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metropolitan area becoming one family of schools, one learning community, far larger than just one city, one school, but all of us together, working to solve the problems. I hope that none of you think that we are trying to go backwards, that we are trying to diminish the opportunity as far as students, the academic excellence that we provide for our students, the social integration of our students, because I think we're going the other direction. I think we're moving beyond our times. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Twelve years I've been here. And some people have asked, what is the toughest vote of your career? Today. Today. It is a tough one. And thinking back, you know, my wife and I are both products of OPS. We met at Tech High, now the administration building. Had five kids; they all went to OPS, and would probably still be going there if we didn't have a fire that totally destroyed our home, and I went and bought a house and live in a house, the first one I never built, but we're still there. And I represent half of District 66, about 45 percent of OPS, and 5 percent of Millard, so man, I'm in the middle of all of it. And yes, I've got calls and I've got e-mails that really tear you apart. But we wouldn't be here, we would not be discussing this, if it hadn't happened on June 6 of 2005, OPS unanimously approved a resolution to claim 21 schools in Millard, 4 schools in Ralston, a large piece of ground and eventually a number of schools in Elkhorn, or to almost wipe out Elkhorn. And then everybody tried to sit down and negotiate. The mayor of Omaha tried that. The Governor of Nebraska tried that. The Education Committee tried that for a number of months, weeks, and then they brought it to us to make a decision. I don't like to make decisions like this. I've got five kids, and when they would argue, sometimes I'd grab them both by the hand, or by the head, and I'd say, I'm going to make the rules. Well, they've brought it here, and now we're to make the rules, and that's what we're doing here today. And we can look at this and say this is the end, or we can look at it and say this is the beginning. This is the beginning of a new chapter in schools in Nebraska, certainly in the metropolitan