. So I want to ask you a few follow up
- 12 questions on Qasin's records.
- 13 A. Okay. So you spent some time talking about
- the levels he was at. And so, for example, you looked
- 15 at page 62 of LSD 62?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And this was an exercise given to Qasin
- right after he started school, right?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. And, you know, without getting into dispute
- about whether this is appropriate, the answer was he
- does not understand?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And if you turn to the next page, page 63 it
- 25 says Qasin has no English skills. He can write in --

- and I'm not sure what that --
- A. It's L-1 (phonetic), that's his first
- 3 language.
- 4 Q. Oh, thank you. So that's -- and that was
- 5 understood at that time is Somali or Arabic?
- A. Well, on our records it shows Somali, by the
- 7 home language survey, but what he wrote looks to me to
- 8 be in Arabic.
- 9 Q. It says he has no concept of computation,
- 10 right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. And this was a student who was at a school
- district decided should accelerate?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And then you looked at his grades. They
- were very low, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. And we looked at his attendance and it was
- 19 very --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- spotty. That might be charitable, right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And in fact, most of the end of those
- unexcused absences were basically he left school after
- meetings where the bullying situation was not resolved

- to he and his family's satisfaction?
- 2 A. Correct.
- Q. Could you turn to Exhibit 49?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Or I'm sorry, Tab 49. It's a little
- 6 confusing, because it's marked Issa 14. Do you see
- 7 that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 O. And that indicates that Phoenix -- and tell
- me if I'm saying it right, Phoenix or the school
- district, regardless, promoted Qasin from the tenth to
- the eleventh grade, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You didn't have any role in developing
- 15 Phoenix's accelerated model?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. (Indiscernible) how it was developed, right?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. You don't know whether that model was
- developed with ELLs in mind, right?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. Especially entry level ELLs?
- A. Correct.
- 24 O. Or SLIFEs?
- 25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And you don't know whether Camelot -- let me

- withdraw that. You have never recommended to the
- school district -- you have never recommended in your
- 4 capacity as ESL coordinator, that SLIFEs in the school
- district be taught at an accelerated pace, right?
- A. I've never made any recommendations on SLIFE
- 7 in my tenure at this point.
- 8 Q. You've never made the recommendation that
- 9 entering ELLs be taught at an accelerated pace, right?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And that's absolutely not what happens at
- the International School, right? They're not taught
- at an accelerated pace?
- 14 A. I'm thinking, because my understanding of an
- accelerated is just that 80 minute block semester
- period or semester based scheduling. So to me, that's
- 17 -- I think we're talking different acceleration.
- 18 Q. So it's your understanding that the content
- isn't coming at these kids faster, they just sit for
- longer --
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 **o.** -- class periods?
- 23 A. Correct, for a semester based reporting
- 24 period. Yep.
- 25 Q. And you certainly never recommended that --

and would you agree with me that International School

- is actually operating at a slower pace, so that these
- 3 students can acquire English and be able to access
- 4 their core curriculum?
- A. I wouldn't say that.
- 6 Q. You wouldn't say slower? You would agree
- with me, the metaphor we heard, runway, that Dr.
- 8 Marshall used, that's a pretty good metaphor for what
- 9 the International School does, right?
- 10 A. I think it's a good metaphor for both.
- 11 O. You don't know how the acceleration model at
- 12 Phoenix, how their teaching the ELLs with the time
- they have in the curriculum they have, do you?
- 14 A. I know that they -- we provide professional
- development and I've observed and looked at lesson
- 16 plans, to know that the curriculum guide, for example
- if we look at a science curriculum quide. You must
- teach the standards, but you're using accommodations
- 19 to teach those standards as well as the
- (indiscernible) descriptors.
- 21 Q. So when you said at your deposition, I don't
- 22 know the acceleration model at Phoenix, I don't know
- how they're doing that with the time they have in the
- 24 curriculum they have. Was that --
- 25 A. I was speaking to an accelerated credit

earning accelerated. I wasn't speaking to what

- they're doing in ESL curriculum.
- Just back on Qasin for a second, the fact
- that one of the consequences or benefits of enrolling
- Qasin in school was that his family could earn TANF
- 6 benefits. That's not something that should be held
- 7 against the family in terms of their desire to enroll
- 8 Qasin in school?
- 9 A. I don't think TANF plays a role one way or
- the other in education.
- 11 O. That's not inconsistent with also the desire
- of having him go to school to learn, right?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 **Q.** In that meeting, the first meeting with
- Qasin, the meeting that we've talked about. You talk
- 16 about Megan Brown?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And she's actually -- you may not have seen
- it, you probably haven't seen it, but she testified
- that she came a few minutes late to that meeting and
- it was already over. Do you remember that?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And when she said a few in her deposition,
- she said like a few, like under five. Is that
- consistent with your recollection?

- 1 A. I would say yeah, likely.
- 2 Q. And by that time, everybody was outside of
- the room in which you'd met and then she actually had
- 4 an encounter with Mr. Blackman?
- A. Yeah. We met in another location, all of
- 6 us, the same parties, yes.
- 7 Q. Okay, and everybody was there?
- A. Yeah, my understanding is yep.
- 9 Q. Would you agree with me that Mr. Blackman
- 10 felt disrespected by Qasin?
- 11 A. I don't think so. No.
- 12 Q. Was Balahl (phonetic) at that meeting also?
- 13 A. I do not remember who the first case worker
- was that was there.
- 15 Q. We looked at Qasin enrolling with the
- district on November 2nd, 2015, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Doesn't get a meeting until December 10th,
- 19 right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And obviously we know how that meeting
- 22 concluded. And then it took advocacy by his case
- workers to get him enrolled in school, right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And that's not the only one of the

plaintiffs in this case who that's true for, right?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. You became involved not with meeting her
- face to face, but you became involved with the
- 5 enrollment of Khadidja Issa, correct?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Could you look at Exhibit 83 and
- 8 that's got to be a day two binder based on the number.
- 9 Do you have that?
- 10 A. Yes, sorry.
- 11 Q. And this is a series of e-mails which you
- participated on regarding Khadidja's enrollment,
- 13 right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And this is Balahl initiating or reaching
- out to you because he's trying to get Khadidja in
- 17 school, right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And he only reached out to you in the first
- e-mail, right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And do you have a relationship with Balahl
- that then caused him to do that?
- A. I mean, the same as many of the organization
- representatives, yes.

1 Q. He didn't include Mr. Blackman on the e-

- mail, but you did, because that's his job, right?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. You're not going to make that decision on
- 5 your own?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And so this e-mail is dated January 21st,
- 8 2016?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And in the e-mail, or I apologize, later in
- the e-mail chain, and this now goes back to the first
- page of the document titled Issa 44, you asked a
- series of questions and one of them is asking about
- what Balahl means by enrolling her.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 **Q.** And he responds November 16th, right? And
- that's at the bottom of page 44, which is actually the
- 18 first page of the e-mail chain?
- 19 A. Yes. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So you -- he reaches out to you, you
- include Mr. Blackman, but you very promptly respond
- with some questions, Balahl responds to the questions?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And what he told you is middle of November,
- 25 right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you don't have any reason to doubt that,
- 3 right?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Okay. And you were brought into the meeting
- 6 with Qasin because of your greater familiarity with
- 7 refugees, right?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And so -- and that regularly happened,
- 10 right, in the recent years?
- 11 A. As much as my job duties would allow it to,
- 12 yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And at this point, you know, more
- than two months after Balahl is representing he's
- tried to enroll her, you haven't participated in any
- meeting with Khadidja?
- 17 A. Not to my recollection, no.
- 18 Q. Okay. And you don't know that any meeting
- 19 has occurred?
- 20 A. I -- yes, well the way I read the e-mail
- would have been yes, because I believe he states in
- here, that's why I'm asking about enrollment, like
- what did he mean by enrollment.
- 24 Q. And what you say is enrollment -- and if you
- could go to the top -- you say a student is not

enrolled if he/she has produced records to enrollment,

- 2 right? Is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And actually that is enrollment, right, once
- 5 all the proper papers are in, school district lists
- the student as enrolled and reports that to the state
- 7 and federal government?
- 8 A. So that was my understanding. I'm not in
- 9 the enrollment department, but that was my
- understanding. The next part, the next step is
- meeting with Mr. Blackman, and as you stated --
- 12 Q. And this is terminology and I understand you
- just may say ask somebody else, but certainly getting
- 14 to school required going through Mr. Blackman for this
- group of students, right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. But that's not enrollment, right? That's
- not being enrolled in the school district?
- 19 A. I don't know that I can answer that
- question.
- 21 Q. Fair enough. But in any event, this is what
- happened with Qasin, right, there it was the paperwork
- aspect of enrollment and then there was the meeting
- with Mr. Blackman and only after that happened, he
- made a decision, could these students go to school?

1 A. That's my understanding. My understanding

- of enrollment in the way I wrote it here is that you
- would provide documents to enrollment, but when you
- were then assigned a school location, that would be
- the enrollment. That's what I'm referring to here.
- 6 Q. And you know, if there was a 14-year old
- 7 coming from the Philadelphia school district, not an
- 8 ELL and submitted enrollment papers, he or she
- 9 wouldn't wait six weeks, eight weeks for a meeting
- with Mr. Blackman before he or she got to start
- 11 school, right?
- 12 A. I don't know that answer.
- 13 Q. And one of the things we heard testimony
- about -- and I know you've been sitting through all of
- 15 it.
- A. That's okay.
- 17 Q. A lot of stamina. Is that, you know, these
- students have a lot of language acquisition and
- 19 content acquisition that they need, right?
- A. Many of them, not all, but many.
- 21 Q. Yeah, and you heard about all the Plaintiffs
- here and their education and backgrounds differed a
- bit, but some of them had almost no formal education,
- some had not -- had been interrupted, but had been
- more, right?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. But all of them were -- had interrupted
- education according to the testimony?
- 4 A. I believe so, accept maybe not -- I can't
- 5 say his name, Anyemu.
- 6 **Q.** Okay.
- 7 A. I believe he said he went until ninth.
- 8 Q. Well, he said he went to school at a refugee
- 9 camp in Mosanbic (ph), right?
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. Which was a Portuguese speaking country?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. In any event, they have a lot of English
- language learning to do, right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 **Q.** They have a lot of credit acquisition to do?
- 17 A. Yes, they do.
- 18 Q. They are older, so they -- it varies from
- student to student, but they don't have all the time
- in the world to do those things?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. And so you would agree that any delay in
- getting them started in school is detrimental to all
- those objectives?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you review Khadidja's school records at

- 2 any time?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And maybe make the question more precise,
- because I know there's academic aspects of it, but did
- 6 you review her records to determine whether there is
- 7 any reason that she had to wait from November until at
- 8 least January to get this enrollment process moving or
- 9 the placement process moving?
- 10 A. I looked at her records. That's why I asked
- 11 Balahl for her full name so I could access it. At
- that time, I didn't look, but in consulting, I think
- she had issues with immunization, resulting with the
- 14 head of enrollment.
- 15 Q. And so but if she, like, I'll ask the
- 16 question of a different witness.
- 17 And you say here in this top of the e-mail,
- and the next step is a meeting with Mr. Blackman, and
- then it says, as you stated, enrollment did not occur
- 20 based on his assessment of the components I listed
- 21 below.
- What do you mean by the components?
- A. Well, I'm not sure because I don't -- at
- this second, see components I listed below. But
- talking about credits and transcripts, and then again

- the conversations that would occur with the case
- worker about what the goal and aspirations are for
- 3 that client.
- 4 Q. But even if she had no transcript and no
- 5 credits, at age 18, if she had submitted all her
- 6 proper enrollment papers, then she was entitled to go
- 7 to school?
- 8 A. Yes.
- $\mathbf{Q}$ . And there would be no components that would
- explain why she wasn't going to school?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. She eventually did enroll in Phoenix, right?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. That happened pretty quickly after this
- advocacy by Balahl, right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. And it only happened because of
- advocacy of Balahl and the other case workers, right?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 **Q.** Could you turn in the first day binder to
- 21 Exhibit 16? And this is a series of e-mails. It's
- one version of the same series of e-mails that we just
- looked at, right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And it doesn't have the top e-mail that we

just looked at where you talked about meeting with Mr.

- 2 Blackman and it has just Balahl's answers to your
- 3 questions?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Q. And then it has a statement by Mr. Blackman
- and it actually went to Balahl, right?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And just Blackman to Balahl, nobody else is
- 9 copied on it?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. But you saw this e-mail on or around the
- time it was sent, right?
- 13 A. I did. And I saw it at the meeting with
- 14 Madam and LRS.
- 15 Q. Who showed it to you?
- 16 A. Madab.
- 17 **Q.** Had you not seen it before then?
- 18 A. Correct, I never --
- 19 Q. And this is an e-mail by Mr. Blackman that
- says -- I appreciate that -- I'm sure he did not
- intend to send it to Balahl, that that was the
- inadvertent sending, but it's an e-mail he sends after
- reading the e-mail to you that he was copied on that
- provides all the information about Khadidja's
- enrollment process and the fact that she has one what

she needs to to get enrolled, right?

- A. Okay.
- Q. Is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And this e-mail that was sent to Balahl,
- 6 presumably sent to somebody else, it says, "This guy
- 7 is nuts, makes me say no" -- N-O in all caps -- "all
- 8 the time. Decisions are made on a case by case
- 9 basis." That's what it says, right?
- 10 A. Yes, that's what it says.
- 11 Q. And you've -- when Madab showed you and
- other colleagues this, and do you remember when that
- meeting was?
- 14 A. January, February, somewhere in there?
- Winter.
- 16 Okay. And Madab was angry about it, right?
- 17 A. Yes, he was upset.
- 18 Q. And Mr. Blackman apologized to Balahl for
- 19 what he said?
- 20 A. He did not apologize to Balahl. He said he
- apologized, it was unintended for Balahl and he
- offered to apologize in person, but Madab said that
- was fine and that he didn't want to think about it
- anymore. He accepted the apology and wanted to move
- 25 forward.

- 1 Q. And this was on an -- this was an
- inadvertent e-mail. I appreciate that it was said on
- 3 top of an exchange of e-mails about a student that he
- 4 actually had said no to, right?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. Did the school district or anybody in the
- 7 school district apologize to Khadidja for how long it
- 8 took to get her to start school?
- 9 A. I'm not certain of that.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Your Honor, would this
- be a good time to break for lunch or --
- 12 THE COURT: How much longer is your
- cross-examination going to take?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Probably 20 minutes.
- 15 So if we could also just take a short break if --
- 16 THE COURT: No, we can break for lunch.
- 17 I'm sure no one has any objection. And I didn't mean
- 18 to suggest that your cross-examination was getting
- laborious or excessive by any means, I truly did not.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Didn't take that.
- THE COURT: Why don't we --
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Now I'm worried.
- THE COURT: Not at all, sir. Why don't
- 24 we stand in recess? It's now about 20 minutes after
- 25 12:00, correct? Why don't we stand in recess until

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Page 155
1
     1:30?
 2
                      MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
 3
                       THE CLERK: All rise.
      (AM proceedings concluded at 12:19 p.m.)
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Page 156 CERTIFICATIONS We, Sheila G. Orms, Melissa Looney, and Debra McCostlin certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter. SHEILA ORMS, APPROVED TRANSCRIPTIONIST Melissa Looney AAERT Certified Electronic Transcriber CET-607 Debra C. McCostlin Date: August 20, 2016 

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