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REPLACEMENT SCHOOL PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTHWEST TRAINING AREA
2ND FLOOR, ROOM 271
1011 INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD, NW, SUITE 335
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87104

LAGUNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 3, 2016
10:30 A.M.

LAGUNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JIM HOOPER JR.
VALERIA SIOW
VIRGIL SIOW
MIKE CHAMBERS
E. DAVID ATENCIO

1 MR. ESKEETS: Good morning again. We went
2 through one presentation this morning, so right now we have
3 Laguna up, and I know they are chomping at the bit. I know
4 Dr. Atencio is. And this is for information. There are
5 people in the audience in the back, I think there is BIE
6 representation and Navajo representation, so just so you're
7 aware.

8 So here is some ground rules, first of all I want
9 to introduce myself again. My name is Emerson Eskeets. I
10 know a lot of you know me, but I'm Emerson Eskeets. I'm
11 the chief of the division of facilities management and
12 construction. In the audience we also have a
13 representative from the assistant secretary, secretary of
14 AS-IA -- I will say -- stumble over my own syllables here.
15 Cheryl is here, and I also have my director from the office
16 of facilities and safety management, Mr. LaRoche, and
17 deputy director somewhere, he disappeared, Wallace Keays.
18 So welcome again.

19 Here is some ground rules. We all know the
20 presentation is for 30 minutes, followed by a 20-minute
21 question and answer session, so just be prepared for the
22 question and answer session for 20 minutes. There will be
23 more emphasis on those three questions that you should be
24 very well aware of.

25 And then the only media we're allowed here is the

1 transcriber, so please refrain from recordings or taking
2 all of your little cameras and taking photos and things of
3 that nature. Put your cell phones on vibration.

4 And now that we have an audience in the back,
5 here is the ground rules for that. The dialogue will only
6 be between the presenters and the NRC, the National Review
7 Committee members, and they have limited time, so we ask if
8 the audience has questions, there is a little black box
9 with some paper and maybe writing instrument, so if you
10 would kindly write down your question and give it to me at
11 the end of the session, or e-mail it to me at
12 emerson.eskeet.bia.gov, that would be good. If you give me
13 questions, I will be giving it to the review committee for
14 their review and consideration. With that said, welcome
15 again. And here is Barbara.

16 MS. BORGESON: Thank you, Emerson. Good morning
17 everyone. As Emerson mentioned, we have Laguna presenting
18 for the next presentation, and just a reminder to put your
19 phones on vibrate if you have a phone on so that we can
20 give our full attention to the presenters.

21 And so now I will turn it over to Laguna.

22 MR. ATENCIO: Good morning. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to present. I think you have heard that how
24 many times now? We really appreciate it. It's an
25 opportunity for us to confirm and reintroduce the panel to

1 the original application. My name is David Atencio,
2 superintendent for the Laguna Department of Education.
3 With us is our executive director of operations, Michael
4 Chambers, our Honorable Governor Virgil Siow, our president
5 of our board of education for the past month has been Ms.
6 Valeria Siow and then the Pueblo of Laguna chief operating
7 officer, Mr. Jim Hooper.

8 So I did notice that we had some representation
9 from our BIE office here, Mr. Sova and Reanna. We have our
10 executive director of education here and our director of
11 facilities management. I was wondering why Mr. Sova was
12 here. I think he is here to make sure I don't defame him.
13 So we are really grateful for the opportunity.

14 It feels a little bit surreal because, as I was
15 mentioning to you, one of the panelists, I have been to
16 beauty contests, and this feels like an ugly contest,
17 almost. Everybody is trying to let you know, we are the
18 worst.

19 We want to let you know that education is a
20 vibrant and strong in Laguna. Our facility, however, is in
21 dire need of repair. As you have already vetted that
22 process and put us into the top ten, you are well aware of
23 that. Our focus will be on bringing to you information
24 that wasn't involved in the original application and trying
25 to highlight some of those things. Again we thank you for

1 that.

2 I would like to hand it over to Governor Siow to
3 give a greeting from the pueblo and make his comments.

4 Governor.

5 GOVERNOR SIOW: (Presenting in native language.)
6 My name is Virgil Siow. I'm the governor for the Pueblo of
7 Laguna. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the
8 panel for allowing us to come in and present on Laguna
9 Elementary School. As you are well aware the school is
10 dilapidated, it's outdated, and we are in need of repair.
11 We have -- we -- there at the Pueblo of Laguna education is
12 one of our top priorities. This is demonstrated by the
13 Pueblo of Laguna Council in authorizing, at least for our
14 school, construction and operation in the early 1960s and
15 the eventual opening of a BIA operated Laguna consolidated
16 school which was the Laguna Elementary School in 1963.
17 This was the school opened at that time.

18 There were several amendments over time to the
19 original lease to allow for expansion and continued
20 improvements for the school operation. In 1981 the pueblo
21 council adopted Resolution 37-81 setting aside additional
22 Laguna land to allow for the development and future
23 construction of the Laguna Middle School.

24 In 1992 the pueblo council adopted resolution
25 33-92 and 70-92, adopting the charter of the Laguna Board

1 of Education and establishing the Department of Education.
2 The intent was to authorize the Laguna Department of
3 Education to oversee all educational programs on behalf of
4 the pueblo.

5 The BIA provided funding for the Laguna Middle
6 School and the school opened in the mid 1990s and became a
7 public law 100-297 grant school. During that same time
8 frame the Laguna Elementary School was also converted to a
9 public law 100-297 grant school.

10 In 2011, the pueblo council adopted resolution
11 18-11 authorizing a new lease for the Laguna middle -- new
12 compound of approximately 103 acres. The resolution also
13 authorized a new elementary school and any other future
14 additional facilities to be constructed within the new
15 leased area.

16 And then in 2007 the pueblo officially sanctioned
17 an education priority team to allow for greater focus and
18 efforts to be applied to the broad responsibility of
19 educating our children. This team is still in existence
20 today and has recently been authorized and funded by the
21 pueblo council in 2015 to begin to initiate the Laguna
22 language revitalization program.

23 And in regard to reaffirmation of the Laguna's
24 commitment to education, the Laguna Department of Education
25 recently presented the opportunity for the new Laguna

1 Elementary School via the application process to the pueblo
2 council, LVOE asked the council reaffirm the commitment in
3 support of the efforts of the LVOE to acquire funding for
4 the new Laguna Elementary School and for this new school to
5 be constructed within the current leased compound where the
6 Laguna Middle School.

7 On January 22, 2016 the council adopted
8 resolution 03-16 reaffirming its approval and support for
9 the Laguna Department of Education's effort to secure
10 funding for a new Laguna Elementary School to be
11 constructed within the current leased area of the Laguna
12 Middle School.

13 As you can see, the Pueblo of Laguna Council does
14 support the education as the number one priority there at
15 the pueblo, and we are asking that the panel support us in
16 getting our funding for a new school.

17 So I will turn it back over to Mr. Atencio for
18 further presentation.

19 MR. ATENCIO: As you probably know, you have all
20 done presentations in front of panels, it's a lot of
21 pressure, and we hope we don't let you down, but we hope we
22 don't let the students down in conveying the need for this
23 facility.

24 Speaking of letting down, I was speaking with
25 Emerson earlier, and he told me he is going to be rooting

1 for the Denver Broncos.

2 And he said, "No, I'm really serious. It's my
3 favorite team. In fact, when I die I have asked for them
4 to be pallbearers at my funeral."

5 And I said, "Why?"

6 And he said, "Because I want them to let me down
7 one last time."

8 Well, we hope -- we hope we don't let you down
9 with our presentation. And if you can not include that in
10 the minutes, that would be fine.

11 Less than ten months ago the house of
12 representatives appropriations subcommittee received
13 testimony that indicated in the FMIS system that the Laguna
14 Elementary School was the Number 3 ranked school -- okay,
15 if we are going to be in the ugly contest, we are the third
16 ugliest on this list.

17 There is a replacement cost at that time of
18 12.3 million, and the estimated construction was 17.8. And
19 by the way, we do have handouts that you will have all of
20 this at your disposal that we will give you at the end of
21 this.

22 Currently the deferred maintenance is
23 13.3 million, and because of the declining enrollment we
24 have had estimates done where we believe construction won't
25 be the 17 million, but based on the Beaumont standards, we

1 are probably going to be closer to 15 million.

2 The existing facility, one of the requirements or
3 one of the things that the outline asked us to address was
4 the fact that the facility has no representation of the
5 Laguna way of life whatsoever. What it does reflect is the
6 1960s US culture and the 1960s construction of that time.
7 Minimal design, minimal materials that are used. Again, if
8 you look at this, none of that says Laguna, but it does --
9 to me, honestly when I first saw it, and I'm in my third
10 year, going to begin my fourth year there, it almost looks
11 like an institutional facility, and in the 60s that's what
12 they were building.

13 The -- the facility, and believe me when I say we
14 have thousands of pictures, we have thousands of pages of
15 documents, and we have tried to whittle it down, but this
16 one picture really, really describes what happened. The
17 original construction was in 1962. In the 80s, the BIA
18 attempted to mitigate some foundation issues by installing
19 I-beams to hold the walls together.

20 Again, we have hundreds of pictures throughout
21 the entire campus that show the issues with the foundation.
22 But if you look, even with I-beams in place to hold the
23 walls up, you can see the deterioration continues
24 throughout the whole facility.

25 In 2007 when the BIA came out and reevaluated, it

1 was actually -- the facility was condemned for a short
2 while. I can't reiterate the damage that that did to the
3 community and the reputation of the school. And we will
4 show you some evidence based on student enrollment what
5 that did.

6 When you try to provide the most beneficial
7 environment for your children, it's hard to tell community
8 members that this is the best place when they can clearly
9 see that it isn't.

10 The BIA I think at that time put in about
11 \$600,000 to do the reinforcement, but again, it held the
12 building together, and it didn't address any of the issues.
13 We just completed, on January 19th, once we knew that we
14 had been moved into the top ten, we employed Greer Stafford
15 architects. Greer Stafford is known throughout the state
16 of New Mexico. They do most of the master planning for the
17 state schools, and we wanted to get that prospective. We
18 wanted them to do an independent study, an independent
19 review so that we could compare that to the BIA's
20 assessments.

21 What we found was their assessment aligned
22 perfectly in almost the exact numbers on the deferred and
23 almost the exact numbers on the construction costs. With
24 regard to the facility -- and I'm sure those of you that
25 are used to working in construction have seen sites like

1 this -- this is a clay pipe. Those are roots coming out.
2 I don't know what happened to our maintenance guy, if he
3 dropped his pliers and passed out, but it's not there to
4 show you we have pliers, it's to show you the condition of
5 the facilities.

6 What you are going to hear today is there is
7 really a dichotomy between what the pueblo has in place
8 really around the compound that we are proposing the pueblo
9 has already leased, they have spent about \$32 million, give
10 or take, in infrastructure improvements, electrical, water,
11 internet, sewer, all of that has been upgraded.

12 What we found, though, is that our students'
13 quality of life in their homes are really, really, really
14 well taken care of. Their quality of life is very good.
15 As soon as they step onto Laguna Elementary campus, their
16 quality of life drops significantly. That's a big issue.

17 One of the matters that -- one of the evidences
18 that we have had, we have done lots of surveys, and parents
19 are saying, "Why would I send my child there when I could
20 send them to Grants Cibola County Schools?"

21 Grants Cibola County Schools have gone through a
22 partnership with the New Mexico Department of Education and
23 New Mexico legislature to build a new elementary and to
24 upgrade all of their other facilities. Coincidentally that
25 new elementary opened up the same time that the building

1 was condemned and so it started the migration.

2 Again, the community has not really recovered
3 from that. Our electrical systems are old. The -- they
4 are original, in fact, 54 years old. The transformers are
5 the same. In our crawl spaces we have -- we have had some,
6 some new piping replaced, but -- and you will have a copy
7 of the actual report, they actually came out and did a
8 report. Whenever we have issues, we can't send anybody
9 under there because the issues in this report, along with
10 the BIA's assessment, there are asbestos chunks in -- not
11 only in the soil, but, as you can see, out here.

12 The electrical -- and I love this because I'm --
13 I'm a homegrown electrician on my own -- this is -- really
14 we tried to get one picture that would demonstrate really
15 the whole picture. What really gets me is that this
16 demonstrates in every one of our classrooms we have to have
17 portable heaters. It's just insufficient. And that has to
18 do with the insulation and everything else that goes along
19 with that.

20 But what really gets me is the conduit outside
21 and the tape holding up the conduit. It's a great
22 representation of the state of our electrical system.

23 Our systems are well beyond their life
24 expectancy. You will receive a report. I mentioned the
25 January 19th report that we just had the assessment done.

1 Every one -- in the package that you will receive, every
2 one of the buildings has a complete assessment as of a few
3 weeks ago, and it will tell you what the expected life span
4 is, the actual life span, the installation year, and it
5 will also give you -- it says replacement year, but really
6 that's the year that any of the systems were worked on. If
7 you will note, almost 100 percent of them are past their
8 life. And again you will get a copy of this for every
9 single facility.

10 I won't read this to you because you all can
11 read. And I am dyslexic, so I may read something
12 backwards, too, but these are the systems that not only BIE
13 and BIA have identified as past their life, this has also
14 been confirmed in the most recent -- most recent report.

15 Additionally in that report you will see that the
16 site systems are also outdated, athletic fields, fencing,
17 landscaping, parking lot, site lending -- site lighting,
18 site utilities and walkways, you will also see the ADA
19 issues that are going to be evidenced there.

20 At this point I would like to hand it over to our
21 executive director of operations, Mr. Mike Chambers, and he
22 is going to address what we have identified as the number
23 one most urgent need and something that we, the facility,
24 does not allow us to address, no matter how much money we
25 put into that, and that is the safety. Mr. Chambers.

1 MR. CHAMBERS: I knew this was going to happen,
2 if I let him speak first, he was going to take all the time
3 and leave me a few scraps left over, but that's how public
4 school superintendents roll which we have been doing for
5 many years.

6 One of the things that I want to address just
7 very briefly is an issue that's near and dear to all of our
8 hearts. In 1963 when Laguna Elementary School was put into
9 service, it was built at a time when we did not have to
10 worry about people coming onto our school campus and trying
11 to do harm to our kids. That's the reality.

12 The last ten years have shown us that we are
13 facing some serious security and safety issues with our
14 kids that we simply cannot address with this facility. The
15 National Council for School Climate, National Crime
16 Prevention Council identified some very real concerns
17 relating to school safety and security, for example, having
18 a single point of entry for visitors, being able to screen
19 visitors and require them to have ID tags, monitoring entry
20 into the school from a single point, and reducing the
21 number of secondary entries around the perimeter of the
22 buildings and classrooms.

23 As you can see, this slide shows that Laguna
24 Elementary School is open literally on all four sides.
25 Laguna Elementary is about a -- about a couple hundred

1 yards from Route 66 and about a quarter of a mile from
2 I-40.

3 Obviously that causes us concerns in terms of
4 being able to identify who is coming onto our school and
5 who is coming onto our site. It's even located within a
6 fairly residential area, but as I indicated, the school is
7 open literally on all four sides, so it's very difficult to
8 control those things, and we cannot, as is recommended by
9 the national council, accurately identify who is on our
10 campus at any given time.

11 This screen here shows the view as you come into
12 the facility. You will note there is no fencing. This is
13 the north side of the facility, again, open all the way
14 back, access on all sides.

15 The next picture shows the west side of the
16 building which shows an access road that has to be there
17 from -- for maintenance reasons and also because it's an
18 easement. But again, these are classrooms, as you can see.
19 The actual office and main parking area is about 200 yards
20 away on the other side of the campus.

21 These are the corridors between the classrooms.
22 And as you look down you can see that you cannot in any
23 way, shape, or form monitor those hallways or corridors.
24 They are covered, which connects the buildings, but even
25 with security systems, and ours is -- we do have a security

1 system, it's just not adequate at this point in time.

2 And then the last slide is another example of the
3 corridors of the classrooms. So the biggest fear that we
4 face today in schools is, god forbid, that we would have
5 some type of active shooter situation, and I think that
6 causes us the greatest concerns.

7 These classrooms constructed in 1962 along these
8 corridors have doors on each side of the classroom. They
9 also have windows completely on both sides of the
10 classroom. So as you know, we have been required by the
11 BIE to develop site safety plans and to develop emergency
12 evacuation plans, and we have looked at all of the
13 requirements under both the homeland security, but also the
14 BIE Safe and Secure Schools Manual, and we have developed a
15 plan.

16 The problem is, we can't really do what we need
17 to do. As all of you know there are certain things that
18 have to happen in a code red or lockdown situation should
19 that actually occur. One of the things that you need to do
20 is make immediate notification. We have a P.A. system that
21 is outdated. It is not in any way, shape, or form -- it
22 doesn't go out to the play areas. The restrooms are
23 anywhere from 50 feet to 150 feet away from the classrooms,
24 so you are going to have kids potentially outside on the
25 way to the restrooms. The other support areas including

1 the cafeteria, the gym, the computer labs are well away
2 from all of these classrooms. So one of the things that
3 you do is, after notification, of course you would
4 immediately try to get your kids into the center of the
5 room away from the doors and windows. Lock your doors.
6 Our doors have manual key locks, and so they have to go
7 outside not only one door, but two doors to make sure they
8 are locked, which puts our staff in danger. There is no
9 possible way to keep kids away from doors and windows in
10 these classrooms.

11 So that is a serious concern for us. It is
12 something that we have identified and we hear about a lot
13 from our parents. Every time there is another issue
14 related to that, it's something that comes up a lot, and
15 every time we have another incident, it brings it to the
16 level again.

17 So I would like at this time to turn it back to
18 Mr. Atencio for some closing remarks.

19 MR. ATENCIO: Thank you, Mr. Chambers. I
20 mentioned earlier that the BIA had condemned the facility
21 and that we have been tracking students since -- since that
22 time, and I'm going to ask you to -- the lettering didn't
23 translate over to the slide, but you have a clean slide.

24 Please notice what has happened since 2007 when
25 that condemnation happened. It was removed, but what do

1 people remember? It's not safe, it's not safe, it's not
2 safe.

3 In fact, our director of student services said,
4 "Mr. Atencio, you won't believe what we went through at
5 that time. We had kids in the offices crying because they
6 didn't want their little brothers and sisters to have the
7 building fall on them when they were eating lunch. We had
8 parents, we had teachers, massive amounts of counseling.
9 It was a very, very, very traumatic event that happened as
10 a result of that."

11 Notice what has happened over the few years.
12 This is not due to an increase in student population in the
13 Pueblo of Laguna; that population that has remained
14 relatively stable, but since 07 you can see what's
15 happened. And this is the new school that Grants Cibola
16 County opened. This is a renovated school, more than
17 doubling since 2007, and this is Laguna Acoma Middle
18 School, and if you notice, it pretty much tracks where the
19 students have gone.

20 The Laguna Department of Education has been
21 proactive in working with the pueblo to define a site.
22 Right now the site is determined to be 15.1 acres. All of
23 that was conducted with community input, lots and lots of
24 community input. Lot of buy-in.

25 We want to let you know that Laguna Department of

1 Education has already completed Phase 1 of the BIA's
2 manual. This is the first page -- do you have that that
3 you can hold up, the white notebook. We didn't want to
4 provide copies to you, but if you would like to see all the
5 reports, these are the reports that have been done. The ed
6 spec has been done, the program of requirements,
7 archeological survey, geotech support, the land lease has
8 been secured, topographic and boundary surveys. We are at
9 Phase 2. We are ready for design. We are ready to move
10 forward. We are ready to make it happen with your
11 blessing.

12 With that, we would be happy to answer questions.
13 We understand that the committee wanted us to respond to
14 Questions 1, 2, and 3.

15 With your permission, I would like to ask our
16 board president, Ms. Valerie Siow, to really address
17 Question 2, and then with your permission, we'll address
18 Questions 1 and 3 combined because they are pretty much
19 related, as we understand that. So, Ms. Siow.

20 MS. SIOW: (Presenting in native language.) Good
21 morning, my name is Valerie Siow. I am here on behalf of
22 Laguna Department of Education school board. I currently
23 became the school board president -- and let me backtrack a
24 second. I am from the Pueblo of Laguna, and to give you a
25 little of my background because I actually was a student

1 who attended Laguna Elementary School many years ago.

2 So I am a product of our Laguna school system.
3 Not only did I attend LES, I also attended Laguna Middle
4 School when it first opened. And a part my undergraduate
5 degree Stanford University was funded through our
6 department of education scholarship services.

7 So although I tend to be humble, it's hard for me
8 to stand up here and give you those qualifications, but I
9 am the type of student that we hope to produce as a result
10 of Laguna school system.

11 Along with that, I also am an educator. As a
12 matter of fact, I teach across the street and been a
13 teacher for 14 years. And more importantly, I am also a
14 parent of an almost kindergartner for next school year. So
15 I am facing the complex question, do I send my child to a
16 school with deteriorating facilities, but I also think
17 about the education that our school system had provided.
18 Where else is my child going to be able to learn Keres
19 language? Where else is my child going to be able to find
20 teachers who look like him, students who can identify with
21 him, and where else is my child going to get a holistic
22 education where his cultural identity will be affirmed,
23 where he can have positive interactions and his whole self
24 is definitely validated in his education.

25 So to begin with, I want to talk a little bit

1 about Question Number 2, which asks, how do we as a school
2 hit those four areas, the spiritual, mental, physical, and
3 cultural aspects of the student.

4 To begin, we really look at our core values as
5 pueblo people. One of those core values is love. When we
6 think about the spirituality that's present in our school,
7 one of the things we do often is invite our tribal
8 leadership and our tribal officials to come and speak to
9 our students as often as they can.

10 And a part of that is for our tribal leadership
11 to emphasize those values to our students, the value of
12 education, the value of giving back to your community, the
13 value of community, and that's all shown when our tribal
14 leadership comes and shares that with our students.

15 Secondly, invocation. The practice of invocation
16 has become a main stay at our school. When we have student
17 assemblies, award assemblies, we begin those gatherings
18 with an invocation, and that's important for students to
19 understand that protocol, as indigenous people, this is the
20 way we open up a space, and that's a good connection to
21 make between home and school.

22 Secondly, when it comes to the mental well-being
23 of our students, I know Mr. Atencio did not get to share
24 our recent PARCC scores, but we were pretty pleased to take
25 a look at the data and see our students scored

1 comparatively high in the ELA math scores compared to the
2 surrounding schools in our counties, in comparison to other
3 BIE funded schools as well.

4 So in the blue are the other BIE schools, red
5 happens to be state of New Mexico schools, and Laguna
6 Elementary and Laguna Middle School are indicated in green.
7 These are the BLA scores. These are the math scores.

8 Couple of things to note, not only do we have
9 strong teachers who do a great job of integrating the
10 culture into the curriculum making those connections, but
11 we also have some real ingrained curriculum programs in
12 place.

13 One program that we offer is AVID, Advancement
14 Via Individual Determination. We are one of two schools in
15 New Mexico who offers that at the elementary level. And
16 part of that AVID program is really getting our students
17 prepared for college. It's a college readiness program.
18 Our students are immersed in the academic language and
19 really developing that mindset that will help them
20 persevere through the challenges when going to college.
21 For example, they learn note-taking strategies, they learn
22 organizational skills, all those habits that really lead to
23 success when it comes to academics.

24 Another thing to highlight is our response to
25 intervention tools. I know that's been a big topic in

1 education lately. A few years ago we started to implement
2 a reading program, learning which is technology based, so
3 students are able to, you know, work on their language
4 acquisition skills and work -- we are really starting to
5 see the payoff in implementing a program like with our ELE
6 scores that have been implemented.

7 When it comes to physical education, a couple of
8 things to highlight. We have a full-time PE instructor.
9 We also have partners, like the Notah Begay Foundation to
10 provide opportunities like golf to our students, even
11 though most don't have access to that type of activity out
12 in the reservation. And we also provide actual
13 opportunities like basketball, cross-country for our
14 students to participate in.

15 And lastly, when it comes to culture we are very
16 fortunate that we have a Laguna Keres instructor who
17 teaches our students all the way from kinder to 8th grade.
18 The benefit of that is the fact that the teacher is able to
19 scaffold the curriculum in a way to build off of each year
20 as they get into upper grades, and they are also able to
21 identify benchmarks and outcomes of being a teacher of that
22 particular class.

23 There is definitely no doubt that our offerings
24 when it comes to looking at the whole entire aspect of the
25 students could be optimized with a new facility. Looking

1 forward to spirituality, I think it's really important
2 that, if we are going to have a new facility we identify a
3 sacred place where students are able to take time for
4 reflection, to take time to rest. I think we definitely do
5 a better job of providing that class set for our students.

6 When it comes to physical, I think there is a lot
7 to be said there. We definitely want to provide more
8 garden spaces. We want to look at also providing a
9 landscape that is also conducive to some of our sacred
10 spaces such as the landscape where you can see that sitting
11 from the classroom and feel that connection as well.

12 And also last but not least, one thing that is
13 really essential to our pueblo way of life is this idea of
14 -- if you go to any of the public meetings you will see
15 that the central plaza areas are big, a spot where our
16 ceremonies and dances take place, so that's a big gathering
17 spot for our community, and that's something we don't have
18 currently in place at Laguna Elementary School.

19 Looking towards the future, should we be lucky to
20 get a new facility, that would be one thing we would
21 definitely incorporate is to have a central area. When you
22 look at the design of Laguna Elementary School currently,
23 there is no central location aside from the gym where our
24 students and staff can come together daily. But if we were
25 to have a central plaza, that would be a gathering space

1 for teachers, for students, and you can only imagine the
2 conversations that would take place in there. We have
3 teachers talking to one another about students' concerns,
4 about meeting students' needs, or you have the intermediate
5 students who are role modeling for the younger primary
6 students. So we definitely think those are some things to
7 consider as well.

8 Last but not least, I just want to mention one
9 thing as well, as Governor Siow had mentioned, our
10 education team, I spoke to some language revitalization
11 effort. In going forward, with the many years that we
12 have, when we look at the number of students who are
13 attending our surrounding Grants County Cibola schools, it
14 worries me as a community member because where else are
15 they going to be able to get Keres language instruction,
16 where else are they going to be able to have community-
17 based effort if not within our own pueblo.

18 We recognize that academic, that success is not
19 just in western education terms, but success is also in
20 terms of developing young pueblo leaders, young pueblo
21 caretakers who will some day come back and return to the
22 pueblo and serve. So I worry about the exodus of so many
23 of our students going to other schools and worry if they
24 are going to be able to get that type of education that
25 they can find here at our campus.

1 I will give it back to David.

2 MR. ATENCIO: Thank you. I'm happy to stand for
3 questions. She is very humble, but I told her -- I
4 implored her to please let people know. It's not often our
5 school systems are producing graduates from Stanford, and
6 our system actually has students in 64 colleges around the
7 world, and they all started at the Laguna Elementary
8 School.

9 So Ms. Borgeson, I'm happy to stand for
10 questions. I cannot emphasize enough, we are ready to go.
11 We have done the reports. We are just waiting for the go
12 ahead. And again, thank you so much -- and go Broncos.

13 MS. BORGESON: I think your presentation has
14 covered the three questions. You just covered the second
15 question very well about how does your school support the
16 mission of the BIE, and during your presentation, you
17 discussed the 18-month time frame for land availability,
18 utilities, geotech surveys, and NEPA.

19 The third question is how does the current
20 condition affect your ability to run a day-to-day education
21 program? Items to address include power outages, lack of
22 internet access, adequate water, and utility systems. And
23 you covered this on your presentation, but I wanted to know
24 if you wanted to add to that.

25 MR. ATENCIO: I'm going to defer to the chief

1 operating officer from the Pueblo of Laguna. It is almost
2 like going back in time for our students. We pick them up
3 in a vibrant quality-of-life situation, and when we drop
4 them off they are thrust back 54 years. We are constantly
5 having to move rooms for HVAC reasons. The current IT is
6 based on old wiring. I have heard you -- I have heard the
7 presentations before. You have heard all of that. The
8 difference is, the pueblo has everything ready to go.

9 The campus, though, is where its lacking. It
10 inhibits us from moving forward and really taking our
11 students to that next level.

12 So I will hand it over to Mr. Jim Hooper.

13 MR. HOOPER: Good morning. I think Mr. Atencio
14 covered everything. The pueblo has made extensive
15 investments in infrastructure in and around the area where
16 the school is located, and we have just not been able to
17 get sufficient funding to improve all the different aspects
18 of Laguna Elementary School on the school side.

19 All the infrastructure exists, the utility
20 assessments are being conducted, a new school is ready to
21 go. We won't have any offsite utility needs, so Atencio
22 addressed it, the quality of life outside of the school
23 campus has been improved significantly, and we need to work
24 on what's inside the campus area. Thank you.

25 MS. BORGESON: Do we have follow-up questions

1 from the committee on this presentation?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. ATENCIO: Is it because we said go Broncos?

4 MS. BORGESON: Well, we've got seven minutes left
5 in this portion of the Q and A if you would like to add
6 something to the questions of --

7 MR. ATENCIO: I want to leave on a positive note.
8 The students and the staff have kept one thing central, and
9 that is learning -- not even teaching, but it's learning.
10 Because we all go to classrooms and we all teach. When I
11 was a band director, I would go and I would really teach,
12 and then I would leave, and then we would do a performance
13 and it was horrible. And then I realized, I can teach all
14 day long, but it's the learning that has to take place.

15 When I changed my mindset, our kids started not
16 only winning everything, but they knew what they were
17 doing, and our -- our students and teachers have kept that
18 number one focus, regardless of -- regardless of the
19 facility, regardless of the safety factors, regardless of
20 the -- I don't know if you saw the 1960s pink restroom that
21 was set up there, really, it's been converted to a storage
22 unit. You saw the part that didn't have storage in it
23 because it's not functional.

24 What you are being handed out right now is more
25 information on the presentation that we just made. I would

1 implore you to please read, take five minutes in your
2 deliberation and please read the intro and it will outline
3 the exhibits. If you need 2 or 300 more pictures, we've
4 got those. We tried to narrow it down because I think you
5 have seen enough pictures today and you'll see more.

6 Every facility is deserving. We hope we haven't
7 let you down like the Broncos are going to do for
8 Mr. Eskeets. And we have really conveyed the information
9 you have asked us to convey, and that is information that
10 wasn't considered in the application. Mr. Chambers.

11 MR. CHAMBERS: Just one last thing, the other
12 paper that you were given is a synopsis of the comments
13 that Ms. Siow made relative to the culture because we
14 really didn't have a whole lot of time to go into that, but
15 really have put a lot of thought into that process because
16 it's extremely important for our community and students.
17 So I wanted to provide that paper as well. That gives a
18 little more information on that.

19 MR. ATENCIO: With that we will conclude unless
20 there are some questions.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. ATENCIO: And I am a Packers fan, so anything
23 you want to ask me about -- not Brett Farve anymore.

24 MS. BORGESON: Well, if there are no further
25 questions or comments from the committee, we all would like

1 to thank Laguna, the Laguna team for their presentation
2 today. Thank you for coming in and giving us a thorough
3 picture of your school. Thank you very much.

4 MR. ATENCIO: Thank you all.

5 MS. BORGESON: Now, if you look at your agenda
6 that we have for this gathering, our next presentation is
7 scheduled for 1 o'clock here, and that will be the
8 Lukachukai Boarding School. So that's at 1 o'clock today
9 in this room. Thank you.

10 (Laguna presentation concluded.)

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I, IRENE DELGADO, Court Reporter for the State of New Mexico, hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceeding, and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenographic notes and were reduced to typewritten transcript through Computer-Aided Transcription; and that on the date I reported these proceedings, I was a New Mexico Certified Court Reporter. Dated at Albuquerque, New Mexico, this February 2, 2016.

IRENE DELGADO
New Mexico CCR No. 253
Expires: 12-31-2016