1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF			
2	10	ORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA		
3		, Leah Cooper, ) Civil Action - Law		
4	Amy Elliott, John Elliott, ) No. 2024-SU-0013: Jeff Harmon, Tara High, )			
5	Katherine Jan S Jesse Sayre, ar	Jarrett, ) nd Jane Vivier, )		
6	I	) Plaintiffs )		
7	VS	) )		
8	Board of School of the West Sho	ore School ) i Thomas, )		
10	Kelly Brent, Da Brenda Cox, and			
11	I	) Defendants )		
12				
13		000		
14	DEPONENT:	Mandy Davis		
15	TAKEN BY:	Plaintiffs		
16	DATE:	Tuesday, January 28, 2025		
17	TIME:	2:12 p.m.		
18	PLACE:	Ream, Carr, Markey, Woloshin &		
19		Hunter, LLP 119 East Market Street		
20	DEDODMED.	York, Pennsylvania		
21	REPORTER:	Angela Kilby Court Reporter, Notary Public		
22				
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25				

1	APPEARANCES:				
2					
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11	Counsel for Defendants				
12	Counsel for Defendants				
13					
14	ALSO PRESENT:				
15	Jeff Harmon				
16	Tara High Brenda Cox				
17	Kelly Brent Brian Guistwhite				
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- 2 It is hereby stipulated and agreed by
- 3 and between counsel for the respective parties
- 4 that the deposition is being taken for
- 5 discovery; that reading, signing, sealing,
- 6 certification, and filing are waived; that all
- 7 objections, except as to the form of the
- 8 question, are reserved to the time of trial.
- 9 \* \* \* \*
- 10 MANDY DAVIS,
- 11 called upon by Plaintiffs to give testimony, being
- duly sworn or affirmed by me, testified as follows:
- 13 \* \* \* \*
- 14 EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 16 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Davis. I am John
- 17 Elliott, I am the attorney representing
- 18 plaintiffs in this matter.
- 19 You are represented here today by
- 20 Attorney Josh Bonn, correct?
- 21 A. Mm-hmm. Yes.
- 22 Q. Have you ever -- for the record, can
- you please give your name and address?
- A. Mandy Davis. 448 Old State Road,
- 25 Lewisberry.

- 1 Q. Have you ever given a deposition
- 2 before?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. I'll briefly go over the ground rules
- 5 for the deposition before we get started.
- 6 Obviously you are under oath, subject
- 7 to the penalties of perjury, just as though we
- 8 were in court. Your duty is to tell the truth
- 9 to the best of your recollection.
- I need to ask you questions that you
- 11 can hear and understand. If at any time you
- don't understand the question, please ask me to
- 13 repeat it or rephrase it. Otherwise, if you
- 14 answer, we'll presume that you have heard and
- 15 understood the question.
- Do you understand that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And a written transcript is being
- 19 taken down by the stenographer today. So, your
- 20 responses need to be verbal as opposed to shakes
- 21 of the head, nods, gestures. Okay? Do you
- 22 understand that?
- 23 A. Which is what I like to do a lot.
- Q. We'll try to remind you if you fall
- 25 into that.

- 1 If at any time you need to take a
- 2 break or speak to your counsel, that is fine.
- 3 Let us know and we can pause.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. Do you have any questions about the
- 6 process?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. What is your educational background?
- 9 A. Bachelors degree.
- 10 Q. When did you get that?
- 11 A. Oh, golly. You are going to make me
- 12 think.
- Well, I think I graduated in 2003.
- 14 Q. Okay. Where did you graduate from?
- 15 A. Baptist Bible College.
- 16 Q. Where is that located?
- 17 A. Clarks Summit.
- 18 Q. Is that here in Pennsylvania?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. What is your employment history?
- 21 A. Oh, okay. From when?
- 22 Q. Starting after college.
- A. After college?
- 24 Q. Yeah.
- 25 A. I worked with a place called

- 1 Lordsmont. Right after -- well, during college
- 2 and right after college, which was basically a
- 3 juvie home for troubled girls from out of
- 4 Philly, sometimes -- mostly out of Philly.
- 5 That became, like, extremely high
- 6 stress, and then they had a position open to
- 7 where I could work with kids in the middle
- 8 school that would be on the verge of needing to
- 9 be sent to a juvie-type situation. So, I worked
- 10 in -- I believe it was a Scranton School
- 11 District for maybe a couple years before I
- 12 married my husband.
- Then we moved to Denver, Colorado. I
- 14 got a job as a bank teller there, and I loved it
- 15 because it wasn't as high stress. Then I had
- 16 babies and I stayed at home with them and I
- 17 would do odd things here and there to just help
- 18 get extra money. One door would close, another
- 19 would open. And currently I run my own business
- 20 cleaning houses.
- 21 Q. How long have you been engaged in your
- 22 own business?
- 23 A. I don't know, maybe three years.
- I am going to put this on the line
- 25 right now. I am terrible with dates. I am

- 1 lucky I remember my kids' birthdays. So, like,
- 2 I feel like my daughter asked me this morning or
- 3 last night when we bought our house. It was
- 4 actually when did we flip a house. And I was,
- 5 like, I have no idea. I can't remember. I have
- 6 to think really hard.
- 7 So, if you are asking me for years, I
- 8 don't know why, it all starts to blur after --
- 9 Q. Okay. All right. Well, I'll test
- 10 your recollection a little bit with the next
- 11 question.
- 12 When were you elected to the school
- 13 board?
- A. Oh, well, about a year ago. So, 20 --
- 15 okay, 2023.
- 16 Q. Okay. So, you came on approximately
- 17 December of last year?
- 18 A. Our reorganization meeting was the
- 19 first Tuesday of December of that year of the
- 20 election.
- Q. So, you came on the same time as Ms.
- 22 Brent?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Prior to the election, did you have
- 25 any prior experience serving on any sort of

- 1 municipal or government boards or agencies?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What experience did you have?
- 4 A. I served as the recording secretary
- 5 for Mount Wolf Borough for maybe six -- I don't
- 6 know. Maybe eight years. Six to eight years.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. It was a good little stint.
- 9 Q. What did you do as the recording
- 10 secretary?
- 11 A. I answered -- so, it is a really small
- 12 town. So, it is not like you have to be in the
- office, which was perfect for me. So, I would
- 14 go down once or twice a week, check voicemails.
- 15 If there were right-to-knows, I would get them
- 16 to the correct people so they were fulfilled in
- 17 time. Opened mail, give it to the right person,
- 18 take the minutes, file things that would need
- 19 filed. Ran a Facebook page.
- I think that is about it.
- 21 Q. In that capacity, did you have any
- 22 responsibilities with regard to the -- for the
- 23 budget for the municipality?
- A. Nope.
- 25 Q. That job with Mount Wolf, was that the

- 1 only experience with municipal or government
- 2 bodies?
- 3 A. I think so. I can't think of anything
- 4 else.
- 5 Q. Have you had any training relating to
- 6 the Sunshine Act or the right-to-know laws since
- 7 you have come on the board?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What training have you had?
- 10 A. The PSBA-1. Probably -- it was pretty
- 11 quick after being elected. That was, like, a
- 12 five-hour required one. In fact, I think we are
- 13 supposed to keep freshening up every year.
- 14 And we had one, like, separately with
- 15 Stock and Leader with Brooke. But don't ask me
- 16 when that was.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. Because I don't -- everything, like --
- 19 timelines blur to me.
- Q. The one with Stock and Leader, was
- 21 that a meeting in person somewhere?
- 22 A. No, we all got together for that.
- 23 Like, we went and met where we have our
- 24 executive meetings. We all had a meeting in
- 25 regard to that. I don't know if it was a

- 1 meeting. It was, like, a training.
- 2 (Brian Guistwhite entered the room.)
- 3 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 4 Q. Right. But you did it in person at
- 5 the school district offices?
- A. Yes, mm-hmm.
- 7 Q. In approximately -- were you present
- 8 for Ms. Brent's entire deposition?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. We talked there about in
- 11 approximately January there was an RFP ad hoc
- 12 committee formed to look into potentially doing
- 13 a request for proposal for legal services,
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. Mm-hmm, yes.
- 16 Q. Did you have any involvement or input
- 17 with that committee in any way?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Did anyone talk to you about what went
- 20 on in those meetings?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. And did you affirmatively try to give
- 23 any input or information to anybody who was on
- 24 that committee?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. What was your first contact with Kevin
- 2 Hall?
- 3 A. I believe it was a phone call.
- 4 Q. Okay. Do you remember approximately
- 5 when that was?
- A. Hmm-mm, I don't.
- 7 Q. Okay. How -- did he call you?
- 8 A. I think he called me. I can't
- 9 remember. I could have called him and left a
- 10 voicemail. But I don't remember if it was the
- 11 other way around.
- 12 Q. All right. Do you -- prior to this
- 13 call occurring, did you know who he was?
- 14 A. Nope.
- 15 Q. All right. Did you -- what is your
- 16 recollection of how the call happened? Like,
- 17 did -- for instance, did Ms. Brent tell you she
- 18 had already spoken to this person?
- 19 A. She told me about him.
- Q. Okay. What did she tell you about?
- 21 A. Just that he had reached out to her
- 22 and she thought that it was interesting and that
- 23 he had questions about our district. And then
- 24 that is where it went.
- 25 Q. Okay. So, during your first call with

- 1 him, what did you discuss with Attorney Hall?
- 2 A. Well, there had been a lot of things
- 3 going on in our district that I had never dealt
- 4 with before. The most I had ever dealt with the
- 5 Mount Wolf Borough was feral cat people. And
- 6 that was -- we thought that was, like, crazy.
- 7 So, things that were going on after
- 8 every meeting I would process, because it takes
- 9 me awhile to process things. And I would be,
- 10 like, is this even normal? Am I seeing things
- 11 the right way?
- 12 So, I thought it was nice to talk to
- 13 another attorney and just pick his brain and
- 14 say, like, is this normal way of acting? Am I
- 15 crazy?
- That's pretty much for me at that
- 17 point I needed to process. I thought that was a
- 18 great opportunity to just process with someone.
- 19 Q. Okay. When you talk about things
- 20 going on, what are you referring to?
- 21 A. Like, there was a lot of accusations
- 22 being thrown out at us, coming to meetings and
- 23 not expecting -- like, wondering how people knew
- 24 about certain things that were going on that
- 25 shouldn't have been known. And then, like,

- 1 constituents coming in, and, like, bringing
- 2 those things up.
- 3 Oh, my gosh. Just a lot.
- 4 Q. Can you give me example of something
- 5 people knowing about something going on that
- 6 they shouldn't have known about?
- 7 A. I cannot give you a specific example,
- 8 except that there was a time when something was
- 9 in board notes, and our board notes are
- 10 confidential. It says right on top,
- 11 confidential document. And we were getting
- 12 e-mails in reference to something that was in
- 13 that board notes. And I was, like, someone on
- 14 the board is leaking this out, or letting
- 15 constituents know about this.
- And, so, I brought it up in executive
- 17 session and said why is this happening when it
- 18 says up top that it is confidential. This
- 19 shouldn't even be coming to us. And they --
- 20 there was some excuse made.
- 21 Q. Do you remember what the topic was
- 22 that was leaked?
- 23 A. Part of me wonders if it was the
- 24 Byrnes, because that was like a hot topic. But
- 25 I can't -- that is -- I am speculating on that

- 1 one.
- 2 Q. When you say the Byrnes, what was
- 3 that?
- 4 A. That Byrnes Health thing. The -- oh,
- 5 golly. The Byrnes Health Group -- is that what
- 6 they are called? I can't even remember. That
- 7 we contracted to teach the Grow and Know hygiene
- 8 for the fifth graders. So, that was, like, a
- 9 big huge blow up in the district.
- 10 Q. How many -- did you ever meet in
- 11 person with Attorney Hall prior to April 11 of
- 12 last year?
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. How many times did you meet with him?
- 15 A. I went with Kelly the first time, and
- 16 then the second time I went with Brenda, because
- 17 she asked me to and I said I would.
- 18 Q. Was that at Attorney Hall's office?
- 19 Where did you meet?
- A. Attorney Hall's office.
- 21 Q. So, the first time that you met with
- 22 Kelly at Attorney Hall's office, do you remember
- 23 approximately when that was?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Do you think it would have been

- 1 sometime in March of last year?
- 2 A. Probably.
- 3 Q. Okay. What did you discuss with
- 4 Attorney Hall at that meeting?
- 5 A. I don't remember. I probably
- 6 processed again.
- 7 Q. So, your recollection is you were
- 8 talking to him about what you were experiencing
- 9 on the board?
- 10 A. 100 percent.
- 11 Q. Did you ask any questions to him
- 12 about, for instance, his qualifications to be
- 13 solicitor?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Or anything like that?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Other than talking about processing
- 18 your own experiences, was there anything else
- 19 that you recall speaking to Attorney Hall about
- 20 at that first meeting?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. What about the time you met
- 23 with -- that is Brenda Cox, I am presuming?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall when that meeting took

- 1 place?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. What did you -- what happened
- 4 at that meeting? What was discussed?
- 5 A. Same stuff. Same kind of -- just
- 6 processing.
- 7 Q. Okay. And did you learn anything more
- 8 about Attorney Hall's experience or
- 9 qualifications relating to education law or
- 10 school board representation?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 O. So, so far we have talked about the
- 13 initial call, two meetings.
- 14 Did you have any other meetings or
- 15 calls with Attorney Hall prior to April 11?
- 16 A. Not that I recall.
- 17 Q. Okay. Did you speak to -- outside of
- 18 the presence of Attorney Hall, did you speak to
- 19 any of the other board members about Attorney
- 20 Hall prior to April 11?
- 21 A. Well, I went home and talked with
- 22 Kelly, because she called me. And -- talking
- 23 about him to any other board members, I would
- 24 say no.
- Q. Okay. When you say you talked to

- 1 Kelly, are you talking about the --
- 2 A. The initial.
- 3 Q. -- your initial contact where she
- 4 basically told you who he was?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. All right. And that was -- was that
- 7 before you had spoken to Attorney Hall for the
- 8 first time?
- 9 A. That would have been before, correct.
- 10 Q. All right. So, those were the only
- 11 direct communications you had with Attorney Hall
- 12 prior to the April 11 meeting?
- 13 A. I believe. I mean, I would have had
- 14 to call to set up an appointment with Brenda.
- 15 But that would have been the only other --
- 16 O. So --
- 17 A. So, that would have been a separate
- 18 phone call.
- 19 Q. All right. What -- so, prior to the
- 20 April 11 meeting, what was your understanding of
- 21 Attorney Hall's experience relating to school
- 22 board representation or education law?
- 23 A. Well, I really didn't have a lot of
- 24 information on that.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. I thought that he -- I mean, I heard
- 2 that he had experience, because his firm did.
- 3 So --
- 4 Q. Who told you that his firm had
- 5 experience?
- 6 A. I think Kelly told me that.
- 7 Q. Other than that, did you have any
- 8 other means of assuring yourself that he was
- 9 qualified to be the solicitor?
- 10 A. No, I didn't do -- no.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. Just all what I told you.
- Q. Did you talk to any other attorneys
- 14 about potentially being a new solicitor?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Did you think the board should explore
- 17 other possibilities other than Attorney Hall
- 18 before making a decision?
- 19 A. I was near here nor there on that
- 20 decision. Like, I was -- I was going with what
- 21 our president and vice president would choose to
- 22 do.
- 23 Q. So, were you relying on the president
- 24 and the vice president to look into those
- 25 matters and you were just going to trust their

- 1 judgment?
- 2 A. At that time, yeah. In regards to all
- 3 that.
- 4 Q. So, did you come to -- other than you
- 5 said relying on what either Ms. Thomas or Ms.
- 6 Brent said, did you independently come to any
- 7 conclusions about whether Attorney Hall was
- 8 qualified to be the solicitor?
- 9 A. I came to a conclusion during the
- 10 April 11 meeting.
- 11 Q. Okay. What led you to come to a
- 12 conclusion?
- 13 A. Well, there was a lot of things that I
- 14 had to weigh and think about. That was a very
- 15 long meeting. It was a very stressful meeting.
- 16 And I really wasn't sure what the right thing to
- 17 do was at that moment. And I had to pray about
- 18 it before I gave my answer.
- 19 And when I deducted things, I decided
- 20 that would be the best thing to do.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. It was literally when they called my
- 23 name. And I froze because I was, like, I don't
- 24 know what to do. But then I made my decision.
- Q. Okay. What led you to believe that

- 1 was the right decision?
- 2 A. I had to weigh in all the things that
- 3 had happened in the past. And I did think that
- 4 we were misrepresented in certain areas with
- 5 Brooke Say. And that came to mind. And I
- 6 didn't always feel like we were being
- 7 represented fairly, especially after what
- 8 happened with the Byrnes statement. And that
- 9 kind of really opened my eyes to that.
- 10 Q. Okay. When you said you felt
- 11 misrepresented -- when you are talking about the
- 12 Byrnes statement, is that the statement that Dr.
- 13 Stoltz made publicly you referred to?
- 14 A. 100 percent.
- 15 (Brian Guistwhite left the room.)
- 16 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 17 Q. That was essentially that -- well, I
- 18 don't want to put words in your mouth. What was
- 19 your recollection of what Dr. Stoltz said that
- was objectionable?
- 21 A. The phrase lack of decorum was said in
- 22 that statement to the press. And in executive
- 23 session I had said I do not like that phrase, it
- 24 is throwing our board members under the bus and
- 25 I would like it to be worded differently.

- 1 To that, he refused to do that. And I
- 2 was not happy to be refused when I am a board
- 3 member and I am looking out for us and he did
- 4 not even try to reword it differently.
- 5 Then our attorney was sitting there --
- 6 because when I made that statement, other board
- 7 members chimed in and said I agree, I do not
- 8 like that statement as well. And she should
- 9 have spoken up and said maybe this should be
- 10 worded differently.
- 11 She is an attorney. She knows how to
- 12 word things. She is trained to do that. And
- 13 she could have helped reword that so it didn't
- 14 come across the way it did. Because I knew when
- 15 that went out, it was going to hit the public,
- 16 and we were going to get all the fire for it.
- 17 And we did. And I was not happy about that at
- 18 all.
- 19 Q. Were you present at the meeting with
- the Byrnes Group?
- 21 A. I was not.
- 22 O. Other than that incident where you
- 23 said Attorney Say should have spoken up and she
- 24 didn't, were there any other instances in your
- 25 view where Attorney Say say did not represent

- 1 the board properly in some way?
- 2 A. There were things that they may come
- 3 up to me after I called out something in the
- 4 contract that I didn't like, I felt like it was
- 5 an overreach for Byrnes to ask of medical
- 6 records of the children. And I had said I
- 7 didn't like that in the meeting and I was taken
- 8 to the side afterwards and told that I should
- 9 not do that in a meeting, that I should call her
- 10 or call someone prior to that.
- 11 And I was, like, well doesn't that --
- isn't that the purpose of bringing things into
- 13 the Sunshine Law so the public can know that
- 14 this is what's going on and we are doing what
- 15 they asked us to do in representing them as --
- 16 due diligence. In doing my due diligence.
- So, those were things that I was not
- 18 fond of as well.
- 19 Q. When you say -- was the person who
- 20 pulled you aside Attorney Say or was that
- 21 somebody else?
- 22 A. Two people.
- Q. Who was it?
- A. First Matt Gay, and then she came to
- 25 me separately.

- 1 Q. Okay. Who was it they thought you
- 2 should not have said in the meeting?
- 3 A. Well, they did not know that phrase
- 4 was in the contract, so I don't think they liked
- 5 that I called it out and it caught them off
- 6 guard. But that means I read through it and
- 7 caught something that stood out to me that I
- 8 didn't like.
- 9 And in the meeting they were, like,
- 10 that is not in there, and I was, like, yes, it
- 11 is. And I found it.
- 12 Q. Are there any other specific instances
- 13 you can recall where you thought either Ms. Say
- or Stock and Leader generally was not --
- 15 A. At this point, no.
- Q. Okay. So, in your meeting or
- 17 discussions with Attorney Hall prior to April
- 18 11, did you ever discuss with him any specific
- 19 policy goals for the school board or things that
- you wanted to achieve on behalf of the board?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 O. Do you know if he is associated with
- 23 any political organizations?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Since that time, have you found out --

- 1 are you aware if he has -- become aware of him
- 2 being a member of any?
- 3 A. I actually just asked someone a few
- 4 days ago if he was affiliated with anything, and
- 5 I thought the answer was the Cumberland --
- 6 something with Cumberland County Republican
- 7 something. So -- but I don't know. I just
- 8 found out the other day he is apparently
- 9 president of the Cumberland Library.
- 10 Q. Okay. But some sort of Republican
- organization for Cumberland County?
- 12 A. Something, yes. I don't know what he
- 13 does.
- Q. All right. Did you ever talk to Heidi
- 15 Thomas about your impressions of Attorney Hall
- 16 in any way?
- 17 A. I said he had nice hair. Because he
- 18 does.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. He has, like, really nice hair. But,
- 21 no. I don't recall talking about any
- 22 impressions that I would have had of him.
- 23 Q. Did you --
- A. It is hard to get to know someone in a
- 25 brief meeting of sorts.

- 1 Q. Do you think you had enough time to do
- 2 your due diligence, to find out whether Hall --
- 3 Attorney Hall would be appropriate for the
- 4 solicitor?
- 5 A. I believed that he could be competent
- 6 of it. When I think about it throughout the
- 7 meeting and what the solicitor is hired for, and
- 8 our policy states the solicitor is hired for the
- 9 pleasure of the board, in that meeting I would
- 10 have concluded that Brooke was not conducting
- 11 herself in the pleasure of the full board. And
- 12 I was hopeful by the end of that meeting that
- 13 the change in hands in that particular position
- 14 would look differently, that he would be
- 15 objective and no nonsense and serve for the
- 16 entire pleasure of the board.
- 17 So, that was one of my conclusions
- 18 when I made my decision when it I came time to
- 19 vote.
- 20 Q. Okay. So, what -- at the time you
- 21 voted, what were your priorities and what did
- 22 you think was the most important aspect that
- 23 Attorney Hall might be able to fulfill?
- A. I wanted to be able to trust my
- 25 solicitor.

- 1 Q. Okay. And what gave you the
- 2 confidence you could trust him?
- 3 A. I don't know that I had 100 percent
- 4 confidence at that time. Like I said, I had to
- 5 really weigh my options at that moment on what
- 6 was the right decision.
- 7 So, at that point, for me, he was
- 8 better than Brooke.
- 9 Q. You were aware that prior to this,
- 10 that the RFP committee had been meeting with the
- intent of putting out a request for proposal to
- 12 get multiple possible applications for
- 13 solicitor, correct?
- 14 A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. When did you find out that was not how
- 16 the solicitor was going to be selected?
- 17 A. When did I find out? When he was
- 18 being put on the agenda.
- 19 Q. Okay. So --
- 20 A. Because I did ask. Like, I wanted to
- 21 make sure that everything was done well and not
- 22 wrong.
- Q. When did you find out that he was
- 24 being placed on the agenda?
- 25 A. Oh, goodness. Probably when they were

- 1 going to build the agenda. Whenever that is.
- 2 Whether that is a week or the week of.
- 3 Q. Okay. I think the testimony earlier
- 4 was that it is usually two or three days prior
- 5 to the meeting when the agenda meeting occurs.
- Is that your understanding?
- 7 A. That would be my -- yeah. Yep.
- 8 Q. All right. Were you surprised that
- 9 they were no longer pursuing an RFP at that
- 10 point?
- 11 A. At that point, nothing surprises me
- 12 anymore because there was so much stuff. Like,
- 13 this has been a whirlwind of a -- no one could
- 14 have ever prepared me for this position.
- 15 Q. Did you think it was a good idea to
- 16 abandon the RFP process?
- 17 A. There were some things that gave me
- 18 pause when it was explained by Mr. Guistwhite in
- 19 executive session that made me wonder if it was
- 20 a good idea the way it was going.
- So, I don't know that I would have --
- 22 I saw it both ways. I could see how it could go
- 23 this way, I could see how it could go that way.
- 24 Either way, it is a crap show. So --
- Q. Did you receive copies of the written

- 1 comments from residents that were submitted to
- 2 the board prior to the April 11 meeting?
- 3 A. We get e-mails.
- 4 Q. Right. Did you -- I think we talked
- 5 about in the previous deposition, there were
- 6 approximately 115 written e-mails that were at
- 7 least identified within the minutes that had
- 8 been provided to the board.
- 9 Did you receive those e-mails?
- 10 A. They come to my e-mail.
- 11 Q. All right. Did you get a chance to
- 12 read all of them prior?
- 13 A. No. There was no way.
- Q. Did you read any of them?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Is it fair to say that most of those
- 17 comments expressed concern about the way the
- 18 solicitor was being selected?
- 19 A. Yes. They all said a lot of the same
- 20 thing.
- Q. And is it fair to say most of those
- 22 comments suggested that the board ought to go
- 23 through an RFP process to be transparent in the
- 24 way things were going?
- 25 A. That is what they all stated.

- 1 Q. Okay. Did that give you any pause to
- 2 say maybe the board should be going about this
- 3 differently?
- 4 A. No, because -- well, no.
- 5 Q. Why not?
- 6 A. Well, I sit in meeting after meeting
- 7 and I have become very familiar with the same
- 8 people who e-mail. And, like, it is the same
- 9 group on either side. And I consider also the
- 10 constituents who voted us in and wanted change.
- 11 And 100 e-mails out of 7,500 or so, maybe more
- 12 constituents in the district, is, like, maybe --
- 13 it is a very low percentage. So, I have to
- 14 think about overall. So, I put that into
- 15 consideration as well.
- 16 Q. Do you believe --
- 17 A. And I am going to add this as well.
- 18 The solicitor works for the pleasure of the
- 19 board. The solicitor is not here for the
- 20 constituents. So, that, like -- that was
- 21 another thing.
- 22 Like, I am looking at all the options
- 23 and I am weighing it and thinking that through.
- 24 So, I do consider that, then I think about how
- 25 we were elected.

- 1 Q. Do you think the board was being
- 2 transparent in the way Attorney Hall was
- 3 selected as the solicitor?
- 4 A. They were transparent in adding it to
- 5 the agenda.
- 6 Q. Do you -- are you -- did you hear from
- 7 any of the four board members who voted against
- 8 Attorney Hall?
- 9 A. Did they talk to me? Is that what you
- 10 are asking?
- 11 (Kelly Brent and Brenda Cox left the
- 12 room.)
- 13 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 14 Q. Yeah. Did you hear from any of them
- that they didn't know this was coming and they
- 16 never had an opportunity to speak to Attorney
- 17 Hall?
- 18 A. At that meeting they said that.
- 19 Q. Did it concern you that four of the
- 20 nine board members didn't know this was
- 21 happening until two or three days before the
- 22 meeting?
- A. No, because it was put on the agenda.
- 24 They had time to look him up and they had all
- 25 these facts on him.

- 1 Q. What facts did they have?
- 2 A. The facts -- they said that he never
- 3 was the solicitor for school boards, that
- 4 everything is based out of Pittsburgh. I forget
- 5 what else they said. They knew all kinds of
- 6 stuff. So, they were looking him up.
- 7 They knew -- they, like, knew -- they
- 8 could have picked up the phone and called him,
- 9 reached out.
- 10 Q. So, if this had been the other way
- 11 around and you had been on the minority and not
- 12 told about a change for something as significant
- 13 as the solicitor, you would have thought that
- 14 process was fine for you not to hear about it
- until two or three days before the meeting?
- 16 A. There were a lot of things like that
- 17 going on already. Like, we would go to meetings
- 18 and all of a sudden we are getting waylaid into
- 19 things that I wasn't expecting. So, I mean,
- 20 there were surprises all around.
- Q. But is that okay? Aren't you supposed
- 22 to have time to reflect and --
- 23 A. One would think. But I guess things
- 24 roll.
- Q. And you are okay with that?

- 1 A. It is not my favorite way of doing
- 2 things.
- 3 Q. Have you suggested things should be
- 4 done differently?
- 5 A. Yeah, I make suggestions.
- Q. Do you think the board should engage
- 7 in an RFP process to select a solicitor?
- 8 A. Currently?
- 9 Q. Yeah, currently. Yes.
- 10 A. I think it would be good practice to
- 11 do it. Definitely not hold onto things for such
- 12 long periods of time.
- 13 Q. Is there any -- back at the meeting on
- 14 April 11, 2024, is there any reason that
- 15 decision couldn't be delayed so that either
- 16 board member -- other board members could have
- 17 an opportunity to interview him, or perhaps have
- 18 other candidates considered?
- 19 A. I think that process was trying to be
- 20 done.
- 21 Q. What is your understanding of -- are
- you talking about the RFP committee?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. All right. What is your understanding
- of why that was abandoned?

- 1 A. I think from my understanding, Kevin
- 2 reached out to Kelly in a time where things were
- 3 spiralling even more than ever, and it seemed
- 4 like it is now or never. That is what I am
- 5 thinking. That is my speculation.
- 6 But I can't speak for what went down
- 7 in that RFP committee. I have my instinctual
- 8 thoughts of what I saw, but I wasn't ever in
- 9 there. Just things that would happen like I
- 10 already told you. So, that would be --
- 11 Q. So, is it your understanding that it
- 12 was Ms. Brent's decision to stop moving forward
- with the RFP process?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. Is it your understanding that she was
- 16 essentially the person advocating for Attorney
- 17 Hall to be chosen as the solicitor?
- 18 A. Advocating. That is an interesting
- 19 word.
- Q. Or suggesting --
- 21 A. That would -- that would allude to she
- 22 was pushing for it and saying this is the guy.
- 23 Like, that is not how that went down at all.
- Q. How did it go down?
- A. Well, we told you how it went down.

- 1 She -- like, he called her, then she called me,
- 2 and I said, well, I'll go talk to him, because I
- 3 would love to talk to an attorney that -- and
- 4 then he was on the agenda. And it was going to
- 5 come out into the Sunshine where we could
- 6 deliberate about it or listen to everybody's
- 7 thoughts and ideas.
- 8 Q. Do you believe that deliberation
- 9 actually took place during that public meeting?
- 10 A. As much deliberation that could happen
- 11 in that kind of environment, yes.
- 12 Q. What do you mean by that?
- 13 A. It was very hostile environment, where
- 14 we sit through at least four hours of
- 15 constituents coming in and yelling at us and
- 16 telling us what awful, terrible people we are,
- 17 and then the four board members following suit.
- It was a very, very hostile meeting,
- 19 it -- I never want to relive something like that
- 20 in my life again.
- Q. Do you believe that the reasons for
- 22 terminating Brooke Say and hiring Kevin Hall
- 23 were stated during the April 11 meeting before
- 24 the vote took place?
- 25 A. Having not gone back and watched it

- 1 and trying to recollect in my mind what happened
- 2 so long ago, I do believe it was stated. I
- 3 believe Mrs. Brent stated it.
- 4 Q. What is your recollection of the
- 5 reasons that she gave?
- 6 A. See, that is a tough one. I am not
- 7 going to be able to just -- I am not going to
- 8 make up something.
- 9 Q. Did you share during that -- I am
- 10 trying to remember, because I haven't watched it
- 11 in a long time, either.
- 12 Did you share any of your own personal
- 13 beliefs or observations as to whether appointing
- 14 Solicitor Hall -- Attorney Hall as solicitor
- 15 would be a good idea?
- 16 A. Oh, no. I said nothing in that
- 17 meeting, because the wolves were out. And I was
- 18 not -- it was going to be pointless to say
- 19 anything at that point.
- Q. Before the vote occurred, did you let
- 21 Heidi Thomas know how you intended to vote?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Had you indicated at any time that you
- 24 were confident with Ms. Thomas' and Ms. Brent's
- 25 judgment and that you would go along with what

- 1 they wanted to do?
- 2 A. So, you are asking -- can you repeat
- 3 that? Because that was a very long, kind of
- 4 two-point question.
- 5 Q. Did you ever tell either Heidi Thomas
- 6 or Kelly Brent that you trusted their judgment
- 7 and you would be willing to go along with what
- 8 they thought was best?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. You agree there was never an executive
- 11 session prior to April, other than maybe the
- 12 executive session that occurred immediately
- 13 prior to the meeting, you never had a prior
- 14 executive session where the appointment of
- 15 Attorney Hall as solicitor was discussed?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. All right. Prior to April 11, his
- 18 name had never been brought up at any other
- 19 public meeting as someone who is being
- 20 considered?
- 21 A. Hmm-mm.
- 22 O. And you kind of made a hmm-mm. Was
- 23 that a no?
- A. Oh, I'm sorry. No.
- Q. For purposes of the steno, verbal

- 1 answers. All right.
- 2 A. You can't write mm-hmm?
- 3 THE COURT REPORTER: I can, but --
- 4 MR. BONN: She can, but sometimes --
- 5 THE DEPONENT: I'm just kidding.
- 6 MR. BONN: -- we don't know what you
- 7 meant.
- 8 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 9 Q. I would like to show you -- we'll use
- 10 the marked exhibits. I think it is No. 4.
- 11 We'll show you what we marked as Exhibit 4.
- 12 A. An e-mail?
- 13 Q. It is an e-mail exchange between Kevin
- 14 Hall and Brooke Say. If you could take a moment
- 15 to review that, let me know if you have ever
- 16 seen that before.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. When is the first time you
- 19 remember seeing this?
- 20 A. My first time seeing this was when
- 21 Brooke attached it to an e-mail she sent the
- 22 board members.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. I feel like it was stated as
- 25 confidential.

- 1 Q. Okay. Was that before the April 11
- 2 meeting took place?
- 3 A. Yes. This says April 5.
- Q. But -- I'm sorry, the e-mail you got
- 5 from Brooke Say that attached this.
- 6 A. Oh.
- 7 Q. Did you get that --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did you receive this before April 11?
- 10 A. It was before the meeting, yes.
- 11 Q. That is what I meant. Thank you.
- 12 In this, it states in the portion
- 13 that's from Brooke Say to Kevin Hall, it says
- 14 this confirms our conversation where you
- informed me that you and your firm would be
- 16 appointed at the upcoming board meeting on April
- 17 11, 2024. You informed me that the President
- 18 Thomas asked you to take -- make this
- 19 communication about the appointment and that my
- 20 presence at the meeting was not necessary.
- In response to my question, you also
- 22 advised that there had not been a board meeting
- 23 or executive session where appointment of your
- 24 firm as solicitor was discussed.
- 25 Did I read that correctly?

- 1 A. Now that you are reading that out loud
- 2 -- is she saying this is all the things that he
- 3 said on the phone?
- 4 Q. I'll represent to you that, yes,
- 5 between when they talked on the phone and the
- 6 e-mail that precedes it, that, yes, that is what
- 7 she is saying.
- 8 A. Interesting. Okay.
- 9 Q. Is this coming as news to you at the
- 10 moment?
- 11 A. Well, when you read it out loud, like,
- 12 I had read it very quickly the first time, and I
- don't recall reading it -- but you know when
- 14 people read things out loud, you hear it
- 15 differently?
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. It just hit me that she is saying what
- 18 he had said over a phone conversation, not in
- 19 writing. So, she could have put words in his
- 20 mouth as far as I am concerned, then put it in
- 21 writing, that could have been brought to a
- 22 right-to-know request.
- So, I don't know what exact words he
- 24 said on the phone to her. I just know he
- 25 replied to this e-mail right down here. So, I

- 1 can't --
- 2 O. Just to be clear --
- 3 A. Am I misunderstanding something?
- 4 MR. BONN: He sent this e-mail and she
- 5 wrote this in response.
- 6 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 7 Q. The e-mail from Kevin Hall is dated
- 8 April 5, 4:16 p.m., and the e-mail from Brooke
- 9 Say is at 5:59 p.m. in response to what Mr. Hall
- 10 wrote.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. Is that your understanding of this
- 13 e-mail chain?
- 14 A. Now I see it. But there is also a
- 15 phone conversation, am I correct?
- 16 Q. There is an also reference to a phone
- 17 conversation taking place, correct.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. In the -- let's look at specifically
- 20 what was written in Mr. Hall's e-mail. It says,
- 21 thank you for our conversation earlier. As I
- 22 indicated, Heidi Thomas, president of the board
- 23 of school directors of West Shore School
- 24 District, asked me to reach out to you as a
- 25 courtesy to inform you that a change in

- 1 solicitor will be on the agenda for April 11,
- 2 2024 meeting.
- 3 With the goal of making the transition
- 4 as smooth as possible, we would appreciate it if
- 5 you should provide us with a list of the most
- 6 pressing issues facing the school district and
- 7 begin preparing transition paperwork for any
- 8 active matters that you or your firm are
- 9 currently working on.
- 10 We do not foresee a need for you to
- 11 attend the meeting on Thursday. However, if
- there are any agenda items you feel we should
- discuss prior to that meeting, please do not
- 14 hesitate to contact me on my cell below to
- 15 discuss. Thank you for your professionalism and
- 16 courtesy in making this a smooth transition and
- 17 feel free to call me any time.
- Okay. Were you aware that Attorney
- 19 Hall had been authorized to contact Attorney Say
- 20 prior to the April 11 meeting?
- 21 A. I was not aware.
- 22 O. Okay. Can you explain how Attorney
- 23 Hall could ask to start transitioning files on
- 24 April 5, prior to his having been appointed as
- 25 the solicitor?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Do you know why Ms. Thomas would have
- 3 authorized Attorney Hall to make this
- 4 communication if she didn't have confidence in
- 5 how the vote was going to turn out on the 11th?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Do you see how somebody reading this
- 8 could infer that perhaps there was a decision
- 9 already made prior to --
- 10 A. Absolutely.
- 11 Q. So, you understand why --
- 12 A. I would not have done that.
- Q. So, if you weren't part of this
- 14 process, if you saw this --
- 15 A. I don't understand that.
- 16 Q. Right. You understand why somebody
- would view this with suspicion?
- 18 A. But that is -- I never understood that
- 19 when I got -- when I saw this e-mail forwarded
- 20 to us. I am also not in the legal community.
- Q. Right. I am strictly asking from your
- 22 perspective as a board member and a layperson.
- A. As just a normal human being, no. I
- 24 was confused by that.
- 25 Q. Next I would like to show -- have you

- 1 look at what we marked as Exhibit 6.
- 2 Take a moment to look at this, but
- 3 I'll indicate that we marked this as Exhibit 6.
- 4 And this is a series of e-mails between or by
- 5 Kevin Hall and Heidi Thomas dated April 3 and
- 6 April 5, 2024.
- 7 After you have a chance to look at it,
- 8 can you let me know if you have ever seen these
- 9 e-mails before?
- 10 A. Did these come with attachments?
- 11 Q. Well, that is one of the things I was
- 12 going to ask you, if you remembered the e-mail.
- 13 A. I vaguely remember it.
- 14 Q. Okay. The April 3 e-mail looks like
- it is from Kevin Hall to Heidi Thomas. It says,
- 16 good afternoon, Heidi. Please see the attached
- 17 business agenda items for the upcoming April
- 18 meeting.
- 19 Did I read that correctly?
- 20 A. That is the first page?
- Q. On the first page.
- 22 A. Yeah, you are reading that correctly.
- Q. On the second page dated April 5, it
- 24 says -- appears to say, good morning, Heidi.
- 25 Please see the attached, then it lists four

- 1 attachments, which were apparently supposed to
- 2 be included with the e-mail.
- 3 Then above that, good afternoon Todd.
- 4 Please distribute this entire e-mail as we
- 5 discussed last night to each of the board
- 6 members, sincerely Heidi Thomas. It looks like
- 7 it is including the e-mail from Kevin Hall.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. Do you recall receiving this at some
- 10 point prior to the April 11 meeting?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Did you get -- there is four things
- 13 listed there, which is information about Tucker
- 14 Arensberg, Kevin Hall information sheet,
- 15 engagement letter, and business agenda items for
- 16 April 11, 2024 meeting.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you receive those four things?
- 19 A. That is why I asked about the
- 20 attachments, because it is one through four.
- 21 And now that we are discussing this, I
- 22 recollect.
- Q. So, you do remember receiving those?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Can you explain why Attorney Hall was

- 1 working on the agenda items for the April 11
- 2 meeting before he was formally confirmed as the
- 3 solicitor?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Would that be normal practice for
- 6 someone other than Attorney Say to be handling a
- 7 legal matter?
- 8 MR. BONN: Objection to form.
- 9 THE DEPONENT: What does that mean?
- MR. BONN: You can go ahead and
- 11 answer, if you know.
- 12 THE DEPONENT: Okay. I don't know why.
- 13 Can you repeat? Because now I am confused.
- 14 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 15 Q. I'll rephrase the question. I'll take
- 16 baby steps, make it simpler.
- 17 Who would normally be responsible for
- 18 preparing agenda items for a meeting?
- 19 A. The president.
- Q. Okay. All right. And if an agenda
- 21 item needed some sort of legal assistance, would
- 22 there be any other than Brooke Say prior to
- 23 April 11, 2024 who would work on that?
- A. I don't know about this be legal
- 25 assistance. Was it?

- 1 Q. I don't know. Seems it came from --
- 2 A. It is really just giving information
- 3 about Tucker Arensberg and stuff, and then how
- 4 the business agenda -- like, what the agenda
- 5 would look like.
- 6 So, it was -- I mean, without me
- 7 seeing the entire e-mail again and looking at
- 8 the attachments, when I am looking at this the
- 9 way I perceive it, it was just giving all the
- 10 information to all nine board members, along
- 11 with what the agenda would look like with him --
- 12 I guess with him on it.
- 13 Q. All right. My question was, do you
- 14 know why Attorney Hall would have actually
- 15 prepared the agenda item as opposed to getting
- 16 the other information?
- 17 A. I can't answer that.
- 18 Q. And, again, do you see why an outside
- 19 person might view that with suspicion or wonder
- 20 how that could happen if it wasn't already known
- 21 that Attorney Hall was going to be appointed?
- A. When you say outside person, what do
- you mean?
- Q. Somebody who is not a board member.
- 25 For instance, a member, a resident.

- 1 A. Oh, yeah. There is a lot of things
- 2 that happen that residents don't understand.
- 3 Heck, there was a lot of things I didn't
- 4 understand until I became a board member.
- 5 Q. Right. But specifically do you see
- 6 why somebody could look at that and think that
- 7 the decision must have already been made that
- 8 Attorney Hall would be appointed?
- 9 A. From this e-mail?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. I don't know. I think if you read
- 12 through it and you don't quite understand
- 13 everything, possibly. I think the only thing
- 14 that is being the hang-up right now is the
- 15 business agenda item. And I -- like, I can't
- 16 even remember what I thought about it. I didn't
- 17 know if No. 4 seemed sketchy to me when I saw
- 18 the e-mail or if I was, like, okay, here is all
- 19 the information.
- 20 Like, I am still learning how all this
- 21 agenda stuff goes down and the time span of it
- 22 all. At this point in the game, like, we are
- 23 barely four months in. So, for me, I am just
- 24 going with the flow at that point, and it is not
- 25 even a really nice flow. It is a raging river.

- Q. Did you speak to any of the other 1
- 2 board members about Kevin Hall prior to April
- 3 11?
- A. Did you ask me that already? 4
- 5 Q. Yeah. I mean, other than the meetings
- 6 that you specifically attended.
- 7 No. Α.
- 8 Q. Do you know who Thaddeus Eisenhower
- 9 is?
- 10 A. I have heard of him, and he has spoken
- 11 at a couple board meetings.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 Α. But I do not know him.
- 14 Q. Did you speak to him at any time prior
- 15 to April 11?
- 16 I have never spoke to him in my life.
- 17 Q. Do you have any idea how he might have
- 18 known prior to April 11 that Attorney Hall was
- 19 being considered for the solicitor position?
- 2.0 A. I have no idea.
- 21 All right. Let's look at whatever the Ο.
- 22 last exhibit was. I believe it was No. 11.
- 23 I am showing you what is -- it is an
- 24 excerpt from the answer and new matter that was
- 25 filed by the district in response to this

- 1 complaint.
- 2 And Paragraph No. 54 says -- this is
- 3 an assertion being made on behalf of the school
- 4 district. Upon information and belief,
- 5 Plaintiff Stephen Beaver, Leah Cooper, Amy
- 6 Elliott, John Elliott, Jeff Harmon, Tara High,
- 7 Katherine Jan Jarrett, Jesse Sayre, and Jane
- 8 Vivier, have brought this lawsuit for the
- 9 illegitimate means of imposing their political
- 10 agenda on the West Shore School District,
- 11 regardless of how the majority of the duly-
- 12 elected board members voted.
- Do you agree with that statement?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. What is the political agenda
- 16 that the plaintiffs are trying to impose on the
- 17 board?
- 18 A. I believe that they are doing whatever
- 19 they can to ruin Kelly's chances of being
- 20 reelected. And the reasons I feel that way --
- 21 there are reasons I feel that way.
- Q. What are those reasons?
- 23 A. The reasons I feel that way are
- 24 comments that had been made during board
- 25 meetings by Mr. Trone. He would say we will --

- 1 and this is me paraphrasing or giving an idea of
- 2 what was said -- but he would say, well, there
- 3 is going to be another election and you are not
- 4 going to be voted in, or things like that.
- 5 And during all of this time, Mr. Trone
- 6 and even Mr. Kambic were known to be fuelling
- 7 fires on their Facebook pages that were
- 8 politically -- like, it was almost like we were
- 9 still in a campaign and he was smearing
- 10 constantly. So, it is hard to walk away and not
- 11 think this is politically charged.
- 12 O. You are talking about either
- 13 statements or Facebook posts by Mr. Trone and
- 14 Mr. Kamnbic, right?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. They were not plaintiff?
- 17 A. They would share each other's posts.
- 18 Q. All right.
- 19 A. It doesn't matter. Like, they are
- 20 feeding the flames, and these people follow
- 21 their pages and comment underneath. These are
- 22 the same people that come into the board
- 23 meetings and scream and yell at us.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. So, I can deduct and reason and come

- 1 to that conclusion.
- Q. Other than that conclusion, do you
- 3 have any evidence to support that the particular
- 4 plaintiffs in this case have brought the
- 5 complaint specifically for that purpose?
- 6 A. I do not have evidence myself.
- 7 Q. Okay. This indicates that the lawsuit
- 8 was brought for illegitimate means.
- 9 Do you have any evidence that any of
- 10 these specific plaintiffs are bringing this for
- 11 an illegitimate means as opposed to attempting
- 12 to enforce the Sunshine Act?
- 13 A. Can you rephrase that?
- Q. Do you have any evidence that any of
- 15 the plaintiffs brought the case for illegitimate
- 16 means?
- 17 A. I do not have evidence that I could
- 18 hand you right at this second.
- 19 Q. Other than you describing that in your
- 20 words Mr. Trone and Mr. Kamnbic have made this a
- 21 politically charged issue, is there anything
- 22 else you are aware of that connects any of the
- 23 plaintiffs to some illegitimate or improper
- 24 reason for bringing a lawsuit?
- 25 A. So, you are asking me for evidence

- 1 again. I don't have evidence on me.
- 2 Q. Do you have any --
- 3 A. I have to re-up my --
- 4 MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. We can take a
- 5 break if you need to.
- 6 (Discussion off the record.)
- 7 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 8 Q. So, my question is, other than what
- 9 you stated about the general politically-charged
- 10 atmosphere, do you have any reason to believe
- 11 that any of the plaintiffs have brought the
- 12 lawsuit for an improper purpose?
- 13 A. Can you just say that one more time?
- 14 Q. Yeah. Do you have -- let me ask it
- 15 this way.
- 16 A. I am listening.
- 17 Q. What is the basis for your belief that
- 18 the plaintiffs are doing this not because they
- 19 are interested in enforcing the Sunshine Act,
- 20 but because they specifically are doing this for
- 21 either a political or some illegitimate purpose?
- 22 A. Because every time they come into a
- 23 meeting and talk to us, it is based on political
- 24 ideas. It is never -- like, it is always
- 25 politically-charged ideas. It is never about

- 1 something that is legitimately going on in the
- 2 school. It is always an attack on us.
- 3 So, I will stand by that, and I am
- 4 going to hold to it.
- 5 Q. Okay. Who specifically among the
- 6 plaintiffs have ever said something you thought
- 7 was an attack?
- 8 A. Every single one of them, minus I
- 9 don't know that I have ever seen Mr. Beaver, but
- 10 his wife comes in all the time and she will be
- 11 making statements all the time.
- 12 So, it is just there is this
- 13 atmosphere and presence that we are these awful,
- 14 horrible people that are going to take away all
- 15 the things. And then this happens and they are
- 16 going to take that moment to bring a lawsuit. I
- 17 think it is something called lawfare.
- 18 Q. So, can you specifically remember any
- 19 time Stephen Beaver made a statement that was an
- 20 attack and not talking about some legitimate
- 21 issue before the board?
- 22 A. I told you that I have never seen
- 23 Stephen Beaver. But his wife, Joey Beaver,
- 24 comes to the meetings very frequently.
- 25 O. What has she said that was an attack?

- 1 A. Well, we were accused of -- oh, she
- 2 actually quoted a scripture in Luke that says
- 3 what happens in the darkness will be brought
- 4 into the light, and it is actually Jesus
- 5 speaking. And this was very early on. And I
- 6 said, wow, she is quoting scripture to us and
- 7 saying that we are doing dirty deeds in the
- 8 dark, and we are not. And it is funny she was
- 9 turning scripture against us.
- 10 So, I could -- like, that is an
- 11 example that I won't ever forget, because I know
- 12 my Bible. And will I come up with every other
- 13 thing I need to memorize from what the
- 14 constituents say to us, no. But I will not
- 15 forget faces, and I start to remember who comes
- in and how they are going to come at us all the
- 17 time. And I start to figure out who is who.
- And Miss Cooper, she is extremely
- 19 rude. She is insulting.
- Q. What did she say that was rude or
- 21 insulting?
- 22 A. She has been very insulting about me.
- 23 She thinks that she can come in and say that I
- 24 no longer am new here, and if I stop doing that,
- 25 she has done her job and I have listened well to

- 1 her.
- I am not a fool. I have been
- 3 belittled. My children have been belittled by
- 4 these people from the podium, and they don't
- 5 even know who my children are. They don't know
- 6 how my son has stood up to bullies at wrestling
- 7 tournaments when boys are moaning at girls and
- 8 he handles it. Because people just don't --
- 9 like, my kids stick up for kids who are being
- 10 bullied. But I get sat down -- I am told when I
- 11 am sitting down at a desk and serving my
- 12 community that I have terrible children who
- don't like homosexuals or different people.
- 14 And I won't stand for that. And then
- 15 I get sued because they don't like how something
- 16 went down? I am going to say that is
- 17 politically charged.
- 18 Q. Are you lumping every person who has
- 19 made a negative comment in with the plaintiffs
- 20 as though they are connected?
- 21 A. No, I am not. But I remember people.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. I am not going to sit there and
- 24 pretend that I don't know who everybody is. I
- 25 am going to go home and I am going to figure out

- 1 and realize who is who and what is going on.
- 2 And that is -- to me, that is not keeping your
- 3 head in the sand.
- 4 Q. All right. What about Amy Elliott?
- 5 What improper or illegitimate communications
- 6 have you ever gotten from her?
- 7 A. I don't know her. I am assuming she
- 8 is your wife.
- 9 Q. That is true. Have you ever received
- 10 any -- remember receiving any kind of comment
- 11 from her in any capacity?
- 12 A. No, because I don't think she
- 13 frequents the meetings very often.
- 14 Q. Okay. What about me? Have I ever
- 15 said anything in a meeting that you would
- 16 consider an attack?
- 17 A. I think that you have said things in a
- 18 meeting that was not correct information.
- 19 Q. What do you believe I said that was
- 20 not correct?
- 21 A. When something went down with Adam
- 22 Trone, it was, like, this drama on Facebook --
- 23 Facebook is full of drama -- and it came to the
- 24 school district and we were told the formation
- 25 of this new West Shore -- I forget what it is.

- It is this new form committee thing -- there is 1
- 2 signs all over the place.
- And we got an e-mail telling us we 3
- needed to stand behind Adam Trone after he -- he 4
- 5 said something. It was outlandish. He did
- 6 something, actually. And two other people,
- 7 political people, came after him. I think he
- 8 poked the bear enough and they retaliated, and
- 9 then it blew up then we were told we needed to
- 10 stand up for him and something. And I was,
- 11 like, I am not standing up for someone who dug
- 12 his own hole.
- 13 And I recall you coming in saying that
- we needed to do as such. And I was, like, no, I 14
- 15 am not going to stand up for someone or
- 16 apologize to him for something I never did.
- 17 So, those are -- like, that is the
- 18 kind of garbage that has been going on.
- 19 anything, he owes us an apology for all crap he
- 20 has been posting all over Facebook and all the
- 21 drama. There, I said it.
- 22 Q. So, are you saying that any expression
- of somebody who disagrees with the direction of 23
- 24 the board is an attack and it is illegitimate?
- 25 A. No. There is a way you can go about

- 1 it. There is a way that can be done that isn't.
- 2 But when you are fuelling it and it is a week
- 3 after week event and it goes -- the meetings are
- 4 going as late as possible, you start to wonder
- 5 what's going on. It doesn't take a genius.
- Q. Who among the plaintiffs are
- 7 participating in some kind of illegitimate
- 8 attack?
- 9 A. Why does this have to continue on?
- 10 Like, this entire questioning?
- MR. BONN: You have to answer.
- 12 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- Q. Because you haven't answered my
- 14 question yet.
- 15 A. Okay.
- MR. BONN: You have to answer the
- 17 questions.
- 18 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 19 Q. I am trying -- you are claiming that
- 20 the plaintiffs, specific named plaintiffs, have
- 21 brought an illegitimate complaint. That is a
- 22 serious accusation. And I want to know your
- 23 basis for why you are saying the plaintiffs --
- 24 A. All right. Is there proof we violated
- 25 the Sunshine Law? Because we have been proven

- quilty before being proven innocent, which is 1
- 2 totally backwards.
- So, we can be -- like, we have been 3
- accused of something that didn't happen, so to 4
- 5 me that is illegitimate. And to me that is
- 6 politically motivated. We live in a very
- 7 politically-motivated, charged society right
- 8 now, where this is happening all over the place.
- 9 Q. Okay. But my question is, what is
- 10 your basis for saying the plaintiffs brought an
- 11 illegitimate complaint?
- 12 Α. I feel like I answered it.
- I think you answered that you felt the 13 Q.
- 14 board did everything right. I want to know what
- your basis -- there is a difference -- do you 15
- 16 understand the difference between an accusation
- 17 being wrong and an accusation being essentially
- 18 intentionally false to start with?
- 19 Α. Mm-hmm.
- 20 Q. All right. It is one thing to say
- 21 that allegations are incorrect and that you
- 22 didn't do what's being alleged. It is another
- 23 thing to say that the people bringing those
- 24 claims know it is false and the purpose behind
- 25 the complaint is illegitimate.

- 1 Do you recognize that distinction?
- 2 A. Mm-hmm.
- 3 Q. What is your basis for saying that the
- 4 plaintiffs -- they are not simply mistaken, but
- 5 they are knowingly bringing an illegitimate
- 6 complaint?
- 7 A. Well, I am making an assumption. That
- 8 would be my assumed deduction and reasoning.
- 9 So, if you want me to say that I have no proof
- 10 on that, then I can say I have no proof on that.
- 11 Q. Okay. We talked about -- nevermind.
- MR. ELLIOTT: Is there any follow-up
- 13 that you want to do? Why don't you go ahead
- 14 with that.
- 15 EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. BONN:
- 17 Q. So, describe to ordinarily whenever
- 18 you are going to have a board meeting, is there,
- 19 like, an agenda and a board packet distributed
- 20 before the meeting?
- 21 A. It is on our agenda manager site.
- 22 O. How much time do you get to look at
- 23 that before the board meeting?
- A. I believe it is put up Thursday. But
- 25 I never remember about it until Monday.

- Q. And when you say it is put up 1
- 2 Thursdays, are your meetings on Thursday?
- 3 A. It would be a week before. Like, a
- week in advance. 4
- 5 Q. So, you ordinarily get one week
- 6 notice?
- 7 Yeah, mm-hmm. Α.
- And how often is it that there are 8 Ο.
- 9 actions on the agenda that you are expected to
- 10 take -- make a vote on that you don't have any
- 11 background on, you haven't overseen that?
- 12 A. All the time. I spend a ton of time
- 13 reading through stuff.
- 14 Q. So, it is very ordinary for you to
- have one week to vote on things you have had --15
- 16 A. Absolutely.
- 17 -- let me finish my question. Ο.
- 18 Oh, I'm sorry. Α.
- 19 Q. When you have had one week's notice
- 2.0 for?
- 21 Α. Yeah.
- 22 Whenever you vote at these meetings, Q.
- 23 does the board -- well, let me ask this.
- 24 Do you give your opinion on every
- 25 single item that you are going to vote on

- 1 publicly before you vote?
- 2 A. No, not every single one.
- 3 Q. Does the board deliberate before it
- 4 votes on items ordinarily?
- 5 A. Not every single time. Are you
- 6 talking about in the board meeting?
- 7 Q. Yes, in the board meeting.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. So, there is times during board
- 10 meetings where there is a vote by the board, but
- 11 there is absolutely no discussion about what you
- 12 are going to vote on before you actually vote?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. That is -- is that common?
- 15 A. It happens more often than not. I
- 16 think we bring a lot more discussion than ever.
- 17 Q. Have you ever talked to -- prior to
- 18 April 11, did you talk to Dave Brinton about
- 19 Kevin Hall?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. You didn't know how -- did you know
- 22 how any other board member was going to vote on
- 23 April 11 on the change in the solicitor?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. When you looked at the e-mail between

- 1 Kevin Hall and Brooke Say, I believe this was
- 2 identified as Brent 5 -- or, actually, you were
- 3 looking at Brent 4.
- 4 Did you know there was a difference
- 5 between what Kevin Hall said to Brooke Say and
- 6 what she responded to him?
- 7 A. Not until today.
- 8 Q. But did you notice that today there
- 9 was a difference between what he said and what
- 10 she said?
- A. Mm-hmm.
- 12 Q. What was that difference?
- 13 A. Oh, gosh. Now I have to read through
- 14 the whole thing again.
- Okay. It is right now in the first
- 16 phrase where he says it is a courtesy to inform
- 17 you that a change in solicitor will be on the
- 18 agenda for April 11 meeting. She up here says
- 19 this confirms our conversation where you
- 20 informed me that you and your firm would be
- 21 appointed at the upcoming board meeting. But he
- 22 never said he would be appointed.
- Q. You have worked with both Kevin Hall
- 24 and Brooke Say, correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Based on your interactions with them,
- 2 if there was that dispute between Brooke was
- 3 saying one thing and Kevin was saying another
- 4 thing, who would you trust telling the truth?
- 5 A. Kevin.
- 6 MR. BONN: Nothing further.
- 7 RE-EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 9 Q. Sticking with No. 4 there. Do you
- 10 think --
- 11 A. Is that this? Or do I need to look at
- 12 this?
- 13 Q. Yeah. Do you think Brooke Say is
- 14 lying about what she talked about with Kevin
- 15 Hall?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Why do you think she is lying?
- 18 A. That is a great question.
- 19 Q. What is the answer?
- 20 A. Why would she? I don't know why she
- 21 would do this. Maybe to stir up angst, to get
- 22 emotions riled. I could conject why.
- Q. What specifically do you think she is
- 24 lying about in that e-mail?
- 25 A. Well, she miss -- this is so typical

- 1 when you take someone's words and you twist
- 2 them. You can change one thing, like I just
- 3 saw, and it is a major change that makes it come
- 4 across that it happened in a different manner
- 5 than it actually did.
- 6 He didn't inform her that he was
- 7 appointed, because he wasn't appointed. He just
- 8 informed her that it was going to be on the
- 9 agenda, which I understand to be a courtesy
- 10 amongst the legal realm, which is a whole
- 11 different animal that I don't understand.
- 12 So, that is my thought on that.
- 13 Q. Okay. You do acknowledge Kevin Hall
- 14 acknowledges that there was a prior conversation
- 15 between the two of them, correct?
- 16 A. There was a phone conversation.
- 17 Q. Right.
- 18 A. That is why I discussed that with you
- 19 further. Because I was, like, wait, because I
- 20 noticed something was off. I was, like, I don't
- 21 know what was said on the phone and if she was
- 22 making something up about that.
- Q. Is it possible Attorney Say is
- 24 including information that was discussed in the
- 25 phone call in addition to what Attorney Hall

- 1 wrote down after the fact?
- 2 A. So, are you asking me if that could
- 3 have been said in a phone call between the two
- 4 of them that wasn't on record?
- 5 Q. Yes.
- 6 A. How could I know that?
- 7 Q. All right. But I am saying, you are
- 8 not just saying you don't know what happened.
- 9 You just said you think Attorney Say is lying in
- 10 her e-mail.
- 11 A. Those words are different. So, she is
- 12 either painting a picture and attaching his
- e-mail there that the words are specifically
- 14 there on what he said in that e-mail, but the
- 15 words -- she changed the word, the wording, in
- 16 her top e-mail. That was the first thing you
- 17 read before going down.
- 18 Q. How do know that Attorney Hall didn't
- 19 change or put a twist on what he said during the
- 20 conversation in his e-mail?
- 21 A. Maybe he did.
- Q. All right. That is why I am asking.
- 23 How are you so sure that Brooke Say is lying
- 24 about what transpired between the two of them?
- 25 A. Well, I can't be for sure. But I know

- 1 that when I received that e-mail, it definitely
- 2 didn't sit well with me the way it was sent to
- 3 us. There was an entire e-mail, and there was
- 4 more to it. I think the confidential part must
- 5 not be included in that e-mail.
- 6 MR. ELLIOTT: All right.
- 7 MR. BONN: Just off the record for a
- 8 second.
- 9 (Discussion off the record.)
- 10 BY MR. ELLIOTT:
- 11 Q. So, when you are saying you were
- 12 uncomfortable with the way this was presented,
- 13 without getting into the details, but you are
- 14 referring to a separate e-mail from Attorney Say
- 15 that would be attorney-client privileged
- 16 communication?
- 17 A. Mm-hmm, yes.
- 18 Q. All right. My questions are specific
- 19 about this e-mail. Just to be clear, are you in
- 20 possession of any information that makes you
- 21 believe that -- or would support your belief
- 22 that Attorney Say was intentionally lying about
- 23 anything in this e-mail?
- A. Am I in possession of something?
- Q. Do you know of anything?

- 1 A. Yeah. We had another e-mail attached
- 2 to this letter that was confidential that had a
- 3 slew of things in there that I found to be
- 4 unprofessional.
- 5 Q. Is there anything that is not
- 6 privileged that you can give me as an example?
- 7 A. No, I can't. Short of going to my
- 8 e-mail and looking back through it. I am sure I
- 9 printed it out as well. It is at my house.
- 10 Q. But something that you think is
- 11 unprofessional in another e-mail, is that --
- 12 because you think she was being unprofessional
- in another context, is that why you think she is
- 14 lying in this one?
- 15 A. That is why I feel like -- that is why
- 16 I think what she is saying in there is not
- 17 complete truth. Because I have other things
- 18 that I have read that will bring me to that
- 19 conclusion.
- Q. Okay. What other things have you
- 21 read?
- 22 A. I can't tell you what they are because
- 23 they are not here and I can't read it verbatim
- 24 for you.
- Q. Well, can you give me an example

- 1 generally what you are talking about?
- 2 A. Basically if you go through with this,
- 3 this is what will happen. That kind of stuff.
- 4 Q. Are you talking about legal advice you
- 5 were being given by Attorney Say?
- 6 A. Maybe it was legal advice. Probably.
- 7 Because it was attorney-client privilege. And I
- 8 found it to be threatening.
- 9 Q. Without going into the content of
- 10 anything you were given in an attorney-client
- 11 communication, is there something in that that
- 12 leads you to believe this is inconsistent with
- 13 something else she said?
- 14 A. I think she wrote that e-mail in
- 15 anger.
- 16 O. This e-mail or the other one?
- 17 A. All of it. It all came in one e-mail.
- 18 Q. Did you ever talk to Heidi Thomas to
- 19 confirm that she authorized Kevin Hall to
- 20 communicate to Attorney Say?
- 21 A. I don't recall. I don't know if I did
- 22 or not. Even the time stamp, was that April 4
- the e-mail came to us?
- Q. Even just simply looking at what
- 25 Attorney Hall wrote, you are not questioning the

- 1 accuracy of anything that is in the April 5
- 2 e-mail that Kevin Hall wrote, are you?
- 3 A. I am not questioning that accuracy.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. I am not questioning that.
- 6 Q. Okay. He doesn't -- it goes beyond
- 7 saying this is an agenda item. He says about
- 8 the goal of making the transition as smooth as
- 9 possible, we would appreciate it if you could
- 10 provide us with a list of the most pressing
- 11 issues --
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. -- facing the school district and
- 14 begin preparing transition paperwork for any
- 15 active matters that your firm's currently
- 16 working on.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. We did not see any need for you to
- 19 attend the meeting on Thursday, correct? I read
- 20 that correctly?
- 21 A. You read that correctly.
- Q. Why, if this wasn't a foregone
- 23 conclusion, why wouldn't Attorney Say need to be
- 24 at the meeting?
- 25 A. Well, I could make assumptions on

- 1 that. I could do it because I am conjecturing.
- 2 Q. What would you conjecture?
- 3 A. I would conjecture that if all this
- 4 went down, it would save her -- I don't know if
- 5 embarrassment is the right word. But it is,
- 6 like, awkward. So, maybe there is a reasoning
- 7 in that and why that is a professional courtesy.
- 8 But I am not a lawyer and I don't work
- 9 -- like, I have never worked in the lawyer
- 10 world. But after the fact, I have learned and
- 11 come to the conclusion this tends to be the way
- 12 things go in the legal community.
- Q. But if she didn't show up and the vote
- 14 went against replacing the solicitor, you would
- 15 have had this entire meeting without a solicitor
- 16 there, correct?
- 17 A. That would have been correct.
- 18 Q. Earlier when you said it is not
- 19 uncommon for you to vote on something with a
- 20 week or less notice that you have never seen or
- 21 discussed before; is that correct?
- 22 A. Mm-hmm, yes.
- 23 Q. All right. These aren't items that
- 24 have been previously discussed in some committee
- 25 meeting and then are coming up at a later --

- 1 Α. No, no. Hmm-mm.
- 2 You are saying --Ο.
- 3 Α. There can be new contracts that we
- need to read through, all kinds of things like 4
- 5 that. The MOUs. There is a lot of things that
- 6 -- there are sometimes there is, like, oh, my
- 7 goodness, a ton of contracts that might need to
- 8 be combed through in one agenda. And they are
- 9 not little contracts. We are talking -- some
- 10 can be as much as 17 pages. So --
- 11 Q. Have you ever felt that you didn't
- 12 have adequate time to prepare for a vote on an
- 13 item because of that short notice?
- 14 A. Well, it has always been a week. But
- 15 I do my best to take days out of the week when I
- 16 know I have those two weeks of board meetings to
- 17 sit down and really comb through those
- 18 contracts.
- 19 Q. Have you ever suggested that the board
- 20 should get more time to review these kinds of
- 21 items?
- 22 Α. Passively, I have. But not formally.
- 23 Does that make sense?
- 24 No. What do you mean by passively? Q.
- 25 Maybe passively, like, couldn't we Α.

```
1
     have more time? Couldn't we have, like, 10 days
 2
     rather than a week. But it wasn't, like, I
 3
     don't know -- I kind of said that in passing.
 4
     Not, like, hey, can we sit down and really think
 5
     about this.
 6
               MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. Did that bring up
 7
     any follow-up for you?
 8
               MR. BONN: No.
 9
               MR. ELLIOTT: All right. I think we
10
     are done with that. We get on with Mr.
11
     Guistwhite.
12
               (At 3:53 p.m., the deposition
13
     concluded.)
14
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1	County of Lancaster:				
2	SS				
3	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:				
4					
5					
6	I, Angela N. Kilby, Reporter, Notary Public, duly commissioned and qualified in and				
7	for the County of Lancaster, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the				
8	deponent/witness came before me, who was duly sworn/affirmed by me to testify to the truth of				
9	his/her knowledge concerning the matters in controversy in this cause.				
10	I also certify that the questions and				
11	answers were recorded by me in stenotype, to the best of my ability, and subsequently reduced to				
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18	Dated this 11th day of February, 2025.				
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22	Commission Expiration: June 2, 2027				
23					
24					
25					

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