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going to read it in part. I'm going to talk about the 5,000-pound elephant in the room, and that 5,000-pound elephant is racism. We don't talk about it, but I'm going to talk about it today. As you look around the country, when you look at every major city in the country where a school has either failed or is failing, surrounding that district are suburban schools that are doing exceptionally well. They have dollars to work with, they have all of the resources necessary, and if there's one significant variable that is in all of those school districts and the urban districts, they are predominantly people of color with a lack of resources and the lack of dollars. The suburban districts are primarily white. That is the same sort of scenario that exists in the Omaha community today, and I believe he's accurate in that regard. People try to dance around it, but the fact of the matter is, Millard is predominantly white, Ralston is predominantly white, Elkhorn is predominantly white. And those in the Omaha Public Schools are charged with the responsibility of handling and working with the African American, Native American, and Latino American children, to the extent that they are the largest population in the state. So racism is alive and well, and we need to address it and be up front about it and deal with it. In every city around this country where the schools have failed or are failing, surrounding them are suburbs that are doing well. The net scenario is played out across this country, and we want to sit here and act like it's an accident, when we know full well that it is not, that racism is alive and well, both in the Omaha community and in outstate Nebraska. And he suggests...Mr. Gray suggests, let's face it, let's deal with it, let's be up front about it. He goes on to say, the fact of the matter is, when you have an African American, Latino American and Native American Achievement Council--that he is on--they meet, they listen, they implement ideas. The achievement gap, in Mr. Gray's opinion, is starting to close. The fact that they're doing this, that they have increased their gifted and talented to not only include academic excellence, but other areas as well, it means that Omaha Public Schools is alive and well and ready to deal with all students as they come, and deal with them as they need to be, to make better students across this state and in this city. Those were Mr. Gray's comments. They resonated with me. After the hearing we had committee