

school will be available for Lincoln Public Schools. That is something that I think has pretty well already been agreed to. I want to reiterate, my amendment to the Wesely amendment changes, shifts a little bit, the tone of what you're putting in the intent language. Senator Wesely's amendment says she has to approve it before she does it. My amendment simply says when you do it, you must report to us on these findings and I think that's a reasonable request of a director, though I don't necessarily prefer not to put it in intent language in a bill. If, indeed, Senator Wesely wants to put something in the bill, this is something that I could indeed live with. And so I would ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I appreciate Senator Moore's willingness to cooperate and work on this issue. I know I feel very strongly about the concerns that I expressed yesterday about the closing of Whitehall School's impact. I tried yesterday to outline what I thought were the reasons given for closing the school, and if those reasons are, in fact, met, the Department of Social Services would be authorized to close the school. Not a draw the line in the sand to never cross it attitude but an attitude that says, look, it is going to be hard to argue against this, if all these conditions are met, but I want to make sure that those conditions are met if we are going to proceed down this road. And I, frankly, continue to feel, as I said yesterday, that that school may close, and it looks like it will because of a number of reasons. And I hope it won't and I think we will live to regret it, that that school has served those students well; that the Lincoln schools and the other schools that they come from were not able to handle their needs. They found that they needed to go to Whitehall to meet their educational needs and just like when we talked about closing Norfolk Regional Center and the Lincoln nursing program, as I mentioned yesterday, this program, if it goes away, may be something we wished we had again down the road. And that concerns me a great deal. I have been through this before, and it worries me. Now the Moore amendment is not unreasonable at all. It is less than I would hope for. It doesn't place the parameters prior to the closing. It still provides for that if the decision is made to close that we do have some information back and there is some intent