

Dickenson County School Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

October 23, 2019

I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Susan Mullins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

- a. **Members in Attendance:** Susan Mullins, Chairman; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Shanghai Nickles; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Reba McCowan, Clerk and Scott Mullins, Board Attorney
Members Absent: Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Rocky Barton

b. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Susan Mullins asked for a motion to approve the agenda moving recognition of bus drivers before Public Comment.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Shanghai Nickles the amended agenda was approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

• School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Transportation Employees

Appreciation Day: Oct. 21 - 25, 2019:

Thank you School Bus Drivers and School Bus Transportation Employees for all you do to keep our children and buses safe as they travel to and from school each day!

Governor Ralph Northam recognized October 21 – 25, 2019 as National School Bus Safety Week and October 23, 2019, as School Bus Transportation Employees Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and called observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson and Mr. Burl Mooney presented a Certificate of Appreciation to those bus drivers who were in attendance: Barbara O’Quinn, Jean Hamilton, Benny Kennedy, Benjamin Kennedy, Jerry Stamper and Eugene Edwards. Drivers not able to attend mostly due to still being on bus routes were: Ronnie Abshire, Melissa Barton, Ronald Branscome, Jr., William Brooks, Shane Cochran, Dwight Davis, Kim Elswick, Pam Fletcher, Johnny Fuller, Don Hawkins, Charles Hay, Larry Martin, Barbara Mullins, Lana Mullins, Chris Neece, Jerry Newsome, David O’Quinn, Clayton O’Quinn, Mary Owens, Tammy Robinette, Chris Robinson, Avery Rose, Mike Rose, BJ Souleyrette, Scott Stanley, Myra Stanley, Cheri Taylor, Donnie Turner, Sherry Turner, Johnny Vance, Donald Viers, Darrell Yates, Ephram Turner, Jenny O’Quinn, Peggy Edwards, Beth Boyd, Tim Carty and Cecil Deel. Substitute drivers: Joyce Vance, Mike Osborne, Ron Kendrick, Frank Childress, Larry Compton, Lisa Rife, Dennis Deel, Jesse Neece and Lenoir Jones.

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“The Dickenson County School Board and Dickenson County Schools would like to recognize and celebrate National School Bus Safety Week. Dickenson County Public Schools further certifies that Transportation Department Employees are an important asset to our schools and our community. We are thankful for their kindness, diligence and quality service.”

Mr. Benny Kennedy shared the bus incident that occurred the day before the meeting; a large tree fell on his bus with 12 children on board. He recounted it was in morning, still dark and at first he didn't know what happened. A tree had fell and hit the bus several times taking the headlights out and no lights in the bus. He didn't remember getting out of his seat but he wanted the Board to know that Social Media had portrayed the event as children scared, screaming and that was not the case. Everyone was calm, no crying and no injuries; not a scratch. He thanked community members who came to the scene to help. You can't ask for a better community. A school nurse who lived by came and checked all the children as well as Dr. Newberry, whose children were on the bus. Mr. Kennedy also shared a card that the children had made for him and gave him this morning, thanking him for keeping them safe. It was nothing short of a miracle.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathy Musick, VPE – Addressed the Board and stated as a retired educator she realized October was a busy month and recognized how hard the staff worked; bus drivers, aides, janitors, cafeteria workers, teachers, administrators and how much they do for the kids. She thanked the staff and wanted to remind everyone that grants were still available to teachers and classrooms.
2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA – I have exciting news. I just came back from Richmond not long ago and went to a meeting in Abingdon and we have been working on our agenda to be presented to our legislators in December in Richmond. The VEA is asking for \$2 billion in extra funding from the Governor. I filled out a Tops grant for almost \$3,000 from VEA and I got that. This is for professional development and things like that for our members. I went to IPD conference (Instructional Professional Development) on childhood trauma and I've brought back information that I'm using it in my classroom. Two others went with me and when we go to our legislative meeting in Abingdon, there will be about 5 of us.

3. Don Hill – Addressed the Board as an advocate for the 550 elementary school children’s safety and taxpayers of Dickenson County. At the last school board meeting, I challenged each of you individually to make a motion of your choice for the location of the school to be voted up or down. You were advised that it was not appropriate to change the adopted agenda. However, Robert’s Rules of Order, the new and revised edition, pages 372 and 373 provides for an exception which states. After an agenda has been adopted by an assembly no changes can be made to it except by two-thirds vote or a vote of majority by the entire membership; or general consent. This exception is only available for regular meetings; not available to special, emergency or other meetings. Unless there is some other conflict that I’m not aware of then that stands. With regard to FOIA, it appears the same option is available. However, I have asked for clarification from the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Counsel. I have given you a handout from a FOIA workshop addressing three types of meetings and procedure to adding an item to the posted agenda of a regular meeting. Again, special, emergency and other types of meetings are not to be changed. I will report back to you the next meeting the results of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Counsel. Now, on to a much more important topic; the location of the elementary school. Over the years and months, I have provided you free of opinion, an independent, unbiased, objective, hard data regarding the location of this elementary school. Consolidation of the three elementary schools would dictate that the school should be located at Ridgeview. You have been provided with maps and data that will unequivocally support that decision. However, if that option is not possible then the school should be located at the Clinchco site. Data will show the number of children in greater proximity to the Clinchco site than any other site in the eastern half of the County. The most critical component is the safety of the children. Reduced travel time and the greater number of children tells us the Clinchco site will reduce the probability of accidents and fatalities over a 50-year period. There will also be a significant reduction in operating costs over the 50-year plus life of the school; which is a benefit to the school system and the taxpayers. So in closing, I do not believe Judge Patton will ignore the opinions of multiple Attorneys General over many years. I believe this Board will ultimately make the decision on the location of this school. If consolidation is the choice data dictates that your choice should be Ridgeview. If not, hard data dictates that your choice should be Clinchco. Thank you for the time to comment.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - ❖ September 25/October 8, 2019 – Regular Meeting
- b. Approval of Monthly Bills – School Operating Fund

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Monthly Bills: Check # 880334 - Check #880444.....	\$270,370.20
Monthly Payroll: Check #38900 – Check #389027.....	\$1,773,395.23
School Construction Bill.....	\$571.08

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. Field Trips

❖ **Clintwood Elementary School**

- Oct 4th – Thomas Black Bird Farm – Norton, VA – 1st Grade
- Oct 11th – Pumpkin Patch – Nicklesville, VA – K-5th Grade
- Oct 21st – Thomas Black Bird Farm – Norton, VA – Pre K
- Nov 1st – Norton Cinema City – 2nd Grade
- Oct 25th – Mr. Gattis’ Pizza – Pikeville, KY – 5th Grade

❖ **Ervinton Elementary School**

- Oct 18th – William King Art Museum – Abingdon, VA 4th Grade
- Oct 18th – Norton Cinema City – K
- Oct 29th – Thomas Black Bird Farm – Norton, VA – K-5th Grade
- Nov 14th – JW Adams – Pound, VA – Pre K-1st Grade

❖ **Sandlick Elementary School**

- Oct 17th – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 4th Grade
- Oct 31st – Main Street Haysi – Pre K

❖ **Ridgeview Middle School**

- Oct 23rd – Cleek Farms – Kingsport, TN – 6th Grade
- Oct 24th – Bays Mountain Park – Kingsport, TN – 8th Grade
- Oct 26th – Sullivan Central HS – Blountville, TN – 8th Grade
- Nov 25th – Honaker Christmas Parade – Honaker, VA – 8th Grade

❖ **Ridgeview High School**

- Oct 4^t-5th – FRC Robotics Competition – Salem, VA – 9th-10th Grade
- Oct 8th – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 10th Grade
- Oct 9th – Emory & Henry College – Emory, VA – 11th-12th Grade
- Oct 21st – Bristol Caverns – Bristol, VA – 9th – 10th Grade
- Oct 25th – Komatsu Mining – Duffield, VA – 11th-12th Grade
- Oct 26th – Sullivan Central HS – Blountville, TN – 9th-12th Grade
- Oct 26th – Lee High School – 11th-12th Grade
- Oct 28th – Thomas Black Bird Farms – Norton, VA – 9th-12th Grade
- Oct 31st – Velma Crabtree’s House – Clintwood, VA – 9th-12th Grade

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Nov 1st-2nd – Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA – 9th-10th Grade

Nov 21st-23rd – Senior Beta Convention – Nashville, TN – 12th Grade

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

- **School Board Meetings for November and December, 2019**

- November School Board Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019
- December School Board Meeting: Monday, Dec. 16, 2019

- **VSBA Annual Convention**

Nov. 20 – 22

Williamsburg Lodge - Williamsburg, Virginia

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

2020 VSBA Conferences and Seminars

- **January 23 & 24** - Capital Conference, Richmond Marriott - Board members and superintendents annually meet at the Capitol when the General Assembly is in session to be briefed on education issues before the General Assembly and to learn effective lobbying techniques. This seminar provides participants with the opportunity to be personally involved in the legislative process. Governor Northam will be in attendance to welcome attendees.
- **January 24** - New Chair/Board Member/Superintendent Orientation, Richmond Marriott - Presented twice a year, this comprehensive day-long conference is designed specifically to give new board members and superintendents an overview of the basics of boardsmanship.
- **March 13** - Hot Topic Conference, Wytheville Convention Center - These conferences provide an opportunity for school board members to increase their knowledge on current hot-button issues.
- **April 22** - Hot Topic Conference, Charlottesville - These conferences provide an opportunity for school board members to increase their knowledge on current hot-button issues.
- **May 3** - Clerks Workshop
VSBA Office, Charlottesville - A school board clerks stand-alone conference that features topics of interest to new, as well as seasoned, school board clerks.
- **May** - Webinar
Online sessions are offered at various times throughout the year on educational topics of interest. Information on recorded "on demand" webinars is available at http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/

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- **June 7 - School Law Conference**
Shortpump Hilton, Richmond - Designed to provide an update on basic principles of school law and emerging issues, this conference is vital to school board members, superintendents, and school board attorneys. It is held annually during the first week of June.
- **July 22 - New Chair/Board Member/Superintendent Orientation**
Richmond Marriott - Presented twice a year, this comprehensive day-long conference is designed specifically to give new board members and superintendents an overview of the basics of boardsmanship.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

e. Good News from Our Schools

"August 2019: Enrollment and Attendance Report"

Be Great with 8! Be a Hero: Here, Every day, Ready, On-Time

The student enrollment on September 30, 2019 was 1965 and the overall monthly attendance percentage for September is 94.88%. Congratulations to all our schools!

Clintwood Elementary School won the Attendance Banner with 96.66% student attendance percentage, Ridgeview Middle came in second with 95.07% student attendance percentage. SES was third with 94.77% student attendance percentage. Division wide student attendance percentage is 95.33%.

September Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment Per School:

Clintwood Elementary: 96.66%	K – 5 Enrollment: 405
Ervinton Elementary School: 94.01%	K – 5 Enrollment - 126
Sandlick Elementary School: 94.77%	K – 5 Enrollment - 390
Ridgeview High School: 93.48%	9 – 12 Enrollment - 577
Ridgeview Middle School: 95.07%	6 – 8 Enrollment: 462

Ninety-nine students are enrolled in our Pre- K program.

Clintwood Elementary School: 39
Ervinton Elementary School: 14
Sandlick Elementary School: 46

Total: 99

- **Darla All and the Onesight Eye Clinic** will be serving the eye needs of our children with eye exams and providing glasses on site if needed during the week of **Sept. 20 – 26. 2020**

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- **Appalachian Service Projects (APS) – Laura Kelly:** Appalachian Service Project's coordinator, Laura Kelly, has contacted us, and APS will be serving our community in the **Summer of 2020**. Ms. Kelly has met with Mrs. Martin at EES, and Mrs. Martin will be hosting the volunteers at EES next summer.
- **Awarding of Security Grant for the Dickenson County Schools:** Governor Ralph Northam today awarded \$6 million in School Security Equipment Grants to help protect students and teachers in 340 schools in 70 school divisions. The grants will pay for video monitoring systems, voice and video internal communications systems, mass notification systems, visitor-identification systems, access control systems, two-way radios, security vestibules, and other security upgrades. Dickenson County Schools was awarded \$181,191 dollars to help keep our students and staff members as safe as possible. This grant allows the school division to provide additional resources to protect students and staff from potential threats, and to respond effectively to emergency situations. A special thanks and recognition for Mike Setser and Burl Mooney who identify the safety needs for our schools and submit the Security Grant request!
- **Ervinton Elementary School:** We have 51 students with perfect attendance for the 1st nine weeks. We will be rewarding them by taking them to Thomas' Black Bird farm for a corn maze and other fun activities. We hope this is a good incentive to continue their positive attendance, as well as, to encourage those that have missed to have better attendance for the next 9 weeks.

f. Update on the New Elementary

Mr. Scott Mullins stated nothing had changed since last board meeting and there was no update at this time; we are hoping for an opinion soon.

g. Approval for RFP Recommendation for Design-Build Services Associated with Stream Mitigation at Spring Fork

On Aug. 4, 2019, the Dickenson County School Board submitted an RFP for Design-Build Services Associated with Stream Mitigation on its Spring Fork Site located near Nora, Virginia, as required by USACE Permit. The purpose of this RFP was to complete certain wetlands remediation associated with the Ridgeview Campus at the site of the former Ervinton High School. The location of the wetlands' remediation was subsequently modified by agreement between the School Board (working in conjunction with the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors), Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Approximately 30 acres of land was acquired in the Spring Fork area, (approximately 1 mile above the site of the EHS). The land is owned by the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, but the remediation work will be procured by the Dickenson County School Board. The goal of the RFP was procuring a knowledgeable professional entity to provide the design documents necessary to comply with the approved compensatory mitigation plan and to provide construction services for turnkey completion of the work in compliance with the above referenced permit.

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On Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2019, Scott Mullins, Larry Barton and Haydee Robinson interviewed two entities with the necessary technical expertise to complete the project. Each member of the Interview Committee ranked each firm and the team of S & S Contractors, Inc. and Artemis Consulting Services were ranked first by all three committee members.

Therefore, we are recommending that the School Board approve the team of S & S Construction, Inc. and Artemis Consulting Services to complete the work required by the U. S. Corps of Engineers permit for the stream mitigation at Spring Fork.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Shanghai Nickles; S & S Construction, Inc. and Artemis Consulting Services were approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

h. Internet Broadcasting of RHS’s Events

As per discussions during the September School Board Meeting regarding this matter, a phone conference was held on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019 and on Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 with Mr. Compton, Mr. Setser, Mrs. Deel-Stanley, Mr. David Moore, Mr. Kent Grant and myself regarding the start-up options for the Internet broadcasting of events and athletic events at Ridgeview High School.

From discussions with Mrs. Deel-Stanley and Mr. Moore, they are requesting to use the school division’s Wi-Fi to broadcast athletic events on the Internet as some of neighboring school divisions are currently doing.

Mr. Compton, principal at RHS, is in support of this endeavor. In speaking with representatives at VACORP, in the event that the Internet broadcast was sued, the school division would be covered. In speaking with Central High School and Abingdon High School (AHS), Central High School’s Internet broadcasting is done by community members who are independent contractors, are not covered by VACORP, and pay Central High School a percentage of the revenues. At AHS, the community member is an approved volunteer who is covered by VACORP, and the program is under the high school’s umbrella of supervision. At AHS, all of the revenues go directly into a separate account at the school level. Although both schools have started Journalism classes, at this time, no students participate in the Internet broadcast on air. AHS has some student involvement through the Journalism class for segments that are recorded and then aired on the internet.

After discussion with the group, the recommendation is for David Moore and Laura Deel Stanley to initiate the Internet broadcasting at Ridgeview as independent contractors, and for RHS and these community members to work out the details of revenues.

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It has been recommended that a Steering Committee comprised of Kent Grant, Athletic Director, Mr. Compton, David Moore, Laura Deel-Stanley and Mike Setser work through the details of implementation of this broadcasting.

Based on discussions with RHS administration, we recommend that the Internet broadcasting be further discussed by the Steering Committee members identified, implemented, and that the community members serving in this role be considered independent contractors with the Dickenson County Schools. The issue of the amount of revenues would be addressed at the high school level.

As Internet broadcast being independent contractors; no action by the School Board was required.

i. Revision of the DCPS Drug Pledge/Policy

Mr. Setser presented recommended revisions to the DCPS Drug Pledge/Policy to include vaping, vaping products; and to include possess or use. We recommend the School Board approve these revisions as presented.

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; revisions to the DCPS Drug Pledge/Policy were approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

j. Approval of Early Employee Payroll on Nov. 22, 2019, Dec. 20, 2019 and Jan. 24, 2019

We are requesting early payroll for all our employees for the next three months:

- Friday, Nov. 22, 2019
- Friday, Dec. 20, 2019
- Friday, Jan. 24, 2020

In past years, the School Board has approved early payroll for our employees. We recommend that the School Board approve this request.

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; early payroll dates were approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Lurton Lyle

- Our County was blessed with a miracle this week and that could have been a tragedy. Our citizens responded to the emergency, as they always do, and I think we are lucky to live in this County.

Susan Mullins

- I agree with that.

Shanghai Nickles

- It's great to see people like Officer Stephanie Mullins back there. I've known her since Little League days. A lot of people don't know this about her but she still holds the record for the most touchdowns in a season in Little League football. But it's her and Mr. Mooney and people like that, and the people that work at these garages, are second to none.
- I want to invite everyone to Ridgeview this Friday at about 1:20 in the afternoon retired Air Force Capitan, Buford Lee Barret is going to be speaking to our kids up there. He's the gentleman that flew our hostages out of Vietnam and also flew three Presidents in Air Force One.; Mr. Carter, Mr. Raegan and Mr. Bush. You are invited up there for that and he's got some great stories to tell you.
- This is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; male or female get checked up. Thank you.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson

- I just want to recognize Officer Stephanie Mullins and say that if the Sheriff ever tried to move her from Sandlick there would be a riot. I had the pleasure of watching her interaction with children and staff. It was really amazing and she has just been there since August so I just want to thank her. She is a very special person.
- I also want to thank a couple of people in our office who did a tremendous job; Tony Robinson and Mark Mullins. With all the bus issues, when we finalized who was actually on the bus they notified the parents again. They dealt with the news media. I just want to thank both of them.

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: Employment issues relating to retirement, FMLA request, employment recommendations, substitutes, Superintendent evaluation 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 Dr. Lurton Lyle the Board convened in closed session.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, 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:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	

VIII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; coaching recommendation was approved: Brittney Mullins, Cheerleading Assistant.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; FMLA requests were approved: Kayla Wood, Teacher – SES; Teresa Edwards, Secretary – SES; Joann Neece, Guidance Counselor - EES

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; employment recommendations were approved: Daniel Edwards, Custodian – RHS and Elizabeth Charles, Part-time Cook - SES.

Vote Results

Aye:	3	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; Superintendent evaluation was tabled until the November meeting, due to the absence of two board members.

Vote Results

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Aye: 3 Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; permission to post/advertise for the position of School Board Clerk was approved.

Vote Results

Aye: 3 Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; retirement request was approved: Reba McCowan, School Board Clerk/Administrative Assistant effective 1/1/2020.

Vote Results

Aye: 3 Dr. Lurton Lyle, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 a.m.

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

Susan Mullins

Chairman, Susan Mullins

Approved: November 20, 2019

Reba McCowan

Reba McCowan, Clerk