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WINSLOW TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2013

1 (Portion of public comments.)

2 MS. BOYLE: Monika Weston.

3 MS. WESTON: Good evening. My name is Monika  
4 Weston. I'm a (indiscernible) counselor at the high school  
5 as well as the (indiscernible) specialist and a resident of  
6 Winslow Township. I just wanted to express my approval for  
7 the uniforms for the coming school year for various reasons.  
8 One, our students are not strangers to wearing uniforms if  
9 they're involved in any kind of athletic or sports activity,  
10 they wear them to play for their sports. If they work part-  
11 time, they wear them for their employer as well as if they  
12 have transferred from any of our surrounding schools, whether  
13 that be the vocational school, Lindenwold or Pine Hill, they  
14 have worn uniforms in those school districts as well. In  
15 particular, this week I had to (indiscernible) that are  
16 planning a college career for tomorrow. One of the biggest  
17 things of interest that I had to express was being dressed  
18 appropriately. It's very uncomfortable for staff members to  
19 have to address, especially our young ladies, they're  
20 dressing appropriately because of the (indiscernible) as to  
21 whether it's too tight or revealing. It warrants  
22 inappropriate behavior from our gentlemen. It increases the  
23 way in which we have to discipline because of inappropriate  
24 attire. Lastly more, I guess, this is on a personal level  
25 for myself, I usually like to display the type of behavior

1 that I like to see our students have. So I have been wearing  
2 an unofficial school uniform, one that I have on similar  
3 tonight, for the last (indiscernible) two marking periods out  
4 of the year, second and third marking periods. Not only  
5 because, like I said, I want to be able to display what I  
6 want our young people to wear, but also to have school pride  
7 for the community in which I (indiscernible). So thank you  
8 for your time and I hope that we will have mandated school  
9 uniforms for this upcoming school year. Thank you.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Al Schaefer.

11 MR. SCHAEFER: Thank you for the opportunity to talk  
12 on this topic. First of all, what is the uniform? I think  
13 we need to understand what uniform is first. If I was just  
14 saying a distinct outfit intended to identify those in a  
15 specific group, unvaried in texture, color or design. I  
16 don't want to start it off by saying I'm 100 percent in favor  
17 of school uniforms. I'll give it my pros in a minute, but I  
18 also want to state that if a uniform policy is established, a  
19 policy is only as strong as those who enforce it as the  
20 current dress code policy is not always enforced. So if  
21 we're going to (indiscernible) enforce the uniform policy.  
22 (Indiscernible) the long term affects of the school uniforms  
23 are just starting to be published and I put together some  
24 numbers regarding the studies. I feel there's four main  
25 categories that are affected positively with the uniform

1 establishment, academic, behavioral, emotional and financial.

2 Academic, there's increase in attendance. There's  
3 increase in standardized test scores. There's increase in  
4 graduation rates. There's increase in school unity and  
5 pride. There's increase in student motivation to do well.

6 Behavior, there's reduction in crime rates. There's  
7 reduction in suspensions. There's a decrease in gang-related  
8 activity. Teachers and administrators feel that the students  
9 are better behaved overall. Where there's a uniform policy  
10 it helps to identify an intruder in the school. Think about  
11 that with the news these days. Somebody not in the uniform  
12 doesn't belong there. We want our students in a safe  
13 environment. It decreases sex offenses. It decreases  
14 vandalism and assaults. All of this has been directly  
15 related to uniforms.

16 Emotional, this is probably the largest group where  
17 people are against school uniform policies and the argument  
18 is my child won't be able to self express themselves. Well,  
19 what's wrong with establishing self expression through  
20 reading, writing, poetry, the arts, the athletic fields or an  
21 instrument in your hands, that's through self expression. A  
22 decrease in negative competitiveness with students with school  
23 uniforms and an increase in school pride and self-esteem. We  
24 can go on and on and on.

25 The financial aspect, there's grants available by the



1 state. There's studies that show that the basic uniform that  
2 Winslow's looking at right now is less expensive than buying  
3 clothes. It assists in diminishing the economic and  
4 socioeconomic barriers between these students. And you know,  
5 I'll tell you (indiscernible) with the unstable economy, the  
6 fluctuation of jobs and the ever changing society that we  
7 live in, very few investments that we make are a sure thing.  
8 We need to have faith and trust in those that are handling  
9 our investments. Our biggest investment are children. Our  
10 investment are for ourselves and our future. And I think if  
11 we could do anything to better their involvement in school  
12 and enhance the situation that they're given in school, if we  
13 could do anything to better that, let's do it. I think  
14 school uniforms will not make it worse, it will only make it  
15 better. Thank you for your time.

16 MS. BOYLE: Christy Renzulli.

17 MS. RENZULLI: Hi. Thank you. My name is Christy  
18 Renzulli. I am a resident of Winslow and parent of both a  
19 second grader and a freshman in high school and have also  
20 been very active in HSA for the last ten years now. I do not  
21 support the uniform policy for a number of reasons at all.  
22 But this evening I have more questions than I have statements  
23 because there are a lot of holes in the policy that, at this  
24 point in time, just don't allow me to support this for  
25 multiple reasons. One is the changes to the policy. The

1 current policy is (indiscernible) of a website with a  
2 universal policy to all of the schools has changed from the  
3 original policy that was listed on the site and  
4 (indiscernible). I'm not sure at what date that policy  
5 changed or when those changes occurred because there aren't  
6 dates on most of those documents that I could find. But I  
7 would hope that we'd start the conversations now around this  
8 policy and view this as our very first meeting on this, not  
9 our last one, now that we've made those changes.

10 The second one is a financial impact. You'll hear lots  
11 of debate about whether uniforms are expensive and I think  
12 that we could all debate that for the next two hours. My  
13 questions concern more about the way the policy's written and  
14 that I just want some clarity around the financial aspect of  
15 that policy. So the way it's written right now it's just  
16 that it's (indiscernible) procedure and criteria and  
17 determine the form and type of financial assistance. So I'd  
18 like to know what study have we done that we've conducted to  
19 estimate the financial impact of our district and what does  
20 that look like? Where would that extra funding come from?  
21 What criteria would be used to police who gets that funding?  
22 And then, you know, how would we make sure that we are able  
23 to (indiscernible) without cutting anything else in our  
24 budget? That's my (indiscernible.)

25 The data piece is another highly contested argument and

1 I've done extensive research on this and read about a hundred  
2 different articles, studies, you name it, from a scientific  
3 standpoint and an educational standpoint. And for every  
4 single study that you can find out there, it says there is a  
5 direct correlation to uniforms changing what is in the  
6 introduction of the proposal which says, which I think are  
7 pretty (indiscernible) statements, saying that we will change  
8 student behavior, impact and environment. There's also  
9 scientific data that says multiple things that changed in  
10 those schools, other than just the uniforms, caused those  
11 changes. This uniform policy is just about uniforms. I'd  
12 like to see it if I could ever get onboard and support this  
13 to expand it, to be multiple layers so that we truly are  
14 giving our students that great environment. And it's not  
15 just a band-aid on a problem that we have now, because we're  
16 not enforcing the policy as it stands.

17 My last thing is the accountability of the current  
18 policy. I have a high schooler. She's (indiscernible),  
19 she's active, she's an honor student, she's involved with  
20 tennis, she's on the softball team, she's shy. She didn't  
21 want to speak (indiscernible) so I need to be her voice. She  
22 feels (indiscernible) multiple times the students in our  
23 district that are truly the shining stars of our district are  
24 often punished (indiscernible) that are not held accountable  
25 for the policies that we have in place today. If you walk in

1 that school and if you're a teacher seeing this all the time,  
2 I'd agree with that, you do see people not dressed  
3 appropriately. But what are we doing today to really speak  
4 to that piece of this puzzle. Are we giving our teachers  
5 accountability or are we not? So I had to say that for her.  
6 Thank you.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know there's going to be a  
8 lot of questions. What we're doing is recording all of this.  
9 After we get a transcript, we will bring it to the policy  
10 committee to publish some answers for you. (Indiscernible)  
11 look through all of this. Agreed, policy committee? After  
12 we get a transcript of this, we can form our answers to the  
13 questions?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. We can but we need to  
15 let the public know a time frame if you're going to -- how  
16 quickly we can get this back to them.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Our next policy meeting is  
18 in?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: November 23rd. That's the  
20 next policy meeting.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we possibly call a  
22 meeting before then?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Suppose we do that in  
25 about two weeks?



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It will all be recorded and  
3 transcribed and we'll be able to form then our answers to  
4 (indiscernible)?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. That's very  
6 (indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 MS. BOYLE: Diana Riedel.

9 MS. RIEDEL: Hi. My name is Diana Riedel. I have a  
10 daughter who's a freshman in high school. One of my  
11 questions was when will this be voted on. We have an  
12 election coming up in a couple of weeks. There may be new  
13 members sitting up there that weren't privy to all the  
14 discussions that were done thus far. (Indiscernible) if  
15 that's really fair to have new members vote on this and not  
16 the members that have been working on this all that time, but  
17 I guess (indiscernible) figure out. I'm not for this uniform  
18 policy. I'm sure lots of other people are going to speak to  
19 the fact that, you know, their children won't want to wear  
20 uniforms and their individuality is important to them, that  
21 sort of thing, but my biggest question is how will you  
22 identify the family who can't afford uniforms and what  
23 criteria will be used. Will it be the same as the free and  
24 reduced lunch eligibility? Because we all know that that's a  
25 very flawed system and cannot be really checked on more than

1 a certain percentage. And if that is the criteria that we  
2 use, that's roughly half of our students, so that means that  
3 either half of our students can opt out and not wear a  
4 uniform, which wouldn't be fair because it's not fair to the  
5 kids that have to wear them and then you're identifying lower  
6 income families and that defeats the whole purpose. But then  
7 the other option is that the district then pay for those  
8 uniforms and where does that money come from. If there is  
9 some other criteria, what is it? And will there be someone  
10 in charge of making sure that the families that are  
11 identified in need are really legitimately in need and we're  
12 not just going by these free and reduced lunch criteria which  
13 I said is like half of the student population? So those are  
14 my main questions. I could go on and on, which I'm sure  
15 everyone else here will tonight, about you know, there's no  
16 real study that shows one way or the other that it improved,  
17 you know, behavior, test scores or anything like that. I  
18 don't feel that uniforms are cheaper. I'm going to have to  
19 go out and buy two seasons worth of uniforms for our child,  
20 when right now she gets clothes for her birthday, Christmas  
21 and that sort of thing and I'm not on free or reduced lunch,  
22 but I certainly can't afford to go out and buy her a whole  
23 new wardrobe two seasons worth in one shot. So that's my  
24 opinion and that's all for now. Thanks.

25 MS. BOYLE: Z. Nelson.

1 MS. NELSON: It is Zulaikha Nelson.

2 MS. BOYLE: Thank you.

3 MS. NELSON: I am in favor of the uniform. I think  
4 that (indiscernible) we buy school clothes. Most parents or  
5 caregivers buy school clothes every year (indiscernible) for  
6 the children. There are websites, there are different  
7 organizations where you can get help or get uniforms. When  
8 my child was wearing uniforms when she was going to school,  
9 they had (indiscernible) where they sold used uniforms. Some  
10 of the uniforms were even new and at prices that anybody  
11 could afford. As far as birthdays and presents where  
12 children gets that, well, then you can tell family members  
13 and friends, look, I would prefer if you're going to buy  
14 something for my child to wear to buy the child a uniform and  
15 tell them what kind, you know, the price and everything about  
16 it. And I agree with some of the previous speakers that are  
17 in favor of the uniforms about how the children dress. The  
18 girls in particular really, really dress to provocative and  
19 who (indiscernible) they dress that way. With the uniforms  
20 it wouldn't be that way. It takes away the guys that are  
21 looking at girls, they're not learning. The child's not  
22 learning. Even the child that dress that way is not really  
23 learning because they're all into am I looking sexy enough.  
24 And the same way with the boys. I'm quite sure if you have  
25 the uniform, that you would have it where the boys won't be

1 sagging. No sagging, no (indiscernible) underwear for the  
2 boys. And I also (indiscernible) whose ever in charge have  
3 to make sure that the children wear the uniform and find out  
4 what kind of discipline will be for the children and for the  
5 parent if they come to school without it. It's not that hard  
6 to do. (Indiscernible.)

7 MS. BOYLE: Raquel Page.

8 MS. PAGE: Good evening. My name is Raquel Page. I  
9 live here in Winslow Township. I haven't been here very  
10 long, only a couple of years. I previously -- we lived in  
11 Florida, South Florida, and my daughter and my son both had  
12 to wear uniforms. And at the time, my son, he was in  
13 preschool, and his preschool had uniforms. And it was the  
14 best thing that could ever happen to a parent because I  
15 didn't have to worry about spending all this money at the  
16 beginning of school, going to various stores. They want  
17 (indiscernible) outfit, they want to have these clothes,  
18 these shoes, particularly my daughter. My son was too young.  
19 But we moved back to New Jersey and -- but when we moved to  
20 Florida and the uniforms were enforced in that school  
21 district, of course, my daughter disagreed. She didn't want  
22 to do it, but after a while she found her way and she was  
23 able to express herself in other ways, by poetry, singing.  
24 She sings right now. She takes voice lessons and she's in  
25 competitions (indiscernible). I'd like to share my personal



1 -- actually my professional views on the uniform. I am a  
2 school teacher. I don't teach in this school district, but  
3 when we were in Florida, I did teach in a school district  
4 where the children were required to wear a uniform and I can  
5 tell you the discipline occurrences were very low. And as  
6 you can see, I'm wearing red because today is red  
7 (indiscernible) of the week and those one or two days that we  
8 did allow the kids to wear what they wanted to wear,  
9 subsequently, those were the days that we had the highest  
10 discipline concerns in the school. I do agree with  
11 everything the gentleman had mentioned earlier about  
12 financial, social, all the different areas that may be a  
13 concern for parents, but I feel that I have sat on both sides  
14 of the fence, an educator with the uniforms, being a parent  
15 with the uniform, it's a win-win situation. Walmart sold the  
16 shirts for \$7.84 and the pants were \$7.00. Whatever -- all  
17 the stores in the community that sold clothes, they knew that  
18 the schools were required to wear uniforms so that's what  
19 they sold. So I don't think it would be a problem. Of  
20 course, you have the (indiscernible) that sold the upscale  
21 uniforms, but you know what, so did Walmart and it was very  
22 affordable. Thank you.

23 MS. BOYLE: Debbie Rupell.

24 MS. RUPELL: My name's Debbie Rupell and I have two  
25 children that go to school in Winslow. My oldest is a

1 freshman at the high school and we did this same conversation  
2 six years ago and we were assured that the parents -- as  
3 parents we voted it down. We had a (indiscernible). We went  
4 and we petitioned at all the meetings -- at those meetings  
5 and figured it was done. We were told then that there was an  
6 underlying -- you know, some secret stuff that was being done  
7 and it would be back. Well, I live optimistic. We've come a  
8 long way in six years. We have technology in the schools.  
9 We have things that have made the education for my son  
10 better. I think that right now I (indiscernible) a lot about  
11 (indiscernible) Winslow. People will say why do you send  
12 your kid to Winslow. You could go -- I've heard such  
13 horrible things. He has had a great experience here. He's  
14 educated, he's doing very well. My concern with the uniforms  
15 is the stigma that it puts on it. Right now in the Northeast  
16 (indiscernible) area, it's lower income schools with issues,  
17 with behavior issues, they have uniforms in Philadelphia.  
18 You're talking about Lindenwold. I don't know that I want to  
19 be associated with that. You're not talking about  
20 Haddonfield or places, the better school districts. That's  
21 my concern is the stigma. It says to people in our community  
22 that we're not doing the right thing. We're not telling our  
23 kids what to do and we're not correcting the behavior  
24 problems. And you know what, my kid goes to the high school  
25 and he does great and he has great support from the teachers.

1 The teachers do a great job. I'm sorry if everybody doesn't  
2 see that. They do correct them if there's problems with the  
3 clothes they wear and they do send them home, so I think  
4 things are being addressed, but I don't think the teachers or  
5 the administrators get enough credit for doing what they do  
6 now to make my kid have a great education and he's concerned.  
7 Should I be proud of Winslow. People tell me it's a bad  
8 school. It's not a bad school and putting uniforms in there  
9 and telling him that everybody can't behave so now everybody  
10 has to conform to this standard because it is a bad school,  
11 it's not. He's getting a great education. He has technology  
12 and he has the support of the teachers and his family and  
13 that's what we need to focus on. And I do not support  
14 uniforms in this school.

15 MS. BOYLE: Nelly Chandler.

16 MS. CHANDLER: Good evening. I support the uniform  
17 policy (indiscernible) in the school because I believe it can  
18 make a difference both academically and socially. Because I  
19 have a personal (indiscernible) and (indiscernible) has  
20 (indiscernible) experiences in a subject matter, I  
21 (indiscernible) and have committed to this (indiscernible).  
22 I recall being bullied and teased in school by students  
23 because I did not dress like them. As a result, I dreaded  
24 going to school and it affected me greatly throughout my  
25 college years. Winslow district is going through many things



1 and we're on the verge of turning the negatives to positives.  
2 (Indiscernible) have changed (indiscernible) by implementing  
3 the uniform policy. Having (indiscernible) I could not  
4 identify (indiscernible) and why they have never been  
5 challenged. In a classroom of students on a daily basis, I  
6 observe students getting teased as I once did because they  
7 are not wearing the latest fashion trend. Students are  
8 bullied by others because of how peers perceive their  
9 appearance. There are three groups in our circle today, the  
10 have, the have not and (indiscernible) I call them. The  
11 haves are those who can afford (indiscernible) brand and then  
12 to display it regularly. The have nots, like myself, are  
13 those who can't afford to wear that brand. They feel  
14 inadequate, self esteem is low because they are being judged  
15 by the clothes. And lastly the (indiscernible) are those who  
16 don't have and feel (indiscernible). As a result,  
17 (indiscernible) bad behavior (indiscernible) lack of and they  
18 don't want to be a target. We have heard the argument that  
19 uniforms would take away students individuality. A uniform  
20 does not (indiscernible) a child's individuality and/or  
21 personally, but instead it adds onto it. Clothing is not the  
22 only source of obtaining personally. The purpose of school  
23 is to teach and to foster a (indiscernible) education  
24 (indiscernible) to learning and it is not a fashion runway.  
25 To much importance and attention is placed on what we wear



1 versus obtaining an education.

2 Another argument is that parents can't afford the  
3 uniform. Let's look at Camden, right in our backyard. One  
4 of the poorest cities in New Jersey, yet most if not all the  
5 school districts in Camden have a uniform policy in place.  
6 Parents find the means to purchase hundred dollar  
7 (indiscernible) sneakers but not able to afford a \$20 uniform  
8 (indiscernible). We have (indiscernible) all sort of excuses  
9 not to carry out this plan which will benefit our kids. This  
10 is not something too detrimental that will hurt them  
11 psychologically or emotionally. What is (indiscernible) we  
12 have placed too much emphasis again on clothing rather than  
13 the things that will help them in the long run. Clothes are  
14 not worn to enhance academics, even though statistics have  
15 shown that uniformity changed the social behavior of students  
16 and can even help change attitudes for the better. The  
17 uniform is one method of allowing our students to focus on  
18 academics rather than the (indiscernible) factors that's  
19 paralyzing some of our kids. It helps to create a  
20 disciplined atmosphere and better (indiscernible) in academic  
21 performance. Students won't get judged on what they choose  
22 to wear and they don't have to worry what to wear on a school  
23 day. Uniforms make unity with others (indiscernible) the  
24 latest clothes they are wearing and concentrate more on  
25 school and it gives the school a good image. It creates a

1 sense of equality (indiscernible). Everyone feels equal and  
2 no one feels left out. It brings about pride and  
3 (indiscernible) in the students and it shows school spirit.  
4 When all students are dressed in uniform, there's less focus  
5 on fashion. In effect, there will be more focus on learning.  
6 Members of the Board, when you vote, please consider  
7 (indiscernible), search your hearts. Don't think of self or  
8 policy, think about the future of the students.

9 MS. BOYLE: Herman Bethea.

10 MR. BETHEA: Good evening. I'm (indiscernible).  
11 (Indiscernible) one unites the Government when they have a  
12 known school board (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) forum  
13 for the parents to come out, it should enhance the school,  
14 but coming here talking a uniform, boy I'll tell you, no  
15 where to sit. Today what I did, I made a couple calls. I  
16 called the Vo-tech and I also called the Camden High School.  
17 And so some of the things that they said to me  
18 (indiscernible) in the first paragraph here of the induction  
19 of the paragraph, is bad grammar. So what I did was just  
20 summarize. He said that the -- they said that the school  
21 uniform enhanced pride, improved learning, obtained academic  
22 focus, also (indiscernible) respect and in addition,  
23 minimized (indiscernible). I feel that why not give it a  
24 try. Also having a one day dress-down (indiscernible) help  
25 the students make them feel better. So that's my little

1 speech I had wrote down, but I'm just overwhelmed how many  
2 people.

3 MS. BOYLE: Natasha Johnson.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. My name's Natasha  
5 Johnson and I have two children here in the district. One is  
6 in the high school and one is in the middle school. And the  
7 school board has promoted the implementation of the uniform  
8 in an effort to improve, promote -- excuse me, and promote  
9 school pride, student behavior, attendance, high self-esteem  
10 and to decrease violence. However, since the last meeting, I  
11 have had the opportunity to research this issue. I found  
12 information and argument pro and con. What I would say is I  
13 did find something in Education Week that said in high school  
14 problem behaviors were more frequent with uniform mandate.  
15 Now, I am a former educator and I would say a educator at a  
16 school that had uniforms. And I will tell you, we had just  
17 as many problems as your school without uniforms. I have to  
18 say that I fear that uniforms in public schools are becoming  
19 associated with problem schools. Winslow is not a problem  
20 school. Both of my children are doing excellent in this  
21 school. I'm proud of what they've done. They're proud of  
22 their school and I think some of the arguments that we're  
23 making, they actually need to be at that home. They're  
24 things that need to be (indiscernible) to our children at  
25 home. It's not something that necessarily the schools aren't



1 taking care of. A lot of these things we as parents have to  
2 take on and make sure that we're teaching our children and  
3 instilling a sense of pride for our children. My ultimate  
4 conclusion is that there really isn't a correlation between  
5 uniforms and school commitment variable, grades or behavior  
6 (indiscernible). As I have discussed this mandate with  
7 parents and students alike, the overwhelming majority of them  
8 have not supported, not been in support of this school  
9 mandate. In conclusion, I would simply say we already have a  
10 dress code, let's enforce that. Thank you.

11 MS. BOYLE: Michelle Schill.

12 MS. SCHILL: Good evening. My name is Michelle  
13 Schill and I've really been listening to you, the passionate  
14 speeches of all of the parents and the concerned citizens  
15 about this issue and a couple of things have struck me. One,  
16 that each of them have done a lot of research on the topic  
17 and the thing that I hear over and over again is we can all  
18 go on the internet and find a study for or against, but all  
19 of these studies have been inconclusive. But what's not  
20 inconclusive is that we all want what's best for our kids.  
21 And I think that we're all in agreement that Winslow has been  
22 moving in the right direction, upgrading technology and all  
23 of the pieces that they're putting into place to make sure  
24 our children are in an environment conducive to learning.  
25 Maybe this is just a piece. We can look at all of the



1 studies and we can talk about different districts, but that's  
2 not my concern. My concern is what's going to work here in  
3 Winslow. So perhaps putting this in place and then looking  
4 at data afterwards, did our test scores increase, did our  
5 behavior go down. I'm not interested in what happened in  
6 other districts. I want to know what happens here. So what  
7 happens -- (indiscernible) some type of trial period and at  
8 the end of said trial period, go back and look at the  
9 statistics and look at the data and decide if it worked. I  
10 mean, (indiscernible) and then if it ain't broke, don't fix  
11 it. And perhaps if it is, then maybe we need to look  
12 (indiscernible). Perhaps, you know, one of the parents was  
13 saying, you know, they feel that students who are doing the  
14 right thing are being punished for students who aren't.  
15 Perhaps we could institute a dress-down day for the students  
16 who are doing the right thing and I think there's lots of  
17 pieces that can be investigated and I hope the Board  
18 continues to move in the right direction and stay open-minded  
19 and look at other pieces that we may need to add that will  
20 help our district continue to move in the right direction.  
21 Thank you.

22 MS. BOYLE: Bianca McDonald.

23 MS. MCDONALD: Good evening, everybody. I am a  
24 Winslow Township resident and I'm a parent of a child  
25 (indiscernible). And I do believe in pushing uniforms

1 because I believe it would benefit a lot. First of all, as  
2 many of you said that came up here, I (indiscernible) because  
3 the social thing. Some kids feel like, you know, they need  
4 sense of belonging and when some kids go to school with what  
5 they wear, they don't think -- their parents can't afford  
6 certain things that other kids have, that has a lot -- that  
7 affects children a lot in school, so I believe that uniforms  
8 should be pushed and also instill a sense of community. If  
9 we all work together with our children, we could, you know,  
10 raise the bar. We could put the children at higher standards  
11 themselves. They could think like, okay, if they're going to  
12 push this uniform stuff, okay, maybe I could work with the  
13 parents, who work with the schools, work with the children  
14 and (indiscernible) higher standard, you know what I mean. I  
15 believe in that because my daughter actually went to a  
16 private school and a private school, you know, is different  
17 from a public school, but when she was going to the private  
18 school, the uniforms made the children feel like, you know,  
19 they had a lot in common and it made them want to do  
20 (indiscernible) and this is what they actually voiced at a  
21 meeting that they had at the school. So I believe that if we  
22 did this in a public school it would help. I'm a single  
23 parent. I believe if I could spend my money on clothes, you  
24 know, every few months or every season or whatever, I can buy  
25 two or three uniforms for a week (indiscernible) hand-washed

1 clothes and I'm fine. You know what I mean, I wear uniforms  
2 at my school. I'm in nursing school. I wear uniforms and  
3 everybody feels that -- everybody is set at a certain  
4 standard to wear -- like okay, if I don't wear this, I can be  
5 kicked out. That's what should happen in regular schools I  
6 believe.

7 MS. BOYLE: Ian Moran.

8 MR. MORAN: Hello, everybody. I have two children  
9 in (indiscernible). I'm not necessarily opposed to school  
10 uniforms. I'm not sure if this is going to deliver dramatic  
11 changes to every high school. I come from England and it's  
12 fairly traditional to wear uniforms there and I wore uniforms  
13 in other schools. But I have to say that we didn't really  
14 have uniforms over whether or not the children improved their  
15 learning. To be honest, if a child (indiscernible) want to  
16 (indiscernible) school and the child didn't want to learn,  
17 they didn't. What made them learn was whether or not they  
18 had good teachers, if they had family support, if they had  
19 good role models. So I fully appreciate that people may want  
20 to seek changes, but I'm just not sure the uniform's going to  
21 do that. I know that you said you cannot find anything that  
22 tells you one way or another if this is going to be a good  
23 thing. Somebody said that well, there may be a small  
24 increase in performance. Others say they really can't tell.  
25 I've been looking and the closest thing I've found involving



1 having school uniforms is (indiscernible). There's five  
2 percent improvement (indiscernible) attention. If that's so  
3 then maybe it is a good thing. But that's the only positive  
4 really I could find. So really, (indiscernible) I think it's  
5 important that we emphasis the (indiscernible) going on  
6 within the school district, but I think with some great  
7 teaching going on, it's a great core for our students. I'd  
8 like to emphasize that and then consider whether or not  
9 school uniforms are really going to make it any better.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BOYLE: Alan Tanz.

12 MR. TANZ: Good evening. Thank you for the  
13 opportunity to let me speak. There is no doubt that over the  
14 years there has been a lot of cultural changes in our kids.  
15 When we were in school, the way kids are in school today with  
16 the clothes, it has drastically changed. That I think needs  
17 to be addressed both -- at the parent level. Because when we  
18 were in school, we had dress codes and none of us wore pants  
19 down to our knees or down by our shoes and the girls were not  
20 dressed provocatively. As far as the district goes, I  
21 currently have a son in the 8th grade and I know when he goes  
22 to school in the morning, his pants are up at his waist and  
23 his shirt is neat, it's not torn and he comes to school  
24 looking like he's ready for work. Also, my daughter  
25 graduated last year. She was 8th in her class and she did



1 that without a uniform. So the bottom line that I really  
2 want to put here is as I look out on this (indiscernible)  
3 we're parents. We have a responsibility to send our kids out  
4 in the morning dressed for success. (Indiscernible) don't  
5 change our job, all right. We have a uniform policy at my  
6 job. My upbringing has taught me to be professional,  
7 courteous. I don't wear that uniform. If I did, it still  
8 wouldn't change the person that I am. We need to mold our  
9 kids, to dress them for the future. If any of us went to our  
10 jobs with our shirts half way down to our knees, our pants  
11 down to our knees, we'd all be fired and the district needs  
12 to get (indiscernible) the policy that is in effect. Thank  
13 you very much.

14 MS. BOYLE: Angelia Tutt.

15 MS. TUTT: Good evening, board members, Dr. Poteat,  
16 parents, teachers and friends. I have four children  
17 (indiscernible). I am now taking care of my son and I'm  
18 taking care of the twins who are preschool, so I know  
19 something about this district. When I first heard about the  
20 school uniform, it wasn't by a letter from the school  
21 district. It was from a telephone call from Dr. Poteat. I'm  
22 glad my phone was working. As soon as I heard that, I  
23 started to conjure up all kinds of feelings and questions and  
24 some of those things that I jotted down today were how much  
25 is this going to cost this Board? Have you done a

1 feasibility study? Have they polled the parents? Have they  
2 polled the high school students or the middle school  
3 students? About six years ago, we did that and they all said  
4 they did not want to wear uniforms. Now, what's going to  
5 happen if children don't comply? Will they be sent home or  
6 to the office? Will the principal or teachers become the  
7 fashion police? Will students be sent home because they  
8 don't wear the uniforms? If so, how will they get home? By  
9 school transportation, the bus, which uses gas which costs a  
10 lot of money? Will a parent be called from work to pick  
11 their child up? If the parent doesn't come, what are you  
12 going to do?

13 Now, somebody has to monitor this. I just can't see Mr.  
14 Carter calling parents of a high school child who is not  
15 compliant to come up and pick up their child to take them  
16 home because they aren't wearing their school uniforms. Now,  
17 it's very hard to get those young men and young women up at  
18 the high school to do anything that they don't want to do.  
19 Is this going to take away from teaching time? Now, that's  
20 my biggest concern. Now, I want Mr. Carter in those  
21 classrooms making sure that those teachers teach. I want  
22 those teachers teaching that curriculum. I don't want them,  
23 your skirt's too short, your skirt's too long, you don't have  
24 on the right color, there are too many buttons on your shirt,  
25 I don't want that. That's taking away from teaching time. I

1 was at Camden High. I tried to do that. By the time I  
2 finished telling kids to pull your pants up, turn your hat  
3 around, put your hat on, are you wearing a uniform, I was  
4 tired. I was too tired to do anything, okay. Now, the  
5 single most important thing here is education. It's the  
6 student achievement. How is this going to affect the  
7 students achievement? We need to ask ourselves that.  
8 (Indiscernible) seeing (indiscernible) computers  
9 (indiscernible) and new books. Thank you.

10 MS. BOYLE: Idalys Bates.

11 MS. FILMORE: My name is Kyanna Filmore and I am the  
12 student president over at Winslow Township High School and  
13 even though I'll be graduating next year, I'm in favor of  
14 uniforms. Because one, it (indiscernible) save a lot of  
15 money. Two, it will address the issue of peer pressures like  
16 fitting in and wearing like expensive labels and things.  
17 Because I go to school (indiscernible) every day I see people  
18 trying to compete with other students (indiscernible) so it  
19 will eliminate competition. So that's why I'm for uniforms  
20 and to see everybody can come together and stop bullying each  
21 other on how they dress.

22 MS. BATES: I'm Idalys. I am vice-president at  
23 Winslow Township High School. I am for uniforms. I've  
24 wanted uniforms for a very long time. I feel as though it's  
25 just such a hassle waking up every morning saying to myself

1 what am I going to wear today. It would be less time  
2 consuming and easier to know exactly every morning, okay, I'm  
3 going to put this on. I've asked (indiscernible) how they  
4 felt about uniforms. They said they do not support it and  
5 it's stupid. I feel as though (indiscernible) stupidity of  
6 people's opinion about Winslow. I hear so many bad things  
7 about my school. At Winslow it's so bad. The kids there are  
8 bad. But I feel as though it is time for Winslow to show  
9 society that we are great and that Winslow is a school of  
10 great intellectuals and our feelings are uniforms will do  
11 exactly that.

12 MR. MCGUIRE: Hi. My name's Brian McGuire and I'm  
13 the secretary (indiscernible) and the future (indiscernible)  
14 at the high school. Now, I asked about 40 or so kids within  
15 my classes, like I have an (indiscernible) and I actually got  
16 more mixed reviews from all of them. Half of them said yes  
17 because they felt it would add more of a (indiscernible)  
18 aspect to our school environment because they felt like they  
19 need a more competitive (indiscernible) as well as  
20 seriousness within our school. Now, the other half believed  
21 -- well, they all said no mostly because they felt it was  
22 (indiscernible) expression. Now, as for my own personal  
23 opinion I am for uniforms. Mostly because I believe it's  
24 time the students need to get serious instead of wandering  
25 the hallways and being chased by teachers (indiscernible).



1 MS. BOYLE: Pamela Valentino.

2 MS. VALENTINO: I'm Pamela Valentino. I'm the  
3 mother of four children and (indiscernible) bring the  
4 children together because they all have an opinion and asked  
5 me to come and speak so that I could express it for them. So  
6 number one, you know, what are we trying (indiscernible). We  
7 talked about bullying and my children said why do people get  
8 bullied in school? They get bullied in school because of  
9 their body shape, their ethnic background, their grades,  
10 their hairstyle, the accent or how they speak and their  
11 intelligence level. For some students, the selection of a  
12 uniform based on how (indiscernible) the selection would be  
13 can cause an issue, mainly due to extreme body types. This  
14 could affect students of all sizes. Those who are extremely  
15 tall and thin. It's a challenge finding things that come in  
16 their sizes, I'll give you that one. And, you know, there  
17 are other extremes. I've talked to parents who have very  
18 small children who are concerned of what styles would be  
19 available. Also, special needs students need to be  
20 considered. Particular fabrics and styles can cause sensory  
21 issues that may get in the way of their ability to learn.  
22 And in this situation, should these children be allowed to  
23 not have to conform to the uniform policy? It would only  
24 cause them to stand out more and increase the risk of  
25 ridicule that they may experience. Those that wear those

1 clothes too tight and too short can still do this with the  
2 uniform. I went to a private school. Let me tell you, you  
3 can (indiscernible) skirt length (indiscernible). The  
4 greatest form of bullying unfortunately that my children have  
5 witnessed in this district has been due to racial difference,  
6 physical appearance and conflicts involving members of the  
7 opposite sex. All issues that we do not feel that uniforms  
8 can address. I have seen improvement in the district in the  
9 last seven years. I had a middle schooler seven years ago,  
10 the bullying was so bad, I had to remove him from the school  
11 district. I now have a middle schooler here and I cannot say  
12 enough about the changes that have been made in the middle  
13 school and not one uniform was instituted in that seven-year  
14 period of time. So again, my parting comment is, you know,  
15 what are we trying to solve? I think the school district has  
16 made wonderful changes. I think we have great teachers and I  
17 think there is so much that we can do with what we already  
18 have. (Indiscernible) they all say no uniforms. Thank you.

19 MS. BOYLE: Lizette Sabando. Joyce Quill.

20 MS. QUILL: Good evening, everyone. I am kind of  
21 mixed about the uniforms. My youngest daughter is a  
22 sophomore in high school. My oldest daughter has already  
23 graduated. They're also mixed about the uniforms. My  
24 youngest daughter does not want to wear a uniform because she  
25 feels that it's not going to solve the problems that the

.1 school already has. I see the girls interacting with other  
2 girls and arguing about stupid things, mostly about boys and  
3 things like that. My older daughter has a different  
4 perspective as she explained to me that apparently the kids  
5 also rag on each other about clothes. So I went to school,  
6 like everyone else here, I wore a uniform. Nobody ragged on  
7 me about my uniform. But my youngest daughter if she's for  
8 them, then it will cause a conflict between the students. So  
9 my question today is even though the Board wants to have  
10 uniforms and (indiscernible) with the uniform policy, what  
11 exactly do we hope to accomplish? Do we want our children to  
12 be educated and we're thinking the uniform would allow them  
13 to be educated more properly? Are we trying to stop the  
14 aggravation between the students and ragging on each other  
15 because of their clothes or do we just want to have a uniform  
16 because everybody else is doing it? It seems like there's no  
17 real reason to implement uniforms except for that some people  
18 want them and some people don't. There hasn't been anything,  
19 I haven't read anything from the school district that says we  
20 want to implement the uniforms because we want to boost  
21 school spirit. Nothing like that. It just says we're going  
22 to have a meeting about uniforms. You can make your opinion  
23 known. So if the school board can give us some in-depth  
24 information as to why you want to implement the uniform maybe  
25 people would have a better understanding and maybe some



1 people would actually go for that (indiscernible) as opposed  
2 to having so much conflict about it.

3 MS. BOYLE: Clyde Morgan.

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, everyone. I'll make mine  
5 short and sweet. I remember the military all put on  
6 uniforms. I wondered why. They wanted to identify who was  
7 on their side. When you're in school, you should take pride  
8 in your school. If uniforms would effect that  
9 (indiscernible). Thank you.

10 MS. BOYLE: Clarence Jones.

11 MR. JONES: Good evening. As I listened to the  
12 various comments of those who are for the uniform policy and  
13 those that are against (indiscernible) more bipartisan a  
14 little. Again, I heard someone mention does it actually  
15 boost the academic levels, so what I have here today is just  
16 some things, some facts that we should probably consider  
17 before we make a yes or no statement. Each district, the  
18 Board of Education is required to develop and adopt and  
19 implement a code of student conduct, which is called CSC,  
20 that establishes standards, policies and procedures for  
21 positive student development and student behavioral  
22 expectations on school grounds, including on school buses or  
23 school sponsored functions and if determined by  
24 (indiscernible) away from school grounds. So what are the  
25 realities of school dress policies? The realities of a



1 school dress code and pros and cons, what are the real  
2 outcomes? Are they really (indiscernible) and inhibit of the  
3 school safety and violence? Well, in response of today's  
4 surges of violence, gang activity, clothing and accessory  
5 theft and (indiscernible) across the United States. Just  
6 today, the death of a 24-year-old female math teacher from  
7 Massachusetts was killed by a 14-year-old male student in  
8 high school. Two days ago, a student in a (indiscernible)  
9 town, a middle school student in Sparks, Nevada who came to  
10 school with his parents not knowing the gun and decided to  
11 take a matter fully in his own hand by shooting two students,  
12 opening fire and killing a teacher and then turning the gun  
13 on himself. Many school boards have taken action for  
14 security in our schools and I believe when it comes to the  
15 security of our children we need to (indiscernible) why are  
16 we here tonight. When I look around, I see more parents and  
17 I'm looking for more students. I believe the students are  
18 the ones that should voice their opinions in terms of what  
19 they feel and what they're actually up against. There are  
20 some students that go to school that make it fully about  
21 their clothing and their dress and then there's some students  
22 such as mine that go to the school district, part of the  
23 National Junior Honor Society and never has any problems in  
24 the school district. So I believe it begins at home first.  
25 I believe it starts at home first. So most people that are

1 in favor say that uniforms make schools safer, reduce gang  
2 violence, minimize violence and reduce (indiscernible)  
3 conflicts, they help identify trespassers, relieve parents  
4 and less pressure to buy the latest fashions and spend less  
5 money on child wardrobes. It also helps erase culture and  
6 economic differences among students. And then on the other  
7 flip side, there's some people who say they are opposed to  
8 uniforms and they say it infringes upon students First  
9 Amendment rights to freedom of expression. They interfere  
10 with students natural tendency to experience with their  
11 identities and it represents schools of administrative power  
12 and control. So before I leave tonight and before we all  
13 leave tonight, let's really consider and let's really get the  
14 true meaning of why we are trying to implement a uniform  
15 policy. Again, I'm not totally against it, but I'm also not  
16 totally for it. What I need to see is actual statistics on  
17 the improvements in schools in South Jersey. Thank you.

18 MS. BOYLE: Lynn Bock.

19 MS. BOCK: Hi. I'm not so much against it. My kids  
20 are (indiscernible) preschoolers. I have a daughter who  
21 basically just started in the school district in the special  
22 education program. When you have these children  
23 (indiscernible) and growing very quickly and sometimes the  
24 only way I can get her to school is what pretty dress can we  
25 wear today, pick out your shoes. That was really just my

1 question, would it apply to the preschoolers? They are  
2 separated anyway by being in the trailer. I don't know if  
3 that's in every school. She's at School 4. I just don't  
4 feel that these little three and four year olds need to be  
5 wearing a uniform. I don't -- obviously, they do not compete  
6 with clothing. I don't think even kindergarten or first  
7 graders do. I don't have any older ones in the school  
8 district. I do have a son at a Catholic school. He wears a  
9 uniform, I'm fine with that. That has always been the rule  
10 there. I think it might be a good idea for the older ones,  
11 but as far as the little guys, I'm against that.

12 MS. BOYLE: Debra Yanez.

13 MR. YANEZ: Good evening, everyone. I'm Austin  
14 Yanez. I'm a tenth grader in Winslow Township High School  
15 and I started a petition against school uniforms because I'm  
16 not for them. And I collected 278 signatures with four  
17 friends in a two-week time. And out of these 278 signatures,  
18 only six students were (indiscernible) it. And when you put  
19 this up to the proportion (indiscernible) Winslow Township  
20 High School will be forced to wear uniforms. And when you  
21 have an (indiscernible) statistic like that, I think it's  
22 important to consider the other side. So I would like to ask  
23 the Board's permission to present my petition to Dr. Poteat.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening, Members of the  
25 Board. I thank you for this opportunity to address you this



1 evening and before I begin, I'd first publicly would like to  
2 thank Dr. Poteat. In September I attended a board meeting to  
3 allow public discussion on the school uniform. I had stated  
4 at that time that the public has not been notified about this  
5 initiative by the Board. The Board president at that time,  
6 Pat Davis, stated however I was incorrect in my assumption  
7 because it was mentioned at a board meeting in June. Also,  
8 the Board had notified the HSA, the (indiscernible) and the  
9 Citizen's Advisory Committee. Now, although I will  
10 acknowledge these are excellent organizations, these  
11 organizations by no way represent the parent community of  
12 5000 students. Dr. Poteat assured those in attendance that  
13 evening that if the Board gave him the opportunity until  
14 October, he would backpack that information home with our  
15 students. He would use our telephone link. It has also been  
16 displayed in the Courier Post and the Wire, so I want to  
17 publicly thank Dr. Poteat for his continued leadership and  
18 for also continuing to be a man of his word. I also would  
19 like to (indiscernible) that at that particular meeting, Dr.  
20 Poteat took responsibility for the failure to  
21 (indiscernible). However, as a former board member myself, I  
22 understand that it is the Board who gives the superintendent  
23 any directives. So since the Board president informed this  
24 community at that time that the school community had been  
25 notified, Dr. Poteat took responsibility for something that



1 the Board did not give him a directive to carry out. So  
2 ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know that if it was not  
3 for the concern of six parents who came to (indiscernible)  
4 that evening and spoke about the lack of communication, this  
5 ordinance would not be here this evening.

6 In addition to that, my question to the Board of  
7 Education is since the New Jersey State statute states there  
8 must be a provision to assist economically disadvantages  
9 students, I would like to know has this Board played this out  
10 and can you tell us what that figure would look like? In  
11 Elizabeth, New Jersey, in the Elizabeth School District since  
12 January 2006, they have spent more than \$2 million outfitting  
13 their students in school uniforms. In addition, in  
14 conclusion then, I also want to say that in New Jersey there  
15 are 603 districts. New Jersey school board has only  
16 antidotal evidence on 2000 school districts in the State of  
17 New Jersey that requires their students to wear uniforms and  
18 all of those school districts are urban school districts.  
19 And if I can real quick, some of them are Asbury Park,  
20 Elizabeth, North Brunswick, Vineland, Penn Grove, Plainfield,  
21 Atlantic City, Newark, New Brunswick, Lisbon, Hoboken,  
22 Orange, Willingboro, Camden, Lindenwold, Glassboro,  
23 Pleasantville, Bridgeton (indiscernible) for much more.  
24 Thank you.

25 MS. BOYLE: Lori Harden.

1 MS. HARDEN: Good evening. My name is Lori Harden  
2 and I have a child that's in the Winslow School District. I  
3 listened to everyone (indiscernible). I guess I'm not so far  
4 as against the uniform policy, but I'm actually against the  
5 reason why you're choosing to implement this. I oppose the  
6 fact that you believe that (indiscernible) children's  
7 behavior and potentially affect their academic environment.  
8 I cannot believe that clothes would make a D student and vice  
9 versa. What I do support, however, is that teachers that are  
10 committed to caring even when students don't (indiscernible)  
11 and to show that they are committed and that they're there,  
12 they're excited about teaching. Now, I do believe that that  
13 will influence children's behavior and potentially impact  
14 their academic environment. I also oppose the fact that you  
15 believe that if the child's wearing a uniform that it  
16 improves student learning environment and promote attention  
17 and focus. Students respond to teachers that are excited  
18 about teaching, that acknowledge them, that are relatable,  
19 that listen to them, that believe in them. If you clothe the  
20 classroom with such teachers, that would definitely improve  
21 the students learning environment and promote attention and  
22 focus. I also don't agree with the fact that uniforms will  
23 improve children's self respect and self-esteem and promote  
24 good behavior. I support more teacher workshops that  
25 (indiscernible) classroom as in teacher and student

1 interaction and relationships. I do support more teacher  
2 assessments for weeding out those that (indiscernible) and  
3 those -- and (indiscernible) those that are dedicated and  
4 really are there to help the students to learn and reach  
5 their academic goals. I do support more student assemblies  
6 that teach and encourage self confidence, self respect and  
7 peer diversity. I believe that (indiscernible) classrooms  
8 does not achieve while focusing on what's on a students back,  
9 but it's about assuring the students that the teacher has his  
10 or her back. Thank you.

11 MS. BOYLE: Sandy Anderson.

12 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. My name is Sandy Anderson. I  
13 have three children that are starting to go to school in the  
14 district all at the lower elementary level. One just started  
15 at the upper elementary. Many great points have already been  
16 made and I'm not going to beat a horse again and again and  
17 again. My main concern with the uniforms, while I seen what  
18 is to be worn, I do not see how it is to be worn such as will  
19 the shirts need to be tucked in? Will (indiscernible) be  
20 required? Those are things that my children would have  
21 issues with. My children have sensory issues. They all have  
22 some sort of special needs as far as medical conditions. The  
23 fabrics are a problem for them. They have skin conditions  
24 where a lot of the khaki material have polyesters in their  
25 blends and they still cause a problem for them. I understand



1 that there is an exception made, but that would just further  
2 them to stand out and I really don't want to see that to  
3 happen. The added cost. I was actually part of the charter  
4 school uniform committee when the charter school  
5 (indiscernible). I was a very active member of that  
6 committee and I was all for uniforms at that time. We did a  
7 lot of research. We went to all the stores in the area,  
8 purchased uniforms for both girls and boys, washed them, had  
9 the children wear them and see exactly what you're getting  
10 for your dollar. Unfortunately, the findings were what we  
11 expected. You did get what you paid for. We found that the  
12 uniforms that were cheaper, the fabrics were itchy. They  
13 stretched out, they shrunk and were (indiscernible) when the  
14 children would try to tuck them in, they (indiscernible).  
15 (Indiscernible) uniforms in order to get them to last you a  
16 year and that's where the cost did start to occur. Now, my  
17 children (indiscernible) hand me downs and you know gifts  
18 from others and buy uniforms for three kids with special  
19 means would mean that I would have to go to Lands End or Gap  
20 and get the high quality cotton and that is a huge impact on  
21 our financial means. Sorry, I'm just trying not to repeat  
22 what everyone else said, so I'm just (indiscernible) the  
23 added cost for my family of course. There's also other  
24 children that parents weren't here today with special needs  
25 that also wanted me to represent them and the fact that the



1 sensory issues and children with (indiscernible) equipment  
2 and how they'll be able to facilitate their moves in a  
3 uniform. My bottom line is I'm actually against uniforms due  
4 to my experiences in the past. It was an added cost. I had  
5 to buy two complete wardrobes, something for school and  
6 something for after school. I'd rather see my tax dollars go  
7 towards something that would improve the learning  
8 environment, like air conditioning. The kids are going to be  
9 in these uniforms and they're going to (indiscernible) and  
10 they're going to sit there and they're going to have  
11 polyester pants on and they're not going to learn anything.  
12 So that's how I feel. Thank you.

13 MS. BOYLE: Sheree Alexander.

14 MS. ALEXANDER: Good evening. My name is Sheree  
15 Alexander and I'm a parent of two students in school. I have  
16 a tenth grader and I have a sixth grader. I won't repeat the  
17 research (indiscernible) on both sides, but I do want to  
18 address two reasons that were stated over and over again  
19 about decrease the (indiscernible). I (indiscernible) given  
20 out tonight and that if there's a violation for the uniform  
21 policy that there will be disciplinary action (indiscernible)  
22 which means (indiscernible) are already (indiscernible) child  
23 would be out of school. That's one thing. Number two, the  
24 social economic component. Even if it's khaki, khaki's come  
25 from Walmart, khaki's come in (indiscernible) so the kids

1 will determine whether or not they're going to head to  
2 (indiscernible) because they'll ask for those things. The  
3 other thing I wanted to mention from a professional  
4 perspective, I'm a teacher for 19 years and I am an assistant  
5 principal in a urban district that does get uniforms and  
6 trust me, all day it does have (indiscernible) behavior that  
7 I constantly deal with from 8 o'clock to 2:30, so -- and they  
8 do wear uniforms every day. Behavior is language and we  
9 really need to the point what is it that our young people are  
10 saying. If there (indiscernible) of behaviors in school, we  
11 need to find out what the reasons are and I don't think it's  
12 necessarily uniforms. I'm not either for or against it, but  
13 I just want to look at the facts. The other thing, real  
14 change, and this is what research does support, that real  
15 change happens with improved teacher quality, increased  
16 student engagement and (indiscernible) in a classroom. So  
17 when students are engaged, their discipline is decreased and  
18 I know this because I was a (indiscernible) teacher.  
19 Community, (indiscernible) and culture, that's also something  
20 that is -- that develops from the inside. So you have to  
21 know who you serve and develop (indiscernible) school leaders  
22 and the school district board. You have to know who you  
23 serve and develop it. It's not something that you can just  
24 say fix it with a band-aid called uniforms. And last,  
25 somebody mentioned jobs. They mentioned jobs where people

1 had to wear uniforms to jobs, they have to wear uniforms for  
2 sports. I just want to say they also wear uniforms in prison  
3 and I don't want the (indiscernible). The last thing that  
4 I'm going to say is that uniforms may address some problems  
5 but it doesn't address commitment. That comes from high  
6 expectations from school and increased parental involvement.  
7 I'd like to see the school board and parents address that  
8 part because that is what is integral to increasing the  
9 (indiscernible) of Winslow Township, increasing standardized  
10 test scores and increasing (indiscernible) of all the  
11 students that are sent to our schools. So thank you.

12 MS. BOYLE: Judy Kennedy. Natalee Savage. Sherrie  
13 Erickson.

14 MS. ERICKSON: Thank you for entertaining my  
15 (indiscernible) the dress code. First, I would like to say  
16 the issue here is not bullying or equality or individuality  
17 or conformity. Let's be honest. The problem is image. And  
18 while the reality is some of our young people dress in a  
19 manner that is offensive and in poor taste, and let's face  
20 it, the world will judge you based on image, our schools are  
21 educating our students in more than just academics. Our  
22 students are also learning about character and respect for  
23 others as well as themselves (indiscernible). Having  
24 uniforms promotes a unified image that should instill a sense  
25 of pride and respect in our students. Many parents are



1 already doing this at home; however, the reality is that some  
2 are not and so our schools must pick up the slack. Should we  
3 single out those students, of course not. It is then that  
4 you set yourself up for harassment and bullying issues. Of  
5 course, the district already has a dress code in place;  
6 however, a uniform eliminates the problem of (indiscernible)  
7 and interpretation. I can provide an example as I am a high  
8 school educator. The dress code at my high school states  
9 there should be no bare shoulders and undergarments must not  
10 be visible. I had a young lady in homeroom last year who  
11 wore a collared button-down blouse with no sleeves and a lace  
12 back. I wasn't sure what to do as it was a nice shirt, but  
13 she wasn't in compliance. Her shoulders were not completely  
14 covered and you could see her bra through the lace. I was  
15 inclined to report it as a violation, but I asked others what  
16 they thought. Teachers A, B and C said the student looks  
17 fine. Teachers D and E said it was a violation. I reported  
18 it. The vice-principal determined the student was not in  
19 violation, thus illustrating a problem with dress code  
20 interpretation and consistency. A uniform leaves no room for  
21 inconsistencies. Uniforms are not meant as a punishment or  
22 to (indiscernible) or as a control tactic. They really are  
23 meant to be in the best interest of the students. It truly  
24 baffles me that so many people feel so strongly against the  
25 uniform when you consider all of the benefits



1 (indiscernible). I won't go through all of that now because  
2 other people already mentioned those. But I do hope the  
3 Board deeply considers all of the benefits and keeps in mind  
4 the best interests of the students and not necessarily the  
5 emotional feelings of the parents when you do make your  
6 decision. Thank you.

7 MS. BOYLE: Belizette Saint-Pierre.

8 MS. SAINT-PIERRE: Good evening. I'm actually here  
9 for my son who's in sixth grade in School 6. This year was  
10 his first year attending a public school. And a couple weeks  
11 ago I mentioned the thing about their uniforms. And he told  
12 me mom, I'm against the uniform. I want to wear my regular  
13 clothes. And I (indiscernible) he wants to wear his Nike and  
14 his (indiscernible). Last week he came to me and told me  
15 mom, I changed my mind. I'm for the uniforms. And I asked  
16 him why, what happened? He said mom I have one kid in my  
17 classroom -- in the school, everybody is making fun of  
18 (indiscernible) because every day she wears the same clothes  
19 (indiscernible). I feel bad. I say what do you think, can I  
20 give you a gift card to give (indiscernible)? He said no  
21 mom, they would think that's my friend and I don't want them  
22 to bully me too. I said, I teach you better than that. You  
23 should know. He said, I know mom. I will make sure to talk  
24 to this girl so they don't make fun of (indiscernible). So I  
25 wanted to come here to explain to you about it. It's not

1 about what we want the kids to wear. It's not -- I'm really  
2 -- I think the uniform doesn't make the kids behave any  
3 better. Certain students they do good in school. It starts  
4 from home, but at the same time there are some kids that  
5 don't have the opportunity to buy the Nike that do get  
6 bullied because of the way they look. So (indiscernible) for  
7 yourself, think about those other kids that do get bullied,  
8 that do make fun of them because they're not able to dress a  
9 certain way. So I'm asking the Board, please don't do it  
10 just for the other kids, but do it for those that are not  
11 able to buy certain clothes that do get bullied because we do  
12 find a lot of the kids do get bullied (indiscernible). Thank  
13 you.

14 MS. BOYLE: George Bethel.

15 MR. BETHEL: Good evening. I'm coming from a  
16 perspective of a man who's wore a uniform basically my whole  
17 life (indiscernible) law enforcement. I have three children  
18 that's come up in this system. Okay, my oldest being 21, my  
19 middle one being 16 and I have -- my youngest being 14. I  
20 respect everyone's opinion who's talked and everyone has --  
21 everyone who spoke has a valid point. Anyone who thinks that  
22 a person, especially a young kid, with a uniform that isn't  
23 respected in my opinion is wrong. The uniform is respected.  
24 When you ride down the street and you see kids playing, you  
25 smile whether they're in uniform or not. But when you see

1 the pants hanging down around their ankles as opposed to  
2 seeing a kid in a uniform with a tie, at the end of the day,  
3 (indiscernible) to the side, needed a couple buttons down  
4 here and the girls playing and laughing, that's respectable.  
5 So a uniform is respected. Am I for uniforms, yes, I am. Do  
6 I have cons about uniforms, sure there's cons. Everyone has  
7 a valid opinion, there are cons. From a law enforcement  
8 perspective, (indiscernible) this establishment for potential  
9 criminals, they won't be able to identify a person that's  
10 wearing similar uniforms as opposed to people who aren't.  
11 Pros, self-esteem. I can only equate this to being having  
12 worn two uniforms, military police uniforms, Department of  
13 Defense uniforms. Self esteem and pride, responsibility,  
14 unity, professionalism, morale, morale boosters, a sense of  
15 school pride, self respect, elderly respect. Yes, some  
16 people -- some kids are going to touch on that, but a lot of  
17 kids, if you see another kid walking down the hallway and  
18 you're squared away, one of the other kids may look and say,  
19 man, look at him, he's squared away. Another kid may look  
20 and say you know what, let me start to square my stuff away.  
21 He's in uniform. He don't just have on a pair of jeans. He  
22 has on a uniform because everyone's uniformed. Uniforms are  
23 respected. Cons, identifying -- again, I already approached  
24 that. You have financial burdens, individuality problems.  
25 Everyone wants to be individual, including us adults. We



1 don't all want to look like one another. If we go to work  
2 and see somebody with (indiscernible) we want to go home and  
3 change. Okay. Cleanliness, appearance (indiscernible).  
4 People don't want to iron, okay. Thanks for your time.

5 MS. BOYLE: Hugh Williams.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Hugh  
7 Williams. I have a daughter in tenth grade. I'm familiar  
8 with uniforms. My daughter attended Winslow school systems,  
9 one through -- well, kindergarten through eighth grade and  
10 then she went to (indiscernible) where she had to wear a  
11 uniform. Uniforms -- dress codes and uniforms  
12 (indiscernible) I mean, it's just short skirts that were just  
13 appalling. So you can take that (indiscernible). The cost,  
14 you're not going to save any money because as soon as she got  
15 home, she (indiscernible) off and she put on clothes. And  
16 she went and visited her friends in those clothes which  
17 you're still going to have to buy. So uniforms are just an  
18 added expense that we have to (indiscernible). The quality  
19 of the uniform that you get, public and private. Private  
20 uniforms are way more expensive than the public uniforms.  
21 The public uniforms are going to be cheap and I think  
22 somebody else mentioned the quality of the type of uniforms  
23 that you're going to get. You're going to have to pay a lot  
24 of money in order to get a uniform that looks decent and  
25 respectable. Mr. (Indiscernible) and Ms. Alexander said it



1 all. These type of policies are pushed on urban  
2 (indiscernible) school districts and this is the type of  
3 policy that's put on them. This is not a suburban policy. I  
4 have two older sons who went to school systems in  
5 Haddonfield. At the time it was the number 4 school system  
6 in the state and they graduated from Princeton, the number 3  
7 school system in the state. Never was it ever mentioned  
8 about uniforms. Uniforms -- people that bring in uniforms,  
9 they're covering and masking other types of issues that need  
10 to be dealt with and a lot of people mentioned those issues  
11 already. I'm against school uniforms. It's not because of  
12 individuality or anything like that, but it's also a safety  
13 issue. When a natural disaster or anything happens like  
14 that, how do you identify the child? They had on a red  
15 shirt, a blue shirt, jeans. No, they had on the same uniform  
16 that 500 other kids have on, so you're not going to be able  
17 to identify them. If there is within that group somebody  
18 who's acting up in the hallway or running around or whatever,  
19 misbehaving, how do you identify that child. There's no way  
20 to -- are you going to put numbers on the uniform? You know,  
21 that was 596 and that's how they do it in prisons. That's  
22 it, I'm against uniforms.

23 MS. BOYLE: Lauren Annicchiarico.

24 MS. ANNICCHIARICO: Good evening. My name's Lauren  
25 Annicchiarico. I've been a resident of Winslow Township for

1 17 years. I have (indiscernible) a seventh grader in middle  
2 school and a first grader at School Number 2. I just  
3 yesterday ran into a board member at a school board meeting  
4 and when I noticed that she was from Winslow, I was like, ah,  
5 Winslow. And she said why do you say it like that and I said  
6 because my children go here and we get a bad rap but I love  
7 our schools. As I was going through the dress code, I'm the  
8 type of parent that I make my kids follow the rules. They  
9 don't like me for it, I'm not always the most popular, but  
10 that's fine. If they're not -- if they're supposed to not  
11 have slide-on shoes, they don't have slide-on shoes. If  
12 their shoulders are not supposed to be showing, their  
13 shoulders aren't showing. And I make sure from my house, my  
14 children are dressed appropriately and we follow the rules.  
15 So as I was asking my children what do you think, the high  
16 schooler, of course, no mom, I don't want them. I didn't ask  
17 the six-year-old because he doesn't know what's going on and  
18 I quietly asked my daughter, who would be -- you know, I  
19 would call her the fashion (indiscernible) of everybody, what  
20 do you think. Well, I don't like them. Well, I needed a  
21 little bit more than that and she said mom, you make me  
22 follow the rules and it comes from home, but sometimes I go  
23 to school and I see children who are not dressed accordingly.  
24 The teacher will send them out and they come back. Nothing  
25 happens. Things are being enforced, but you enforce the

1 rules at home. So I can just see us wearing uniforms. There  
2 will be kids who aren't wearing the correct uniform and  
3 they'll get away with it and I don't think that's fair. And  
4 I thought that that was a fairly good point. As I was going  
5 through the dress of the dress code, because I wanted to be  
6 informed about, you know, what it entailed, I noticed that  
7 (inaudible). Okay. I was reading through the dress and I  
8 noticed that the principals will be offering vouchers  
9 (indiscernible) dress code policy. Well, there's eight  
10 different principals in the school, so there's not going to  
11 be any uniformity in these vouchers that are being given out.  
12 (Indiscernible) gets to exempt out of it, whether it's for  
13 health reasons, whether it's for religious freedom or  
14 financial hardship. They're being singled out because they  
15 don't have to wear it and they're going to be asked, why  
16 don't you have to wear the dress code and I do and I don't  
17 think that's going to help things. My final comment is my  
18 daughter, although she's the fashionista, she's a little bit  
19 heavier than most kids her age and her putting on a school  
20 uniform, she's going to get made fun of the way she looks in  
21 a uniform. And with her body size and her body type, she  
22 gets to appropriately wear what she's comfortable in and not  
23 have to worry about the way she looks. And again, I'm a rule  
24 follower so whatever's decided by the Board of Education, my  
25 children will be doing what -- you know, the rules, the law.



1 MS. BOYLE: Michael Annicchiarico.

2 MR. ANNICCHIARICO: What she said is pretty much  
3 what my feelings are as well. We have a great community, a  
4 great school system, a great kid and Winslow is just  
5 incredible and my wife and I can't be happier being here,  
6 seeing the support and everything, but I don't -- not to say  
7 uniforms are the key to everything and I'll reiterate what  
8 other people have said, it starts at home. The kids should  
9 have pride when they look in the mirror at home in the way  
10 they dress. And when you sit around the dinner table and  
11 you're with your family and you learn what's right or wrong  
12 and teachers should spend more time teaching in the classroom  
13 than worrying about if you're chewing gum, if you're late, do  
14 you have a pen, do you have a piece of paper, do you have  
15 this and that all starts with the parents. And I know that  
16 this has been said over and over, but a uniform, there's good  
17 and bad. Like everyone says, (indiscernible) website and  
18 (indiscernible) it's good or not, but (indiscernible)  
19 solution. I think again some type of a band-aid maybe for  
20 something else that's happening and, you know, but we have  
21 great kids and I think really should leave it in their hands,  
22 make them vote, let them speak to the board members.  
23 (Indiscernible) son came up and I think that is great that he  
24 came up with a petition with all the students names, that  
25 shows the character of the students, not his uniform.



1 Because you are who you are whether you put a uniform on or  
2 not. When you get home, you take that uniform off, you're  
3 still the same person and that's just the way it is. So it  
4 starts at home and, again, I don't know if you  
5 (indiscernible) but we've got great kids and I think we  
6 should give them the vote. Let them see it. They're the  
7 ones that are going to sit in the chair and they're the ones  
8 who've got to come to school. Let's see if they're  
9 comfortable with it. Maybe (indiscernible). The only other  
10 thing I'll say is, is when you're out and you're older,  
11 people dress differently, have different cars. Some have  
12 suits that are really expensive, that's life. People are  
13 richer than others, I'm sorry, that's the way it is, so we're  
14 teaching our kids that uniformity, that's okay. I don't  
15 know. I don't know. But I do know that it starts at home  
16 and it comes down to great teachers teaching the kids what  
17 the morals and what's right at home. I don't think a uniform  
18 does it, but in life, though, there is people who are  
19 different and that's unfortunate, but also fortunate. Thank  
20 you.

21 MS. BOYLE: James Connelly.

22 MR. CONNELLY: Good evening, everybody.

23 (Indiscernible) and they're doing very fine, very well, honor  
24 roll. I can't even say nothing bad about the school  
25 district. I've been here for four years. Some people know

1 me because I'm a parent that's going to be at the school when  
2 (indiscernible) go down. If there's a problem  
3 (indiscernible) phone number, a lot of teachers know me  
4 because I speak (indiscernible) about my child or my  
5 children. Who's buying these kids clothes, we do.  
6 (Indiscernible) we buying it. We buying it. We can't look  
7 at why the kids acting like that because the pants are  
8 sagging because it's a style? That's what we're giving them  
9 the money to go buy. (Indiscernible) what our child walks  
10 out the door with on their body. I'm a marine. I wore my  
11 uniform proudly. I daughter wears a uniform. I'm up 6  
12 o'clock every morning, making breakfast, making sure my kids  
13 are not worried about their stomach (indiscernible) up here.  
14 They'll have the (indiscernible) to go to school, not worry  
15 about their stomach. If I have to iron -- cook an egg and  
16 iron at the same time to get her prepared to get out that  
17 door, it's done. If the teachers have any problems with my  
18 child, trust me, I'm at the door. (Indiscernible), I got to  
19 go to school. (Indiscernible) because they know I'm coming.  
20 (Indiscernible.) All parents should be like that.  
21 (Indiscernible.) Go to library with your child. Make sure  
22 they understand it, you understand it by going to parent  
23 (indiscernible) teachers teach me how to do it, and I go to  
24 the library with my daughter and get it done. I'm not going  
25 to sit back here and listen to all this hoorah. Do what

1 you've got to do, this is your kids. If your kids  
2 (indiscernible) in your face about your child with my child.  
3 I'm a big guy. I'm (indiscernible).

4 MS. BOYLE: Mr. Connelly, are you for or against the  
5 policy, sir?

6 MR. CONNELLY: This is my personality every day.  
7 And I for it, I'm for it. But remind you, you still watch  
8 the waist. You still can wear a uniform where the pants will  
9 still be sagging. Some kids are still wearing pants down  
10 (indiscernible) in school. (Indiscernible) pull it up,  
11 because sometimes you've got to speak their level so they can  
12 hear you. So I'm for it and have a blessed day.

13 MS. BOYLE: Shaina White.

14 MS. WHITE: I am Shaina White. I am the president  
15 of the sophomore class and I'm here speaking (indiscernible).  
16 So it's well known that Winslow is a public school, so quite  
17 frankly, I don't understand how uniforms can fit into the  
18 equation. And (indiscernible) is a very big problem. Quite  
19 frankly, I don't believe that wearing uniforms could actually  
20 solve that problem. Just because we're changing our clothes  
21 doesn't mean that they will go and change their personality  
22 (indiscernible) the way they act. Even wearing uniforms, you  
23 will also look different. Uniforms will not look the same on  
24 everybody and I've seen it. I mean, I know friends that go  
25 to schools that wear uniforms and they say that people are



1 always struggling with uniforms because of the way they look  
2 on them and my class strongly believes that it will feel the  
3 same. And the way people are is that it really won't do  
4 anything. That's why (indiscernible) believe that. But  
5 really, I just hope that (indiscernible) that it actually  
6 will (indiscernible). Thank you.

7 MS. BOYLE: Kimmica Pannell.

8 MS. PANNELL: Hello, everyone. My name is Kimmica  
9 Pannell and I'm a state employee. I work in various counties  
10 and lived in various towns in South Jersey. (Indiscernible)  
11 in two of the towns I've worked in had uniforms and I was a  
12 little upset because of that because I'm a single parent and  
13 our money is tight and having uniforms was offensive to me  
14 because (indiscernible). Now, when I came to this county, I  
15 know that it had uniforms and I was upset because I had to  
16 buy different clothes for my children to go to school. I  
17 don't want to offend anyone or insult anyone, but I'm  
18 offended to hear that (indiscernible) is that the children  
19 (indiscernible). Children are supposed to respect adults and  
20 parents. Now, I'm also offended that I saw that there's a  
21 petition or something going around for children not to wear  
22 uniforms. I don't see why that is. If you're petitioning  
23 against it, it's telling me that you're denying yourself a  
24 free education. There are other people in countries  
25 (indiscernible) that do not have that opportunity. So a

1 small thing about wearing uniforms just to come to school  
2 shouldn't be made big like this. It's just confusing to me.  
3 I know that there are uniforms for different things. Like  
4 me, I wear a uniform, okay, and I don't want to be taken in a  
5 negative way, though, people think it's a negative thing,  
6 because I do (indiscernible) testing so I'm not very much  
7 liked. So there's also uniforms for people that have  
8 discipline problems (indiscernible). That can be negative.  
9 I just want it -- I don't want it to be where (indiscernible)  
10 that uniforms for school should be viewed as being negative.  
11 Students are supposed to come here for an education, okay,  
12 not how they dress or (indiscernible) okay. I'm just saying  
13 for me, I just think it's easier. As far as financial wise,  
14 there's too many -- in 2013, there's too many organizations  
15 and churches and other things that help parents and children  
16 get what they need so they can progress in their daily life.  
17 So I'm just seeing that too many people are always trying to  
18 get money from somewhere else instead of as a parent doing  
19 what you need to do for your children so they can go to  
20 school. Like I said, I'm a single parent of five children  
21 and I've been going through this for like 22 years. I'm a  
22 lot older than (indiscernible), okay. Also, let me see, I'm  
23 just saying just as an example, football players, I know a  
24 lot of people like football, you wouldn't want a football  
25 player running on the field with blue jeans on, okay. They

1 have to wear a uniform, so I don't see anybody really making  
2 that negative. That's kind of positive, they're making  
3 money. And I don't know too many people that are in here  
4 tonight that will not dress the part to get what they want or  
5 what they need. Whether it's a job or going to school or  
6 even (indiscernible sports and (indiscernible)). But that's  
7 just a few things I wanted to say. I'm just excited and  
8 everybody (indiscernible) I want the uniforms to come here so  
9 I can save money, so for Christmas, my children will be  
10 getting uniforms. Thank you.

11 MS. BOYLE: Melvin Ways.

12 MR. WAYS: Good evening. My name is Melvin Ways.  
13 I'm a parent here and I have two children in the school  
14 district at the high school. I'm going to try to bring a  
15 really unique view to this subject tonight. I'm a former  
16 police officer from Camden City. I just retired in April. I  
17 served ten years in the City of Camden assigned to the school  
18 district, so I was there at the beginning when Camden  
19 switched over to uniforms so I have a really unique  
20 perspective on what transpired, what took place, to try to  
21 help the Board here with their decision on their vote  
22 tonight. A lot of things happened. Now, because of my  
23 profession, my former profession, I really try to look at  
24 things from both sides (indiscernible). So what I saw there  
25 was this: The uniforms had pros. Some of the pros were



1 this: It curved the bullying to a degree of the haves and  
2 have nots about the part that, you know, you can't afford the  
3 high-end fashion. It did curve that. It also drastically  
4 cut theft because people with expensive jackets and when they  
5 change for gym or something like that, their clothes weren't  
6 being stolen because nobody wanted to steal uniforms. So  
7 those were two of the pros in Camden from wearing uniforms.  
8 Now, some of the cons that came (indiscernible) uniforms was  
9 the children wore uniforms and nothing changed. The males  
10 were still sagging the pants down, their drawers were hanging  
11 out. They were being disciplined at such a high rate that it  
12 began to seriously affect the attendance at school. The  
13 policy for discipline in regards to the uniforms was never  
14 really spelled out. They just kind of (indiscernible) as  
15 they went along and it seems like we're headed in the same  
16 direction here. So those are some things to consider when  
17 you really want to go to the vote. The uniform was -- also  
18 said it would help with the law enforcement identifying  
19 trespassers. To some point it did, but it didn't because a  
20 kid that wanted to start some trouble or whatever, you can  
21 put on a school uniform (indiscernible) school. So there are  
22 -- the conclusion and what I'd like to say about this in my  
23 opinion, looking at it objectively, I was trying to form when  
24 I came up here, like, which way do I really want to go with  
25 this, is the uniform really doesn't make the student or the

1 school. Because, sure, the predominately worst schools in  
2 the district -- or in the state wear uniforms, but so do the  
3 most prestigious schools. They wear uniforms. So you can't  
4 look at it making a difference one way or the other. Winslow  
5 Township is going to determine who they're going to be  
6 whether they wear a uniform or not. The uniform didn't  
7 change the behavior of the students. Bullying still went on.  
8 I heard some parents speak earlier, bullying still went on  
9 whether it was because you were overweight or your  
10 (indiscernible), your hairstyle, whatever the case may be.  
11 The bullying still continued. The violence that we  
12 experience continued regardless of the uniform and they're  
13 still experiencing that today. So the uniform -- going to  
14 the uniform it depends on the Board, it depends on what  
15 you're looking for. What is your reason for going to this?  
16 What are you expecting out of it? The kids who are going to  
17 defy the uniforms, are going to come to school with every  
18 excuse in the book. Oh, I spilled something on my shirt, so  
19 I can't wear my uniform. I'm not wearing that shirt or  
20 they're going to alter the shirt. You said you want a  
21 uniform where shoulders are covered. The girls are going to  
22 come in and they're going to find a way to wear that shirt  
23 without the shoulders covered. They're going to be extremely  
24 tight and extremely short. They're going to cut them  
25 (indiscernible) and everything else. So what you're looking

1 for in these uniforms you may not get. So be careful what it  
2 is that you think (indiscernible).

3 MS. BOYLE: April White. April White. Shanice  
4 Flournoy.

5 MS. S. Flournoy: Hi. I'm a student, eleventh grade  
6 (indiscernible) and I don't think that uniforms  
7 (indiscernible). I don't think that uniforms should be in  
8 place in our school. Not necessarily because of the bullying  
9 as a lot of people mentioned. I feel as though in my school  
10 it's culturally diverse. Although, there might be some  
11 bullying that goes on, I feel as though there's a lot of kids  
12 in our school that make bullying aware and prominent that  
13 people actually (indiscernible) now at our school and I  
14 really (indiscernible). And I feel that uniforms that  
15 (indiscernible) about how they (indiscernible) parents or it  
16 seems like children are running things, but I feel as though  
17 as children we have a voice as well and that you want to  
18 teach your kids how to grow in society to have a voice and to  
19 not be (indiscernible) by authority. And I feel that some  
20 type of authority might be your parents and that means that  
21 your parents at home because I don't disrespect my mom, but  
22 you should be able to say what you feel in a respectful  
23 manner and people should be able to give you that same  
24 respect. And I also want to say that the fact that uniforms  
25 don't change the character of who you are. You will still be



1 the same person. I will still be the same person and I'm a  
2 high achiever at Winslow Township High School and a lot of  
3 people in my class are high achievers. A lot of people in my  
4 class are (indiscernible) and I think that's really, really  
5 good because teachers are now finding new ways to teach the  
6 technology and updated services. So students aren't  
7 (indiscernible) in class and I think that's really good. So  
8 I feel like there's changes in our school now that haven't  
9 been there before. And I know that there's a lot of people  
10 who appreciate our principal, Mr. Carter because we have seen  
11 a lot of improvements in our school and people really  
12 appreciate that. Thank you.

13 MS. FLOURNOY: Hi. I would like to add -- that's my  
14 daughter, Shanice. As she said, she's an eleventh grader.  
15 But I just wanted to say I am against uniform wearing because  
16 I just think that everybody -- you know, all the students  
17 have their own individualities and as my daughter said, it  
18 doesn't really make or break their person, but even when my  
19 daughter was little, I think as far as third grade, she would  
20 come home and say well, mom, dad, someone asked me about my  
21 sneakers or they didn't see the name on my sneakers. They  
22 asked what are the names on your -- you know, what's the name  
23 of your sneaker. And so what my husband and I did when she  
24 was young, very young, we did role play. So we would teach  
25 her -- like we would come in and we would say, well, I don't

1 like your hair today. You know, you look like this and that  
2 and she would cry and she would get very upset, but what we  
3 did, we set her up to be very strong, to be confident about  
4 what she's wearing. It's not about what you wear  
5 (indiscernible) very intelligent. So to me, training starts  
6 at home. And so I just want to say to all of you that we  
7 just have to institute this at home and no matter whether the  
8 uniforms are implemented or not, just know that our children  
9 are here to be educated. Thank you.

10 MS. BOYLE: Essie Day.

11 MS. DAY: Hi. I'm Essie Day. I'm here to really  
12 support the decision that the school plans on making in the  
13 best interest of our children. I have a son that's a senior  
14 in the twelfth and one in the eleventh grade. And with the  
15 opening statement, it said that the Winslow Township Board  
16 (indiscernible). And they went on and said talk about what  
17 you (indiscernible). And I'm here to say that if the school  
18 believe that this is the best interest for our children, I'm  
19 here to support what the school wants to implement. And then  
20 another thing I wanted to say was that if you're going to  
21 change and you're going to put your uniform -- implement it  
22 and you're going to do it just to discipline children on how  
23 to dress, I really don't believe that that's going to really  
24 work. But if you're going to implement the uniform to bring  
25 respect to the school, discipline, teach children how to be

1 disciplined, teach children how to be ready for change,  
2 because when they get in the real world, their job is not  
3 going to care whether or not they want to wear a uniform.  
4 They have to be open enough to say all right, well, this is  
5 the change that our school is making and fall in line. The  
6 same thing in your home. When you want to make change in  
7 your home, I don't have a voting poll on who wants to, you  
8 know, go along with what I'm going to make the changes in my  
9 home. I make the changes as the one who -- the head of my  
10 home. So I think like a lot of the parents have said, some  
11 agree, some don't agree, but what it comes down to is the  
12 challenge -- I mean, the parent really enforcing  
13 (indiscernible) plan on doing for their best interest because  
14 it is for the best interest of our children. As someone had  
15 said earlier, it would be good to have a uniform because it  
16 would help identify strangers that come into the school. I  
17 thought that was very -- a real good idea also. And like the  
18 speakers that came up prior to me, they were saying also how  
19 they enforce the rules and different changes in their home,  
20 like my children when they put on certain things. My  
21 grandson, he had a shirt and he had a shirt -- it might -- to  
22 some people it might have meant nothing, it said, I don't  
23 care. I told him, you can't wear that shirt because you  
24 should care. So like so many other things, you have to start  
25 at home, you have to tell him to pull up those pants at home,



1 because I always tell them clothes don't make you, you make  
2 clothes. So whether they have on a uniform, if they feel  
3 that they're somebody, they're going wear that uniform with  
4 dignity, with pride, with respect and bring honor and  
5 respect. And just an idea that I thought, that if you really  
6 wanted to implement the uniform, maybe you could take the  
7 students to a school that wears uniform with pride and  
8 respect.

9 MS. BOYLE: James Connerly. Lois Mongon.

10 MS. MONGON: My name is Lois Mongon and I've been a  
11 resident for about 4 or 5 years and I have three students --  
12 three children. Two of them graduated. One of them  
13 (indiscernible) United States marine. The other one  
14 (indiscernible) and now I have a five-year-old in  
15 kindergarten. If uniforms were implemented which I hope they  
16 are, (indiscernible) now to save money to get them. I would  
17 rather (indiscernible) tell my daughter what she's wearing  
18 and not have a 20-minute argument on what she can or cannot  
19 wear. I (indiscernible) but I (indiscernible). I think a  
20 lot of the older students will finally realize that it's a  
21 lot easier to get up knowing what they're going to wear, go  
22 to school, concentrate on the school and not what they're  
23 wearing and not how far (indiscernible) if someone's looking  
24 at them the wrong way. Before I started working here, I was  
25 working for Camden County Vo-tech as a bus driver. I was

1 there before and after they implemented the uniforms there.  
2 I heard both sides of the kids getting on the bus. They  
3 preferred not to wear the uniforms. They said they were  
4 never going to get on the bus with the uniforms, they got on  
5 the bus with a uniform. They might not have been perfectly  
6 dressed when they got on the bus, but when they got to the  
7 school, they had about five minutes to tuck it in, belt it  
8 and get it up to their waist. They had teachers waiting at  
9 the bus door, and if you weren't wearing it properly, you  
10 went straight to the office and your parents (indiscernible)  
11 because your parent is the one that's supposed to know what  
12 you're wearing when you walk out the door. I'm not sure how  
13 this will go. I really do, like I said, hope that we have  
14 uniforms. But either way, I'm going to be the very first one  
15 (indiscernible) uniform as a mail carrier in the district or  
16 the last one to wear a uniform because I (indiscernible) for  
17 this district. (Indiscernible) I have pride. My boss told  
18 me it signifies who you are working for and that you can be  
19 proud of it and I've been proud of just wearing this polo  
20 shirt for the last four or five years. And when I walk in,  
21 I'm proud to say that I am from Winslow Township and I'm here  
22 to help them. Thank you.

23 MS. BOYLE: Shawnique Waters.

24 MS. WATERS: I just want to say (indiscernible) a  
25 lot of pros and cons. I'm (indiscernible) but I just have a

1 few questions for the Board and how we would afford all  
2 (indiscernible)? (Indiscernible.) As you absorb this  
3 information, I just wanted to know what the outcome really  
4 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) I hear a lot  
5 (indiscernible) for the best interest of our children what  
6 they really want at the end of the day. And I'm  
7 (indiscernible) introduction for why you're implementing this  
8 policy is to -- you know, you want to promote good behavior.  
9 You talk about improving self respect, self-esteem and  
10 (indiscernible). Well, where did all of that come from? It  
11 starts with us and I always (indiscernible) for a reason,  
12 right. We cannot (indiscernible) so to me, what's going to  
13 happen after this? We have year, 2014, right. We want to  
14 implement this in 2014, correct? Well, why can't we do it on  
15 our own. Help the children with good behavior, self respect,  
16 promote (indiscernible). Why can't we do this -- I don't  
17 think that uniforms are going to change it. (Indiscernible),  
18 you know, the kids that are (indiscernible) of way they don't  
19 have any (indiscernible) certain things. You know,  
20 (indiscernible) have a uniform (indiscernible). But to be  
21 honest with you as a community, when we come together and  
22 start sending our message out and after this meeting, I'll be  
23 the first person to (indiscernible) for parents to get  
24 together. We can create some kind of (indiscernible) that  
25 helps parents save money (indiscernible). We can have some



1 (indiscernible), you know what, the kids want their  
2 (indiscernible) certain kind of way (indiscernible). We can  
3 save money. Why not (indiscernible) and that helps with the  
4 (indiscernible). But honestly, good behavior, self respect,  
5 self-esteem (indiscernible). It starts with the parents, the  
6 community and everybody else who (indiscernible). I'm being  
7 honest with you. I don't think that uniforms are going to  
8 solve this problem and I really commend, you know, the  
9 (indiscernible) superintendent that has started this new way  
10 and change in the (indiscernible) Winslow and people already  
11 started changing the image of Winslow. Let's help to  
12 continue that. Uniforms are not going to change that.  
13 (Indiscernible) I honestly don't think -- I don't think it's  
14 going to change anything. I could be wrong, but, you know, I  
15 hear the students speaking out and that's what keeps  
16 (indiscernible) speaking right now. Because the students  
17 have said we don't want this. (Indiscernible) wants the  
18 uniforms on, (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) they're going  
19 to find a way to say this is my (indiscernible), right.  
20 Right. (Indiscernible) themselves, right. (Indiscernible)  
21 we can. I was hoping that (indiscernible). Let's continue  
22 what the superintendent started. (Indiscernible) and  
23 honestly if we want to tag Winslow with a uniform later once  
24 we (indiscernible) then we branded ourselves with a good way  
25 of doing things, right. And that's all I have to say.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That concludes the speakers  
2 who have signed up for this.

3 (End of public comments.)  
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5

6 CERTIFICATE

7 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
8 from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the  
9 above-entitled matter.  
10

11 */s/April J. Foga*

October 31, 2013

12 April J. Foga, CET, CCR, CRCR  
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