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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CAPITAL PROGRAM & BUDGET HEARINGS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, March 17, 1999
1:25 p.m.

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Bill No. 990026 - Amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
Philadelphia Code entitled "School Tax

10 Authorization". . .

11 Bill No. 990027 - Amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
Philadelphia Code entitled "School Tax

Authorization". . .

12 Bill No. 990028 - Amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
Philadelphia Code entitled "School Tax

13 Authorization". . .

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PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
CHARLES MCPHERSON,
Chief Financial Officer

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VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This is the
4 continued public hearing of the Committee of the
5 Whole regarding Bill No.'s 990026, 990027, and
6 990028.

7 Mr. Hornbeck, do you have remarks that
8 you want to present to us before --

9 DR. HORNBECK: I do have brief remarks.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: -- we start
11 asking questions?

12 DR. HORNBECK: Yes, thank you very
13 much.

14 Madam President and members of Council,
15 first let me say that I understand and share your
16 frustration about the book issue. It's a top
17 priority for the District, and we intend take
18 strong action to resolve this problem. I would
19 like to take this opportunity to make a few
20 comments regarding the issue of books as it arises
21 from the data that we supplied to you in the last
22 few days.

23 First, there is good news in the
24 numbers as well as in our mutual experience. As
25 at least one of you noted to me in a visit three

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2 weeks ago, there has been a huge drop-off in the
3 number of letters and phone calls to you noting
4 book shortages. In that instance, the Councilman
5 reported that the last one he received was last
6 September. That corresponds with our experience
7 with the hotline and the other normal channels
8 through which we have heard concerns in the past.

9 While there was no baseline data four
10 years ago because neither you nor the District had
11 put the issue under a microscope in the past,
12 there is no doubt that your leadership and ours
13 have resulted in large improvement. That's
14 reflected in the fact that only 18 percent of the
15 schools reported present shortages in one or more
16 classes in one or more subjects.

17 By way of comparison, a survey taken
18 not four years ago but in 1996 showed that 172
19 schools, or 67 percent, reported having
20 insufficient books. The dollar estimates of what
21 it would take to provide adequate books ranged
22 from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in some schools to over
23 \$200,000 in others.

24 In 1996-'97, we spent more than \$18
25 million on books and instructional materials,

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2 including almost \$5 million, to address the
3 immediate needs of the schools reporting book
4 deficiencies. In 1997-'98, we spent more than
5 \$22 million on books and instructional materials.
6 And this year, we added at least \$1 million to
7 last year's allocation.

8 However, we are not satisfied. Further
9 improvement is required. The following action
10 have been taken:

11 A working group has been established by
12 the Chief of Staff's Office. It will convene
13 during the week of April the 5th to generate a set
14 of recommendations to take to the Board of
15 Education for policy changes and to establish a
16 set of system-wide guidelines about book inventory
17 management. The group consists of five high
18 school principals -- four from middle school,
19 eight from elementary schools, and three cluster
20 leaders. By the end of April, they will have a
21 set of recommendations to present to the Board in
22 May.

23 By March 25th, the Chief of Staff will
24 conduct a school-by school analysis of each of the
25 schools who report shortages to determine exactly

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2 what their needs are, what steps have already been
3 taken, and what supports and oversights are
4 necessary.

5 Actions toward further improvement we
6 will consider include a system of incentives to
7 recover lost books such as:

8 One, withholding report cards, book
9 amnesty, book deposits, charges for lost books,
10 and withholding student perks like participation
11 in extracurricular activities, the proms, and
12 class trips;

13 Secondly, consequences for students
14 and/or families who cannot afford to pay for lost
15 books, such as restitution work or a payback
16 system;

17 Three, book checks with all students
18 during two or three key periods of the year, such
19 as report card time;

20 Four, development and distribution of
21 new book management guidelines for implementation
22 for school closing this June for work during the
23 summer and for school opening in September;

24 Five, training for appropriate school
25 staff in the implementation of the new procedures;

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2 Six, inclusion of responsibility for
3 books in the family-teacher-student compact
4 agreement being developed now for each student.
5 It arises out of the new graduation and promotion
6 requirement, and Board Member Mr. Lurie is
7 chairing that effort;

8 Seven, collection by SEPTA of books
9 left on buses and the subway for regular District
10 pickup;

11 The possibility of employing "workfare"
12 individuals to help with book inventories during
13 the summer reorganization period;

14 Reemphasis of the book hotline through
15 media and other channels;

16 And the utility and effectiveness of
17 on-site spot book inspections by me and Ms. Ingram
18 and others.

19 Your frustration around this issue is
20 surpassed only by our own. I assure you of our
21 continued aggressive efforts to resolve our
22 continuing problems. Solving more of this puzzle
23 is an important piece of continuing our dramatic
24 improvement in student achievement.

25 We would be pleased to respond to any

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2 questions you may have. Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

4 I certainly want to thank you for
5 sending information Council requested on the
6 status of textbooks in the schools. I was more
7 than a little surprised at your report. It raised
8 more questions than it answered. For instance, a
9 week ago last Friday night, I attended the Crime
10 Commission dinner, and at one point in time, I
11 used the wash room, and a mother came in and said
12 to me, My child goes to X-school and I want you to
13 know that I've been reading the newspapers, and
14 the reports are accurate. My daughter does not
15 have books. She does not have textbooks to take
16 home for any of her work.

17 Last Saturday, I was at a function, and
18 a teacher approached me, who indicated to me that
19 they did not have English books in the 1st, 2nd,
20 3rd or 4th grades.

21 And yet, I look at your reports, and
22 both schools would indicate that they have
23 sufficient books.

24 Now, what do you consider sufficient
25 books? Is it one per child, one for every four or

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2 five children? Two children have to share a
3 book? I don't know what "sufficient books" would
4 designated to you because, as I said, in just
5 meeting people who are very involved with the
6 School District, it would indicate to me that they
7 do not have what you've referred to as "sufficient
8 books."

9 DR. HORNBECK: Well, my definition of
10 "sufficient books" comes primarily from the
11 teachers and through the principal, and that is
12 whatever textbooks are required in a given class
13 for each student -- not one for two or one for
14 five -- that permits them to have class during the
15 course of a year, and to have kids know and be
16 able to do what is required during that school
17 year that will in fact contribute to kids being
18 able to read and do math and do science better.

19 So it's really a teacher definition in
20 that way, coming through the principal, that
21 constitutes my definition.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But in your
23 report in the attached, you also say that it is
24 necessary for the principal to stress to staff the
25 requirement that textbooks be permitted to go home

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2 with students. I don't think that is the case, as
3 I'm hearing it from parents. They do not have
4 textbooks to take home to do homework.

5 DR. HORNBECK: Well, I was trying to
6 respond to what I considered to be the right
7 action in a school. And the right action, in my
8 judgment, is for every child to have the books
9 that are required in the definition of that
10 teacher and be able to take them home.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Can you tell
12 me when that determination is made?

13 DR. HORNBECK: It should be made in the
14 -- as school starts every year.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Does anybody
16 in the District require that each school be
17 monitored as to the status of the textbooks
18 throughout the year and update central
19 administration as to the sufficiency?

20 DR. HORNBECK: We have done the kind of
21 survey that we've given you the data from this
22 year and that we had in 1996. We have not yet
23 done the kind of book management control or
24 inventory control that would give us that kind of
25 data on a routine and regular basis, and it's that

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2 to which I refer in the comments that I made in
3 opening the -- in my opening comments. Because I
4 have concluded that even though we have gone from
5 38 percent of the schools reporting adequate books
6 to 82 percent of the schools reporting adequate
7 books in a two-year period, asking the same people
8 in each instance, I still think that we've got to
9 continue to improve.

10 And the kinds of things you're
11 suggesting or you're implying in your question I
12 think are right on target, and I think we need to
13 go ahead and do that, and that's what will be
14 presented to the Board in May.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Can you
16 verify for me, the Ethan Allen School, apparently
17 they have insufficient books in English. It would
18 appear that many of the schools have insufficient
19 books in English, social studies, science, and
20 it's four grades that have the shortage.

21 And the action taken indicates that it
22 went to the Book Bank. Can you tell us what the
23 Book Bank is and where is that located, or give us
24 some explanation of that.

25 DR. HORNBECK: I think that what

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2 they're referring to there -- though I cannot
3 answer the question of why they would go to the
4 Book Bank for --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Where is the
6 Book Bank?

7 DR. HORNBECK: The Book Bank is at
8 Fifth and Luzerne. It is the old Roberto Clemente
9 School -- or a long time ago, it was the
10 Advancement School. And it has been turned into a
11 book bank in which there are now more than a
12 million books available.

13 But those books are not designed to be,
14 you know, frontline books; there ought not to be a
15 single classroom, a single school in this whole
16 district that depends upon the Book Bank for its
17 basic book supply. The Book Bank is extremely
18 valuable in a supplemental way, and lots of
19 teachers find it very valuable.

20 But one of the things, as I said in my
21 comments, by March the 25th, we will have circled
22 back to each of those 46 or 47 schools that said
23 they had shortages and burrow a whole lot deeper
24 into it. And that's the kind of question that we
25 would --

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: That's fine,
3 and I commend you for that, but what bothers me is
4 the fact that, as I said, I speak to a parent and
5 I speak to a teacher, and your survey indicates
6 that there are sufficient books in both of those
7 schools. And yet, we're being told otherwise.

8 So how do you correct that? Now, you
9 say it's the principal's responsibility? Well,
10 somebody's not being very honest here as far as
11 I'm concerned.

12 DR. HORNBECK: Well, somebody is not; I
13 think that's correct.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: That's
15 obvious, that's extremely obvious to me.

16 DR. HORNBECK: And those are the
17 reasons that we believe to go from where we are to
18 where we all want to be does in fact require a
19 combination of those actions that I laid out in my
20 opening testimony.

21 I don't believe we are going to get to
22 the point approaching 100 percent that you and I
23 and all of us want to achieve absent taking --
24 basically two kinds of action is what it amounts
25 to. One is a much more aggressive centralized

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2 book inventory or management control approach that
3 you were just going to on the one hand; and
4 secondly, being a lot more, I guess rigorous is
5 what it would amount to in enforcing student
6 responsibility for their piece of this.

7 And both of those things, both the
8 school, the School District responsibility and the
9 student responsibility needs to be addressed a lot
10 more aggressively.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: What is the
12 District's procedure for allowing a school to use
13 school book funds for other purposes?

14 DR. HORNBECK: The procedure is that
15 the principal, the home school president, and the
16 building representative needs to certify that
17 there are adequate books before they are permitted
18 to spend the money on other things.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Now, when the
20 District receives such a request, do they do any
21 verification before they go through the approval
22 process?

23 DR. HORNBECK: No. We think that
24 parents and teachers and principals, until they
25 demonstrate to the contrary, should be trusted.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: I don't want
3 to dominate the hearing.

4 I understand that Councilwoman
5 Blackwell has to leave shortly, so at this point
6 in time, I will recognize Councilwoman Blackwell.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
8 Madam President. It is obviously an emergency or
9 I would not step out of a hearing as important as
10 this and on an issue that we've worked so long and
11 hard on. I only have three questions to ask, and
12 I'll ask them all at once.

13 First, with regard to your statement, I
14 believe that many of the things -- in fact, I
15 specifically asked a question about reemphasis of
16 the hotline when the numbers went down from
17 200-and-some to some 16 or 18 or something like
18 that. Those things are important.

19 You mentioned development of management
20 guidelines and all of these other positive
21 initiatives. But I absolutely think the first one
22 is the wrong way to go. It upsets me that we will
23 punish students by not letting them go to proms,
24 class trips, extracurricular activities when we
25 haven't done the other things, when we haven't

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2 initiated a system to get books back. Part of the
3 upset today is because the media's reporting that
4 the School District didn't spend money on books.
5 So how can we penalize students when we don't
6 penalize ourselves for what we don't do and then
7 -- or for what has not happened, but initially,
8 the first point begins to penalize student when
9 you don't have a system.

10 So certainly, we would make the request
11 that all these other initiatives -- setting up a
12 system, training staff, development of a hotline
13 etc., etc. -- that all of these initiatives
14 certainly begin before we begin to penalize
15 students when we don't know what the leaderships
16 of their schools are. And I think it's very, very
17 important that we do that. And certainly, I would
18 make the request that we hold up on your first
19 point until the others are done.

20 Number two, I want to -- my second
21 point is that on March -- I wanted to make that
22 number third. On May 29, 1997, on June 12, 1997,
23 on March 25, 1998, on April 21, 1998, and on May
24 7, 1998, we had hearings on the School District's
25 response to emergencies. And an emergency can be

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2 a kid who died like Kylan Tyler, the child who
3 died at McMichael of meningitis and who lived
4 across the street from a public housing high-rise,
5 and the upset that cost. Or an emergency can be a
6 shooting in a school other in the school yard. A
7 health emergency can involve any of those things
8 and everything in between.

9 Certainly, we have been asking all this
10 time last for the last few years for a system.
11 Just as in fire emergencies, every principal knows
12 what to do and has it posted, that we know what to
13 do for emergencies.

14 I am happy to say that we met on March
15 15th, and I would like to commend Vernard Trent,
16 Gwen Porter, under the direction of Bill Epstein,
17 for coming up with a draft of a poster that can be
18 used. What I would like to do is pass it around
19 for Councilmembers to see and certainly ask them
20 if they want to make any changes. I think it's
21 great that we finally have a form that we can use
22 that can be posted so that everybody knows what
23 happens in emergencies. So I will pass that
24 around so that everybody can get a chance to look
25 at that and certainly would ask them to, you know,

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2 return it when you're finished.

3 My last question is, we just received a
4 call -- I didn't check it 'cause it's not in my
5 District -- from a parent whose child goes to
6 William Penn High School. She said it took her
7 child from September till the end of February to
8 get a science book, and she still has no English
9 book. I would ask you to check on that.

10 And I would also note, as I was asked
11 by reporters yesterday, since there are many
12 schools in the West Philadelphia cluster listed
13 where books were requested and where students
14 don't have books, where books are requested or
15 ordered, how long will that take? Are we talking
16 about that we -- that if the books are ordered,
17 will they receive them now? Or are you talking
18 about a September date?

19 I know I mentioned four or five
20 different things, but I wanted to get them in and
21 then let you respond.

22 DR. HORNBECK: Thank you, Councilwoman
23 Blackwell.

24 First of all, I agree that we should
25 never put in place initiatives that impact simply

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2 on students and in a sense hold them accountable
3 or responsible where other things are not moving
4 forward before or simultaneously. It would be my
5 own view that those things are not listed in the
6 order of implementation; that, in fact, on both
7 counts, the school/School District responsibility
8 and the student responsibility, that those things
9 need to move forward at the same time.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I disagree.
11 Excuse me, Dr. Hornbeck. I would hope that after
12 the other issues are initiated, then if you would
13 even come back and let us know and keep us
14 updated, then you start after that to penalize
15 folks. I mean, to take kids' proms from them and
16 class trips and sports activities before you get a
17 system in place is unfair.

18 DR. HORNBECK: I agree with that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I think after
20 that system has had -- you need a school year for
21 that system to be worked out, to initiate a
22 program, unless you're going to do it over the
23 summer and have it ready for September, and then
24 maybe this time next year, we can talk about
25 penalties like proms and class trips.

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2 DR. HORNBECK: Well, I expect a system,
3 the new system to go into place for the closing of
4 school this year. I don't want to wait till next
5 year or when school opens. We need to have the
6 new pieces of the book management system in place
7 for school closing. It needs to apply to the
8 activities that go on during the course of the
9 summer because those are the moments when we need
10 to make sure that before staff arrive back at
11 school and before students arrive at school in
12 September, that the books have been sorted out so
13 that we can get on with it immediately. And then
14 the distribution of the book system come September
15 needs to be in place, when everybody arrives.

16 The real impact of any issues related
17 to students under that sequence of events is not
18 going to take place until the '99-2000 school
19 year, but I don't expect it to wait until June of
20 2000. I expect the management system to have
21 already moved into place at the end of this year
22 and that the students be advised of the new rules
23 in effect as they come to school and receive the
24 books.

25 And it's not even just the students;

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2 it's also an interest in having the families
3 engaged in that process too because I think all of
4 us have had the experience at one time or another
5 of having been told by our mother or our father
6 that we're to pay attention to things like that.
7 So, you know, it's kind of a three-way set of
8 responsibilities.

9 On the issue of medical emergencies,
10 we're pleased with where we are with that. We
11 certainly would welcome any further suggestions
12 that you may have or as other Councilmembers
13 review what you're passing around that they may
14 have. And we will continue to work with you on
15 that because, as you say, there are a whole
16 variety of possible emergencies that can and do
17 arise as a matter of fact, and we share your
18 intense interest in being on top of those as they
19 do.

20 On the several clusters and the parent
21 at William Penn, if you would just give us some of
22 those particulars, we will follow up on those
23 immediately and specifically and get back to you
24 on each one.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

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2 Thank you, Madam President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you,
4 Councilwoman.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
6 President, if there is a vote before I return --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I doubt that
8 there will be a vote today.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. Good afternoon, Superintendent.

14 DR. HORNBECK: Good afternoon.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: When you were here
16 on March 3rd when this issue arose, although I
17 think I may not have necessarily been in the room
18 at that time, the briefing book that we received,
19 which, I think, has a cover letter of February
20 26th, in Section 7 on textbooks reads that from
21 September 1998 until the present, the textbook
22 hotline has received only 16 calls. Thirteen
23 separate schools were named, and all but four of
24 the calls dealt with grade 7 and above. Once
25 again, each call was thoroughly investigated and

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2 the caller was responded to within our five-day
3 window.

4 Should I take from that that back on
5 March 3rd when there was discussion about this, or
6 as early as March 1st when the hearing started,
7 that the District was under the belief that only
8 13 schools possibly had book problems at that
9 time?

10 DR. HORNBECK: No. We were under the
11 impression -- that, in fact, continues to be so --
12 that there had been huge progress made in the last
13 two years, and we were reporting to you simply one
14 of the avenues for receiving information that we
15 have. If somebody had come up to me and said,
16 "No, there are not 13, there are 17," I wouldn't
17 have been surprised.

18 I frankly was surprised that there were
19 46.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, so was I.

21 DR. HORNBECK: I was particularly
22 pleased because I went back and I said, How does
23 that compare to anything? because nobody seems to
24 have picked that up. And that's the reason that I
25 was pleased that just two years ago, 67 percent

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2 (not just 18 percent) and 172 schools (not just 46
3 schools) said they didn't have books.

4 So it's whether you want to look at the
5 world through the glass half-full or half-empty.
6 And whichever way you do it, as I've suggested in
7 my testimony, I think we've still got things to
8 do. We certainly haven't solved the entire
9 problem.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, you're right.
11 But I have to say that whether based on our
12 discussion prior to budget hearings and then
13 certainly receiving the book and reading through
14 the book, I don't think, either based on our
15 discussion or reading the materials, that an
16 unreasonable person or a reasonable person would
17 be led to believe that there was really not much
18 of any kind of book problem at all.

19 And if I read this document and took
20 the document seriously, 16 calls, 13 schools, I
21 mean that would be incredible progress. It would
22 be -- you would be in a position of having
23 virtually solved the problem.

24 And quite honestly, I thought on March
25 1st and I thought on March 2nd that based on the

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2 materials and the discussion that this was a
3 non-issue. And it was only on the afternoon of
4 the 3rd that it became more of an issue. And
5 quite honestly, after getting the report, I guess
6 Friday, it seems that it was even more of an issue
7 than certainly I thought and maybe either you
8 thought or communicated at that time.

9 So, I mean, I guess I would -- I would
10 ask then: When did you realize that this problem
11 was, in fact, greater than anyone believed it to
12 be?

13 DR. HORNBECK: When I got that report.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Only when you got
15 the report?

16 DR. HORNBECK: Yeah. What I was
17 reading in effect up until that time is exactly
18 what you read --

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

20 DR. HORNBECK: -- up until that time.
21 And that is that from the variety of channels that
22 for years had impacted almost on a daily,
23 certainly a weekly basis, whether phone calls from
24 members of Council or letters from parents or the
25 hotline source, that there was a very -- a very

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2 large improvement that I couldn't quantify. And
3 we reported that.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

5 DR. HORNBECK: And if the survey had
6 come back saying there were, you know, 21 places
7 that had classes out of 259, that would have
8 corresponded a lot more closely to where my
9 impression was that things were.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

11 DR. HORNBECK: It came back as it did.
12 And, as I say, despite the really quite
13 extraordinary improvement that's measurable, and I
14 confess to you that I do celebrate that. And it
15 was because of Council and it was because of us
16 and it was because we put more money in and it was
17 because we put a lot more emphasis on it, there's
18 this gigantic improvement, but we're not there
19 yet.

20 And I think that, again, as we continue
21 to try to solve this problem entirely that we will
22 get there.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, why don't we
24 just stipulate and agree that there has been
25 improvement, because I don't want to discount it,

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2 I don't want to ignore it, I don't want to negate
3 it.

4 DR. HORNBECK: Yeah, but I think we
5 ought to stipulate and agree that there's both
6 been improvement and we have a long way to go.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And where you are,
8 you have to measure where you came from.

9 DR. HORNBECK: Absolutely.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that.

11 My concern and I guess my problem is,
12 is that I was actually under the impression that
13 we were even farther beyond 82. And so to hear
14 that we then, at least for me, are only at 82,
15 thinking that the number was probably in the high
16 90s, a non-issue.

17 DR. HORNBECK: Right.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So 13 calls, 16
19 schools is a disappoint at least for me.

20 DR. HORNBECK: It is for me as well.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And I think my
22 concern now is absent the March 3rd exchange and
23 literally putting Miss Ingram and Miss Sparkman in
24 somewhat of a difficult position at about 9
25 o'clock that night and requesting that this survey

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2 be done, we might not be having this discussion,
3 and you and I would continue on in our lives with
4 what we have now agreed on the record is a
5 misimpression.

6 And I guess what I don't understand is
7 how did we get so far in the school year without
8 you or the other parties knowing that? That's
9 what I'm concerned about at this point.

10 DR. HORNBECK: All right.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Because then I have
12 to ask you, What goes on in the course of the
13 school year in the current system? I appreciated
14 your testimony, and I'm going to read it a couple
15 more times. You have a lot of things in there
16 most of which I probably agree with.

17 But what I need to better understand
18 is, how did we get to the March 3rd situation and
19 then the survey that we received over the weekend
20 and absent our request, no one knew about it?

21 DR. HORNBECK: Well, as I tried to
22 suggest in my testimony, the system-wide
23 management controls that we will identify for the
24 Board by the end of April and put in front of them
25 in May didn't exist. And so you have to have

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2 those in order for that to happen.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

4 Well, who is responsible for books and the
5 instructional materials in their inventorying --
6 if that's a real word -- and accountability at
7 21st and the Parkway? Whose job is it to be in
8 charge to be in charge of books and supplies and
9 instructional materials?

10 DR. HORNBECK: Well, the inventory of
11 books, as it has been practiced over the years,
12 has been kept at the school level. There is a
13 kind of purchasing responsibility in the Managing
14 Director's Office, but there has not been the
15 existence of --

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's just based
17 on requests coming in, when "X-Y-Z School" says, I
18 need to buy books, or somebody else says, I need
19 to buy books, they just buy the books?

20 DR. HORNBECK: What I'm saying is that
21 what I think you are correctly asking for is the
22 kind of centralized management controls as it
23 relates to books that would permit you to track at
24 any given moment or at least at appropriate times
25 during the year who has how many books and how

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2 many aren't there and how much money hasn't been
3 spent and when the last order went out and so on.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

5 DR. HORNBECK: And as far as I know, at
6 least for a great many years, that just hasn't
7 existed.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

9 DR. HORNBECK: And that represents, as
10 I suggest here, in both Council's and our
11 continuing quest to make this be a hundred percent
12 or as near as we can get there, one of the two
13 major next things that need to be done and not
14 sometime way in the future but before the end of
15 this school year.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. So for
17 the moment, the answer is, is until you go through
18 the process at the 21st and the Parkway level,
19 there really is no one essentially responsible for
20 that, and that responsibility is primarily at the
21 school level.

22 DR. HORNBECK: That's correct.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, who at the
24 school level is responsible for making sure that
25 every school student has what they need in his or

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2 her hands?

3 DR. HORNBECK: Basically, the
4 principal; although at a high school that's got
5 3,000 kids in it, that will get dispersed at some
6 extent both to assistant principals and to
7 department chairs. But it is basically the
8 principal's responsibility.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And when we say
10 that they're responsible for that, what does that
11 actually mean? Do they have to fill out a report
12 on a monthly or quarterly basis, semiannual basis,
13 end-of-the-year basis? How, in fact, are they
14 responsible?

15 DR. HORNBECK: Basically over the
16 years, a principal has exercised that
17 responsibility in a way that he or she designs.
18 That's what I'm saying, that there is not a
19 centralized way in which that has taken place.

20 And until Council and the District and
21 others gave principals money, then they didn't --
22 that was one of the big problems, but that's no
23 longer a problem. The problem is the absence of
24 the kinds of management controls that we're
25 talking about.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I don't know
3 how many ways there are that you can actually do
4 this, but I guess at least in theory, your
5 testimony is that there are virtually 259
6 different ways of keeping track and accounting for
7 what's going on because there are 259 schools and
8 there are 259 principals, and each one of them can
9 do it any way they want.

10 DR. HORNBECK: They are -- in effect,
11 the answer to that -- what I'm trying to say, and
12 I don't know how to say it more clearly is that
13 that's right.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

15 DR. HORNBECK: That the schools have
16 that decision-making authority up until this time,
17 but it is clear that something different is
18 necessary.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. What are the
20 core subjects for which students either must or
21 should have books?

22 DR. HORNBECK: Well, I think that at a
23 minimum, there should be English, math, science,
24 and social studies.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: English, math,

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2 science, social studies.

3 And by way of the report, at least, it
4 seems for most -- it might be most, it seems that
5 most of the schools that didn't have the X in the
6 sufficient block seemed to report deficiencies in
7 most of those four areas.

8 DR. HORNBECK: In one or more of them,
9 that's right.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.
11 Councilwoman Blackwell and I had the same
12 question, and I think I commented about this
13 earlier. Of the 47 schools, although the report
14 says 46, but of the 47 that are actually in the
15 report, 13 of them are split between the West
16 Philadelphia Cluster and the Overbrook Cluster --
17 6 in Overbrook, 7 in West Philadelphia.

18 Is there anything unusual about that
19 level of concentration of insufficiency versus a
20 broader spread throughout the system that would
21 have -- I mean, there are many clusters that none
22 of the schools are reporting deficiencies, and
23 with those two at least, it is 50 and 51 percent.
24 Any insight on that?

25 DR. HORNBECK: There's no apparent

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2 reason for that discrepancy.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Can you state for
4 the record whether the District knows -- because
5 this is the other side, and I think it is
6 appropriate and fair to recognize that there is
7 another side to this discussion, because one of
8 two things happens, I assume, in the first two or
9 three weeks of school. First, hopefully students
10 show up, they get rostered. You have, as best I
11 can tell, solved the leveling problem, which was
12 another problem when you got here, and I don't
13 hear anybody talking about leveling much anymore.

14 Let's say Student Michael Nutter is in
15 10th grade at "X-Y-Z High School." It's now
16 three weeks into the school year. Do you know for
17 a fact that I have received every book that I'm
18 supposed to receive for the six classes that I'm
19 registered for? Does the District know and can
20 you tell me that on September 17, 1998, virtually
21 100 percent of the students got the books that
22 they were supposed to get?

23 DR. HORNBECK: There is no report under
24 the present procedures that specifically affirms
25 that, no.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do students have to
3 sign for the books they get?

4 DR. HORNBECK: They do not at the
5 present time as a matter of system-wide --

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So you just go to
7 wherever you go and say, I'm taking chemistry this
8 year, or I'm taking social studies or English 208
9 -- or whatever the course number is, and I need
10 X-Y-Z book, and they just get it?

11 DR. HORNBECK: Well, it probably
12 doesn't happen exactly like that.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sure it doesn't
14 happen like that. There's no system like that.

15 DR. HORNBECK: The teachers, in fact,
16 are the ones who say to the student, You need this
17 book.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

19 DR. HORNBECK: And in a great many of
20 the schools, there is --

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So when I come to
22 my English class somewhere in the first couple
23 days of school, the English teacher says, This
24 year, we are using this book for this course,
25 passes out 30-some-odd books, everybody gets one,

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2 but they don't have to sign for it.

3 DR. HORNBECK: No, I didn't say that
4 you didn't have to sign for it; I said that there
5 is no system-wide affirmation of that coming back
6 to the system.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

8 DR. HORNBECK: The missing ingredient
9 here is not that lots of kids don't have to sign
10 for their books; lots of kids do have to sign for
11 their books. But until we put into place what I
12 said in my opening needs to be a testimony a
13 system-wide management control feature that will
14 include features like that, it doesn't exist at
15 the moment.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Last
17 question. On the numbers, in the February 26th
18 book, I think the testimony or the documentation
19 or possibly in the report, it indicated that in
20 the current year, \$17 million has been spent on
21 books and that schools, individual schools, have a
22 total of \$10 million still unspent for books, and
23 that the current allocation this school year was
24 \$22 million for books.

25 Somewhere in that, even with some

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2 difficulties I had in college with some of my math
3 courses, those numbers don't necessarily add up.
4 Are there roll-over dollars from the previous
5 school year that have been rolled into this year?
6 Why is there \$10 million left over if you had 22
7 to start and you spent 17?

8 DR. HORNBECK: I can't answer that
9 question, Mr. Nutter. Let me see if there's. . .

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's in the
11 report. Thus far this year, schools have spent a
12 total of \$17 million on textbooks, instructional
13 aids, and materials. In addition, 36 schools have
14 requested and received supplemental textbook
15 allocations. These schools received a total of
16 526,000 in additional monies. Furthermore, more
17 than \$10 million is still available in individual
18 school budgets for the purchase of books and
19 instructional materials during the remainder of
20 this school year.

21 When I flip to Section 7 on textbooks
22 in the February 26th document, the Historical 8
23 Perspective Section says that during the current
24 school year, schools have available to them a
25 total of over \$23 million for the purchase of

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2 textbooks and instructional support materials.

3 Last year, the number was \$22 million.

4 All I'm asking is if you have -- I was
5 off by a million -- if you have \$23 million
6 allocated for books, you spent 17, how do you have
7 10 left over?

8 DR. HORNBECK: A piece of that may be
9 because there are expenditures from Title 1 in
10 there as well.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, that are
12 allowable for both.

13 DR. HORNBECK: That's over and above
14 the operating budget.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right.
16 Thank you.

17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
19 welcome.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 In his inimitable way, Councilman
24 Nutter touched about on every area or question I
25 wanted to ask. I think that's probably 'cause we

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2 went to the same high school; we somewhat think
3 alike.

4 But there's a couple of areas that I
5 would like to talk about. First of all, there's
6 two questions and a request that I have, and then
7 a statement.

8 I don't necessarily agree with
9 Councilmember Blackwell in regards to the
10 immediate and prompt requirement that students be
11 held responsible. And I think part of the issue
12 is the word we get on the penalties maybe is what
13 I think makes Councilwoman Blackwell concerned
14 about the use of the word "penalties." But I do
15 believe that if we use the word "responsibility,"
16 I think we may get a better result.

17 The book issue for me and the book
18 itself I believe is symbolic of both the
19 educational process and what's wrong with it in
20 these days. My experience, as a 40-year-old, a
21 lifelong Philadelphian, is that when I was in
22 school, the books, their conditions, their return,
23 and their use was basically sacrosanct. The book
24 had meaning, it had value.

25 And I think what has happened over the

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2 years perhaps in the public school system is the
3 loss of that requirement of responsibility, and
4 the loss of the solemnity of the book is
5 symptomatic of a lot of problems that we face in
6 the school system. It's the reason why kids don't
7 come to school, 'cause there's no responsibility,
8 there's no penalty generally, until recently, for
9 not coming to school. Why children come to school
10 and then leave when they feel they have a need to
11 get up and walk out the door is another symptom of
12 what I think revolves around this issue of books.
13 And it's not just on a student level; it's also on
14 the principal, administrative, and perhaps even
15 teaching level.

16 And that's why I agree with
17 Councilmember Blackwell. If we're going to hold
18 children responsible in some punitive way,
19 potentially by elimination of extracurricular
20 activities or proms or whatever it is, then I
21 think we need to hold administrators responsible
22 for failure to follow through with the appropriate
23 distribution and collection of these important
24 books. Because they should pay some financial
25 price for not having those books returned in an

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2 appropriate condition.

3 As they said when I was a kid, edges
4 clean, books covered, pencil marks removed from
5 the book. Because the issue surrounding the book
6 was one of responsibility. And I don't think you
7 disagree with me in this, and I sense from your
8 testimony that there's going to be a renewed
9 effort to try to bring that issue of
10 responsibility to both the students and to the
11 teachers and to the principals and to the
12 administrators.

13 And I think if we do that, I think in
14 the long run, we're going to have a better system,
15 not just a better inventory of books. The 82
16 percent, I guess, is a B-minus and I don't anybody
17 in this room's parent ever accepted a B-minus from
18 any of their children, and that's probably why
19 we've been successful. And I think that's what we
20 need to work on. That's my statement.

21 The question I have is, I need to know
22 if it's possible from the textbook survey, the
23 dates that where it's listed action taken, it says
24 "books ordered." If there's some way that we
25 could be provided on each of those lines that says

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2 "ordered books," "books ordered," "ordered
3 materials," "ordered books," as to the date that
4 those actions were taken. Because I want to get
5 an idea as to whether or not -- and I'm not
6 supposing this, I want to see and eliminate from
7 my mind whether or not some of these actions took
8 place over the last three weeks.

9 DR. HORNBECK: The answer to that is
10 yes, and it would be one of the things -- in my
11 statement, I mentioned this intensive look in the
12 next several days, and a piece of that can be just
13 that.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Fine, thank you
15 very much.

16 Thank you, Madam President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

18 DR. HORNBECK: Madam President, could I
19 just say that once in a while, Councilman Kenney
20 and I disagree or don't see eye to eye on things,
21 but I do want to say that on this issue of
22 standards and the issue of responsibility, I think
23 we really are on the same page, and I think it's
24 extremely important.

25 And my own view is that it is the

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2 reemphasis of standards more than any other single
3 thing and the accountability that has accompanied
4 it that has resulted in the improvement in
5 achievement. And I think what we're talking about
6 here, I think the way you put it, that this isn't
7 just about books; this is about taking next steps
8 for the notions of accepting responsibility and
9 meeting standards.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, I think we
11 can thank St. Patrick for our agreement today.

12 DR. HORNBECK: I will certainly join in
13 that.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And I would
15 certainly agree with that statement because I
16 think it's absolutely outrageous that we spend
17 over a million dollars every year for lost or
18 unreturned books. And to me, that indicates a
19 lack of responsibility.

20 May I just ask a couple more questions.
21 What are emergency textbook allocations, and how
22 does the school qualify for these additional
23 funds?

24 DR. HORNBECK: We have kept in the --
25 an allocation goes out to a school in the way that

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2 the process has worked historically. And in most
3 places, that proves to be adequate for the books
4 for that year.

5 But we have kept an amount of money at
6 the central office so that if there is some set of
7 circumstances -- I don't know what it says, but
8 for example, if Prince Hall happened to have been
9 one of those, and I don't know that it was, they
10 had a fire there that burned up a whole bunch of
11 books. They may very well have spent their
12 ordinary allocation, and they would make a request
13 of our office for extra money in effect to
14 replenish that.

15 Or if you have a situation in which
16 unusual or increased enrollment takes place, where
17 you just didn't expect that extra 30 kids or
18 whatever, and thus, that wasn't a part of that,
19 you could make a request, and for those kinds of
20 specific reasons, receive an extra allocation.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Your
22 statement says that since September 1998, 30
23 schools have received \$412,000. It is anticipated
24 that additional schools will receive these
25 emergency allocations during the remainder of the

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2 year.

3 Now, is that for more students than
4 anticipated? I don't understand what the
5 emergency --

6 DR. HORNBECK: Well, for example, we
7 didn't know that Prince Hall was going to burn.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well, that's
9 one school. I mean, you're talking about 30
10 schools.

11 DR. HORNBECK: Well, we could, in fact,
12 put together identification of the reasons in
13 those 30 schools, if that would be helpful to you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: What would be
15 helpful to me is, I would like you to make it
16 eminently clear for this record and for me what
17 the District's textbook take-home policy is.

18 DR. HORNBECK: Every student should
19 have the books the teacher determines is necessary
20 to teach that course, and that student has the
21 right to take that book home.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well, why are
23 some of the schools simply saying home a
24 mimeographed piece of paper for homework?

25 DR. HORNBECK: Well, there -- I think

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2 -- I don't agree with these two comments I'm
3 about to make when I'm answering question of why
4 does that happen.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, we're
6 asked those questions, and I would like you to
7 give us answers to them.

8 DR. HORNBECK: The reasons are
9 primarily twofold. A week ago, I would have told
10 you that there was one primary one, and it is a
11 very, very longtime practice, a culture in
12 Philadelphia that kids are going to lose their
13 books or destroy 'em or whatever, and the only way
14 that gets prevented is to prevent them from taking
15 them home.

16 Now, the reason I said what I said is
17 that I don't agree that that ought to be done, and
18 the policy is to contrary, but you ask why, and
19 that's why.

20 I heard a fascinating story from one of
21 my senior staff the other day who was in a high
22 school on a routine visit and was being escorted
23 by a student and because of the focus on books,
24 asked the student, "Do you have enough books?"
25 And the student said yes.

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2 And then the second question always is,
3 "Do you take them home?" And the student said
4 no. And the question was "Why not?" And the
5 expectation was that the student was going to say
6 "'Cause we're not allowed to" -- for the reasons
7 I just gave you. But in this particular instance,
8 the answer was that the -- in that particular high
9 school, students had been told that there would be
10 repayment or restitution required, and the student
11 made the decision that she might lose the book if
12 she took it home, and so she left it in her locker
13 because she didn't want to pay.

14 So I'm simply saying to you that
15 neither reason is a legitimate reason. Both
16 reasons are contrary to policy of the School
17 District, but both reasons reflect the answer to
18 your question. And it grows out of this very
19 longtime both practice and experience before there
20 was enough. I mean, frankly now, if a kid loses
21 his book, the policy is the kid gets a new book.

22 Now, we need to address this other
23 issue of incentives and payback and all of that.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: There has to
25 be some accountability.

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2 DR. HORNBECK: I agree with that.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: I'm a firm
4 believer in that.

5 DR. HORNBECK: But another piece of it
6 is that the kid needs a book.

7 But there was a time before you all
8 exercised leadership and we exercised leadership
9 that if a kid lost his book, it was gone, there
10 was no way that anybody was going to replace it.
11 There was a time before this administration and
12 the leadership of this Council that the money was
13 -- the money was insufficient to have more than
14 one set of books in a school; and thus, you
15 couldn't let one class take 'em home because you
16 wouldn't have another class.

17 All of those things are still
18 mindsets. And what we are, I think successfully,
19 beginning to do -- because it shows up in the
20 achievement of kids but we're not there yet -- is
21 breaking through that mindset of changing a
22 pattern of practice that goes back 25 years.

23 And all the things we talked about
24 today and needing to do responsibility on the side
25 of adults, the responsibility on the side of kids

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2 is in effect the next step of penetrating that
3 decades-long culture that arises from lots of ways
4 because it is a wrong practice. And I share your
5 view on that 100 percent.

6 Ms. Ingram was just reminding me that,
7 unfortunately, the experience of Philadelphia has
8 also extended to lots of other school districts
9 across the United States. And as a consequence,
10 there are actually publishers who, with the books,
11 create what are referred as "ditto masters," which
12 is a way of duplicating what is in the book so
13 that the book, in fact, does get left at school.
14 And what that is is a market response to a common
15 practice.

16 Now, I happen to still think that kids
17 ought to have book bags and they ought to carry
18 their books home. But I just share that with you
19 to say to you that we are in one sense not only
20 dealing with a Philadelphia phenomenon, but even
21 as, in a sense Councilman Kenney's comments about
22 standards and deterioration of a sense of
23 responsibility and so on, that's not a
24 Philadelphia phenomenon either.

25 Frankly, I think that what is happening

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2 here in Philadelphia with the various
3 accountability systems, in fact, is in a
4 leadership role, and this is just another example
5 where we need to, you know, we need press that.

6 But I agree with you, I have no quarrel
7 with that position at all.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Hornbeck,
9 it's my understanding that in past years, schools
10 have had the ability to roll over all leftover
11 money to do purchasing for the following year. Is
12 that policy still in existence, or has that
13 changed?

14 DR. HORNBECK: That is true for book
15 and materials monies; it is basically not true for
16 other monies. And the reasoning behind that is
17 that books have become extremely expensive, a
18 50-bucks-a-book kind of thing is not at all
19 unusual.

20 And there will be schools who will
21 anticipate, knowing that they're going to need to
22 replace their whole math series or their whole
23 reading series or whatever, not this year but next
24 year, and they know that that book allocation
25 won't cover all of that. And so they, in effect,

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2 bank the money for those two years or sometimes
3 even three years so that they will have enough to
4 buy the books for all the kids at the moment that
5 it's time to replace that series.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But it would
7 appear that there's a loss of like 50 percent of
8 money for which there is a no-carry-forward
9 request?

10 DR. Hornbeck: I'm not sure I
11 understand.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: In one of the
13 books or materials that we saw, there was never an
14 indication that there was a carry-over request for
15 new books.

16 DR. Hornbeck: I. . .

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I will get
18 that, I will get that.

19 DR. Hornbeck: Okay, thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Are there any
21 other questions from members of the committee?

22 (No questions at this time.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr. Hornbeck,
24 I will ask you to stay if you will. I think there
25 are some other witnesses.

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2 We had heard at one of our meetings
3 that a principal had to make a choice between
4 books or uniforms, and I think we have someone
5 here that can talk about the uniforms.

6 DR. HORNBECK: I'll be glad to do that.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yeah, I apologize
10 for getting here late today.

11 In the material handed out today, it
12 had a textbook survey and it indicates the name of
13 the school and if in fact the school or classes
14 that needed books were ordered.

15 Do we happen to know when these books
16 may have been ordered? And that may be too
17 difficult for you to answer on every school, but
18 I'm just curious. Were books that were ordered at
19 the beginning of the school year or have they just
20 been ordered because of the fact that we have just
21 been informed as of about two weeks ago that some
22 certain schools did not have enough books?

23 DR. HORNBECK: I can't answer it now
24 but Mr. Kenney asked me the same question, and we
25 will be getting you the dates on which these

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2 orders.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, I apologize
4 I didn't hear that question.

5 DR. HORNBECK: That's all right.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

7 Thank you, Madam President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

9 We have with us today Thomas Doyle,
10 President of Local 1201. Mr. Doyle, would you
11 mind taking the witness table.

12 (Mr. Doyle comes forward.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please
14 identify yourself for the record.

15 MR. DOYLE: My name's Thomas Doyle, I'm
16 the President of Local 1201 School Employees.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Doyle,
18 you apparently heard a child testifying at one of
19 our public hearings that his teacher had to make a
20 choice of either buying books or sports uniforms.
21 Can you address that issue for us, please.

22 MR. DOYLE: Yes. In reality, the
23 school -- the uniforms for sports programs in the
24 City of Philadelphia --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry,

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2 you're going to have to pull the microphone closer
3 to you; my colleagues can't hear you.

4 MR. DOYLE: I'm sorry. The uniforms
5 for junior varsity sports program in the School
6 District of Philadelphia is paid for solely by
7 Local 1201. We've been paying for these uniforms
8 since the 1993-'94 school year. I dropped some
9 paperwork off to your office yesterday, and I
10 don't know if it has been --

11 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: It has been
12 distributed to everyone.

13 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, I appreciate
14 that.

15 And if you go through them for the last
16 five or six years, you will see schools listed --
17 Central, Dobbins, Edison, Lincoln, Northeast,
18 Olney -- and then you go to, for example, 1994
19 officials fees, we pay not only for the uniforms,
20 but we pay for the coaches, assistant coaches, the
21 athletic trainers, referees, the umpires. All of
22 that comes out in lieu of contractual increases
23 for Local 1201.

24 So we ask that it be made very clear to
25 City Council and to the people of Philadelphia

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2 that 1201 pays for this. If it wasn't for Local
3 1201, there would be no junior variety sport
4 program. If there's no JV sports program, I doubt
5 very much if there's a senior program; and,
6 therefore, a lot of children who are in college
7 today on sports scholarships can thank Local 1201
8 for that. And we wanted to make that perfectly
9 clear that we've been doing this since the
10 1993-'94 school year.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, I don't
12 think any of us had knowledge of that, and I
13 certainly want to applaud you and your local for
14 your generosity to the school children. I think
15 that's absolutely wonderful.

16 Tell me, what does your local do?

17 MR. DOYLE: We are the school aides and
18 bus attendants who ride the buses every day and
19 work in the classrooms with students. We are the
20 bus drivers who safely transport the children to
21 and from school every day. We're the maintenance
22 mechanics that do the repairs in the School
23 District of Philadelphia. We're the building
24 engineers, the licensed building engineers in
25 every school in the District of Philadelphia. And

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2 we're the cleaning force in the School District of
3 Philadelphia in every school. And also warehouse
4 personnel and design and construction inspectors.

5 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: There has been a
6 decrease, has there not, for bus attendants?

7 MR. DOYLE: Yes, there has. And thank
8 you for bringing it up; it's a major issue with
9 us. I also distributed some information
10 yesterday. And the School District over the past
11 years has been issuing information about the
12 amount of incidents on school buses.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Now, who are
14 they referred to? When there's an incident on the
15 school bus, is that referred to the cluster
16 leader, is it referred to the principal? Who
17 receives those reports?

18 MR. DOYLE: Initially, it's supposed to
19 be referred to the principal or a principal's
20 designee who would handle that at the school
21 location. An incident report can consist of
22 something as minor as a child, a student chewing
23 gum on the bus -- which is against the law
24 basically, 'cause if there's an accident, there's
25 a choking problem -- to assaults, and not only

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2 physical assaults but sexual assaults.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: On the bus?

4 MR. Doyle: Not only on other students,
5 but on our personnel.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: We're talking
7 about on a bus?

8 MR. Doyle: Yes.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How many such
10 incidents have occurred?

11 MR. Doyle: Well, this stack I have
12 here in front of me today, it's approximately 400
13 to 500 incidents. This has been primarily since
14 the beginning of this present school year. And
15 the overwhelming majority of these incidents that
16 are written up here are just from the North
17 Cluster, primarily the schools that are up in the
18 Northeast. These are primarily La Brum, Rush,
19 Fitzpatrick, Loesche, Mann, Fox Chase, Franklin
20 Elementary, J.H. Moore. And there's others in
21 there, but that's only from that North Cluster.

22 These types of incidents occur every
23 day in the West Cluster, the South Cluster, the
24 East Cluster, and area X. We have a thousand
25 buses that are driven by our personnel and

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2 contract employees, a thousand buses on the street
3 every day.

4 Now, these incidents occur over and
5 over and over and over. And the School District's
6 position is that they can no longer afford school
7 aides and bus attendants. It is our position that
8 it's not a monetary issue any longer; it's a
9 safety issue. Children are being assaulted,
10 employees are being assaulted, people are being
11 hurt. These incidents occur over and over and
12 over. And the parents of the school children in
13 the City of Philadelphia have to come to the
14 realization that they cannot allow this to
15 continue to happen.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Now, do we
17 presently have bus aides or this very all been
18 removed?

19 MR. DOYLE: No, we have bus aides
20 currently in the system. Some of information I
21 handed out yesterday indicates there will be cuts,
22 further cuts. Another 42 cuts will be made in the
23 upcoming school year.

24 And if I can read this letter to you --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, before

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2 you do that, how many aides do we actually have on
3 how many buses?

4 MR. DOYLE: Right now, there's
5 approximately 400 to 450. And there's over 1,000
6 routes, 1,000 buses.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And how many
8 were there two years ago, let's say?

9 MR. DOYLE: When the cuts originally
10 started being made in the '94 school year, there
11 was 600 or more.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You know, in
13 reviewing the documents, it shows that in 1995
14 through 1996, when there were 182 behavioral
15 problems referred for action, 1997 through 1998,
16 there were 477 referrals.

17 MR. DOYLE: Mm-hmm.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This is an
19 increase -- it's increased by 162 percent.

20 MR. DOYLE: Correct.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How can we
22 justify decreasing 102 positions or 101 positions
23 and allowing children not to be safe on the
24 buses? I'd like you to tell me what -- if you
25 know, what happens when there is an incident on a

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2 bus and it's referred to the principal?

3 MR. DOYLE: If an incident occurs on
4 the bus, either the bus attendant, the aide or the
5 driver is supposed to write up an incident report,
6 something like this. And then they turn it over
7 to the principal or the principal's designee. At
8 that point, the principal is supposed to look into
9 the situation, hopefully resolve it one way or the
10 other, and refer that incident report to the
11 Transportation Division.

12 It is our understanding that they are
13 not reporting these incidents to the
14 Transportation Division. Every incident report
15 that I have here today came from our employees.
16 They made duplicates of the incident reports and
17 got them back to us. And as I said, there's only
18 10 or 12 schools in here. You have 259, and every
19 one of them has buses going to it every day.

20 So either it's not being followed
21 through on the administrative end or they're being
22 squashed at some level. And when that happens, I
23 believe that the parents and the students of the
24 City of Philadelphia are being misled. It's a
25 dangerous situation, and, as I said, it's not a

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2 monetary issue; it's a safety issue.

3 This particular one I have here, and as
4 you can see, there's a large black blot in the
5 corner of it, that is the clump of hair that was
6 ripped out of a bus attendant's head by a student.
7 They actually put it in a Xerox copy, and when
8 they got it to us, that's her hair.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And what
10 happened to the student?

11 MR. DOYLE: I have a report here, but
12 it doesn't have a final determination.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And when did
14 this happen?

15 MR. DOYLE: This particular case
16 happened 11/23/98.

17 (Reading from report.) And it took at
18 least five minutes for four of us to get him off
19 of the right side of my head. He then grabbed my
20 hair on the left side, went from one side to the
21 other.

22 It goes on and on and on. We have a
23 case here. (Reading.) Older student tricked
24 younger student to follow her to the back of the
25 bus. Two male students were in the back seat.

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2 The youngest male had his pants opened. As the
3 two female students approached the older male --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How old are
5 the children that you're referring to?

6 MR. DOYLE: I don't have ages on this
7 particular incident report, but I would venture to
8 say, if I remember correctly, they were between
9 the ages of 12 and 15.

10 There's six students listed on here.
11 And it goes further. (Reading.) The female
12 students began -- the younger male student pulled
13 down his pants, thus exposing himself to the
14 female students. When the youngest of the female
15 students began to protest and try to return to her
16 seat in the front, the older female student
17 grabbed her hand and tried to make her touch the
18 male's penis. When we arrived at Front and
19 Godfrey and the three students were exiting the
20 bus, the youngest female student called them all
21 "a-holes." I asked them what had gone on. . .

22 And it goes on and describes what
23 happened. But these --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And what
25 action was taken on the youngsters that were on

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2 the bus that day? Does your report indicate
3 that?

4 MR. DOYLE: Well, it doesn't indicate
5 what the final analysis is.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would your
7 report indicate what action was taken?

8 MR. DOYLE: No, other than the report
9 from our attendant.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So you don't
11 know what if any action was taken.

12 MR. DOYLE: We don't know we don't what
13 the final outcome was, no. And that's the case --
14 most of the time, as far as the union's concerned,
15 we do get reports when our members get them to us
16 'cause we don't receive 'em from the
17 administration or the Transportation Department on
18 the outcome.

19 We do get reports from some of our
20 members when they were able to get a final result
21 where a student was taken off of a bus maybe for a
22 week, two weeks, the remainder of the school
23 year. I mean, it does happen. The problem is, it
24 doesn't happen often enough. And, as I said, this
25 is an example of one north region -- and this is

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2 not all of 'em; these are just the ones that we
3 were able to get our hands on.

4 I have films in the office that we have
5 to review of incidents on buses -- assaults,
6 fights. And we're going to do that, and if
7 necessary, we'll make copies and get them to
8 Council.

9 This has to stop, it cannot continue to
10 go on. If the ladies and gentlemen present here
11 today remember, not too long, there was a bus
12 driver that took a couple dozen children on a ride
13 through hell from the Chestnut Hill area all the
14 way down to the airport with running stop signs,
15 red lights. There was no bus attendant on his bus
16 that day; there was one scheduled to be but there
17 wasn't one that day 'cause she had a death in the
18 family. Finally, the kids were literally jumping
19 out the windows till the police finally pulled him
20 over, and that gentleman was arrested. It was all
21 over the newspapers and the news.

22 I will say that he was not a 1201
23 driver; he was a contracted driver. And they
24 bring in contractor drivers at 5.15 an hour. They
25 show 'em a CDL and they put 'em to work.

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2 The School District keeps telling us
3 that it's a monetary issue, they don't have the
4 funds, they don't have the funds. And yet from
5 last June's board meeting (reading), resolved that
6 the School District of Philadelphia exercise its
7 option to use additional bus attendants supplied
8 by City Cab Company for the school year '97-'98 to
9 the tune of \$447,199. Attendants -- the District
10 required Robinson Bus Service \$75,000 to \$73,000.
11 Robinson Bus Service, \$29,000, \$29,000. School
12 District -- Robinson Bus Service, they got
13 \$29,186.

14 They're telling us that we don't need
15 bus attendants on our bus routes that our folks
16 are on, and yet they're allocating more money for
17 contracted buses to have bus attendants. For the
18 life of me, I don't understand it.

19 And our position is, you can't talk out
20 of both sides of your mouth. You can't say we're
21 going to cut the bus attendants that are members
22 of Local 1201 but we're going to allocate more
23 money for bus attendants with contractor drivers.
24 We think it's unfair, we think these people do not
25 receive the training.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It certainly
3 doesn't sound very safe either.

4 MR. DOYLE: It isn't safe, and that's
5 the issue.

6 And as I said, there's a thousand buses
7 on the street every day, every day. And these
8 incidents occur every day, day after day after
9 day, and someone's going to wind up getting killed
10 sooner or later. We've had accidents in the past,
11 not since we've been on, but there have been
12 accidents in the past where drivers have been hit
13 in the back of the head with a book, okay? When
14 the change of the season, the acorns fall, they
15 bring the acorns on the bus, throw 'em at the back
16 of their heads as the guy's driving, you know.
17 And this is what happens when you don't have an
18 attendant on the bus.

19 And they not only ride on the bus, but
20 as a letter from Mr. Lombardi, who's the
21 Transportation Administrator, to all the
22 principals, it says (reading):

23 Unfortunately, school aides and bus
24 attendants also spend part of their working days
25 assisting in schools. They will no longer be

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2 available to serve in this capacity. Please
3 advise parents of these changes for next year. A
4 detailed list of the affected routes is attached.

5 So it's not only just on the school
6 buses; they physically go into the buildings and
7 help in the classrooms. Our bus attendants
8 literally, actually, every year, they have an
9 opportunity to bid for a route. And in the bid
10 process, they try to get routes over the years
11 closer to home so they don't have to travel so
12 far.

13 In that way, they get to know the
14 children very well. A lot of our bus attendants
15 work out of their own neighborhoods, and they know
16 the situations that a lot of these students come
17 from. And, unfortunately, a lot of our students
18 in the School District comes from situations that
19 are not very healthy. Our attendants and drivers
20 and school aides literally get on the bus in the
21 morning in many cases and feed these children
22 before they get to school; they take food out of
23 their own homes, money out of their own pocket to
24 buy for these children so they could have
25 something to eat when they get on the bus in the

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2 morning because of the terrible situations that
3 they come from.

4 And we just feel it's completely unfair
5 to the students, it's totally unfair to the
6 parents, and they don't even know about it, that
7 this goes on, and it should be rectified by
8 reducing -- by eliminating the cuts and
9 eliminating contract buses.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Mr. Doyle,
11 when were the cuts made?

12 MR. DOYLE: They've been making cuts
13 over about approximately the last five or six
14 years, and it's continuing. And most of the cuts
15 are being made through attrition, but sooner or
16 later, there's no attrition, then everybody's
17 gone, and all you have is contracted drivers at
18 \$5.15 hour minimum wage and bus attendants that
19 they bring in for maybe \$40 a day -- no training,
20 they hire them right off the streets.

21 Our folks have police background
22 checks; we don't know if this occurs with these
23 folks. Our members have to have a chest X-ray for
24 tuberculosis or whatever, you know, they may
25 possibly be able to contract. Our employees are

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2 long-term, good employees. They come in every
3 day, they're aware of the children, they're aware
4 of the situations that they come from.

5 We have two bus attendant, Bonnie and
6 Denise. They make \$12,537 a year, that's their
7 salary, 12,537. That's not a living wage. And
8 yet, we feel that the District wants to cut --
9 they have to make their cuts, and they're going to
10 save money on the backs of the lowest paid people
11 in the School District of Philadelphia.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: What do the
13 aides make?

14 MR. DOYLE: They range --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bus
16 aides.

17 MR. DOYLE: That's what I said, the bus
18 attendants and school aides.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And what do
20 the drivers make?

21 MR. DOYLE: The drivers, part-time
22 drivers make from 15,000 to 17,000. And our
23 attendants and school aides can range from 12.5 to
24 approximately 15-something.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair

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2 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair. Good afternoon.

5 \$12,500 is the average salary, you say,
6 for aides and attendants?

7 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'm trying to
9 figure out the math at 5.15 an hour, what's the
10 differential between that, and this is on a
11 20-hour week, 40-hour week basis? What is it?

12 MR. DOYLE: 25 hours a week.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's 25 hours a
14 week. The number of members in your local is --

15 MR. DOYLE: We have 4300 members.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: But the number of
17 members in your local that are Philadelphia School
18 District employees, I should say.

19 MR. DOYLE: It's 4300.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: 4300.

21 MR. DOYLE: Yeah -- well, about a
22 little less than 4200. We have two sister locals
23 -- one in Bensalem and one in Upper Moreland, and
24 that makes up about 120 people combined.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, so it's

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2 about --

3 MR. DOYLE: It's about 4,200.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: And they're made
5 up of part-time and full-time positions?

6 MR. DOYLE: That's correct.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The contributions
8 that your local has made -- and by the way, I
9 wanted to commend you on that. I think it's very
10 admirable that you're putting -- your members are
11 putting money back into the community.

12 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: How did you get to
14 that money? Is that part of the dues? Is that
15 fund-raising?

16 MR. DOYLE: It's part of the
17 contractual agreement. In lieu of a percentage
18 increase, we fund it back into the sports program.
19 And \$400,000 comes out to approximately about a
20 half a percent of an increase for our bargaining
21 unit.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The contractual
23 agreement between the Local and the District?

24 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Interesting.

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2 Have any of your members that you know
3 of who are in the Philadelphia school system been
4 a part of that ad hoc pay raise that has just been
5 given out by the School District?

6 MR. DOYLE: Any of our members?

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes.

8 MR. DOYLE: No. We had a contractual
9 increase, but the one that I believe you're
10 referring to, we were not part of.

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: To get back to the
12 level of 600-plus attendants and aides that we
13 were around 1994, do you know what the value of
14 that would be, what it would cost us to get back
15 to that number?

16 MR. DOYLE: I didn't come prepared to
17 answer that question, but I could get it to you
18 shortly, if need be. At 12,500 -- well, it's
19 12,500 times 150 people.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So it's --

21 MR. DOYLE: So you're talking \$120,000,
22 4150,000?

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: No, a little bit
24 more than that.

25 Charlie? 1.200 people at 12,000 is

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2 what, 2.4, 2.5 million.

3 MR. MCPHERSON: Less than that?

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: 1.5 million?

5 MR. DOYLE: There's a benefits package
6 as well.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well, just on the
8 salary end, it's a little more than the ad hoc
9 bonuses that were just given out by the School
10 District, right?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry, go
12 ahead. Repeat that because 'cause I didn't hear
13 you.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: My question was,
15 how much money would it take for us to get back to
16 the 600 level that we were at back in 1994? The
17 estimation is around 1.5 million or so.

18 And I said it's a little bit more than
19 a half a million dollars over what the ad hoc
20 bonuses were that the District just gave out to
21 employees who probably -- I'm guessing -- are not
22 a part of this contractual agreement that they
23 have to give anything back.

24 MR. DOYLE: They are, they absolutely
25 are a part of that. They give back -- every

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2 member of this bargaining unit would get --

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: No, I'm speaking
4 about the people who may have received raises who
5 are probably non-Philadelphia residents.

6 By the way, do you know, of the 4300 or
7 4,000 members of your local who are with the
8 Philadelphia School District, how many of them are
9 Philadelphia residents, by any chance?

10 MR. DOYLE: I believe the most recent
11 figures that we have, we have about 60 to 70
12 members of our bargaining unit that live outside
13 the City of Philadelphia; all the rest of them are
14 Philadelphia residents. They can't afford to live
15 outside the city, I guess.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well. . . I guess
17 you're right about that.

18 I don't have any other questions, Madam
19 President.

20 MR. DOYLE: Council President, if I
21 could say one other thing. This last contract
22 that we're living under right here, we have an
23 arbitration case ongoing right now, we're waiting
24 for a decision.

25 Under sworn testimony from School

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2 District employees, School District personnel
3 administrators, in the persons of Mr. Mark
4 Specter, who used to be the financial head for the
5 School District, and there's still a member who's
6 still on board, Mr. Meyers.

7 At the testimony, under questions from
8 our lawyers, one of our lawyers at the arbitration
9 hearing, their sworn testimony was this last
10 contract, which was effective September 1, 1995
11 and expires August 1, 1999, the entire expenditure
12 to fund this contract for all 4300 members was
13 \$14 million.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It was what?

15 MR. DOYLE: \$14 million. What it comes
16 out to is 3/4 of 1 percent a year for 4 years.
17 This is what we had -- this is -- maybe this is
18 why I got voted into office, I don't know.

19 But it was \$14 million total, which is
20 1/10th of 1 percent of the entire budget, I would
21 imagine.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
25 Chair.

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2 I'm sorry, it's Mr. Doyle, right?

3 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Mr. Doyle, I
5 was, I guess, equally surprised -- although at
6 some level, I guess, pleasantly surprised to at
7 least hear the efforts of Local 1201 with regard
8 to the athletic resource support that you provide
9 to the School District.

10 I seem to remember somewhere a number
11 of years ago, there was kind of a landmark
12 contract negotiation with 1201 and some savings
13 that came out of that contract, and I guess at the
14 time, I knew that a number of things were being
15 supported by those savings, and if athletic
16 activities was one of them, it definitely clearly
17 got past me.

18 Can you very briefly, though, explain
19 how that came about and why this is -- why is a
20 local union whose employees work for the School
21 District, how do you end up helping to support
22 athletic programs run by the District? That is a
23 little perplexing to me.

24 MR. DOYLE: I wasn't personally
25 involved in those negotiations; I can only speak

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2 from what I think occurred. And part of the
3 agreement at that time was to get some -- JV
4 sports was going to be eliminated.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, I
6 remember that.

7 MR. DOYLE: And to save that, in a
8 gesture from Local 1201, they agreed in
9 negotiations to give \$400,000 a year every year to
10 fund the sports program.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That was at the
12 same time out of that, do I maybe recollect, that
13 the Board President at that time was Rotan Lee?

14 MR. DOYLE: I believe so, yes.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And that Mr. Lee
16 and a number of other people were going to look
17 to, I believe, maybe our professional sports teams
18 and other possible donors. This was at the time
19 of the proposed elimination of JV sports.

20 MR. DOYLE: Yes, that's correct.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And as a result of
22 that, they were going to try to seek outside
23 funding, I believe --

24 MR. DOYLE: Yes, from the Philadelphia
25 Eagles, the Phillies, the Sixers, the Flyers, and

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2 other bargaining units in the School District of
3 Philadelphia.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And do you
5 briefly any idea of what ever happened with any of
6 those?

7 MR. DOYLE: No one mentioned -- no one
8 that I know mentioned -- let me put it this way:
9 we are the only bargaining unit that contributes,
10 and no other outside entities contribute to the
11 sports program.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I'll have
13 some other questions for the District on that.

14 With regard to the bus issues and the
15 bus attendant issue, if I recall your testimony,
16 you're basically saying that the private-contract
17 bus companies, the District is paying additional
18 dollars to have attendants on those buses but
19 taking them off the 1201 buses. And are your
20 buses also the ones that we heard about maybe two
21 weeks ago that have video cameras on them? Well,
22 some actually have cameras, some don't.

23 MR. DOYLE: Some do and some don't,
24 yeah.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, is that the

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2 situation?

3 MR. DOYLE: Yes. They're taking them
4 off de-seg. buses and -- I'm sorry.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I have an
6 additional question. Is a part of this discussion
7 issues that will be subject to collective
8 bargaining?

9 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Attendants, no
11 attendants, how many all of that? I mean, it's a
12 function of money in the contract; is that
13 correct?

14 MR. DOYLE: Correct.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right.

16 I think for that part, Madam Chair,
17 that's all I'd like to talk to Mr. Doyle about. I
18 would like to go back at the appropriate time to
19 talk to Dr. Hornbeck or other appropriate School
20 District people about the sports issue.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

22 Mr. Doyle?

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes ma'am.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Did I
25 understand you to say that we had 600 aides in

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2 1994?

3 MR. DOYLE: I believe that's an
4 accurate figure, yes.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And today,
6 you're saying that we have 400 --

7 MR. DOYLE: We're under 450; it's
8 probably closer to 400 than 450.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, I'm
10 looking at the school budget. Bus drivers and
11 attendants, 636. And the appropriation is for
12 \$12,272,000. That's on Page 1202 of the Operating
13 Budget.

14 MR. DOYLE: Regrettably, the other
15 paperwork that I have from the Transportation
16 Division verifying the daily numbers of bus
17 attendants, I don't have here, but that would
18 verify the figures that I gave you of
19 approximately 400 to 450.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And how many
21 bus drivers did you say were --

22 MR. DOYLE: Right now, we have about
23 530, maybe 550.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And is
25 special ed. also included in that figure?

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2 MR. DOYLE: Yes, M.H. -- handicap,
3 multiple handicap, special ed., yes, they're
4 included in that.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. The
6 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
8 President.

9 Is there any kind of electronic
10 equipment that is available to the aides on the
11 buses -- cellular phones, communications between
12 or anything like that?

13 MR. DOYLE: None whatsoever.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Was there ever a
15 time when you had anything like that?

16 MR. DOYLE: Not that I'm aware of, and
17 I have 26 years with the system.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
19 correct me if I'm wrong, but I feel like we're
20 singing the same old songs. Didn't you ask this
21 question last year about the cameras and if we
22 were going to be looking into them and it's much
23 cheaper to install them? Am I correct?

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I think it may
25 have even been this year when we had the hearings.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And I think
3 you did mention that last year.

4 COUNCILMAN DiCicco: Last year, and we
5 talked about how the cost was a very minimal
6 cost.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Very nominal.

8 COUNCILMAN DiCicco: Right, a very
9 minimal cost. If we do it on a larger scale, it
10 brings the cost down.

11 MR. Doyle: And that's probably true
12 that the cost is much lower. The problem is,
13 looking at a tape of an incident that happened on
14 the bus after it occurred is like closing the barn
15 door after the horse is gone.

16 COUNCILMAN DiCicco: That was going to
17 be my question, then I'll yield to Councilman
18 Nutter for a minute.

19 COUNCILMAN Nutter: Thank you,
20 Councilman, .

21 Mr. Doyle, I'm sorry, did you say that
22 there are no communication devices on the buses?

23 MR. Doyle: The drivers have a radio,
24 but I believe Mr. DiCicco said to contact the
25 police, yeah.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So they can contact
3 on the radio --

4 MR. DOYLE: There's a radio on the bus,
5 the driver can contact a dispatcher, and the
6 dispatcher can relay something, yeah, but not cell
7 phones or --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So if something
9 happens on the bus, the child falls out, asthma
10 attack, anything, falls, hits their head or
11 something, he may not be able to call 9-1-1
12 immediately but you can at least reach the
13 dispatch office.

14 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: They would call
16 9-1-1, report the location --

17 MR. DOYLE: That is true.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right,
19 fine.

20 MR. DOYLE: If I was misleading in that
21 statement, I apologize, I didn't mean to.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, no problem.
23 I would be very concerned if there were no
24 communication device at all.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. All buses have

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2 radios as far as I'm aware of, yes.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 Is there anything else that you would
6 like, Mr. Doyle, to your testimony?

7 MR. DOYLE: No, just that I feel that
8 this bargaining unit in the past has made
9 tremendous sacrifices. In fact, it's even on Page
10 3 of this contract book that this bargaining unit
11 has suffered tremendous losses in the past.

12 And we just feel that it's necessary
13 now for this bargaining unit to let City Council
14 know, the Mayor know, and the parents of the
15 children of the School District of Philadelphia
16 and parents throughout the City of Philadelphia
17 that it's no longer business as usual. We can't
18 allow to continue to happen what happens every day
19 on these buses.

20 And as I said, with these 4 or 500
21 incidents, which is just a partial amount of
22 what's happened since the school year has started,
23 it behooves us to try to educate people to let 'em
24 know what is going on. And that it's not one way,
25 it's not just what the administration is trying to

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2 present, that there are other sides to every
3 coin.

4 And we want people to be aware of this,
5 that we're doing it to make people conscious of
6 the fact that this is going on, that it has to
7 stop, 'cause sooner or later, it's getting to the
8 point where we feel something dramatic is really
9 going to happen, where there's going to be a major
10 accident and, God forbid, something terrible
11 happens with a bus load of kids.

12 It just has to stop, and cutting
13 additional help at the salary that they make is
14 not going to resolve any problems, it's not going
15 to help anything. If anything, it's going to
16 ascerbate (sic) it, and it's just going to get
17 worse and worse and worse. And people have to be
18 made aware of it 'cause right now, we don't
19 believe that they are.

20 And somehow, some way, we have to let
21 the parents know, and that's why I'm here today,
22 and I appreciate you inviting me down here.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
24 Councilman DiCicco would like to ask you a
25 question.

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2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: One quick
3 questions. On buses that have cameras installed,
4 do they act as a deterrent? And, obviously,
5 there's no such thing as a cure-all, but do they
6 act as a deterrent, and do you have any statistics
7 that may indicate that there are less incidents on
8 buses that have cameras as opposed to buses that
9 do not have cameras?

10 MR. DOYLE: We do not have any
11 statistics, I don't know if the Board has them or
12 not. Obviously, I haven't requested statistics on
13 that matter.

14 I don't know if they do have numbers
15 that would indicate that, but personal opinion,
16 they see a camera up there, I don't think it makes
17 any difference to 'em whatsoever.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Could it be
19 because -- and I think this was testified to, that
20 not every bus that has a box actually has a camera
21 in it.

22 MR. DOYLE: That's true also. Some do;
23 like I said before, some do, some don't.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: From your
25 experience, again, understanding that this is not

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2 a cure-all for incidents to happen, but if every
3 bus were to have a camera and it was understood
4 and everyone realized that every bus had a camera
5 on it, and it wasn't, Well, maybe there's one on
6 there or maybe not, do you think that would be
7 helpful?

8 MR. DOYLE: Well, like I said, I
9 believe you're closing the barn door after the
10 horse is gone. I don't think there's anything
11 like having an additional body on the bus 'cause
12 cameras can't control children.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Let me go back. I
14 am not suggesting that cameras take the place of
15 personnel.

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I am saying with
18 personnel and cameras, would that be helpful?

19 MR. DOYLE: I think so, yes.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm rather
22 curious. Of the incident reports that you have in
23 your possession at the present time, how many of
24 the buses had aides on them?

25 MR. DOYLE: Some that -- well,

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2 obviously, like the one that had her hair ripped
3 out, she was obviously on that bus. We don't have
4 a breakdown of --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm sorry,
6 you're going to have to repeat what you said.
7 Obviously, what?

8 MR. Doyle: Obviously, the one that had
9 the clump of hair in it, that was an attendant
10 that was on that bus, but we don't have a
11 breakdown on how many routes had buses and how
12 many didn't have buses.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How many
14 routes had buses?

15 MR. Doyle: We would have to get
16 statistics from the driver on what route, what
17 particular route has an attendant and what route
18 doesn't have an attendant. We don't have that at
19 this time.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You mean you
21 wouldn't know what buses have aides on them? I
22 thought they came under your --

23 MR. Doyle: As I said, there's a
24 thousand different routes, and not all of them
25 have not all of them have bus attendants on 'em.

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2 Not all of 'em are 1201 routes, a lot of 'em are
3 contracted routes, so we just -- right now, I just
4 don't have those figures.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So the
6 incident reports that you have before you are
7 necessarily not your routes; is that what you're
8 saying?

9 MR. DOYLE: Pardon me?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Or are they
11 your routes? The incident reports that you
12 brought in with you --

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are they your
15 routes? Or are they --

16 MR. DOYLE: Well, 99 percent of these
17 incident --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Or are they
19 also the contracted --

20 MR. DOYLE: Like I said, 99 percent of
21 incident reports here are our routes. There are
22 some in there that are Atlantic Express. Now, it
23 could be that that Atlantic Express route has a
24 1201 bus attendant on it also. Some of our
25 attendants do go on contracted buses.

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2 But as far as we can ascertain, every
3 one here is a School District route. We don't get
4 copies of incidents from the contracted buses.
5 There are a few in here that we were able to get,
6 but in general, practices -- well, like I said, we
7 don't get these anyway; our folks have to
8 literally sneak into a Xerox room and make a copy
9 of it and get it to us. That's what happens,
10 'cause once it's gone from them, it's out of
11 sight, out of mind.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So who
13 actually fills out those forms; is it the aide or
14 is the bus driver?

15 MR. DOYLE: The attendant, the aide or
16 the bus driver may do it, depending on who handled
17 the incident.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So, in fact,
19 there were aides on these buses when the incidents
20 occurred?

21 MR. DOYLE: There are occasions when it
22 happens. Like I said, the one with the clump of
23 hair torn out, she was on that bus.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You told me
25 that but how about the others? Were their aides

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2 on those?

3 MR. DOYLE: Not aides, the attendants,
4 the bus attendants. There are attendants on buses
5 where incidents occur. Obviously, an attendant
6 has to be on that bus to write up the incident;
7 it's not just the driver that writes them up, the
8 attendants do also.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
10 other questions of Mr. Doyle?

11 (No further questions for Mr. Doyle at
12 this time.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there
14 anyone else to testify on these issues?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Hornbeck,
17 do you mind just coming up for a half a second,
18 please.

19 DR. HORNBECK: Sure.

20 MR. DOYLE: Would you like me to stay
21 or leave.

22 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: No, you can leave
23 or stay.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay, thank you very much
25 for the opportunity of coming.

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2 (Dr. Hornbeck returns to the witness
3 table.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You were here
5 to hear Mr. Doyle's presentation?

6 DR. HORNBECK: Yes.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'll tell
8 you, I feel like we're going around in a circle.
9 We address the book problem, now we're talking
10 about the attendants of buses, bus attendants.

11 I just could not imagine my child going
12 on a bus with some of the incidents that have
13 occurred that were described to us. I don't know
14 what I would do as a parent. I mean, what happens
15 once those reports are filed? Can you tell me
16 what happens? Who are they referred to?

17 DR. HORNBECK: The principal.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And what
19 action -- what does the principal do?

20 DR. HORNBECK: Well, it depends on the
21 incident. As Mr. Doyle testified, some involve
22 chewing gum and others include assault. The
23 person obviously chewing gum obviously is not
24 treated as strongly as the one who committed an
25 assault, and there will be people who experience

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2 up to and including expulsion from school.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So that the
4 principal doesn't make that decision. Does it
5 have to go before the --

6 DR. HORNBECK: Not an expulsion
7 decision.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Expulsion, it
9 does?

10 DR. HORNBECK: No, I said that it does
11 not.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It does not.
13 Wouldn't it have to go before the Board?

14 DR. HORNBECK: For expulsion.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Right.

16 DR. HORNBECK: But most incidents that
17 occur on buses are not expulsion incidents. And
18 there are many that are in fact within the
19 disciplinary purview of the principal; in fact,
20 the vast majority would be.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, the one
22 issue where a child pulled down his pants, I mean,
23 what happens in a case like that?

24 DR. HORNBECK: I can't answer in that
25 particular one. I mean, we could probably track

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2 it down.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Or if
4 somebody pulls out a clump of your hair?

5 DR. HORNBECK: I think it's outrageous
6 and it would be a kind of incident that would be
7 dealt with severely, but I don't know those
8 particular instances.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What is your
10 position, having heard what occurs on the buses
11 and that we have less attendants on the buses
12 today than we did in 1994?

13 DR. HORNBECK: I support that.

14 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: You support the --

15 DR. HORNBECK: The reduction in
16 attendance, yes.

17 There was a fair amount -- just like
18 the little exchange about cell phones that left
19 the impression that there was no way to
20 communicate with anyone, there were several things
21 left out. One was that when we began to reduce
22 attendants at the Recommendation of the management
23 and Productivity Committee of the Greater
24 Philadelphia First, and I think interestingly,
25 given your interest in it, I think that was also a

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2 recommendation in the Price Waterhouse report.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It was.

4 DR. Hornbeck: And so we looked at
5 that, and our initial reaction was, Gosh, maybe
6 that would save money, but it's not a real good
7 idea. And so we went and surveyed the other big
8 cities in the country, and we discovered we were
9 the only ones in the United States that had bus
10 attendants, and we discovered that the safety
11 record was not different in Philadelphia basically
12 from other places. There was no discernible
13 impact of having those aides.

14 And so, in response to these
15 recommendations, we began to reduce them. And as
16 Mr. Doyle testified, we've reduced a couple of
17 hundred at this point. The first year we reduced
18 them, the incidents went down on the buses. The
19 second year, they went up a little bit.

20 And for those two years, the incident
21 count seemed to confirm that the presence or the
22 absence of attendants doesn't seem to change the
23 safety record, nor the incident report. And
24 that's kind of underlined by even the example that
25 Mr. Doyle happened to use wherein the incident

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2 that he held up for you happened to be a route on
3 which there was an attendant, and it happened to
4 be attendant that was the object of the attack.
5 That doesn't make the attack any less
6 reprehensible; it absolutely is.

7 The only point is, does the presence of
8 an attendant increase, decrease, or not change the
9 safety record and the incident record? And it
10 appears to be the case from the facts both in
11 Philadelphia and in other places around the
12 country that it does not.

13 Given that, if we're going to have
14 basically the same safety record and basically the
15 same incident record and we can save \$2 million,
16 \$2.5 million, I think Price Waterhouse and Greater
17 Philadelphia First and we all concluded that that
18 was the wise course to take.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
20 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 Mr. Superintendent, I certainly do not
24 expect you to know details of the one fairly
25 graphic incident that was reported to us this

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2 afternoon. Notwithstanding that, and I have not
3 had a chance to look at the documentation or the
4 incident report, but I think in a non -- not
5 necessarily in a public forum, I do not know after
6 today, whether you will be back before us in a
7 public forum, but I think certainly by way of an
8 appropriately sanitized response, I would in fact
9 like to know what happened with that particular
10 student.

11 DR. HORNBECK: Okay.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'd like to know
13 what school they were going to when this incident
14 happened, I would like to know whether anyone was
15 charged with anything or any other disciplinary
16 action taken by the District or by police
17 authorities. And lastly, I'd like to know if the
18 student's in the same school, in another school,
19 or has been expelled from the School District of
20 Philadelphia completely.

21 DR. HORNBECK: Are you referring to the
22 incident of pulling the pants down?

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Pulling the pants
24 down, touching, and all that.

25 DR. HORNBECK: If I could ask Mr. Doyle

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2 to leave with us that particular report so that we
3 have a way of tracking it down, we'd be glad to
4 provide you with, as you put it, a sanitized
5 version.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, I would like
7 to know what happened in that situation.

8 What I would like to talk to you about,
9 though, is this issue with regard to -- and I've
10 acknowledged the efforts of Local 1201 and I do
11 recall this landmark contract providing some
12 additional savings.

13 I will say to you, though, that I again
14 was somewhat surprised -- or maybe it's a failing
15 memory -- that they are providing these funds for
16 the District to run athletic programs. Now, is
17 there an office or a division of athletics in the
18 School District? I couldn't --

19 DR. HORNBECK: Yes.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- easily discern a
21 tab for that group. Are they athletic dollars
22 spread out through the senior high school budget,
23 the middle school budget, and the elementary
24 school budget? I mean, there is a separate
25 department? And is it within the budget book

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2 here?

3 DR. HORNBECK: There -- I can't cite
4 the page, but there is a Director of Athletics.
5 Her name is Linda Magee.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, I've seen
7 that from the letters here. Do you have any idea
8 what the budget is for that particular unit of the
9 School District?

10 DR. HORNBECK: I do not, Councilman
11 Nutter. I do know that 1201 for now about four or
12 five years has given us those funds, and we are
13 really grateful to them for it.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you don't know
15 the actual budget of athletics, the 460-some-odd
16 thousand dollars, either this year or next year,
17 is that a significant portion of the budget for
18 athletics throughout the School District, or is --

19 DR. HORNBECK: It's a significant part
20 of the JV budget.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The JV budget. So
22 we fully fund the, I guess, varsity sports in the
23 School District?

24 DR. HORNBECK: I can't break it down
25 for you; I'll be glad to send that to you but I

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2 can't do that here.

3 But as far as I know, on a system-wide
4 basis, Local 1201 has been the only entity that
5 has contributed funds. The testimony with respect
6 to Mr. Lee's efforts to secure funds from sports
7 teams, which happened just before I came here, did
8 not work out.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

10 DR. HORNBECK: And then we went through
11 a period of time over the next year or two where
12 JV sports became one of the things that was
13 constantly on the cutting block.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: On the block,
15 right.

16 DR. HORNBECK: And, in fact, the young
17 lady who was the student council representative to
18 the Board at the time made that her issue. And
19 the Board, in that period before Council and the
20 Mayor and we started taking our no-cut policy,
21 each year cut sports and each year restored
22 sports, and 1201's contribution was a part of
23 that.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I'm sure to
25 the extent that we can keep 1201 doing what

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2 they're doing, we certainly want to encourage it,
3 but I guess the thought occurs to me, and I would
4 say for the record here that, I mean, it is
5 somewhat stunning, if not ironic and possibly
6 insulting that, you know, behind the scenes for
7 the moment and soon to be out in full public,
8 there will be a tremendous amount of discussion
9 for the funding and construction of over half a
10 billion dollars worth of stadiums here in
11 Philadelphia, while at the same time, we are
12 having difficulty struggle to fund high school
13 sports activities, and those two things do not
14 make sense.

15 And so I think in any discussion about
16 the professional teams, we will certainly have to
17 raise the issue about our high school sports
18 programs in that context of that discussion.

19 DR. HORNBECK: I, of course, concur in
20 the notion that our priorities in this state are
21 seriously out of whack -- having nothing to do or
22 limited to stadiums. But there is an interesting
23 just sort of coincidental connection between
24 expenditures for sports and expenditures for
25 sports stadiums. I understand the connection.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you.

3 DR. HORNBECK: Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I appreciate the
5 information.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
7 other questions or comments from members of the
8 committee?

9 (No further questions for Dr. Hornbeck
10 at this time.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there
12 anyone else to testify?

13 Do you want to take a seat please.

14 (Bonnie Brooks comes forward).

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please
16 identify yourself for the record and proceed with
17 your testimony.

18 MS. BROOKS: My name is Bonnie Brooks,
19 and I'm a School Aide I for a Philadelphia School
20 Board. I ride a de-seg. bus, I also work inside
21 the building.

22 What has not been made clear here is
23 that incident reports and pink slips that are
24 written up on kids go inside the buildings, and
25 that's where they're left. They never get to

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2 Transportation or downtown anywhere; they go
3 inside. And if a kid -- if something happens to a
4 kid, a fight or anything to that effect, it goes
5 inside the building. They may give the kid a
6 lunch detention, they may not do anything. It
7 sits in a drawer somewhere.

8 Along with the fact, all the incident
9 reports that my president offered today are from
10 buses that don't have aides on them. That bus has
11 anywhere from 40 to 60 children on it. There is
12 no way, shape or form that that driver can come
13 down the road with that many kid and bring 'em in
14 safe without having someone there with them.
15 Along with the fact that once we step off the
16 buses and go inside the buildings, we now become
17 classroom assistants. We are MTAs, we are the
18 security.

19 And once they pull us off of these
20 buses, that's a body that will not be in that
21 building. So that's less security that the
22 children have.

23 I can't believe that they can allow
24 this to happen and say that these children are
25 coming in safe.

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2 As far as the cameras go, yeah, they
3 have cameras, they have boxes. There aren't any
4 cameras in there. For every garage out here,
5 there may be two cameras. I come out of a garage
6 called Passyunk -- there's more than 300 buses in
7 that garage and only 2 real cameras.

8 There's been incidents where if a fight
9 breaks out, the driver cannot stop in the middle
10 of the boulevard and stop these children from
11 fighting so somebody's beat to death by the time
12 he gets to the side, pull it over and then go back
13 and try to settle the kids down. So I can't for
14 the life of me understand where they're saying
15 that our jobs are not important.

16 Now, they came up with cluster leaders,
17 trainers for clusters. They make way more than we
18 make, but we're not important. And we're the ones
19 with the kids every day. I spend more time with
20 the kids than the principal or a teacher. I get
21 up at -- I'm on the bus at 7 o'clock in the
22 morning, and I'm not off of that bus again until
23 quarter to 6. That's the end of my day every day,
24 along with the 7 hours I put inside of a building
25 for this small amount of money that I make.

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2 And I really want people to understand
3 exactly what we do. They give you one piece. And
4 every day, something goes on on these buses that
5 don't have anybody on them. The kids is hanging
6 out windows, there's people throwing things, all
7 kinds of things going. You have to be there to
8 see it, and a camera will not do it. It has to be
9 another body along with that driver.

10 And then along with the things that we
11 do inside of the building, and I don't even know
12 whether or not Mr. Hornbeck knows this I. Know we
13 try to tell 'em.

14 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: We've heard of bus
15 aides and bus attendants. Is there a difference
16 or are they the same?

17 MS. Brooks: The difference is, the bus
18 attendants basically ride the physically
19 handicapped buses, for the most part. They get on
20 buses with TMR children or children that are in
21 wheelchairs. The school aide rides a de-seg.
22 bus. These are the children that are bused all
23 over the city from west Philly to Northeast, from
24 Northeast back down to West Philly. Those buses
25 have 40 to 60 kids on 'em.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The de-seg.
3 buses?

4 MS. Brooks: Right, from grades 1 to
5 8th. And they ride anywhere from one hour to two
6 hours before they even get to school.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Oh, my God,
8 two hours?

9 MS. Brooks: Yeah, it could be that
10 long. It is a long ride and it's a long day, and
11 our responsibilities don't end once we get 'em off
12 the buses.

13 So when you look at pulling this person
14 off the bus, okay, you solve one problem, but what
15 happens to what we do when we get inside of the
16 building? When I get inside the building, I do
17 lunch detentions, I do hall duties. I even take
18 care of the pink slips that come through. So I
19 can tell you that 500 pink slips came in today,
20 they went to their principal, and they sitting in
21 the box, and nothing happens.

22 Or maybe if you push hard enough and it
23 gets bad enough, they might pull a kid off for one
24 day, or they may give him a lunch detention. But
25 they don't go anywhere. And he doesn't know that.

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2 And I think that if the parents knew
3 exactly what happens, that they would figure out a
4 way to keep us all there instead of sending us
5 someplace else or not having us at all, or no job,
6 period.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do you think
8 parents are aware?

9 Ms. Brooks: Some of 'em. Some are,
10 some aren't.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Okay, thank
12 you so much for coming in to testify.

13 Mr. Doyle, you had your hand raised.
14 Did you want to make a statement?

15 Mr. Doyle: Briefly.

16 (Mr. Doyle returns to the witness
17 table.)

18 Mr. Doyle: A couple of things briefly
19 I would like to say.

20 There's two letters I have here. One's
21 from Joseph (unintelligible), who's the
22 coordinator in the Transportation Division, and he
23 sent it to John Lombardi, the director.

24 (Reading.) As requested, I did follow
25 up with the same school districts that

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2 participated in our on March bus attendants
3 survey. Following questions were posed:

4 Do you bus regular education children
5 long distances? (Read long distance as being more
6 than 60 minutes each way.)

7 Question 2. Other than the bus driver,
8 is there any other adult supervisor on the school
9 bus?

10 Over all, I found that most districts
11 -- most districts -- do not bus their students
12 long distances. That's over 60 minutes. So that
13 doesn't say that they don't bus them under 60
14 minutes. They exclude the over -- they make it
15 exclusively long-distance busing.

16 Districts in Virginia, for example, are
17 limited by law to a 60-minute maximum ride. In
18 Portland, Oregon; St. Louis, Missouri; Houston,
19 Texas; though, do to cross-country busing to
20 magnet schools, some routes did exceed the
21 60-minute running time. Yet no district surveyed
22 used bus attendants or other adult supervisors,
23 excluding the bus driver, on these regular
24 educational routes.

25 The questions they did not ask is: Did

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2 you have attendants in the past? Have your
3 incident referrals gone up? Do you intend to hire
4 attendants in the future? I mean, limiting it to
5 these two basic questions is not a survey,
6 although this is what they sent to us and said
7 here's the survey of what's going on.

8 The other slip, which I believe you
9 have, behavioral referrals on regular education
10 bus routes. School year '95-'96, number of
11 attendants removed not available, 182 referrals.
12 School year '96-'97, number of attendants removed,
13 46. Behavioral referrals, 125. A decrease of 31
14 percent.

15 1997-'98, number of attendants removed,
16 another 46. Number of behavioral referrals, 239.
17 That's an increase of 91 percent.

18 And then '96-'97, not available on bus
19 attendants removed. Behavioral referrals, 287, up
20 from 239.

21 In '97-'98, 477, when they removed 55
22 more. That's up another 66 percent.

23 So I think the figures are not -- they
24 don't equate out to what the Superintendent said.
25 The more you remove, the higher those referrals

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2 get, and it's going to continue and continue and
3 continue.

4 Like I said, for the entire school year
5 of '97-'98, they have 477 referrals. I showed you
6 477 today from the north region, and we still have
7 to go to June 22nd for school. It's not like
8 school's over today or this weekend. We still
9 have months of school to go, and that's just from
10 the north region.

11 As Bonnie said, these referrals, these
12 incident reports, they're getting stuffed
13 somewhere -- whether it's done purposely or not, I
14 don't know, but they're going in somebody's drawer
15 and they're dying on the vine. And if we could
16 get every one of them, I guarantee you, I would
17 have had a table full of incident reports in here
18 today.

19 And if you read some of 'em, you go in
20 there and kids are being assaulted, beat up, three
21 and four kids on one child. It's crazy, it's
22 absolutely crazy and, I believe, irresponsible,
23 and it has to stop. We have to keep these
24 members, these employees on the buses, or it's
25 going to -- it's going to take a disaster or

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2 somebody's going to have to get killed, then
3 people, I guess, will wake up, you know. And
4 that's what I don't want to see happen. Okay?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
6 very much, Mr. Doyle.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you for the
8 opportunity. I appreciate it.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
10 Is there anyone else to testify?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing no
13 one, the committee will stand in recess until
14 Wednesday, March 24th, at 2 p.m. Thank you.

15 (Adjourned at 3:23 p.m.)

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RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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BUDGET HEARINGS

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BILL NO. 990026, 990027, 990028

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

Registered Professional Reporter