

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 Shanghai Nickles and second by Rocky Barton the agenda was approved.

Vote Results

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 – Addressed the Board reminding them that mini grants and scholarships were available to teachers and encouraged them to apply. All teachers are eligible; you do not have to be a VPE (Virginia Professional Educator) member.
- 2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA – Addressed the Board to update on DEA looking forward to the new school year and are hoping to be very visible and do a lot of things. She also stated grant money was available for classroom use through VEA and encouraged everyone to go online and apply.

I. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the consent agenda items were approved.

Vote Results

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

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - ❖ July 24, 2019 – Regular Meeting
 - ❖ August 7, 2019 – Special Called
- b. Approval of Monthly Bills – School Operating Fund
 - Monthly Bills: Check # 880109 - Check #880221 \$256,940.87
 - Monthly Payroll: Check #388931 – Check #388961..... \$1,716,133.98
 - School Construction Bill.....\$1,138.20
- c. School Activity Fund
 - ❖ Informational Item
- d. Field Trips
 - **Clintwood Elementary School**
 - Sept 6 – Coalfield Ag Center – 4th Grade
 - Sept 20 – Johnnie B. Deel Library – 5th Grade

- **Ervinton Elementary School**
Sept 6 – Coalfield Ag Center – 4th Grade
- **Sandlick Elementary School**
Sept 6 – Coalfield Ag Center – 4th Grade
- **Ridgeview Middle School**
Aug 30 – Ground Water Festival – 6th Grade
Aug 29 – JI Burton – Band
Sept 13 – Central High – Band
Oct 5 – Lonesome Pine Band Competition
Oct 11 – Bullet Park – Band
Oct 12 – McChesney Band Competition
Oct 18 – John Battle High School – Band
Nov 1 – Pikeville High School – Band
- **Ridgeview High School**
Aug 3-5 – Washington DC – Robotics
Aug 28 – The Attic – 9th-12th Grade
Sept 9-10 - MECC & DMME – 9th-10th Grade
Sept 18 – Abingdon Higher Ed Center – 10th-12th Grade

II. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

Update on the Sewer Replacement for Ervinton Elementary School

The School Board has requested the replacement for the sewer at Ervinton Elementary School on two occasions in March, 2019: On Mar. 11, 2019 and again on Mar. 28, 2019, a letter was sent to the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors requesting the replacement of the sewer at EES, along with other capital needs at Clintwood Elementary. Copies of the letters were provided to the Board.

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Rocky Barton; to send a letter requesting the amount of \$250,000 from the Board of Supervisors for the sewer repairs at Ervinton Elementary was approved.

Vote Results

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

Legislative Advocacy Conference

Sept. 24, 2019

Chesterfield Career and Tech Center
Chesterfield, Virginia

VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop

October 2, 2019

VSBA Office
Charlottesville, Virginia
Cost: \$160/person

This workshop is designed to provide small group support to superintendents and board members responsible for assessing and updating their evaluation model.

Participants will have the opportunity to review the guidelines in detail and then use them as they draft their own models. Individual consultation and support will be provided throughout the session as participants work on their revisions.

- **VSBA Annual Convention**

Nov. 20 - 22, 2019

Williamsburg Lodge

Williamsburg, VA

Please contact Mrs. McCowan if you are interested in attending.

III. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

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

Ridgeview High School

Robotics Team travels to Washington, DC. – Robotics students presented a PowerPoint presentation of their trip to Washington, DC.

“Dickenson County Schools: Pursuing Academic Excellence and Beyond”

Superintendent Robinson provided the Board with a sample of a brochure that was being developed to distribute outlining the success and achievements of Dickenson County Public Schools.

Sandlick Elementary School

Sandlick had an active shooter drill on the last teacher workday. The drill was very informative for my staff and the scenarios let them experience what might could happen. We all discovered that hooking a chair over our door handles could prevent entry into our classroom.

(2) Gave away approximately 100 backpacks during open house with the help of the Lions Club.

(3) Enrollment is up from last year with a gain of approximately 10 students. (4) Feeding 400 students out of the 448 was very exciting for us.

(5) Every teacher at SES has a walkie talkie in their room for two-way communication other than intercom

(6) With the addition of ART for the first 30 days has been exciting for our students.

(7) With the addition of Stephanie Mullins as our new SRO, we are making changes which will help our security.

Ervinton Elementary School

1. Enrollment is up from last year by 10 and from the previous year by 14. (counting Pre K)

2. We began our Prevention classes. Melissa Owens is spending 30 minutes with each class once a week and doing character and prevention type programs. We will finish up on Sept. 17 when McGruff presents the 2nd-5th with their completion certificates.

3. In planning our Community Field Day picnic for September 21, we have already received promises of items or services from 8 different businesses/civic organizations or people.

4. We are off to a good start!!!

f. Update on the New Elementary School

Scott Mullins: A law suit has been filed against the Board of Supervisors and Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority concerning the new elementary school. Because the Boards had been able to reach an agreement through mediation, the next step, under The Facilities Development Agreement was to pursue a bench trial waiving a trial by jury. Court date is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

g. Update on the 2019-2020 Student Enrollment

Mr. Mike Setser presented the following update on the first 10-day enrollment for each school as follows:

Clintwood Elementary – w/out Pre K

Present: 391	Absent: 13	No Show: 4	Total: 404
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Ervinton Elementary – w/out Pre K

Present: 124	Absent: 7	No Show: 0	Total: 131
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Sandlick Elementary – w/out Pre K

Present: 371	Absent: 23	No Show: 1	Total: 394
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Ridgeview Middle

Present: 429	Absent: 36	No Show: 4	Total: 465
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Ridgeview High

Present: 500	Absent: 85	No Show: 6	Total: 585
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August 31, 2018 – 1980 June 4, 2019 – 1962 August 21, 2019 - 1979

h. Approval of the 2019-2020 DCPS Crisis Plan

By August 31 of each year, the superintendent must certify to the State that the school board has reviewed each school's crisis management plan. The DCPS Crisis Plans from each of our schools was forwarded to you on Aug. 13, 2019 for your review.

Mr. Mike Setser asked the Board to affirm their review of the 2019-2020 Crisis Plans for Dickenson County Schools. All members responded yes.

Results

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

i. Approval of the 2019-2020 DCPS Policy GBO: Virginia Retirement Incentive

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the retirement incentive was approved.

Vote Results

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

Approved as follows:

RESOLUTION

Pursuant to Dickenson County School Board Policy GBO, as adopted on this 28th day of August, 20189, the Dickenson County School Board hereby resolves the following:

1. That the Division Superintendent shall make eligible employees (as below defined) aware of the fact that the School Board intends to offer early retirement incentives to certain employees for the 20+8 19 - 20-1-9 20 school year.
2. Health/dental Insurance will be provided for retirees who are retiring under the provisions of the VRS with thirty (30) years credit and who are at least fifty (50) years old.
3. To be eligible for the incentive the employee must have a minimum of twelve (12) years VRS covered employment with the Dickenson County School Board.
4. The eligible employee will be provided with a family plan or single plan, according to the needs of the employee.
5. The employee will receive health/dental insurance until he/she becomes eligible for Medicare, or for a maximum of seven (7) years. If retiring on disability, the employee may remain on the group health/dental insurance for three (3) years.
6. After becoming eligible for Medicare benefits, all retirees must enroll in Medicare and will not be eligible to remain on the group health insurance. Once the retiree is eligible for Medicare, spouses and dependents are not eligible to remain on a "Carve-Out" Plan (an option for spouses and dependents of retirees to remain on the group health/dental insurance and pay full premiums).
7. The health plan will be the same plan that is provided for those still in service. The retiree shall pay the same amount of the health insurance premium as an active employee.
8. In the event that no group insurance plan should be offered to active school employees within the Dickenson County School System then the School Board would not offer benefits to retirees.

9. Coverage will end if the retired employee is reemployed in a position that provides health insurance coverage, if the plan is comparable to the plan provided by the Dickenson County School Board.
10. Coverage will end if the retired employee resumes employment in positions covered by the Virginia Retirement System and not with the Dickenson County School Board.
11. Coverage will end if the retired employee becomes covered by a plan acquired through employee's spouse if the plan is comparable to the plan provided by the Dickenson County School Board.
12. The number of years that retirees are eligible for health insurance with the Dickenson County School Board shall begin immediately at retirement and shall be available, regardless of participation, for the required years in consecutive order.
13. An employee leaving the Dickenson County Public Schools because of dismissal or disciplinary action by the Superintendent of the School Board will not be eligible for retirement incentives as described herein.
14. This resolution is made subject to the limitations contained in policy GBO and is further subject to limitations provided by Virginia Law.
15. All individuals interested in receiving the above referenced early retirement incentive benefits should apply for the same on or before June 30, 2020.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Shanghai Nickles

- Expressed concerns of no access to the football/soccer field at Ridgeview High for an ambulance if needed. Stated he met with Mr. Mooney today and he proposed a solution to address the issue.

Thanked Mrs. Robinson for clarifying the Dickenson Star article concerning the request for funding the sewer system at Ervinton Elementary. Three requests have been made to the Board of Supervisors for funding the sewer project.

Concerning Ervinton Elementary School; numbers don't lie. The School Board has a policy AD; it says the School Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for every kid, for each student to receive a quality education. As a County we are not doing that unless we are doing what it takes to keep all three schools in good shape. I think if we are going to have 3 elementary schools; they are going to have to be in good shape. If we are going to short change anything then they are not in good shape. In that article it said the County had \$18 million in cash and this is the best cash position the County has been in. If we had \$18 million extra, then what was the \$250,000 for a sewer system? That shouldn't have been in question.

When I came on board in 2010, I sat down with Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Carpenter and we talked about the \$30 million running the school system and I thought by now it would be up to about \$36 or \$38 million. I didn't realize it was going to go down \$7 or \$8 million. For the people that say they support the 3 school model, I say that's great. I think everybody on the Board thinks we need a 3 school model.

But it takes more than lip service to keep these schools open. You have to remember that 85% of the budget is for personnel. When people talk about cutting the school budget I want to give them a list of names and ask them who do they want to get rid of; who do you want to fire. It's always the School Board that fires them right? Well you fire them when you don't have money and we know where the money comes from. That is reality of cutting the budget; which means you cut the people, which means you cut the program, which means you cut the quality of our children's education. We've had to do that a few times but thankfully things are coming back.

In February 2018 the Board of Supervisors had a study done by an engineering firm called OWPR. They said if we were going to keep 3 schools then the cost for Clintwood Elementary School would be \$9.4 million; cost for Ervinton Elementary School would be \$6 million. That's approximately \$15.5 just to repair these 2 schools. At Ervinton Elementary School if we do a 5, 10, 15-year project; in 15 years they are 98 years old. Are we going to spend that kind of money on a 98-year-old build? Are we going to start on these schools and then not finish them up? I don't know. I think the better approach is to invest the \$15.5 million dollar and take the \$24 million dollars we have available from the Corps of Engineers; build one school for all our elementary school students at Ridgeview High School. The honest truth is the Board of Supervisors will do the best they can do to support education but the reality is they will never be able to provide enough funding to keep 3 elementary schools operating and keep those same 3 schools at a good state of repair.

Larry Barton did a presentation which showed this: Beginning 2020 through 2024, the Board of Supervisors would have to provide a local contribution of \$8.3 to \$8.6 million. I've heard them say if the school doesn't go where they want it to go it's going to go back to \$3.9. That's kind of funny. It's going to cost \$8.3 just to keep one of them going and \$8.6 to keep the other one. So if we are going to keep these 3 schools operational and in good repair, numbers don't lie. So in a nut shell, when someone says they support the 3 elementary school model then ask where they are going to come up with the money to do \$15.5 million in repairs to our 2 old schools, at the same time, pay the operational costs that are required for running the school. People that have served on the School Board and Board of Supervisors know the math and shows that Dickenson County cannot keep up the 3 school model for too many more years. It's not a popular thing to say during an election year. I said it 4 years ago. I got elected. I think you tell the truth. That's why for the past several months I've been bringing up the sewer problem at Ervinton Elementary School. If we are going to invest in the 3 school model, then let's get started now while Dickenson County has plenty of cash; \$18 million to be exact. Let's begin to pay for all the repairs needed at Ervinton Elementary School and if we are not going to do any type of repairs and wait a couple of years a close it; then let's be honest with the people in the Ervinton community. I just thought the public needed to know some parts of the truth. Thank you and once again, numbers don't

lie.

Dr. Lurton Lyle

- I asked to be after Shanghai because I had an idea that the article in the newspaper might get some comments and I agree 100%. I knew he would do a better job of presenting it than I.

Rick Mullins

- There was an article that came up on my phone about the counties in Southwest Virginia comparing to counties in the Northern section of the Commonwealth and this article started talking about Dickenson County; how well we had done on SOLs. We were number 15 in the entire State. That was early morning and that made my day. You look around and all the positive things that are happening in our school system in the last 12 months; I truly cannot think of any negative thing in our school system. We are blessed.

Susan Mullins

- I would like to start my comment with a question. How long have we been dealing with this site for the elementary school, two years? Well the fact that it has drawn on for this long makes me wonder sometimes is this a curse or a blessing? We all know that deep down in our heart it's a blessing but sometimes it sure does feel like a curse. I jotted down some things that come to my mind: This is the worst we've ever been in this County. We have best friends who no longer speak to each other. The Clintwood, Haysi division is the deepest I've ever seen it. We had lifelong friendships cast aside for political campaigns this year. Everybody is attacking each other on Social Media and we had a Special Grand Jury impaneled to go on a glorified witch hunt basically. I think we can all agree that we've reached the lowest of lows; one Board has sued another Board. I was on the original Board and entered that agreement in 2010 and I think we all had honorable intentions. It was a bunch of good people I don't think anyone ever intended for that agreement to be used as a way to give up the authority of the School Board. Having said that, to honor that agreement if I read that correctly, there were three stages; 1st if we could agree then the Chairs of each Board would meet and try to come together for a solution. I think we did that in January 2019. In the event that we couldn't resolve any differences on that level then it was to go to a mediator; we did that April. We did that and that failed and the only step left, because we reached a stale mate and we can't move forward, backward and everyone is spinning their wheels and letting the money disappear as we speak. The final leg of that was to let a judge decide who had the authority to make that decision. I don't think anyone on this School Board intends to create any kind of hardship for this County in anyway; we just want to simply move forward. I think the entire County feels the same way; do something. Whatever it is let's do something and move on and start healing our County back together.

Rocky Barton

- I don't disagree with anything that anybody said; there were some good points. The only disagreement I would have would be not to spend that much money on the existing Ervinton Elementary. I for one feel like an Ervinton Elementary could be built for about \$3 million dollars and keep the gym. It was built in 1993. Keep in mind just one thing when you are talking about consolidating 4 year olds and soon it could be 3 year olds; keep in mind this, from the Wise County line of Red Onion Mountain it's 9.2 miles to the Four-way where you turn out to Ridgeview.

From the Four-way just to Sandlick Elementary School, not counting the line, is 15.5 miles. If you go on to Bee, where I was born, and on to Duty it's another 16 miles. Are you ready to put a 4-year-old on a bus for an hour and thirty minutes? That the problem in our County. It's hard enough for the big kids but look at these little guys and some 3-year-olds are not potty-trained. How are we going to do that? That's what I would like for people to keep in mind; it's not that simple. You can just say let's build it there and everybody get their little kids there.

Haydee Robinson

- I know this has been a difficult road for the Board. I'm often asked what I believe. There are different ways of looking at that. The fact is that I work for the majority of the Board and I know that I have talked to each of you privately several times and shared with you my thoughts. As an educator that is nothing more than I would love and believe that an elementary school should be in each community. Every community should have an elementary school. The School Board when I came in 2009; that's what they believed. That's what they voted. That was 2009. The reality and conflict that I have is this: I still believe and my belief has never wavered on the 3 elementary schools; never wavered. I think my biggest conflict is that often in meetings I'm asked this question: When are you going to close Ervinton Elementary School? Can you afford to keep that school open? That's difficult because I know you've heard me say that we spend more at Ervinton Elementary School than any other school; give me \$12,000 at the other elementary schools and I can show you what we can do. Don't cut; at the other schools we spend \$7,000 per student and at Ervinton we spend \$12,000 per student. Give me \$12,000 for the other two elementary schools. I never get a response.

This issue of the elementary school has been a difficult one for everyone in this County. It's been painful for me professionally and personally. I don't know where we have gotten from the elementary school to the vindictiveness trying to say how bad our schools are. I don't understand that.

Let's have a school in every community, let's operate all three schools, let's keep them open. Give me \$12,000 per child; don't cut our budget to \$3.4 million dollars. The bottom line is this. You are right; we are blessed. Everyone that comes into our school system goes, Oh my gosh. The progress that this school system has done with your support has been tremendous. I know this is a painful issue but that one painful issue doesn't destroy everything that has been accomplished here. It doesn't destroy all the good people that are committed to this school system. It does not destroy the work of our children and at times I'm appalled by what is said.

As Division Superintendent, I am fair game to be attacked. I understand that. But our school system, our children are not and our staff are not and when it gets to that point then I'm going to stand up and I'm going to say enough. This is not what our schools are. Thank you.

Shanghai Nickles

- I hope that we don't become so closed minded, like those in Wise County, who built a \$8-million-dollar gym and then closed the school; at Appalachia. Ask them how many times that gym has been used since they built it; that's not very smart. It was political and an election year. Sometimes you have to say what's right whether you want to or not.

VII. 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 requests for early graduation, release from mandatory attendance. 2. Employment issues relating to resignation, retirement, employment recommendations, coaches, substitutes and 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

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

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

Vote Results

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I move to 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

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

VIII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second Rick Mullins; coaching recommendations were approved: Holden Dingus, Academic and Gabrielle Bolling, Cheerleading

Vote Results

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 Rocky Barton; release from mandatory attendance was approved: Student #0590; Student #082819.

Vote Results

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; earlier graduation requests were approved: Student #'s 0824; 3198; 3227;0415; 0561; 0071; 1470; 0613; 0507; 0544; 0644; 0200; 2775. Student #0402 must reapply.

Vote Results

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 Rocky Barton; homeschool applicants were approved as presented in closed session.

Vote Results

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; retirement and resignations requests were approved: Retirement: Ferrell Deel, Technology Coordinator; Resignations: Larry Edwards, Technology Assistant; David Esterman, Part-time Cook; Jaren Owens, Part-time Aide; Teresa Sutherland, Part-time Cook.

Vote Results

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; employment recommendations were approved: Daniel Tanner Books, Health & PE Teacher - Ervinton Elementary; Megan Smith, Part-time Aide - Ridgeview Middle; Jade Ratliff, Part-time Aide - Sandlick Elementary; Krista O'Quin, Part-time Aide - Sandlick Elementary; Sarah Owens, Part-time Aide - Ervinton Elementary; Heather Rose, Part-time Aide - Sandlick Elementary.

Vote Results

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 Coordinator of Technology Network Administrator, Technology Assistant and Part-time Cook positions were approved.

Vote Results

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; Substitute, Alisa Rose, was approved pending requests of background checks and meeting all requirements.

Vote Results

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 9:45 p.m.

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Susan Mullins

Chairman, Susan Mullins

Approved: September 25, 2019

Reba McCowan

Reba McCowan, Clerk