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LB 1024

have to look at the whole concept of the learning community and decide whether, in fact, we want to move forward with that concept before we talk about the details of the funding. And that might be a more practical approach to seeing what the actual dollar needs might be. I think that it's important to recognize that we're looking at schools with very diverse populations, and Senator Mines clearly asked Senator Kopplin if we would continue to talk about diversity, and Senator Kopplin didn't think so, but I don't think we can separate that from the whole reason to be, for LB 1024. When OPS first looked at the One City, One School District, they were looking first and foremost at the funding needs for their population, and second, they were looking at the kinds of populations that they serve. And the thing that I wanted to point out to the body, knowing that you're not all from the Douglas County area or the Sarpy County area, and may not be as familiar with the schools there, but just exactly how those proportions fall, and it's not as you would expect. Most people would expect that if you got closer to the Missouri River on the eastern side of the city, that you would find a higher concentration of minority groups, and that as you moved west into the suburbs, you would, in fact, find fewer or a less dense population like that. But that's not really the case. Omaha Central High School, right in the heart of downtown Omaha, last year had a concentration of 38 percent free or reduced lunch, and yet when you went to Omaha North, it increased a little bit, and that's about 37th and Ames, to 49 percent, and then when you went further west to Omaha Benson, the concentration for free and reduced lunch climbed to 66 percent. So I hope that as we continue to discuss the diversity and the socioeconomic needs of our students in the Douglas County area and the Sarpy County area, that we recognize the fact that it is not a hard and fast rule east to west, that in fact there is a great deal of poverty in all parts of the city. Westside--everyone always thinks of Westside as being a very well-heeled area of town, and they do have some lovely residential areas, and they have some strong schools, but Westgate School has a 55 percent concentration of free or reduced lunch. Again, you're talking about a concentration that's higher than half of the OPS schools, and when you go into Ralston, you find that those numbers are increasing, increasing significantly, just within one year. In 2004-05, we saw that