

1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
 2 BEFORE THE
 3 TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
 4 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 5 AUSTIN, TEXAS

6

7 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING)
 8 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS)
 9 SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION BY THE)
 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER)
 PROCLAMATION 2004)

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12 PUBLIC HEARING
 13 September 13, 2006

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15 BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 1:15 p.m., on
 16 Wednesday, the 13th day of September 2006, the
 17 above-entitled matter came on for hearing at the Texas
 18 Education Agency, William B. Travis Building, 1701
 19 North Congress Avenue, Room 1-104, Austin, Texas
 20 78701, before GERALDINE MILLER, CHAIR, and the
 21 following proceedings were reported by Evelyn Coder,
 22 Certified Shorthand Reporter.

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2 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

3 (1:15 p.m.)

4 CHAIR MILLER: It's time for us to
5 begin. We have one person to testify, and we've
6 decided to let -- that's just going to take us about
7 five minutes. So we would like that person to come
8 forward, and, Terry, you might call them, and then
9 we'll resume our wonderful presentation on the
10 long-range goals on technology.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's Harvey Haas.

12 MR. HAAS: Thank you very much. I want
13 to talk today about the need for a post-adoption
14 textbook error reporting system. My name is Harvey J.
15 Haas. I attended Texas Lutheran University for my
16 mathematics and physics certification after retiring
17 from the United States Air Force with the rank of
18 Colonel.

19 Texas A&M and Purdue Universities
20 awarded me bachelor's and master's of civil
21 engineering degrees respectively. The Canyon Middle
22 School PTA named me teacher of the year. I'm an
23 engineer emeritus in Nebraska, and I currently tutor
24 mathematics.

25 Having tutored pre-calculus from four

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1 different textbooks, I observed that one textbook did
2 not meet the TEKS standard for trigonometric
3 translations, even though their Algebra II textbook
4 did. Attempts to get the publisher to make the change

5 was met with the argument, "Another author presents it
6 this way." Thanks to TEA's influence, the
7 pre-calculus textbook is now conforming. Dan
8 Montgomery, State Board of Education District 5
9 representative, nominated me for the state textbook
10 review panel because he supported my mission.

11 Texas students are faced with a problem
12 that requires attention. There is no reliable
13 post-adoption error reporting system. I am aware that
14 every publisher has either their own system or uses
15 the Association of American Publishers website to
16 report errors, but the corrections are not always
17 available for a current textbook user, and I do have
18 proof.

19 The July 28-30, 2006, USA Today
20 Newspaper had a front-page article titled, "Insurgent
21 Snipers Sent After Troops." Key targets included
22 doctors, chaplains and engineers. The Army concluded
23 that, "Snipers were not being robustly portrayed in
24 mission rehearsal exercises." Textbook errors,
25 particularly "selected answers" are student snipers.

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1 The student questions his answer, only to find out he
2 was correct and the book wrong. The great teachers
3 locate the snipers before the assignment, but
4 unfortunately, some inexperienced teachers go by the
5 book and deny the existence of snipers, frustrating
6 the good student who knows otherwise.

7 Dr. Mark H. Weichold, Dean of
Page 3

8 Undergraduate Programs at Texas A&M University, and I
9 had similar experiences with poorly edited textbooks
10 that had "selected answer" errors. Mark and his
11 fellow classmates worked all the problems and
12 submitted the answers to the publisher. A new book
13 was printed. My class had two-thirds of the textbook
14 purchase price refunded and a paid offer to locate the
15 other errors. Both class reactions to a poorly edited
16 textbook were student initiated.

17 If an automobile is expertly marketed
18 but not reliable, J.D. Power and Consumer Reports will
19 expose the manufacturer. Our inexperienced teachers
20 very likely will select the "easy to teach from"
21 textbook, the one with the best marketing approach.
22 TEA can expose those publishers with poor quality
23 control by establishing a website that identifies the
24 errors. Persons finding errors will receive name
25 recognition on the website.

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1 I will volunteer as an unpaid consultant
2 to validate reported errors. Empowered students will
3 make the program work, and it will be a win-win
4 situation for both students and teachers. Thank you.

5 CHAIR MILLER: Thank you. Terry?

6 REP. LEO: First of all, I want to say
7 to Mr. Haas thank you so much for all your hard work
8 in this area. I know you've been doing this for a
9 long time and pursuing to make sure that the textbooks
10 are correct. Have you talked to anyone at TEA yet on

11 how we can implement this or make it happen or --

12 MR. HAAS: No, I have not talked about
13 specifics, but I've been pursuing this for a two-year
14 period of time.

15 REP. LEO: But there's not a specific
16 staff person?

17 MR. HAAS: I haven't located that person
18 yet.

19 REP. LEO: Chairman, can we get somebody
20 from staff to tell us if this is something we can
21 easily do and implement? Because I think it's a great
22 idea.

23 COMM. NEELEY: Is Anita still here?

24 MS. GIVENS: Of course we do have a
25 website, and we maintain a lot of the information

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1 that's on the website, so to establish something like
2 this, we would have to look at what it would take to
3 add that feature to our website. So it would be a
4 staffing issue more than anything else.

5 REP. LEO: Well, Harvey said he would do
6 it free.

7 MS. GIVENS: Well, he would verify the
8 errors, but would you like to post all that stuff to
9 the website? That's the part that takes the -- to
10 actually get it up on the Web so people can see it.

11 CHAIR MILLER: Is that something that
12 you think you -- would that be a way to solve it for
13 you? I'm speaking to you; yes, sir.

14 MR. HAAS: Yes, ma'am. It really would,
15 because, I mean, I reported two errors in one
16 textbook, and I sat back and I waited, and I tried to
17 find that textbook online so I could locate those
18 errors. Later editions had it corrected, but nowhere
19 did that error ever appear on this publisher's
20 website. So the person who had the book never even
21 knew about it.

22 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

23 MR. HAAS: So that's my point, that the
24 person who owns the book needs to be informed so that
25 the new teacher comes in, she downloads the website

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1 and says, "Students, here are the problems with this
2 book that have been so far identified," and then
3 everybody can go on.

4 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Well, I think
5 that's a great -- can we do it?

6 MS. GIVENS: We do have a process by
7 which, when errors are identified and the agency is
8 notified that those errors have been identified, we go
9 back to the publisher. There's an entire process by
10 which the publisher corrects the errors and is
11 required to notify those schools that have adopted
12 their materials of the correction to those errors.

13 So we need to examine that process, make
14 sure it's working the way it's supposed to.

15 REP. LEO: Well, I've had that
16 contention before, that those errata sheets are not

17 getting to the teacher or that there's a new teacher
18 and she doesn't know about the old errata sheet, and,
19 you know, I tried to get publishers to actually make a
20 sticker sheet to put the sticker and page number and
21 everything so you just put it over the corrected copy
22 of that textbook so that it filters down the system.

23 I don't think that errata system is
24 working. I don't think it's getting to the teachers
25 or in the right places, and kids are still ending up

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1 with older editions in which that error has not been
2 corrected.

3 MR. HAAS: I mean, we talked about
4 technology today. We have the website. What better
5 way to identify problems with a textbook than on the
6 website?

7 REP. LEO: Seems pretty simple.

8 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Well, let's pursue
9 it. You know, we'll be glad to explore that.

10 REP. LEO: Thank you.

11 MR. HAAS: Any other questions?

12 (No response)

13 MR. HAAS: Thank you very much.

14 CHAIR MILLER: Colonel Haas, please feel
15 free to work with Anita here at the agency. I mean,
16 you know, whatever, and we would just love it. Thank
17 you for volunteering to help.

18 MR. HAAS: Thank you.

19 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

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(Public hearing concluded at 1:22 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

I, Evelyn Coder, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22nd day of September 2006.

EVELYN CODER
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 2845-Expires 12/31/07
Firm Certificate No. 528
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