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WINSLOW TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2013

1 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I have a motion to open
2 public comment?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.) Ms Watkins

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seconded by Ms. Dredder
5 (Indiscernible). All in favor?

6 ALL: Aye.

7 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 Ms McLaughlin UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rashawn (ph) Lewis.

9 MR. LEWIS: Good evening, Board, fellow
10 (indiscernible) parents and (indiscernible). I was
11 unfortunate to make -- first of all, I live at 20
12 (Indiscernible) Drive, (Indiscernible). I have two kids that
13 attend (indiscernible) a freshman here in high school and one
14 over at School 6. I was unfortunate to make the last
15 meeting, I was out of town; however, I was happy
16 (indiscernible). So I'm somewhat playing catch-up from the
17 last meeting, (indiscernible) answer or (indiscernible). I
18 basically have four key points in which I just want to state
19 and kind of listen in on some of other people's comments and
20 (indiscernible). I've been a long-time Winslow resident for
21 over 16 years. I know that in today's (indiscernible) at
22 schools, you know, kids (indiscernible) a lot of things going
23 on. I just -- my four key points are this: We currently
24 have a dress code here for (indiscernible) and I believe
25 strictly they should be enforced. All right, my view point

1 is one of kids should be allowed to where what is allowable.
2 And if it goes against the current policy, it should be
3 addressed (indiscernible). Second, and this goes out to some
4 of the parents and the board members here, I didn't have my
5 (indiscernible) to me it really should be a discussion about
6 learning, it's academic achievement and it's being the best
7 that you can. But those parents that want their kid to wear
8 a uniform, I suggest sending your kids to a school that
9 requires it, point blank, all right. Third, any time we just
10 have an election, my question to the board is why wasn't this
11 question in terms of dress code and school uniforms put on
12 the ballot for the residents of Winslow? Maybe the
13 (indiscernible), you know, I can't really talk
14 (indiscernible), but it would have been quite interesting to
15 kind of see the votes and the tallies on that
16 (indiscernible). My fourth and last point here, parents.
17 It's the parents responsibility for buying, purchasing
18 clothing for their kid. You know, we're here at this
19 (indiscernible) to discuss, you know, dress codes. I find it
20 -- and it's a (indiscernible) argument that we as parents can
21 find ways to spend money on (indiscernible) clothes, on X-
22 Boxes and this and that, but how much focus is being
23 dedicated to their academics and make sure that they're doing
24 well in school? All right. Basically, what I'm saying is
25 that if parents are buying -- purchasing outfits for the kids

1 that they know is not allowed in school, then who's at fault
2 here? The administration, the faculty, they look at the
3 kids, they get sent down to the office, parents get called.
4 Some parents won't even come and pick their kids up because
5 of -- they're going against the dress code, so I hold the
6 parents accountable and responsible. Those are the four key
7 points I think you (indiscernible). I thank you for allowing
8 me the time to somewhat, you know, speak from where I'm
9 coming from. And, again, (indiscernible). Thank you.

10 *Ms McClay-Boyle* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Karen Charno (ph).

11 MS. CHARNO: Good evening. My name is Karen Charno.
12 I'm a resident (indiscernible). My husband and I have lived
13 in our township our entire (indiscernible) 41 years,
14 (indiscernible) graduated (indiscernible) class of '90. We
15 do not (indiscernible). My family settled in Winslow
16 Township in the early 1900s. My father graduated from
17 (indiscernible) in 1969, so we've been here for a while.
18 We're familiar with the challenges and the issues that have
19 been brought upon this school over (indiscernible) being here
20 and when (indiscernible). I have a 13-year-old son who's in
21 seventh grade. He attended Catholic school for five years
22 and wore a uniform. I have a seven-year-old who's in second
23 grade, School (indiscernible). He attended the
24 (Indiscernible) Charter School when he was in kindergarten
25 and he also wore (indiscernible). A parent -- like, my

1 children have wore a uniform before. I don't think that
2 (indiscernible) were based upon the school that we chose to
3 send them to. I don't think it's the answer that Winslow
4 needs. I don't think the children are the problem. As a
5 taxpayer, I'm very hesitant about what it is that you're
6 trying to do, because there's very little information from
7 (indiscernible). I don't think that we just discovered this
8 again. (Indiscernible) six years ago. We dropped it because
9 we could not afford to pay for the free and reduced lunch. I
10 haven't heard a single number come out of that. So I think
11 that's very important that we don't have (indiscernible)
12 about (indiscernible). Because that was a very, very large
13 number and that was the (indiscernible) six years ago
14 (indiscernible). You had someone speak at the meeting of
15 Walmart versus (Indiscernible) versus Children's Place versus
16 Burlington Coat Factory. (Indiscernible) I can attest to
17 that. I ask you to consider that because the children look
18 similarly on the first day of school and those children could
19 not look more different on the 91st day of school. I want
20 you to consider the size, the style. You are very easily
21 able to pick out who shopped at Walmart, who shopped at
22 Burlington Coat Factory, (indiscernible).

23 The other unfortunate thing, some children, their parents
24 cannot launder their clothing before every wear. So the
25 (indiscernible) T-shirt with (indiscernible) colors. It's

1 really very visible on a white Polo shirt. So I just ask you
2 to also consider that, please. If you feel you still need
3 it, this can be done in a stage approach or at least some
4 information (indiscernible). I suggest that (indiscernible)
5 volunteers and give them a survey beforehand. Ask them to
6 put their children in the uniform (indiscernible). Ask
7 meaningful questions in that survey. Ask them to fill it out
8 beforehand. (Indiscernible) those kids in those uniforms for
9 a month. Ask those parents the same questions again. I
10 think you might find (indiscernible).

11 I also would like to see (indiscernible) go out to
12 parents. I was very disappointed that I got this information
13 about the dress code in a backpack (indiscernible). When
14 both packets of information containing my child's homework
15 and bus schedule have (indiscernible). I was very
16 disappointed in that and I understand you have some suggested
17 retailers, but if anybody from (Indiscernible) this township
18 is part of that, I'm going to be even more disappointed in
19 the decisions that the board has made.

20 And the last thing, the (indiscernible) style six years
21 ago, and I've kept the (indiscernible) differences
22 (indiscernible) of residency. This was a problem that I went
23 to (indiscernible). This was a problem when my children
24 started at Winslow. There are (indiscernible) cars that pull
25 into our parking lot, drop off children and drive away.

1 There are (indiscernible) that sit at different places, at
2 different places throughout the township. They're still
3 being dropped off at (indiscernible). A part-time retired
4 police officer acting as a residency officer could do a lot
5 of good and I would feel much more comfortable if the money
6 I'm being asked to spend for uniforms would (indiscernible)
7 for the children of Winslow who truly need them and I'm not
8 speaking about foster children or homeless children or any of
9 those other children that (indiscernible). I would take care
10 of them. I'm talking about the children who are
11 (indiscernible) and those schools are probably getting funds
12 from the state and the children are never showing up. I
13 don't like (indiscernible) they brush under the carpet and I
14 think that could be a significant cost to us because those
15 children might need help (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) I
16 thank you for listening to me.

17 *Ms McCoy-Boyle* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Herman Bethea.

18 MR. BETHEA: Good evening. My name is Herman
19 Bethea. I live here in Winslow. I've been living here for
20 approximately about 25 years. Initially, when this came up
21 about the uniforms, I had mixed feelings. However, I did a
22 little research myself and I will urge parents of those that
23 (indiscernible) to do the same. For instance, you got
24 Overbrook High School, they wear uniforms. At Vo-tech, they
25 wear uniforms. You got a lot of -- all these Catholic

1 schools wear uniforms. My point is that you should actually
2 ask and check out with those schools to see what problems
3 they had initially, what kind of problems they're having
4 currently. I spoke to the administer, even the one in
5 Camden. Initially, which is probably the same thing here,
6 the students they're all against it. But now all three of
7 those schools, they say there's no problem about the uniform
8 and they all seem to be working well. In fact, I was talking
9 to a parent today, because I had to take my son to the doctor
10 about his knee and what have you, and her daughter was there.
11 She was a high school student at the Vo-tech. And I was
12 surprised how that young lady responded, too. She said that
13 the uniform is going well (indiscernible). They have no
14 problems about that. Now, my point is, also some of the
15 benefit I see of it, if all the kids are wearing the same
16 uniform, the colors and everything, first of all, they're
17 visible, they're recognizable. And then, again, to me -- I
18 heard some of the parents say how expensive it is, okay. How
19 can it be so expensive that every year you're going to have
20 to purchase clothes for your kids anyway, okay. And I figure
21 you're going to have to buy maybe a couple -- you know, a
22 couple of outfits for them to wear continuously like that.
23 Then there's like this young lady who's standing here today,
24 she said she has no problem. She wakes up in the morning,
25 she knows that, hey, she's going to pick up the

1 (indiscernible) which our uniform is and that's how she goes
2 to school every day. But then, again, I guess if you've been
3 in (indiscernible). Now, if you put it up to the students,
4 naturally most of the students agree, including my
5 granddaughter, they are against it. Now, what was it, a few
6 years ago when they first brought out trying to start
7 uniforms, okay, I think that something like 85 percent of the
8 parents had to be for it in order to enact it. That didn't
9 go well. Now, from this last meeting, I was taking notes
10 (indiscernible). Actually, it was about half and half.
11 Those for and those against. But what I'm saying to you as
12 policy makers, this is up to you. You're the ones that make
13 the policy.

14 Another thing I feel, though, why not try it. You know,
15 it has never been tried. So if you don't try, you never know
16 what the results are, okay. And at least if you try and you
17 have problems, you can always (indiscernible). That would be
18 the comments I have to make.

19 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

20 Ms McCoy-Boyle UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That conclude.

21 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. May I have a
22 motion to adjourn public comments?

23 MR. GIDWANI: Motion.

24 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion from Mr. Gidwani.

25 Dr Poteat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's a gentleman who has

1 his hand up.

2 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. Yes, sir?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I wanted to speak.

4 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come on up.

5 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we hold this motion?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

7 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 MR. MAY (ph): My name is Christopher May, 26
9 Country Hollow Circle. I've got a problem with the uniform
10 (indiscernible). I had three kids come through Winslow that
11 represents about 12 years. (Indiscernible) I got two left.
12 Why now is my question. I understand, you know, everybody's
13 saying okay, this could be a good thing for Winslow, but
14 actually, I can probably (indiscernible) venture that
15 everybody else sitting on that panel, probably didn't have a
16 uniform when you all went through school and you all came out
17 okay.

18 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I had a uniform for 12
19 years.

20 MR. MAY: Okay, one out of what, 11?

21 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You had a uniform as well.

22 MR. MAY: Two out of twelve.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Public school, Catholic?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it a public school?

25 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, it was Catholic,

1 Philadelphia.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

3 Ms Mascioacchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just saying I had a
4 uniform.

5 MR. MAY: Well, it's different.

6 Ms Mascioacchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, I know.

7 MR. MAY: It's different. But the thing I'm trying
8 to say is it didn't deter -- everybody else here, it did not
9 deter the individuality. It actually probably made you shine
10 out even more that you didn't have a uniform. I mean, I
11 don't get the reasoning for it. To me it does not solve
12 anything (indiscernible). Okay, so you're going to look
13 like, what, the kids in Gloucester County. You're going to
14 look like the kids in, you know, other schools, and is that
15 going to affect the academics? Is that going to affect how a
16 child thinks and grows? (Indiscernible) because the
17 (indiscernible) is supposed to be put back on the parent to
18 know what they're supposed to do and have their kids dressed
19 appropriately as the school has already laid out in the book.
20 This is what you can wear and this is what you cannot wear.
21 You're trying to throw, you know, (indiscernible) saying, no,
22 we're just going to give you a uniform. And for what? You
23 putting a kid in a uniform is not going to do anything for
24 Winslow per se, except for being part of another colleges or
25 -- well, excuse me, not colleges, other schools that may have

1 uniforms. That (indiscernible) academically. It's not.
2 (Indiscernible) the average kids be able to do something, you
3 know, after school or during school or making them feel more
4 better about what they're doing as individuals as opposed to
5 okay, there goes another white shirt, there goes another red
6 shirt, there goes another blue shirt. It does nothing. I'm
7 just saying, I (indiscernible) think about it again.

8 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

9 MR. EKUMDARE: My name is (Indiscernible) Ekumdare.
10 This is my son's first year at Winslow Township. You know, I
11 was at the first meeting and I'm at this meeting. I find it
12 incredibly -- first of all, thank you for the opportunity. I
13 think it's interesting that we have -- we had a full room at
14 the first meeting and today the numbers are (indiscernible).
15 But I just want to share, I went to a public high school.
16 And how we dress today was on some days how I dressed in high
17 school. I had a mentor in high school and the teachers I
18 looked up to, they gave me -- he turned me onto
19 (indiscernible). But there was an opportunity for me on some
20 days to come to school dressed up. And you won't believe
21 what kind of experience all my other fellow students, when I
22 played basketball or football players, the track players kind
23 of looked and said, okay, we never dress like that. We
24 actually don't have dress-up day (indiscernible). I kind of
25 feel when we get to a point where we're trying to get all of

1 our children to, not only (indiscernible) but to think one
2 way and to lose their individuality -- and I'm not saying
3 that the kids can come to work dressed sloppy -- come to
4 school dressed sloppy, but you want to give them an
5 opportunity to properly -- to express themselves and be able
6 to dress appropriately. So I hold it on a lot of parents
7 (indiscernible). If my son has his pants around his behind,
8 then I either bought them too big or I'm not reinforcing what
9 needs to be reinforced at home. And so, you know, I --
10 again, I urge the board to certainly do what's in the best
11 interest of the school district, but as somebody who's from
12 -- is from Philadelphia, works in Philadelphia currently, I
13 see kids every day in uniforms. Yes, they've got on Khaki
14 pants and they've got on blue shirts, but they've got them
15 which ever way they see fit once they leave the house. So,
16 again, it rests on the parents and I thank you for allowing
17 me to speak prior to closing this out. Thank you.

18 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you give me your name
19 again, please? I'm sorry.

20 MR. EKUMDARE: My last name is Ekumdare, E-K-U-M-D-
21 A-R-E.

22 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

23 MR. EKUMDARE: Thank you.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, my name is
25 (Indiscernible). I'm a Winslow Township resident for 17

1 years. I (indiscernible) and at the last meeting that the
2 matter being one that was brought up six years ago.
3 (Indiscernible) that lots of folks are very unhappy that it's
4 been brought up again, but I'm sure that there are reasons
5 that it's been brought up again. And I'm -- you know, and I
6 am pro uniforms. I wore uniforms through high school. My
7 children wore uniforms for the last four years. They didn't
8 like it but I did and as their parent, I make the decisions
9 that concern them. But I'm very curious to find out the
10 reasons that it's been brought up again. I don't see
11 uniforms as being an answer to hey, you know, we have a
12 problem in an area and that's why we're doing it. I've never
13 felt that way about uniforms. I've shopped at Lands End,
14 I've shopped at Walmart. I don't -- you know, to me uniforms
15 look very presentable. They're -- I can give you a list
16 against them, too, I guess, but I can give you a list for
17 them. They look very presentable. They take the focus away
18 from what (indiscernible) are wearing. It does not take away
19 individuality of the children, because (indiscernible). And
20 that's why I always say to the kids, my own children and any
21 other kids, -- I work in the district as well and I just say,
22 you know, be yourself. Just by being you makes you
23 different. You don't have to look different. You can look
24 the same and that's okay. That's -- you know, I think that's
25 way more positive about uniforms than, you know, against it.

1 (Indiscernible) but I just wanted to, I guess, give my two
2 cents. Thank you.

3 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there anybody
4 else? We had a motion to adjourn public comments made by Mr.
5 Gidwani and seconded by Ms. Dredden. All in favorite?

6 ALL: Aye.

7 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. The purpose of
8 this meeting tonight was for the board members to -- they
9 were given the transcript of what went on in the last
10 meeting. They were given the opportunity to read through
11 them and we were supposed to be able to discuss them among
12 ourselves tonight, because it's the only way we can get
13 together with the whole board to have an actual meeting. So
14 I would like to open it up to the board members if you have
15 any questions before Mrs. Pitts and I discuss what's happened
16 during the policy meeting yesterday. Right?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mm-hmm.

18 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When did we meet. Monday.
19 Monday, I'm sorry, Monday. I've lost a day. So have the
20 board members had a chance to read through the transcripts
21 that we got on Friday? Everybody had a chance to look at
22 them?

23 *Ms Peterson* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have one question, the cost
24 factor (indiscernible). I know when I did a little research,
25 I know one district, and it was Camden, they set aside from

1 their budget 60,000, but then I also know that Elizabeth, 1.
2 something million. I need to know how we're going to get
3 that money or what is truly needed to do it.

4 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I still have a question along
5 those same lines. Where is this law that says how much this
6 district has to give to free and reduced lunch children or
7 could -- I would like to see that. I haven't been able to
8 find anything.

9 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It doesn't specify how much
10 you have to give them. The statute specifies that we have to
11 give aid to those in financial distress. *Ms Masciocchi* So what may be on a
12 first -- like, on a basis if someone approaches this school
13 district and says I have this issue. I work in the Linden
14 School public school system, and they brought in uniforms.
15 I'm not sure how many years ago, but that's how they left it.
16 There was nothing set aside in the policy to say this is a
17 blunt -- you know, a statement saying this type of income
18 gets this. If it's presented to them, then that's how they
19 addressed it, on a case-by-case basis.

20 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I think that's the type
21 of thing that we would be looking at also.

22 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

23 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're not going to just
24 automatically open up a store and say --

25 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So there isn't really a cost

1 factor that's going to be presented to Winslow Township
2 School District if we adopt a school uniform policy?

3 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There would have to be. We
4 would have to have some kind of line item in the budget
5 because otherwise, we wouldn't be able to buy those uniforms.
6 And I spoke with the superintendent from Vineland. He said
7 the first year they put a \$50,000 line item in their general
8 funds budget.

9 Ms Masciocchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what does that protect?

10 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's so that if we have to
11 pay for uniforms, that's where the money comes from.

12 Ms Masciocchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But where is the statute that
13 says we have to do that? We don't have to pay for the
14 children's clothing when the parents go buy their regular
15 clothes (indiscernible) we have to buy a uniform.

16 Ms Pondish UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The statute does say that
17 financial assistance has to be provided to those students.
18 Unfortunately, that particular statute, while it says you
19 have to provide that financial assistance, does not give you
20 a rundown or a breakdown of how you're supposed to apply
21 that. It just says you need to do it. Many schools are
22 different. You know, there are -- some have used the free
23 and reduced lunch. Many schools have used that as a
24 baseline. Not necessarily that everyone on that will come to
25 you and say I need uniforms; however, you have to be prepared

1 with that money and I think that's going to be where the base
2 comes from. You may not use all that money and -- but I
3 think initially in the beginning, you're going to have to be
4 prepared to front that money and then potentially go to
5 organizations or, you know, similar to Lindenwold as they
6 have a bank now for various clothing and --

7 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have a bank in the
8 nurse's -- they didn't have money set aside. I don't if it
9 was seven years ago, that I couldn't determine. I went and
10 asked and I have some copies of some e-mails from the
11 superintendent there. There really wasn't a survey that went
12 out. They put it out there. This is what they were doing
13 and there was never an issue with the dollar value, this
14 dollar thing. So I don't know, when did this statute come
15 into play and that's what I don't understand. Six years ago
16 Winslow tried to do this and there was this thing about the
17 money. When did it come into play?

18 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a couple years ago.

19 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a few?

20 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, about two years ago.

21 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if there's just a few
22 and six years ago, why did it stop Winslow before, if it
23 wasn't in place? Could you explain that to me?

24 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead, Ms. Pitts
25 (Indiscernible).

1 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Here's what I think is
2 important before, Ms. Masciocchi, I get into that. I think
3 it's important that everyone here know, and perhaps you need
4 to tell your friends, there's been a burning question
5 (indiscernible). The most important question that came out
6 for me was why are we doing this now? Where did this come
7 from? We did this before. I (indiscernible) policy
8 committee. I can tell you this is where it came from, it
9 came from you. And the reason why I say that it came from
10 you is this: Because this was brought to the policy
11 committee by the citizens' advisory committee. This
12 township, this district has a citizens' advisory committee
13 made up of representatives from all parts of this town and
14 that was brought to the policy committee. Because the
15 statement was that, there are people in the committee, there
16 are parents who are saying that uniforms will help in solving
17 some problems. So as the policy committee, we had to take it
18 (indiscernible) to bring it to the board.

19 The second thing I would like to say, ladies and
20 gentlemen, is this: This is not a done deal. Not at all.
21 That is why we are here. That is why we had a hearing two
22 weeks ago, because we need to hear what you have to tell us
23 before we make a decision. It is not a done deal, okay.

24 Now, Ms. Masciocchi, with regard to the finances, yes,
25 six years ago, seven years ago, I do recall that we had the

1 very same kind of discussion and we had several meetings.
2 And six or seven years ago, the majority of the people who
3 came out to those meetings and voiced their opinion said no.
4 At that time, we did a survey because as a board we were told
5 that if we're going to institute this kind of mandate, as the
6 public school, we would have to have at least the majority of
7 the people concerned, the parents, saying that they agreed
8 with it. So we did a survey as we will also do now. That
9 survey produced 80 percent of comments that said we don't
10 want the uniforms, so we dropped it. Let's (indiscernible)
11 here now (indiscernible) was brought to the board by you.
12 This did not come from us. And when you, the public, bring
13 issues to us, as your board, we must address them with you,
14 okay.

15 Now, Ms. Masciocchi, your issue has to do with the
16 funding?

17 MS. MASCIOCCHI: The funding, yes.

18 *Ms Pitts* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are a public school. We
19 cannot say to the children that we educate, we will not
20 educate you because you won't dress the way that we say that
21 you need to dress. We can't say that.

22 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Well, we're not telling them that.
23 I'm not saying to say that.

24 *Ms Pitts* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But here's what we're saying:
25 we're a public --

1 MS. MASCIOCCHI: I'm not saying to say that. The
2 funding.

3 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- that has -- Dr. Poteat,
4 correct me if I'm wrong, about 50 percent of our enrollment
5 have children who are on free or reduced lunch.

6 DR. POTEAT: Yes.

7 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Which means that we have
8 households here who are in financial straits. So if we are
9 creating a policy, if we are mandating children to come
10 dressed in certain colors and certain kinds of clothing, then
11 we must also, just as we allow for children who cannot pay
12 the full price for lunch, we must also allow for folks who
13 come and say this is going to be a financial burden to us.

14 MS. MASCIOCCHI: But how --

15 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all (indiscernible).

16 MS. MASCIOCCHI: -- is their regular dress not a
17 burden to the families? If the clothes are going to be very
18 similar and probably easier for them to put on their
19 children, especially the young children, how is a dress
20 uniform going to be a burden to parents who already have to
21 dress their children regularly?

22 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because, Ms. Masciocchi, --

23 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can't say that.

24 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Why can't I say that?

25 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Masciocchi, please

1 (indiscernible).

2 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Okay.

3 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I would ask that the
4 folks do not speak from your seats because you're out of
5 order. Ms. Masciocchi, my answer to you would be what you
6 just expressed is an opinion of one.

7 MS. MASCIOCCHI: I know but they had a question.

8 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is a question and it's a
9 question that you can very well then speak with the parents
10 who come forward --

11 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Okay.

12 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and say I cannot afford
13 it. We have to allow for that. Those are legitimate
14 concerns.

15 MS. MASCIOCCHI: How come they're not coming to this
16 school and saying they can't afford to dress their children
17 in regular clothes. Going to Old Navy and all the other
18 places that they go and dress their children in?

19 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because (indiscernible).

20 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Why are they not coming here and
21 saying they can't afford that?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Masciocchi
23 (indiscernible).

24 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Masciocchi, you're
25 assuming that everyone is going to those stores. That very

1 well may not be the case.

2 MS. MASCIOCCHI: (Indiscernible) that was my
3 feeling.

4 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But that's not for us to
5 decide.

6 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is not for us to decide.

7 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So on Monday, Mrs. Pitts,
8 Mrs. Dredden, Dr. Poteat, Audra (ph) and I all met and
9 discussed what we read in here and it was split right down
10 the middle. And so we did not feel that it would be
11 appropriate for us to make that decision tonight as to
12 whether we're going to have a dress policy or not. What we
13 decided to do was to distribute a survey to the families,
14 just a quick yes or no. It should come home in their
15 backpacks. The high school's will be mailed to them. And
16 hopefully, we'll get a better picture of how the families in
17 the district are going to react. If we can get them all back
18 and tally them up, it may give us a better idea of how the
19 community feels, because right now they're split right down
20 the middle.

21 Ms Sturdivant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Now, when I
22 mentioned doing a survey two board meetings ago, I was told
23 that it costs too much money --

24 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're right.

25 Ms Sturdivant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and that we didn't need to

1 do that. So why now all of the sudden is it okay, is the
2 survey free now? What happened?

3 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, it's not free, but we
4 didn't feel that we could make the decision on the results
5 that we got at the last meeting because it was too close. If
6 we make a decision to have the uniforms, then half the
7 community's going to be unhappy. If we make the decision not
8 to have the uniforms, the other half is going to be unhappy.
9 (Indiscernible) split in the community, we decided that we
10 better get a better picture. And, yes, it's still going to
11 cost us money because we're going to have to --

12 *Mr Gidwani* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.) I got a
13 question about that. No matter what you do, you would make
14 some people unhappy.

15 *Ms Masciochi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, that's true.

16 *Mr Gidwani* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So are we trying to make
17 everybody happy?

18 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're trying to get a feel
19 for the majority of the community.

20 *Mr Gidwani* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The main thing is this is the
21 (indiscernible) school board to come to the right decision.
22 (Indiscernible) by the community (indiscernible).

23 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it's not the
24 responsibility of the school board to alienate the community.

25 *Mr Gidwani* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not (indiscernible). If

1 you're going to (indiscernible) somebody no matter what you
2 do.

3 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we will.

4 Mr Gidwani UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So the main thing is surveys
5 are not going to help you. Only drags on (indiscernible).
6 (Indiscernible) your income of other people and that that
7 (indiscernible), we should be able to make that decision
8 based upon what we know.

9 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Based upon the survey that we
10 got, plus the people who came up today, we have 21 to 21.
11 That's not a majority.

12 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Ms. President, if
13 I could just respond to Mr. Gidwani. Mr. Gidwani, may I just
14 refer you to our mission statement. Our mission statement
15 says in part that the district in partnership, in
16 partnership, with the community and in a (indiscernible) of
17 cooperation will provide an academic environment. This is
18 what partnership means, Mr. Gidwani. As the board, we're not
19 saying that we're not prepared to make a decision. What
20 we're saying is that we need input, we need to know from the
21 parents what they're going to say, because the decision that
22 we make is going to fall upon them to be the ones who
23 implement it. We're not in anyway sidestepping our decision-
24 making responsibility, Mr. Gidwani, but what we are doing is
25 acting in partnership with this community. Because these

1 children cannot be educated solely by administrative, solely
2 by superintendent. Our children are educated by a total
3 community effort and that's what we're trying to do here.

4 MR. GIDWANI: I got a question about that. How come
5 we don't ask the community about everything (indiscernible)?

6 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One of the reasons --

7 MR. GIDWANI: (Indiscernible) involve the community,
8 then why (indiscernible).

9 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Gidwani, as you well
10 know, one of the reasons why we don't bring everything into
11 the community is because much of what we do is mandated to us
12 through the Department of Education. What we do here is to
13 modify it to fit our district. That's why much of what we
14 do, we're not required to take to the community because the
15 decision has been made for us. It's been handed down to us
16 by the State of New Jersey.

17 MR. GIDWANI: Is it mandated to us that we must take
18 a survey (indiscernible)?

19 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, sir. We decided as a
20 policy committee to do that so that we could figure out what
21 the community really wants. If you look at our district
22 goals, number three says, continue to expand communication to
23 all stakeholders, to increase to increase the capacity
24 (indiscernible) parents, caregiver and community support.
25 This is what we're trying to do.

1 MR. GIDWANI: I think it's just dragging on the
2 process. We should be able to take a position. We have them
3 here and we have enough support from the community and we
4 should be able to realize what (indiscernible) community
5 (indiscernible) ^{wants} (indiscernible).

6 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The policy committee made a
7 recommendation to put out the survey. When the surveys come
8 back, we will have them tallied up. We will bring it to the
9 board on the December 11th meeting and the board can decide
10 then what we're going to do.

11 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, I have a
12 question.

13 MR. GIDWANI: Are we going to take a vote, Madame
14 President, about (indiscernible) to the community?

15 MS. DAVIS: No.

16 MR. GIDWANI: We're not going to take a vote. So
17 we're just going to just decide based on one person's
18 (indiscernible) that's the one we must (indiscernible)?

19 MS. DAVIS: Not one person. (Indiscernible) and the
20 solicitor all met and decided that would be the most fair
21 thing to do.

22 MR. GIDWANI: And there's no vote from the board?

23 MS. DAVIS: All right. All right.

24 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question. This
25 tally that we're doing --

1 MS. DAVIS: Yes?

2 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- now we just had a meeting
3 and we took a tally there.

4 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

5 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So now we're taking another
6 tally and what are we planning on doing with this tally? Are
7 we saying that all the comments that we had at the last one,
8 we're going to put all of that to the side because there was
9 a tie and so let's say we get a new tally and it's a tie --

10 MS. DAVIS: Then we're going to have to make a
11 decision no matter what.

12 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what is the next step
13 after you bring back the tally and it still says the same
14 thing? You know, because the reality is we asked people to
15 come out here on that night. They took out time from work.
16 They brought their kids and they stood in line. We sat here
17 for hours. We listened to comment after comment.

18 Ms Masciacchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

19 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Only to now take another
20 tally or survey, which I'm fine with, but my question now is,
21 so what about all the comments that have already come out?

22 MS. DAVIS: The --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) about that,
24 that that's --

25 MS. DAVIS: They're not being let go.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- a wash?

2 MS. DAVIS: No.

3 *Ms Pitts* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Brown, when we had the
4 hearing two weeks ago, that was a meeting to give the public
5 the opportunity so that we could hear what they had to say.
6 When we had that hearing and we had -- as you know, as the
7 board talked about this before, the expectation was that with
8 the hearing hopefully we, as the board, would come away with
9 some good idea as to which way the community was leaning.
10 But two, what we did not expect was that what we came away
11 with two weeks ago at the hearing was that the community was
12 literally split 50/50 on both sides of the issue. And so as
13 a way of making sure that we are giving (indiscernible). The
14 reason why we (indiscernible) is because there were questions
15 that were not answered and so we had to (indiscernible) so
16 that we could answer some of the questions, if not all of the
17 questions, that came out in that hearing. And so what we are
18 doing as a board, ladies and gentlemen, is giving you all of
19 the benefit, giving you all the opportunity to let us know
20 how you feel.

21 One of the -- another (indiscernible) request that came
22 out of that hearing was this: Many parents said to us, wait
23 a minute, you haven't even asked the children. Aren't the
24 children important? Shouldn't they have a say? At your
25 board meetings, you have students who come up every board

1 meeting and report. You even send your students over to the
2 township council to let the township council know what
3 they're doing. That's how important you feel that your
4 students are. And so parents were saying, you haven't asked
5 the students. So I go back to what Ms. Davis said, we are
6 getting -- they're trying to give our community every
7 opportunity, but it's not going to go on forever. We decided
8 that we would take the last step and we're gathering the
9 information before we make our decision, put out a survey.
10 If it's a quick turnaround, we have the time frame, it's not
11 going to be very long, so that we can put this issue to rest
12 to the satisfaction of the community that we serve.

13 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I (indiscernible) and I was
14 going to say if there be a plan C because the reality is the
15 community is split, so my (indiscernible) would be either if
16 we're sending home a survey, *Ms Masciocchi* how's that being sent home?

17 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What may happen is if it's
18 not sent home in the mail sent to the parent with the parents
19 name on it and it's sent home in the book bag, only -- I
20 don't know if it is, I'm just saying, if it is, only some
21 parents may get it --

22 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

23 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and some may not. So my
24 thing is if we're going to send home a survey (indiscernible)
25 that possibly, even though we know it's money, I don't know

1 if it's going to take (indiscernible), but putting it in the
2 mail with the parents name on it. And (indiscernible)
3 children who are doing that as well with the family so that
4 it's a guarantee that we are getting (indiscernible) tonight
5 it was in my kid's book bag and we all know what happens when
6 something's in the kids book bag.

7 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To that end (indiscernible)
8 to give us a brief -- I'm sorry, ^{Ms Dredder} (Indiscernible).

9 Ms Dredder UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was going to try to say
10 something (indiscernible) but (indiscernible). Madame
11 President, I just wanted to speak on, I needed to -- I've
12 been listening for a while and all about the uniform policy
13 and what's going on and how we do and what we should do. I'm
14 a parent, too. I have children that go here to Winslow
15 Township School, many children. I am one that you call
16 foster parent. I take care of many children. So I have
17 children in districts that go to the district and children
18 that go to other districts, because that's the law now. But
19 uniform children as well as children without uniforms and I
20 have never, ever had a problem with either. And I just
21 wanted to say that we're saying about how our district -- we
22 have a large district. And (indiscernible) about how our
23 district is split down the middle. Now, the night that we
24 had that meeting, it was packed. People were standing. When
25 you said you had 21 (indiscernible) and 21 as of today, well,

1 you're looking at 42 people that came up and (indiscernible).
2 And you have to look at the picture from all district, okay?
3 You're only looking at the few that came up and spoke out of
4 all of all the people that was in the audience. I only saw
5 those that came up. There was more (indiscernible). I'd
6 like to monitor what goes on out there as well. And I
7 watched the parents. (Indiscernible) for. Who was
8 (indiscernible). So you have to watch the whole round
9 picture. You just can't take part of the picture. You have
10 to read the whole picture. And what I'm saying is I
11 understand what each and everyone is saying here tonight, but
12 we have to remember this is about the children and we are the
13 parents and we should be the ones -- from kindergarten
14 through twelfth grade, if anything goes wrong with our
15 children and (indiscernible), they come to us.

16 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

17 Ms Dredder UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are held accountable. And
18 we should be accountable for our children. Not
19 (indiscernible) our children be accountable for themselves,
20 because they're going to come forth and say whatever they'd
21 like to say. If they like wearing their clothes
22 (indiscernible). That's how (indiscernible) our children,
23 but we want them to be individuals. We want (indiscernible)
24 to be very dependent and everything like that. But I really
25 feel on my opinion, that's what we're talking here tonight,

1 is that I think we should really look at the whole picture.
2 The whole district has not, has not, talked on this subject.
3 They have not. I'm a board member, people stop me
4 everywhere. I was told yesterday, just yesterday, I'm
5 (indiscernible) spoke yesterday and my grandson has cancer
6 and I was at (indiscernible). I was supposed to be running
7 around and stopped me in the middle of running around and
8 they wanted to know what was the board doing? What are we
9 doing? Aren't you the board? You know, aren't you supposed
10 to be doing and making decisions for the children, what's
11 best for them? And what I could say is that we're supposed
12 to be on (indiscernible) that's a whole and we are the
13 decision maker. We are supposed to make the decisions for
14 our children. And this is very important because when the
15 day is over, it's just like you go out, and as I said before,
16 you're buying a new pair of shoes and they might be tight at
17 first, but you keep wearing them and wearing them and wearing
18 them and after a while, they become (indiscernible), just
19 like any other thing any other day. It will be the same. It
20 will be forgotten. If it (indiscernible) it will still be
21 forgotten. So either way, it's going to be forgotten. But I
22 need to state that it was not the majority of the district.
23 It was just a few that came up and spoke, 42 is not our
24 district. Thank you.

25 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Which is why we're going to

1 send out the survey.

2 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, (indiscernible). We
3 have an advisory committee and what that advisory committee
4 (indiscernible).

5 MS. DAVIS: You're right. That's why we considered
6 this in the first place.

7 MR. GIDWANI: And that is why we take
8 (indiscernible) and stick to it.

9 *Ms McCoy-Boyle* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am in favor of the survey
10 going out because then everybody will get the opportunity to
11 respond. Some people don't want to come to the mic. They
12 may be in the background, and like you said, Ms. Dredden,
13 that you could tell by who was clapping when one opinion was
14 expressed (indiscernible). When you send out the survey, I
15 think that we should expand it and not just say are you pro
16 or are you con. Are you pro uniforms and having an
17 appropriation in your budget to support those that may not be
18 able to afford it. Because those may be for uniforms, but I
19 may have an issue paying for others. So I think that that
20 should also be put on, like, the full scope of it or how
21 we're going to form it. Not we, however the board's going to
22 form the policy and the full ramifications, because the other
23 thing you don't want people to vote I'm pro and then find out
24 that we're taking a piece of the budget and setting it aside
25 to provide clothing for those that may not be in need because

1 we're required to. You know, maybe that (indiscernible) so
2 everything's fully disclosed transparently.

3 *Ms Peterson* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, that's why
4 I brought up the idea of how much it would cost. Some
5 districts, also as Ms. Masciocchi said, they have a closet,
6 so that's something in the future. I know another district
7 that actually, they don't call it HSA, but it's a PTA, they
8 actually purchase some of those items. So I wanted us to
9 think more creatively. So if we're looking at -- I certainly
10 wouldn't want to say 1. something million like Elizabeth, but
11 if we're looking at 60,000, we may even cut that down if we
12 have those in the community that's willing to do that.

13 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, and I believe we have
14 the time to do that.

15 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, can I make
16 a comment. Actually the other district that I work in, they
17 have dress-down days several times a month where a student
18 brings in a dollar, it's through the PTA, and they dress down
19 and that goes into a fund or they just have dress-down days.
20 Some of the high school students, I work with preschoolers.
21 I work in a school that's through fourth grade and the high
22 schoolers will come over to help out with the kids getting on
23 the buses. They individualize their clothing by wearing a
24 necklace or feather earrings or leopard shoes and in the
25 beginning, yes, everybody was going to -- they were against

1 it at some point or another, but the gradual process took
2 place and the kids are comfortable with it and they can
3 individualize themselves through accessories. So it's not
4 like this horrible uniform that we're in prison or something.
5 They could do what they want with it. It's just something
6 that they don't have to think about what they're going to
7 wear. I have two children in this district. One graduated,
8 the other one's in tenth grade and that's all they're
9 consumed with. What am I going to wear. Who's wearing this,
10 who's -- I just -- and that's fine. They (indiscernible) do
11 the same thing. We were just trying and when the citizens'
12 advisory committee approached us, we were just trying to see
13 -- again, approach it and maybe unify the kids and have some
14 school spirit. Have the clothes be the colors of our school.
15 It was supposed to be a fun thing, not so -- all of this
16 dissention. That's all I wanted to say.

17 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, how are
18 (indiscernible)?

19 MS. DAVIS: Okay. The surveys to the elementary
20 schools and the middle school will be sent home in book bags.
21 The surveys to the high school parents will be mailed home
22 with a stamped self-addressed envelope and they
23 (indiscernible) with the high school children in the schools
24 themselves. When they come back --

25 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Say that again.

1 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you say that again?

2 MS. DAVIS: Yes. Elementary and middle school
3 surveys will go home in the book bag. High school surveys to
4 the parents we'd mail home. Plus the kids in the high school
5 will also get the surveys in the school.

6 Ms Sturdiant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What distinguishes whether
7 the survey came from the student or the parent? Where is the
8 security in making sure that it isn't one vote from one
9 person?

10 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Survey's can be coded.

11 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Like -- you know what,
12 we can depend on the honesty of the people and that's all we
13 can do.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, you can't.

15 Ms Sturdiant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's going to have to be
16 coded or a time bomb because what would stop me from getting
17 the survey and making 15 copies, filling it all out, sending
18 it back (indiscernible) a result. There has to be some kind
19 of accountability or security (indiscernible).

20 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would suggest that you code
21 it because a survey -- and correct me if I'm wrong, our
22 solicitor, a survey to (indiscernible) signing off on; am I
23 correct?

24 Ms Pondish UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's correct.

25 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So therefore, you would have

1 to code it to know where it's coming from and that would be
2 the best option. But to sign off, technically you're not
3 supposed to do it. It's supposed to be anonymous or you can
4 opt to do it.

5 MR. GIDWANI: I know (indiscernible) I think that's
6 probably one of the problems, too.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. Did you
8 (indiscernible).

9 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, there can be a
10 problem because sometimes they say that they never did the
11 survey.

12 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can only count what we get
13 back.

14 MR. GIDWANI: So how we can do (indiscernible) by
15 certified mail to each person and (indiscernible) so that the
16 other ones wouldn't get it. (Indiscernible) some kids
17 getting it and throwing it away.

18 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The coding is the same. And
19 the other thing is I don't suggest middle school gets it in
20 their book bag. They need to get sent home. That's my
21 opinion, but --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

23 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree with that.

24 Ms Masciochi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Middle school, come on.

25 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would even think

1 (indiscernible). I mean, honestly. Especially when you
2 start talking about, you know, sixth grade and all that kind
3 of stuff, I mean, --

4 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now we're talking about
5 stamped -- self-addressed stamped envelopes for -- you know,
6 we're talking about 5,000 kids.

7 *Ms Pitts* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But not necessarily 5,000
8 households.

9 *Ms Peterson* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. That's true.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

11 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think we maybe just think
12 through how many are we actually sending out because the
13 reality is I think when things are addressed to the parent,
14 it's coming right to me versus put in, you know, the book
15 bag. Elementary school, I guess, the most -- you know, I
16 have a child in the school district as well. But, you know,
17 the older they get, you know, their folder and all that kind
18 of stuff, it's hundreds of stuff that the teachers are
19 sending at home at this point. So it can get lost, they can
20 leave it in their desk. I mean, there's just a lot of
21 different ways it can go, so I think sending it home via mail
22 is it something that's doable as a survey just addressed to
23 the parent and (indiscernible) something. Or even in
24 addition to that, doing another telephone tree. Say hey, you
25 got the survey, please make sure you fill it out, it's due

1 back by this particular time. You know, that could also
2 maybe be an addendum, too. If we cannot afford to send home
3 in the mail, maybe we do something different as an add-on to
4 a telephone survey or something like that. Especially closer
5 to the time that it's due. You know, sending that -- sending
6 something out like that.

7 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anything else? Anybody else?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Actually --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead, (Indiscernible).

10 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just one question with regard
11 to -- I'm looking at the timeline (indiscernible) that we'd
12 voting on it. I don't know that that would be
13 (indiscernible).

14 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. We'd -- the policy
15 committee will bring it to the board on December 11th so the
16 board can decide if we're going to go forward with this or
17 not.

18 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

19 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't actually vote on the
20 policy until you have (indiscernible).

21 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

22 Dr Potreat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that was the vote.
23 Whether to move forward or whether not to.

24 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Whether to vote -- yes,
25 whether to (indiscernible).

1 Dr Poteat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was the vote. That's
2 what the (indiscernible) was.

3 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But I guess, Madame
4 President, in order to do this, how are we going to address
5 the (indiscernible) regards to the best way in which to
6 distribute the survey?

7 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, if this,
8 and this is hypothetical, 4,000 times 88 is only 3,520.

9 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. Say that again.

10 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If we're saying we want
11 returns and we say 4,000, 4,000 times 88 is only 3,520. I
12 think it's a good investment to mail them all home, if
13 there's only 3,520.

14 Ms Masciacchi UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And it would be family, so
15 it's not going to be --

16 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's why I went down to
17 4,000.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

19 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because we have 5,022
20 students.

21 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Now --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many sendings (ph) is
23 that?

24 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's why the return was 88.

25 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) you have to

1 give us --

2 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, here's the thing:

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- (indiscernible).

4 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We -- when we advertised this
5 meeting, we advertised no action will be taken. This was
6 going to be just a discussion. So if we decide to make
7 changes, that's going to prolong it for another meeting.

8 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, we meet next week.

9 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we do.

10 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But we at least need to come
11 to a consensus and set up a plan and be clear and in
12 agreement on how the survey is going to take place.

13 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Agreed.

14 MRS. STURDIVANT: I guess we can hire a consultant
15 (indiscernible). That's a lot of money, but at least it
16 probably wouldn't (indiscernible).

17 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mrs. Sturdivant has
18 recommended a consultant --

19 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A consultant?

20 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to run the survey.

21 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, wait a minute. How much
22 is that going to (indiscernible)?

23 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Any other suggestions?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's a consultant?

25 Ms Sturdivant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's an agency. It's an

1 agency that will run the survey for you and get the
2 information. It's an (^{expensive}indiscernible) process, but it would
3 be (^{sound}indiscernible).

4 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Sturdivant, this is an
5 educational institution.

6 MRS. STURDIVANT: I am well aware of that
7 (indiscernible).

8 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I would think that when
9 we consider the collective kind of experience and
10 certifications that we have, that we should be able to
11 conduct and complete a valid survey.

12 Ms Sturdivant UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It looks like we're having a
13 little difficulty tonight.

14 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, yes, because we've
15 gathered (indiscernible) citizens and this is the
16 (indiscernible) of the board, all nine members are here, so
17 that's what we're here to do.

18 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, I think that the --
19 I think that's another way (indiscernible) and the input we
20 asked of people in the community and the advisory committee
21 who was against it. (Indiscernible) and we should be able to
22 make a decision. I don't understand why we are weighing this
23 and that. You are spending more money after more money and
24 it's just -- we're not (indiscernible).

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are we allowed to speak?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask a question?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

4 MS. DAVIS: Public comments is closed at this point.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, we have a

6 (indiscernible). I mean, (indiscernible). You have

7 conferences coming up, don't you? (Indiscernible) yes or no?

8 (Indiscernible) a roster of students at the schools. They

9 (indiscernible) from February to spring break to sign, you

10 know, yes or no, and have signatures and document it.

11 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you e-mail that to me?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely.

13 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Go on the district e-
14 mail --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have it (indiscernible),
16 yes.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question as well
19 about (indiscernible) sending the surveys home with the
20 students. I have multiple students in the district, do I get
21 multiple votes? If you send one to my house,
22 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) my children.

23 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Madame President
24 -- Madame President, (indiscernible). You can, as a board,
25 reopen this for public comments.

1 MS. DAVIS: Yes, we may -- are going to have to.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

3 MS. DAVIS: Yes, we're going to have to.

4 MS. PETERSON: Move to reopen public discussions.

5 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Second.

6 MS. DAVIS: Move to reopen comments made by Ms.

7 Peterson, second by Ms. Masciocchi. All in favor?

8 ALL: Aye.

9 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

10 MR. LAVAR (*ph*): Ladies and gentlemen of the board,
11 my name is Rich Lavar. I'm a resident here in Winslow. The
12 way you propose your survey process is sending it home with
13 the children, statistically, it's no different than sending
14 it to my house. I have several students in the school
15 district. You're giving me the opportunity to vote several
16 times. That may or may not be fair to other parents that
17 have one student (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) that as
18 well. It could be another (indiscernible) problem.

19 *Ms Masciocchi*, UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It should be one vote per
20 family.

21 MR. LAVAR: Well, if you're sending it home with
22 multiple students, I'm going to have more than one vote.

23 (Indiscernible.)

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

25 MR. LAVAR: Thank you.

1 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Churney (ph), do you want
2 to come up and give us your suggestion again? I don't want
3 to leave you out.

4 MS. CHURNEY: Just (indiscernible) for -- you know,
5 before we get your cost burden and for confidentiality,
6 integrity and availability, possibly, you know, print out
7 your roster and -- of your school and allow those parents
8 coming in for a conference to sign and we have
9 (indiscernible) next to the parent name. Also,
10 (indiscernible) postponement until the spring. I remember
11 last time there was not a consideration (indiscernible) a
12 period of time. Whether or not that's still in play, I don't
13 know, but have the possibility of opening this up and tell
14 parents (indiscernible) cheaper than the vote that you would
15 send. We have until spring break. Please stop in and vote
16 (indiscernible) yes or no. It's just a thought. There's a
17 lot of (indiscernible).

18 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

19 Dr Potrat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, just as a
20 suggestion --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Do you want to
22 speak?

23 Dr Potrat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- with the amount of
24 technology that we have in the district, and we are moving
25 into the technologic age, every parent has a parent portal

1 where you go into the system, you have your own code. Maybe
2 we should consider maybe you doing it online as a cost
3 savings. Now, I can't begin to say to you we can set this up
4 tomorrow and we'll be ready to go, but I'm just sitting here
5 thinking, if you want the confidentiality and if you want to
6 do it where you have the privacy, you only get one vote per
7 family, you go into -- use your passport or your own code,
8 the only person that has it is you, once you -- and you do it
9 by school, of course. So you go to School 1 and that's where
10 your child is, you cast your vote, we know who you are and
11 that may eliminate some of the paper and cost. So I'm just
12 saying maybe you want to consider doing something online.
13 And for those families who do not have access to technology,
14 then they will have another option. But I think with all the
15 technology we have and all the things we're trying to do as
16 far as technology is concerned, maybe that would be one
17 consideration that we would like to, you know, at least
18 discuss. Thank you.

19 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you (^{good idea.}indiscernible).

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. My name is
21 (Indiscernible). I just have a quick question. Two quick
22 questions. One is the flyer stated come and listen to
23 answers about the questions that we have. But I haven't
24 really heard any of the answers to the questions that I
25 (indiscernible) at the last meeting. And I understand that

1 this is the first time (indiscernible) have come together, so
2 we're (indiscernible). But as a parent, that's a little
3 disappointing.

4 And number two is, I feel like we're putting a little bit
5 the horse before the cart, and that I'm not even hearing that
6 there's been a lot of board discussion about how much money
7 it's going to cost or a survey or a (indiscernible) study or
8 how much money this will cost the district. And I feel as if
9 we're already jumping to having a survey of asking parents
10 their opinion without giving them that transparent
11 information, which I did hear one board member bring up
12 today. So I would appreciate, as a parent, if we took that
13 first, gathered that information, did a study, knew what that
14 number looked like, so we knew what (indiscernible) we may
15 have to cut out of the budget for next year in order to put
16 this in. That's my concern as a parent. And (indiscernible)
17 one way or another when we see that number.

18 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

19 MS. REIDEL: Hi. My name's Diana Riedel. I would
20 suggest that you do somehow code the surveys because most of
21 you were not here a few years ago when we tried to do this,
22 and this is just (indiscernible), it was a mess and that is
23 -- I'm saying that to be nice. It was a mess. Yes, every
24 child got one home, but then at meetings they said, oh,
25 (indiscernible) so people would rather sign surveys and check

1 it off yes or no or whatever they want. So there has to be
2 some sort of accountability, some way, whether it's a little
3 secret number on the back for each kid or something to show
4 that, you know, you're not just having ballot stuffers, you
5 know, with their opinions in there. And then when Ms.
6 Masciocchi mentioned about why -- you know, about paying for
7 students that are lower income, a lot of those kids now, they
8 get their clothes from Goodwill or they get hand-me downs.
9 My daughter gets a lot of her clothes from birthdays and
10 Christmases. Those are really places -- yes, okay, some of
11 the thrift shops might have uniforms, but, you know, hand-me
12 downs that they're getting, maybe -- you know, not
13 necessarily going to be able to afford uniform clothes. And
14 I'm not one of those free and reduced lunch families, but I'm
15 not very much above that. And I know I can't go out and buy
16 a whole new wardrobe for my daughter for uniforms because
17 she's going to need one for warm weather, one for cold
18 weather, and I don't have however much that's going to cost.
19 Even at Walmart to go buy, you know, five of each outfit to
20 be able to clothe her, so that's kind of where -- I
21 understand your question about saying why do we not have to
22 pay for the kids regular clothes, but that's why, because
23 they accumulate them over the years. And now we're going to
24 have to go out and buy them all at once. My kid's older and
25 doesn't grow out of her clothes as easily, so hers last her a

1 couple of years. So I haven't had to buy her clothes in
2 (indiscernible). But, yes, I would highly recommend somehow
3 coding those surveys so that they're not being, you know,
4 just stuffed with people's opinions and some would do more
5 than one. And it was before -- that time it was per child,
6 not per family. It doesn't matter to me I only have one in
7 school. But I guess that's all I have to say, thanks.

8 MS. BEALLO (ph): My name's Diane Beallo. Just a
9 question as far as the polling goes. Will teachers and
10 administrators be polled as well?

11 Dr Poter UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

12 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

13 MS. BEALLO: (Indiscernible) part of our community
14 to teach our children?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

16 MS. BEALLO: That they're in the schools, they see
17 what's going on, maybe what they might want to
18 (indiscernible) for the future and so that they're
19 (indiscernible).

20 Ms Davis UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

21 MS. RUNESKI (ph): Hi. I'm (Indiscernible) Runeski.
22 I'm new to Winslow as far as being here (indiscernible) the
23 Charter School where they did wear uniforms and it was not a
24 problem. My daughter begs and hopes that this goes through.
25 She misses being (indiscernible). She does not like wearing

1 public clothes.

2 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What grade is she in?

3 MS. RUNESKI: She's in fifth grade. She -- you
4 know, she wanted to be here, but I (indiscernible) as being
5 her voice. I do have a question. You're saying that the
6 high school students are going to be able to vote. Why is
7 that? You know, it should be the parents. They're above --
8 they're not 18 yet. As parents, we make the decisions for
9 them until they are 18. You know, it's just I'd like that to
10 be considered. Thank you.

11 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

12 MR. LEWIS: Good evening once again, Rashawn Lewis.
13 (Indiscernible) for mentioning the possibility of using
14 parent portal as a (indiscernible) service. I'll just say
15 that any time you do a survey, you (indiscernible). If you
16 have two parents in a household, who gets the final vote?
17 Does both parents get to vote? What if it's split, then
18 what? I mean, you've got to know, when it comes to surveys,
19 the planning process in terms of how you distribute it, how
20 you get the information back, how you analyze the data, you
21 know, that all goes into, you know, the final report. You
22 mentioned the surveys which I don't think any of us have
23 already seen a pre-copy or pre-draft of that. Anytime you do
24 a survey whether it be online or whether it's, you know,
25 actually mailing the material (indiscernible), the cost

1 associated with it (indiscernible) going out and coming back,
2 then you got your man time. Who's reviewing the results?
3 How are they reporting it? Who's auditing it? Okay? Again,
4 we appeared tonight because this is a hot topic. One of the
5 board members earlier mentioned about, you know, their kid
6 having to pay a dollar to dress down. We pay too much taxes
7 in Winslow to have our kids have to pay a dollar to dress
8 down.

9 *Ms Masciocchi* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was just a suggestion.

10 MR. LEWIS: Call it what you want to call it -- call
11 it what you want to call it. We pay too much money in taxes,
12 we pay too much money in a lot of other things here. You
13 know, all (indiscernible) about spend, spend, spend. It's
14 not -- you know, it's really only (indiscernible). You know,
15 this is not Disney World. You (indiscernible). We are the
16 role models. We are the role -- if you want your kids to
17 wear uniforms, send them to a private school or send them to
18 a Catholic School or a school that has uniforms. That's
19 (indiscernible). Thank you.

20 *Mr Bethea* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. (Indiscernible) once
21 again. I'd like to (indiscernible) what she brought up about
22 the portal because sending it home with the kids, we all know
23 what could happen with that paper. We (indiscernible) and I
24 think that's one of the (indiscernible) for us. If you look
25 back, just like meeting when we had the parents here before,

1 it came out split. All right. It came out split. So now it
2 is -- like I said, it's incumbent of you guys to make the
3 decision what happens. You are our elected officials. You
4 are the ones that make the decisions. So, I mean, and just
5 like the gentlemen mentioned about that, I'm not trying to --
6 I like the idea, yes, give the kids (indiscernible), too.
7 No, I don't like the (indiscernible). But, yes, if you come
8 out (indiscernible) the kids have to wear a uniform, all
9 right, give the kids the privileges, maybe one
10 (indiscernible) out of the month they can dress what they
11 like or something like that. That's the (indiscernible)
12 comes to the parent. But I think, you know, this going back
13 and forth and everything about how we're going to do the
14 survey or what it's going to cost, you know, hey, just as
15 very simple as that. That's (indiscernible) that you guys
16 make the decisions. That's all I have to say.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A couple of points. One,
18 there was talk about how much this is actually going to cost
19 for those who can't afford the initiation (indiscernible). A
20 couple years ago, we fell kind of short in budget
21 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) what have you and the first
22 thing that I -- when I heard was school board, school budget
23 (indiscernible) they all ran to the township, okay, give me
24 this money. (Indiscernible.) And you all asked the
25 township, give me this money, we really need this money.

1 Please (indiscernible) township and you got it. Now, we were
2 just quoting around 50,000 -- I'm sorry, you said 1.4
3 million. I (indiscernible) so I can understand that,
4 (indiscernible) township, but my thing is if you're just
5 (indiscernible) with that 50,000, where are you going to get
6 it from. Because I can see it right now, Dr. Poteat, you're
7 going to come to me in the springtime and say hey, I need a
8 little bit more money. (Indiscernible.) I can hear it
9 already. I see it already. And if you guys have
10 (indiscernible) think about what you're actually trying to do
11 and how you're going to do it and I think (indiscernible).
12 (Indiscernible) that you do for a lack of -- you know, enact
13 it and then it just goes south. (Indiscernible.) You said
14 no, the kids go back (indiscernible). Have you thought about
15 that (indiscernible)? (Indiscernible) what it's going to be.
16 In 2025, you're going to have a uniform? There's got to be
17 some kind of (indiscernible). Somebody's going to
18 (indiscernible) you know what, I don't want my kid in a
19 uniform no more. You didn't think about that, did you?
20 Mrs Yanez UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening. First of all,
21 I would like to say that I have made up my mind, I'm
22 convinced, that when the nine of you sat down and decided to
23 consider this initiative, your intention came from a good
24 place. However, I think the way you went about it is what
25 troubles me more than anything. I come here tonight to

1 basically hear the responses to the questions that were asked
2 at the last meeting, and instead, I'm hearing a discussion
3 now revolving around a survey. If you wanted to do a survey,
4 that should have been your initial step before you got
5 parents and alarmed those who aren't in support of this
6 initiative as well as those who are.

7 My other concern is when you decided to start with this
8 process, you didn't communicate with the community from the
9 door and so that also has me troubled. Is it that you don't
10 think I have value as a parent? Is it that you don't think
11 all the parents of Winslow have an intrinsic interest in
12 their own children?

13 My other issue is what is our purpose here? What is your
14 purpose as the nine board members of this district? If I
15 play this out to a very illogical conclusion and say okay, in
16 Winslow we have over 5,000 children. Let's exaggerate here
17 and say 1,000 children come in inappropriately dressed and I
18 know that's an exaggeration because I have been in these
19 buildings and I've observed many of our children. But for
20 the sake of argument, let's say there's 1,000 children. Have
21 you stopped to wonder what are you communicating to the 4,000
22 other children who come to school appropriately dressed, who
23 come here prepared to learn? This scenario almost reminds me
24 of when I was a young girl in grade school and a teacher
25 would say if everybody doesn't be quite, we're not going out

1 for recess and I would sit there with my hands folded and be
2 as quiet as I could, while these other students
3 (indiscernible) they could care less. And then the teacher
4 would make a general assumption and say, you know what,
5 nobody's going outside for today. That changed my perception
6 of the world. That changed my perception of fairness. That
7 changed my perception of how that teacher viewed me.

8 The other issue that I have is this -- is it also speaks
9 to your priorities as a board. In 2008, there was a
10 recession in this country. This district had to layoff aides
11 and custodians and downsize teachers. Where are we a few
12 years away -- removed from that. There are buildings --
13 budgets had to be cut to come in and meet the deficit. Now
14 you want to take, once we finally are starting to get on our
15 feet, you're saying that the priority now is to use the
16 limited resources that we have to fund uniforms for those
17 students who may not be able to afford them because the law
18 says that's something the board must do. This is not an
19 option (indiscernible) provision.

20 The last thing that I want to say is what does this board
21 really believe about our young people? We have
22 (indiscernible) young people in this district and they have
23 went on to do great things and they didn't have a uniform on
24 when they did it. They will continue to excel. They will
25 continue to be some of the leaders of this country. And

1 instead of you sitting here taking time and saying wait a
2 minute, the curriculum that we the board approved, how many
3 times is that actually implemented in our classrooms in this
4 district? Although we have some great teachers in this
5 district, we can't rightly say that every teacher standing in
6 front of every student in this school district is, in fact, a
7 great teacher. See, those discussions are difficult. Those
8 discussions require the board to make hard decisions. And I
9 think the thing that pains me the most is why are all the
10 adults always looking for the solution for the failure of
11 education in children. We, as the adult, have some of the
12 responsibility. You, as the decision makers, own some of the
13 responsibility. The people in these classrooms every day
14 take on some of the responsibility. But instead, we always
15 go for the easy solution. Let's change the kids.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You forgot the parents.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. The parents have
19 (indiscernible) --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the parents
21 (indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's not always the
23 case.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, Ms. Masciocchi, I can
25 assure you, I am a parent.

1 MS. MASCIOCCHI: And I can assure you I am, too.

2 And there --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I can assure you --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I order that (indiscernible)
5 do not. I'm sorry.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I can (indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Masciocchi --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But you didn't say the
9 parents. Sorry.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Masciocchi, I'll be happy
12 to as a parent. I'm not --

13 MS. MASCIOCCHI: Thank you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- in anyway trying to
15 (indiscernible) or leave them out.

16 MS. MASCIOCCHI: They're a main part.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it's just amazing to me
18 that this is what you want to argue about.

19 *Ms Dredder* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry, time has run out.

20 *Ms Yanez* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

21 MS. DAVIS: May I have a motion to close public
22 session?

23 *Ms Dredder* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion.

24 MS. DAVIS: Motion by Mr. (Indiscernible).

25 MS. PETERSON: Second.

1 MS. DAVIS: Seconded by Ms. Peterson. All in favor?

2 ALL: Aye.

3 MS. DAVIS: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, I
4 believe the last meeting's copy of our draft of the uniform
5 provision policy were out there for you all to have. The
6 reason why we wanted to have this, besides it being suggested
7 by the community, if you read the introduction and
8 background, which I will read to you now, it should answer
9 some of your questions.

10 The Winslow Township Board of Education believes that
11 school attire can influence a pupil's behavior and
12 potentially impact the academic environment. School uniforms
13 enhance school safety, promotes school pride, creates a sense
14 of unity among students, improves learning environment,
15 promote attention and focus, bridge socio-economic
16 differences between children, promote good behavior, improve
17 children's self-respect and self-esteem and produce cost
18 savings for participating families. That's how we felt and
19 that's why we did this. So I'm hoping that answers some of
20 the questions. As far as the funding goes, you're right, we
21 don't exactly know how much we're going to need. We will
22 have to put a line item in the budget to fund the first year.
23 We also have a year before we have to implement this in which
24 we can ask different organizations or HSAs or PTOs, local
25 businesses for contributions to set up a clothing bank so

1 that we will have extra clothing for children who don't have
2 them. The survey, as I said earlier, we did not get a clear
3 picture from the community as to whether they wanted it or
4 not. It was split down the middle. So the survey will go
5 out. Whether we do it through global connect or the -- I'm
6 sorry, the parent portal or not, it will go out, hopefully,
7 by the 18th of November. We should get results by the 25th
8 of November. The policy committee -- it will be presented to
9 the policy committee on -- wait a second. The results will
10 be presented to the policy committee on December 5th. We
11 will present it to the -- the policy committee will present
12 their recommendation to the board on the 11th of December.
13 On the 11th of December, I'm going to ask that you all come
14 prepared to make a decision as to whether we go forward with
15 this or not. Are there any other questions from the board?

16 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, I do have a
17 question. Why don't we (indiscernible) here and
18 (indiscernible). How do you guarantee that the parents will
19 (indiscernible)?

20 MS. DAVIS: Do you know what, I can't guarantee that
21 parents will look in the book bags. I can't guarantee that a
22 parent will answer their phone. I can't guarantee anything.
23 I could hope that perhaps a global-connect telephone call
24 will inform them, check it out on parent portal. I can hope
25 that they listen to that and make their opinion known, but

1 that's as far as we can go. We can't twist anybody's arm or
2 force them to do anything. We're just offering them the
3 opportunity.

4 MR. GIDWANI: Can we not (indiscernible) by
5 certified mail that we forgot anybody, make sure that they
6 received it?

7 *Ms Peterson* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) link it to
8 the parent portal and those that do not have access to
9 computers, that they would be able to come to one of the
10 buildings, if it's the library in the middle school or the
11 high school, that's a suggestion, and they can put their code
12 into the library computer to uplink their information. Then
13 it's sent back. If you uplink it, it's sent back to a
14 central location, so it could be (indiscernible) it could be
15 SBXS, which is a physical package.

16 MR. GIDWANI: (Indiscernible) are they just going to
17 come back and explain that have no transportation to get to
18 the place they have to come to (indiscernible) and so
19 (indiscernible) provide them with the transportation?

20 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Gidwani, we'll do what we
21 can. We cannot hand deliver each one. We can do what we can
22 and no more than that.

23 MR. GIDWANI: What does our attorney think how fair
24 it would be if a parent does not have transportation and we
25 (indiscernible) that they don't come?

1 Ms Pondish UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I mean, certainly if
2 they don't have transportation, I think that measures can be
3 made if they call the administration to verbally take it and
4 that can be documented. You know, I think most people do
5 have the ability to either utilize a computer or get to one
6 of the district's facilities, but in the case where they
7 don't, I'm sure that we can come up with something to address
8 that issue.

9 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame President, can I just
10 say this: I just feel like the timeline is just -- it
11 doesn't feel feasible. It feels like there's not enough
12 turnaround. The (indiscernible) would be next week.
13 (Indiscernible) there is a strong understanding or consensus
14 as to how, you know, the survey's going to be put out. There
15 are, again, a lot of parents that do not have access to the
16 internet. Some don't even have a parent portal passport, but
17 that takes a minute to get that. And I'm just throwing on
18 the table, can we -- can I throw on the table just a
19 suggestion to just push the timeline and so there is a more
20 structured understanding and way of how to get the survey
21 out, how to work out some of the kinks, so that there's a
22 level of efficiency, but possibly gives it out as well -- you
23 know, the turnaround time is tight. You're talking about a
24 week. So if you're saying parent portals, and you talk about
25 people going to the school, I mean, it's just so many

1 different variables, I really think that, you know, there's
2 not enough time for a week to talk to those different people
3 who may have different issues or what have you
4 (indiscernible). So I'm just -- that's just a thought that
5 I'm throwing out. In addition, you're going to get back
6 thousands hopefully. I can't imagine within -- between
7 November 25th, after that is Thanksgiving --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

9 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- okay, so I don't know
10 who's going to be looking at those surveys on Thanksgiving
11 and you're talking December 5th to 11th, that's still a week.
12 So to really survey all of that, you know, and I'm
13 (indiscernible) policy committee, so I'm assuming that you
14 guys are going to be the ones doing that. You know, is that
15 really realistic? You know, it's a good idea, but how
16 realistic and feasible is it given the timeline that we have
17 as well as all the different concerns (indiscernible)?

18 *Dr Potrat* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to also mention
19 that it was an idea about the parent portal. Now, I have not
20 sat down with the technicians to be able to say to you that
21 this will work, because you have to put in a certain kind of
22 program and everything for it to happen. So it was an idea
23 and I think it was -- you know, I thought it was a good idea
24 at the time, but I can't say to you, yes, we can have this up
25 and running tomorrow or next week, so I just wanted to put

1 that -- before we go too far talking about parent portal,
2 it's an idea, but as far as whether or not we can make it
3 work in a couple of days or week, whatever, I don't know that
4 to be the case.

5 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that's why I was saying
6 that because --

7 *Dr Poteat* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

8 *Ms Brown* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it doesn't sound like you
9 were clear on how you were going to (indiscernible) because
10 (indiscernible) parent portal or e-mail or mail. It sounds
11 like there was an idea put out -- put in the book bags, but
12 we're hearing -- and I'm definitely one, don't put nothing in
13 my kid's book bag. It's not going to be home, it's going to
14 be lost within the leaves somewhere. So I think a mail -- I
15 need somebody to put it in the mail with my name on it or I'm
16 never going to see it. And I do like some of the comments
17 about what are we saying about parents that have four kids
18 and that many -- and there (indiscernible) many kids in our
19 district, they have different last names, so we haven't
20 decided how many we're really sending out, which family, what
21 kids, you know, are attached to which family, which address.
22 You know, all the kids don't have the same last names.

23 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mrs. Pitts, as chairman of
24 our policy committee and members of the policy committee, do
25 we need to meet again and change the timing?

1 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here's what I'm suggesting.
2 In light of all the information that we heard tonight, I
3 would suggest, yes, that the policy committee meet and take a
4 look at the survey, how it's going to be distributed, answer
5 as much as we can all of these questions around the survey,
6 but we, at this point, move forward and answer the questions
7 here that we said that we were going to answer tonight.

8 MS. DAVIS: Then I will ask the policy committee to
9 tag behind (indiscernible) adjourn today so we can pick a
10 date where we can meet and do that.

11 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fine.

12 MS. DAVIS: All right.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want (indiscernible)
14 parents (indiscernible).

15 Ms Peterson UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where you saying how you
16 would -- you distinguish between the students and the
17 parents?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. What we
19 (indiscernible) measurement do you give the kids versus the
20 parents and what -- you know, (indiscernible).

21 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The responses, sir, will not
22 be weighed. We simply want to know yes or no.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So then what becomes the
24 deciding factor for our school, the kids or is it the
25 parents?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Those families are voting
2 twice if you have a high school child.

3 MS. DAVIS: It's something the policy committee will
4 have to weigh.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

6 MS. DAVIS: All right.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ask all the kids or none of
8 the kids.

9 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are there any other questions
10 this evening from the board? Any other suggestions from the
11 board before we adjourn?

12 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President --

13 MS. DAVIS: Go ahead.

14 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, I've got a question.

15 MS. DAVIS: Yes, sir?

16 MR. GIDWANI: Do we follow at (indiscernible) and
17 (indiscernible) that we enforce that. Because I've heard of
18 some parents (indiscernible) that the (indiscernible) could
19 not be (indiscernible) and nobody seems to get
20 (indiscernible) that. And we are (indiscernible) uniforms
21 policy, are we going to enforce that and compared to what we
22 are supposed to be enforcing now?

23 MS. DAVIS: To the best of my knowledge, the
24 policies that are in place now are being enforced at a much
25 more stringent basis than they were previously.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So why are we here
2 (indiscernible)? Why are we here?

3 MS. DAVIS: Mrs. Pitts, you wanted to
4 (indiscernible) some questions first?

5 MS. PITTS: I think we're, again, at the chance of
6 taking the risk of repeating myself, one of the first
7 questions that was in here that was asked is why have we
8 revisited this and I think the answer to that --

9 MS. DAVIS: I think we answered that quite well.

10 MS. PITTS: Then there's another question that
11 (indiscernible) repeatedly in the hearing was the whole
12 financial issue. How would we be addressing that
13 financially.

14 MS. DAVIS: Yes, and I believe we started to answer
15 that. We've been doing some research. There will probably
16 have to be some kind of line item in the budget and we will
17 probably have to reach out to different organizations for
18 donations and possibly for the HSAs and the PTOs to do
19 fundraisers for us.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

21 MS. PITTS: And I know this question was when would
22 the board as a whole vote on whatever decision we agree upon
23 and what was the timeline for that.

24 MS. DAVIS: The timeline for that --

25 MS. PITTS: (Indiscernible.)

1 MS. DAVIS: -- is as follows: We have to do
2 surveys, tally it up. The policy committee will then have to
3 come and make a recommendation to the school board. The
4 school board will have to decide at that point whether we're
5 going to move forward with this or not. If we decide to move
6 forward with it, there needs to be two readings before we
7 vote so that's three board meetings. If we decide not to
8 move forward with it, then the next meeting we'll drop the
9 whole process.

10 MR. GIDWANI: Madame President, it still leaves
11 nothing (indiscernible) that we will have the board
12 (indiscernible).

13 MS. DAVIS: I just answered that, Mr. Gidwani. We
14 have to get the results from the tally. The policy committee
15 will have to make a recommendation to the board as to whether
16 we want to move forward or not. The board has to decide
17 whether to move forward or not. When they decide that, that
18 they're going to move forward, we have to have two readings,
19 which means two board meetings, and the third meeting after
20 that we can actually vote on the policy. That being our
21 policy, we have to do it that way.

22 MR. GIDWANI: So what would be the date?

23 MS. DAVIS: I can't give you a date until we get the
24 tally. It's going to depend on how soon the surveys go out
25 at this point.

1 Ms Pitts UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The (indiscernible) question
2 that I can see (indiscernible) is the question, and it's been
3 stated several different ways in the transcript, is what the
4 problem will be changing to uniforms (indiscernible).

5 MS. DAVIS: We answered that in the beginning of our
6 draft in the introduction and background, that we feel those
7 things will be covered in there. School unity, promote
8 attention, pride. Any other questions there?

9 MS. PITTS: None (indiscernible). Other board
10 members (indiscernible).

11 MS. DAVIS: Any other board members have questions
12 about the transcript that we got?

13 Ms Brown UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think that the question
14 that we heard over and over is how much is it going to cost
15 and I think -- I thought I heard you say that that's
16 something that you'll start to research; is that correct?

17 MS. DAVIS: The research that I've gotten, the
18 lowest number I've gotten so far from a district about the
19 size of ours was Vineland and their first year, they put a
20 line item in their budget of \$50,000. They did not use the
21 entire budget, but their school size, their amount of
22 children is about the same as ours, so I thought that was a
23 good start for us to be considering.

24 Dr Potrat UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In order to establish a cost
25 factor because I see the business manager and I probably

1 having that responsibility, so in thinking about it, I think
2 there's certain things we need to hash out first. Number
3 one, what do we think is an average cost of a uniform, you
4 know, top and bottom? Are we going to purchase one uniform
5 per student or two uniforms per student? You know, those
6 kinds of things because in order for us to establish an
7 amount, we've got to have numbers.

8 The other thing would be the criteria, because if we
9 don't have criteria to determine how many young people we're
10 trying to service, then we still are missing that amount by a
11 long shot, so there's some things we really need to hash out
12 and discuss and research before we can give you an honest
13 dollar figure or give the community an honest dollar figure
14 because at this point, I'm not sure what a uniform would
15 cost. And then the distribution part of it, how do we go
16 about the distribution of those funds? So there's a lot more
17 to it and I don't want to throw a wrench in the process, but
18 being that person who would be responsible for coming up with
19 those kinds of things, it's going to take some research. It
20 really is because I don't know if 50,000 would be enough. I
21 don't know if a hundred thousand would be enough, but we need
22 some direction from you as to how many uniforms are we
23 talking about, one per child, two per child? What's the
24 average cost, \$10 for a shirt, \$10 for a pair of pants? We
25 don't know, but those kinds of things I think we need to talk

1 about so we can get some kind of range. Because in preparing
2 this budget, I need to be able to have a budget item that is
3 feasible for whatever it is we're trying to do. So I think
4 it's going to require a little more than just putting a
5 number out there, because it may not be enough, it may be too
6 much. I don't know but I just want to just throw that out
7 there as there's some other things that need to be done
8 before you come up with the number.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that should be on the
10 survey, my opinion.

11 *Ms Davis* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. One of the other
12 comments was, you know, what do we do if it doesn't work out?
13 A policy can always be rescinded if it ever came to that.
14 Just like the dress code policy that we have now in place,
15 we're talking about replacing that. It's not a big deal to
16 have to replace it again if we have to do that. Any other
17 discussions from the board?

18 *Ms Sturdivant* UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion to adjourn.

19 MR. GIDWANI: Second.

20 MS. DAVIS: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Sturdivant.
21 Seconded by Mr. Gidwani. All in favor?

22 ALL: Aye.

23 MS. DAVIS: Thank you. Policy committee members,
24 please wait behind so we can go through dates.

25 (Board meeting adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

/s/ April J. Foga

November 21, 2013

April J. Foga, CET, CCR, CRCR