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           IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
           FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
 2
                      ATLANTA DIVISION
 3
     JEFFREY MICHAEL SELMAN,
 4
                  Plaintiff,
                               CASE NO. 1:02-CV-2325-CC
 5
           VS.
 6
     COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT,
     COBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
 7
     JOE REDDEN, Superintendent,
 8
                  Defendants.
 9
10
          Deposition of JEFFREY MICHAEL SELMAN,
11
                  Taken by the Defendants,
                  Before Robin A. Elawady,
12
                  Certified Court Reporter
13
                   At the Law Offices of
14
                      The Manely Firm
                     Marietta, Georgia
15
               On July 8, 2003, at 1:00 p.m.
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Page 3
 1
                 July 8, 2003
 2.
                 1:00 p.m.
 3
           (Whereupon, the reporter provided a
 4
           written disclosure to all counsel pursuant
 5
           to OCGA 9-11-28.)
 6
                 MR. GUNN: Mr. Selman, I'm Linwood
 7
           We've met before. I'm going to take your
     deposition. You've been present for other
 8
     depositions, so you kind of know what to expect
10
     here.
11
                 THE WITNESS: That's correct.
12
                 MR. GUNN: If I ask you anything and
13
     you don't understand it, please ask me to
14
     clarify, and I'll do my best to ask a better
     question. Sometimes I don't ask a good one.
15
16
                 THE WITNESS:
                                Thank you.
17
                 MR.
                      GUNN:
                            You've seen in other
     depositions how sometimes you'll anticipate what
18
19
     I'm going to ask before I complete the question,
20
     and if you start answering before I stop talking
21
     she'll have a difficult time getting everything
22
     down. So try to remember that.
23
                 THE WITNESS: Okay.
24
25
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Page 4 1 JEFFREY MICHAEL SELMAN, 2 being first duly sworn, was examined and 3 testified as follows: 4 CROSS-EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. GUNN: 6 0. Would you just state your name for 7 the record. 8 Α. It is Jeffrey Michael Selman. 9 MR. GUNN: And I would propose our 10 usual stipulations we had in the other 11 depositions. 12 MR. MANELY: That will be fine. And 13 we'll read and sign --14 MR. GUNN: Okay. 15 (Whereupon it was agreed among counsel 16 that the deposition would be taken 17 pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil 18 Procedure for purposes of discovery and 19 all other purposes allowable under the 2.0 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, with all 21 formalities waived and all objections 22 except those going to the responsiveness 23 of the answer and the form of the question 24 reserved until further use of the 25 deposition.)

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1	Q.	Where do you live Mr. Selman?	
2	Α.	In Marietta. Do you want the	
3	address?		
4	Q.	Yes.	
5	Α.	2156 Heritage Trace Drive in	
6	Marietta, Georgia 30062.		
7	Q.	And do you have family here?	
8	Α.	Yes.	
9	Q.	And what is your wife's name?	
10	Α.	Margaret.	
11	Q.	And how many children?	
12	Α.	One.	
13	Q.	Is it a son?	
14	Α.	Son.	
15	Q.	What's his name?	
16		THE WITNESS: Can we go off the	
17	record a second?		
18		MR. GUNN: Yes.	
19	(Where	eupon off-the-record discussions	
20	ensued	d.)	
21	Q.	And his name is William?	
22	Α.	Yes, his name is William.	
23	Q.	And how old is he?	
24	Α.	He's a nine-year-old.	
25	Q.	So what grade was he in last year?	

- 1 A. Third.
- 2 Q. He will be in fourth grade next
- 3 year?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 O. And what science class or classes
- 6 did he have last year?
- 7 A. He's in elementary school. Kind of
- 8 when the teacher broaches the subject is when
- 9 they have it during the day. I don't know the
- 10 scheduling during the day though.
- 11 O. But it is not defined other than as
- 12 science?
- 13 A. That's correct, as far as I know.
- 14 Q. Is it your understanding that he has
- 15 a science textbook?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Have you reviewed it?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Does it have anything in there about
- 20 evolution?
- 21 A. The term "evolution" doesn't show
- 22 up, but when it speaks of things that might
- 23 relate to evolution it references things like
- 24 over time.
- 25 Q. So only in the most general sense?

- 1 A. That's correct, from my understanding.
- 2 Q. The statement that we are here
- 3 about, is that statement in the front of your
- 4 son's book from last year?
- 5 A. It is not in elementary school
- 6 textbooks, no.
- 7 Q. Have you ever seen a textbook that
- 8 had that statement in it?
- 9 A. The actual textbooks, no.
- 10 Q. Do you have any understanding about
- 11 when he moves to fourth grade is it going to be
- 12 a similar situation that he'll have general
- 13 science curriculum?
- 14 A. That's my understanding of it, yes.
- 15 Q. Does your son have any understanding
- 16 about what this case is about? Or have you had
- 17 any discussion with him about what you think
- 18 about the origin of life?
- 19 A. I can talk to the fact that we've
- 20 talked about it, and he exhibits some
- 21 understanding of it. To the exact extent of his
- 22 understanding, you'll have to ask him.
- Q. Well, what have you discussed with
- 24 him in general terms?
- 25 A. Basically we've talked about science

- 1 in the house. We've talked about evolutionary
- 2 theory, how it works, the facts about it, why we
- 3 believe it is fact and why it is fact, why
- 4 religion is different than science fact, and how
- 5 the two don't have to be mutually exclusive.
- 6 They are just different realms of understanding.
- 7 Q. But you haven't discussed with him
- 8 the purpose of this litigation or the statement?
- 9 A. I don't remember whether I mentioned
- 10 the statement exactly and quoted it to him or
- 11 reading it from papers, but he understands the
- 12 basic underlying tenet of this whole thing is
- 13 separation of church and state, how government
- 14 shouldn't impose anybody's belief on anybody in
- 15 the country. The government has got to be
- 16 religion neutral.
- 17 Q. How long have you lived in Cobb
- 18 County.
- 19 A. Nine-and-a-half years.
- Q. And where did you reside prior to
- 21 that?
- 22 A. It was in Fulton County down near
- 23 Abernathy.
- Q. And then you at some point moved to
- 25 this area from New York State?

- 1 A. Prior to the Abernathy address, yes.
- Q. And that was --
- 3 A. Although I'd been here several times
- 4 for assignments. I'm a consultant, a
- 5 programming consultant.
- 6 Q. And we were talking a little bit
- 7 before the deposition. Your employment at some
- 8 point was as a consultant with Lucent; is that
- 9 correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And tell me about just in general
- 12 terms your employment history since you've been
- 13 in Georgia.
- 14 A. I first came to Georgia as a
- 15 consultant from a firm in New York. I went
- 16 through an assignment with Delta Airlines.
- 17 Finished that up, went into the office of the
- 18 consultant firm and became recruiting manager of
- 19 that division. Put myself back out into the
- 20 field for Y2K situation at Lucent, and stayed at
- 21 Lucent for a little over five years.
- Q. Until what time?
- A. Until January of 2003.
- Q. And what do you do now?
- 25 A. I'm looking for a COBOL job.

- 1 Q. When you say you are a consultant,
- 2 is there a particular area that you consult in,
- 3 expertise?
- 4 A. It is mainframe programming. Mostly
- 5 COBOL. A little bit of web developing, but
- 6 mostly COBOL.
- 7 Q. And what is your educational
- 8 background?
- 9 A. I have a bachelor's in history and a
- 10 minor in psychology. I've got about 90 credits
- 11 above my -- give or take five or six -- above my
- 12 bachelor's with no main direction in anything.
- 13 It was mostly just to sustain my teaching
- 14 license in New York City that I took these
- 15 courses.
- 16 Q. You taught in New York City?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. How many years?
- A. Approximately ten.
- Q. Are you a member of any religious
- 21 group?
- A. I'm Jewish.
- Q. What synagogue do you attend?
- A. You don't have to attend a temple, a
- 25 church or anything to be of a religious faith.

- 1 I'm Jewish.
- 2 Q. So you don't attend a temple or any
- 3 type of --
- 4 A. Occasionally I may attend a temple
- 5 with friends for specific holidays or we might
- 6 be invited by them to attend their temple. So
- 7 I've been to several in the area.
- 8 Q. You don't have one you consider your
- 9 own?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Have you ever filed any other
- 12 lawsuits before?
- 13 A. Maybe 30 years ago when somebody
- 14 stiffed me for some money on a job I had done
- 15 for them.
- 16 O. Was that in New York?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. How about other than that?
- 19 A. No. Not to my recollection.
- Q. Have you been on the other side of
- 21 any litigation? A party or witness in any other
- 22 litigation?
- A. Not that I remember, no.
- 24 O. There were some articles in the
- 25 paper about your objections to the Cobb County

- 1 commission meetings and some of their practices
- 2 there. Are you planning on suing the county at
- 3 this point?
- 4 A. That's entirely up to them.
- 5 Q. So in other words, if they persist
- 6 in their practices it's possible you will file
- 7 suit against them?
- 8 A. I don't know at this point.
- 9 Q. How did you first become aware of
- 10 the issues involved in this litigation? And by
- 11 that I mean the textbook adoption and the
- 12 subsequent decision by the board to put the
- 13 stickers in the science textbooks.
- 14 A. I had seen an article in the
- 15 newspaper.
- 16 Q. At what point was that? What was
- 17 the article about?
- 18 A. It was specifically about the
- 19 inclusion of this disclaimer against evolution
- 20 being put in the science textbooks of secondary
- 21 schools in Cobb.
- 22 Q. And from that point, how did you
- 23 become a plaintiff in this case?
- 24 A. I evaluated what this really meant
- 25 to not just my own presence and my son's

- 1 presence here --
- 2 MR. MANELY: Before you venture down
- 3 this path, I may have just misheard you. What I
- 4 understood you to mean is physically from step
- 5 one to step two, how did you go from reading the
- 6 paper to signing on as a plaintiff.
- 7 Q. I quess a better way to ask my
- 8 question would be from that point, what did you
- 9 do that resulted in you -- who did you contact?
- 10 How did you get to be a plaintiff in this case?
- 11 A. I called up the ACLU and asked if
- 12 they were considering doing something about
- 13 this, behind the scenes, in front of the scenes,
- 14 but are they going to do something about it,
- 15 because I saw it as something that shouldn't be
- 16 there.
- 17 Q. And that resulted in you contacting
- 18 Mr. Manely at some point?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Or being put into contact with him?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Were you a member of the ACLU at
- 23 that point?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Are you a member of the ACLU now?

- 1 A. I don't know, to be honest with you.
- 2 I've sent them money periodically through my
- 3 entire life. I don't know if that was
- 4 membership or not.
- 5 Q. So you had sent them money prior to
- 6 that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. But you didn't think you were a
- 9 member at that point?
- 10 A. I get literature periodically, but I
- 11 don't remember signing anything saying I was a
- member.
- 13 Q. You're aware that there was an
- 14 amended Complaint, a motion to amend the
- 15 Complaint. Do you know the other plaintiffs
- 16 that were --
- 17 A. Can you be more specific as to what
- 18 motion. There have been a lot of things
- 19 happening lately, and I want to know exactly
- 20 what you mean.
- Q. Do you know anyone who has attempted
- 22 to join in this litigation as a plaintiff?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Who are they?
- A. You want specific names?

- 1 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. Okay. I don't know all the names.
- 3 I just know some of them.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Deborah Power, Kathy Chapman, I
- 6 think a gentleman named Jeff Silver. I'm not
- 7 really sure of the rest of the people. I know
- 8 several other people have been approached about
- 9 coming on, but I haven't necessarily dealt with
- 10 them personally.
- 11 Q. How do you know those three folks?
- 12 A. I met them at board meetings.
- 13 Q. At Cobb County Board of Education
- 14 meetings?
- 15 A. Cobb County Board of Education
- 16 meetings when they were there protesting.
- 17 Q. Why did you bring this lawsuit?
- 18 MR. MANELY: There is the question
- 19 you started answering earlier.
- 20 A. I'm a strong adherent to the concept
- 21 of separation of church and state, and when I
- 22 saw the sticker, which is the kind of thing that
- 23 if you've been around this country several times
- 24 that people try to reintroduce religious beliefs
- 25 of creation into science classes. I saw this as

- 1 another attempt at religious intrusion by a
- 2 government body into an area that it doesn't
- 3 belong in. When you are teaching a subject, you
- 4 should teach that subject.
- 5 There is no controversy that
- 6 evolution is a fact among the vast majority of
- 7 scientists on this planet. When you start
- 8 introducing things like intelligent design and
- 9 creation science, it implies something
- 10 supernatural, something above the natural
- 11 sciences, and that's religion. To interject
- 12 that into a science class is just outside the
- 13 box of what science teaches. I wouldn't teach
- 14 French in a Russian class. Kids are there to
- 15 learn Russian. There is nothing wrong with
- 16 French, but they are not there to learn French.
- 17 They are there to learn Russian.
- 18 So if you come to a science class
- 19 expecting to learn science, you should be taught
- 20 what the scientists know at that time. Okay.
- 21 It changes constantly. It is self-evaluating.
- 22 Science brings in new data always. It gets up
- 23 for peer review. If the vast majority of the
- 24 people think it is bogus, they throw it out.
- 25 There has been a few things along the way,

- 1 especially in evolution -- well, not especially,
- 2 but in evolution that have been hoaxes. It gets
- 3 evaluated, it gets thrown out, and the truth
- 4 comes forward and it becomes a fact.
- 5 The theory of evolution is a
- 6 scientific process that people keep evaluating.
- 7 So there are no alternate scientific theories
- 8 for it. When you bring in something like
- 9 intelligent design or creation science, that
- 10 steps outside the evaluation process because you
- 11 can't test that. The existence of a
- 12 supernatural deity running the show is not
- 13 testable in a science environment. It steps
- 14 outside the scientific method.
- So when the sticker came up and it
- 16 picked on evolution, it just smacked of
- 17 everything that seemed to be of a religious
- intrusion into a place that it didn't belong.
- 19 If they want to have, you know, a history class
- 20 about it, you know, and discuss it, about it,
- 21 fine, but to teach it as an alternative to a
- 22 theory in science, no.
- 23 Q. So your concern was that that
- 24 sticker would result in something being taught
- 25 in the classroom that you didn't feel was

- 1 appropriate for the science classroom?
- 2 A. That's correct. As an intrusion
- 3 also of religion into that classroom.
- 4 Q. In New York City, what was your
- 5 license to teach?
- A. I had two licenses. I had a high
- 7 school history license, and I had what they call
- 8 a common branches, which allowed me to teach
- 9 elementary school. And under the high school
- 10 license I basically could teach any grade under
- 11 that. So it could be 12th grade high school
- 12 history all the way down to kindergarten.
- 13 Q. So in high school you taught
- 14 history. And then did you ever teach in
- 15 elementary school?
- 16 A. Yes, I did.
- 17 Q. And would you have taught general
- 18 curriculum in elementary school, including
- 19 science?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. You talked a little bit about the
- 22 process of science and how you go about
- 23 evaluating facts. Do you agree that part of the
- 24 development of science is questioning beliefs
- 25 and questioning facts? Questioning whether

- 1 facts are --
- 2 A. Questioning data.
- 3 Q. Right. Right?
- 4 A. (Nods head affirmatively.)
- 5 Q. Why do you believe that the board
- 6 decided to put this statement in the science
- 7 textbooks?
- 8 A. I think there is some religious
- 9 motivation behind it by some of the board
- 10 members and probably by some of the constituents
- 11 pushing them further to do it. To pick on
- 12 evolution is -- to me is an obvious religious
- intrusion, because they didn't pick on any other
- 14 theory in science.
- 15 Q. Are there other science theories you
- 16 are aware of that raise this type of emotion and
- 17 strong feelings --
- 18 A. No. That's my point.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- MR. MANELY: I presume your question
- 21 to mean currently. You know, obviously
- 22 Copernican theory of rotation of planets used to
- 23 get people beheaded on a regular basis when they
- 24 disagreed with the church.
- MR. GUNN: Yes. We are talking

- 1 about today.
- 2 MR. MANELY: Okay.
- 3 Q. So your thought was that because it
- 4 engendered such strong feelings it must
- 5 necessarily be a religious motivation for --
- A. Not because it generated strong
- 7 feelings, just because of the topic it was
- 8 picking on. It was picking on evolution, which
- 9 some people feel is contrary to creationism.
- 10 Q. What do you base your statement on
- 11 when you said you thought it was motivated by
- 12 religious belief?
- 13 A. It's been my experience that the
- 14 secular community in the world, in America,
- 15 wherever on this planet, they don't question
- 16 evolution. Scientists don't question evolution.
- 17 I don't want to hear about the 162 people in
- 18 this country who claim to be scientists
- 19 questioning it. There are 20,000-something
- 20 scientists that accept it, which puts them into
- 21 a .007 or something like that percentage of
- 22 people that say evolution is not a fact.
- If the statement had said, "Approach
- 24 all science with an open mind and critically" --
- 25 "critical thought," that doesn't pick on any

- 1 particular science theory, principle, law. To
- 2 isolate evolution with a history in this
- 3 country, okay, of fighting evolution and the
- 4 creation, of saying, oh, there is no evolution,
- 5 you know, Darwin is a nut, it pinpoints
- 6 religion.
- 7 The only group -- well, it's not a
- 8 group, but it's -- the fundamentalist religious
- 9 people in this country want creation taught,
- 10 okay. Evolution has nothing to do with
- 11 creation. It's a science. So if you pick on
- 12 just evolution, the only people picking on this
- 13 are fundamentalist religious people. It is a
- 14 religious issue for them.
- 15 Q. So your belief is that any scientist
- 16 that questions any aspect of evolution must
- 17 necessarily have a religious belief?
- 18 A. That's not what I'm saying.
- 19 Q. Well, I understood you to say that
- 20 the only people that questioned --
- 21 A. You said aspect of evolution. Any
- 22 scientist that questions an aspect of evolution.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. Scientists will debate new data
- 25 coming in and say, well, this might point to

- 1 this thing, this aspect of evolution, as not
- 2 being completely the way we thought it was.
- 3 Let's reevaluate. But none of them throw the
- 4 entire theory out. They accept it. The
- 5 questions come in, how did it happen, not that
- 6 it happened. The fact that it happened is a
- 7 fact.
- 8 Q. Now, you agree with me that
- 9 evolution is a term that really refers to two
- 10 different things; right?
- 11 A. What do you mean by that?
- MR. MANELY: Which are?
- 13 A. Your turn to answer.
- O. Evolution stands for Darwin's
- 15 theory, and there are two large categories, I
- 16 guess. There is micro and macro evolution.
- 17 A. That's nonsense. Plain and simple.
- 18 There is evolution. This concept of micro and
- 19 macro evolution has been brought about by people
- 20 like in the intelligent design groups.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. There is evidence of --
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. You want me to answer it, or do you
- 25 want to interrupt me? There is evidence, okay,

- 1 of what they call micro evolution that they have
- 2 to accept because it is there. They can see it
- 3 themselves.
- 4 Q. All right.
- 5 A. They deny that it could be then
- 6 extrapolated back into our late past, okay, for
- 7 millions and millions of years. They deny that
- 8 macro aspect of it. They are wrong. There is
- 9 only one evolution.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. It happened. How it happened,
- 12 again, that's the thing where debate within the
- 13 scientific community takes place because new
- 14 evidence comes in constantly. To say evolution
- 15 is Darwinian -- he may have started it at one
- 16 point, but evolution has far exceeded anything
- 17 that Darwin had anticipated, because he didn't
- 18 have the data we have today and the tools we
- 19 have today.
- 20 Q. So in your mind evolution is one
- 21 word, and anyone that says that it means
- 22 anything other than one concept, you don't
- 23 believe that?
- MR. MANELY: I have to object to
- 25 that because it is very vague. I know where you

- 1 are going, but your black-and-white language you
- 2 are using is pretty vague.
- 3 A. Restate.
- 4 Q. You were using the terms "macro" and
- 5 "micro evolution" that you told me you don't
- 6 agree that there is a concept?
- 7 A. I'm not using them --
- 8 MR. MANELY: Hang on. Remember
- 9 she's taking down words. So let Linwood finish
- 10 his sentence, otherwise she's going to get
- 11 really finger tight.
- 12 A. I'm sorry. I don't mean to be
- 13 argumentative.
- 14 Q. So your understanding of science is
- 15 that natural selection and the theory that all
- organisms derived from one organism is all a
- 17 single theory, and there is no way to dispute
- 18 any part of that overall theory?
- 19 A. I think that you are lumping
- 20 something together that shouldn't be put
- 21 together.
- 22 Q. How would you separate it?
- 23 A. Evolution is a process. As that
- 24 process progressed from the day it began -- how
- 25 it began, I don't care. I don't know. The fact

- 1 that it is going on, okay, how it happened at
- 2 any given point when new data shows up to show
- 3 links between this and that and the other thing,
- 4 that's what we debate in science. Not that it
- 5 happened. We know it happened. We don't know
- 6 how it happened completely, although we are
- 7 finding out.
- 8 Q. What happened? You keep saying it
- 9 happened. What happened?
- 10 A. Evolution happened. How life --
- 11 O. What is evolution?
- 12 A. Evolution is a process. It's a
- 13 scientific theory, which in science a theory is
- 14 not a hypothesis. Colloquially when we talk
- 15 about a theory it means something else. So in
- 16 science we talk about a theory. It is a group
- of facts that come together to show a process
- 18 that happened. So evolution is a process of how
- 19 life on this planet changes, period.
- Q. And do you see any distinction with
- 21 one species developing into another species and
- 22 change in the sense of one species evolving and
- 23 changing its characteristics?
- A. Restate that.
- 25 Q. You said that I was lumping

- 1 everything together, and then I didn't
- 2 understand what distinction you were trying to
- 3 draw between -- are you trying to draw a
- 4 distinction between what happened and how it
- 5 happened? Is that what your distinction is?
- 6 A. My distinction is that evolution is
- 7 a process that we can see happening through the
- 8 fossil evidence, through a lot of different
- 9 things that happened, okay. At each change in
- 10 evolution, when we have new data coming in, the
- 11 debate comes up, what does that data mean? How
- does it relate to things that happened before?
- 13 What is the evidence of how this piece of
- 14 evidence relates to that other piece of
- 15 evidence, okay. That's the difference of the
- 16 two.
- 17 You have this umbrella issue of --
- 18 not issue of fact, but evolution that says life
- 19 on this planet started way back here and changed
- 20 over a long, long, long time, millions of
- 21 years, to exist into the way we see things
- 22 today. How different life forms have branched
- 23 off, became other life forms, and related to
- 24 each other.
- The process at each individual

- 1 section of that process, how did it happen at
- 2 that point? How does the new piece of fossil
- 3 evidence that we've just discovered, how does it
- 4 fit into the big picture? That's where the
- 5 debate comes. Then consensus happens, and it
- 6 gets added into the bigger picture of evolution.
- 7 If further evidence comes down the road that
- 8 might contradict something there, it might lead
- 9 it into another direction.
- The vast majority of sciences will
- 11 bang it around as much as they possibly can.
- 12 And they do. It's not a simple, oh, everybody
- 13 get together and agree with this. They have a
- 14 lot of discussion and evaluation of the data.
- 15 When they finally come to a consensus it gets
- 16 brought into the general theory of evolution,
- 17 and it gets taught that way because that's what
- 18 we know up to that point.
- 19 Q. And you have no problem with
- 20 evaluation of data in the classroom?
- 21 A. That depends on what classroom.
- 22 Q. In a science classroom, if you've
- 23 got --
- A. A science classroom in a public
- 25 school, okay, is -- while things should be

- 1 evaluated and calculated, the subject that has
- 2 been already established by the scientific
- 3 community should be taught first. The children
- 4 have to be taught the process of science to see
- 5 how the scientists came to those data that they
- 6 are now being taught in the classroom, okay.
- 7 Discussion of the evaluation of how the
- 8 scientists came to that is absolutely
- 9 appropriate.
- To do absolute research in an
- 11 elementary school in, a secondary school with
- 12 new fossils coming in, they are not prepared to
- 13 do that. That kind of thing is saved for
- 14 colleges, research areas, whatever.
- So the subject should be taught in
- 16 the science classroom and should be examined.
- 17 But if you are implying that they should be
- 18 doing research there, if that's what I sense --
- 19 if that's what your question sounded like, no.
- 20 Q. Now, you keep mentioning the
- 21 evaluation of data, and I just want to confirm
- 22 that you are telling me that you think what
- 23 should be taught is what is the consensus first,
- 24 and then as a secondary matter --
- A. And how it --

- 1 MR. MANELY: Hang on.
- Q. -- as a secondary matter, then we
- 3 can talk about how the scientists got to that
- 4 point and some of the evaluation of data that
- 5 maybe is currently going on?
- 6 A. First you have to teach the subject.
- 7 Q. So you would have no issue with an
- 8 evaluation of data, say, in a high school
- 9 science class where they are talking about
- 10 evolution if they talk about the theories and
- 11 the evolution of life. If they talk about some
- of the current controversies on a factual level,
- 13 you would have no problem with that; right?
- 14 A. What do you mean by controversies?
- 15 Q. Well, you've talked about how there
- 16 is new evidence coming in all the time, there is
- 17 new facts coming in, new data, and that
- 18 scientists evaluate that. You wouldn't have a
- 19 problem with that being introduced in the
- 20 classroom, their evaluations of what was going
- 21 on?
- 22 A. As long as it is coming in from the
- 23 scientific environment, no.
- Q. Which would mean basing it on facts
- 25 and evaluating those facts and testing those

- 1 facts against facts that you've seen in other
- 2 areas and whether they fit together?
- 3 A. I'd accept that.
- 4 Q. You'd agree with me that this
- 5 discussion that occurred at the school board
- 6 level and that has occurred in the media about
- 7 this statement and about evolution, about
- 8 scientific views of evolution, it's been pretty
- 9 controversial?
- 10 A. Has nothing to do with science.
- 11 Q. That wasn't my question. This has
- 12 generated a lot of media attention. The
- 13 statement and whether the statement is accurate,
- 14 whether evolution is true and testable, that
- 15 type of debate has occurred in relation to the
- 16 placement of the sticker in the books.
- 17 A. The controversy is outside the
- 18 scientific community. It has nothing to do with
- 19 science. The controversy you are speaking of is
- 20 a social-religious controversy. It has nothing
- 21 to do with science.
- MR. MANELY: If I understood
- 23 Linwood's question correctly though, it was do
- 24 you agree that the sticker has created a
- 25 controversy or there is a controversy about the

- 1 sticker.
- 2 Q. Yes. You want to define it as a
- 3 social controversy as opposed to a scientific
- 4 controversy, but you'd agree that there has been
- 5 a tremendous amount of controversy about that
- 6 topic?
- 7 A. Yes. I'll admit to that as long as
- 8 we make sure that we see where the controversy
- 9 is, and it's not controversy in the science
- 10 community about evolution.
- 11 Q. Huge amount of media coverage of
- 12 whether the sticker was appropriate, how people
- 13 felt about evolution, and how evolution should
- 14 be taught; right?
- 15 A. The controversy isn't how evolution
- 16 should be taught. The controversy is that there
- 17 are other alternative theories to evolution, and
- 18 there aren't any.
- 19 Q. Well, you are here today partly
- 20 because you disagree with the way the school
- 21 board thinks evolution should be taught; right?
- 22 A. From what I've read about what
- 23 they've said with the new regulations and their
- 24 guidelines and things, they seem to say now
- 25 evolution should be taught and taught in a

- 1 scientific mode.
- Q. Right.
- 3 A. I don't have a problem with that. I
- 4 have a problem if alternate theories of
- 5 evolution are introduced, because the only
- 6 alternate theories of evolution aren't
- 7 scientific. And the board, from what I've seen,
- 8 hasn't said that they can come in.
- 9 Q. What I was trying to get to is: You
- 10 agree with me that there has been a lot of
- 11 controversy about the issue, and part of the
- issue is how evolution should be taught; right?
- 13 A. I don't understand it as that.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. It is not how it should be taught.
- 16 That's not the controversy.
- 17 MR. MANELY: Let me clarify
- 18 something also. Dr. Plenge may well have opened
- 19 the door for us to be concerned about how the
- 20 policy and the regs are going to be applied. So
- 21 that is still something that we are evaluating.
- 22 Remember when she was talking about if some
- 23 student wants to talk about intelligent design,
- 24 we need to talk about that, if she says we can
- 25 talk about that.

- 1 MR. GUNN: Well, I disagree --
- 2 MR. MANELY: That was fresh.
- 3 MR. GUNN: Okay. Well, I disagree
- 4 with that. I think that was a product of the
- 5 searching cross-examination that she was
- 6 undergoing. But I'm not asking him about --
- 7 well, maybe I should ask him. I'm not asking
- 8 him about what is taught in the classroom. I'm
- 9 asking him -- there has been a huge amount of --
- 10 actually in some of the newspaper articles,
- 11 there has been a huge amount of newspaper and TV
- 12 coverage of Cobb County School District's
- 13 sticker and this debate, is evolution
- 14 scientifically, completely valid? Is there any
- 15 realistic debate? Those things have been a big
- 16 controversy in this context in this litigation.
- 17 All right.
- 18 A. But your question to me was, is the
- 19 controversy about how evolution is taught. Even
- 20 from what you just said now, it is not a
- 21 controversy of how evolution is being taught or
- 22 will be taught. It is that they want to bring
- 23 in alternative theories.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. So they'll teach evolution the

- 1 correct way, but then they will bring in
- 2 intelligent design to counter it.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. And that's where the controversy
- 5 comes in, intelligent design/creation. Science
- 6 can't come into the science environment.
- 7 Q. We are not talking about teaching
- 8 evolution. I'm talking about teaching this type
- 9 of issue, whether you want to call it evolution
- 10 or you want to call it some other theory, that
- 11 the other theories are only relevant because we
- 12 are talking about evolution; right? That's what
- 13 I wanted you to understand my question to mean.
- 14 You are debating with me about whether evolution
- 15 should be -- the question is how it should be
- 16 taught. But that's what we are talking about.
- 17 A. I was just trying to respond to your
- 18 question the way I heard it.
- 19 Q. You know from attending meetings and
- 20 from the media coverage that there are some
- 21 people that are adamantly opposed to any
- 22 instruction on evolution?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And you know too that there are some
- 25 people that are adamantly opposed, like you, to

- 1 any other theory or any other type of theory
- being introduced in the classroom; right?
- 3 A. I would like to rephrase your
- 4 question for you.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- A. I'm not opposed to other people's
- 7 concepts being taught about in a classroom
- 8 setting that's appropriate to a comparative
- 9 religion, a history class, where it would come
- 10 up in context of what's happening, say, if they
- 11 are talking about modern history and what's
- 12 happening in the United States today. That's
- 13 fine. Having it brought into a science class
- 14 when it is out of context of the subject, yes,
- 15 I'm opposed to that.
- 16 Q. You can understand my questions to
- 17 mean science class. We are not talking about
- 18 music or history. We are talking about science
- 19 class.
- So you are adamantly opposed and
- 21 many others are adamantly opposed to any other
- 22 theory being brought into the science classroom;
- 23 right?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Why do you think this topic

- 1 engenders such strong opinions?
- 2 A. Throughout all of history theocracy
- 3 has brought its head up constantly where people
- 4 of a certain belief try to impose that belief on
- 5 the rest of the society they live in. It's been
- 6 very successful in several places, and it's been
- 7 very destructive. The United States is a
- 8 religion neutral country where you can practice
- 9 and believe anything you want to. You can pray
- in a classroom as long as you don't bother
- 11 anybody else with it.
- 12 There is a movement in our country
- 13 now, and I'm not paranoid about this, where a
- 14 group of people want their religion taught to
- 15 everybody, and we all have to fall in line with
- 16 it. It makes no sense to me at all, but that's
- 17 what is happening. And they constantly raise
- 18 their heads trying to squeeze their religious
- 19 belief on the rest of us.
- 20 Q. You think that everyone that feels
- 21 differently than you is in that group that you
- 22 are describing?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. My question to you is: Why does
- 25 this topic engender such strong feelings, not as

- 1 a historical matter, but today?
- 2 A. For me personally --
- MR. MANELY: That's a good point.
- 4 Were you curious as to Mr. Selman's personal
- 5 feeling about why it engenders strong feelings
- 6 in himself or his feeling about why it engenders
- 7 strong feelings in the public at large?
- MR. GUNN: The latter.
- 9 MR. MANELY: Okay --
- 10 Q. I'm asking you why you think this is
- 11 a hot topic.
- 12 A. Okay. Specifically in the science
- 13 arena, scientists are very precise. They
- 14 evaluate data that comes in. They discuss it.
- 15 They rip it apart. They analyze it. They argue
- 16 amongst themselves. And when they finally come
- 17 to an understanding that it's the truth, that's
- 18 what they go with, leaving the door always open
- 19 for new data coming in. They go with what they
- 20 have at the time for the best possible solution
- 21 that they have at that moment.
- When you start bringing in things
- 23 that start ripping that down, you underpin our
- 24 entire society, which is based upon scientific
- 25 innovation. TV sets, computers, all this other

- 1 stuff. If you start questioning the science
- 2 behind that, and all of a sudden some religious
- 3 group comes, and maybe down the road, I don't
- 4 know, this is looking into the future, it could
- 5 undermine all that. Our way of life could be
- 6 totally destroyed. Our freedoms could be ripped
- 7 away because things are being controlled in the
- 8 wrong direction. So they fight to keep their
- 9 science precise so that that can't happen.
- 10 On the social side of it, we are
- 11 constantly going through an evolution in society
- 12 in this country to begin with. Not too long ago
- 13 we went through an evolution for civil rights.
- 14 One hundred years after the Civil War, blacks
- 15 were still not free in this country. People
- 16 couldn't believe what they wanted to in certain
- 17 ways. I mean, we are constantly vying for
- 18 position so that people can be free in this
- 19 country. To have one myopic group of religious
- 20 fanatics come forward and try to dominate our
- 21 society, we are going to get in its way, because
- I don't want my freedoms taken and the people I
- 23 know don't want their freedoms taken away.
- There is a whole issue with things
- 25 in this country now because of 9-11 and the

- 1 intrusion of religious --
- 2 Q. Let me kind of get you back on --
- 3 MR. MANELY: Let's take a break.
- 4 (Deposition in Recess, 1:43 p.m. to
- 5 1:51 p.m.)
- 6 Q. You were referring to this battle
- 7 between the scientists and the religious
- 8 fanatics before we broke. Can you see that
- 9 there may be people who are not religious
- 10 fanatics that have a different view of the
- 11 science of evolution than you do?
- 12 A. Can you put that in a better context
- 13 for me?
- 14 Q. In your mind, can you imagine that
- 15 there may be people who are not what you
- 16 consider religious fanatics who may disagree
- 17 with your view of the science of evolution?
- 18 A. It's been my experience from people
- 19 I've encountered before this issue and during
- 20 this issue that people of faith like myself who
- 21 know about evolution accept it. So I would have
- 22 to say no.
- 23 Q. Can you see how the instruction of
- 24 evolution could raise concerns to a parent or a
- 25 student even if they weren't a religious

- 1 fanatic?
- 2 A. Yes, with the caveat that they
- 3 should then opt out of taking that science
- 4 class. If the kid is taking science, that's
- 5 what he's got to be taught is science.
- Q. And you know from sitting through
- 7 these depositions that state-mandated curriculum
- 8 requires that evolution be taught in our
- 9 classrooms; right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Do you remember the verbiage of the
- 12 statement, or would you like me to read it to
- 13 you? I want to ask you some questions about it.
- 14 A. I know it. I can't quote it. So if
- 15 you would like to read it, by all means.
- 16 Q. That might make it easier, and I can
- 17 actually show you your Complaint, which you can
- 18 refer to here. Your Complaint says, "Defendant
- 19 now requires that all public school science
- 20 textbooks include a disclaimer which states,
- 'This textbook contains material on evolution.
- 22 Evolution is a theory not a fact regarding the
- 23 origin of living things. This material should
- 24 be approached with an open mind, studied
- 25 carefully and critically considered.'"

- 1 Tell me why you think that statement
- 2 constitutes a First Amendment violation.
- 3 A. Fist of all, it's fraudulent.
- 4 Evolution is a theory, not a fact. In science a
- 5 theory contains facts. So evolution is a fact.
- 6 It's contradictory. It's not true. Evolution
- 7 is a fact. So that's wrong, the very fact that
- 8 evolution is singled out here. In today's
- 9 modern America right now, the only societal
- 10 conflict outside of the science class is --
- 11 evolution is attacked by people that believe in
- 12 creation. So it's a religious thing. They
- 13 don't attack gravity. That's a theory. They
- 14 don't attack atomic theory. That's a theory.
- 15 It is fact. So picking on evolution is the only
- 16 place where I see a religious -- outside of
- 17 science there is a controversy because of
- 18 religion.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. Does that answer your question?
- Q. Yes. And I guess I wanted to ask
- 22 you: You think the only controversy is as a
- 23 religious basis, but you just agreed with my
- 24 statement that you could understand how a
- 25 student or a parent might have concerns about

- 1 instruction in evolution. How do you harmonize
- 2 those two statements?
- 3 A. That's easy on one level and hard on
- 4 another level. Because a person like myself who
- 5 has very strong spiritual faith, it's easy to
- 6 harmonize it. I mean, if I want my kid to learn
- 7 science, go to school and learn a topic that is
- 8 being taught there. If that's what they are
- 9 teaching, teach it. Let the kid learn it. When
- 10 I get him home, I'll teach him what we think is
- 11 another way it happened. It wouldn't be a
- 12 scientific way, but it's another way. Which is
- 13 how I deal with my kid. I teach him everything,
- 14 okay. But when he's doing science, he's got to
- 15 do science. When he's doing religion, he's got
- 16 to do religion. They are not self-exclusive.
- 17 When a person comes in from a
- 18 religious fanaticism that says, "I don't want my
- 19 kid taught this because it violates what I
- 20 believe, " well, I understand that, but do you
- 21 want him to get an education that can get him a
- job in the future that can, you know, give him a
- 23 way into a college? Yeah. Well, then he's got
- 24 to learn this, because the colleges are going to
- 25 test him on SATs, whatever, this is going to

- 1 come up. He's going to fail it.
- 2 You don't want him to learn that.
- 3 That's okay. You want him to learn it and tell
- 4 him it's a lie. That's okay too, but that's in
- 5 your house, not in science class.
- If you don't want him to take it,
- 7 have him call in sick that day, and try not to
- 8 have him go past his number of days he's allowed
- 9 before he can't get promoted. That's your
- 10 option. There is a way out of it. They don't
- 11 have to impose their religious belief in some
- 12 place that it doesn't belong.
- 13 Q. You haven't reviewed the textbooks
- 14 that are at issue here; right?
- 15 A. I've seen excerpts here and there,
- 16 and I can't tell you the titles from which ones.
- 17 I've been inundated with so much, it starts to
- 18 muddle a little.
- 19 O. You understand that the textbooks
- 20 that the statement is placed in all teach
- 21 evolution I think in the terms that you've
- 22 described it here, don't you?
- A. That's my understanding. And
- 24 because that's there appropriately, why is there
- 25 a disclaimer there? It has got to have a

- 1 religious intent behind it.
- 2 Q. So you can only see a religious
- 3 intent to the disclaimer simply -- for two
- 4 reasons. One, because it singles out evolution;
- 5 and second reason, because you can't see any
- 6 other reason to have any debate about it?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Would you agree with me that this
- 9 statement doesn't say anything about religion or
- 10 religious belief on its face?
- 11 A. It most certainly talks about
- 12 religion by the very fact that it isolates
- 13 evolution, because then that in itself is a
- 14 theory in science -- it is the only theory in
- our modern world today that is being attacked by
- 16 religion. Secular groups will not question
- 17 this.
- 18 Q. So if we take a chapter of a
- 19 textbook that discusses evolution or the fact
- 20 that it just talks about evolution means that
- 21 it's religious?
- 22 A. Say that again.
- Q. You just said that that is a
- 24 religious statement because it talks about
- 25 evolution --

- 1 A. It isolates evolution --
- 2 Q. -- only evolution?
- 3 A. It goes against evolution and only
- 4 evolution.
- 5 O. Because it casts doubt on evolution
- 6 or because its topic is evolution?
- 7 A. It casts doubt on evolution.
- 8 Q. But you wouldn't --
- 9 MR. MANELY: I also heard him say,
- 10 and I understand where you are getting this
- 11 from, but also because it singles out evolution.
- MR. GUNN: Okay.
- MR. MANELY: So you are hearing him
- 14 correctly.
- 15 A. So it singles out evolution from
- 16 everything else in science.
- 17 Q. And your Complaint says that that's
- 18 a fundamentalist Christian expression. And if I
- 19 understand you correctly, that's your belief
- 20 because you don't understand any other
- 21 motivation that could possibly exist for that?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. If that statement said not what it
- 24 says there, but it just said evolution is a
- 25 topic in this textbook we urge you to critically

- 1 consider, you'd have the same belief that it was
- 2 religiously motivated; right?
- 3 A. Yeah. It shouldn't be isolated like
- 4 that.
- 5 Q. As you understand it, what's the
- 6 fundamentalist Christian viewpoint concerning
- 7 evolution?
- 8 A. It didn't happen. It's a younger
- 9 theory. The earth is 6,000 years old -- less
- 10 than --
- MR. MANELY: 4,000.
- 12 THE WITNESS: 4,000?
- MR. MANELY: 4,000 BC -- it is
- 14 6,000.
- THE WITNESS: I just said that.
- MR. MANELY: My error. My math.
- 17 Q. The fundamentalist Christian then
- 18 viewpoint would be not that evolution is a
- 19 theory, not a fact, but that it's not a fact?
- 20 A. That's my understanding.
- Q. Would you agree with me that that
- 22 statement is somewhat different than that? I
- 23 mean, if you were trying to express what you
- 24 understand about the fundamentalist Christian
- 25 viewpoint, you wouldn't do it in that way, would

- 1 you?
- 2 A. Fundamentalist Christian viewpoint
- 3 says evolution didn't happen. It is not a fact.
- 4 So it says the same thing.
- 5 Q. Well, that doesn't say it's not --
- 6 A. It says it's not a fact.
- 7 Q. -- it didn't happen.
- 8 A. Evolution is a theory, not a fact.
- 9 It says it is not a fact. Fundamentalist
- 10 Christian say it is not a fact. It never
- 11 happened.
- 12 Q. I guess, fundamentalist Christians
- 13 would say not as that says, it's possible. They
- 14 would say it is impossible.
- 15 A. They wouldn't address it. They
- 16 would say it didn't happen.
- MR. MANELY: You aren't suggesting
- 18 fundamentalist Christians are impossible of sin,
- 19 are you?
- MR. GUNN: No.
- 21 Q. I'm just asking him, if you were a
- 22 fundamentalist Christian and you were trying to
- 23 say evolution is not a fact, and I'm not going
- 24 to believe it no matter what you say, you
- 25 wouldn't say it in those terms, would you?

- 1 A. Yes, I would.
- 2 O. You stated earlier that the vast
- 3 majority of scientists believe evolution, so
- 4 there is some minority of scientists that don't?
- 5 A. I found out about that from some of
- 6 the people that were at different board meetings
- 7 when they came up and they spoke, and they were
- 8 claiming a list of 100 to 162 different, quote,
- 9 scientists. Some of them were engineers, some
- 10 of them were doctors, some of them were
- 11 chemists, very few of them, a few, were people
- 12 that I found out through the way that were
- involved in anthropology and biological
- 14 sciences. But that -- I mean, that even made
- 15 the number, the ratio even smaller.
- 16 Q. It is a small minority?
- 17 A. Minuscule.
- 18 Q. I quess there was probably a
- 19 minuscule number of scientists who agreed with
- 20 evolution at one point in time.
- 21 A. I think that's an incorrect
- 22 statement.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. Do you want an explanation of that?
- 25 Q. No. That's all right.

- 1 A. I didn't think you did. Because
- 2 I've got one.
- 3 Q. I'm going to show you what's
- 4 previously marked as Defendant's Exhibit 1 and
- 5 ask you if you've seen that before.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you believe that policy promotes
- 8 religion?
- 9 A. I think the wiggle room has been
- 10 reduced tremendously for it to come into a
- 11 science classroom.
- 12 Q. I'm asking you whether the text of
- 13 that policy, do you believe it promotes
- 14 religion?
- 15 A. I think it is acceptable.
- 16 Q. I was looking at some of the
- 17 newspaper articles, and there was some
- 18 indication, and I don't know if they quoted you
- 19 directly, that you had considered adding this
- 20 policy to this lawsuit at some point?
- 21 A. What you showed me was the
- 22 regulation that satisfied the policy -- that
- 23 supported the policy. So before those
- 24 regulations came out, yeah, there was some
- 25 concern.

- 1 Q. No, sir. I showed you the policy, I
- 2 believe.
- 3 A. No. You showed me --
- 4 Q. I showed you policy.
- 5 A. I think I read the regulation.
- 6 Q. Okay. Well --
- 7 A. Let me see both of them together so
- 8 I know what I'm talking about.
- 9 Q. I'm asking you about the policy,
- 10 which I believe is what I just showed you. The
- 11 one that's in your left hand. It says, "See
- 12 Regulation."
- 13 A. All right. The regulation is what I
- 14 find acceptable. The policy I found, there was
- 15 some wiggle room in there that they could
- 16 possibly start introducing some religious things
- into it, and that's why we are questioning the
- 18 policy.
- 19 Q. That was what you said. And I asked
- 20 you based on the text of the policy.
- 21 A. Okay. Based upon the text of the
- 22 policy, okay, I think there is some wiggle room
- 23 that people could possibly wangle something they
- 24 called science into the classroom.
- Q. I'm not asking you about what you

- 1 speculate might happen in the classroom. I'm
- 2 asking you whether that verbiage on that piece
- 3 of paper do you believe promotes religion.
- 4 A. It could allow the promotion of
- 5 religion.
- 6 Q. You can't answer my question just
- 7 based on the language itself?
- 8 MR. MANELY: But if the language
- 9 is --
- 10 A. The language is vague.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. It is vague enough that I see in it
- there is room for somebody to come in and teach
- 14 religion, calling it something else.
- 15 Q. But that language there standing by
- 16 itself, does it in your view promote religion?
- 17 Does it constitute an establishment of religion?
- 18 Does it encourage people to be religious?
- 19 A. It allows for that possibility, yes.
- Q. Which part?
- 21 A. One of the things it says, "This
- 22 subject remains an area of intense interest,
- 23 research, and discussion among scholars." It
- 24 doesn't say among scientists. It says among
- 25 scholars. Biblical scholars could be in there.

- 1 Any number of different things can happen with
- 2 that.
- 3 And then it talks about "to ensure a
- 4 posture of neutrality toward religion."
- 5 Religion shouldn't be part of this. It is a
- 6 science class. The very mention of that says,
- 7 okay, it is there.
- 8 Q. So the mention of neutrality you
- 9 think raises questions?
- 10 A. One second. Okay. It says here
- 11 this policy -- I'm sorry. "It is the intent of
- 12 the Cobb County Board of Education that this
- 13 policy not be interpreted to restrict the
- 14 teaching of evolution." That's fine right
- 15 there. "To promote or require the teaching of
- 16 creationism; or to discriminate for or against a
- 17 particular set of religious beliefs, religion in
- 18 general, or non-religion." So it doesn't say to
- 19 keep religion out. It says it can come in, but
- 20 don't do anything bad against it or promote it,
- 21 but you can let it in. It doesn't belong in a
- 22 science class. It leaves the door open.
- 23 Q. I was asking you before, did you
- 24 consider adding the policy as a part of the
- 25 lawsuit?

- 1 A. Prior to the regulations coming out,
- 2 yes.
- 3 Q. And why didn't you do that?
- 4 A. I wanted to see what the regulation
- 5 was.
- Q. And why was that?
- 7 A. Because I really don't want to sue.
- 8 I want this resolved in the appropriate way. I
- 9 want the sticker out of the book because it
- 10 doesn't belong there. It is one facet of the
- 11 separation of church and state in our country
- 12 that is being violated.
- 13 Q. But if you thought that the policy
- 14 promoted religion, and I think you said it did,
- 15 why wouldn't you add it to the lawsuit?
- 16 A. Because they said there was a
- 17 regulation coming up. In fact it says so right
- 18 at the top, "See Regulation." So until I saw
- 19 the regulation that clarified that further,
- 20 there is no sense jumping the gun.
- 21 Q. The regulation is what was marked as
- 22 Defendant's Exhibit 2.
- A. Okay. What is your question?
- Q. Do you believe that promotes
- 25 religion?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You think it's appropriate?
- 3 A. I would have written it differently,
- 4 but it's okay.
- 5 Q. Did you ever state to anyone that
- 6 you felt the policy was appropriate?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Did you ever hear your attorney
- 9 express the opinion that it was appropriate,
- 10 that it was an improvement that helped the
- 11 situation?
- MR. MANELY: And those are separate
- 13 ideas.
- Q. Did you ever hear your attorney
- 15 express something, again, to the satisfaction of
- 16 the policy?
- 17 A. No. In fact, I'm confused as to why
- 18 the policy and the regulation are even coming up
- 19 when I'm suing to get the sticker out of the
- 20 book, because whether or not the policy and
- 21 regulation does what I expect it to do, the
- 22 sticker is still wrong.
- MR. MANELY: And again just so we
- 24 are clear, there is the issue that was raised by
- 25 Dr. Plenge, which supports Jeff's concern about

- 1 the policy as applied that the policy will be
- 2 used to permit the discussion of intelligent
- 3 design and creation science in the classroom.
- 4 MR. GUNN: Well, we disagree on that
- 5 point.
- 6 MR. MANELY: Well, along the lines
- 7 of similar transaction evidence, just so you
- 8 know -- do you want to go off the record for a
- 9 second?
- 10 (Whereupon off-the-record discussions
- ensued.)
- 12 Q. When you were teaching, did any kid
- 13 ever raise an issue that you felt was
- 14 nonscientific when you were talking about
- 15 science?
- 16 A. In the ten years that I taught, and
- 17 I taught all sorts of subjects, obviously since
- 18 I spent a lot of time in elementary school, what
- 19 I taught wasn't challenged. Elementary school
- 20 children up in New York, while they have
- 21 religious training and upbringing, the issue
- doesn't rise as much as it does in other places.
- 23 So I didn't encounter it as a teacher.
- Q. And I'm not asking you about being
- 25 challenged. I'm just asking whether you ever

- 1 had, for instance, a question, well, that sounds
- 2 different than what my parents told me.
- 3 A. I can honestly say it never came up.
- 4 Q. Really?
- 5 A. Honestly.
- 6 MR. MANELY: Let me ask if you
- 7 include along that, because I need to hear your
- 8 question more broadly, a kid saying along the
- 9 intelligent design argument, what do you mean
- 10 the moon is made of a rock? It is actually made
- of green cheese, isn't it? Would you include
- 12 that as part of bringing nonscientific views
- 13 into the --
- MR. GUNN: No. I mean, I think
- 15 that's more of a factual thing. I was thinking
- 16 more in terms of, you know -- I think he
- 17 understood my question, just in terms of whether
- 18 there was anything more along the lines of
- 19 something religious coming in there in response
- 20 to something you were instructing.
- 21 MR. MANELY: Some religions may have
- 22 the point of view that the moon is made of green
- 23 cheese.
- MR. GUNN: Could be, but I don't
- 25 know about that one.

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                   THE WITNESS: It never came up.
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 2
                   Mr. GUNN: I think that's it.
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                   MR. MANELY:
                                  Okay.
             (Deposition was adjourned, 2:19 p.m.)
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- 1 Pursuant to OCGA 9-11-28, I hereby disclose that
- 2 Donovan Reporting, P.C., has been hired by the
- 3 deposing attorney to provide reporting services
- 4 for this deposition. There is no special fee
- 5 arrangement between Donovan Reporting, P.C., and
- 6 the parties and/or attorneys in this deposition
- 7 aside from our regular and customary fee
- 8 schedule; further, I have not entered into any
- 9 contractual arrangement other than for the
- 10 taking of this deposition, financial or
- 11 otherwise, with any person or entity in this
- 12 matter and am taking this deposition in full
- 13 compliance with OCGA 15-14-37. Fees are
- 14 charged for originals and copies of depositions
- depending upon the circumstances of each
- 16 deposition, including but not limited to
- 17 location of deposition, length of deposition,
- 18 expedited requirements, medical experts, video,
- 19 exhibits, waiting time, travel, realtime, etc.
- 20 A complete detailed fee schedule is available
- 21 upon request. This disclosure was provided to
- 22 all counsel at the commencement of the
- 23 deposition and is hereby incorporated into and
- 24 made a part of the transcript.

25

I, JEFFREY MICHAEL SELMAN Deponent, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing	
certify that I have read the foregoing	
_	
deposition, and the same is a true and accurate	
transcript of my testimony, except for the	
changes listed below, if any.	
PAGE/LINE/CHANGE REASON	
If additional space is needed, please attach	
separate sheet(s) and indicate number of	
additional page(s) here:	
jeffrey MICHAEL SELMAN, Deponent	
(Notary Public)	
Date Notarized:	
Donovan Reporting, P.C. FAX: 770-428-5801	
237 Paguall Stroot Mariatta CA 20060	
237 Roswell Street, Marietta, GA 30060	
Date of Deposition: July 8, 2003 CR: RAE	

Page 60 1 CERTIFICATE 2 GEORGIA 3 COBB COUNTY 4 I hereby certify that the above and 5 foregoing pages 1 through 60 are a true, complete, correct and exact transcript of 6 7 my shorthand notes taken in the 8 above-referenced matter; 9 That same constitutes a true, complete, correct and exact record of the 10 11 above-referenced matter; 12 That same was transcribed through 13 computer-assisted transcription; That I am not of kin or counsel to 14 15 any of the attorneys or parties, nor am I in the regular employ of any of the 16 17 attorneys or parties; This _____ day of 18 _____, 2003. 19 20 21 22 Robin A. Elawady, CCR B-2224 23 Certified Court Reporter 24 25