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          SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 2
               FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
 3
    ELIEZER WILLIAMS, et al., ) No. 312 236
 4
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              Plaintiffs,
 6
    v.
 7
    STATE OF CALIFORNIA;
    DELAINE EASTIN, State
8
  Superintendent of Public
    Instruction; STATE
10
11 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; )
12 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, ) VOLUME III
               Defendants. ) Pages 437 - 676
13
14
15
16
17
   DEPOSITION OF:
18
                    LLOYD HOUSKE
19
                    FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001
20
                     9:30 A.M.
21
22 Reported by:
23
             C. JANE HARMAN
24
             CSR No. 5266
25
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1	Deposition of LLOYD HOUSKE, the witness,	1	INDEX
2	taken on behalf of DEFENDANT STATE OF CALIFORNIA, at	2	WITNESS EXAMINATION PAGE
3	9:53 A.M., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001, at 400 South Hope	3	LLOYD HOUSKE
4	Street, Fifteenth Floor, Los Angeles, California,	4	
_	before c. jane harman, CSR No. 5266.		
5	before c. jane narman, CSK No. 3200.	5	Afternoon session 542
6	ADDE AD ANICES OF COUNSEL	6	BY MS. STRONG 625, 668
7	APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL	7	
8	FOR DIABITETE	8	
9	FOR PLAINTIFFS:	9	EXHIBITS
10	MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE	10	(None)
11	AND EDUCATIONAL FUND	11	
12	BY: HECTOR O. VILLAGRA, ESQ.	12	NACED AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
13	634 South Spring Street	13	INSTRUCTED NOT TO ANSWER
14	Eleventh Floor	14	Page 479 Line 9
15	Los Angeles, California 90014	15	Page 622 Line 4
16	213 629 2512	16	Page 622 Line 9
17		17	Page 622 Line 24
18	FOR DEFENDANT STATE OF CALIFORNIA:	18	Page 623 Line 7
19	O'MELVENY & MYERS, LLP	19	Page 624 Line 8
20	BY: SABRINA HERON STRONG, ESQ.	20	Page 624 Line 18
21	400 South Hope Street	21	
22	Fifteenth Floor	22	
23	Los Angeles, California 90071-2899	23	INFORMATION REQUESTED
24	213 430 6000	24	(None)
25		25	
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1	Page 439 APPEARANCES CONTINUED	1	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
2	APPEARANCES CONTINUED	2	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001
2 3	APPEARANCES CONTINUED FOR CROSS-DEFENDANT AND INTERVENER LOS ANGELES	2 3	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001 9:53 A.M.
2 3 4	APPEARANCES CONTINUED FOR CROSS-DEFENDANT AND INTERVENER LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT:	2 3 4	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001
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2 3 4 5 6 7	APPEARANCES CONTINUED FOR CROSS-DEFENDANT AND INTERVENER LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: LOZANO SMITH BY: JAMES B. FERNOW, ESQ. 2800 28th Street	2 3 4 5 6 7	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001 9:53 A.MoOo- LLOYD HOUSKE, having been re-sworn, was
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- ask me. If you understand, the assumption will be
- that you understood the question and that you're 2
- 3 providing a full and truthful answer.
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 O. I think that's about it.
- 6 A. Good.
- 7 Q. We left off last time and we were talking
- 8 about what happens when teachers are going off
- 9 track.
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. And correct me if I'm wrong, but my 11
- 12 understanding was that as teachers and their classes
- 13 are preparing to go off track, books are collected.
- 14 Is that correct?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Do you know when in relation to the
- last day of class before a track ends books are 17
- 18 collected?
- 19 A. It's usually the week before.
- 20 O. So a full week before?
- 21 A. That's right.
- 22 Q. And --
- 23 A. Well, starting in -- the schedule starts
- 24 in. Now, that doesn't mean everyone turns it in
- that ... but over that period of five days, everyone 25

- 1 MS. STRONG: Join.
- 2 THE WITNESS: Well, again, it depends upon
- 3 the teacher. If the teacher is using a different
- 4 series and the next teacher is not using it, then
- 5 they're sent back. Sometimes there is a change in
- grade where there may be a combination grade and 6
- 7 that combination grade would want a higher level 8
 - book. So it depends.

But there is a period of time where they have to be without books, no doubt about that.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 12 O. And supplies are collected as well, as
- teachers and their classes prepare to go off track; 13
- 14 is that correct?

9

10

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18

- A. No, they are not.
- 16 Q. And how is it that you know that books are collected over those -- over that last week before 17
- 18 teachers go off track?
- 19 A. Because it's not an easy thing to get
- 20 accomplished, and so that teachers don't always
- follow the schedules, and so that I'm involved in 21
- helping people to remember that. 22
- 23 Q. What do you mean by, it isn't easy to get
- 24 that done?
 - A. Well, they're supposed to send them in at a

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Page 445

- will get the books in.
- 2 Q. Okay. So over the course of each day 3 during that week --
 - A. That's right.
- 5 Q. -- books are being collected?
- 6 A. That's right.
 - Q. So is it fair to say that for some kids
- 8 they will be without textbooks during those last five days?
- 9

4

7

- 10 A. Not all textbooks are collected. It has
- more to do with reading series. And there will 11
- still be other ... science and math things that will
- 13 still probably be left in the room.
- 14 Q. Okay. And then those will be --
- 15 A. Depending upon -- excuse me. Depending
- 16 upon who's going in the room next. If it is the
- 17 same grade level, then there's not ...
- Q. And then those other books that remain, 18
- 19 like science books, would be collected as well over
- 20 the course of that week?
 - A. Some of those books are not collected.
- 22 Q. Okay. Which are the books that are not
- 23 collected?

21

- 24 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for
- 25 speculation.

- certain time during the day so the textbook clerk is
- checking them in. And when you're a classroom 2
- 3 teacher, schedules are not always that easy to
- 4 follow.
- 5 Q. And we talked last time about vacations on
- 6 the Concept 6 calendar. They last for approximately 7
 - two months; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. Do you believe that there can be memory
- 10 loss in those two-month vacations that students get
- 11 on the Concept 6 calendar?
- 12 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- ambiguous. Calls for speculation. May call for 13
- 14 expert testimony. And outside the scope of what the
- witness is able to testify to. And to the extent 15
- 16 that it's asking for his personal opinion testimony,
- 17
- it's irrelevant to this case.
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. You can answer. 21
 - MR. FERNOW: Do you remember the question?
- 22 THE WITNESS: I remember the question.
- 23 Well, I think that, you know, this is, I
- 24 think one of the pluses for year-round schedules is
- that the vacation isn't as long. I do think the

Page 446 Page 448

memory loss was greater when they had the full 2 summer off, that textbooks were designed to have 3

lots of review in the beginning.

4 And so that I instruct teachers in the 5 school that we don't need to spend as much time 6 on -- in the beginning of textbooks because it's 7 basically review because of that fear. 8

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Uh-huh.

9

12

10 So you believe the memory loss was greater when it was the full summer? 11

A. Traditional year, yes.

13 Q. But I take it by that that you believe that there is still some memory loss in the two-month 14 15 vacation?

16 A. That is correct.

MS. STRONG: Objection. Same objections as 17 18 I stated before.

19 MR. FERNOW: Join.

20 MS. STRONG: And vague and ambiguous.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. And why do you believe that?

23 MR. FERNOW: Same objections.

24 MS. STRONG: Join.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, I guess it's sort of pages, anyway, if not more.

2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. Is this a requirement that you have imposed on teachers at Cahuenga, that they give out these packets over the vacations?

A. Encouraged.

Q. And how is it that you've encouraged that?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous. And compound to the extent it's asking how he's encouraged each of the teachers at Cahuenga. That may vary.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: I suppose about -- bragging about the people when they first started doing it. And, you know, people like to hear praise. And so more and more people wanted to hear the praise so they started doing it. And they now -- they now --

17 18 rather than doing it individually, some grade levels

19 do it as a grade level so all the teachers pitch in

20 and contribute to it.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. And this is done in an effort to reduce 23 or minimize the opportunity for memory loss?

24 A. Absolutely -- yes.

Q. Is there anything else that teachers do,

Page 447

like an intuitive thing that you feel that when

you're away from something, you forget. And that

was why we make homework packets to send home during

4 the off-track time so that children will have that

5 material, so they won't have as much opportunity to

6 forget.

11

7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

8 Q. And when you refer to "opportunity to

forget," you're referring to what the students had

10 learned before they went on vacation?

A. That's correct.

12 Q. And that's what you understand --

understood me to be referring to when I referred 13

14 to memory loss?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How large are those homework packets that

you give out over the vacations? 17 18

MS. STRONG: Objection.

19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and

20 ambiguous.

21 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous. And

22 compound to the extent you're asking about more than

23 one type of homework packet.

24 THE WITNESS: They vary in size. And --

25 but most of them I would say are close to 35 to 40 to your knowledge, at Cahuenga to try to reduce or

2 minimize the opportunity for memory loss over the

3 vacations?

4 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

5 speculation. Vague and ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: No --

MR. FERNOW: Join.

8 THE WITNESS: We have the -- the librarian

from the public library comes to the school and she

10 goes through every classroom and motivates the

11 children for going to the library. And so we

encourage that. 12

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. Which are the grades where they've got -where the teachers have gotten together to develop a 15

16 consistent homework packet? If that's -- if that's

a correct statement of your testimony. 17

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

speculation. 19

20 THE WITNESS: First and third. And others

21 may, I just may not be aware of it.

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. But you're aware of that --

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. -- for first and third?

Page 450 Page 452

- 1 A. (Nods head.)
- 2 O. Have you seen the homework packet for first 3 grade?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Could you describe what it consists of.
- 6 A. It's --

9

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12

7 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 8 ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: It -- it's composed of a lot of math problems. There are phonic kinds of drills in there. They have writing journals in there.

And I don't remember the others, but I know 13 they had the packet of the mimeographed materials.

And there are three packets of writing paper which 14

had different usage, but I don't recall what the 15

16 other two were.

- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. Anything else that you recall?
- 19 A. No, that's basically it.
- 20 Q. Are the packets for the different grades
- 21 similar? I mean, obviously there are differences
- for variance in grade level, but are they generally 22
- 23 the same as what you described for the first grade?
- 24 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 25 ambiguous. And compound.

youngster needs extra help.

2 And then another one is a two-week course 3 that everyone from first grade to fifth grade has,

4 which is sort of a test preparation, extra class to

5 learn how to bubble in and do those kinds of things.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 6

7

9

12

O. Are the remediation intervention services 8 offered when students are off track during their intersession break?

10 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 11 speculation.

THE WITNESS: Yes, they are.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. And I believe you testified previously that 14 some are offered after school? 15
- 16 A. That's correct.
- Q. And others are offered on Saturdays? 17
- 18 A. That's correct.

19 The one offered on Saturday is -- well, the 20 one on Saturday is sometimes intervention but also

21 there is one where it's for families and children

22 who have been in the country for less than two

23 years. And so that it's language development and

24 other things for those youngsters. And parents also

25 take part in it.

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MR. FERNOW: Calls for speculation. 1

2 THE WITNESS: No, it differs because of the 3 grade level and -- but basically they're -- they

4 have a great deal of similarity.

5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. And you've seen packets for the various grades at Cahuenga?
- 8

6

7

- 9 Q. And I know we talked previously about the 10 topic of intervention services.
- A. Uh-huh. 11
- 12 Q. And we talked about how they are generally
- 13 remedial in nature; is that correct?
- 14 A. That's right.
- Q. What students are eligible to participate 15
- in intervention services? Is it limited to children 16
- 17 who are below grade level and need help getting up
- 18 to grade level?

19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

20 speculation.

21

- MS. STRONG: Join.
- 22 MR. FERNOW: Incomplete hypothetical.
- 23 MS. STRONG: Join.
- 24 THE WITNESS: It -- well, one of them is
- 25 for remediation, which would be -- meaning the

- Q. Okay. But some of the Saturday sessions 1 2 are for remediation?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, specifically talking about the
- 5 remediation sessions that go on after school, what
- are the hours that those are offered?

7 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 8 ambiguous. Compound. And calls for speculation.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

10 THE WITNESS: It -- it usually runs an

11 hour. Sometimes it's an hour and a half.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 13 Q. Does it run from 3:00 to 4:30, say --
- 14 A. Yes.

9

19

21

- 15 O. -- is there a set time?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 MS. STRONG: Same objections. Compound.
- 18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - O. Is that correct?
- A. That's correct. 20
 - Q. And how do you know that?
- 22 A. Because we're the ones that organize it.
- 23 O. And the Saturday remediation services, what
- 24 times are those offered?
- 25 MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound and calls

Page 454 Page 456 for speculation. 1 Q. And is that because on the Concept 6 1 THE WITNESS: It may vary. 2 2 calendar, classrooms are in use all year long? 3 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA: A. Yes. 4 Q. Why are these remediation sessions offered 4 Q. Do some students at Cahuenga who are in 5 after school and on Saturday --5 need of remediation services get bused to other 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. schools so they can receive those services? 6 7 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound and calls 7 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 8 for speculation. 8 speculation. 9 9 MS. STRONG: Join. THE WITNESS: Yes, they do. 10 10 THE WITNESS: I forgot the question. BY MR. VILLAGRA: 11 Q. How do you know that? 11 (Laughs.) 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 12 A. Because you -- we just did -- just did it this year. And we -- and the reason we did it 13 Q. Why are the remediation sessions offered on 13 was we didn't have enough children that needed 14 Saturdays and after school? 14 MR. FERNOW: Same objections. remediation and so we wouldn't qualify for a 15 15 16 MS. STRONG: Join. 16 teacher. So we had to send them to another THE WITNESS: Because that's the time when location 17 17 18 class space is available. 18 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 19 MS. STRONG: You know what, just for the 19 Q. How many do you bus out to receive 20 record, I think it might be easier, I would like to 20 remediation services at another school? 21 state that whenever you make an objection that we 21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for can stipulate that I'll join in that objection, I speculation. 22 22 don't need to state it throughout the entire 23 23 MR. FERNOW: Join.

24

25 ///

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24

25

interruptions less.

deposition transcript. Maybe it will make the

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THE WITNESS: Approximately seven.

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MR. VILLAGRA: So you're going to stipulate
                                                                 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 1
2
    that you'll join in every objection?
                                                              2
                                                                    Q. Do they all go to the same school?
 3
          MS. STRONG: Correct.
                                                              3
                                                                    A. Yes.
 4
          MR. FERNOW: Do you want to go off for just
                                                              4
                                                                       MR. FERNOW: Same objection.
 5
                                                              5
                                                                       MS. STRONG: Same objections.
    a second?
 6
          Do you want to go off?
                                                                 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 7
          MR. VILLAGRA: Sure.
                                                              7
                                                                    Q. And how do you know that?
                                                              8
8
          MR. FERNOW: Can we talk for a second?
                                                                    A. One bus comes.
9
          MS. STRONG: Sure.
                                                              9
                                                                    Q. If you had classroom space available, would
10
                                                             10
          (Conference held off the record
                                                                 you be offering remediation services after school
11
          between Ms. Strong and Mr. Fernow.)
                                                             11
                                                                 and on Saturdays?
12
          MS. STRONG: Okay. So is that agreed by
                                                             12
                                                                       MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete
    you, Mr. Villagra, that I join in the objections
13
                                                             13
                                                                 hypothetical. Calls for speculation. Vague and
14
    that are made by him?
                                                             14
                                                                 ambiguous.
15
          MR. VILLAGRA: Absolutely. I have no
                                                            15
                                                                       MR. FERNOW: Join.
                                                                       THE WITNESS: I might have to because it's
16
    problem with that.
                                                             16
17
          MS. STRONG: Okav.
                                                             17
                                                                 very hard to get teachers to come in to do an hour
          And "him" being Mr. Fernow. I'm sorry.
18
                                                             18
                                                                 or an hour-and-a-half program. And while it's not
                                                                 difficult to get a teacher who is already teaching
19
          MR. FERNOW: That's all right.
                                                             19
20
    BY MR. VILLAGRA:
                                                            20
                                                                 to spend an hour and a half after school.
21
       Q. And I believe, Mr. Houske, before we went
                                                            21
                                                                 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
    off the record you said the remediation sessions are
                                                            22
                                                                    Q. Do you know when on the traditional
22
                                                            23
    offered after school and on Saturdays because that's
                                                                 calendar remediation services are offered?
                                                            24
                                                                       MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
24
    when the classroom space is available?
25
       A. That is right.
                                                             25
                                                                 speculation to the extent it's asking whether yes
```

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1 or no.

6

2 MR. FERNOW: And it's vague and ambiguous.

3 Do you mean at other schools? You are assuming

facts, so it lacks foundation that other schools

5 offer the remediation programs.

THE WITNESS: I don't know.

7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

8 Q. In your opinion, are all students at

9 Cahuenga who are in need of remediation able to take

10 advantage of the intervention services offered?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 11

12 ambiguous. Calls for speculation. Assumes facts.

13 MR. FERNOW: Join.

MS. STRONG: And may call for expert 14

15 testimony.

16 THE WITNESS: I think the word "able." I'm

not sure exactly. Sometimes we offer classes for 17

18 children and then parents decide not to send them.

19 And -- but other than that, I would say that most of

20 our voungsters take advantage of it.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. Do you have any idea of what the -- what

23 the percentage is?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for have to reorganize the school more.

2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3 Q. Any other way in which the administration 4 of the Concept school -- Concept 6 school is

5 different?

6 MS. STRONG: Same objections.

THE WITNESS: Remember, I've been doing

this for probably 25 years now, so it doesn't --

it's kind of hard to remember what it was like 9

10 before.

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11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

O. This is how the world is now?

A. This is how the world is and so I've grown

14 accustomed to it.

Q. How long did it take for you to grow

16 accustomed to the Concept 6 calendar?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

18 ambiguous.

19 MR. FERNOW: As to "grown."

MS. STRONG: Overbroad.

21 MR. FERNOW: Join.

22 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what you mean by

23 "accustomed."

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. You said that it was something that you had

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speculation.

2 MS. STRONG: Join. 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. We talked way back when on the 14th about

5 your prior experience running a school on a

6 traditional calendar.

Do you recall that?

8 A. I do.

1

4

7

9

21

Q. Is the administration of a Concept

10 school -- Concept 6 school different than the

11 administration of a school on a traditional

12 calendar?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 13

14 ambiguous. It could call for speculation.

THE WITNESS: Yes. 15

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

17 O. How so?

18 A. It's more complex.

MS. STRONG: Same objections. 19

20 MR. FERNOW: Join.

I'm sorry. Go ahead.

22 THE WITNESS: It's -- it's just more

complex. You have -- you have people coming in and

leaving at different times and so you're -- your 24

professional development has to be repeated, and you

to grow accustomed to. 1

A. I suppose to learn the tricks. And how

long does it take you to learn the tricks? I

4 suppose you're always learning the tricks. It's a

5 never-ending process.

6 Q. What are you referring to when you refer to

"the tricks"?

8 A. Well, as I said, professional development

9 is certainly one; that most professional

10 developments that I do in my school, I have to do

11 twice. And in the beginning that was -- was

difficult, but now I find that it's kind of -- I

find that by the time I do it the second time, I 13

really kind of change it and I sometimes think it's

15 better.

16

19

23

And certainly it's difficult to explain to

17 parents the track system.

18 Q. Any other tricks?

A. I'm sorry I used that word.

20 MR. FERNOW: That may call for privileged

21 information, I'm not sure that we can ...

22 (Laughter.)

MR. VILLAGRA: I'm not sure whether I'm

24 deposing Mr. Houske or Felix the Cat.

25 THE WITNESS: He told me to watch out for

Page 462 Page 464

1 you.

2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3 Q. Well, you're the one with the bag of 4 tricks.

5 Anything else that you can think of?

6 A. Not really.

7 Remember. I said about the teachers 8 developing, it's like polishing a stone and it's -each swipe, you know, that you refine your skills. 9 And I don't -- I don't think it's that easy to

10 11 pinpoint it.

12 Q. Okay. I believe on the 14th you mentioned 13 that it takes a complex organization to run intervention services. 14

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Describe that complex organization, if you

could. 17 18 A. Well, the major one is -- is -- getting the 19 teachers available to do it and so that sometimes

teachers want to change days, or change the hours.

21 And the district is offering several different

programs, and so each one of them have different 22

23 kind of mandates.

24 O. And is the complex organization required by 25 the fact that you have the three different tracks?

available during the school day?

2 A. No.

6

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3 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and 4 answered.

5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

> Q. You mentioned that professional development is one of the ways in which Concept 6 is more complex.

A. Yes.

10 Q. Why is it more complex?

MS. STRONG: Objection. May call for 11 12 speculation to the extent that he doesn't know the 13 details of all of the complexities involved.

14 MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: Well, it's because you have 15 16 to repeat it. It isn't a one-time job.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 17

18 O. I take it that on a traditional calendar 19 you could run your professional development just 20 once?

21 A. That's correct.

22 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

23 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical.

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

O. Is communication with teachers made more

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MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 1 2 ambiguous.

3 MR. FERNOW: Join.

4 And incomplete hypothetical. 5

THE WITNESS: I don't really think so. I 6 think I would probably have just as much problem if

I only had one track. And it's -- it has more just 7 to do with the people, you know, getting parents to

understand, getting the mayor... and finding --

10 finding the space.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

12 Q. Is finding the space made more difficult by 13 the fact that you have three tracks?

14 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete 15 hypothetical.

16 MR. FERNOW: Join.

17 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: No, it ... it has more to do

18 with teachers who want to work after school. And so 19

20 that sometimes their classroom, we can't use it,

21 because that teacher wants to stay. So of course we

honor that, so we have to look around for other 22

classroom space at the school.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 24

25

Q. But you don't have classroom space that's

complex by the Concept 6 calendar? 1

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

4 THE WITNESS: It's difficult -- difficult 5 for me? No, I would not say it's difficult for me

to have communication with them.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

8 Q. So it's not made more difficult by the fact 9 that at any given point one-third of the teachers 10 are on vacation?

11 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete 12 hypothetical. Vague and ambiguous.

13 THE WITNESS: Well, it -- it -- it 14 gets, I suppose, difficult when you have one class

at a certain point, because when a new track comes 15 16 on, because we have one track going off at the end

17 of August and we have a new track coming on. And so

18 for that new track coming on in September, that

means that they're -- they're starting off as a 19

20 fresh student, day one, and so that this other group 21 is ahead of them.

22 And -- but again, as what comes with 23 experience, it isn't as much of a communication

24 problem for me as it may be for the teachers that

25 are grade level.

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- 1 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And why is it a problem for the teachers,to your knowledge?
- 4 A. Because they're not starting off fresh.
- 5 The other teachers have already done eight weeks of
- 6 teaching and so they're not at that beginning stage 7 anymore.
- 8 MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation, by the 9 way.
- 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 11 Q. Have teachers ever complained to you about 12 that?
- 13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 14 ambiguous.
 - MR. FERNOW: As to "that." Join.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Not really.
- 17 MS. STRONG: Incomplete hypothetical.
- 18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And when you hold staff meetings, it's for the teachers who are on track at the time; is that
- 21 correct?

15

1

- A. That's correct.
- Q. You also testified previously about network
- 24 meetings where all the teachers in a particular
- 25 grade level get together and meet.

- 1 philosophy or methodology employed by teachers?
- A. Yes.

3

5

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14

16

- MS. STRONG: Objection.
- 4 MR. FERNOW: You have to give us a second.
 - THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 6 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous and it may
- 7 call for -- to the extent it's calling for his
- 8 personal opinion testimony, it's not relevant to
- 9 this suit.
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. Is it more difficult, in your opinion, to ensure that on the Concept 6 calendar --
- 15 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 16 ambiguous --
- 17 MR. VILLAGRA: I'm sorry. If I could get a
- 18 chance to finish the question --
- 19 MS. STRONG: Oh, I'm sorry.
 - MR. VILLAGRA: -- it would help me, too.
- 21 MS. STRONG: Sorry.
- 22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. Is it more difficult to ensure a consistent
- 24 teaching philosophy and methodology on the Concept 6
 - 5 calendar than on the traditional calendar?

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- A. That's correct.
- Q. And you talked about how that was a very
- powerful learning tool for new teachers because they get a chance to hear from experienced teachers and
- 5 share ideas.
- 6 Is that correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And at those network meetings, are those
- 9 attended by the teachers who are on track at that
- 10 time --

14

21

- 11 A. That --
- MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for
- 13 speculation.
 - THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- 15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 16 Q. Do you ever attend these network meetings?
- 17 A. Yes --
- MS. STRONG: Asked and answered.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
- 20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. So you know who attends the network
- 22 meetings?
- 23 A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Is it important to you as principal of the
- 25 school to ensure that there is a consistent teaching

- 1 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 3 Calls for speculation. Could call for an
- 4 expert opinion.
- 5 THE WITNESS: It doesn't seem to, to me
- 6 anyway.
- 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 8 Q. Why not?
- 9 A. Well, at school they call me the vision
- 10 keeper, and I keep the vision and I share the
- 11 vision. And so it -- it emulates from me. And I
- 12 have contact with all the teachers and so that there
- 13 is a consistency.
 - Q. So let's take a network meeting, for
- 15 example, among teachers in first grade --
 - A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. -- how is what's conveyed at a particular
- 18 meeting -- how is that conveyed to the one-third of
 - 9 teachers in the first grade who are not on track
- when the meeting occurs?MS. STRONG: Ob
 - MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 22 ambiguous. Calls for speculation. And compound
- 23 to the extent that you're asking for a variety of
- 24 circumstances in which information may be conveyed.
- 25 MR. FERNOW: Join.

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1 THE WITNESS: I'm not really -- I'm not 2 really sure I can give you an answer to that. I'm 3 not sure. They go back and they review with the new track coming on what has gone on before. 5

And sometimes the network meeting is not just all first grades, but sometimes the network meeting will be just all those on one track together and so that they're sharing things.

9 And in my school, don't forget, we have the different language programs. And so sometimes the 10 teachers who have the dual-language program, they 11 12 meet as a -- as a network. And they're all on the 13 track at the same time.

14 And so that it varies so much, it's hard to 15 answer.

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

6

7

8

Q. But there is always going to be a 17 18 limitation at a network meeting about who can attend 19 because only particular teachers are on track at that time; is that correct? 20 21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete

hypothetical. And --22 23 THE WITNESS: Your finger helped that time.

24 He waved the finger.

25 MS. STRONG: The pause for the objection. If that's true, there will be a prize later.

2 MR. FERNOW: It is vague and ambiguous as 3 to "time off." Do you mean a vacation, or do you 4 mean --

MR. VILLAGRA: Yes, vacation.

6 THE WITNESS: I take a three-week vacation 7 in the summertime. And I take several days off at 8

Christmastime. BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. The three-week summer vacation is a regular occurrence?

A. Yes.

5

9

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17

13 Q. Is someone designated as principal when you're away from the school? 14

A. Yes.

16 O. Who is that?

A. The assistant principal.

18 Q. And is someone brought in to be assistant

19 vice principal while she's taking on your

20 responsibilities during your vacation?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Is there a school nurse at Cahuenga?

23

24 O. To your knowledge, does she take a vacation

25 during the school year?

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MR. FERNOW: You know what's coming. 1 2

THE WITNESS: I forgot the question.

3 MR. VILLAGRA: Would you please read the 4 question back.

5 THE WITNESS: You forgot, too.

6 MR. FERNOW: And I'll object as vague and ambiguous and join in Sabrina Strong's objections. 7

(The record was read as follows:

Question: But there is always going

10 to be a limitation at a network

meeting about who can attend because 11

12 only particular teachers are on track

13 at that time: is that correct?) 14

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MS. STRONG: Same objections. 15

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 16

17 Q. When did you last take time off from

18 school?

8

9

MS. STRONG: Objection. Assumes facts. 19

20 MR. FERNOW: That's very true. And I think

21 it's vague and ambiguous.

22 You mean --

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. I hope I'm not assuming that in the last

25 20 years you haven't taken a vacation from Cahuenga. 1 A. Yes.

2

7

12

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

3 speculation.

4 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

5 Q. And when the school nurse is on vacation,

is he or she substituted for? 6

A. Yes.

8 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

speculation. If you know. 9

10 THE WITNESS: You didn't use your finger.

11 MR. FERNOW: I used the pen (indicating).

THE WITNESS: Okay.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 O. And how is that substitution for the school

15 nurse accomplished?

16 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

17 speculation.

18 THE WITNESS: The district provides it.

19 And they do that automatically for us.

20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

21 Q. And does that come out of the Cahuenga 22 operating budget?

23 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

24 speculation.

25 MR. FERNOW: Join.

Page 474 Page 476 1 THE WITNESS: No. remember that. BY MR. VILLAGRA: 2 2 O. Equal opportunity memory loss. Q. It does not? 3 3 In your opinion, is the administration of the Stanford 9 more difficult on a Concept 6 4 A. (Shakes head.) 4 5 Q. How do you know that? 5 calendar than on a traditional calendar? 6 A. Because I don't -- I don't pay for the 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7 7 ambiguous. 8 8 Q. Okay. Does each track have its own THE WITNESS: Yes.

10

9 schedule for taking the Stanford 9? MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound. Vague 10 and ambiguous. May be calling for speculation to 11 12 the extent you don't know.

THE WITNESS: Well --

MR. VILLAGRA: It's a speculative objection 14 15 about calling for speculation.

16 THE WITNESS: One track has a different schedule and two tracks have the same. 17

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

13

19 Q. What is the schedule?

20 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

ambiguous as to which track you're asking about. 21

THE WITNESS: True. 22

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 O. What's the schedule for A track?

25 A. It varies from year to year. 9 MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Why? 11

12 A. One track comes back and they have to take the test as soon as they get back almost. 13

They're -- it's getting better with it now, but 14

they still are -- they don't have enough chance 15 16 to review.

17 Q. Which track is that?

18 A. Red track.

19 Q. Does that correspond to B track? 20

A. It -- I just use colors. (Laughs.)

21 MS. STRONG: If you don't know, just tell

22 us that.

23 THE WITNESS: I just can't say it.

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

25 Q. Do you know when --

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Q. Do you know the schedule for this year? 1

2 A. We have not given it yet.

3 Q. What was it for last year?

4 A. Now you know how I am about dates.

5 Q. Approximately --

6 A. It was in the spring.

Q. Now, they're on vacation in January and

8 February on the A track: is that correct?

A. That's correct.

10 Q. Would it have been in March or April?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

12 speculation. He already testified he doesn't know.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: True, I don't -- I wouldn't

15 want to testify. I would have to look at a

16 schedule.

7

9

11

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23

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. That's not one of the things I remember.

20 Q. And there are printed schedules for the

21 testing schedule?

22 A. Absolutely.

Q. Do you remember the testing schedule for

24 track B?

25 A. No. I treat all tracks equally. I don't 1 A. Careful.

2 Q. -- red track is on vacation?

3 A. Again, I would have to look at the

4 calendar.

8

15

18

5 Q. Okay. You testified that they don't have 6 enough time to review before they take the test on this particular track, red track. 7

A. That's correct.

9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 10 ambiguous.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

12 Q. How long is it that they have to review when they come back on track before they take the 13

14 Stanford 9 on red track?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

16 ambiguous. And calls for speculation. And compound

to the extent it varies for students per class. 17

THE WITNESS: I'd have to -- I'd have to

19 look at the schedule. I wouldn't be able to give

20 you a definite answer.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. And how do you know that the students on

23 red track don't have enough time when they come back

24 on track to review for the Stanford 9?

25 A. Because of the teachers' concern on red

Page 478 Page 480

1 track.

5

- Q. And what have teachers -- what concern have teachers expressed to you about the testing schedule for the students on red track?
 - A. They felt that it wasn't fair.
- 6 Q. When was the last time that a teacher on
- 7 red track expressed the concern about the unfairness8 of the testing schedule to you?
- 9 A. Last spring.
- 10 Q. The last time the test was administered?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. How many teachers expressed the concern
- 13 about the unfairness of the testing schedule?
- 14 A. Two.
- 15 Q. Do you recall what specifically the
- 16 teachers said to you?
- 17 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound.
- 18 MS. STRONG: Join.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Just that -- that they didn't
- 20 think the children should take the test so soon as
- 21 they got back.
- 22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. I believe you testified on the 14th about
- 24 a particular teacher who brought -- came back when
- 25 they were supposed to be off track to help prepare

- 1 MR. VILLAGRA: You are?
- 2 MR. FERNOW: I am.
- 3 MS. STRONG: And for point of
- 4 clarification, I think that the witness testified 5 that it is an example of exemplary behavior, by
- that it is an example of exemplary behavior, but thewitness is not testifying as to whether or not that
- 7 particular teacher is an exemplary teacher. There's
- 8 a difference in what's been testified to, and I
- 9 think --

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- MR. VILLAGRA: And I would --
- 11 MS. STRONG: -- that might help with this.
- MR. VILLAGRA: I would also add in this
- that I don't think we've ever named the teacher, I don't know what revelation of privacy rights --
- 15 MS. STRONG: But there is still a concern
- that you can identify --
- MR. FERNOW: There is a concern that you can identify who that person is.
- MS. STRONG: So it is just an example of
- 20 exemplary behavior that --
- 21 MR. VILLAGRA: So you would draw the line 22 even on that?
- 23 MR. FERNOW: Right.
- MS. STRONG: You wouldn't permit, either?
- 25 MR. FERNOW: No.

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1 his or her class for the Stanford 9.

- 2 Do you recall that?
- 3 A. Yes, I do.
- 4 Q. Did that happen last year?
- 5 A. Yes, it did.
- 6 O. It did.

7

19

- Was it a teacher on red track?
- 8 A. Yes, it was.
- 9 ^^ Q. And you considered that to be a teacher
- who was exemplary for going above and beyond their duties; is that correct?
- 11 duties, is that correct?
- MR. FERNOW: I'm going to object and
- 13 instruct the client not to answer as it relates to
- 14 the performance of a particular teacher. We're
- 15 taking the position that that -- the employees are
- 16 entitled to their right to privacy.

MR. VILLAGRA: We've already had testimony

- 18 on it to this extent.
 - MR. FERNOW: Okay.
- 20 MR. VILLAGRA: And I don't think I'm going
- 21 any further than the testimony that -- that was
- 22 given previously.
- MR. FERNOW: Okay. Well, if it's been
- 24 given, it's been given, but I'm going to instruct
- 25 him not to answer now.

Do you want to go off -- off the record for a second?

3 (Discussion held off the record.)

4 MR. VILLAGRA: Back on the record.

5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. Some tracks, Mr. Houske, on the Concept 6 calendar, do not have vacations that correspond with the summer: is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Do parents ever complain to you about their
- 11 children not having vacations that correspond to the 12 summer?
- 13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 14 ambiguous.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 - BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. And what do they say?
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound to the
- 19 extent you're asking about more than one parent.
 - THE WITNESS: Well, they're -- they really
- 21 are saying they want a traditional year. It isn't
- 22 so much the vacation as it is they want not a
- 23 year-round calendar.
- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And why don't -- strike that.

Page 482 Page 484 1 Do you recall the last time a parent 1 Yes, I think we did last year. Yes. 2 2 complained to you about wanting a traditional O. And when did you offer them? 3 schedule? 3 A. In the summer. 4 A. This month. 4 Q. And what are you referring to when you 5 O. When was it? 5 refer to "the summer"? What months? 6 6 A. Probably July and part of August. A. A week or so ago. 7 Q. And do you recall the parent's name? 7 Q. And were the swimming lessons offered 8 A. No, I do not. 8 during the school day? 9 Q. Did you meet with this parent in your A. Yes, they were. 9 10 Q. Who was eligible to participate in the 10 office? swimming lessons that you offered last year during 11 A. Yes, I did. 11 12 Q. And what did this parent complain about, if 12 July and August? 13 13 A. It was limited to a grade level. anything? 14 14 Q. Do you recall what grade level? MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and 15 15 A. I believe it was third grade, but I'm not answered. 16 THE WITNESS: I think it had to do really 16 positive. Q. Was it further limited to students on with having another child in a high school that 17 17 18 maybe was not on a year-round calendar and she 18 tracks B and C? 19 wanting to have both children on the same schedule. 19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 20 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 20 speculation. 21 O. For child care purposes? 21 THE WITNESS: Yes, it was. MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 22 22 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 23 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical. 23 O. Because students on track A were on 24 MR. FERNOW: Join. 24 vacation? 25 /// 25 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

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BY MR. VILLAGRA: 1 2 Q. Did the parents say?

- 3 A. They didn't say.
- 4 Q. And did the parent complain specifically
- 5 about not having their child on vacation over the
- 6 summer? 7
 - A. Not about vacation. It was more the
- 8 calendar.
- 9 Q. Okay. What specifically about the calendar 10 did she complain about?
- 11 A. About she wanted her traditional year,
- 12 which would imply you would have summer vacation,
- but that wasn't seemingly the issue at the time. 13
- 14 Q. Do you get complaints like that every year?
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 15

16 ambiguous.

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- MR. FERNOW: And asked and answered.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Maybe one or two.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. Does Cahuenga offer swimming lessons?
- 21 A. Sometimes.
- 22 Q. Have you offered them this school year?
- 23 A. No, we have not.
- 24 Q. What about last year?
- 25 A. No.

speculation. 1 2

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THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. And how do you know that?
- 5 A. They weren't there.
- 6 MR. FERNOW: I'll also object as vague and 7 ambiguous as to the last question.
- 8 MS. STRONG: Join.
- 9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 10 Q. And before last year, when was the last
- 11 time that Cahuenga offered swimming lessons?
- 12 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for
- 13 speculation.
 - THE WITNESS: You get the -- you get the
- pool program very seldom. Maybe every six or seven 15
- 16 years. It's on a rotational basis.
- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. Is it fair to say it's rotated through
- 19 Cahuenga a few times?
- 20 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 21 ambiguous.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Has been? Yes.
- 23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 24 Q. When it has rotated through Cahuenga, has
- 25 it always been limited to a particular grade?

Page 486 Page 488

1 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

2 speculation.

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3 MS. STRONG: Yeah. Vague and ambiguous and 4 compound.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Is the pool program a district program?

A. Yes.

9 Q. Are you expecting to offer the pool -- the swimming lessons this year? 10

11 A. No.

12 MS. STRONG: You know what, could we take a 13 quick break?

14 MR. VILLAGRA: Sure.

15 (Recess taken from 10:45 to 11:00.)

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

17 Q. Mr. Houske, I believe it was on the 14th

18 you testified that you would rather not have three

19 tracks at Cahuenga.

Do you recall that? 20

21 A. No.

22 Q. Would you rather not have three tracks?

23 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and

24 ambiguous.

25 MS. STRONG: Join. A. That's correct.

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2 O. Do parents ever complain to you about the

3 short time that their students -- that their

children have between the time that they graduate 4 5 one year and start the next on that track?

6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7 ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: No.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. To your knowledge, what -- what do teachers have to do as they prepare for a new school year?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

14 speculation. And compound to the extent it's

15 referring to more than one teacher, because

16 teachers may prepare differently.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 17

18 O. Generally.

19 A. I suppose they do the same thing that I do.

And I think one of the things that amazes 20

me so is how enthusiastic and excited I am about the 21

new school year even though just the Friday before 22

23 we were just closing.

24 O. Do teachers, to your knowledge, generally

review the files of their incoming students?

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THE WITNESS: No, I really can't say that I 1

2 would rather not have three tracks.

3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

4 Q. And I know I'm going to get into the

5 problem of colors versus the lettering, but is 6 track B a track that has a short transition period

between students, when students graduate from one 7

8 grade to the next?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

10 ambiguous --

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11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Is that correct? 12

MS. STRONG: I'm sorry. Objection. Vague 13

14 and ambiguous.

15 MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: One of them does. 16

17 MS. STRONG: One of the tracks?

18 THE WITNESS: One of them does. (Laughs.)

19 MS. STRONG: You don't know which one. I

20 just want to make sure it's clear for the record.

21 Is that correct?

22 THE WITNESS: That's true.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. One of the tracks ends in June, late June,

25 and then starts the next year in early July?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 2 ambiguous. And it calls for speculation. And

3 again, compound. 4

MR. FERNOW: Join. 5 THE WITNESS: I would say most don't.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Do you believe that they should? 7

8 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

speculation. Irrelevant. Vague and ambiguous.

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

12 Q. Why not?

13 A. Because I always feel that each year is a

fresh new year. And if teachers look at the records

of children, sometimes they take what another 15

16 teacher has said about this child and it prejudices

17 them against the child.

18 And so I like children to have a clean

19 slate when they come in and each one is evaluated freshly. 20

21 MS. STRONG: Sounds like school, clean

22 slates.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. Do teachers on this particular track with

25 the short transition time ever complain to you about

Page 490 Page 492

- the short transition time between one grade and the 2 next?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. And correct me if I'm wrong, you testified,
- 5 I believe on the 14th, about maintenance being done
- 6 sometimes during the school day and sometimes after
- 7 school or on weekends: is that correct?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. Who decides when maintenance will be done, 10 if you know?
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 11 ambiguous. 12
- 13 THE WITNESS: It is scheduled by the
- 14 maintenance branch.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 15
- 16 O. Of the district?
- A. Of the district. 17
- 18 Q. Do you play any role in the scheduling of 19 maintenance?
- 20 A. I okav --
- 21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 22 ambiguous.
- 23 THE WITNESS: I okay the schedule.
- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 25 Q. And when maintenance is done, does that

- the question, please.
- 2 (The record was read as follows:
- 3 Question: If deep cleaning is done after
- 4 school or on Saturdays, is there
- 5 overtime pay involved; do you know?) 6 MS. STRONG: And objection. Calls for
- 7 speculation to the extent that you don't know. 8 THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.
- 9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 10 Q. Apart from deep cleaning, do you play any role in the scheduling of any maintenance? 11
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 12 ambiguous. 13
- 14 THE WITNESS: Only as far as approving 15 schedules.
- 16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And what is your role specifically 17 18 with respect to the approving of schedules for
- 19 maintenance other than deep cleaning?
- 20 MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound to the 21 extent that it may vary.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Basically the schedules are 23 made by the plant manager for the employees. And
- 24 then he submits them to me and then we look at them.
- But basically it is the responsibility of the plant 25

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- come out of your budget at Cahuenga? 1
- 2 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 3 speculation. Again, vague and ambiguous as to what
- 4 maintenance schedules we're talking about.
- 5 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, it does.
- 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 8 Q. How do you know that?
- 9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 10 speculation to the extent, again, there is
- 11 maintenance that comes from different budgets,
- there's different types of maintenance. I'm not
- 13 sure that that's clear.
- 14 THE WITNESS: We're given the opportunity
- 15 of either selecting the maintenance service from
- the district or having our own staff do it.
- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. And what sort of maintenance are you 19 referring to?
- 20 A. Deep cleaning.
- 21 Q. If deep cleaning is done after school or on
- 22 Saturdays, is there overtime pay involved; do you
- 23
- 24 MS. STRONG: As to "if deep cleaning," I'm
- 25 sorry. I didn't get the question. Can you repeat

- 1 manager.
- 2 The maintenance section has a
- responsibility for okaying the schedules as well.
- And the deep cleaning -- the crew that comes in,
- 5 that schedule is done by them. I only schedule the
- 6 time period.

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- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 7
- 8 Q. And when it comes to that maintenance
- that's being done by -- or scheduled by your plant
- 10 manager, is there overtime pay that's involved for
- 11 after school or Saturday cleaning?
 - MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 13 ambiguous, again, as to exactly what maintenance.
- 14 Compound to the extent you're talking about
- 15 different types of maintenance.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, there is.
- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. How do you know that?
- 19 A. Because I have to sign the paper -- every
- 20 time overtime is given, it has to be approved.
- 21 Q. And when is overtime triggered for
- 22 maintenance other than deep cleaning?
- 23 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 24 ambiguous.
- 25 MR. FERNOW: Calls for speculation.

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- 1 THE WITNESS: It depends upon the number of
- 2 hours an employee has worked. When they -- when
- 3 they get to a certain point, a number of hours that
- 4 they've worked, they're entitled to overtime. So
- 5 Saturday is usually considered overtime. We seldom
- 6 use overtime on the school days, just on Saturdays.
- 7 For the most part.
- 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 9 Q. Because Saturday is normally considered overtime, do you try to avoid scheduling Saturday 10 maintenance? 11
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 12 13 ambiguous.
- 14 THE WITNESS: No, I do not, because this 15 money -- I get extra money if we have intervention
- 16 classes or other classes on a Saturday that the pay
- is already written into it, so it doesn't come out 17
- 18 of my budget.
- 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. I just want to draw your attention to some
- 21 other testimony from the 14th. I believe you
- testified that there are seven bungalows at Cahuenga 22
- 23 with 14 classrooms.
- 24 Is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 2 O. What elementary schools have you observed, 3 if you can recall?
- 4 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 5 ambiguous as to a whole host of factors, including 6 time.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Looking at some of the newer 8 schools, Leo Poleti, Esperanza, L.A., that because they're new and the standards have changed, so I 9
- 10 know that they have a larger playground than I do.
- 11 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 12 O. Do you know whether there are -- let me 13 start over.
- 14 You testified about new standards; is that 15 correct?
- 16 A. Yes.

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- 17 Well, I believe they're new.
- 18 Q. Okay. Do you know whether there were 19 standards previously --
 - A. I'm sure that there were --
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 21
- ambiguous as to what standards we're talking about. 22
- 23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 24 O. With respect to playground space.
- 25 A. In -- when I have observed schools in

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- Q. Are those bungalows set down on what used
- 2 to be playground space at Cahuenga?
- 3 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 4 speculation.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. How do you know that?
- 8 A. They weren't there when I came, some of 9 them.
- 10
- Q. Do you know how much playground space you 11 have at Cahuenga?
- 12 A. No. I do not.
- 13 Q. Do you know whether you have more or less
- 14 than other elementary schools in LAUSD?
- 15 MS. STRONG: Objection.
- 16 MR. FERNOW: Vague and ambiguous.
- MS. STRONG: And calls for speculation. 17
- 18 THE WITNESS: Less.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 19
- 20 Q. And how do you know that?
- 21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 22 speculation. Compound to the extent you're
- referring to -- a comparison of different types
- of elementary schools. 24
- 25 THE WITNESS: Observation.

- the Valley, their playgrounds are very large in
- relationship to the ones that I have. So I'm
- 3 assuming that that -- that's a state standard. And
- 4 I have heard that my playground space is small
- 5 compared to what it should be.
- 6 O. Who have you heard that from?
 - A. People that visit the school at the district level.
 - Q. Do you recall any of them by name?
- 10 A. No. I do not.
- 11 Q. Do you recall how many folks from the
- 12 district have visited and told you that your
- playground is smaller than what it should be? 13
 - MS. STRONG: Objection. Misstates
- 14
- testimony. He never said it was smaller than what 15 16 it should be.
- THE WITNESS: Well, they never came out 17
- 18 for that as the purpose, it was just sort of like an
- idle comment, "Oh, you have a small playground." 19
- 20 And it wasn't, you know, labeling it, just it was a
- 21 comment.
- 22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 23 O. Uh-huh.
- 24 You testified, again, I believe on the
- 25 14th, that there is a teacher's aide who is in

Page 498 Page 500

charge of taking orders from teachers for textbooks.

Is that correct?

A. Yes.

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4 Q. And I believe you also testified where 5 you have experienced the situation where books are 6 ordered and they are coming but they haven't reached 7 the school vet.

Is that correct?

A. That's correct.

10 Q. Do you recall when the last time was that that happened? 11

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

13 MS. STRONG: Join.

14 MS. STRONG: And I'd like to also object in 15 that I believe it misstates his testimony in that he 16 said it was something that could have happened. I don't if he actually recalled a time where it did in 17 18 fact happen.

19 THE WITNESS: You know, whenever you order 20 books, there's always -- there's always a chance 21 that they don't come in as quickly as you like.

I'm thinking about my -- the condition of 22 23 my school right now. I have so many boxes of books 24 that I still need to unpack. And I -- there may be

25 even some now that haven't come in, but I sure can't

vague and ambiguous as to what you're referring to 2 or would like answered in that question.

THE WITNESS: There may be 25 boxes or even a few more. And part of the reason that they're not unpacked is that the district this year has mandated that every -- before -- before we used to use the textbooks, they would be returned, and then they would -- the next track would use them. And now every child is going to have a textbook. And so that has compounded the unpacking problems.

And then we've gone into a system where everything is on a computer, so books are much more difficult to process because you have to put those electronic labels into them. And so that some of those books may really be for the next coming in, I'm not so -- I'm not aware. But I'm not hearing teachers complain of any shortage of books.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 18

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19 Q. And I believe you testified that the 20 district has mandated for this year that every child 21 have a textbook; is that correct?

A. Even when they're not on track, yes.

23 Q. Oh, okay.

24 And that's a new mandate?

A. Yes.

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miss them. 1

2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3 Q. And these boxes that you just referred to 4 that you have to unpack --5

A. Uh-huh.

O. -- those are boxes of textbooks?

A. Yes.

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8 Q. And are those boxes that need to be

unpacked for kids who started school in early July?

10 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 11 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

12 MR. FERNOW: Join.

13 MS. STRONG: It may be compound.

THE WITNESS: Some of them.

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. How do you know that?

17 A. It's an assumption I make that we wouldn't 18 order the books unless they were needed.

19 Q. Can you give me an estimate of how many

20 boxes of textbooks it is that are still left to be

21 unpacked?

22 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous to the extent that you're referring to those that he's identified as what was intended to 24

be used for the school year or later. It's just

Q. Do you know how long it takes to process textbooks as they come into the school and put the electronic labels on them?

4 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 5 speculation. And compound to the extent it varies 6 with the type of books you're dealing with and 7 materials.

THE WITNESS: No, I really don't.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

10 Q. Who is in charge of processing the 11 textbooks?

12 A. That -- that teacher's assistant.

13 Q. And do you know whether that teacher's 14 assistant completed -- has completed processing textbooks for the two tracks that started school in 15 16 early July?

MS. STRONG: Objection --

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 18 19 ambiguous.

20 MS. STRONG: Join.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, she has.

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. How do you know that?

24 A. Because teachers would let me know if they

25 didn't have their books.

Page 504 Page 502

- 1 Q. So you're assuming she's completed it?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. Do you meet regularly with the teacher's assistant to get updates on the processing of 5 textbooks or the -- let's limit it to the processing 6 of textbooks.

7 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 8 ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

10 THE WITNESS: I see her daily. I don't -we don't always have that conversation, but I see 11 12

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. Do you talk with her -- I assume it's a 14 15
- 16 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Do you talk with her daily to discuss 17

18 textbooks?

9

19 A. Yes.

20 Well, not -- almost daily.

21 MS. STRONG: And objection. Incomplete

22 hypothetical.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 O. Do you ask her whether orders are

25 outstanding?

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MS. STRONG: Objection. Again, vague and ambiguous to the extent as to what the inventory is. And there may be more than one inventory.

4 MR. VILLAGRA: That's why I'm asking the 5 number.

6 MS. STRONG: Well, different types of 7 inventory may be --

THE WITNESS: There's a formal inventory and then there are the informal inventories that you 10 do. The informal one is where teachers come up and they express a need to you. And the formal one is 12 where you really do a large order for books for the

13 coming year.

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14 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. When is the formal inventory done?
- 16 A. The springtime.
- Q. Is there one inventory for all three 17

18 tracks? One formal inventory for all three tracks?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And how does that inventory work, to your 21 knowledge?

22 A. Well, it -- it's checking on the number

23 of books that -- that are currently on -- on the

24 campus, and then projecting your need for the coming

25 year and then ordering it.

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Now, there's a lot of consumable books that 1 2 have to be reordered every year. And then there are

3 meetings held with the teachers to talk about

4 whether or not they want to continue on with this --

5 with a particular series of books.

6 As an example, this year we have a 7 completely new math series, and yet we have one math portion of a program that they really like, so we ordered that. So that they actually have more books

10 in that area.

11 Q. Is there anything else, to your knowledge, 12 that goes on with respect to the formal inventory of

13 textbooks?

14 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 15 ambiguous.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, there's an evaluation 17 done as to how children are performing and then 18 projecting, you know, the levels of books that we

need for the following year.

20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 21 Q. Anything else?
- 22 A. That's about it.
- 23 O. What are the consumable books that need to 24 be replaced?
- 25 A. There are workbooks; they provide guided

A. Yes.

Well, by that I mean that, "Have you delivered the books to the -- to the teachers?" And never at this time of the year but sometimes later on in the year I ask, "Are we running out of books, and do I need to reorder some?" They're consumable.

Q. Are there any other issues that you discussed with her regarding textbooks?

9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 10 ambiguous.

11 MR. FERNOW: Join.

12 THE WITNESS: Not really.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. And I know that we talked about the 15 ordering at some length on the 14th, so I'm going to ask you apart from that, does anyone at the school 17 conduct an inventory to determine teachers' need for 18 books?

19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 20 ambiguous.

21 MR. FERNOW: Join.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, we do.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. How often, or -- I'm sorry, how many times

25 in a school year is an inventory conducted?

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- independent practice for children after they've
- 2 learned a skill.

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MS. STRONG: Just objection, vague and ambiguous as to they need to be replaced.

5 THE WITNESS: They write in these, so that 6 they have to be ...

7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 8 Q. In terms of projecting the need for 9 textbooks at this formal inventory --
 - A. Uh-huh.
- O. -- the projection only happens with respect 11 12 to the grade levels or levels that children will be 13 at?
- MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague. 14
- 15 MS. STRONG: Join.
- 16 THE WITNESS: I'm not quite sure.

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 18 Q. Okay. You were asking -- or you testified 19 about having to project the need for the upcoming vear for textbooks?
- 20
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 Q. What is it that you're projecting exactly?
- 23 A. Well, you're projecting two things. Like
- 24 this year we changed over to Open Court, and so you
- 25 had to do a complete whole new series.

1 MR. FERNOW: Join.

2 THE WITNESS: We order them. We order them 3 or we borrow them from another school.

4 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 5 O. Are those -- those rare instances in which you would make a further order during the school 6 7 vear?
 - A. It's very seldom.

8

Q. Okay. When's the last time you had to do 9 10 that?

11 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

12 THE WITNESS: It was last year.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. And what was the reason for that? 14

15 A. Because we knew that we were going to be 16 changing series in reading books and so we tried to be prudent and not over order. 17

18 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

19 speculation, to the last question.

20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

21 O. And how do you know that?

MR. FERNOW: Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: Oh, your hand motion. 23

24 MR. FERNOW: I'm sorry.

25 MS. STRONG: Random motions.

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Next year when we take a look at what we 1 2 need to order, we'll evaluate whether or not the

3 children were working at a high enough level, or if

they need to be placed into a higher level book.

5 Then you might determine at what school workbook

6 grade level. So you constantly have to take a look 7 at where the children are.

8 Q. And as you look at where the children are, 9 does it become necessary during the school year to 10 make further orders of books?

11 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 12 ambiguous. Compound.

13 THE WITNESS: In very few cases.

14 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

15 Q. So the textbooks that you have for a given 16 year, is it fair to say that they are generally the 17 books that you've projected a need for?

A. That's correct. We order books up to sixth 18 19 grade level, even though we only have fifth grade 20 children.

21 Q. And what happens if a projection 22 underestimates the need for textbooks for a given 23

24 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 25 speculation.

MR. VILLAGRA: We're going to have to add 1 2 stage directions, I think, to the transcript.

3 THE WITNESS: Because the teachers came to

4 me and requested the books. BY MR. VILLAGRA: 5

6 O. Are there any records that are made of the 7 formal inventory of textbooks in the spring?

8 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 9 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

11 THE WITNESS: No. 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

13 Q. Is there any inventory during the school 14 year to determine whether students have assigned

15 textbooks?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

MS. STRONG: And calls for speculation, to 17

18 the extent that he's aware of what each individual

19 teacher does in his or her classroom. And compound 20 in that regard as well.

21 THE WITNESS: No.

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. To your knowledge, no such inventory is 24 done?

A. That's correct. 25

Page 510 Page 512

- Q. You mentioned an informal inventory process where teachers ask the TA for more textbooks, if they need them; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.

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- Q. Are -- to your knowledge, are teachers surveyed during the course of the school year to find out whether they have enough textbooks for their kids?
- 9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 10 ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

12 THE WITNESS: No, we consider it the 13 responsibility of the teacher to alert us if they 14 don't have textbooks. And when we go into 15 classrooms, the other two assistant principals and 16 myself, we're observing children to see where they're working. And if we notice them without 17 18 books, we certainly would do something about it. 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

20 Q. Have you ever seen that problem, that kids 21 are working without textbooks in your classroom 22 visits?

23 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 24 ambiguous.

25 THE WITNESS: No. BY MR. VILLAGRA:

2 O. Do you know whether this one teacher who 3 is using an older series of textbooks has enough of 4 that older series for each student in his or her 5 class?

6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 7 speculation. 8

THE WITNESS: Yes, he does.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. How do you know that?

11 A. Because he's a very fine teacher and he 12 would -- he would switch over to the new Spanish 13 series if he didn't have enough books. But when I go into the classroom and observe him, every child 14 15 is using a book that's working with him. 16

Q. Using a book. But do you know whether they are all using a book from the older series?

18 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 19 speculation.

20 THE WITNESS: Everyone in -- that is in 21 a group uses the same textbook, each has their own 22 book.

23 Is that what you mean?

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

25 O. Uh-huh.

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You know, as I said -- I said last time, 2 that teachers really get preferences for a textbook series. And sometimes the textbook series are out 4 of date and so that sometimes those books look 5 really worn to me but the teachers really like them 6 and they feel they're really effective and so they use them, but you can't order them anymore.

MS. STRONG: Objection. Move to strike as nonresponsive.

10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Do you have any idea how many teachers at 12 Cahuenga are using an older series of textbooks that 13 you described that can't be ordered?

MS. STRONG: Objection. He hasn't described any teacher that he knows of, any particular teacher that uses such older textbooks at this time.

17 18 THE WITNESS: I would say one. But that 19 teacher also is using new textbooks, too. Because 20 if you remember, in my school, the children have two

21 reading books, they have a Spanish book and an

22 English book, for the most part.

23 So you use the new English book, but they 24 may like an older Spanish book because it has 25 higher-level reading material.

A. Yeah. 1

2 Q. To your knowledge, has there ever been a 3 classroom in Cahuenga where students had to share 4 textbooks, a class, because there weren't enough 5 books?

6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Overbroad as to 7 time. And vague and ambiguous.

8 MR. FERNOW: Join.

9 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sure it's happened. 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

11 Q. Did it happen last year, to your knowledge? 12 MR. FERNOW: Same objection.

13 THE WITNESS: We have the policy at school 14 that children can take home the textbooks, because I 15 feel that they need more practice at home and having 16 the parents help them.

17 And sometimes a child forgets a book at 18 home, and so then when they come to school the next 19 day, they may have to share with a friend. But that 20 happens very seldom.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. Does it ever happen the kids take books 23 home and don't ever return them?

24 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 25 speculation.

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1 MS. STRONG: Join.

2 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sure some books are 3 lost.

4 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. Do you have any policy for retrieving books that students have not returned?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: That they -- children are asked to pay for the lost book and then they're given another one. Or they're actually given the book before they pay for it many times. They get another book, but they are asked to pay for it. And if they don't, we don't do anything about it.

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 16

- Q. You mentioned that you visit classrooms along with your assistant vice principals. And is one of the purposes of those visits to observe whether students have enough textbooks?
- 20 A. Certainly a very minor reason for going 21 into rooms.
- 22 Q. How often would you say that you visit 23 classrooms in a given week?
- 24 A. I don't visit every classroom every day, 25 but I visit classrooms daily.

- district we never -- we never went to the district
- 2 for help because we never had a shortage of books 3
 - that I was concerned about. We had the money.
 - Q. Previously?

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- 5 A. Previously as well as now. 6
 - Q. And with respect to Open Court, was there any shortage caused by a delay in receiving the books?

9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete 10 hypothetical. Vague and ambiguous. 11

THE WITNESS: The only shortage of books 12 that we had was because of the way the in-servicing 13 was done of teachers. They took all the teachers' 14 editions so that teachers, in order to get a 15 teacher's edition, had to attend either a three-day training or five-day training that was put on by

16 the -- the five-day training was put on by the 17 18 state.

19 And so that if the teacher didn't take 20 the training, it was a problem for that teacher's 21 edition. So then we contacted the district and the district went to some of the hotels and picked up 22

23 the -- some of the textbooks for us.

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 25 Q. So the shortage was with respect to

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Q. Could you give me an estimate as to how many on a normal day?

A. It depends upon the purpose for my visit. If I'm going -- I sometimes just walk through classrooms, and then sometimes I stay in the classroom where I am -- I may assist a teacher, I may demo a lesson for them. I may want to observe a group reading. And so you have many different reasons for going in. But I try to get in as often as possible.

11 Q. You mentioned today a couple times a transition to Open Court, and there was some testimony from the 14th that I wanted to review 13 14 with you. 15

Do you recall testifying that there is a 16 procedure in place this year to keep the local school district informed about textbooks issues 18 because of going into Open Court, but that prior to that it never seemed to be an issue because you didn't have the problem of shortage of books.

20 21 Do you recall that at all? 22 A. Well, I don't -- I certainly didn't mean to imply that there was a shortage of books with Open Court because we have more books, because remember I 24 said we ordered one for every child now. And -- at

teachers' editions of books? 1

A. Right.

3 Q. Not with respect to students?

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5 MS. STRONG: Is that correct? I want to make sure the record is clear on that.

7 THE WITNESS: That is correct. There was not a shortage of the books.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

10 Q. And is it correct that there is a procedure 11 now to contact the local district as to textbook 12 issues?

13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 14 ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Vague and ambiguous.

Join. Whatever.

17 THE WITNESS: I -- I think that -- that

18 is -- I always get confused when we say the word 19 "district" because we have the big district and we

20 have District F. And so it's the big district's

21 concern because, you know, they keep hearing the

22 story, too, that children don't have textbooks, so

they want to do something about it. But ... and our

24 own district would help us.

25 But as I say, it's -- it really hasn't been

Page 520 Page 518

- a problem for most schools, I think.
- 2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 3 Q. Do you know, then, whether there is a procedure for informing the district about a 5 textbook shortage, if you had one?

6 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 7

8 THE WITNESS: I believe there's a hotline 9 that a teacher can call.

10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

O. And would that be at District F, or at the 11 12 LAUSD?

13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation, especially since he's already testified 14 that he hasn't had this problem and has not had to 15 16 deal with this.

THE WITNESS: I'm sure that -- I think --17 18 MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation. 19 MR. FERNOW: Join, if you don't know.

20 THE WITNESS: I think it's the district.

21 Big district.

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22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. And what do you base that belief on?

24 A. Because in order to establish a hotline,

that would have to be something that probably the 25

answered.

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2 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

4 Q. Do you know what the sources of funding for 5 new textbooks at Cahuenga for this new school year 6 were?

7 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 8 ambiguous and calls for speculation.

9 THE WITNESS: No. I do not.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

11 Q. Do you know whether you received any 12 funding from the state?

13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous and calls for speculation. 14

MR. FERNOW: Join. 15

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

18 Q. How do you know that?

19 A. There are state textbook funds.

20 Q. Did any of your funds to purchase new books

21 for this new school year come from the district,

22 from LAUSD?

23 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

24 ambiguous and calls for speculation.

25 MR. FERNOW: Join.

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downtown would have to do.

Q. To your knowledge, are there any procedures for reporting to the State Department of Education a lack of textbooks at your school?

5 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 6 ambiguous and calls for speculation.

THE WITNESS: No, I do not know.

8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

9 Q. To your knowledge, are there any procedures 10 for reporting textbook shortages at your school to 11 the State Board of Education?

12 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 13 ambiguous and calls for speculation. 14

THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

16 Q. To your knowledge, are there any procedures 17 for reporting textbook shortages at your school to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction? 18

19 MS. STRONG: Same objections.

20 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. To your knowledge, are there any procedures 23 for reporting textbook shortages at your school to

the LAUSD Board of Education? 24

25 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and

THE WITNESS: Yes, they did. 1

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3 Q. Were there any other sources of funding for 4 new textbooks for this year?

5 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 6 ambiguous and calls for speculation.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

8 THE WITNESS: We received bilingual money.

9 We have special grants and so sometimes those are

10 used to purchase books.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

12 Q. But you don't know specifically whether 13 those special grants were used this past year to 14 purchase books for this school year?

15 A. I think bilingual was.

16 Q. What are those special grants that

sometimes can be used to purchase textbooks? 17 18

A. They're --

19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

20 ambiguous. And compound.

21 THE WITNESS: They're -- they're grants 22 that come from the federal government.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. Any other sources of funding for new

25 textbooks at Cahuenga?

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1 A. No, that's it.

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- 2 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.
 - BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 4 Q. Does the majority of your funding for 5 textbooks come from any one source?
- 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7
 - MR. FERNOW: Calls for speculation.
- 9 THE WITNESS: The state.
- 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And how do you know that? 11
- 12 A. Well, because it's -- it's a large amount
- 13 of money that you receive from that, and so that's
- what's utilized for the most part. 14
- 15 Q. Does the budget at Cahuenga include per 16 pupil expenditures for supplies, school supplies?
- 17 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 18 ambiguous. And may call for speculation.
- 19 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 20 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 22 Q. And how do you know that?
- 23 A. We're -- we're given a budget account
- 24 that's called an IMA, and there's money in there
- 25 that we use for supplies.

- can say is that people who come to the school say
- 2 we're rich in supplies.

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- 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. Is there a budget for teachers at Cahuenga with respect to supplies?
- 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7 ambiguous.
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 9 THE WITNESS: No, there is not.
- 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. So is it fair to say there's no limit on 11
- 12 how much any particular teacher at Cahuenga can
- 13 order in supplies throughout the school year? A. Well, certainly not for the basics. You 14
- 15 know, whenever they need something, they just put in
- 16 an order and it's given to them.

Q. What are the basics?

- 18 A. The largest one is paper. I mean, we use a
- 19 tremendous quantity of paper. We duplicate a lot of
- 20 things.
- 21 O. Is there no limit on how much paper a
- 22 teacher at Cahuenga can use throughout the school
- 23 year?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 MS. STRONG: That's correct?

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- O. What does the IMA account stand for? 1
- 2 Instructional materials account.
- 3 O. And what sorts of items can that account be 4 used to purchase?
- 5 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 6 ambiguous.
 - THE WITNESS: Anything.
- 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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- 9 Q. Any sort of supply or ...
- 10 A. Supplies, custodial supplies. You can
- 11 spend it on textbooks, if you want, paper, pencils.
- A whole array of things that are needed in a school.
- Q. For this past school year, not the one 13
- 14 we're in right now, do you know what the per pupil
- 15 expenditures at Cahuenga was for supplies?
- 16 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 17 speculation.
- 18 THE WITNESS: No. I do not.
- 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. Is there a document that would show what
- 21 the per pupil expenditure for supplies at Cahuenga 22
- was last year?
- 23 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.
- 24 MR. FERNOW: Calls for speculation.
- 25 THE WITNESS: No, there wouldn't. All I

- THE WITNESS: That's correct, there is no 1
 - 2 limit.
- 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 4 Q. Do you recall how large the IMA account was
- 5 for last year?
- 6 A. No. I do not.
- 7 Q. You testified some on the 14th about the
- hiring of teachers at Cahuenga. Once you know that
- you need to hire for a position, what is it that
- 10 you -- what is it that you do to go about finding a
- 11 new teacher for Cahuenga?
- 12 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 13 ambiguous.
- 14 MS. STRONG: And compound.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Well, the first thing I -- at
- 16 our school we have teachers' assistants. And last
- vear we hired two of our teachers' assistants that 17
- 18 we've been able to watch and see how they perform in
- the classrooms, so we know that they have the kind 19
- 20 of skills that we want.
 - And I recruited two other teachers based on
- 22 language needs, one is Korean and one is Spanish
- speaking.

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- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 25 Q. And how is it that you recruited those two

Page 526 Page 528

1 additional teachers?

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A. We had -- teachers send you resumes. And so one was a person who sent me a resume. Another one I went to an employment fair that was held at the District F office and recruited one there.

I'm very lucky. I don't have a problem getting teachers. I have probably -- I would probably have had 30 resumes sent to me that I didn't even look at.

- 10 Q. Are you testifying about this school year or last school year? 11
 - A. Last year as well.
- Q. How often -- I believe you testified it was 13 14 the district that put on an employment fair?
 - A. Yes.
- 16 Q. How often does the district put on employment fairs for teachers? 17
- 18 A. This was --
- 19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 20 speculation.
- 21 THE WITNESS: This was the first one, to my
- 22 knowledge.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 23
- 24 O. Do you recall when that occurred?
- 25 A. I think it was ... maybe the last -- either

- they've had a hard time recruiting teachers there.
- 2 And so that they get first choice of those people 3

who are willing to go there.

- Q. And then when you say, referred to a district, you mean a mini district within LAUSD?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And who have you heard this from, that when new teachers come in, they will have to be referred to a particular mini district from LAUSD? 10
 - A. From the personnel office.
- 11 Q. When's the last time you spoke with someone
- 12 at the personnel office and you heard some
- 13 discussion that teachers are referred to particular
- 14 mini districts because they have a shortage? 15
 - A. This year.
- 16 Q. Do you recall when that was?
- 17 A. July.
- 18 Q. Do you recall who it was you were speaking 19 to?
- 20 A. I don't remember her name, but the
- 21 personnel specialist for District F.
- 22 Q. Did this personnel specialist refer to any 23 of the mini districts within LAUSD that are getting
- 24 priority for new teachers?
 - A. I'm not sure I understand. What did you

1 sav?

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2 Q. Did she identify any of the mini districts 3

that are getting priority for new teachers? MS. STRONG: Objection. Misstates the 4 5 testimony to the extent there's been no testimony

6 that any district gets priority.

THE WITNESS: Yes, she did.

8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 9 Q. So some districts do have priority when it 10 comes to new teachers?
- 11 A. Well, in that they were trying to fill them 12 first, yes.
- 13 Q. So they had -- they had first dibs on new 14 teachers in those districts?
- 15 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 16 ambiguous.

17 MR. FERNOW: Join.

- THE WITNESS: On -- on some of the teachers 18
- 19 because -- because as I say, the teachers will --
- 20 some would say they didn't want to go to that area.
- 21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. And so that they didn't.
- 24 And then in Los Angeles, the process of
- 25 teachers coming in is an ongoing thing. And so that

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on a Saturday. I'm just not sure whether it was the ending of June, the beginning of July. 4 5 Q. When you recruit new teachers, do you do 6

the first or last -- it was either the first of July

or the last of June -- it must have been -- it was

anything other than look at your existing TAs, or look at the resumes that you've received?

8 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 9 ambiguous.

10 MR. FERNOW: Plus misstates prior 11 testimony. The testimony was he went to a job fair.

12 THE WITNESS: No.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. Okay. Do you know if other schools in the district have the same success in recruiting 15

16 teachers that you have at Cahuenga?

17 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 18 speculation.

THE WITNESS: I -- I have the feeling that 19 20 not everyone is as lucky as I am.

- 21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 22 Q. And what is that feeling based on?
- 23 A. Well, hearing that -- that when new
- teachers come in, that certain districts, all the 24
- new teachers are directed to that district because

Page 532 Page 530

there probably was a cutoff period so when new 2 people came in, they might have been directed there 3 first. I'm not exactly sure how that works.

- Q. What were the particular mini districts that the personnel specialist identified to you?
- A. Because it wasn't mine, I really didn't pay that much attention.
- 8 Q. Do you recall if it was just one district, 9 or more than one?
 - A. Just two.
- 11 O. Two.

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Do you recall what else was said during this conversation with the personnel specialist?

- A. Oh, it wasn't a long conversation. It was, you know, we were just discussing about hiring people, and they were saying that the first group was going -- they were being directed.
- 18 Q. I assume District F is not one of the mini 19 districts to whom teachers were being directed?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 O. In your opinion, what qualities are you
- looking for in teachers at Cahuenga? 22 23
- MS. STRONG: Objection. Asked and 24 answered. We've already gone over this testimony.
- 25 THE WITNESS: The same ones I said before.

- about -- and I hope I get this right -- that
- 2 experience is the polish on the stone; is that 3
 - right?

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4 MS. STRONG: Objection. Misstates his 5 prior testimony.

6 MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: It is part of the polish.

8 Experience, staff development, self-reflection,

modeling from other people. It is a multifaceted 9

10 kind of thing that happens to you when you're in the

11 profession. It's -- it's acquiring the

12 vision of the school.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 14 Q. In terms of the support that Cahuenga 15 offers to new teachers, we've already covered staff 16 meetings, network meetings and informal training.
 - A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. Is there any other support that Cahuenga 19 offers to new teachers?

20 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 21 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

MS. STRONG: Join.

23 THE WITNESS: Well, I go into classrooms

24 and I teach. I model for them. I do long -- I sit

down and do short- and long-range planning with

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but I'll be consistent, I hope. 1

MS. STRONG: And also objection to the extent that, you know, it's overbroad. It's impossible to identify all the qualities.

5 MR. VILLAGRA: I hope the same objection 6 applies to the last time it was asked.

THE WITNESS: Well, I look for --

8 MS. STRONG: I am sure there are many more 9 qualities --10

THE WITNESS: I sure there maybe are. But I have a feeling that teachers are, you know, they are born. It's something that's very special; that they have a passion for teaching; that they are warm individuals. They are people who -- who are reflective of themselves, who aren't afraid of

16 saying they made a mistake, that they can grow. And it's a calling. To me it's almost like 18 a religion. And that as you have experience in hiring people, you learn from mistakes that you've 19 20 made and you also learn from the -- the good choices that you have made. And so that it's a skill that you perfect over the time, and it's a sort of a sensing from that person.

- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 24
 - Q. And I think previously you've talked

them, giving them suggestions as to what -- what

effective things that they can do in that classroom. 2

3 I take -- I take teachers into other teachers'

4 classrooms and have them observe them.

5 MS. STRONG: I would like to object to that

last question in that it did not state all of the

7 items that he has identified over the past couple

8 days of his testimony.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 10 Q. Were there any other items that you wanted to include that I missed?
- 11 12 A. Well, there is a -- a weekly, sort of a

13 newsletter that goes out to teachers and, you know,

highlighting effective things that have happened

that we've observed in classrooms. Sometimes 15

16 pictures are taken of that and then they're put on 17 the back of this.

18 This is a tremendous motivator for

19 teachers. They all like to see their room on it.

20 One of the things that was really nice this

21 year is we have this good citizen assembly every two

22 weeks and parents are invited to it. And each

23 teacher gets up and gives a litany about why this

24 child was selected. It really has to do with

scholarship rather than citizenship.

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And at that assembly I had many, or at 2 least several teachers who commented about how wonderful the class they had gotten this year was and how they thanked the previous teacher. And that in a way is staff development, too.

6 People do what is recognized and given 7 praise for. What you talk about is what you get. 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. Are mentors assigned to new teachers at Cahuenga?
- A. Yes, they are.

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12 Q. And talking about this school year that 13 we're in right now, how many mentors are there?

14 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 15 ambiguous as to what school year we're talking about 16 exactly.

17 MR. FERNOW: Join.

> THE WITNESS: And they have not been activated as yet this year. And so I really can't say because sometimes teachers decide that they

21 really don't want to do that.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 22

- 23 Q. And what school year did you understand me 24 to be talking about?
- 25 A. This school year.

And then it's usually the newest ones that are 2 assigned the mentor.

- 3 Q. And the teachers who participate as 4 mentors, are they volunteers in the program?
- 5 A. No, they're paid.
- 6 Q. And are they being paid for a specific time 7 commitment to act as mentor to new teachers?
 - A. Yes, they are.

9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 10 ambiguous.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 11

- 12 O. And what is that time commitment?
 - A. I really can't tell you.
- Q. Are the paid mentors other experienced 14

15 teachers at Cahuenga?

16 A. Yes.

8

13

17 Q. Always?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And do you know when the mentors work with

20 their mentees?

21 A. After school, sometimes at lunchtime.

22 Recess. Sometimes the mentor comes back off track

23 time, depending on which track that mentee is on.

24 O. And how do you know that? 25

A. Observation.

Page 535

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Q. Could you identify this school year. 1

2 A. The year 2000/2001 -- 2001/2002. You know 3 how I am with dates. (Laughs.)

- Q. I thought you were trying to help us all 4 5 out with our ages again.
 - A. (Laughs.)
- 7 Q. In talking about the past school year,
- 8 2000/2001, how many teachers participated as

9 mentors? 10

6

MR. FERNOW: I'll object as vague and 11 ambiguous as to "mentors." Are we talking about the

formal mentor teaching program, or are we talking

about teachers that are mentoring teachers on an 13

14 informal basis? And to the extent that that's the case, I think it's vague and ambiguous. 15

16 MS. STRONG: And also objection, either way 17 it calls for speculation.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 18

19 Q. I think I started this by asking whether 20 new teachers are assigned mentors. Who assigns the 21 mentors at Cahuenga to new teachers?

22 A. Well, there are -- there are guidelines

23 from -- from the district as to how they're

24 assigned; that district interns have first call on

them. And so that -- that's part of the assignment.

Q. In talking about the 2000/2001 school year,

2 last year, how many new teachers did you have at

3 Cahuenga who were mentees? 4

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation.

5 6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. If you know.

A. Approximately five or six.

Q. And for purposes of this program with paid

10 mentors, who is considered to be a new teacher

11 eligible to be a mentee?

A. The district interns, primarily.

13 Q. And I believe you mentioned, also, new 14

teachers?

15 A. No, no, no. That -- the district intern,

16 if I'm understanding it correct, is a state

requirement, and that -- that they're supposed to 17

18 have a mentor.

O. Okav.

20 A. And so that the other people that are

21 provisional do not get one.

22 Q. Through this state program that you've just 23 described?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Do those provisional teachers -- and I

Page 538 Page 540 understand that to be emergency-credentialed 1 Q. And how long did the modeling of that 2 2 teachers? lesson take? A. That's correct. 3 3 A. Oh, that one was probably -- probably a 4 Q. Do those teachers get assigned a mentor at 4 half hour. 5 Cahuenga through some other program? 5 Q. And the other sort of modeling that you 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete 6 were describing that was much smaller, how long 7 7 hypothetical. would that take? 8 8 THE WITNESS: Not in a formal way, but as MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 9 9 an example, one of my new kindergarten teachers this ambiguous --10 10 year, two of his other kindergarten teachers have THE WITNESS: It -really taken him under their wing. And it's 11 MS. STRONG: -- and compound to the extent 11 12 probably one of the strengths of the school is that 12 he was identifying different types of modeling, it they are -- the teachers are really good about 13 13 could vary. helping new people coming on. 14 THE WITNESS: And, you know, when you're 14 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 15 15 having fun, you don't really pay attention to the 16 O. So for teachers other than district 16 time. interns, the mentorship goes on an informal basis? 17 MS. STRONG: Kind of like now. 17 18 A. That's correct. 18 (Laughter.) 19 Q. Does Cahuenga prepare materials to 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 20 distribute to new teachers to help support them --20 O. So it's not like a deposition? 21 21 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and A. Right, right, right. ambiguous. Calls for speculation. MS. STRONG: We're all anticipating lunch. 22 22 23 MS. STRONG: Join. 23 MR. VILLAGRA: Can we go off the record for 24 THE WITNESS: No, it doesn't. 24 a minute to actually talk about lunch. 25 /// 25 /// Page 539 Page 541

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BY MR. VILLAGRA:
                                                                  1
                                                                             (At 12:07 the deposition
1
                                                                  2
2
        Q. You mentioned that you sometimes go in and
                                                                             was adjourned for noon recess.)
                                                                     /// (Please see next page.)
 3
    model for the new teachers?
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                                                                                                            ///
4
        A. That's correct.
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                                                                  5
        Q. How often last school year, 2000/2001, did
 6
    vou model for teachers?
                                                                  6
 7
        A. I really couldn't say. Sometimes --
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8
    sometimes it's a -- it is done in such an informal
    way that when you're observing a lesson and you just
                                                                  9
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10
    say, "Oh, if they would just go this way for a
11
    lesson."
                                                                 11
12
          So you step in -- if you understand who the
                                                                 12
    teacher is and they're not going to be devastated by
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                                                                 13
    you stepping in. And then you just kind of take it
                                                                 14
    over and lead it to where you -- where you think it
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16
    would be a more effective way of handling it.
                                                                 16
          And then there are some other times when
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                                                                 17
18
    you have a particular whole lesson that you want to
                                                                 18
    show and then you just go and you do the whole
                                                                 19
20
    lesson.
                                                                 20
21
          Last -- in fact, this week I went into a
                                                                 21
    classroom and was doing the language experience
                                                                 22
22
    story with the kindergarten children because this
                                                                 23
    teacher had never seen it and -- and it was -- and,
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24
    you know, that's the kind of thing that I'm doing.
                                                                 25
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Page 542 Page 544

1 (At 1:30 p.m., the deposition 2 of LLOYD HOUSKE was reconvened 3 with the same persons present.) 4 -oOo-5 6 EXAMINATION RESUMED 7 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 9 Q. I think when we paused for lunch we were talking about the modeling that you do for teachers. 10 And is it fair to say, then, on the high end, the 11 modeling can take 30 minutes? 12 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague. 13 14 MR. FERNOW: Same. MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous. 15 16 MR. FERNOW: Join.

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THE WITNESS: I would say so, yes.

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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19 Q. And on the low end, what would you say, how 20 long can modeling take?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and answered. He's already testified that there are different types of modeling programs, some are fast and informal and some can take the entire classroom.

MS. STRONG: And also vague and ambiguous.

what, almost a month into it?

2 A. Yes.

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Q. Have you sat down and done short-term planning with any of your teachers?

A. Yes.

6 MS. STRONG: It's vague and ambiguous. 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

O. How many?

A. Really one. The new teacher.

We also had a network meeting where the kindergarten teachers got together and came up with a pacing plan to help another teacher. So I know that they have developed a pacing plan I think for the first six weeks.

I know that the first grade is -- last week worked on a pacing plan together. And so that sometimes it's not just necessarily my doing it, but it's a group of people working on it.

Q. And we've talked about the networking meetings and some of the support that goes on there. I want to try to focus on the meetings that you have with teachers.

23 So you had one meeting this year so far 24 with a new teacher to do short-term planning?

A. And -- well, and long range, too.

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THE WITNESS: Yes. BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. "Yes," as to what?

A. It's really hard to say because it depends 5 upon what you're modeling; that sometimes it can be 6 very short, and sometimes it can even be longer than 30 minutes. I've spent as much as two hours 7 sometimes in the classroom, but that's -- that's an 8 9 exception.

Q. And the broad topic that we were talking about was the support that you offered to new teachers at Cahuenga.

13 The second item after modeling that you 14 mentioned was meeting with teachers and doing short-15 and long-term planning; is that correct?

A. Correct.

17 Q. How often do you meet with new teachers to 18 do short- and long-term planning?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound.

20 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

21 Overbroad as to time.

22 THE WITNESS: It -- it so varies from time to time that it's really hard to say.

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. In the school year 2001/2002, I guess we're

1 Q. And long range.

How long was that meeting?

A. Well, I was in -- I was in the room -- I've been in that particular room this year, I would say probably for, oh, maybe a couple hours. And -- but not all the time was spent on the planning. It was sometimes planning, it was observing, and it was sometimes doing a demo lesson myself for the teacher. So it was a lot of different things that were taking place.

Q. And what does the short-term and 12 long-range -- or long-range planning consist of?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound. 13 14

THE WITNESS: No. The --

15 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

16 THE WITNESS: This teacher has the

17 responsibility of running a research program for 18 upper-grade children in the library. And so we feel

that youngsters when they go to college don't really 19

20 know how to do research papers. So we thought we

21 want our children to be prepared. 22

So the first thing I had to help him with, what did you mean by research, what were the steps to doing a research project. And even to come up

with a recipe for what a summary is. And then

Page 546 Page 548

- discuss with him the -- what would be the steps,
- 2 what would be the types of lessons he would have
- 3 until they had reached the project conclusion.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA:

5

- Q. How new is this teacher that you --
- 6 A. This is his first year.
- Q. First year at Cahuenga, or first year as a 7 8 teacher?
- 9 A. First year as a teacher.
- 10 Q. Is he an emergency-credentialed teacher?
- A. Yes, he is. 11
- 12 Then I went into another
- 13 emergency-credentialed teacher's room and modeled 14 a language experience lesson for him. And I went
- into another emergency teacher's classroom and 15 16 modeled a writing activity for her.
- Q. And how long did the modeling of the 17 18 language experience lesson take?
- 19 A. Probably 15 to 20 minutes.
- 20 The other one probably took longer because 21 the children were older, they were first grade. And
- 22 I probably was in there for maybe a half hour, but I
- 23 certainly didn't time it.
- 24 O. Are you planning to do modeling for any 25 other emergency-credentialed teachers this school

- don't really feel the need for it. And I really
- 2 feel that they probably are better at doing that
- 3 type of planning than I am.
- 4 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. And you've testified that you visit
- classrooms to observe the quality of teaching that 6
- 7 teachers are providing?
 - A. Yes.

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- 9 Q. Does anyone else at Cahuenga visit teacher 10 classrooms to monitor the quality of teaching?
- 11 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Speculation.
- 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. To your knowledge?
- 14 A. Yes.
 - Q. Who?
- 16 A. The two assistant principals. I have a
- literacy coach. I also have a professional 17
- development specialist that I got through a grant. 18
- 19 And those people also go into classrooms.
- 20 Q. Do you know how often the assistant
- 21 principals visit classrooms to monitor the quality
- 22 of teaching?
- 23 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound. That
- 24 calls for speculation. 25
 - THE WITNESS: No, I really can't say. I

Page 547

year?

- 2 A. Oh, yes. 3 Q. Is that something where you know today how
- 4 many lessons you're going to be modeling for
- 5 emergency-credentialed teachers throughout the
- 6 school year?

1

- 7 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 8 ambiguous.
- 9 THE WITNESS: It's really based on your
- 10 observation. I try to get into their rooms often. So then when I see them doing something, if I think 11
- I can offer them some assistance, I -- I go in and
- do that. And so a lot depends upon the time I go 13
- 14 into the room.
- 15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 16 Q. And what you see?
- 17 A. And what I see.
- 18 Q. Are you planning at this point to do short-
- and long-range planning with any of the other 19
- 20 emergency-credentialed teachers, other than the ones
- 21 you've testified about already?
- 22 MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound.
- 23 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Not really because the
- 25 networks are really kind of taking that spot so I

- encourage them to do it often, but a lot has to
- 2 do with -- we're very available to teachers and to
- the public and so that a lot has to do with the
- scheduling within the day. 4
- 5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 6 Q. Do you have any policy as to the minimum 7 number of times that the assistant principal should
- 8 be visiting classrooms to observe the quality of 9 teaching?
- 10
 - A. No. I do not.
- 11 Q. Do you know how often the literacy coach
- 12 visits the classrooms to observe the quality of
- 13 teaching?
- 14 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 15 speculation.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Not really, because, you
- 17 know, I try to have a weekly meeting with all the
- 18 support help, and ask them which rooms they've been
- 19 in, what were their observations. And then try to
- 20 come up with any kind of plans that we need to offer
- 21 assistance or to plan professional development.
- 22 But ... there's not a -- not anything any more
- 23 formal than that.
- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 25 Q. And you have a professional development

Page 550 Page 552

- specialist that you obtained through a grant?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. When did you obtain that grant?
- 4 A. Last year.
- 5 Q. And how long will that grant run for?
- 6 A. Five years.
 - O. And what are the responsibilities under the grant of the professional development specialist?
- 9 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 10 speculation.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 11
- 12 O. If you know.
- 13 A. Well, last year we did thinking maps. And thinking maps is a graphic organizer to help 14
- children organize their thoughts. And that was a 15
- 16 very successful in-service we gave -- every track
- had one full day of being taught on how to use the 17
- 18 thinking maps.
- 19 And then we highlighted that in a weekly 20 bulletin that we put out in my classroom,
- 21 observations and then the observations of others.
- We found that almost every -- I would say every 22
- 23 classroom was utilizing them, so we felt very
- 24 successful with it.
- 25 And that was -- that was done through this

1 A. Yes, there is.

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- O. What topic will that cover?
- 3 A. It will be a continuation of the thinking
- 4 maps and -- because there is a computer program that 5 goes along with it that we didn't introduce last
- 6 year and which we hope to introduce this year. 7
 - Q. Any other in-service training plan to be provided this year by the professional development specialist?
- 10 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for speculation. 11
- 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. To your knowledge.
- 14 A. I'm sure that there will be, but that's the one right at the moment. All of our efforts at this 15
- 16 time are getting Open Court and the math series off,
- and so our attention is really diverted to that 17
- 18 right now.
- 19 Q. Are there in-services being provided
- 20 regarding Open Court?
- 21 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for
- 22 speculation.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. And have they already been provided?

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A. Yes. 1 2 Q. When were they provided? 3

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A. Last week. Q. How long did the in-service regarding Open

4 5

Court last? 6 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Speculation.

THE WITNESS: Two hours.

8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 9 Q. How do you know that it lasted two hours?
- 10 A. I was there.
- 11 Q. And what did the in-service regarding Open 12 Court cover?

13 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

14 THE WITNESS: Well, part of it was giving 15 encouragement to people to try something new.

Another one was to find out shortage of

16 17 other items that they might need. Like Open Court

- wants each youngster to have a folder with four compartments in it. And so the teachers didn't have 19
- 20 that and we didn't really know that they needed it.
- 21 So I think we kind of came up with a list of things,
- 22 like every teacher needs a stopwatch now. And so
- 23 those are items we have to order. So we were
- getting that kind of information down. 24
- 25 We talked about the availability of the

- 1
- 2 Q. Was there a formal effort to observe every 3 classroom and see if teachers were implementing the 4 thinking maps?
- 5 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 6 ambiguous.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Well, the word "formal" kind 8 of scares me.
- 9 We did it. You know, it was -- it was, but 10 it -- it wasn't necessarily just to go in to see if
- the maps were being used, but it was going into the 11
- classrooms and then coming out with the realization 13 that, yes, they were using. And that made us feel
- 14 really good.
- 15 And so then when we reported back, we said 16 we felt good about it being a successful in-service. 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. Were there any other in-services that this 19 professional development specialist provided last 20 year?
- 21 A. No, that was the -- really the major one 22 for the year.
- 23 Q. Is there an in-service plan to be provided 24 this year, 2001/2002, by the professional
- 25 development specialist?

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- materials. We also found out that they needed
- 2 certain colored stickers that they have to use in
- 3 the book. A lot of nuts and bolts kind of things
- because the program is still so new that -- we
- 5 talked about testing. That there's an initial
- 6 assessment test that has to be given.
- 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 8 Q. And what did you discuss regarding 9 materials related to Open Court?
- 10 A. Well, to make sure that they had the
- materials. Number one, was to make sure that all 11
- 12 the children had the books and that the teachers had
- 13 their materials, because as I say, you know, you
- can't do it if you don't have the books. 14

15 But then -- then we -- in the process of 16 that we found out these other things that they

- 17 needed.
- 18 O. Have the folders been ordered?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And the stopwatches?
- 21 A. Yes. At least if they're doing what I said
- 22 today.
- 23 Q. And the stickers?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Were there any books that needed to be

- experienced teacher doing the lesson.
- 2 As an example, I had -- we do these 3 parent-orientation meetings in each classroom. And
- 4 so the new kindergarten teacher, he has never seen 5
- 6 Q. Uh-huh.

7

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- A. So I took him in to observe me doing one
- 8 and so that he would know what his role was to be. 9
 - Then I also took him into a first grade room to see how the teaching of a kindergarten
- teacher followed off -- followed over into this 11
- 12 first grade class and how important what he did was,
- in that classroom. 13
- Q. Was that recently? 14
 - A. This was last week. I was busy.
- 16 Q. And when you pulled the teacher out from
- 17 their classroom -- I'm sorry.
- 18 Did you pull the teacher out from their
- 19 classroom to have them observe a more experienced
- 20 teacher teaching? 21
 - A. Yes.
- 22 Kindergarten teachers have -- there are two
- 23 kindergarten teachers in a classroom. One for the
- 24 morning session, one for the afternoon. And so when
- 25 I took him out of the classroom it wasn't -- he

Page 555

Page 557

- ordered? 1
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Any other materials that needed to be 4 ordered?
- 5 A. We have -- we had a discussion about a
- 6 three-hole notebook, and -- but we wanted to go back
- to the teachers because we weren't really sure if 7
- they really wanted that or not. So that we're --
- after -- we'll have another meeting next week with
- 10 them and then we'll decide. If they need them,
- 11 we'll buy them.
- 12 Q. Do you recall what day last week this
- 13 in-service --
- 14 A. Tuesday.
- 15 Q. Tuesday. 16
 - (Discussion held off the record.)
- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 18 Q. I believe that before lunch the third item
- 19 that you listed in terms of the support that is
- 20 provided to new teachers is that you take other
- 21 teachers in to observe the new teachers teaching in
- 22 their classrooms.

23

- Is that correct?
- 24 A. No. I meant that we take new teachers into
- 25 experienced teachers' rooms and they observe the

- wasn't with his class, he was assisting the other
- teacher. So it was time I could take him away 2
- 3 without interrupting the classroom schedule.
- 4 Q. Do you sometimes pull a new teacher out of
- 5 their class to have them observe a more experienced
- 6 teacher teaching?
 - A. Yes, sometimes.
- 8 O. And --

7

- 9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 10 ambiguous.
- 11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And when you do that, is a substitute put 12
- into that classroom for that time? 13 14
 - A. Sometimes.
- 15 O. What else can be done to substitute for the 16 teacher?
- 17 A. A teacher assistant is in the classroom at
- 18 that time, and we open up the door between that
- classroom and one where the teacher is, and then we 19
- 20 take the teacher out.
- 21 O. In the three weeks or so in the new school
- 22 year, how many times would you say you've taken new
- teachers out of their class to have them observe a
- 24 more experienced teacher teaching?
- 25 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

Page 558 Page 560

ambiguous as to which school year we're talking 2 about. And compound if it refers to more than one 3 school year.

4 THE WITNESS: Once, during this three-week 5 period. 6

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. Would you be able to estimate how many times you pulled a new teacher out of their classroom to observe a more experienced teacher teaching last school year, 2000/2001?

A. No, I couldn't. It isn't -- it so depends 11 12 upon the experience of the person that's -- that's 13 in the classroom.

14 Q. Do you meet with -- let me start over. 15

Are there any departments within the school that you've established?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 17 18 ambiguous.

19 MR. FERNOW: Join.

20 THE WITNESS: "Department" is not a term we

use in elementary. That's a secondary term. 21

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. What term would you use in elementary?

24 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

25 ambiguous as to what it is you're asking about. 1 A. I took a group of the grade level chair 2 people up to Oxnard. I don't know whether it was in 3 June, I think, and we spent two days coming up with 4 professional development topics and getting input 5 from that.

It was a very -- and that was, again, through that professional grant that I had that I was able to pay for this.

Q. Are those topics that you -- that professional development is going to cover this upcoming year?

A. That's right.

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Q. What are those topics?

MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation.

15 THE WITNESS: One -- one was Open Court, 16 that they wanted more of that. And then it was some discipline, because there's many new teachers and 17

18 discipline is always an issue for a new teacher.

19 And the other was math. Major topics.

It was also a team building experience.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. Do you meet with the grade level chairs 23 throughout the school year?

A. As needed.

Q. And when would a meeting with a grade level

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MR. FERNOW: Join.

2 THE WITNESS: I don't think we have 3 departments.

4 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. I'm sorry?

6 A. I said, I don't think we have departments 7 as such.

8 Q. Is there a teacher, for example, that's 9 designated the lead teacher for the first grade? 10

MS. STRONG: Objection.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

13 O. And what --

14 A. That's -- that's one where we call them

15 grade level chairperson. And that is a person

either that volunteers or -- or that the group

17 elects.

21

18 Q. Is there a grade level chair for each grade 19 at Cahuenga?

20 A. Not as yet, but there will be next week.

Q. The volunteering or elections haven't

22 happened yet?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Is it your practice to meet with grade

25 level chairs to talk about the quality of teaching?

chair be necessary?

A. The grade level chair really is the kind

of -- the unofficial head of the network. And so

that we really don't necessarily meet separately, 5 but they conduct -- they facilitate the meetings.

And I'm usually there, so that's when the input is 7

given to me. It isn't like they're a steering

8 committee or anything. 9 Q. Okay. When you identify areas that a

10 teacher needs to improve in based on an observation 11 that you've done of their teaching, what do you do

to monitor whether they have been able to improve in

13 that area?

14 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 15 ambiguous.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, the first thing I do is 17 either I -- I model it for them, or we sit down and 18 have a discussion about it. And then I go back in

19 and I observe.

20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

21 Q. Would you prepare anything in writing about 22 your observations?

23 A. No.

24 Q. And if the teacher continued needing

25 improvement, what would you do then?

Page 562 Page 564

1 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 2 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical.

THE WITNESS: I would write them up.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. And what would be the next step?

6 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 7

THE WITNESS: Possible dismissal.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. Do you recall the last time that you visited a classroom and saw a teacher in need of improvement in a particular area of teaching?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- 14 Q. When was that?
- 15 A. Last year.
- 16 Q. And what did you do to try to get the
- 17 teacher to improve?
- 18 A. Well, I --

19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and 20 answered. He's already told you generally what he 21 does.

- 22 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry.
- 23 MR. FERNOW: He -- asked and answered.
- 24 THE WITNESS: I went in and modeled a
- 25 lesson, talked to the teacher, offered assistance.

1 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 2 speculation. How can he know what you're talking 3 about.

4 THE WITNESS: As to improving the teaching 5 act.

6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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- Q. So professional development, generally?
- 8 A. Right, right. The whole purpose of 9 professional development is to make the teacher a more effective one. 10
- O. Do you notice that professional development 11 12 helps teachers improve the quality of education?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 13 14 ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: Oh, absolutely, yes.

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. And what's your basis for that belief?
- 18 A. Well, my own observation of myself and
- that when I've had -- when I've had effective 19
- professional development, I'm a better administrator
- because of that. And I know that's true for 21
- 22 teachers, too.
- 23 Q. I believe it was on the 14th, you talked 24 about some professional development that's offered
- 25 by the district, LAUSD, to teachers.

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And then I conferenced with her and recommended that

- she think about another profession. 2
- 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
 - Q. What was the assistance that you offered?
- A. That's what I said, you know, going in and 6 modeling that lesson, giving assistance, having her observe another person. 7
- 8 Q. Did this teacher accept your recommendation 9 to find another profession?
- 10 A. Yes, she did.

11 MR. FERNOW: I'm going to object and 12 instruct the client not to answer with regard to any 13 discipline that's taken against any employee

14 regardless of whether or not you name that employee.

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. When professional training is offered to 17 new teachers at Cahuenga, is it required that they attend?

19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 20 ambiguous. What professional training are we 21 talking about?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 Q. What professional training do you

25 understand me to be talking about?

And correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe you testified that teachers seldom take advantage of 2 3 that professional development.

Is that correct?

A. Well, "seldom" is kind of a hard word. I'm not exactly sure if I know whether your "seldom" or my "seldom" is the same thing.

Teachers get extra points towards salary increases, so there is a -- there is a real motivation for people to take staff development 10 11 in-service classes.

Some of them are required, and so they really don't have an option. And many teachers are in the process of getting clear credentials and so they're going through school and so that sometimes they're not able to take advantage of it as much as they want just because of the lack of time.

Q. And that's because they're taking classes 18 19 to complete their credential?

A. Right.

21 Which in turn is professional development, 22 too.

23 MS. STRONG: Objection. Incomplete 24 hypothetical.

25 MR. FERNOW: Join.

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1 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

2 O. On the 14th you talked at some length about 3 the filling of teacher vacancies, and specifically about the assistance the district offers. And 5 correct me if I'm wrong, but one of the things that

6 you testified to was that the district has to

7 process new teachers for you before they can start 8 teaching at Cahuenga.

Is that correct?

A. That's correct.

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Q. Does the filling of a vacancy at Cahuenga 12 sometimes get delayed by the processing of new teachers through the district? 13

14 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation. Vague and ambiguous and incomplete 15 16 hypothetical.

17 THE WITNESS: Sometimes.

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

19 Q. Would you describe the last time that it 20 happened.

21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 22 ambiguous.

23 THE WITNESS: I had a teacher retire -- not 24 retire, resign because her husband was --

25 MR. FERNOW: Excuse me. Actually -- 1 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 2 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

3 MR. FERNOW: Join.

4 THE WITNESS: There was a period of time, I 5 believe it was last year or maybe the year, before

6 when they first started the new fingerprinting

7 process in the state and fingerprints had to be sent 8

up to wherever they send them in the state to have

9 clearance. And sometimes the process, because it

10 was so new, was very time consuming.

11 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. What do you mean by "time consuming"?

A. It could take as much as two weeks or sometimes even longer to get the fingerprints and make sure that that person was cleared.

16 Q. Do you as principal of Cahuenga receive 17 assistance from the state to fill teacher vacancies?

18 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 19 ambiguous and calls for speculation.

20 MR. FERNOW: Join.

21 THE WITNESS: No, I do not. That I know

22 of.

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23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 O. To your knowledge, has anyone from the 25

state ever inquired as to whether there are teacher

Page 567

1 THE WITNESS: Oh, I shouldn't be --

MR. FERNOW: Yeah, I want to object and instruct the client not to answer any questions with regards to any personnel matters in relationship to employees or former employees of the district.

If you want to rephrase the question or reask the question.

MR. VILLAGRA: Absolutely.

Q. I'm not asking why the teacher left. There 10 was an opening and you sought to fill it.

11 A. And I found out about the opening late, so 12 when I hired the teacher it was late in the year and 13 so that it took -- the teacher had to do a 40-hour training, which was a requirement before they come in, and so that they came in a week late. 15

16 Q. This happened late last school year.

A. This school year. 17

18 Q. This school year?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When, approximately?

A. It was the first of July. Not actually the

22 1st of July, but first week of July.

23 Q. Before that, do you recall another instance

where filling a teacher vacancy was delayed by 24

25 LAUSD's processing of a teacher?

vacancies at the start of a school year or semester 1 2 at Cahuenga?

3 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 4 ambiguous. Compound and calls for speculation.

5 THE WITNESS: No.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

7 Q. And by "the state," I'm referring to -specifically to the State Department of Education,

State Board of Education, and the State

10 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

11 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Compound. And 12 there's no question pending.

13 MS. STRONG: To the extent you're trying to 14 fill in a definition for your prior question, all

the same objections should be repeated on my behalf. 15

THE WITNESS: No.

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. The answer doesn't change?

A. The answer does not change.

Q. Do you ever report as principal of Cahuenga the number of vacancies, teaching vacancies at

22 Cahuenga to anyone at the state level?

23 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 24 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

25 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

Page 570 Page 572

1 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 2 O. Do you report the number of vacancies --3 teacher vacancies at Cahuenga to LAUSD?
 - A. Yes, I do.

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- 5 Q. How often do you make those reports?
- 6 A. Whenever it's needed.
 - Q. What do you, as principal of Cahuenga, do to try to retain teachers at Cahuenga?

9 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 10 ambiguous. Overbroad. Vague as to time.

THE WITNESS: It has to do with 11 12 establishing climate. Climate where it is

13 comfortable for teachers to work in, where

14 achievement is appreciated, where praise is given,

15 where assistance is offered when needed. Building a 16 reputation of a school so that people want to come

to it, and that makes them proud to be there. 17

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

19 Q. And how do you establish the reputation of 20

21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 22 ambiguous.

23 THE WITNESS: I should write a book and get 24 money for this.

25 MR. FERNOW: It's going to be a novel.

that your school is good. It makes teachers feel 2 good about themselves because they say, "Oh, this 3 must be a good school because look at all these 4 people coming to see it." 5

And then the principal brags a lot. MS. STRONG: And rightly so.

7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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8 Q. So one of the things that you do -- correct 9 me if I'm wrong -- is admit areas where you need to 10 improve?

11 A. That's right.

12 O. What are the areas that Cahuenga needs to 13 14

A. I had a feeling that you would ask me that after I said that.

16 MR. FERNOW: And I'll object that it 17 assumes facts not in evidence.

18 MS. STRONG: And objection. Vague and 19 ambiguous.

20 THE WITNESS: Well, first of all, it's 21 looking at yourself and saying, "How can I be a more

effective administrator?" And it's -- it's like 22

23 saying, you know, "What should I do? How can I get

24 into classrooms more often?"

And so I start there. Not just getting into

Page 571

the classroom, but looking at myself.

2 And then it's taking a look at what's 3 happening in the classrooms. It's looking at the

Stanford 9 test scores. We did a three-year 4

5 analysis last year, looking at content clusters

where we had a weakness and then writing up a plan 7 on how we were going to correct it. So this year

when we get the test scores back we'll evaluate and

9 that will -- that will pinpoint those weaknesses

10 that we're going to need to work on.

11 I give a report back to each teacher as to how their class performed in relationship to other

classes. And then this year we'll see if they 13

14 improved. And so that would be their point to take

a look and will indicate to me if I need to look 15

16 further into that classroom and trying to figure out

17 why their test scores aren't improving.

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

19 Q. And when you say report back to each 20 teacher as to how they performed -- how their class 21

performed with respect to other classes, you mean at

22 Cahuenga? 23

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A. At Cahuenga, yes.

24 O. On the Stanford 9?

A. On the Stanford 9 and on the Aprenda.

THE WITNESS: No, it isn't, it's

2 nonfiction.

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3 (Laughter.)

4 THE WITNESS: It's done in hundreds of small ways; it isn't any one big thing you do.

6 One, you have test results that indicate 7 that your school is successful. You don't get 8 complaints in the area office about your school. You open your school up to the public. Not just the

10 local public, but it's to the public at large. 11 It is publicizing what you do in the school 12 that's successful. It's being honest. Admitting 13 areas where you want to improve.

14 It is having a welcome door to any 15 newspaper or TV cameraman that wants to come into 16 the school. I never turn down anybody.

It's having people visit your school from out of the country. I have three different groups coming this summer. I have, I believe it's 50 children from Korea coming to spend a week with us at the school. I have another group of 60 coming from Japan to visit the school for one day. I have

another group of probably 25 coming from Japan to 24 spend another day with us.

25 And all these things promote the feeling

Page 574 Page 576

- Q. Is the three-year analysis that you did of Stanford 9 test scores something that you were required to do by the district, by LAUSD?

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- Q. Is the three-year analysis of Stanford 9 scores something you were required to do by the state?
- A. No.
- Q. Why did you decide to do a three-year analysis of Stanford 9 scores? 10
- A. Well, because I want to improve the school. 11 12 I want to help the children learn more effectively 13 and you have to look at results.

Some people object to Stanford 9 as a gauge of how successful the school is, but it's one of the tools we have, and so I feel it's important that we look at it.

The API score, the Academic Performance Index, is measured so your school is rated by the Stanford 9 test scores. So it's only prudent for a principal to do this kind of analysis.

Q. Do you think the Stanford 9 test scores are a tool for improving student achievement if an analysis like a three-year analysis like you did is not performed?

1 And then you have to establish a plan of 2 action of how you're going to address that need. 3 And then you have to establish rubrics, and there's 4 a lot to doing it and getting it ready.

5 And I think because -- I think because we 6 did such a good job on it, we received the award 7 from the Getty House for our professional development plan, and so they're going to award us

8 \$5,000 in November for what we did. 9

10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

11 Q. For your professional development plan 12 related to the Stanford 9?

13 A. Yes. And also for the thinking maps, which 14 we incorporated it into our analysis and plan of 15 action.

16 Q. Do you know whether other schools in LAUSD have a similar professional development plan with 17 18 respect to the Stanford 9?

19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 20 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

21 THE WITNESS: No, I wouldn't.

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. How did it occur to you to do a three-year 24 analysis of Stanford 9 scores?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and

Page 575

ambiguous. 1

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MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous. Incomplete hypothetical. Calls for speculation. May call for expert testimony.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: Well, I think the more you look at test scores, I think the more you examine and look at areas of need, I think that that surely must help.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

> Q. Do you think that without doing a three-year analysis, the Stanford 9 scores identify areas of need for you as a principal?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Same objections. MR. FERNOW: Join.

15 THE WITNESS: Well, I think -- I think you have to take a look at the history of your school 16 17 and to see how it's going and whether it's improving 18

or not. 19 And it's not just the test scores that are

20 important, but it's the areas that -- it's -- it's a 21 very complex thing you have to do when you analyze test scores because you have to look to find out the 22 content cluster. If that's low, then you have to look at the Stanford 9 and find out what did the 24

25 test question look like.

THE WITNESS: Well, I was -- I was thinking about this the other day, not necessarily this point you're talking about, but how do you come up with an idea about how to improve your school. And all of a sudden you think you're so smart because you came up with this idea, and then you find later on that someone over there is doing the same thing, and someone over there is doing the same thing as you are. How can it be that we all got the same idea?

12 meetings and get training. And so you kind of get background knowledge. And then you put this 13 14 background knowledge ... and you make a concept out 15 of it. And then it just seems so logical to do this

And what I think it is, is that we go to

16 next step. And so that it's kind of an interesting

17 way that it happens.

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

19 Q. Do you know whether anyone at Cahuenga 20 keeps a list of the credentials that all the teachers on the staff have? 21

22 A. Well, we have a ... I don't know what you 23 would call it. It's -- on each teacher there is --24 we called it a "greenie," and I don't know what the 25 official name is.

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- 1 THE REPORTER: You call it a
- 2 THE WITNESS: Greenie. Not like tracks. 3

(Laughter.)

THE WITNESS: And on there it tells you whether this teacher is a provisional or whether they're a contract teacher or probationary.

7 And, of course, what goes along with that 8 is the assumption -- the actual listing of degrees 9 beyond the one just for teaching credential is not 10 held at the school but it would be probably held downtown because they get extra pay for it. It 11

12 would be in personnel.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 13

- Q. And so at Cahuenga there is a card for each 14 15 teacher; is that correct?
- 16 A. Not a card, but a -- a flimsy.
- 17 O. A flimsy card?
- 18 A. A flimsy card, right.
- Q. And I'm sorry. What does the flimsy 19
- 20

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- 21 A. It gives their status.
- 22 Q. -- reflect?
- 23 A. It gives their status for payroll purposes.
- 24 The intent was not to notify us. We also
- 25 get a printout when it comes time for evaluation of

- BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 2 O. Even though they may be, or may not be?
 - A. Either be in a bilingual program or not
- 3 4 be in a bilingual program. Everybody is an
- 5 English-language learner in elementary school.
- 6 Q. How many teachers do you have currently at 7 Cahuenga who teach in English-language development 8 programs, be they bilingual or dual immersion?

9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

ambiguous. Compound. Calls for speculation.

THE WITNESS: And it would be speculation. 11

12 I'm just not good at numbers.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 13

- 14 O. You don't have --
 - A. I just don't remember.
- 15 16
- Q. Do you know how many of your teachers at
- 17 Cahuenga have a CLAD credential?
- 18 THE REPORTER: Clad?
- 19 MR. VILLAGRA: CLAD, sorry.
- 20 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 21 speculation.

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- 22 THE WITNESS: No, I really don't.
- 23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 24 O. Do you know what the CLAD credential is?
 - A. Yes.

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teachers that lists their status.

- Q. And by "status," you mean whether they are fully credentialed or not?
 - A. That's right.
- 5 Q. Do you know, of all the teachers at
- 6 Cahuenga, currently how many have -- or how many are fully credentialed to teach in California public

8 schools?

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9 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 10 speculation.

11 MR. FERNOW: Vague and ambiguous.

12 THE WITNESS: I think it's -- I think

- 13 it's close to 50 percent. Because I know on the
- Rodriguez consent decree, we're -- we're right where
- 15 we belong now.

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 17 O. Do you know how many teachers at Cahuenga provide instruction to English-language learners? 18
- 19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 20 ambiguous. What do you mean, "provides

21 instruction"?

- 22 THE WITNESS: And everybody provides
- instruction to English-language learners because all the children are English-language learners even 24
- though they may be in a bilingual program.

- O. What it is?
- A. It is to make sure that the teachers
- 3 have the instructional background for teaching
- 4 English-language learners.
 - Q. Do you know how many of the teachers at
- 6 Cahuenga have a B CLAD?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7

8 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

THE WITNESS: No, I really wouldn't. 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- Q. Do you know what a B CLAD is?
- A. Maybe I'm getting ... one is -- one is -- I
- may be getting confused, though. One is where the 13
 - teacher speaks a foreign language and has the
- training; and the other one is for a non-foreign 15
- 16 language -- cannot speak a foreign language and is
- trained. There are two different types, and I do 17
- not know the number for either one. 18
 - O. When a teacher is absent from Cahuenga, who is responsible for finding a substitute teacher?
 - MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

21 speculation.

22 23

MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

24 THE WITNESS: Well, there is a substitute

25 desk that the teacher is instructed to call and

Page 582 Page 584

1 notify them that they're going to be absent.

And at my school, many of my off-track teachers will substitute. And so -- and their names

4 are sent in to the substitute desk. And that

5 teacher may just say the name of the teacher that's

6 on our own staff, and then that person comes in and 7 substitutes.

8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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9 Q. Apart from those teachers who are off 10 track and available to sub, are there any substitute teachers specifically assigned to be substitutes at 11 12 Cahuenga?

13 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 14 speculation.

MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

16 THE WITNESS: Not that I know of.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 17

> O. Are those teachers who are off track and available to be substitutes, are they sufficient to meet the need for substitute teachers at Cahuenga?

21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 22 ambiguous.

23 THE WITNESS: Not always. Sometimes we use

///

24 from the substitute desk.

25 /// BY MR. VILLAGRA:

2 O. Do you recall when the last time was that 3 it happened?

4 A. No. I can't.

5

Q. It didn't happen last school year?

6 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and 7

8 THE WITNESS: It possibly could have, but I 9 just don't recall it.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 10

11 O. When substitute teachers from the 12 substitute desk are called in, are they monitored

13 by anyone at Cahuenga to see how they're teaching?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 14

15 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

16 THE WITNESS: Sometimes.

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

18 Q. How do you know that?

19 A. Because in going through the classrooms, we

come in and we find a sub in that room and so at 20

21 that time we observe them being there. 22

Q. But is that a classroom that you would have

23 been observing anyway?

24 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

25 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical.

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THE WITNESS: Probably. 1

2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3 Q. So when substitutes from the substitute

4 desk are teaching, you don't make a specific point

5 to go observe that teacher teaching?

6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 7 ambiguous. Incomplete hypothetical.

8 THE WITNESS: No. I do not.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

10 Q. Does anyone at Cahuenga provide lesson

11 plans for substitute teachers from the substitute

12 desk?

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13 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

14 speculation.

15 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous. 16

THE WITNESS: The teacher in the classroom

17 is responsible for having a set of lesson plans.

18 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

19 Q. Do you know personally whether those lesson 20 plans are made available to the substitutes?

A. Not always do I know.

22 Q. Do you recall an instance where a

23 substitute teacher didn't have a lesson plan left

for them by the -- I guess the permanent teacher? 24

A. Maybe once or twice.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 1

2 Q. Do you have trouble finding substitute 3 teachers from the substitute desk?

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

THE WITNESS: No, I do not. 5

6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. How do you know that?

8 A. Because I have not had a class waiting without a teacher. 9

10 Q. Does the district -- and I'm referring 11 to LAUSD -- offer you any assistance in finding

substitute teachers? 12 13 A. Oh, certainly, because they have that

14 substitute pool.

15 Q. Are there ever days when the school can't 16 find a substitute teacher to fill in for someone?

17 A. Verv. verv rare.

18 Q. What do you do on those days?

19 MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound to the 20 extent that it varies.

21 THE WITNESS: Well, and it's so rare that it isn't -- it isn't -- it -- we would break the 22

class up, you know, divide them up and each teacher

24 would get a few from that classroom. But as I say,

it just hardly ever happens.

Page 586 Page 588

- 1 Q. Do you recall when those one or two 2
- occasions occurred? 3 A. No. I really don't.
- Q. Could they have happened last year? 4
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I believe you testified on the 14th that
- 7 teachers in the upper grades have complained to you
- 8 about the number of students they have in their 9 classrooms.
- 10
 - Is that correct?
- A. Yes. 11
- 12 Q. And by "upper grades," is that the fourth
- and fifth grades? 13
- 14 A. That's correct.
- Q. And what is their complaint? 15
- 16 MS. STRONG: Objection. Answered -- asked 17 and answered.
- 18 MR. FERNOW: Compound.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Well, you see someone who is
- 20 working with 20 children and you have 33, you want
- 21 the same thing as the other one. And the children
- 22 are larger, they take up more space, and so that you
- would -- everyone would like to have the 20 to one. 23
- 24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 25 Q. What do you tell the teachers in the upper

- 1 Q. In your opinion, does a smaller class size 2 also make the class more manageable for the teacher?
- 3 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Incomplete
- 4 hypothetical.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 6 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.
- 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 8 Q. Do you know how many classes at Cahuenga 9 currently have 33 students in them, if any?
- 10 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 11 ambiguous.
- THE WITNESS: Maybe two or three. 12
- 13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. And that's out of how many classrooms in 14 15 the fourth and fifth grades?
- 16 A. Probably nine.
 - Q. In those two or three classrooms where
- 18 there are 33 students, are there enough seats for
- 19 all of the students?
 - A. Oh, certainly, yes, yes.
- 21 Q. Is there enough space for 33 desks in those
- 22 classrooms?

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- MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 23
- 24 ambiguous. Calls for speculation. 25
 - THE WITNESS: Yes, because at one time they

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Page 589

- grades who complain to you about the number of students they have in their classrooms? 2
- 3 A. I agree. "I wish I could do something to 4 help you out."
 - And that's why I developed that research program in the library. And so I take out ten children out of each of the rooms sometime during
- 8 the day which lowers the norm down. 9
- Q. And why, in your opinion, is it a benefit to have 20 kids instead of 33 children in a 10 classroom?
- 11

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- A. More individual attention --
- 13 MS. STRONG: Objection --
- 14 THE WITNESS: More individual --
- 15 MS. STRONG: Hold on.
- 16 Let me make my objection. Thank you.
- 17 Objection. To the extent it calls for his
- 18 personal testimony or personal opinion testimony, it
- is not relevant in this suit.
- 20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 21 Q. You can answer.
- 22 A. More individual attention. I think that
- was the answer to the question.
- O. More individual attention? 24
- 25 A. Yes.

- had 40 in the past in those rooms.
 - THE REPORTER: Can we take a short a break.
- 3 (Recess taken from 2:30 to 2:37.)
 - BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 5 Q. I know you testified at some length on the
- 14th about bathrooms. I just want to reorient you
- 7 to your testimony and see if I'm recalling it
- 8 correctly.
- You testified there were six bathrooms for 10 girls and six bathrooms for boys on the campus at
- 11 Cahuenga; correct?
- 12 A. Again, I'll ... I'm going to each location
- 13 in my mind.
- 14 Yes.
- 15 Q. Does that sound right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And one part -- point that I was a little
- 18 unclear on and that the math didn't seem to work,
- I'm not sure if it's the new math or my old math,
- 20 but there are three sets of bathrooms on the ground
- 21 floor.
- 22 Is that correct?
- 23 A. Three sets.
- 24 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 25 ambiguous.

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- 1 THE WITNESS: Well, on the ground -- yes,
- 2 opening onto the yard.
- 3 No. I guess it's two sets, two boys and
- 4 two girls, onto the playground.
- 5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 6 Q. Onto the playground, okay. 7
 - Is there one set of bathrooms in the
- 8 auditorium?
- 9 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 10 Q. One set in the kindergarten classroom?
- A. That's correct. 11
- 12 Q. And two, I believe you testified to, in the
- 13 new building?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What's the new building?
- 16 A. The new building.
- It's Harvard Hall. 17
- 18 O. Harvard Hall.
- 19 A. And you mentioned the kindergarten, so
- 20 that's it, that's the six.
- 21 O. Okay.
- 22 MS. STRONG: As a point of clarification,
- 23 did you say one set in the kindergarten or --
- 24 MR. VILLAGRA: One set.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Boy and a girl, yes.

- stools there are?
- 2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 3 Q. How many toilets there are, in the girls' 4
- 5 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 6 ambiguous.
- 7 THE WITNESS: I believe it's three.
- 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. Does the same go for the other bathroom 9 10 that opens out on the playground?
- 11 A. No, the other one has many more. It's a
- 12 large bathroom.
- Q. When you say "many more," are you able to 13 14 put a number on it?
 - A. I ... I would think that it would probably
- 16 be -- I guess I better not say. Four, five, six,
- something like that. I just haven't paid that much 17
- 18 attention. I know in the boys' bathroom there
- 19 probably are six. So maybe it would probably be the
- 20 same in the girls.
- 21 Q. And that's in the large bathroom that opens
- 22 on the --

15

- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 O. -- playground? 25
 - And that leaves the two sets in the

Page 591

- Although they're kind of unisex.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 2
- 3 Q. As far as the one bathroom in the
- 4 kindergarten classroom goes, how many toilets are
- 5 there in the girls' bathroom?
- 6 A. In -- in the kindergarten?
- 7 Q. Uh-huh.
- 8 A. One.
- 9 Q. And in the boys?
- 10 A. One.
- 11 Q. And for the set of bathrooms in the
- auditorium, how many toilets are there in the girls'
- 13 bathroom?
- 14 A. I really don't know. I know it's more than
- one, but I don't know the number. 15
- 16 Q. Is it more than five?
- 17 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- speculation. He said he doesn't know. 18
- 19 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 20 THE WITNESS: No, I really don't know.
- 21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 22 Q. Let's take one set of the bathrooms on the
- 23 playground. Are you thinking of --
- 24 MS. STRONG: Is there a question pending?
- 25 THE WITNESS: Do you want to know how many

Harvard Hall? 1

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23

- A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Are they both on the same floor?
 - A. No. One is on the second floor and one is
- 5 on the third floor.
- 6 O. Starting with the bathrooms on the second
- 7 floor, how many toilets are there in the girls'
- 8 bathroom?
 - A. I believe there are four.
- 10 Q. Same for the boys?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 O. And for the bathrooms on the third floor?
- 13 A. I believe it's the same.
 - MR. FERNOW: Objection.
- 15 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and
- 16 ambiguous as to the last question, to the extent
- there is a question, as to whether the toilets are 17
- also including the urinals in the boys' bathroom. 18
- 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. Do you know whether, sitting here right now
- 21 or as of today, all the toilets at Cahuenga were
- 22 in -- were operating?
 - A. Today?
- 24 O. Uh-huh.
- 25 A. No, they're not.

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- 1 Q. How many are not operating?
- 2 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

3 speculation.

4

- MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous --
- 5 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 6 MS. STRONG: -- as to what it means to be

7 "not operating."

- THE WITNESS: The large boys' bathroom is closed.
- 10 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 11 Q. Why is that?
- 12 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for

13 speculation.

- 14 THE WITNESS: We put doors on the -- on
- 15 the stalls and they had marble partitions. And
- 16 in putting the doors on, the marble got damaged --
- 17 well, it didn't get damaged, but it got weakened.
- 18 And so that one of the marble partitions collapsed.
- 19 And so I'm waiting to have them take out the marble
- 20 so that I'm sure no one will be hurt.
- 21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. How do you know that the large boys'
- 23 bathroom has been closed?
- A. Because I've been fussing about it.
- Q. How long has it been closed?

- 1 there would be no partitions.
- 2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

3

- Q. And that would be for this coming Monday?
- 4 A. No, this last Monday. And I -- so I don't
- 5 know if they are there today or not, but they hadn't6 come yet.
- 7 Q. Okay. You mentioned that they are trying
- 8 to locate a temporary facility for the yard?
- 9 A. That's right.
- Q. Do you know why they're trying to locate temporary facilities for the yard?
- 12 A. To make the smart bathrooms --
- 13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for
- 14 speculation. Vague and ambiguous.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Because they're going to put 16 in smart bathrooms.
- 17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. While the large boys' bathroom is closed, is there a need for additional bathroom facilities?
- 20 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and
- 21 ambiguous. Calls for speculation. May call for
- 22 expert opinion.
- 23 THE WITNESS: We -- we haven't had a
- 24 problem.
- 25 /// ///

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- A. I would say several weeks.
- Q. How long have you been fussing about it?
- 3 A. Several weeks.
- 4 Q. To who or to whom --
- 5 A. To the maintenance branch.
- 6 O. And that's at the district?
- 7 A. Yes.

1

- 8 Q. And what has their response been from the
- 9 maintenance branch at the district?
- 10 A. Well, the bathrooms are scheduled for
- 11 remodeling. And they are going to become what they
- 12 call "smart bathrooms." And so that there are new
- 13 stalls ordered. They are trying to locate a
- 14 temporary toilet facility to bring onto the yard to
- 15 use. And everything is just taking time, they say.
- Q. Do they have any idea when that bathroom will be in service again?
- 18 MS. STRONG: Objection.
- 19 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for
- 20 speculation.

21

- MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.
- THE WITNESS: No.
- When I talked to him on Monday, they were
- 24 supposed to have someone out there removing the
- 25 marble and then I could reopen them again, except

- 1 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- Q. But the maintenance branch is looking into ordering temporary facilities?
 - A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Do you know when the maintenance branch
- 6 is supposed to provide those temporary bathroom
- 7 facilities?

4

- 8 A. As soon as possible, is what I've been 9 told.
- Q. You testified on the 14th that sometimes
- 11 bathrooms are locked, depending on the repair or the
 - work that's needed in the bathroom?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. I assume that this large bathroom that
- 15 opens out onto the playground, is that locked right
- 16 now? 17 A.
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Are there any other bathrooms at Cahuenga that are currently locked?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. And I know that last time you talked about
- sometimes a custodian going into the girls' bathroom
- 23 to mop up or do some work and locking the bathroom
- 24 for a short period.
- Were there any periods last year when

Page 598 Page 600

- the -- any of the bathrooms were locked for some
- 2 period of time longer than a -- than work like that, 3

that you described?

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MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague, ambiguous.

5 Calls for speculation. 6

THE WITNESS: I'm sure that there has been.

7 And whenever you run a large facility, there's

8 always things breaking down.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

10 Q. Do you remember the last time that a --

MS. STRONG: Objection. Move to strike the

12 answer. The last answer --

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 O. -- bathroom --15

MS. STRONG: -- as nonresponsive.

16 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. -- broke down and had to be locked? 17

A. You know how I am with -- with time. 18

19 Q. (Laughs.)

20 A. And the last time I can really remember the

21 bathroom being closed was when we did the repiping.

And I'm just not really sure if that was last year 22

23 or the year before.

24 O. I believe you testified last time that the

25 bathrooms, all of them, are cleaned at least once a 1 Q. Last time you testified about deep 2 cleaning, the replacement of a broken door. And now 3 you've testified about the work that's being done in 4 the large boys' bathroom. And this is all work that 5 you have asked the district for assistance in doing.

6 Have you ever sought help from the district 7 concerning bathrooms for any other reason?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Can you describe those?

14 A. Well, we have -- we had some bond money

that was -- when -- when the school -- the bathrooms 15

were repiped. They didn't replace the tile in the 16

right color and so they put in white tile. And of 17 18 course, I was very upset because it just looked

19 awful.

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20 Q. Any other occasions?

21 A. No.

22 Well, the doors, when we asked the doors to

23 be put on the stalls. Before that, there hadn't

24 been any doors.

Q. Anything else that you can think of?

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day and the large bathrooms on the yard are cleaned 2 twice a day.

3 Is that correct?

A. Serviced, yes.

Q. How regularly are the bathrooms restocked 6 with the supplies, such as toilet paper, paper

7 towels, soap?

8 MS. STRONG: Objection. Asked and

9 answered.

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10 MR. FERNOW: And vague and ambiguous.

11 Compound. And calls for speculation.

12 THE WITNESS: I would say several times a day. And -- you know, we would -- if it isn't, we 13

would certainly get complaints in the office. And

so then -- and we have not had any complaints that I 15

16 can recall.

17 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

18 Q. This year?

A. That's right. 19

20 Q. And how do you know that the bathrooms are

21 restocked several times a day?

22 A. Because as I said, number one, you have

23 proof because you have nobody coming in to complain.

24 Because children will really let you know if you

don't have the proper things in.

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A. I suppose requesting new mirrors to be put in the bathrooms because they had got discolored.

2 3 Maybe paper holders because they had gotten rusty,

to be replaced.

Q. Do you recall when it was that you asked

the district for new mirrors? 7

A. No. I do not.

8 Q. What about with respect to the paper 9 holders?

10 A. No, I do not. It wasn't this year.

11 Q. Have you received any guidance from the

12 district, from LAUSD, about the number of working

bathrooms that the campus at Cahuenga should have? 13 14

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 15 ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

17 MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation to the extent that information maybe went to somebody 18

else on his staff and he may not know about it. 19

20 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. Have you received any guidance from the

23 district about how clean the bathrooms on your 24 campus have to be?

25 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and Page 602 Page 604

ambiguous. 1

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MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation.

THE WITNESS: I've always had my own

4 standard. I didn't need to have somebody tell me

5 how clean they should be.

6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. That's good when you have the right

8 standard.

A. Right.

And to verify that I have the right

standard, Caprice Young (phonetic), who is our board 11

12 member, whenever she comes to our school, she always

says, "I always like coming here because your school 13

is one of the cleanest." 14

And I had someone visit my school this week

16 from the district and they said, "My, what -- what a

clean school you have." So that kind of -- it's a 17

18 testimony that my standard must be okay.

19 Q. Did the person from the district mention 20 what schools they were comparing yours to?

21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Assumes facts.

THE WITNESS: No, but I would have liked to 22

23 have known.

24 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Have you received any guidance from the

ambiguous and calls for speculation.

2 THE WITNESS: No.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. Do you receive any complaints from teachers about classroom temperatures?

6 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 7 ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Do you recall when the last complaint was?

11 A. This year.

Q. Do you recall when specifically?

A. No.

14 O. What was the --

A. And I'm not even sure it was this year,

16 or the end of June, really. Some of the

air-conditioning units had malfunctioned. 17

18 Q. Do you recall how many air-conditioning

19 units malfunctioned?

A. It might have been four or five.

21 O. Were they all in a particular building?

A. One was in the -- in the Hobart Hall -- not

23 one, but several were in Hobart Hall. And then

24 there were several bungalows the air-conditioning

25 was out in. And I think one in Heritage Hall.

Page 603

state about the number of working bathrooms that

2 your campus should have? 3

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation. Vague and ambiguous.

5 THE WITNESS: No.

6 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

7 Q. Have you received any guidance from the 8 state about how clean the bathrooms on your campus

9 should be?

10 MR. FERNOW: Objection.

11 MS. STRONG: Same objections.

12 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

15 Q. Have you ever received any instruction from

16 the -- from the district about bathrooms?

17 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 18

ambiguous. 19

MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation.

20 THE WITNESS: Not really, that I can

21

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. Have you ever received any instruction from

24 the state concerning bathrooms? 25

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

Q. And what did you do once you received this

complaint about the air-conditioning malfunctioning?

3 A. We keep a record book and we reported to

4 the maintenance section that it's -- that we need

5 help instantly.

6 O. That's the maintenance section at the

7 district?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The maintenance branch?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And was there any response from the

12 maintenance branch?

13 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague. Calls for

speculation. 14

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15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. To your knowledge.

A. Yes. Not soon enough.

Q. What do you mean by "not soon enough"? 18

A. Well, I think it was over a week. And

20 teachers get very impatient if air-conditioning

21 isn't on. And so I -- we -- I called many different

22 times during that week. And maybe it was even a

23 little longer than a week.

24 Q. Before this time that you've just

25 described, do you remember the previous complaint

Page 608 Page 606

that you received from a teacher concerning

2 classroom temperatures? 3

MS. STRONG: Assumes facts.

4 MR. FERNOW: Join.

5 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. If any.

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A. I can't recall a specific time, but with air-conditioning units, it is -- it is not an

9 unusual problem to have even though they're new.

10 Q. Is it also not unusual for the maintenance branch to not make the repair -- necessary repairs 11 12 soon enough, in your opinion?

13 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 14 ambiguous. Incomplete hypothetical.

15 THE WITNESS: No. They're really pretty 16 good at it most of the time.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 17

18 Q. Do you receive complaints from teachers 19 about the air-conditioning in the bungalows specifically, apart from this last instance that

21 you've described?

A. No more so than the main building.

23 Q. Do you receive complaints from teachers in

24 bungalows about ventilation?

25 A. No.

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assumed that anybody would be asking for anything 2 unless they had some kind of special project they 3 might ask people to bring in something.

I was in a kindergarten classroom this week 4 5 and meeting with the parents, and they asked if the parents wanted to bring in snacks at times, you 6 7 know, to have at recess, you know, but that's not 8 unusual.

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

> Q. What would a special project requiring students to bring in materials be?

12 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for -- are 13 you done?

14 MR. VILLAGRA: (Nods head.)

15 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 16 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical. He says it 17 may be, he doesn't know one way or the other about

18 it.

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19 THE WITNESS: That's true, I don't. I 20 really can't say. Because it's not a normal kind of

thing. It would be very exceptional, so ... 21

22 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

23 Q. Does Cahuenga undergo an annual fiscal

24 audit?

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25 A. Yes, it does.

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Q. Do you have any idea how hot the

2 temperatures got in the classrooms where the AC

3 units malfunctioned?

A. No idea.

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for

6 speculation.

7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

8 Q. Does Cahuenga have a policy regarding

9 charging students any fees?

10 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 11 ambiguous.

12

THE WITNESS: No.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. Do you know whether any Cahuenga students

15 are asked to pay for the purchase of materials for 16 class?

17

A. They're asked for money?

18 Q. (Nods head.)

A. Not in my -- not to my knowledge. 19

20 Q. Is there a policy against that? 21

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and

22 answered.

23 THE WITNESS: There really isn't a formal

24 policy. It -- because we have -- we have the

things, it is not a matter ... so I have just never

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 1 2 ambiguous.

3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. When is that audit prepared?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous to the extent it's referring to one

particular audit. There may be more than one audit.

THE WITNESS: At the end of the year.

8

9 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

10 O. And who conducts the audit?

11 A. The auditor.

12 O. From the district?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What materials do you supply the auditors

15 with?

16 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Assumes facts.

17 Vague and ambiguous.

BY MR. VILLAGRA: 18

19 O. If any.

20 A. You know, it's -- the audit mainly would be

21 on impressed funds. And this is money that where we

22 can write out checks on. And so it would be a paper

trail on how that money was spent; you would have to

24 have receipts. It would have to be in the right

categories. So there would be an adjustment of

Page 610 Page 612

1 that.

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And we send that into the auditing section, and then they replenish that money supply upon the receipt of this.

- 5 Q. Once they've determined that you've passed 6 the audit?
 - A. Exactly.
- 8 Q. Do you give the auditors a detailed general 9 ledger?

10 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 11 ambiguous.

12 THE WITNESS: The office manager keeps one. 13

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. Apart from receipts, do you give the 15 auditors any documents?

16 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 17 ambiguous.

18 THE WITNESS: I don't know what you mean 19 by "documents." I mean, they look at the ledger and ... that really is basically -- I think the 21 auditor basically looks just at the register and the checkbook. 22

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 O. Are you familiar with the coordinated 25 complaints review?

1 THE WITNESS: -- the kinds of things that

2 were required were being done.

3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. What sorts of things?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous.

7 THE WITNESS: Oh, did you have the proper 8 kind of testing for bilingual children. Was

there -- is there a home language survey. Is there 9

documentation in cumulative cards, in cumulative 10

11 records of children. Did teachers have records in

12 their classroom.

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. This last year, last school year --

16 Q. -- you were subjected again to the review,

or the review was done? 17

MR. FERNOW: Objection to choice of words. 18 19 MS. STRONG: Argumentative. Assumes facts

20 not in evidence.

21 (Laughter.)

THE WITNESS: I'm biased.

23 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

24 O. I guess you being submitted to it. Or you

25 submitting to it is no better?

Page 611

A. Yes, I am.

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2 Q. What is that?

A. This is where the state is coming in to try 3 4 to help improve instruction within the schools. 5

Q. And how does the state come in to help improve instruction?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation and vague and ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: There has been a change in 10 focus. We were reviewed last year. And the review in the past, before that was mainly looking at paper trails, checking on those kinds of things.

12 13 But this one was really more in terms of a 14 staff's development, in helping administrators and teachers and parents go into classrooms and to 15 16 observe and to look and to identify whether or not 17 standards were being met and whether effective 18 teaching strategies were being utilized, whether children knew what the requirements to have a good 20 assignment were and things like that.

21 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

22 Q. You said in the past the review was mainly 23 over paper trails?

24 A. Uh-huh. To find out if -- if all --25 MS. STRONG: Objection.

A. No better. 1

O. You were reviewed last week?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was any of the paper trail also reviewed

5 last year?

6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for speculation. 7

THE WITNESS: It was a different type of 9 paper review. It was a looking at instructional 10 kinds of things rather than -- it was a -- it was a

11 much improved process. It was really a growth process. 12

13 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

14 Q. What do you mean by "it was a growth 15 process"?

16 A. Well, it was staff development really on 17 how to go into classrooms to do better observations

18 for all of us; for the teachers, for the

19 administrators, parents. And it was focusing on 20 standards.

21 Q. Was there a report that was prepared as a 22 result of the review?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. FERNOW: And I'll just object. Vague

25 as to time.

Page 614 Page 616

1 Do you mean for the report last year?

2 MR. VILLAGRA: Last year.

MR. FERNOW: Okay.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

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Q. Did the review identify any areas that needed improvement at Cahuenga?

MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and ambiguous.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

O. What were those?

A. This review was done by us and so that we -- we were the ones that actually -- after we did the walk-through of the school, we took a look and 14 we decided. It wasn't an outsider that provided 15 16 this review.

17 And we -- we realized that the standards 18 were still a new concept for teachers, and so we 19 wanted to focus more on making that an effective 20 tool for teachers. We're going to be working more 21 on portfolios to refine them more, to make sure that the appropriate type of material is being saved 22 23 rather than everything. 24 We need to rewrite the standards in

25 terms of children's language so the children can thinking.

3

13

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2 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. Do you recall who he works for?

4 A. He works for a private firm that the 5 district really hired to help conduct this review.

6 And I'm not exactly sure as to the title of that 7 group.

8 Our director of -- one of the subdirectors 9 of the district was also a member of that team, so 10 she walked through the school, too.

11 O. Do you receive any guidelines on how to 12 conduct the coordinated compliance review?

MS. STRONG: Okay. Vague and ambiguous.

THE WITNESS: Yes. 14

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

16 Q. From whom? 17

MS. STRONG: Calls for speculation.

THE WITNESS: From Dr. Watson. 18

19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. How do you know that?

21 A. He did it.

22 Q. Had you received guidelines when you had

23 conducted coordinated compliance reviews in the

24 past? 25

MS. STRONG: Objection. Compound.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

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MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous.

3 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

4 Q. And I take it, it is fair to conclude that 5

these guidelines from Dr. Watson were different from

6 those you had received previously?

A. Yes.

8 Q. Are there any review processes conducted by the state that Cahuenga undergoes, other than the 9 10 coordinated compliance review?

MR. FERNOW: Objection.

12 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and

13 ambiguous. Calls for speculation.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

15 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

16 Q. To your knowledge.

MR. FERNOW: It's still vague and 17

18 ambiguous.

19 THE WITNESS: I don't really recall any.

20 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

21 Q. And who do you understand me to be 22 referring to when I refer to "the state"?

23 A. The State Department of Education.

24 Q. The State Board of Education, as well?

A. Well, I suppose in that they direct the

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understand it better. The children need to understand better how to reach the standard.

We asked one child in there -- I didn't. 4 but some of the -- the other observers that went in and they asked this kindergarten child, "Well, how can you make your paper better?" And the child picked his pencil up and said, "See what's on the end of this? It's an eraser. That's how I'll make it better."

Well, that wasn't exactly the answer they were hoping for, but it certainly was effectual.

12 Q. And when you say "this was a review done by 13 us," what do you mean?

14 A. Basically we were the ones that, along with the facilitator, we visited the classrooms. And 15 16 then we came back, we critiqued what we saw, along 17 with the parents and the other teachers, and these 18 were our conclusions.

19 Q. And the facilitator, is that somebody --20 who was the facilitator?

21 A. Don Watson.

22 Q. Do you know his title?

23 A. He ... Dr. Watson.

24 O. In case he reads this.

MR. FERNOW: That's exactly what I was

Page 618 Page 620 State Department indirectly. 1 MR. FERNOW: Join. 2 THE WITNESS: No. 2 O. Did you understand me to be referring to 3 the State Superintendent as well? 3 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 4 MS. STRONG: Objection. 4 Q. Have you ever discussed this case with 5 THE WITNESS: Yes. 5 anybody from the State Board of Education? 6 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 6 MS. STRONG: Same objection. 7 7 Q. After this lawsuit was filed, did you MR. FERNOW: Join. 8 receive any communication from anyone at the State 8 THE WITNESS: No. Board of Education about the lawsuit? 9 9 BY MR. VILLAGRA: MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague and 10 10 Q. Have you ever discussed this case with anyone from the attorney general's office? 11 ambiguous. 11 MS. STRONG: Same objections. 12 MS. STRONG: And calls for speculation. 12 13 THE WITNESS: No. 13 MR. FERNOW: Join. MR. FERNOW: You mean, did you personally, 14 14 THE WITNESS: No. or the school? 15 They don't care. 15 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 16 (Laughs.) 16 17 MS. STRONG: I'll just move to strike as 17 Q. You personally. 18 A. No one from Sacramento called me, that's 18 nonresponsive. 19 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA: for sure. 20 Q. Not from the State Board? 20 Q. What do you mean by "they don't care"? 21 21 MS. STRONG: Is there a question pending? A. I was being facetious. MR. VILLAGRA: Well, if the court reporter Q. And what were you being facetious about? 22 22 23 put a question mark on my last comments, then I 23 MS. STRONG: Asked and answered. He just 24 think --24 explained he was being facetious about his comment. 25 25 THE WITNESS: Because you were listing a MS. STRONG: Well, I don't think there's a Page 619 Page 621 question pending. whole -- a lot of people that might have talked to me and they never talked to me before and so ... I 2 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 2 3 Q. Did you receive any communication from the 3 wasn't expecting to hear from them. 4 Department of Education about the lawsuit after it 4 BY MR. VILLAGRA: Q. You were not? 5 5 was filed? 6 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 6 A. No. 7 ambiguous. Calls for speculation. 7 Q. Have you ever discussed this case with 8 THE WITNESS: No. 8 anyone from O'Melveny & Myers? 9 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 9 A. Sabrina. 10 10 Q. Did you receive any communication from Q. Sabrina Strong? 11 anyone at the State Superintendent of Public 11 A. Uh-huh. Instruction about the lawsuit? 12 O. When was that? A. I don't remember. It was -- it was -- I 13 MS. STRONG: Same objections. 13 14 MR. FERNOW: Join. 14 iust don't recall the date. 15 Q. Was there just one meeting? 15 BY MR. VILLAGRA: Q. Have you ever discussed this case with 16 16 A. Yes. I think that's all. That's all I can 17 anyone from the State Superintendent of Public 17 recall. 18 Instruction office? 18 Q. Where was the meeting? 19 A. At the Board of Education. I should say 19 MS. STRONG: Same objection. 20 MR. FERNOW: Join. 20 not -- at 450 North Grand. 21 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge. 21 Q. At LAUSD district headquarters? 22 A. That's correct. 22 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 23 Q. Who else was present at that meeting? 23 Q. Have you ever discussed this case with 24 A. Denise was there, too. 24 anyone from the California Department of Education? 25 MS. STRONG: Same objections. 25 Q. Denise Godfrey?

Page 622 Page 624

1 A. Yes.

3

- 2 O. Was anyone else present?
 - A. No. Not that I recall.
- ^^ Q. And what was discussed during this meeting? 4 5

MR. FERNOW: And I'll object and I'm going

- 6 to instruct the witness not to answer. Those
- 7 discussions were part of settlement negotiations.
- 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 9 ^^ Q. Were there settlement negotiations
- 10 discussed during that meeting?
- MR. FERNOW: Objection. I'm going to 11
- instruct the client -- the witness not to answer the 12
- 13 question.

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- 14 MR. VILLAGRA: I'm entitled to determine 15 the basis of it.
- 16 MR. FERNOW: He's not an attorney. He's
- 17 not going to answer that question. I'm going to
- 18 instruct him not to answer.
- 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 20 Q. How long did the meeting take?
- 21 A. It seems to me it was a morning session.
- 22 Q. 9:00 to 12:00?
- 23 A. I believe, but I'm not positive.
- 24 ^^ O. Was there any discussion at this meeting
- 25 about your providing a declaration in this case?

- to reopen on this topic. It's probably something
- 2 that we'll move to compel on.
- 3 MR. FERNOW: Okay. Do you want to take a 4 break real quick?
 - MS. STRONG: Sure.
- 6 (Recess taken from 3:12 to 3:30.)
- 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
- 8 ^^ Q. And I understand that your counsel may
- 9 instruct you not to answer, but I just want to put
- 10 this on the record to be clear.
- 11 Mr. Houske, was it your understanding
- that the meeting with Sabrina Strong from 12
- 13 O'Melveny & Myers was for the purposes of settling
- 14 this case?

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- 15 MR. FERNOW: Objection. I'm going to
- 16 instruct the witness not to answer that question.
- BY MR. VILLAGRA: 17
- 18 ^^ Q. And was it your understanding,
- 19 Mr. Houske, that the meeting with Sabrina Strong
- 20 from O'Melveny & Myers was for the purpose of
- 21 settling any other case?
- MR. FERNOW: Objection. Same instruction. 22
- 23 Same objection. 24
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Thanks.
- 25 MR. FERNOW: Just so the record is clear.

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the objection is the same objection previously made,

- 2 that it's based on settlement discussions and
- 3 negotiations. 4

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4 Q. Are you going to follow your attorney's 5 advice?

instruct the witness not to answer the question.

MR. FERNOW: Objection. I'm going to

- 6 A. I probably should. He's so close.
- 7 ^^ Q. Was there any discussion about your
- 8 testimony in a deposition in this case?
 - MR. FERNOW: Objection. Instruct the
- 10 client not to answer -- the witness not to answer.
- 11 And it's based on the same objection which was previously stated. 12
- MR. VILLAGRA: That these were settlement 13 14 discussions?
- 15 MR. FERNOW: Yes.

BY MR. VILLAGRA:

- 16 MR. VILLAGRA: I could continue through a
- 17 chain of questions and just have you continue to 18 instruct him not to answer.
- 19 MR. FERNOW: That's fine. Or I can just 20 tell you that any questions regarding the substance
- or the discussions of that meeting are going to be
- 22 objected to and I'll instruct the witness not to
- 23 answer.
- 24 MR. VILLAGRA: Okay. Well, at this point I
- 25 think I'll stop, but I'm going to reserve the right

FURTHER EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. STRONG: 7

- 8 O. Okav. Good afternoon, Mr. Houske.
- 9 A. Good afternoon, Sabrina.
- 10 Q. Hopefully we won't be too much longer, just
- 11 a series of follow-up questions.
 - The last -- you testified previously in
- 13 your deposition that during the last couple of days
- 14 on each track, that time of the year is a busy time 15 of year.
 - Do you recall that testimony?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. And you identified at the time in
- your deposition testimony the various items that you 19
- 20 believe teachers addressed at that time.
- 21 Do you recall that part of your testimony 22 as well?
- 23 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and 24 ambiguous.
- 25 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

Page 626 Page 628

1 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. Okay. Well, with respect to that time 2 3 period where -- the last two days or so of each track at your school that you identified as being a 5 busy period of time, do you believe that the 6 teachers stop educating the students during that

7 time you referred to as "busy"? 8 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and 9

ambiguous. And mischaracterizes the testimony. MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: No, I do not. 11

12 BY MS. STRONG:

13 Q. And why is that?

MR. FERNOW: Same objections.

MR. VILLAGRA: Join in the objection.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, because there's so many

different things that take place in a classroom 17

18 that -- and when you're dealing with young children,

19 unless you have some meaningful activities going on

20 with them, they're pretty hard to control. And so

21 just for your own sake of survival, with children,

you have to have planned, meaningful activities for 22

23 them.

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BY MS. STRONG: 24

25 Q. Okay. And how do you know that the answered.

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2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 BY MS. STRONG:

> Q. You also testified that teachers start returning books approximately one week before the

6 end of each school session.

> Do you know if teachers continue to give assignments for in-class time and for at-home time to students?

10 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Compound and vague.

12 MR. FERNOW: Join.

13 THE WITNESS: Because it's also a busy time 14 for me, I really cannot say that I have any proof of

it. I assume so, but I cannot say for definitely. 15

16 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. Okay. Have you ever received any 17 18 complaints that the students stop receiving

19 assignments from their teachers during the last

20 week of school?

21 A. Never.

22 MR. VILLAGRA: A late objection to that

23 question as vague.

24 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. You testified -- I believe that you

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testified that, when responding to questions by

2 Mr. Villagra, that you spend a lot of your time --

3 or a lot of your time is taken up dealing with the

4 busing program. 5

Do you recall that testimony?

6 A. Not really. There's been so much.

O. I know.

8 Okay. Well, do you believe that a lot of

9 your time is taken, or --

10 A. Not a --

11 Q. -- is focusing on the busing program?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

13 MR. FERNOW: Join.

14 THE WITNESS: Not a lot. "A lot" -- you

15 know, "a lot" is kind of a word that you use. On

some days it seems like a lot, but certainly it

17 isn't a huge proportion of my day is not spent on

18 that.

25

19 BY MS. STRONG:

20 Q. Okay. And whatever amount of time that you 21 do spend on dealing with children who are bused away

22 from Cahuenga, do you believe that in doing so, you

23 are depriving students attending Cahuenga of having

24 an adequate education?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

teachers continue to have meaningful activities for 2 their children up through the last day of school of 3 each session? 4 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and

ambiguous and mischaracterizes his testimony.

6 THE WITNESS: I suppose mainly because 7 the children aren't being sent to the office.

8 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. Okay. And was that an accurate statement 10 of your testimony that you do believe the children still are being educated up to the last day of school on each track: is that correct, Mr. Houske? MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and

13 14 ambiguous.

15 THE WITNESS: That's true. But I would say 16 not to the same degree because, of course, there are a lot of things on everybody's mind. 17

BY MS. STRONG: 18

Q. But the education program --19

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- or the educational program doesn't stop

22 until the last day of school; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

25 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and

Page 630 Page 632

- 1 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 2 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.
 - BY MS. STRONG:

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- 4 Q. And why is that?
- 5 A. Because, as I say, it really isn't that
- 6 much time. And if I use the word "a lot" -- which
- sounds like me -- it's because of the intensity of 7
- 8 the moment; that you're dealing with parents who are
- 9 really very concerned about having their child bused
- 10 from school. And so that you empathize with them,
- and so that it -- it's a moment in time that is 11
- 12 intense for you.
- 13 Q. Okay. But you would not believe that those moments in time affect the students in terms of your 14 15 ability to give the students at Cahuenga your
- 16 attention; is that correct?
- 17 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 18 THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- 19 BY MS. STRONG:
- 20 Q. I believe that you also testified in
- 21 response to one of Mr. Villagra's questions that
- you think that children who are bused from Cahuenga, 22
- 23 quote, "look out the window and talk while they're
- 24 on the buses."

schools?

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25 Do you recall that testimony?

- A. That's correct.
- 2 O. And is it accurate to say, then, that you
- 3 don't know if any of these children who are bused
- 4 from Cahuenga to receiver schools and then back read
- 5 on the bus?

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- A. No, I do not.
- Q. And you don't know one way or the other
- 8 whether any of these students do any of their
- 9 homework on the bus?
 - A. No. I do not.
- 11 Q. I believe that you testified that a quote
- from you in an L.A. Times article that was dated 12
- 13 January 9th, 2000, which was made in reference to
- students being bused from Cahuenga, and which 14
- stated: "Some of those children ride buses more 15
- 16 than an hour each way" was an accurate quote.
 - Do you recall that testimony?
- 18 A. I -- I recall --
- 19 Q. The testimony?
 - A. -- the testimony, but not in detail.
- 21 Q. Okay. And -- well, I want to ask you
- another question in reference to that. 22
- 23 You also testified earlier in your
- 24 deposition that you don't believe -- separate and
- 25 apart from discussing the L.A. Times article, you

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A. No, I do not.

- 2 Q. Okay. Well, do you believe that that's 3 what children who are bused away from Cahuenga do 4 while they're on the bus to and from their receiver 5
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 7 THE WITNESS: I would think they would look
- out the window. I would. 8
- 9 BY MS. STRONG: 10 Q. Okay. But you don't know one way or the
- 11 other what students are doing on these bus rides
- from Cahuenga to the receiver schools and back to
- 13 Cahuenga: is that correct?
- 14 A. No, that's correct, because I'm not on the 15 bus.
- 16 Q. Okay. And I believe you testified that
- 17 there were a couple of occasions where you did ride
- 18 on some of the buses in the morning; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And even with that experience in
- mind, you don't know one way or the other what each 22
- child does on the bus when they're being bused from
- Cahuenga to their receiver schools and back; is that 24
- 25 correct?

- testified that you don't believe any of the students
- 2 who are bused from Cahuenga are bused more than an
- 3 hour from Cahuenga.
- 4 Can you explain to me why there would be --
- 5 what someone could arguably state is a conflicting
- testimony on the issue?
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 8 Argumentative. And mischaracterizes the prior
- 9 testimony.

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- MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 11 BY MS. STRONG:
- 12 Q. And I actually want to clarify something.
- 13 Your testimony isn't necessarily conflicting given
- 14 that you testified with respect to the L.A. Times
- article that your quote was an accurate quote. 15
- 16 You didn't testify one way or the other as
- to whether or not you believed it to be true. And 17
- 18 so I just want to make sure I wasn't suggesting that
- 19 and I want to make sure that you understand that.
 - A. Thank you. Right.
- 21 Q. So I'm just trying to get -- and maybe it
- 22 will be easier if I back up and ask you: Do you
- believe your testimony that students are not bused
- 24 more than an hour from Cahuenga is an accurate
- 25 statement?

Page 634 Page 636

- 1 A. Yes, I do.
- 2 O. Okay.

3 MR. VILLAGRA: I'll object to the extent it 4 mischaracterizes the testimony.

5 BY MS. STRONG:

- 6 Q. And why is it that you believe that to be a 7 true statement, Mr. Houske?
- 8 A. Well, it's based on -- this is not
- 9 something I can really swear up and down that it is 10 accurate, but it is just my perception, that when
- children get on buses, it seems to me no one gets on 11
- 12 the bus much earlier than 6:30, if that early. And
- that I just have never heard of anyone being on the 13
- bus for longer than an hour, but that doesn't mean 14 they can't be. 15
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- Q. Okay. And just for clarification, then, do you have any idea why the L.A. Times article has a quote from you saying some of the children ride
- 19 buses for more than an hour each way?
- 20 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 21 speculation.
- 22 MR. VILLAGRA: Join.
- 23 BY MS. STRONG:
- 24 O. Only if you know.
- 25 A. Well, the only thing is in the wintertime,

- 1 Q. Okay. Mr. Houske, you also testified
- 2 previously -- or at least I believe you testified
- 3 previously -- about how much parents are involved in 4 receiver schools.
 - Do you recall that testimony?
- 6 A. Yes, I do.

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- MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- BY MS. STRONG:
- Q. Okay. Do you understand what I'm referring 9 10 to?
- 11 A. I believe I do.
- 12 Q. Okay. What is it that you believe I'm 13 referring to?
- A. That I stated that it was more difficult 14
- 15 for parents to be involved in the school out there
- 16 for lack of transportation and ease of
- transportation. 17
- 18 Q. Okay. Do you know all of the parents
- that -- of the students who are bused from Cahuenga 19
- 20 to receiver schools?
- 21 A. No, I do not.
- 22 Q. And do you know to what extent parents of
- 23 children who are bused from Cahuenga to receiver
- 24 schools are involved in any of those receiver
- 25 schools, or their children's education at those

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- if it's a rainy day on the freeway, you know what
- it's like. And so that ... and, you know, the
- schools change. And so what is true at one point in
- time is different. This year we have different
- 5 schools that we're busing to and so that it differs
- 6 on occasions. 7
 - Q. Okay. So is it accurate to say, if in fact
- you made a statement that some students who ride
- buses ride them more than an hour each way, you
- would have been referring to something you believed 10
- 11 to be an unusual circumstance; is that correct?
- 12 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Mischaracterizes 13 the testimony.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I don't know. I really can't
- say right now. It -- that article was a while back. 15
- And at that time I'm just not -- without looking at
- 17 schedules, again, I just would hesitate to say.
- BY MS. STRONG: 18
- 19 Q. Okay. But as you sit here today, you don't
- 20 believe that students ride the bus more than one
- hour each way when they're leaving from Cahuenga to
- 22 a receiver school --
- 23 A. I don't believe so.
- 24 Q. -- and back?
- 25 A. I don't believe so.

- receiver schools? 1
 - A. No --
- MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and 3 4 compound.
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- MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 6 THE WITNESS: No. I do not.
 - BY MS. STRONG:
- 8 Q. And so your belief as to this issue is not
- 9 based on actual data; is that correct?
- 10 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 11 THE WITNESS: That is correct.
- 12 BY MS. STRONG:
- 13 Q. And you have no documents to support your
- 14 belief in this regard; is that correct?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- 16 Q. Do you believe that any of the parents of
- students who are bused to receiver schools from 17
- Cahuenga are involved in their student's education 18
- 19 at those receiver schools?
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 21 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Well, with the word "any," I
- 23 think you would have to say that, yes.
- 24 BY MS. STRONG:
- 25 Q. Okay. And you just don't know the details

Page 638 Page 640

1 as to this one way or another; is that correct?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

THE WITNESS: That's correct.

BY MS. STRONG:

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O. You also testified that one of the reasons why you think it may be difficult for parents to be involved with their children's education at receiver schools is because many of the parents don't have cars.

Do you recall that testimony?

11 A. Yes, I do.

> Q. Mr. Houske, how many parents of students who are bused to receiver schools from Cahuenga don't have cars?

15 MR. FERNOW: Objection.

16 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

MR. FERNOW: Calls for speculation.

18 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

19 BY MS. STRONG:

20 Q. And so is it fair to say, Mr. Houske,

21 that you don't know how many parents, if any, are

prevented or hindered in any way from being involved 22

in their children's education at receiver schools 23

24 because they don't have a car; is that correct?

25 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and Elementary?

2 A. Probably less than 20 minutes away.

3 Q. Okay. Have you heard any other comments 4 regarding the issue from anyone other than that 5 principal?

6 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. 7

MR. FERNOW: Join.

8 THE WITNESS: I've heard it from parents 9 that would come to me wanting to get their child 10 into the school saying that they really wanted to

have a more active role. But it isn't a large 11

12 number of parents that come to me with that. But I

have had them to come and tell me. 13

14 BY MS. STRONG:

> Q. And when these parents come and ask you about getting their children into your school, do you know one -- if one of the reasons why they want their child to attend Cahuenga is that it's a very

19 good school? 20

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A. I would like to believe that.

21 MR. VILLAGRA: I'll just object to the

22 question as vague.

23 BY MS. STRONG:

24 O. Well, do you think a parent would want to 25

have their child enrolled at Cahuenga if Cahuenga

Page 639

compound. 1

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THE WITNESS: Well, the only thing I can say is that at least one school holds parent conferences at my school. And I assume the reason they hold the meetings at my school are because the parents can't get to that school, and so that's what I'm basing my assumptions on.

8 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. And do you know one way or the other 10 whether those parents have or don't have cars?

A. No, I do not.

12 Q. And has anyone ever told you that they -that one receiver school that you identified who 13

holds -- which holds meetings at Cahuenga, does so

because parents can't otherwise attend such 15

16 meetings?

17 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

18 MR. VILLAGRA: Join.

THE WITNESS: Yes, they did. 19

20 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. Okay. Who said that to you?

22 A. The principal.

23 O. And what school is this?

24 A. Bellevue.

25 Q. And how far is Bellevue from Cahuenga was not a good school and they had an opportunity to

2 bus their child to a very good school?

3 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for 4 speculation.

5 THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

BY MS. STRONG:

7 Q. I believe you also testified in reference to another article which Mr. Villagra showed you,

which was dated May 8th, that a quote from you

10 stating in part that most of the 1700 youngsters who

11 travel to other schools are Latino, Asian -- let me

12 rephrase this, actually. Let me start again. 13

In an article that Mr. Villagra showed you, he referenced a paragraph of that article dated

May 8th that stated in part, "most of the 1700 15

16 youngsters who travel to other schools from Cahuenga

are Latino. Asian or African-American." 17

Do you believe that statement is true?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

21 BY MS. STRONG:

22 Q. And why do you believe that that statement

23 is true?

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24 A. Because that is reflective of the community

25 that I serve.

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- 1 Q. I believe you also testified that the
- 2 number of Anglo students who attend Cahuenga is 3 not significant; is that correct?
- 4 A. That is correct.
- 5 Q. And is that also reflective of the
- 6 community that you serve? 7
 - A. That is correct.
- 8 Q. There was some testimony about children 9 who attend -- children who are bused away from Cahuenga -- let me rephrase that. 10

There was some testimony about students who were bused away from their neighborhood schools as 12 scoring lower on standardized tests than students 13 who are not bused away from their neighborhood 14 15 schools.

16 Do you recall that testimony?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

18 Mischaracterizes the testimony.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 BY MS. STRONG:

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- 21 Q. Do you review the scores, the standardized test scores, of students who are bused away from 22
- their neighborhood schools? 23
- 24 A. No, I have not.
- 25 Q. Have you ever had an opportunity to review

- 1 Q. And if you were to make a statement,
- 2 Mr. Houske, that students who are bused away from
- 3 their neighborhood schools usually score lower on
- their standardized tests because their parents can't 4
- 5 be as involved in their education, that statement
- was based on assumptions as opposed to personal 6 7 knowledge.

Is that correct?

9 A. It was --

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MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

11 Mischaracterizes his testimony.

12 THE WITNESS: It was based on a comment of

Dr. Wohlers who was in charge of the program. 13

14 BY MS. STRONG:

O. Okay. But not based on any personal 15

16 knowledge that you have regarding these issues; is

that correct, Mr. Houske? 17

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. I believe you testified that you recall one

20 incident where a student who was being bused from

21 Cahuenga to a receiver school had an accident on a

22 bus.

23 Do you remember that testimony?

24 A. I don't remember the testimony, but I can

recall an incident.

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- scores -- standardized test scores of students who
- 2 are bused from their neighborhood schools?
- 3 A. No. I have not.
- 4 Q. Have you ever tried to investigate why
- 5 students who are bused from neighborhood schools may
- 6 score lower on standardized tests than those who
- 7 remain at neighborhood schools?
- 8 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 10 THE WITNESS: No. I have not.
- 11 BY MS. STRONG:

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- 12 Q. Is it fair to say, then, Mr. Houske, that
- you don't know personally one way or the other 13
- whether students who are bused from neighborhood
- schools score lower on standardized tests because 15
- 16 their parents can't be involved, or as involved in
- 17 their education?
- 18 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. That's vague and it mischaracterizes the testimony.
- 19
- 20 MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 22 BY MS. STRONG:
- 23 Q. That's accurate, you don't know one way or 24 the other?
- 25
- A. That's true.

- Q. Okay. And is that an accurate description, 1
- 2 then, of what you recall as to whether a child ever
- 3 had an accident on a bus?
 - MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.
- 5 MR. VILLAGRA: And objection, asked and
- answered.

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- BY MS. STRONG: 7
- 8 O. Is that accurate?
- 9 A. I'm not sure I understand what you're
- 10 referring to.
 - Q. I understand.
 - Okay. Let me rephrase. I'm sorry.
- Do you remember ever learning of an 13
- 14 incident where a child who was on a bus from
- 15
- Cahuenga to a receiver school had an accident on
- 16 the bus?
- 17 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and
- 18 answered.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 20 BY MS. STRONG:
- 21 Q. Okay. And is it one incident that you
- 22 recall; is that correct, Mr. Houske?
- 23 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and
- 24 answered.
- 25 THE WITNESS: I think it would probably be

Page 646 Page 648

1 two.

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- BY MS. STRONG: 2
- 3 Q. Okay. Do you ever recall any incidents at Cahuenga where any of the students have had 4 5 accidents on the campus?
- 6 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. 7
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have.
- 9 BY MS. STRONG:
- 10 Q. And how many incidents do you recall of students at Cahuenga having accidents on campus? 11
 - MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.
- MR. VILLAGRA: Join in the objection. 13
- THE WITNESS: More than two. 14
- 15 BY MS. STRONG:
- 16 Q. Okay. And I want to make sure that it's clear for the record. When you are responding to my 17 18 questions regard accidents on the school campus,
- 19 what is it that you're referring to?
- 20 A. Children falling, hurting themselves.
- 21 O. Okay. When you're referring to accidents
- on the bus, what was it that you were referring to? 22
- 23 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and
- 24 answered.
- THE WITNESS: One was -- one was where 25

1 A. Yes.

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- 2 O. Okay. And in the past year, for example, 3 how many accidents of that nature do you remember 4 occurring on the campus at Cahuenga?
- 5 A. I would have no idea.
- 6 Q. Okay. How -- can you give your best 7 estimate as to how many accidents you can recall taking place of that nature with students on the 8 9 campus at Cahuenga?
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for speculation. The witness testified he has no idea.
 - THE WITNESS: I really can't say.
- 13 BY MS. STRONG:
 - Q. Okay. Do you think it would be unusual to have more than five accidents per year where students were unable to make it to the bathroom on time while on the campus at Cahuenga?
- 18 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for 19 speculation. 20
 - MR. FERNOW: Join.
- 21 THE WITNESS: In the beginning of the
- school year when children who have left kindergarten 22
- 23 and are not used to a full day in school, sometimes
- 24 they do not have the bladder control. And so that I
- 25 can only think of this year, in this first three

Page 647

- the -- where the bus had a -- was hit. And another
- 2 one where a child got his finger caught into
- 3 something on the seat.
- 4 BY MS. STRONG:
- 5 Q. Okay.

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- 6 A. It wasn't serious, but ...
 - Q. Okay. I believe you also testified,
 - Mr. Houske, that there was a time you recall a
- student having an accident on the bus where the
- child couldn't make it to the bathroom in time. 10
- 11 Do you recall that testimony?
- A. Yes. 12
- 13 Q. Okay. And do you recall more than one
- incident where a child had an accident on the bus
- where the child was unable to get to the bathroom on 15
- 16 time?
- A. No. 17
- 18 O. Only one incident: is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. Okay. Now, in reference to accidents in
- 21 the meaning of children not making it to the
- 22 bathroom on time --
- 23 A. Okav.
- 24 Q. -- do you recall any accidents of that
- 25 nature on the campus at Cahuenga?

- weeks. I think we've had two children who have had 2 accidents.
- 3 Q. Okay. And that's not unusual to have two 4 accidents --
- 5 A. No.

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- 6 O. -- within the first three weeks of school 7 at Cahuenga; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
 - MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.
- 10 BY MS. STRONG:
- 11 Q. And again, those are accidents where
 - students are not able to make it to the bathroom
- in time: is that correct, Mr. Houske? 13
 - A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. I believe -- I just want to clarify
- 16 something that you've discussed in your prior
- testimony, Mr. Houske. 17
- 18 I believe you've testified that there are
- 19 multiple -- multiple facts or a multitude of factors
- 20 that go into a child's education; is that correct? 21
 - A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. And there are also a multitude of factors
- 23 that can have an effect on the child's education: is
- 24 that correct?
- 25 A. That is correct.

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- 1 Q. And I believe you've given some testimony 2 that you personally believe that busing a child 3 from a neighborhood school can affect a child's education: is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.

6 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and 7 answered.

8 BY MS. STRONG:

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9 Q. Is it fair to say, Mr. Houske, that even 10 though you believe that busing a child from a neighborhood school affects, or may affect a 11 12 child's education, you have no means to gauge the significance of that affect as opposed to any of 13 the other many factors that goes into a child's 14 15 education.

Is that correct, Mr. Houske?

17 A. That's correct.

18 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

19 MR. FERNOW: Join.

impacted by that busing?

BY MS. STRONG:

20 THE WITNESS: That is correct.

21 BY MS. STRONG:

22 Q. And is it fair to say, Mr. Houske, then,

23 that you believe -- let me rephrase that.

Is that fair, Mr. Houske?

MR. FERNOW: Join.

Is it fair to say, Mr. Houske, that you do

25 not necessarily believe that students who are bused

from their neighborhood schools are negatively

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

Q. And I want to make sure it's clear, and I

education is not negatively impacted necessarily by

am referring to the student's ability to receive an

1 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, there is.

3 BY MS. STRONG:

4 Q. Okay. And so if you refer to Cahuenga as 5 being an overcrowded school, you are referring to 6 the fact that Cahuenga buses out numerous students 7 from the area; is that correct?

A. That is correct.

9 MR. VILLAGRA: I would just like to object to the question as vague and asked and answered. 10 BY MS. STRONG: 11

12 Q. I believe you testified, actually just recently today, that some of the classes at Cahuenga 13

have approximately 33 students in them. 14

Is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

Q. Do you believe that the students who are in 17 18 those class are being deprived of a good education because the -- because of the number of students in 19

20 their class?

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21 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

23 THE WITNESS: I think it would be better to

24 have a smaller number in there.

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Page 651

BY MS. STRONG:

2 Q. But do you still believe that the students 3 who are in those classes are actually receiving a

4 good education at Cahuenga?

5 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. Asked 6

THE WITNESS: It -- it is -- you know, I have a feeling, but I don't have any proof. I have a feeling that the children would learn better with

Is that fair, Mr. Houske? MR. VILLAGRA: Renew the objection. 12

MR. FERNOW: Same. Or join.

THE WITNESS: Yeah, I think that's true.

15 BY MS. STRONG:

16 Q. Another point of clarification. I believe 17 you testified previously to -- or let me say I believe you used the term "overcrowding" in 18

referring to Cahuenga at times throughout your 19

20 deposition.

busing.

21 And I just want to clarify. Do you believe

22 that there is space sufficient on the campus at

Cahuenga for the students to attend school at

24 Cahuenga?

25 A. Yes, there is -- and answered.

10 a smaller class size.

11 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. And I understand that, Mr. Houske, and I --

13 would you also agree that it would -- it would be 14 better to have, you know, students taught in a five

to one scenario, for example, than maybe even a 20 15

16 to one scenario?

17 A. No. I think that's too small.

Q. Okay. Would 15 to one be better than 20 to 18 19 one, in your opinion, Mr. Houske?

20 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

22 THE WITNESS: I really have never thought

23 about it.

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24 BY MS. STRONG:

25 Q. Okay.

Page 654 Page 656

- 1 A. I really am very pleased with 20 to one.
- 2 O. Okay. And understanding that 20 to one 3 is a nice thing to have in the classroom, do you believe that students are unable to -- to receive 5 a good education if they are in a class of 33 to one, for example? 6

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and mischaracterizes the testimony.

9 THE WITNESS: No, I don't really believe 10 that.

BY MS. STRONG: 11

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Q. So although -- and I want to make sure -- I don't want to -- I want to make sure I have your testimony accurately, Mr. Houske.

So although you believe it would be better to have 20 to one, you believe that the students at your school in classes where there are 33 students still can receive a good education at Cahuenga; is that correct?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

21 THE WITNESS: Well, all I can say is, is

22 that the test scores are lower in the upper grades.

And I'm not sure whether that's based on having a 23

24 larger class size or not. But it certainly would be

25 one of the items that you would want to take a look students in them; is that correct?

2 A. (Nods head.)

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Q. How many other upper grade level classes are there at Cahuenga?

5 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and 6 answered.

7 THE WITNESS: You know how I am with 8 numbers.

9 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. I know.

11 Was it approximately seven? I don't recall 12 your testimony if you testified to that. So I 13 didn't want to misstate your testimony.

A. Yeah, I -- you know, without looking at 14 those things, it's -- it's a brand-new year again, 15 16 and --

17 Q. But approximately.

18 A. I would say approximately nine.

19 Q. Okay. And when you refer to scores being 20 lower in the upper grades, are those scores broken

21 down per class? A. Yes, they are. 22

23 Q. Okay. And do you notice a difference in

24 the scores of those classes that have the students

of 33 to one in them as opposed to lower numbers in

Page 655

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at and see if that's a contributing factor or not.

I know that it's made a tremendous difference in the 2 3 primary.

BY MS. STRONG: 4

5 Q. Well, do you have any reason to believe --6 strike that.

Do you know the teachers who teach the classes that are 33 to one that you described in your testimony?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. And do you believe those teachers to be 12 good teachers, Mr. Houske?

13 A. Yes.

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. 15

16 BY MS. STRONG:

17 Q. And do you believe that those teachers are 18 providing the educational program that you would like to see provided at your school at Cahuenga?

20 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

MR. FERNOW: Join. Calls for speculation. 21

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

23 BY MS. STRONG:

24 Q. Do you have -- you stated there are three 25

classes that I believe have approximately 33 to one

the upper grades? 1

MR. FERNOW: Objection. Vague.

3 MR. VILLAGRA: Join in the objection.

4 THE WITNESS: No, I do -- no, I do not. I

5 don't think two children will make a difference.

BY MS. STRONG:

7 Q. Okay. So the majority of the classes in the upper grades have approximately 31 students in 9 them; is that correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. So is it -- is it accurate to say,

Mr. Houske, although you believe you would prefer

your students to be in classes that are 20 to one, 13

14 you don't believe that the students are getting an

inadequate education in classes with 33 to one 15

16 students.

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Is that correct?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. Asked and answered.

THE WITNESS: Well, you know, I think the word "inadequate," I think if -- I think in terms of is it inadequate in relationship to the 33, I would

23 say, no, because that's the number you're working 24 with.

25 Is it as good as I might like it to be?

Page 658 Page 660

- No. I think if the class size were smaller. I think 2 we probably would be more effective in what we're
- 3 doing.

4 MS. STRONG: Okay. I think I'm coming to 5 the end so just let me continue reviewing to make 6 sure.

(Pause in the proceedings.)

8 BY MS. STRONG:

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- 9 Q. Do you know what the hours are of 10 student -- of teachers who teach grades one through five on a daily basis at Cahuenga? 11
 - A. Yes. It's 7:30 to 3:00.
- 13 Q. Okay. And does that encompass time beyond 14 class time?
- A. Yes, it does. 15
- 16 Q. And can you describe to me how much time between 7:30 and 3:00 is spent outside class, or 17 18 without a class of students?
- 19 A. Half an hour. Or 25 minutes, actually.
- 20 Q. Okay. You also testified about students 21
- who are bused from neighborhood schools and their ability to make friends at the receiver schools. 22

23 Do you recall that testimony?

- 24 A. Yes, I do.
- 25 Q. Do you know if any of the students who are

1 Q. Do you believe that that has a negative

2 impact on the education that is given to the

3 students at the school?

4 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. 5

MR. FERNOW: Join.

6 THE WITNESS: No, not as long as I do it.

7 BY MS. STRONG:

8 Q. And the fact that you repeat the professional development program doesn't change your 9 answer, you're taking that into consideration; isn't 10

that correct, Mr. Houske? 11

12 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague and 13 argumentative.

THE WITNESS: That is correct. 14

15 BY MS. STRONG:

16 Q. And you also testified that you take a

three-week summer vacation --17

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. -- during the year. Is that for each year,

20 Mr. Houske?

21 A. That's for each year.

Q. And that one of the assistant principals 22

23 essentially steps into your role during the period

24 while you're gone; is that correct? 25

A. That is correct.

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bused from Cahuenga to receiver schools meet with

friends who live in the area of their receiver 2

3 school outside of school hours?

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

6 BY MS. STRONG:

Q. And so to the extent you have an opinion as to whether students who are bused from the neighborhood school to a receiver school actually see or don't see friends from the neighborhood of 10 11 the receiver school outside of school hours, that

opinion is an assumption of yours; correct? 12

A. That is correct.

14 Q. It's not based on any personal experience

that you have had with any child; is that correct? 15 16

A. That is --

17 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague. Asked and answered. 18

THE WITNESS: That is correct.

20 BY MS. STRONG:

21 Q. You testified earlier today that some of

the professional development that you have at your 22

school is repeated because you've got three tracks 24 at your school; is that correct?

25

A. That is correct.

Q. Do you believe that the educational program

2 that is provided at Cahuenga suffers during the

3 three weeks that you are gone on vacation? 4 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Vague.

5 THE WITNESS: No, it certainly doesn't.

BY MS. STRONG:

Q. Okay. And why is it that you believe that?

8 A. Well, you haven't done a very good job at

9 your school if it falls apart in three weeks' time.

10 Q. You also testified today that the district 11 has mandated that every child have a textbook even

while off track: is that correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And you said that that was a new mandate

15 from the district?

A. That is correct.

O. Is that mandate effective as of now? 17

18 A. That is correct.

Q. Okay. And are you able to comply with that

20 mandate at Cahuenga?

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. Okay. And how is it that you know that?

23 A. Because we just got through ordering the

24 books, recently.

25 Q. Okay. And you had sufficient funds to

Page 662 Page 664 order all the books that were necessary to comply 1 is? 2 2 with that mandate; is that correct, Mr. Houske? A. No, I have not. 3 3 A. That is correct. Q. You testified that some parents have told you that they want their child at Cahuenga so that 4 MS. STRONG: I think that's all the 4 5 questions I have at this time. 5 they can have a more active role in the school; is 6 MR. VILLAGRA: Do you have any follow-up 6 that correct? 7 7 A. That's correct. auestions? 8 8 MR. FERNOW: No. Q. When's the last time a parent told you 9 9 that. 10 10 FURTHER EXAMINATION A. Last year. Q. And you have heard that same desire 11 11 12 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 12 expressed by other parents, to have their children at Cahuenga so they can have a more active role in 13 Q. Mr. Houske, you testified that in the last 13 week before classes go off the track, that the their education? 14 14 students are not educated to the same degree as they A. Yes. 15 15 16 are earlier in the term: is that correct? 16 Q. And I believe you testified that you have 17 A. That is correct. no means of assessing the extent to which busing has 17 18 Q. Is it fair to say that they're educated to 18 a negative impact on the achievement of kids who are 19 a lesser degree? 19 bused away from Cahuenga to receiver schools. 20 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous. 20 Is that correct? 21 MR. FERNOW: Join. 21 MS. STRONG: Objection. Misstates his 22 THE WITNESS: Yes. 22 testimony. 23 23 BY MR. VILLAGRA: MR. FERNOW: Join. 24 O. I believe that you testified on the 20th 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's correct. 25 about having ridden the bus to receiver schools on 25 /// Page 663 Page 665 a few occasions: is that correct? BY MR. VILLAGRA: 1 1 2 2 A. That's correct. Q. Do you believe that Dr. Wohlers has the 3 Q. When you did ride the bus, did you have an 3 means of making that assessment? 4 opportunity to observe what the kids were doing? 4 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 5 MS. STRONG: Objection. Asked and 5 speculation. 6 6 MS. STRONG: Join. answered. 7 7 THE WITNESS: Yes. THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. 8 8 BY MR. VILLAGRA: BY MR. VILLAGRA: 9 Q. Did you see kids reading? 9 Q. What do you base that belief on? 10 10 A. No. I did not. A. Well, my respect for the man. And the 11 Q. Did you see kids doing their homework? 11 fact, I think they were concerned about the 12 A. No. I did not. overcrowding and trying to build more schools. Q. Did you see kids looking out the window? And I am sure they were trying to get information 13 13 14 A. Yes, I did. 14 to justify the need for more schools. That's an 15 Q. Did you see kids talking to their 15 assumption, though. 16 classmates? 16 Q. Do you base your belief in part on what Mr. Wohlers' function is with the district? 17 A. Yes. 17 18 Q. And I believe you testified that you would 18 A. Yes, I do. have to look at the bus schedules to determine truly 19 O. And that function is to do what? 20 how long the bus rides are to receiver schools; is 20 A. He is a -- he was in charge of the busing 21 that correct? 21 program establishing CAP receivers and ... 22 A. That is correct. 22 year-round schedules. 23 23 O. Have you looked at the bus schedules Q. Do you think he was responsible for 24 24 recently to determine what the longest time that any assessing the achievement of children in the busing child is bused from Cahuenga to a receiver school 25 program?

Page 666 Page 668

1 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for 2 speculation. 3 MR. FERNOW: Join. 4 THE WITNESS: Well. I don't think --5 MS. STRONG: And vague and ambiguous. 6 THE WITNESS: I don't think he did it 7 himself. I think he had probably the testing unit 8 do it, I would hope. BY MR. VILLAGRA: 9 10 Q. Mr. Houske, is Cahuenga on Concept 6 because it's considered an overcrowded school? 11 12 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Calls for 13 speculation. 14 BY MR. VILLAGRA: Q. To your knowledge. 15 16 MS. STRONG: Vague and ambiguous. MR. FERNOW: Join. 17 18 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. 19 BY MR. VILLAGRA: 20 O. If it were on a traditional calendar, it 21 would not be able to house as many students as it houses currently; is that correct? 22 23 A. That is correct. 24 O. What's your understanding of how much

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY MS. STRONG: 3

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4 Q. Mr. Houske, I believe you just testified 5 that you recall a few occasions where parents have 6 come to you and expressed a desire to have their 7 child attend Cahuenga as opposed to a receiver school so they could have a more active role in 8 9 their child's education. 10

Is that correct?

11 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Mischaracterizes 12 the testimony.

13 THE WITNESS: That is correct.

14 BY MS. STRONG:

> O. Is that what you understand your testimony to have been?

A. That the parents came and they want to have 17 18 more involvement in the school and that's why they 19 wanted to come to Cahuenga, yes.

Q. Now, do you know one way or the other whether the parents really wanted to get their children into Cahuenga because it's a really good

23 school? 24

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for speculation.

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for Cahuenga? 1

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2 MS. STRONG: Objection. Vague and 3 ambiguous. And to the extent you're asking what is 4 the capacity of Cahuenga, he's already answered that 5 question.

additional capacity the Concept 6 calendar generates

THE WITNESS: It increases it by one-third. 6 7 BY MR. VILLAGRA:

8 Q. Mr. Houske, outside of the one meeting that 9 you described between yourself, Ms. Godfrey and 10 Ms. Strong, have there been any other occasions

11 where you have had discussions with Ms. Godfrey and 12 Ms. Strong?

13 A. Not that I recall.

14 Q. Mr. Houske, do you have any way of knowing, one way or the other, what the Stanford 9 scores for 15

16 Cahuenga would be if it were not on the Concept 6 17 calendar?

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A. No. I do not.

19 Q. So you don't know if your students would be 20 doing better if they were on a different calendar?

21 MR. FERNOW: Objection. Asked and answered.

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THE WITNESS: That is true.

24 MR. VILLAGRA: That's it for me.

25 (Discussion held off the record.) 1 MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: I really wouldn't know for sure.

4 BY MS. STRONG:

5 Q. Yeah.

> And do you think that even those parents who want to be involved in their child's education would prefer to have their child at a local school that was not a good school, and that parents really had an opportunity to send that child to a better

11 school on a bus?

12 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for 13 speculation, and it's an incomplete hypothetical. 14

MR. FERNOW: Join.

15 THE WITNESS: I'm certain that if they 16 didn't have faith in the school, they would rather 17 bus.

THE REPORTER: Didn't have faith in the 18 19 school?

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

21 And the belief that the school was a performing school that they -- I shouldn't say all

parents, but some of the parents would certainly

24 have to opt for busing.

25

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Page 672 Page 670 BY MS. STRONG: assessment that was conducted that would have 2 yielded those results? 2 O. And that would include those parents that 3 even would want to have an active role in their 3 MS. STRONG: Objection. Calls for children's education: is that correct, Mr. Houske? 4 speculation. Vague and ambiguous. 5 A. That is correct. 5 MR. FERNOW: Join. 6 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Calls for 6 THE WITNESS: That would be my assumption. 7 7 speculation. BY MR. VILLAGRA: 8 8 BY MS. STRONG: Q. And why do you make that assumption? 9 Q. And I believe you just testified to an 9 A. Because usually people in high places don't 10 assessment made by Dr. Wohlers; is that correct? 10 say things unless they have some backing for what they're saying. I might say things, but they don't. 11 A. That is correct. 11 12 O. I believe you testified to some assumptions 12 Q. And particularly on an issue as important 13 13

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as to what you believe, or how he conducted the
assessment, Mr. Houske, but do you know the details
of that assessment?
A. No, I do not.

Q. Okay. And so it's accurate to say that you have no personal knowledge as to how the assessment was conducted; is that correct?

20 MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. Asked and 21 answered.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: That is correct.

24 BY MS. STRONG:

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Q. And you have no personal knowledge as to

speculation. Vague and ambiguous.

MR. FERNOW: Join.

THE WITNESS: That would be my assumpti BY MR. VILLAGRA:

Q. And why do you make that assumption?

A. Because usually people in high places don't say things unless they have some backing for what they're saying. I might say things, but they don't.

Q. And particularly on an issue as important as this?

A. That's correct, that's correct.

MS. STRONG: Do you have any questions?

MR. FERNOW: I don't.

MS. STRONG: All right. I think we can be completed for the day.

MR. VILLAGRA: For the day.

THE WITNESS: What do you mean "for the day"?

MR. FERNOW: You never know.

MS. STRONG: No further questions at this time. Thank you very much for your time.

THE WITNESS: Oh, thank you both.

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any of the factors that were considered, if any
factors were even considered, in the assessments; is
that correct?
A. That is correct.
MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. It's vague and

MR. VILLAGRA: Objection. It's vague and
 asked and answered.
 MS. STRONG: I think I have no further

MS. STRONG: I think I have no further questions at this time.

9 THE WITNESS: This is your last chance. 10 (Laughter.)

MR. VILLAGRA: This is like one of those
Greek philosophical theories where, you know, the
earth is suspended on a turtle and what's below that
turtle is another turtle. We could get into an
infinite regress if we really want to.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

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19 BY MR. VILLAGRA:
20 Q. But is it fair to say, Mr. Houske, that
21 because Mr. Wohlers was in charge of the busing
22 program and because there is a testing unit at the
23 district, that if he were going to make a statement
24 about the achievement of busing students on
25 standardized scores, that there actually was an

1 MR. VILLAGRA: And just before we go off --2 MS. STRONG: Should we do the same 3 stipulation? 4 MR. VILLAGRA: -- I just wanted to state 5 for the record that I want to keep the deposition open pending any possible motion to compel regarding the questions on which Mr. Houske was instructed not 7 to answer on account of attorney-client privilege, or settlement -- I'm sorry, on account of settlement 10 negotiations. 11

THE WITNESS: Could I talk to him for a
moment outside?
MR. VILLAGRA: Sure.
(Conference held off the record
between the witness and Mr. Fernow.)
MR. FERNOW: The same?
MS. STRONG: Same stipulation.

MR. VILLAGRA: So stipulated.
MR. FERNOW: So stipulated.

THE REPORTER: Counsel, did you want a copy
of this?
MR. VILLAGRA: Yes.

MR. VILLAGRA: Yes.
And there's also been some confusion as to
exactly what we want, the miniscript version and the
rough draft. And I guess when you get the disk, you

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	get the certified copy with it. THE REPORTER: Mr. Fernow, are you ordering a copy, also? MR. FERNOW: Yes, ma'am. (Whereupon, at 4:35 p.m., the deposition of LLOYD HOUSKE was concluded.) -oOo-	Page 676 STATE OF CALIFORNIA) COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss. I, c. jane harman, C.S.R. No. 5266, in and for the State of California, do hereby certify: That, prior to being examined, the witness named in the foregoing deposition, to wit, LLOYD HOUSKE, was by me duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; That said deposition was taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place therein named, and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction, and the same is a true, correct and complete transcript of said proceedings; I further certify that I am not interested in the event of the action. WITNESS MY HAND this 23RD day of JULY, 2001. Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Page 675 STATE OF CALIFORNIA) COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss. I, LLOYD HOUSKE, hereby certify declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this day of , 2001, at , California. LLOYD HOUSKE	