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MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING

Held on: August 31, 2020

Commenced: 9:00 a.m.

Concluded: 11:01 a.m.

Reported by: Doreen M. Mannino

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Good morning, everybody. I've got 9:00. I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. Because we're doing this virtual format, just to make sure we know who is here and who is not, I'm going to ask Jennifer Miller from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to do a roll call of all the Commission members. Jennifer, if you would, go ahead and do that.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Good morning. Sheriff Ashley.

SHERIFF ASHLEY: Here.

MS. MILLER: Commissioner Bartlett.

COMMISSIONER BARTLETT: Here.

MS. MILLER: Senator Book.

SENATOR BOOK: Good morning, everyone.

MS. MILLER: Commissioner Carrol. I think you're muted. We can see you.

Okay. Commissioner Dodd.

COMMISSIONER DODD: Here.

MS. MILLER: Commissioner Harpring.

COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Here.

MS. MILLER: Sheriff Judd.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sheriff Judd is going

1 to be late.

2 MS. MILLER: Okay. Commissioner
3 Larkin-Skinner.

4 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: Good morning.
5 Eye here.

6 MS. MILLER: Good morning. Commissioner
7 Nelson.

8 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Here.

9 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Petty.

10 COMMISSIONER PETTY: I'm here.

11 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Powers.

12 COMMISSIONER POWERS: Here.

13 MS. MILLER: Commission Schachter.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Here.

15 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Stewart.

16 COMMISSIONER STEWART: Here.

17 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Swearingen won't be
18 here today.

19 Commissioner Lystad, I see you up there.

20 Sheriff Gualtieri is here.

21 Secretary Marstiller.

22 SECRETARY MARSTILLER: Here.

23 MS. MILLER: Secretary Mayhew.

24 SECRETARY MAYHEW: Here.

25 MS. MILLER: Mr. Oliva.

1 MR. OLIVA: I'm here. Thank you.

2 MS. MILLER: Secretary Poppell.

3 MS. BABCOCK: Hi, this is Patty Babcock. I'm
4 sitting in for Secretary Poppell.

5 MS. MILLER: Okay. We're good to go,
6 Sheriff.

7 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Thank you,
8 Jennifer. I appreciate that.

9 Good morning, everybody. It's good to back
10 together again albeit in a different format. As
11 we know we've had to cancel a couple of in-person
12 meetings because of the situation we're in with
13 COVID. But we thought that there is some
14 Commission business that we need to take care of.
15 And I thought it would be good to have a meeting
16 to discuss kind of where we've been, where we are,
17 where we're we going. I would characterize this
18 as more of an administrative type meeting, kind of
19 an overview. I don't intend to get deep into any
20 specific topics other than we are going to as you
21 can see from the agenda have an update from
22 Director Damien Kelly for the Office of Safe
23 Schools as to where they are and what's happened
24 and changed in the Office of Safe Schools and how
25 they are operating in the COVID environment. So

1 that's kind of the plan for this morning. And
2 then we'll talk about where we go from here.

3 Before we get into the briefing from Director
4 Kelly, we do have some meeting minutes that were
5 sent to everyone from our October 31st, 2019
6 meeting. You should have received those and had
7 an opportunity to review them.

8 So do we have a motion to approve the minutes
9 from the October 2019 meeting? Somebody can just
10 either speak up and/or raise your hand. It's
11 helpful sometimes if we see a hand go up, too. Do
12 we have a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: So moved.

14 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner
15 Harpring moves. Do we have a second?

16 COMMISSIONER DODD: Second.

17 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner Dodd
18 is a second. Any discussion? All in favor aye.

19 (Chorus of Ayes.)

20 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: The motion carries.
21 Those minutes are approved from October 31st.

22 I'm going to ask Director Kelly to give us an
23 update on the Office of Safe Schools and from his
24 perspective where the schools are in Florida,
25 where the districts are while operating in the

1 COVID environment. Some of the districts went
2 back a couple of weeks ago. Some went back a week
3 ago. Some, I believe, are yet to go back
4 in-person. It is really a hybrid. Before I turn
5 it over there's things that have come up. I just
6 want to cover it here. There's been a lot of
7 questions. But before I turn it over to Director
8 Kelly, I just want to tell you where things are
9 regarding the Guardian Program and Guardian
10 funding because there's been a lot of questions
11 about it. As you all know and remember, in Senate
12 Bill 7026 is is the legislature allocated
13 nonrecurring state funding \$67,000,000 for the
14 Guardian Program. I think we all know the history
15 from 2018 and the back and forth of what happened.
16 It was implemented in a hybrid fashion with the
17 dedicated Guardians and also in some districts
18 with the school employees. After it was
19 implemented, there was left sitting there going
20 into the (inaudible) 7026 the legislature -- I was
21 getting an echo there, but hopefully it's all
22 right now.

23 There was again nonrecurring funding. The
24 legislature rolled over that nonrecurring funding
25 from '18/'19 to '19/'20. So even though it was

1 still nonrecurring, the legislature rolled it
2 over. And that funding was imperative because it
3 was funding that was used to do all the
4 backgrounds, the psychological, the drug screens,
5 buying equipment such as guns and holsters and
6 uniforms and all those tangible things, as well as
7 paying for the cost of the training itself for
8 that basically month long academy and the cost of
9 the personnel to put on the training. So it was
10 imperative. It is imperative to the success of
11 the program.

12 As we moved into this year into 2020, and
13 there had been grant applications that had been
14 completed by the sheriffs and funds had been
15 encumbered and set aside. But because of COVID, a
16 lot of that training didn't occur and a lot of the
17 purchases weren't made is the schools rolled over
18 in session in March, April, May, et cetera. So a
19 chunk of that money was encumbered for the fiscal
20 years but it was sitting on the sidelines because
21 it wasn't being used. What I think everybody
22 anticipated was that coming into the new fiscal
23 year on July 1st of 2020, the '20/'21 fiscal year
24 for the State that that money would then again
25 rollover. Well, it didn't. And it was on the

1 Governor's veto list. And there was about 41 and ⁸
2 a half million dollars of the original 67 that was
3 still sitting there on June 30th of this year. And
4 the State took that money back and in essence
5 defunded the Guardian Program. So there was no
6 money for guardian backgrounds, drug screenings,
7 psychologicals, all the equipment and all the
8 training costs. Some agencies already had
9 training set for July and into August in
10 anticipation of school going back. And, again,
11 that money evaporated on June 30th. So what
12 Commissioner Corcoran was able to do and DOE was
13 able to do was to take some of that money that had
14 already been obligated and incumbered in the
15 previous fiscal year and allow it to continue to
16 be spent because it had already been encumbered up
17 until August 20th. So we had a meeting with all of
18 the school superintendents and the sheriffs back
19 in June and encouraged them to do as much as they
20 could before August 20th and then they have to have
21 their invoices in by tomorrow, September 1st to
22 DOE. And the idea being that we will then know.
23 And I've given the sheriffs until this Thursday to
24 give us a report on what their unfunded needs will
25 be from now through June 30th. And then we're

9
1 going to try and look for money and see if there's
2 any funding sources out there and available. If
3 not, and there is no funding sources available
4 anywhere at the State level, then it's really
5 going to fall back to the individual school
6 districts. And there are some challenges in some
7 places no doubt. And Broward is one of them, with
8 being able to do the Guardian training, buy the
9 equipment and all the things that are necessary.
10 So I don't know. I have no idea. We have new
11 presiding officers coming in in the legislature.
12 I have no idea whether there's an appetite come
13 next legislative session to again fund the
14 Guardian Program. I think that it's way too early
15 to know or to tell on that. But the immediate
16 thing that's on the table is to make sure that
17 these Guardian academies can be done and that we
18 can make sure that the person with the gun, that
19 safe school officer that's required on every
20 charter, elementary, middle, and high school
21 campus in the State of Florida and that that is
22 sustainable throughout this year. And the key to
23 that are the Guardians. So I know that, again,
24 Commissioner Corcoran is aware of it, concerned
25 about it and willing to try and work to figure out

1 if there's a way to do it. If not, I go back to
2 it's going to go back to the school districts.
3 And I'm not sure where it all plays out. But
4 we'll know more probably in the next week or so as
5 to what that deficit is. My estimate, my guess is
6 that the deficit is of unfunded requirements in
7 order to do all of the training across the State
8 is probably somewhere -- I'm guessing somewhere
9 around 5 million dollars. I'm guessing somewhere
10 in that range. Maybe a little bit more than that.
11 That's the best estimate. Again, we'll know more
12 when we get the reports in from the sheriffs at
13 the end of this week.

14 So I want to cover that before Damien gets
15 into the update from the Office of Safe Schools
16 because the Guardian Program, there is a lot of
17 questions and it's obviously key to school safety.
18 So does anybody have any questions on that before
19 I turn it over to Director Kelly?

20 Okay. Not hearing any, I'll turn it over to
21 Director Damien Kelly from DOE Office of Safe
22 Schools for an update. Director Kelly, it's all
23 yours.

24 DIRECTOR KELLY: Good Morning, Mr. Chairman,
25 Commission members. Thank you for this

1 opportunity to give you a report today on
2 everything that's been happening here at the
3 Office of Safe Schools. I did send three items to
4 be distributed to the Commission. The first one
5 is something we're extremely proud of here. And
6 that is our new Marjory Stoneman Douglas
7 Remembrance Wall. We were fortunate enough to be
8 able to get some funding to get this project
9 completed. We're very thrilled with how it turned
10 out. And the main purpose of it is so that
11 everyone who comes to our office and everybody who
12 works in this office will remember. It will be a
13 daily reminder of the importance of their work.

14 The second item that I sent was an org. chart
15 of where we are today in the Office of Safe
16 Schools. And as you can see, we've gone from a
17 team of 5 to a team of 17. And I'd like to thank
18 Commissioner Corcoran for providing those 12
19 additional positions. One of the positions that I
20 want to highlight is a contractor who is embedded
21 here with us now. Spencer Hawkins works for
22 Haystacks. And it was important to us to have
23 somebody here that could troubleshoot any
24 technical issues that people were having with the
25 FSSAT. And we're very fortunate to have him here.

1 The third item was a breakdown of our
2 regional map. We have six regions and six
3 regional staff members. One of our staff members
4 from Region 1 is actually currently deployed for a
5 year with his guard unit. And we were fortunate
6 that two of the Tallahassee based staff people
7 have stepped up and are sharing his duties. One
8 of the other things I wanted to point out on that
9 map is we listed three consortium that we have
10 across the state. And we've found that we've been
11 able to work hand-in-hand when it comes to getting
12 the message out to some of our districts. And we
13 appreciate all the help that we get from them.

14 Moving on, I want to give you a quick update
15 on where we are as far as site visits. We began
16 visiting schools once the regional staff were
17 trained back in mid-January. And from mid-January
18 to March 210 school visits were completed with
19 compliance walk-throughs by our regional staff.

20 Quick update on the most recent survey of
21 school safety specialists. Our records now show
22 we have 3,712 schools statewide. And taking care
23 of our students at these schools are 3,065 law
24 enforcement officers and 1,235 co-chair and vice
25 Guardians.

1 I'll move onto FSSAT. All of the school
2 assessments for the 2019/2020 school year were
3 completed by October. All of the school-based
4 assessments and all of the district assessments
5 were completed by November of 2019. The current
6 year's FSSAT was made available a week ahead of
7 the May 1 deadline. So schools were able to get a
8 head start on completing this years FSSAT.

9 The Statewide Threat Assessment Database
10 Workgroup, their report was due on December 31st of
11 2019, and that report was completed on time. The
12 school hired me and hired mitigation workgroup.
13 They're required report was submitted ahead of the
14 August 1st, 2020 deadline. I have provided the
15 workgroup's recommendations to Commissioner
16 Corcoran. The report summary of recommendations
17 will be delivered tomorrow to the Governor, the
18 Senate President and the Speaker of the House.
19 And I will be providing a copy of that summary to
20 the Commission.

21 Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program update. We
22 currently have 43 school districts that are
23 utilizing guardians as safe school officers
24 through a variety of means. 39 sheriff's offices
25 have been awarded funding to provide this

1 training. And of the 1,235 guardians 71 of those¹⁴
2 are security guard guardians. That number, while
3 among the topic of guardians, will increase. We
4 have not sent out a survey. The Chairman did not
5 want one sent out as of yet. But we do know, for
6 example, we visited Bay County. Myself and two of
7 our staff went over to see the guardians being
8 trained. And they're actually doubling the number
9 of guardians. They had 22 more guardians that
10 were going through training. So that number will
11 increase as we move forward. The Guardian
12 Education Program is something that we're very
13 proud of here. This was a directive that the
14 Governor sent to Commissioner Corcoran on
15 February 12th in a letter that he crafted. The
16 Office of Safe Schools developed a 28 slide
17 informational PowerPoint to provide a general
18 overview of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program
19 and address some of the myths and misconceptions
20 that the public has as to what it is, what that
21 training and expectations look like and how Coach
22 Aaron Feis Guardian support safety and security in
23 our schools and school districts. This also was a
24 directive of the Governor in that February 12th
25 letter.

1 I would like to say a special thank you to
2 Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco, Baker County
3 School Superintendant Sherrie Raulerson, and
4 Suwannee County School Safety Specialist Malcolm
5 Hines for providing video testimonials for this
6 PowerPoint.

7 Update on SESIR. We've got three sections of
8 it here. SESIR, the new rule, questions and
9 answers on the SESIR program and also SESIR
10 training. The State Board of Education approved a
11 new SESIR rule in the May 20th meeting. The rule
12 better aligns SESIR definitions for Florida
13 criminal code, firefighters reporting requirements
14 and addresses accountability for SESIR data
15 quality. This also was a directive from the
16 Governor in his February 12th letter. We also now
17 have an About SESIR Page that has been added to
18 the website. This resource addresses many of the
19 commonly asked questions regarding SESIR reporting
20 and data. This also was a directive of the
21 Governor in his February 12th letter. A total of
22 16 virtual and in-person SESIR training workshops
23 have been delivered since the rule was finalized
24 in June of this year. The SESIR Visualization
25 Tool is a new program that our IT section is

1 working on. An RFQ was released on June 20th,
2 2020 with responses due on June 26th, 2020. The
3 Department plans to launch a visualization tool
4 for school environmental safety incident reporting
5 or SESIR data. The tool will display SESIR data
6 and maps and make it easier for users to recognize
7 patterns in and derive meaning from this data. In
8 July a purchase order was issued to Urban SDK,
9 which is a Jacksonville based company for
10 providing the SESIR visualization tool. An
11 internal budget meeting took place on August 3rd of
12 2020.

13 Still under training -- we're going to move
14 over to FSSAT. Four eight-hour in-person training
15 sessions were held over the summer with school
16 safety specialists as primary audience. Within
17 the FSSAT tool there are a series of best practice
18 videos that instruct users on how to conduct an
19 assessment. The tool also includes how-to videos
20 that focus on mitigation within the tool. We are
21 currently working with the FSSAT provider to
22 produce some on demand webinars which will be
23 available early in September.

24 Next section we want to talk about with
25 training is CSTAG or the Comprehensive School

1 Threat Assessment Guidelines training. Two CSTAG
2 training sessions were offered in the spring of
3 2020. The first one was for new Office of Safe
4 School staff and district personnel from North
5 Florida and another for small rural districts that
6 needed further training.

7 As a note I would like to thank FDLE
8 Commissioner Rick Swearingen for attending the
9 first training that we had here at our building in
10 Tallahassee. It's very insightful anytime a
11 Commission member can come and speak to people
12 from our district. So thank you, Commissioner
13 Swearingen.

14 Districts from across the State have been
15 actively engaged in CSTAG training this summer.
16 Ten CSTAG workshops were delivered in the latter
17 part of August. This eight-hour training
18 reenforces effective threat assessment initiatives
19 and supports districts in their compliance
20 efforts. On the topic of threat assessments, we
21 have held two meetings with FDLE via conference
22 call to discuss threat assessment best practices.
23 And we plan to meet again in the near future.
24 This also was a directive in the Governor's
25 February 12th letter to Commissioner Corcoran.

1 School Safety Specialists training, in the
2 month of July we had three sessions, three
3 four-day sessions in Orlando for School Safety
4 Specialists. 83 School Safety Specialists and
5 colleagues were trained during the three four-day
6 sessions. Topics including active shooter
7 response, bomb threats, crisis communication,
8 mental health, pandemic planning and response in
9 the FSSAT. There was also a presentation on
10 FERPA, which was done via Zoom by Pamela Hepp from
11 Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney who, if you remember,
12 presented before this Commission in August of
13 2019.

14 Before I move on from the training I would
15 like to thank Commissioner Petty for taking his
16 time to come to the first session of our School
17 Safety Specialist Training and addressing the
18 group. I'd also like to thank Commissioner
19 Schachter for attending the second training
20 session and addressing the group, and also
21 Undersheriff Jim Harpring for taking his time to
22 go to Orlando and address the group. And,
23 finally, I'd like to thank Stand with Parkland
24 President Tony Montalto who took his own time to
25 come to Orlando and he gave a very interesting

1 presentation to the group. So thank you to
2 everybody.

3 Next section, Threat assessment reviews. As
4 required by law, the Office of Safe Schools
5 reviewed and evaluated all 75 school districts and
6 387 charter school governing board's behavioral
7 threat assessment policies and procedures by
8 August of 2020. Some governing boards have chosen
9 to adopt and align with the school districts
10 policies and procedures while others have chosen
11 to develop their own. Office of Safe Schools
12 staff will continue providing technical assistance
13 and training throughout the year to further
14 strengthen the efforts and ensure statewide
15 consistency with expectations.

16 The ITN for Alyssa's Law. The only thing
17 that I'm at liberty to say on it today is that it
18 has been approved here by leadership in our
19 building, and the ITN is scheduled to be
20 advertised today.

21 I'd like to thank Sheriff Gualtieri for
22 assigning Undersheriff Jim Harpring as a workgroup
23 member. And I'd like to thank Commissioner
24 Swearingen for assigning FDLE Assistant Special
25 Agent in Charge Annie White to be a part of the

1 workgroup to develop the ITN. And thank you to
2 Commissioner Harpring for being a part of that
3 group. This also was a directive of the Governor
4 in his February 12th letter to Commissioner
5 Corcoran.

6 Last section I want to cover is COVID. Our
7 regional staff has begun to visit our schools
8 again. They've been basically working from home
9 getting these threat assessment policies and
10 procedures reviewed. But once August 10th came and
11 schools opened, our staff began to visit schools
12 again. And they will be visiting schools
13 currently three days a week. Guidance so far has
14 been giving out during COVID. Fire drill guidance
15 on August 4th, 2020, the directive from Florida
16 Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshall
17 Jimmy Patronis outlined guidance specific to fire
18 safety drills and allowing for social distancing.
19 For emergency drills guidance on August 7th, 2020
20 a memorandum was sent out to all school district
21 superintendents and charter school leaders
22 regarding emergency drills during COVID 19.
23 Although the frequency and the number of drills
24 will not change, the memorandum reiterated the
25 need to conduct drills while offering flexibility

1 for the manner in which they are to be continued
2 while following Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention and the Florida Department of Health
4 guidelines. On August 10th I visited schools in
5 Baker County for their opening day of school with
6 Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson and Assistant
7 Superintendent School Safety Specialist David
8 Crawford. Baker schools were welcoming back
9 97% of their students coming back to brick and
10 mortar schools. It was actually a wonderful day,
11 and it was nice to see all the smiling faces on
12 students as they met their friends again and came
13 back to school. I did a follow-up with David
14 Crawford when Baker Middle School were conducting
15 their first fire drill. The school was divide
16 into three zones and evacuation was done one zone
17 at a time to one staging area at a time. Social
18 distancing was followed. Baker County Fire Chief
19 and the District's Nurse Supervisor were present,
20 and the drills went very well.

21 Additional COVID information and guidance was
22 provided to school districts stating that there
23 are no changes to the requirements for Safe School
24 Officer coverage. Many districts are planning to
25 use staged evacuations for drills. Several

1 districts are reporting to us that they are
2 restricting visitors to schools during COVID.
3 Some districts will require assigned seating on
4 school buses and in cafeterias and have focused on
5 improving the accuracy of attendance. Both help
6 with contact tracing if a student tests positive
7 for COVID.

8 And to finish I would like to thank all of
9 our school superintendents, our school safety
10 specialists for all of the work they've done to
11 improve school safety. I would like to thank this
12 Commission for all of its work to improve school
13 safety. And I'd like to thank all of our law
14 enforcement officers and guardians for keeping our
15 students and educators safe.

16 That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you, Director
18 Kelly. Commissioners, any questions for Director
19 Kelly? Commissioner Dodd and then Commissioner
20 Schachter.

21 COMMISSIONER DODD: Thank you, Damien, for
22 that report. I did have a question about Safe
23 School Funding, and I know we talked about the
24 Guardian funding. I had a question about Safe
25 School Funding. I've heard from some districts

1 that have entered into a franchise agreement with
2 Florida Virtual that they don't have those FTE
3 students. So I understand their Safe School
4 Funding will be reflected because those students
5 are no longer part of that district funding cycle.
6 So I was just kind of curious if you've heard
7 anything about that and how that looked. I know
8 in Citrus County we have 25% of our students that
9 have gone to virtual. We do have 75% in brick and
10 mortar. But we had a different agreement with
11 Florida Virtual where we actually purchased the
12 curriculum and our teachers are teaching. So I
13 was just kind of curious if you had any update on
14 that for us.

15 DIRECTOR KELLY: We haven't had anything come
16 to our office so far regarding changes in funding.
17 It is something that we can reach out to finance
18 and operations and try to get updated figures.

19 COMMISSIONER DODD: Well, I think it's
20 something we need to consider. This is not a
21 normal year. It's something that we're going to
22 be dealing with. And we've tried to encourage the
23 superintendents and encourage the opportunity for,
24 you know, students to go from virtual back to
25 brick and mortar, and that's tough. I mean, once

1 we get them into virtual it's tough to bring them
2 back. But they kind of want to have an open door
3 there. I think Mr. Oliva would probably -- that's
4 pretty much the way it is, right, from the DOE?

5 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Is it okay, Sheriff, to
6 respond to --

7 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Go ahead,
8 Chancellor.

9 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Thank you and thank you
10 for that question, and I'll just add to that topic
11 a little bit. Damien mentioned some of the
12 information that we've been sharing with districts
13 around COVID and how to reopen our schools safely
14 right here in the fall as all of our districts are
15 doing as they've been coming onboard. And we've
16 established a website. I think it would be good
17 for the members to know on our DOE website page we
18 have posted every webinar, every memo, resources
19 for parents, resources for schools around COVID.
20 And if you haven't been on there, it's quite
21 robust and exhaustive. And it's still active.
22 And we're continuing to provide updates on that as
23 well.

24 But to speak to your question specifically,
25 Mr. Dodd, part of Emergency Order 2006 that was

1 signed by Commissioner Corcoran was to give the
2 districts some assurances for funding in the
3 categoricals as it related to projected FTE, which
4 is the full-time equivalency. So for schools that
5 have chosen to follow the directives in the
6 emergency order such as submitting a reopening
7 plan and filling out the forms of the assurances
8 that they have met and put in place, those
9 districts would be able to capture their projected
10 FTE enrollment that is pretty much given out
11 around July and know for that first term that that
12 is what their projected enrollment would be funded
13 on. And that gives them a little bit of a safety
14 net for planning purposes moving forward. So as
15 far as the FTE categoricals are concerned, at this
16 time there's not intention of recalibrating that.

17 COMMISSIONER DODD: Thank you.

18 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anything else,
19 Commissioner Dodd?

20 COMMISSIONER DODD: No, that's all. Thank
21 you.

22 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner
23 Schachter, go ahead.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Director Kelly,
25 great job. Under your leadership the Office of

1 Safe Schools is becoming a model for the rest of
2 the country. So thank you for all of your
3 efforts, your team and all of the school safety
4 specialists. I know they worked very, very hard
5 this summer to get their schools ready. The
6 memorial that you made at DOE is beautiful. So
7 from all of the MSD victims' families we thank
8 you.

9 I'm also extremely glad that the SESIR
10 visualization tool is being developed. SESIR is
11 the only measurement that we currently have for
12 analyzing what incidents are happening inside our
13 schools. So we would have no metrics for how many
14 fights, sexual assaults, bullying, vaping and
15 weapon possession incidents if it were not for
16 SESIR. So I think that data is extremely
17 important. And I'm really happy that the State is
18 moving forward and developing a tool to really
19 provide that information to the public and to
20 parents.

21 Do you have any idea when that will be rolled
22 out?

23 DIRECTOR KELLY: I don't at this time, but
24 whenever our IT team give us an update I'll be
25 happy to provide it to the Commission.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. Thank you,
2 Director.

3 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So I guess while
4 we're a little bit on the topic, Mr. Schachter,
5 about SESIR and the tool because it will lead into
6 what we talk about as we move into the steps for
7 the pathway forward. Director Kelly, if you can,
8 just add some clarification to this if I don't
9 have it correct. When we had our meetings last
10 year and we had the panel with the
11 superintendents, et cetera, and all the issues
12 were raised. And if you remember the
13 presentations that Sergeant Cease did, et cetera,
14 and all the issues that we highlighted and
15 spotlighted with SESIR and they're significant.
16 You had zero reporting in Miami-Dade County, you
17 had excessive reporting in Alachua (inaudible).
18 And then you all made changes in. And my
19 understanding is that the first time we'll see
20 that data is a result of the changes in the code,
21 changes in the policies and procedures, et cetera,
22 and see whether the districts have made
23 improvement, the first time we'll be able to have
24 access to data that is post those changes will be
25 October this year. So SESIR data will be recorded

1 in October, and that will be the proper time to do
2 an analysis of that. And probably we would ask
3 Sergeant Cease to go back and do that same
4 analysis that he did previously (inaudible)
5 contained the data from the problematic period to
6 the new period post changes. Is that correct? We
7 really have to wait until it's (inaudible) data to
8 know whether there's been a positive improvement
9 in SESIR. Is that correct?

10 DIRECTOR KELLY: Yes. I discussed this with
11 Julie Collins from our team and she advised me
12 that it would be October of next year, that this
13 year's data will not reflect the changes in the
14 rule. It will take a year for those changes to be
15 reelected.

16 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So, actually, we
17 won't have data that's reflective of the changes
18 that have been put in place until October of 2021?

19 DIRECTOR KELLY: Correct.

20 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. So is your
21 view of it, and it seems like it is, or Julie
22 Collins's view, who is really DOE subject matter
23 expert on it, that looking at the data now or
24 prior to that time would not be effective. It
25 would no be an accurate assessment of what has

1 changed. So it'd be really useless to do any
2 analysis prior to October 2021?

3 DIRECTOR KELLY: That's correct.

4 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. That's
5 helpful. Thanks for the clarification. For some
6 reason I thought it would be October of this year.
7 But it makes sense. And some of it also and
8 another problem with it would be -- and just to
9 kind of point this out -- is during a significant
10 portion of the reporting period the campuses were
11 empty. They were vacant, and they've been vacant
12 since probably March. It probably wouldn't give
13 us an accurate window, and we wouldn't be
14 comparing like-to-like. It would be a huge
15 decline. Unless you had (inaudible) significant
16 variances it probably would not be a good
17 comparison.

18 I guess we'll add that. When we talk about
19 that later on the path forward and we put that on
20 the list we should absolutely note that doing a
21 SESIR analysis (inaudible) is probably
22 ineffective.

23 Go ahead, Mr. Schachter.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Sheriff, I would
25 like to state that we've had SESIR for years and

1 years, and schools are responsible for accurately
2 reporting the incidents that are going on in their
3 campus. So I understand the new SESIR definitions
4 are not going to go into effect until next year.
5 But that does not absolve every school in the
6 district from accurately reporting what's
7 happening.

8 Currently we have over 411 elementary
9 schools, 94 combination schools, 21 middle schools
10 and 31 high schools that don't even report to DOE.
11 They didn't report any numbers. And as of the
12 last SESIR report we had Miami-Dade County amongst
13 their 600 schools only report a total of 18
14 battery incident and 45 weapon possession
15 incidents among all their 600 schools. So I hear
16 what you're saying, but we've got to make sure
17 that these schools are accurately reporting this
18 information. They're on notice. We're going to
19 be looking at it.

20 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: And just for
21 clarity, and correct me if this is not right, but
22 those numbers that you just stated were based upon
23 the '18/'19 data, correct?

24 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Correct.

25 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: And that '18/'19

1 data, of course, was occurring. The events that
2 lead to the reporting or nonreporting occurred
3 before our November of 2019 report where we called
4 all this out. So no doubt, no doubt there is a
5 problem in the analysis and what the presentations
6 that we did to the Commission. And we used
7 '17/'18 data for that. I think your point is the
8 '18/'19 data is no better. But they hadn't been,
9 if you will, called out. They hadn't been pointed
10 out to them about these major problems. And so I
11 guess what I would say to that is is that why
12 would we expect a different result when it hadn't
13 been addressed. Now it's been addressed and DOE
14 has made changes that have been implemented. And
15 we've had the panel discussion with the
16 superintendents, et cetera. And it seems that the
17 reasonable thing to do, the appropriate thing to
18 do is to give them a chance to get it right. And,
19 unfortunately, just because of the reporting
20 cycles and having to give it time and a
21 like-to-like comparison where they're actually on
22 the campuses, we're not going to be able to see
23 that until October of 2021 and know whether we
24 have a marked improvement or whether we still have
25 a problem.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: I agree.

2 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. I didn't see
3 any other hands go up. I do have another
4 question. If anybody else does, I'll recognize
5 you.

6 Director Kelly, you mentioned on the threat
7 assessment review that statute requires that DOE
8 had done an assessment of the threat assessment
9 policies of all the charters and of all the
10 districts. And you had mentioned that you all had
11 done that. But I didn't hear anything about the
12 results of that review. How would you describe --
13 I have no expectation because, again, this is
14 evolving and probably a work in progress in some
15 places. It is probably one of the most important
16 areas, behavioral threat assessments and making it
17 every effort. Certainly not just the harm
18 mitigation but a prevention in threat assessments
19 are important. But it's also an evolving area.
20 So how would you describe your review, the
21 Department's review of those policies that are in
22 place? Are they over the board? Are they largely
23 in good shape? Are they largely not in good
24 shape? I'm sure -- I don't want to put words in
25 your mouth, but I'm sure in some places there's

1 room for improvement. But tell us the results of
2 that.

3 DIRECTOR KELLY: Yes, Mr. Chair. How the
4 review was done it was a very lengthy process, and
5 it was sort of done in stages because initially
6 some of them that we reviewed would not have
7 mirrored the model the State has adopted. So we
8 had a lot of back and forth with them to get their
9 language to be changed. And we can report that
10 all across the state 100% compliance with the
11 language in their threat assessment policies and
12 procedures.

13 The other thing that I think is huge moving
14 forward is that we have multiple staff members who
15 will travel the State to continue these eight-hour
16 training sessions for districts that need it.
17 And, also, we will have our regional staff
18 reviewing this at the school level. So I think
19 with the numbers that we have available now to be
20 out there in the field and to be good, have good
21 partnerships with our schools and our school
22 districts, I feel very good moving forward that
23 this is an area that we will continue to stress.
24 And, as I said earlier, it is an area that we will
25 be meeting again and again with FDLE to discuss

1 whatever best practices there are out there. And
2 I think sometime in the future we should be able
3 to report, give you an updated report of where we
4 are six months down the line.

5 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So every district
6 and every charter has a policy that at least
7 tracks the minimums of the recommended policy form
8 DOE?

9 DIRECTOR KELLY: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: And now, of course,
11 since these policies have been in place we're in
12 that same situation again where we haven't seen
13 them implemented because schools haven't been in
14 session since March. So now they're coming back,
15 so that was a work in progress while the schools
16 were out, correct? So a lot of them really need
17 to see how they're implementing those, correct?

18 DIRECTOR KELLY: Yes, sir. And, also, we're
19 able to track everything that goes on with these
20 assessments through the FSSAT. That's where we
21 gathered all the information from from our
22 districts. And like I say, it didn't all happen
23 overnight. But every single district and every
24 single charter governing board received a letter
25 from our office saying that they were in

1 compliance.

2 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: One last thing on
3 threat assessments. One of the things -- and, of
4 course, we'll talk about it here as we segue into
5 the next topic and that is the results of this
6 legislative session. Of course, none of the bills
7 passed. But you all did put together as part of
8 the last bill in 7030, the Behavioral Threat
9 Assessment Workgroup and the workgroup made some
10 recommendations. Is there any effort by anybody
11 in DOE or anyone regarding that statewide
12 Behavioral Threat Assessment instrument and that
13 database? Is the Department going to seek funding
14 for that? Is that moving forward at all? Is
15 there any update on the status of that?

16 DIRECTOR KELLY: The workgroup completed
17 their report. There hasn't been any movement so
18 far. And I know across the State we are going to
19 are have funding challenges as a result of COVID.
20 Some of our individual districts have gone ahead
21 and got their own platform. But I would hope that
22 when budget is not as tight as things are right
23 now that this is something that will be
24 readdressed and it's something we can have
25 statewide in the future.

1 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: I don't want to put
2 you on the spot, Chancellor Oliva, but can you
3 speak to that at all from an administration, a DOE
4 administration standpoint? Is there any
5 discussion being had about that database? I
6 understand it's going to have a significant price
7 tag. It is important. I think it's extremely
8 important to tie it all together. And we've had
9 elaborate discussions in the Commission about it.
10 Do you think it's just not going to happen?

11 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: I wouldn't say that
12 nothing's impossible and it's not going to happen.
13 And I think the timing of this conversation is
14 actually pretty spot on because I know
15 Commissioner Corcoran and the policy team are
16 putting together next year's legislative budget
17 requests and building a budget and working with
18 staff right now. So I will be able to after this
19 call follow-up with them and let them know that
20 this is a priority of the Commission. If this is
21 how the Commission feels, let's see if we can put
22 that request forward and put that as part of our
23 legislative agenda.

24 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Is there
25 anybody on the Commission that does not feel that

1 a statewide behavioral threat assessment database
2 and an automated tool is a priority? Is there
3 anybody that feels like it's not?

4 So I think you can represent to the
5 Commissioner that the Commission feels that it is.
6 I know we've had a robust discussion about it in
7 the past. That's why I really don't want to take
8 a lot more time on it. But we've had a lot of
9 discussion about it. I think we all can see the
10 value. So if you would convey those thoughts that
11 would be much appreciated.

12 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Absolutely. Thank you.

13 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody else? And
14 I know for drills, drills are being done but in
15 some places they're being done differently as
16 Director Kelly talked about. Baker County gave
17 some examples. But they're being done. And I
18 think the districts recognize they ought to call
19 the superintendents. I think they recognize their
20 obligation. But they're not all being done with
21 movement. Some of them are being done with
22 verbalization. They're trying to alternate, in
23 this COVID environment trying to balance the COVID
24 requirements and needs and those safety needs with
25 COVID with the safety needs of school safety from

1 a traditional active assailant standpoint. So I
2 think that's a work in progress from what I see
3 from talking to the superintendents I've talked
4 to. Does anybody else have any other questions
5 for Director Kelly?

6 SHERIFF ASHLEY: Sheriff Ashley here in
7 Okaloosa. Thank you for your report. Thank you
8 for what your group does. You've done a
9 (inaudible) task. I appreciate you and the
10 Commissioner sending a letter to our school
11 district to kind of expand to what the intent of
12 the statute was in regards to what a safe school
13 officer is. One of our schools is on a military
14 base and they won't allow guardians to have
15 firearms on base. DOE has been providing that
16 safe school officer for awhile. But for some
17 reason this year they determined that they don't
18 meet the criteria in the statute. And so I didn't
19 know if your department or if this Commission
20 needs to go to the legislature this year and ask
21 to expand the criteria for those approved to be a
22 SRO on a military base school. They feel like
23 military police do not fit the criteria and I was
24 hoping we might expand that legislation. Is the
25 Department of Education looking to do that?

1 DIRECTOR KELLY: This is the first occurrence
2 that we've had across the state. We do have
3 schools on military installations, but the one
4 that you have in Okaloosa it was an exclusive
5 jurisdiction base which created a problem for an
6 SRO. For example, over in Bay County Tyndall
7 Airforce Base has a school on base and the safe
8 school officer there is a member of the school
9 district police department. But they're not an
10 exclusive jurisdiction based. I think this is
11 something we will look to address because it could
12 become problematic in the future. We were
13 fortunate on Friday to be able to get that letter
14 crafted and get it out and hopefully it will
15 resolve your situation for now.

16 SHERIFF ASHLEY: Well, it didn't resolve it.
17 I appreciate it, but their JAG office thought
18 differently of the intent of the legislation.
19 That aside, I've got a deputy there today and
20 throughout the year until we can rectify that
21 problem. So it'd be helpful if we can get that
22 language changed or at least expand it to include
23 military police.

24 DIRECTOR KELLY: Yes, sir.

25 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you, Director

1 Kelly. We appreciate your time and your being
2 here. Thank you.

3 DIRECTOR KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So we'll move on
5 now to the next item on the agenda which is a
6 review of the results of the 2020 legislative
7 session. There were two, I'll call them big,
8 comprehensive school safety bills that were filed;
9 one in the senate, Senate Bill 740, and one in the
10 House, House Bill 765, as well as some standalone
11 bills. Unfortunately, nothing significant on
12 school safety passed. I'll just address a couple
13 of the standalone bills.

14 One was, we talked about this, about a verbal
15 threats bill. Because as you I hope recall there
16 was a change at our request in the previous
17 session going back in 2019 is that previously if
18 somebody made a threat, a written threat, there
19 was a transmission requirement in the statute. So
20 it actually had to be transmitted in some fashion,
21 like put in an email and send it, put it on social
22 media and send it. And if somebody walked into
23 the restroom at the school and wrote on the wall
24 or on the mirror I'm going to shoot this place up,
25 it wasn't a crime because there was only a writing

1 but it was transmitted. So that was changed. And⁴¹
2 then the problem became is is that people were
3 calling and verbalizing threats. So this is
4 distinguished from the bomb threat statute.
5 That's very specific to explosives. It's also
6 different from calling a 911 center which there
7 are statutes on the books that address those type
8 of scenarios. But if somebody called the school
9 or walked into the office of the school and said I
10 am here and I am going to shoot up the school,
11 that's not a crime. So we wanted to expand. And
12 we had a lot of discussion about this. We wanted
13 to expand that statute to also provide a criminal
14 penalty for not just written threats, but for
15 verbal threats. So House Bill 311 was filed and
16 Senate Bill 728 was filed. The Senate bill passed
17 the full Senate. It passed off the floor. House
18 Bill 311 did not pass in the House, and there was
19 pretty significant opposition in the House. And,
20 again, we'll have new legislature coming in with
21 new presiding officers and a little bit different
22 leadership. I don't know. We can try and bring
23 it back again. But there was a lot of concern
24 expressed by the House that it would criminalize
25 chatter, that it would criminalize talk. And

1 there was opposition in the House to pass the
2 bill. We tried to work with them and put
3 safeguards in place and modify the language, and
4 we worked pretty hard with them to try and get it
5 to a place that they could live with and they just
6 couldn't live with it. So that bill died. Again,
7 the Senate bill passed, but that House bill died
8 and there was just opposition to criminalizing
9 somebody's statement to that effect. So we'll see
10 if we can bring that back again. But it didn't
11 pass.

12 There was a bill filed regarding radio towers
13 that would allow the State to deal with that issue
14 in Broward County to in essence compel the
15 placement of radio towers for public safety
16 purposes. That was Senate Bill 1472. It was
17 filed and never got its first hearing. There were
18 other bills that were filed regarding school
19 safety that never got off the ground at all.
20 There was one bill filed regarding mental health.
21 It was a pretty comprehensive bill and it never
22 moved. So those were the I'll call them the
23 standalone bills.

24 But the two comprehensive bills. Let's talk
25 about Senate Bill 740. Senate Bill 740 moved

1 pretty well through the Senate. And Senate Bill
2 7065 moved. It was kind of dragging in the House,
3 but it finally towards the end of the session did
4 move. And the Senate, as they refer to it in
5 legislative terms, they laid the bill on the table
6 and they picked up 7065, which was the House bill.
7 And there was a plethora, as there always seems to
8 be when we're talking about school safety bills
9 and the contents of those bills, there was a
10 plethora of amendments that were filed. And the
11 amendments, of course, were filed in committee.
12 But they were also filed when they hit the floor
13 in both chambers. And it was literally down to
14 the last seconds. And now I'm talking about
15 literally down to the last seconds on the floor
16 where the House and the Senate were ping-ponging
17 the bill back and forth with amendments, and it
18 died because they couldn't reach agreement. And
19 so it died on the floor. So all of the
20 recommendations that we made whether it was about
21 the Guardian Program, the sheriffs doing the
22 training, whether it was about changes to the
23 drills and the active assailant drill requirements
24 and the timing of all that, everything that we
25 recommended that was in those bills died. It

1 didn't go anywhere. So we really didn't make any
2 progress at all with any of the recommendations
3 this past legislative session.

4 We still have, of course, the bills. And we
5 still have all of the recommendations and
6 everything's on the table. So my thought is -- of
7 course, no bills can be filed until after the
8 November 3rd elections. Committee weeks, I
9 believe, will start sometime in December and then
10 they'll take a little hiatus over the holiday,
11 begin again in January and then the session will
12 start in March. I don't know. And this is what I
13 need to hear from you all on. From the
14 recommendations that we made last year I don't see
15 anything that has changed. I think the course
16 will be -- and I'll take direction from you all --
17 is is that I'll talk to leadership in the House
18 and the Senate, see if we can rekindle these and
19 look at where some of the problems were as things
20 were going back and forth this past session, see
21 if there's anything that we need to or could clean
22 up to make it easier to pass these bills. And
23 that we just take another shot at it with the same
24 things we recommended. Because, obviously, we
25 already voted on this. We already recommended it.

1 We already felt that they were necessary changes.
2 And then we just take another shot at it. One of
3 the things we can't control is the process. And
4 the process is because there are some things in
5 here that are I'll call them arguably
6 controversial at least for some people is we can't
7 control the amendment. So we can't control the
8 negotiations that go on and how it ping-pongs back
9 and forth, especially at the end. But what we can
10 control is that we try and we make our case again
11 and we take it back.

12 The legislature for the last couple of years
13 under Speaker Oliva and President Galvano have
14 been absolutely great to work with, very
15 receptive, and they acknowledge that they want to
16 make a difference in school safety. So it's just
17 the process. And, again, what happened is is that
18 we ran out of time. I think if we had more time
19 in the session we might have been able to work
20 some of these things out. But it's the 4th
21 quarter and we're on the 1 yard line and the clock
22 hit zero. And so that's why it died.

23 That's kind of the overview of what happened
24 this legislative session with those bills.

25 Questions, comments, thoughts from any Commission

1 members?

2 So unless I'm hearing anything, we'll just
3 take back and try and work with the legislature,
4 the House and the Senate. And, if you will, dust
5 off what we submitted last year and try to bring
6 everything back again unless I hear anything else.

7 Okay. All right. So that will be the plan.
8 We'll look at some of these, see if we can make
9 some progress on it this year, and get back to you
10 on it.

11 We'll move onto on the agenda. The next item
12 on the agenda is the approval of the settlement
13 agreement. If you recall our meeting last year,
14 when we adopted all these recommendations, it was
15 held in Orlando. There were a number of
16 organizations and individuals. As a result of
17 that meeting they filed a lawsuit against the
18 Commission making a number of allegations of
19 Florida's Sunshine laws and other claims. During
20 the litigation process we were able to cause a
21 number of those initial claims to be removed from
22 the civil complaint that they filed and get it
23 down to a few claims that were left. And I'll
24 call it in legal terms the claims were colorable
25 enough that they weren't going to get dismissed by

1 the court. But I don't believe that there was any
2 merit to the claims. But, nonetheless, they would
3 have survived and we would have had to go through
4 a litigation process. So we had discussion with
5 the Plaintiffs, their lawyers and reached a
6 proposed settlement of the lawsuit. And I need to
7 bring this proposed settlement to you. You all
8 have received a copy of the proposed settlement
9 agreement. And if the Commission votes to accept
10 the terms of the settlement agreement then we will
11 execute the settlement agreement, and the lawsuit
12 will go away and it will be dismissed by the
13 Plaintiffs.

14 If you look at page 2 of the settlement
15 agreement, and I'll just kind of recap here the
16 terms of the settlement agreement, is is that on
17 page 2 under paragraph 1(a), for any future
18 in-person meetings that are held by the Commission
19 is is that every effort will be made to hold them
20 in government or noncommercial buildings. But in
21 any event, that are reasonably accessible to
22 public transportation and reasonably accessible to
23 parking with no fees and that the notices for the
24 meetings have to include information about parking
25 or public transportation.

1 Again, this is not a problem. It just says
2 that for any future meetings every effort will be
3 made. I can tell you with what we've experienced
4 before, my plan is -- and we can have discussion
5 about it, but my plan is to hold any future
6 meetings every place that we have right back down
7 in Broward County BB&T. That's the core of this.
8 This has worked well for us. It is a public
9 meeting and it really fits all of what's laid out
10 there. But it just requires us to make an effort
11 to do that.

12 Paragraph B is that the Commission will hold
13 public comment at the end of every meeting. If,
14 if, the Commission provides a time period for
15 public comment on the agenda we agree to abide by
16 that time period within a one-hour window. And if
17 we designate specific times when testimony will be
18 heard that information will be shared on the
19 Commission's public website which we do with the
20 agenda. And we publish the agenda a week before.
21 So, again, this is not hard for us to accomplish
22 what would be required by this agreement.

23 And then over on page 3 under paragraph C,
24 during each Commission meeting the Chair will
25 advertise the opportunity for any citizen to offer

1 public comment through the Commission's public
2 input and comment section of its public website.
3 And I'll just do that at the end of every meeting.
4 Just remind anybody that wants to provide any
5 public comment they can do it.

6 So those are the only three conditions of the
7 settlement agreement that we hold the meetings in
8 a public accessible place with easy parking.
9 That's the sum of that. Two is is that we'll hold
10 public comment. If we provide a time period,
11 we'll do it within one hour of that. And then the
12 third thing is is that we'll just remind everybody
13 that they can provide public comment off the
14 website.

15 So I guess we can do it this way just
16 following the right protocols of the rules of
17 order is if we have a motion and we have a second
18 then we can have discussion and then we can vote
19 on it. So does anybody want to make a motion to
20 approve the settlement agreement?

21 SENATOR BOOK: I'll make a motion.

22 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Senator Book makes
23 the motion. Do we have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: I'll second it.

25 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner

1 Larkin-Skinner is the second. And I'll open it up
2 for any discussion. Any discussion by any of the
3 Commission members?

4 So we have a motion on the floor. We have a
5 second. We don't have any discussion. All in
6 favor of approving the settlement agreement say
7 aye.

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Any opposed same.

10 So that motion carries unanimously. We'll go
11 ahead and notify the Plaintiffs' lawyers that the
12 Commission has approved the settlement agreement.
13 And we'll get it signed, get it filed and they
14 will dismiss the lawsuit. And we can move on and
15 back to business. So thank you everybody for
16 that.

17 Okay. So the next thing that's on the agenda
18 is Commission discussion on future meeting topics
19 and roundtable on Commission direction.

20 So I'll tell you from a Commission work
21 standpoint, from a staff standpoint, not much has
22 been done over the last several months because of
23 the other things that we've been dealing with with
24 COVID and other things. And I think to kind of
25 frame this and to maybe get it going and let you

1 all provide your input on this is I'm looking at
2 it this way. Does anybody see and have on a list
3 that you have that you can share with us anything
4 left investigatively regarding the incident that
5 we haven't done that needs to be done? That's a
6 question I have for you all. I can't think of
7 anything, but you all may. And you may have some
8 things that you think we need to do. So if you
9 have anything that is regarding the incident,
10 whether it's the law enforcement response, the
11 school response, what happened, anything to do
12 with the other components of what we extensively
13 investigated and held the Commission hearings on.
14 Anything else? That would be question No. 1.

15 The next question is with the status of
16 school safety, the recommendations that we have
17 made, the issues that are out there not directly
18 related to what happened that day but the overall
19 bigger picture is what do we want to know, who do
20 we want to hear from, what were the topics that we
21 want to address. And I'd say the sum of that what
22 we'd hope to get out of it. And then along those
23 lines but maybe slightly different is also the
24 I'll call it the updates. And we heard a little
25 bit of that today from Director Kelly. But kind

1 of a monitoring of where things are so we could
2 make future recommendations which is within the
3 statutory mandate of keeping an eye on what's
4 happening so we can make recommendations as we
5 will go back now to the legislature for the 2021
6 session in trying to get some things passed and as
7 we're moving forward. So to that end -- and I did
8 this over the weekend and I apologize for the
9 short notice, but I was hoping to maybe just help
10 frame this is I sent out to all of you that
11 document that you got yesterday that has some big
12 picture topics of things that would fall into that
13 category of what we would want to hear from. So,
14 again, an update on school safety measures. I
15 know that the FBI has been willing to give us an
16 update and come in and give us an update on their
17 revised National Call Center procedures, the
18 Threat Assessment Working Group and all these
19 other things I laid out for you. And kind of
20 where do we go from here. And then after we hear
21 from you all with thoughts, ideas, topics,
22 anything investigatively, anything from an
23 overview standpoint on all this and then have some
24 discussion about. There is work that needs to be
25 done. As far as the survey needs to be done,

1 Director Kelly mentioned to you all that we did
2 not do a survey yet this year. And the reason for
3 it is is that the schools just went back in the
4 last week or so. So trying to do a survey when
5 they are trying to get kids back in the schools
6 and deal with everything they're dealing with I
7 just decided that it was not prudent to do that.
8 I don't think it's respectful to them and their
9 time and what they're trying to do in open the
10 doors, turns the light on and get the kids back
11 into a safe environment. So I think that should
12 wait. It absolutely has to be done and we want to
13 be able to update it. So we have a lot of work to
14 do because everything's been basically on hold.
15 So my point of saying that is to say this is is
16 that I'm not sure we're in a position -- we have a
17 lot of the work to do, but I'm not sure we're in a
18 position to hold the October meeting. I don't
19 know if we can put enough together. And No. 1 is
20 is that I don't think we can do an October meeting
21 in-person. So if we did an October meeting it
22 would probably be in this environment. And I'm
23 not sure we've got the time because the October
24 meeting is the first week of the month. And I'm
25 not sure that we've got the time and the bandwidth

1 in short order, you know, to take what is in this
2 outline that I sent to you plus whatever else you
3 have and have the staff to do the work and put all
4 this together, get the witnesses in place and get
5 everybody in. So, you know, we could decide what
6 we do with that. And whether we decide on where
7 we're going, we'll get people working on it and
8 maybe do a meeting and shoot for maybe an
9 in-person meeting after the 1st of the year
10 sometime if we can depending upon, again, the
11 COVID environment which would be while the
12 legislature is in maybe committee weeks and also
13 before the session starts and kind of see where we
14 are. So those are thoughts, and I'll open it up
15 to all of you to add to that.

16 But if you would first, so we can kind of put
17 some order in this, is does anybody see anything
18 that they want to hear more about, what we need to
19 investigate, that we haven't done regarding the
20 incident itself? Does anybody have any comments
21 on that? Okay.

22 All right. Now, where we go from here.

23 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Sheriff Jim Harpring
24 here. I agree with you regarding the timing. I
25 think October is premature. I do think it's

1 important that we meet either during committee
2 weeks or before -- sometime before the legislative
3 session goes full-bore. And I will say this sort
4 of editorially, and I don't really comment
5 editorially a lot, but for those of us on the
6 Commission for those like Director Kelly and
7 others that are working on this all the time and
8 most importantly for the family members, the
9 relatives and the loved ones of those who have
10 lost their lives or were injured as a result of
11 this incident, it's still live and real for all of
12 us and tangible. And I don't mean to sound
13 cynical, but for everybody else it becomes less
14 live and real and tangible. And I think our
15 meeting in a time frame associated with
16 legislative activities where we can again focus
17 the public consciousness on this would be
18 critically important if we're going to get any
19 positive movement on recommendations we've made
20 before. So those are my thoughts.

21 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Who's next?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: I guess I'll go
23 next.

24 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Go ahead,
25 Mr. Schachter.

1 MR. SCHACHTER: Sheriff, there's a couple of
2 things that I would like for us to address. Let's
3 talk firstly about the law enforcement response.
4 And we made recommendations to improve the Broward
5 Sheriff's Office's active shooter policies and
6 procedures, but we didn't make any recommendations
7 in regards to the rest of the State. We
8 recommended that Broward Sheriff's Office change
9 its active shooter/active assailant policy. But
10 we didn't make any recommendations for the whole
11 State. So I would certainly like us to have a
12 conversation about what recommendations we could
13 make for the whole state to make sure that the
14 other law enforcement agencies in the State do not
15 have those same failed policies and procedures
16 that lead to all those officers staying and
17 waiting outside.

18 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So if you look at,
19 Mr. Schachter, if you had a chance to and you may
20 not have because I know I gave it to you only
21 yesterday. But if you have it or you can take a
22 look at it, if you look at page 2 of the document
23 that I provided you and the second item on that
24 for follow up would be Florida law enforcement
25 agency active assailant training and policies

1 survey results. And the bullet is is to update
2 that agency active assailant and training policy
3 survey which would then allow us to have a
4 discussion. So we did that survey previously. So
5 what I'll suggest here and in the time we can have
6 our staff members update that and try to give us
7 an assessment of it and are we in the same place,
8 has it gotten better. And then we could use that
9 to drive the discussion and perhaps make
10 recommendations. So I think kind of what you're
11 talking -- unless I'm missing it -- if I am,
12 enlighten me -- I think is is that I think that
13 would cover what you're asking for I think.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Yes, Sheriff, that
15 would.

16 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. That's
17 why again I'm saying if you look at all that's on
18 here and I just don't think it's fair to bring
19 Superintendent Runcie in in October. They're just
20 now -- Broward isn't even back in-person school.
21 They're just going to be going back. And so what
22 I was thinking -- and, again, it's up to you all
23 with in your input. What I was thinking is maybe
24 in a non-committee week because especially like
25 for like Senator Book if she could I'd like to see

1 her be able to participate is in a non-committee
2 week. Maybe in February sometime. So that puts
3 us after the 1st of the year and puts us before
4 session starts. Maybe in a non-committee week see
5 if BB&T is together. And in the meantime we'll
6 start getting Commission staff working on these
7 things, work with Director Kelly. And I think we
8 can have a pretty robust meeting for two days in
9 February if these are the issues we want to
10 address. But that's what I was thinking was to
11 shoot for maybe a February in-person. And we'll
12 know in the next month or so when the schools go
13 back, we're going to know whether we got -- if
14 COVID is going to stay where it is. Which the
15 numbers are looking really good right now. And,
16 of course, we want it to stay there and sustain
17 and as they relax restrictions in Broward. So
18 that's what I was thinking was maybe February or
19 something.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: The other issue that
21 I'd like an update on or to address is Fortify
22 Florida. Currently we did a survey of all -- no
23 not -- about seven school districts that already
24 had an established tip system. And what we
25 found -- and we asked them to compare their

1 established tip system versus the tips that came
2 in from Fortify Florida. And what we found was
3 that 96% of the tips that came in from each of
4 these six districts current tip system 96% of them
5 were actionable versus only 27% were actionable
6 from Fortify Florida. Also, of the established
7 tip system for all these districts that we
8 surveyed there was only -- less than 1% was spam
9 versus if you look at the tips that came in from
10 Fortify Florida over 60% of the tips that came in
11 from Fortify Florida were spam. So I think that
12 is something that needs to be fixed. And so I
13 would like to get an update on that or see what we
14 can do.

15 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. I just added
16 that. I didn't have this on the outline that I
17 prepared and sent out to you all. But I just
18 added it. We can certainly do that and I think it
19 merits consideration and taking a look at it. So
20 I just put it on the list.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Thank you. Thank
22 you. And then the other issues that I think are
23 important is we've done a lot in this Commission,
24 but we haven't addressed reducing violence on
25 campus. And I know our focus has been on active

1 shooters, but you know I think that the goal or
2 one of my goals is to really reduce violence on
3 campus and how do we do that. So I would
4 certainly like to hear testimony from experts. Do
5 we need to see culture and climate surveys done in
6 the schools and then what programming should
7 schools implement to reduce bullying, reduce
8 fighting, all these things that we're seeing. And
9 if you look at the SESIR numbers, we're seeing
10 very, very large amounts of fighting and assault.
11 And this is probably, you know, not just in
12 Florida but it's all over the country. But I
13 think when we talk about school safety that's
14 something that I look at is what can we do to
15 reduce violence on campus. So that's an area that
16 I would like the Commission to look at.

17 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Give me some --
18 look at it in what regard? Because we got to be
19 careful. I mean it's broad. But we got to stay
20 within the parameters of the statutory mandate,
21 too. Make sure we don't veer outside of that.
22 I'm not clear exactly what you're looking for in
23 that regard.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Well, there are
25 programs that schools can implement to reduce

1 violence on campus. You know, we'd like to -- at
2 least from a statewide level, what can we do,
3 what's proven, what has research-based
4 evidence-based practices that we can look to that
5 says reduces bullying, reduces fighting, creates a
6 positive culture and climate on our school
7 campuses. And there is a lot of expertise in the
8 state around that. So what can we do to
9 accomplish that and then make these
10 recommendations to the state legislature that they
11 implement these and make sure that the schools are
12 doing what they need to do to make our schools
13 safe.

14 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So one of these
15 things I put in here -- and I don't know whether
16 they're addressing it or not, it's just something
17 that comes to mind from hearing you talk -- is
18 Governor DeSantis Mental Health Task Force. I
19 don't know if they're addressing any of this or
20 not as far as -- I know Commissioner
21 Larkin-Skinner had mentioned some of this before,
22 social emotional learning and some of those other
23 things that are there. Is this kind of some of
24 that what you're talking about?

25 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Yes. You know,

1 latest Secret Service report shows that a lot of
2 these school mass murders were bullied. So what
3 are the best practices that we can implement on
4 the bullying side to reduce bullying on campus and
5 then kind of make sure that we have those
6 recommendations in place and school districts are
7 implementing those. And I'd like to hear a report
8 on the Mental Health Task Force as well.

9 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: I hear you. But
10 we're obviously not in the situation to do any
11 type of school climate survey. That would have to
12 be something that would be done by the districts.
13 But on this issue of some of these best practices,
14 I wrote it down. We'll see. And I can have
15 somebody talk to you further offline, one of the
16 staff members, and see what's out there and see if
17 you got any furthers ideas about it. So I added
18 to the list. And we'll have somebody talk to you
19 and get some more ideas and more specifics and see
20 what we can do to maybe include something from an
21 overview standpoint at a future meeting. So I
22 added it. We'll have somebody reach out to you.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Thank you, Sheriff.

24 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody else?

25 Mr. Petty, go ahead.

1 COMMISSIONER PETTY: Just a couple of
2 thoughts. So one is, look, it would be out of
3 character for me to request another meeting. I
4 typically think most meetings could be resolved
5 with an email or a phone call. But I do think and
6 I'd like the Commission to consider having an
7 October meeting where we focus in specifically on
8 what we want to ask or push forward as far as the
9 legislative session next year. And I think if we
10 wait until the beginning of next year or February,
11 obviously, we might lose Senator Book because of
12 committee meetings or preparation for the session.
13 So I think it would behoove us to have some
14 meeting where we focus in on the legislative
15 priorities for the Commission.

16 Now, with that said, I also appreciate many
17 of the items on the list. One in particular that
18 I was concerned about was Fortify Florida. And
19 it's coupled -- in the list that was distributed
20 to the Commission, it's coupled with another item.
21 But I've got some specific concerns around Fortify
22 Florida, and I think they go to the point of
23 legislative recommendations. As it sits today
24 Fortify Florida is part of the Attorney General's
25 Office. But a lot of the work and information has

1 to go to the school districts and is, hopefully,
2 actioned on including the Office of Safe Schools,
3 the Department of Education.

4 The way it's structured today seems to me an
5 opportunity for information silos. So the
6 information needed by districts, by schools,
7 actionable information, I'm not sure how that's
8 flowing into the app, into the app improvements
9 into the way it's communicated. It just seems to
10 me as we've seen in the past there's a real
11 likelihood of information silos developing and not
12 being as effective as the legislature wanted. So
13 I'd like to see if we couldn't at least get a
14 report out from the Attorney General and from the
15 Department of Education on how is it working, how
16 does it work on the back-end, what does that
17 process look like. I think there may be some
18 recommendations we could make to improve that in
19 addition to the other items that we've already
20 discussed for the legislature next year.

21 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So I don't know if
22 any of the other law enforcement commission
23 members want to give views on this. I can tell
24 you, Commissioner Petty, from my perspective from
25 what I see and being on the receiving end the

1 issue is not with Fortify Florida. I think the
2 Fortify Florida app and the opportunity that it
3 presents to report is good. I think that to get
4 to one of your points as to who runs it is it's
5 really joint venture between DOE, FDLE and the
6 Attorney General's Office. And I think the
7 workflow that they set up originally actually is
8 very good. And from a recipient side of what gets
9 initiated is that when somebody reports, I can
10 tell you -- I mean we had one yesterday, we had
11 another one on Saturday -- is that when people
12 report through it is that it gets to the right
13 place. The school principal's notified. People
14 within the district are notified. Law
15 enforcement's notified. And so the notifications
16 are coming. So I don't see that as a problem.
17 What I see is the issue and maybe with some of the
18 numbers that Mr. Schachter referenced is is that
19 there are competing reporting platforms. So as an
20 example here in our district is they're using
21 Sandy Hook Promise plus they're using Fortify
22 Florida. Fortify Florida is not robustly used.
23 Other districts have invested in their own
24 reporting platforms, and some have two or more
25 even reporting platforms that are available. And

1 so -- and if you get a report from the State on
2 the utilization of Fortify Florida, it's only
3 giving you a snippet. And probably not even much
4 of a snippet because from what I see it is
5 probably of all the platforms it's probably the
6 one that's least used. It doesn't mean it's not
7 being used. But when it is used, it's getting to
8 the right place. So I think you have to -- and,
9 of course, the individual districts that have
10 their own platforms, all that data and all the
11 information and whether it's working and how it's
12 working it sits with those districts. So you
13 can't get an overview from the State on this whole
14 picture about the mobile reporting apps because
15 the Fortify Florida app is only one of many and in
16 some cases multitude that are being used in
17 specific areas. So unless, you know, somebody
18 wanted to -- and I would suggest that the appetite
19 wouldn't be there for it. I don't know if this
20 where you're going. Is that have the legislature
21 mandate that the only app be used is Fortify
22 Florida. I don't know how you get around that
23 problem because these districts have already
24 invested and already marketed. And I may be
25 mixing it up. It may be in the bill that didn't

1 pass or maybe it was in 7030 last year. No, I
2 think it did pass. It was 7030 last year. Is it
3 required that the district market Fortify Florida
4 on their tablets on their computers and everything
5 else. But just because they're marketing and
6 they're putting in all the materials, they're also
7 putting their own reporting platforms in the
8 materials as well. And I suggest those other
9 platforms are being more robustly used. I think
10 that's the problem.

11 COMMISSIONER PETTY: I agree with that. And
12 I think potentially it's creating confusion and
13 silos of information. So I'd love for us to take
14 a look at that. Now, again, do we have time to do
15 that before we make a recommendation to the
16 legislature. I'm not sure. Perhaps the right
17 mode would be for the legislature to take a look
18 at this and say, look, we're mandating a digital
19 reporting mobile app. Districts and counties are
20 free to pick their own. If they don't have one
21 then they can use Fortify Florida. But I think as
22 it currently stands right now at least from the
23 parents and community members that I've spoken
24 to -- again, small sample size. I get it. A,
25 they don't know about Fortify Florida, or, B,

1 there is confusion about how do they report these
2 incidents. I think we're missing opportunities
3 and bits of information that could really feed
4 into these threat assessment teams and perhaps
5 even actionable information that needs to get to
6 law enforcement. I think we're missing
7 opportunities.

8 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, this is where
9 I say that I think October is too soon because I
10 think that that should be part of -- and we'll get
11 working on it, but there's no way we could have it
12 by October. I think in order to do this right is
13 we have to include it in part of the next survey
14 that we do on the multitude of topics that we
15 survey. I think we really need to know which
16 districts have other reporting platforms, what
17 those platforms are. And then once we know what
18 the platforms are we can ask for their workflows
19 and statistics from those districts and then bring
20 that all back in one package. Because right now
21 there isn't enough time I don't think between now
22 and October to formulate this, get it out, assess
23 it and get all this information. And to be able
24 to get the metrics for Fortify Florida, identify
25 in each county what the, if you will, competing or

1 additional reporting platforms are and then, you
2 know, is the situation in one county where Fortify
3 Florida is being used 10% and "X" platform's being
4 used 90% and then look at that local platform
5 whether it's Sandy Hook Promise or something, and
6 what is the workflow on that, how is it being
7 used. With some of those platforms -- I'll agree
8 with you. On some of those platforms the workflow
9 is such that it is not going to law enforcement.
10 It is going to the schools and it's going to some
11 place, but it isn't as robust. Again, I really
12 think that FDLE and DOE did a really good job of
13 setting up the workflow on Fortify Florida. But I
14 can't speak to the workflow one some of the other
15 ones. And we do a full assessment of it. I just
16 don't know that we can do that in 30 days.

17 COMMISSIONER PETTY: Yes, I understand.
18 That's a more extensive look at 67 districts, so I
19 understand the concern. I'll throw it out there.
20 I don't know if there's others that have other
21 ideas. It would be nice to get something to the
22 legislature, at least some sort of a
23 recommendation. But I do think at current state
24 we're missing opportunities to really feed
25 information into those threat assessment teams.

1 And I'm fearful that we're going to miss not
2 because anybody's not doing the best they can, but
3 there's just too many opportunities for good
4 information to get lost in the current system.

5 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: If we shoot for
6 February it's not too late. I can tell you that.
7 And if the last couple of sessions hold true with
8 the comprehensive School Safety Bill is is that
9 they may be in drafting. There may be some
10 discussion. And most likely they would be --
11 again, I don't speak for the legislature so I
12 can't tell you definitively what's going to
13 happen. But they come out as committee bills and
14 generally those committee bills are not finally
15 formulated until after session starts itself. So
16 I think -- and Senator Book feel free to weigh in
17 here if you want to. I don't think that if we're
18 able to put this together, have a meeting in
19 February, assess it, I don't think we're behind
20 the 8 ball as far making a recommendation to the
21 legislature, especially since chances are it's
22 going to be a committee bill anyway. Senator
23 Book, if you want to weigh in on it.

24 SENATOR BOOK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 And thank you so much for the comments. We're in

1 a different time this year for a lot of reasons.
2 But as the Chair mentioned, new presiding
3 officers, new chairs won't be assigned until after
4 November. Not quite sure if we're going to be
5 having a committee meeting in December at all in
6 this COVID time. And so I don't think that we're
7 going to be in a terribly bad place come February.
8 You know, as long as the Chair and I have some
9 conversation with leadership about, you know,
10 something's coming, here's what we did last year,
11 we can work through some of those issues, here's
12 what we're thinking about this year. I don't
13 think there will be a problem with that.

14 COMMISSIONER PETTY: That makes sense to me.
15 And, look, there are a lot of takeaways from the
16 work that this Commission has done. One of them
17 that resonates with me again and again and again
18 was the failure to communicate between agencies,
19 between employees. People had information and
20 didn't share it. It's one of the things that I
21 think will measure the success of this Commission
22 on our ability to change that dynamic within the
23 State of Florida. So this is one area where I
24 think we have an opportunity to do that.

25 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Mr. Schachter, go

1 ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Sheriff, I recall
3 that all of the school districts were developing
4 the threat assessment teams and then they were
5 going to have a standardize threat assessment
6 workflow and then that information would be
7 funneled up to the State. What is the status of
8 that?

9 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, that kind of
10 goes to the question that I asked Director Kelly
11 about a little while ago is is that under the law
12 DOE had to put together that threat assessment
13 workgroup to make recommendations and to come up
14 with a report. And they did. And I believe we
15 sent that report out to you all last year.
16 Mr. Petty, you were on that workgroup. And I
17 believe the report was due in December of 2019, if
18 I recall that correctly. And one of the things
19 that we had a lot of discussion about was a
20 standardized behavioral threat assessment process
21 that is driven by standardized behavioral threat
22 assessment instrument. And that all of the
23 information from the standardized instrument is in
24 a common database that is accessible. So that if
25 you have a student that moves from one district to

1 another or adjoining districts such as Parkland
2 being on the boarder of Palm Beach County and
3 you've got a kid that's moving back and forth or
4 things are intertwined that others with
5 appropriate access levels would have access to the
6 threat assessments and provide a more global
7 perspective of these people who are the subjects
8 of the threat assessments and it gets back to the
9 threat management. And that's what Chancellor
10 Oliva was speaking about which these are
11 challenging times right now for the State and that
12 he's going to take back to Commissioner Corcoran
13 this Commission's certainly interest, desire if
14 there is any room anyplace to see that move
15 forward because we think that the behavioral
16 threat assessments are one of the key elements of
17 especially long-term successful school safety. So
18 I think that that instrument standardized. And
19 there is a standardize instrument now. It's not
20 automated. And there's a process again -- but
21 none of its automated and nobody has access to it
22 other than on an individual basis.

23 Now, there are some districts, Broward,
24 Hillsborough, a couple that have invested in their
25 own systems. But that's kind of reminiscent of

1 here we go again. And here we go again is what
2 Mr. Petty was talking about with the Fortify
3 Florida app. So if there is not a standardized
4 database and a standardized electronic instrument
5 then you've got a situation where others aren't
6 waiting and they're just going out and they're
7 doing their own and now we're back to hodgepodge.
8 So that's where it is. And, unfortunately, the
9 timing is not good probably. But we'll see. The
10 timing is not good for the State to invest the
11 significant money that would be needed to develop
12 that database statewide.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody else?

15 Again, you've got a copy of what I sent out to you
16 all yesterday. I think it's fairly comprehensive.
17 It's certainly room for other input in there.
18 Does anybody have anything now that you want to
19 add it? Or the way we can leave it is take a look
20 at it and hopefully within the next week or so
21 submit any written suggestions you have based on
22 us using this as the jump off place, as a starting
23 place, anything else you'd like to see.

24 So what I've added now based on the input
25 from Commission members is an update on the

1 Fortify Florida and an update on violence on
2 campus. And we'll flush that out a little bit
3 more, you know, overall violence on campus. Those
4 are two additional topics that I'll add to this
5 outline.

6 Does anybody have anything else for right now
7 that you want to input on? Does anybody see
8 anything on here that you think that we shouldn't
9 cover, that, look, we've been there, done that, we
10 don't need to cover it anymore? Is anything on
11 here in that regard that anybody sees that should
12 come off? All right.

13 SENATOR BOOK: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry. I was
14 looking for mute. Perhaps the way that -- and it
15 could be like a longer term study to look at how
16 community violence affects like violence on school
17 campuses would be my only other slight edit.

18 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Anybody
19 else? So take a look at this. And two things.
20 One, if you see anything that's not on here that
21 you have ideas about, send an email to Jennifer
22 Miller at FDLE, provide your input. And as you're
23 looking at this you see some things on here that
24 you don't think we need to delve into further, do
25 the same thing. Send something to Jennifer. And

1 then what we'll do is is that I'll meet with
2 Commission staff and start moving this forward.
3 I'll ask Jennifer to contact BB&T and see what our
4 options are for sometime late January or into
5 February. And then if we can get anything from
6 them. And the schedule is not out yet. We're
7 going to be a little bit competing with the hockey
8 season down there, so that will have to come into
9 play in the scheduling of it. And if we can get
10 something then we can send out a save the date to
11 everybody. If we can look at that time frame of
12 late January, early February, which again puts us
13 before the March legislative session which gives
14 us plenty of time. So unless anybody has any
15 concerns with that as the game plan we'll use that
16 to move forward with.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Sounds good.

18 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Before we move into
19 public comment -- and we do have some I believe
20 for public comment. Did any of the Commission
21 members have anything else before we move into
22 public comment?

23 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: Mr. Chair, I
24 have one question. If we have it at BB&T, will we
25 be in compliance with the settlement agreement?

1 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yes. Nobody's got
2 any issues with it there. Parking is free. It's
3 easy access. Yes. BB&T is not a problem as far
4 as the settlement agreement's concerned.

5 Anybody else? Jennifer, what do we have for
6 public comment? How many do we have?

7 MS. MILLER: We have eight public comments.

8 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Can you hear me,
9 Jennifer?

10 MS. MILLER: We have eight public comments.

11 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: If you want to go
12 ahead and we'll begin with public comment. I'll
13 limit everyone to three minutes. And we'll begin
14 the public comment and just ask everyone to --
15 identify the people as you put them on and ask
16 everybody to state their name for the record and
17 they'll have three minutes to address the
18 Commission.

19 MS. MILLER: Good morning. First we have
20 Tony Montalto. Are you on the line?

21 MR. MONTALTO: I am.

22 MS. MILLER: Please state your name and then
23 you have three minutes.

24 MR. MONTALTO: My name is Tony Montalto. I'm
25 the father of Gina Rose Montalto, one of the

1 victims in the Stoneman Douglas shooting. First
2 of all, I want to say we appreciate the great work
3 by the Commission overall. However, we were
4 saddened to see that the school safety bills did
5 not pass the legislative session this year.
6 Although we've had great work to start, clearly
7 more needs to be done. I must also call attention
8 to the work by the Alladoff family and their work
9 to get the alerting system law passed. This
10 Commission may not to consider recommendations to
11 the legislature on how that should be incorporated
12 into the overall school safety system.

13 Also, I want to thank Damien Kelly and remind
14 people of how lucky we are to have such a
15 dedicated public servant to help make Florida
16 schools safer. I'm happy to see the strong work
17 done to improve the SESIR data. This will help
18 the Office of Safe Schools to produce more
19 effective training for the school safety
20 specialists. I need to remind everybody that a
21 more coordinated effort --

22 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: I think we lost
23 you, Mr. Montalto. Are you still there?
24 Jennifer, could you tell? Did we lose him?

25 MS. MILLER: Mr. Montalto, we can't hear

1 you. He's still showing up on there. Ed.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Tony, can you hear
3 us?

4 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Jennifer, can you
5 hear me?

6 MS. MILLER: Yes, I can hear you.

7 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: If he calls back
8 in, we'll let him finish his comments. But in the
9 meantime, it looks like we lost him. Let's go
10 onto the next public comment.

11 MS. MILLER: Okay. The next one is Robert
12 Schentrup.

13 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: You're recognized.
14 You have three minutes.

15 MR. SCHENTRUP: My name is Rob Schentrup, and
16 I am the brother of Carmen Schentrup, one of the
17 17 victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school
18 shooting. I would like to thank the Commission
19 for all the work that they've done so far. And
20 especially for deciding to allow more
21 accessibility and public input as part of these
22 Commission hearings. While I am somewhat
23 disappointed that it took a lawsuit to get to this
24 point I am very excited by the additions reached
25 in the settlement. I'm also glad that the

1 Commission was able to propose more mental health
2 funding. And although it didn't pass and I share
3 Mr. Montalto's, Tony's, disappointment in it not
4 passing as well, I am glad to see that there is
5 more mental health funding being asked for. Also
6 for the diversity and educator perspectives on the
7 Commission. I think that both of those are
8 extremely important factors. And I'm glad that
9 the Commission considered them as well.

10 In the wake of the killings of George Floyd,
11 Jacob Blake and many others at the hands of police
12 and the calls for resurgence of Black Lives Matter
13 and calls around the ending of police brutality, I
14 think it is important to look at police in schools
15 and how they not only affect a lot of folks like
16 myself who present white. But it's also very
17 important to look at the role that police have
18 especially when interacting with those of
19 marginalized identities. As we've seen from this
20 conversation it is really important to think about
21 not only how do law enforcement make some feel
22 safe, but also how do they impact the safety
23 others. And especially those who don't look like
24 us. And I think that it's really important when
25 we're thinking about school safety that we think

1 about the safety of everyone, that we think about
2 things outside of our own personal experiences,
3 that we of course listen, something that this
4 Commission has done very well, and make sure that
5 those are things that are factored into the
6 decision making process.

7 And so due to COVID many schools are still
8 remote. We hope that we will think more about the
9 mental health needs of our students given that in
10 Broward County there are currently -- well, in the
11 State of Florida as a whole there are currently no
12 districts that meet the counselor to student ratio
13 of one counselor for every 250 students. And it's
14 really important to make sure that as we talk of
15 course more about mental health, especially with
16 COVID impacts that we look at the importance of
17 providing resources for mental health within our
18 school to our most vulnerable students and to
19 those who are going to be suffering negative
20 mental health consequences because of COVID 19 and
21 other reasons. Thank you.

22 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you.

23 MS. MILLER: We have Mr. Tony Montalto back
24 on the line.

25 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Mr.

1 Montalto, are you there?

2 MR. MONTALTO: Yes, I'm here.

3 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. You can go
4 ahead and finish your comments.

5 MR. MONTALTO: All right. I apologize for
6 that. I don't know why it cut out.

7 All right. So we need more recommendations.
8 I apologize it's out of order. It's hard to know.
9 The next meeting should be before February. We
10 need to have a comprehensive plan for committee
11 weeks. As the Chairman commented we must not let
12 the clock run out on another school safety bill
13 this session. I also feel that it might be
14 beneficial for the committee to reach out to
15 teachers again to see if they will be more willing
16 to cooperate with the investigation. They were
17 relatively silent during the first time around.
18 This might enable the Commission to make better
19 recommendations on how also to protect our
20 teachers.

21 Again, thank you for your time. I apologize
22 for the inconvenience. And thanks for your work.

23 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thanks for
24 Mr. Montalto. Jennifer, next public comment
25 caller.

1 MS. MILLER: The next one is Thomas James.
2 And please state your name and you have
3 three minutes.

4 MR. JAMES: Good morning, this is Thomas
5 James. Can everybody hear me?

6 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yes, go ahead.

7 MR. JAMES: Okay. Hi, guys. I appreciate
8 all your work and I did speak at the first several
9 Commission meetings. People may remember me. I'm
10 a retired teacher 35 years, also was a coach in
11 Dade County, worked for the union as a lobbyist
12 and also worked DOE during Bush's first term.
13 I've spoken about this program with my sole
14 concern and I followed this through and I'm an
15 activist and a person who is very concerned about
16 school safety even though I have retired from the
17 Florida system for three years. Basically, I'm
18 very disturbed not especially at you guys, but I
19 wish you could put more pressure on the Governor
20 and his staff to get this statewide grand jury
21 thing going because it's been 15 months since he
22 announced. I understand COVID and all the
23 implications of that; however, at the same time
24 absolutely nothing has been done with regard to
25 anybody in these schools being held accountable

1 for what took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.
2 And I think that's just a travesty that we're
3 going this far. We're talking 30 months since the
4 actual incident. You guys know from your
5 investigation that you were provided testimony
6 from both Broward and Miami-Dade schools that they
7 had submitted fraudulent school safety information
8 to the Florida Department of Education and the US
9 Department of Education in order to receive
10 millions of dollars from Obama's failed Race To
11 the Top Program. Robert Runcie basically admitted
12 as much. He called it misclassifying information.
13 We also know that Dade County where I worked did
14 the same thing. The superintendent, Alberto
15 Carvalho, falsely claimed that there no fights in
16 Dade County schools for an entire school year I
17 believe. That was somewhere around 2015. And he
18 also had failed to notify the Florida Department
19 of Education of a student who was stabbed to death
20 at Coral Gable Senior High School several years
21 ago. So both districts have already been cited by
22 this Commission but absolutely no action has been
23 taken against anybody. So I implore you before
24 anymore time goes by to bring the grand jury
25 investigation to closure, present the findings to

1 the public. Please indite school officials who we
2 know have committed fraud. The failure to do so
3 is a gross miscarriage of justice and let's
4 superintendents and school board members know that
5 rules and laws don't really apply to them. Thank
6 you very much.

7 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you.
8 Jennifer, next.

9 MS. MILLER: The next one is Chris Curran.
10 Please state your name and you have three minutes.

11 MR. CURRAN: Good morning, this is Chris
12 Curran. I am an associate professor and Director
13 of the Education Policy Research Center at the
14 University of Florida. I want to begin by saying
15 thank you for the opportunity to provide comment
16 today and to the Commission for their important
17 and timely work on this topic.

18 My research focuses on school safety, school
19 discipline, use of law enforcement in schools.
20 I've analyzed the use of school police across
21 numerous states and published widely on the topic.
22 I want to begin by commending the Commission on
23 their work to further the safety of students
24 within the State of Florida. As a parent and a
25 former public school teacher myself I recognize

1 the complexities of this task and the importance
2 of this work. So thank you for engaging in that
3 effort.

4 This week the Education Policy Research
5 Center is releasing a statewide study of school
6 policing in Florida. The study examines
7 longitudinal data from a five-year period,
8 including the expansion of law enforcement that
9 followed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
10 Public Safety Act. Consistent with the intentions
11 of the Act and the recommendations of the
12 Commission the findings show an increase in police
13 in Florida schools over this period particularly
14 among elementary schools. The study also finds
15 that the presence of police was not related to
16 increases in exclusionary discipline like
17 suspensions. And this is a finding that is
18 particularly promising and a rather good finding
19 considering that many prior studies of policing in
20 schools has found the opposite. Yet at the same
21 time some of the findings of this report also
22 point to unintended consequences to students as a
23 result of the presence of police in Florida
24 schools. Specifically schools with police report
25 more not fewer behavioral incidents. More of

1 these incidents are reported to law enforcement
2 and in turn schools with police have more frequent
3 school arrests. The worry is that when arrested
4 particularly for lower level offenses these
5 responses may actually put students on paths to
6 future trouble rather than success. Just as the
7 previous caller mentioned with increased attention
8 to racialized police violence in the school to
9 prison pipeline it's important these unintended
10 consequences of law enforcement in schools be
11 considered along side efforts to prevent future
12 acts of mass violence at schools. I know these
13 concerns aren't new to the Commission. And there
14 are examples of agencies across the State
15 including those here in Alachua County that have
16 taken active steps to mitigate these unintended
17 consequences. Yet the potential for these side
18 effects of school policing are nevertheless
19 important to reiterate as the Commission pursues
20 its mission of preventing future school violence
21 and ensuring safe schools for all students in the
22 state.

23 One of the Commissioners mentioned an
24 interest in hearing more from experts and research
25 in the state, so I'll be happy to share a copy of

1 the study as it's released this week and would
2 also welcome an opportunity to present and discuss
3 further the findings of the study and my research
4 and my understanding of the research more broadly
5 on issues of school safety at a later Commission
6 meeting if it was an interest.

7 So, again, thank you for all the work you're
8 doing for Florida students and for the opportunity
9 to talk today.

10 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you. Next
11 public speaker.

12 MS. MILLER: Okay. It's Christopher
13 Zoeller. Please state your name and you have
14 three minutes.

15 MR. ZOELLER: Hello, everyone. My name is
16 Christopher Zoeller, and I am a current freshman
17 at the University of Central Florida. With the
18 result of the lawsuit regarding accessibility and
19 public comments I am confident as I stand before
20 you to address the school to prison pipeline that
21 is extremely prevalent in our society. As you may
22 know, the school to prison pipeline pushes
23 students, particularly black and LGBTQ + students,
24 into the disciplinary system that leads to arrest
25 and jail time. Florida which currently still

1 relies on a school discipline punish students
2 using suspension and expulsion marking these
3 students as bad kids. According to the American
4 Civil Liberty Union in Florida there are nearly
5 345,000 suspensions and 570 expulsions each year.
6 Black students in Florida are 2 and a half times
7 more likely to be removed from classrooms than
8 their white peers. While 3 of 5 LGBTQ + students
9 are disciplined through suspension and expulsion.

10 Today I call on this Commission to address
11 this issue and make moves to stop the school to
12 prison pipeline to protect our students. The time
13 to invest in education and provide appropriate
14 funding, provide more access to education for
15 students held in detention centers and jails and
16 overall nurture other than discipline the minds of
17 our students. Thank you.

18 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Jennifer, who do we
19 have next?

20 MS. MILLER: Next is Yasamin Sharifi. You
21 have three minutes and please state your name.

22 MS. SHARIFI: Good morning. My name is
23 Yasamin Sharifi. I am a children's rights
24 advocate of the Southern Poverty Law Center. I
25 would like to address the Commission today on

1 behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center, our
2 partners and allies and the many children's
3 families we represent. Like many who have spoken
4 before me we are grateful that the Commission has
5 previously recommended expanded funding for mental
6 health which is much needed. And we also
7 appreciate the attention to increase diversity and
8 educator perspective on the Commission. However,
9 we are deeply concerned about the (inaudible) to
10 expand the presence of police and arm the
11 Guardians in Florida schools and to expand funding
12 for policing in schools in Florida under the guise
13 of safety. In fact, it is well-known the dangers
14 that policing can present to children, especially
15 children of color. If anything the last few
16 months and the recent killings and the shootings
17 of George Floyd, Brianna Taylor, Ahmed Aubrey,
18 Jacob Blake, Tony McDade, Tatiana Jefferson and
19 countless others has made all the more clear these
20 dangers to black citizens and residents of this
21 country.

22 We urge the Commission to take seriously the
23 nationwide movement around police brutality as a
24 wake up call and we urge you to reconsider
25 carefully the (inaudible) impact the policies you

1 propose may have and impact that school policing
2 will have for all children in Florida.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to address the
4 Commission.

5 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. Thank
6 you. Jennifer, go ahead with the next caller.

7 MS. MILLER: The next one is Sam Boyd.
8 Please state your name and you have three minutes.

9 MR. BOYD: Thank you. Hello, my name is Sam
10 Boyd. I'm an attorney for the plaintiffs in the
11 litigation which has been resolved (inaudible)
12 today's meeting. I'm now going to read the
13 statement regarding that settlement from one of
14 the plaintiffs, Kennedy Acres, a current high
15 school student and member of March for Our Lives
16 of Florida who was not able to join the meeting
17 today.

18 On behalf of March for Our Lives of Florida
19 I'd like to thank everyone involved for ensuring
20 Florida students have their voices heard in regard
21 to the policies that affect them. As students we
22 have a right to let our thoughts be considered.
23 We should feel empowered to do so. It is because
24 of the devotion of our state's hardworking
25 organizers, policy makers and community members

1 alike that Florida schools are moving promisingly
2 in the direction of safety. And I'm proud that
3 Florida students are finally be recognized for
4 their valued perspective. Thank you.

5 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you.

6 MS. MILLER: This is the last one. Octavia
7 Thomas, please state your name and you have
8 three minutes.

9 MS. THOMAS: Good morning. I first would
10 like to thank everyone for the opportunity to
11 speak as well as the other public comments. I
12 also want to thank you all for the progress and
13 the work that you all have done over the course of
14 the past year. (Inaudible) and I really do want
15 to thank you for the fact that you all have been
16 working diligently on making Florida schools
17 safer.

18 I also want to reemphasize the need for this
19 Commission and for the work of the Commission as
20 students are in a very unprecedented time right
21 now with most students not being in schools or
22 actually seeing their teachers face-to-face I
23 think both students, teachers and administrators
24 alike all in this time need support. As we're
25 talking about school safety and what that might

1 look like in the future I do believe that policing
2 is not the answer. I think we all kind of really
3 echoed that on today's message. And you all have
4 supported increased funding for mental health
5 counselors in schools. As you know, that's
6 something you do not see across Florida students.
7 Schools are operating under surveillance as a
8 state is not safe for our students. Our students
9 should go to school feeling like school is place
10 for them to thrive and a place for them to learn.
11 We all know on that date our students do not feel
12 safe or do not feel like that was a place for them
13 to learn.

14 This Commission has the obligation to amplify
15 the voice of school safety. I echo the sentiments
16 of someone earlier who was saying that we have to
17 be a little bit more urgent as it relates to
18 school safety. We can not let another session go
19 by and we have not adequately discussed measures
20 to improve school safety across the State of
21 Florida. We cannot let another session go by and
22 we have not discussed what measures we need to
23 take to improve school safety for all backgrounds.

24 As a woman of color it is very imperative to
25 me that when we're talking about these polices

1 that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past
2 where they protect some but not all. As we've
3 seen in 2020 racial injustices do exist, racial
4 biases do exist within individuals. We need to
5 take that into consideration as we are obliged to
6 take all things into consideration and be very
7 critical of the policies that we present and how
8 it will affect the opportunity and the climate of
9 all of our students across the State of Florida
10 and what that does to either hinder or advance
11 their environment of schooling and what they see
12 in terms of being able to have hope to have more
13 (inaudible) Florida public school system. With
14 that I've used the rest of time. Thank you.

15 CHAIR SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you. All
16 right. That concludes the public comment. That
17 concludes everything that we have on our agenda.
18 We will move forward consistent with the
19 Commission's discussions here today.

20 Just remind everybody if you have any input,
21 please send an e-mail to Jennifer Miller at FDLE
22 regarding that pathway as we've discussed and try
23 and do that within the next week if you would.
24 Otherwise we'll move ahead and see what we can do
25 as far as scheduling that next meeting consistent

1 with our discussions.

2 Unless anybody else has anything that needs
3 to be brought before the Commission, that
4 concludes the business for today and we will
5 recess. Anybody have anything before we recess?

6 Thank you everybody for your participation
7 and we'll be in touch. We'll be adjourned. Thank
8 you.

9 (Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF LEON)

I, Doreen Mannino, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that I was authorized to and did report in
stenotypy and electronically the foregoing
proceedings, and that the foregoing pages constitute a
true and correct transcription of my recording
thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my
hand the 15th day of September 2020 at Tallahassee,
Leon County, Florida.

Doreen Mannino-----
Doreen M. Mannino