

# Dickenson County School Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

November 28, 2018

## I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Susan Mullins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.
- b. **Members in Attendance:** Susan Mullins, Chairman; Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Rocky Barton; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Shanghai Nickles; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Reba McCowan, Clerk and Scott Mullins, Board Attorney
- c. **Approval of Agenda**  
Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Shanghai Nickles the agenda was approved with the revision of moving Board Comment after Closed Session.

### *Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathy Musick, VPE – Expressed her appreciation to the Board for their hard work and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving break.
2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA – Updated the Board on DEA/VEA’s agenda for the upcoming budget and Lobby Day – 1/9/2019.
3. Kathy Harrison – Addressed the Board in support of the Sandlick/Haysi area as the site for the new elementary school. She stated the school was to replace Sandlick Elementary School and asked they honor the contract in relocating Sandlick Elementary School.
4. Jarvis Deel – Addressed the Board in support of Clinchco as the site for the new elementary school. He stated Clinchco was the most central location for all students of the County.
5. Linda Willis – Addressed the Board in support of Sandlick/Haysi area as the site for the new elementary school. She expressed the importance of community schools and the poor economic situation of many children in the Haysi community.
6. Carroll Edwards – Addressed the Board in support of Sandlick/Haysi area as the site for the new elementary school. He asked the Board to remember who the school is for; the children.
7. Don Hill – Addressed the Board in support of Clinchco as the site for the new elementary school. He stated this was the best location when considering the safety of the children and taxpayers.

## III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles the consent agenda items were approved.

### *Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

- a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ October 23, 2018 – Joint Meeting w/Board of Supervisors & IDA
- ❖ October 24, 2018 – Regular Meeting
  
- b. Approval of Monthly Bills – School Operating Fund
  - Monthly Bills: Check # 879219 - Check #879315.....\$282,626.70
  - Monthly Payroll: Check #388680 – Check #388704.....\$1,751,379.91
  
- c. School Activity Fund
  - ❖ Informational Item
  
- d. Field Trips
  - ❖ Ridgeview High School
    - 11/01 – Central High School – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/02 – Clintwood – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/02-11/04 – Newport News, VA – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/07 – Sam’s Club – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/12 – Haysi Regional Jail – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/15 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  
  - ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
    - 12/07 – Norton Cinema
    - 11/05 – UVA Wise Convocation Center – 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
  
  - ❖ Clintwood Elementary School
    - 10/29 – Ridgeview High School – Pre K – 5<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/16 – William King Museum – 4<sup>th</sup>
    - 11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – Special Ed.
    - 11/29 – Food City Walking Park – 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - 12/07 – Norton Cinema – 2<sup>nd</sup>
  
  - ❖ Ervinton Elementary School
    - 11/13 – Norton Cinema – K – 1<sup>st</sup>
    - 11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – K – 5<sup>th</sup>
    - 12/03 – Jettie Baker Center – K – 5<sup>th</sup>
  
  - ❖ Sandlick Elementary School
    - 10/29 – Ridgeview High School – Special Ed.
    - 10/31 – Town of Haysi – Pre K
    - 11/09 – Broadway Cinema – Pre K
    - 11/15 – Grundy Theatre – K

11/16 – Dickenson Center for Education & Research – Special Ed.

#### **IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD**

- Roofing Consultant to visit CES on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018: David Liebal with HDH Associates is assisting the Dickenson County School Board with the RFP for the CES Roof.
- Salary Committee will meet on Monday, Dec. 3, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Lyle, Mr. Barton/Mrs. S. Mullins
- Insurance Committee will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. at the SBO: Dr. Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins
- Scheduled Board Meetings for December, 2018 : Monday, Dec. 17, 2018: December School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office
- Please contact Reba McCowan, Board Clerk, to register for this event:  
**School Safety, Fostering School Safety Guide**  
VSBA is pleased to provide to our members a guide on School Safety. Fostering School Safety offers school board members legal guidance to help school boards find best practices for their divisions. The guide covers policies and programs that promote safe learning environments and ideas on how to collaborate with local law enforcement officials to assess threats. The guide also provides divisions with direction on school safety planning and how to understand liability risks and insurance options.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON**

##### **e. Good News from Our Schools**

- **September 30, 2018 Enrollment and Attendance Report**  
**Be Great with 8! Be a Hero: Here, Everyday, Ready, On-time**  
Mark Mullins reviewed the following information as follows:
  - \*Enrollment at the end of October was 1978; a net gain of 10 students during the month of October
  - \*The Division's attendance rate for the month of October was 94.43%
  - \*Sandlick Elementary School won the Attendance Banner with a 94.43% student attendance percentage for October. Ridgeview High School was second with 93.05% had the highest attendance rate for the month of September at 94.84%
  - \*84 students are enrolled in our Pre K program.

##### **f. Update on the New Elementary School Site**

Two recent Special Called Joint Meetings were scheduled on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018 and Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 to present information on the three potential sites. Greg Widener and Tim Mullins with T & L presented information on a nine acre pad for a new elementary school to include site development costs, utilities, and possible road modifications. Curtis Elswick with Skanska then provided a total cost for construction and site development costs for each of the three potential sites.

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At the Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 Special Called Joint Meeting, School Administration presented:

1. Projected Student Enrollment for 5 and 10 years.
2. Bus Travel Times
3. Capital Project Needs as determined by OWPR
4. Projected DCPS Operations and Capital Improvement Needs for 5 years.

The IDA Director and County Administrator presented the State of the Economy in Dickenson County.

Mr. Rick Mullins read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION REGARDING NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018 the Dickenson County School Board considered the issue of the construction of a new elementary school and after due consideration, the following resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the School Board supports the continuation of 3 elementary schools within the Clintwood, Ervinton and Haysi communities but recognizes the fact that the continued operation of these schools in a safe and appropriate state of repair is based upon adequate appropriations, and;

**WHEREAS**, funding for the School System has been reduced from \$30,858,000 in school year 2009-2010 to \$24,937,000 in school year 2018-2019, and;

**WHEREAS**, student population in the Dickenson County School System has declined from 2,471 students in 2009 to 1,980 students in 2018, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Philosophy of the School System is defined in Dickenson County School Board Policy AD which places a responsibility on the School System to provide an “equal opportunity for every student” to receive a quality education, and;

**WHEREAS**, applicable law, policy and reasonable management practices require the School Board to construct any new facility at a location that is adaptable to the future needs of the students of Dickenson County and the financial ability of the County to continue to operate the facility, and;

**WHEREAS**, Virginia law places the authority to manage and construct schools solely upon the School Board (See 2010 Op. Va. Atty. Gen 10-118) and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors procured a study by OWPR, a professional architectural and engineering firm, to determine the future costs of maintaining Clintwood and Ervinton Elementary schools in a safe, functional and generally acceptable state of repair in the upcoming decade and it was determined that the costs for Clintwood Elementary School would be \$9,410,000 and the cost for Ervinton Elementary School would be \$6,049,000 (see the OWPR Report of 2-28-2018), and;

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**WHEREAS**, on July 31, 2018 the Board of Supervisors received an official request from the School Board asking that the Board of Supervisors present a financial plan of how it intended to fund the above-referenced repair costs along with the continuing operational costs of 3 elementary schools and the Board of Supervisors has not responded to that request, and;

**WHEREAS**, having received no response from the Board of Supervisors to the above request, the School Board, through its Financial Director, presented a detailed financial summary to the Board of Supervisors at a joint meeting with the School Board and IDA held on November 7, 2018 that demonstrated local contributions from the Dickenson County taxpayers beginning FY 2020 through FY 2024 would need to be between \$8,311,267 and \$8,611,267 per year if the 3 elementary schools were to be repaired (as stated in the above- referenced OWPR report) and remain operational (see slide # 14 of the Projected Operations and Capital Budget Presentation as presented at the Joint Meeting of the 3 boards held on November 7, 2018), and;

**WHEREAS**, a future local contribution by the taxpayers of Dickenson County in excess of \$8,000,000 to maintain and operate 3 elementary schools as referenced immediately above does not appear to be realistically achievable (current local contribution being \$6,500,000), and;

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of money available from the Corps of Engineers to construct the proposed new elementary school is \$24,561,867, and;

**WHEREAS**, contractual commitments with the Corps of Engineers require (at a minimum) the construction of a 61,279 square foot elementary school which would accommodate 500 students pursuant to Va. Dept of Education guidelines, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors and IDA procured a study by the firm Thompson & Litton (working in conjunction with Skanska and the County Engineer) regarding the costs required to build a new elementary school that would accommodate 500 students at the 3 locations identified as appropriate for consideration, namely, Upper Backbone, Clinchco and Ridgeview and this study revealed the following relevant data:

- Site Development Cost – Upper Backbone \$5,152,470: Clinchco \$2,626,000: Ridgeview \$962,825
- Land Acquisition - Upper Backbone - \$600,000 budgeted (based on a range between \$350,000 to \$1,040,000): Clinchco \$0: Ridgeview \$0
- Waiting time to begin construction due to environmental studies: Upper Backbone 1 year: Clinchco 9 months: Ridgeview 6 months
- Total Estimated Costs for a 500 Student Elementary School
  - a. Upper Backbone, \$27,195,000 (\$2,633,133 over budget)
  - b. Clinchco \$23,211,000 (\$1,350,000 under budget)
  - c. Ridgeview \$20,984,000 (\$3,577,867 under budget)

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. We move forward with a PPEA procurement focused upon the suitability of Clinchco and Ridgeview as the location for the proposed new elementary school.
2. The PPEA proposers be prepared to address the issues of efficient pupil transportation to both locations by the involvement of qualified team members with expertise in student transportation.
3. The PPEA proposers be prepared to involve a qualified educational planner to address all issues associated with this school construction project, in particular the potential use of the existing facilities at Ridgeview to educate elementary children, including whether the size of that facility (constructed for 1,400 students and currently utilized by 1,054 students) offers opportunities that should be considered.
4. The Division Superintendent is directed to share this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and IDA and determine their willingness to work toward the goals herein stated and to continue to work collaboratively with those boards with a goal of constructing an elementary school as promptly and efficiently as is possible.
5. The Division Superintendent is authorized to retain the services of the firm of PennStuart to assist with the furtherance of this resolution and such other legal matters as may be referred to that firm by the School Board.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Lurton Lyle; Resolution Regarding New Elementary School Construction was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	4	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	1	Rocky Barton
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

**g. Approval of Early Employee Payroll for Jan. 25, 2019**

We are recommending early payroll for our employees on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Lurton Lyle; early payroll for January was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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**VI. CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO** Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing: (1. Student request for early graduation. (2. Employment issues relating to FMLA request, retirement, employment recommendations, substitutes and (2. to consult with legal counsel pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (7).

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles the Board convened in closed session.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the Board returned to open session.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I certify and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting.

*Certification of Closed Session*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	

**VII. BOARD ACTION**

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; early graduation request for Student #9968 was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; FMLA request was approved for Jayne Camp, Clerk/Manager – CES; Linda Dixon, Special Ed. Aide - RHS.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; retirement of Cherry Rose, Bus Driver – Clintwood area and Donna Trump, Cook at RHS was accepted.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; employment recommendation was approved: Employment: Sherry Turner, Part-time Aide – SES.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; request to post/advertise for a Cook and advertise for possible vacancy of PK-6 Teacher was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; substitute was approved contingent upon meeting all requirements.

Sub Approved: Bethany Barton - Teacher.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

**VIII. BOARD COMMENT**

No comments.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: 6:50 p.m.**

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and a second by Shanghai Nickles the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

*Susan Mullins*

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Chairman, Susan Mullins

**Approved: December 17, 2018**

*Reba McCowan*

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Reba McCowan, Clerk