

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

October 28, 2020

- I. **ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Lurton Lyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Members in Attendance: Dr. Lurton Lyle, Chairman; Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Jason Hicks; Damon Rasnick; Jamie Hackney; Tonya Baker, Clerk; and Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, Board Attorney

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a unanimous vote, the Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Musick: Good Evening, my name is Kathy Musick, I'm the regional representative for Virginia Professional Educators. I told you about it last month but I wanted to remind you again that we give away grants and scholarships. I think Dickenson County had three last year that received one. They are up to \$500.00 and the deadline is November 15, 2020. Also, I want to commend everybody for a great job as Dickenson County continues. In the county that I reside in, Scott County the numbers have really spiked up and I know the school there had to make changes last week. I know you have that on your agenda tonight. I know it's a hard decision but we have to move forward. My prayers are with you that you make the right decision. I know it's very difficult. Thank you for all that you do and thanks for your staff and what a great job they've done. Thank you

Phyllis Mullins: DEA Representative, Good evening I'm Phyllis Mullins I put materials on your table and a little goodie bag, I hope you enjoy it. A little bit of information about who we are, what we are, and what we do. We are very active even during COVID and trying to support and push legislation that supports public schools. Particularly right now we are pushing for the budget. We've had some good news out of Richmond but we could use some more. Please look over the packet and you can see we are a nationwide organization and we are part of the NEA. I spoke with the Board of Supervisors last night and I thanked them for all that they have done to help us and I want to thank you all for all that you do. Thank you. We have a new UniServ Director that is here with me tonight. I'd like to introduce her, her name is Vicki Kits. Our other UniServ Director we had has retired and Vicki is doing a wonderful job. Thank you.

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Allison Mullins: I appreciate the opportunity to appear by phone. I'm actually in quarantine so I'm thankful to be able to speak. I'm not watching online so I'm not sure if the Mayor is there and the Town Council. I wanted to, first of all, express my appreciation for this topic being on the agenda this evening of the Haysi Community having the opportunity to meet with the Corps and the board regarding the location of the elementary school. From the very beginning of this project, all the early documents indicate that the location of the school should be in a place that is to serve, to be centrally located to the children that it is supposed to serve. We know initially that that was to be the Sandlick Community, the Sandlick Elementary School, and the Clinchco Elementary School. The original site the map that was attached to the early contract was on Backbone Ridge, then you moved to the facilities agreement that recited that same thing, that the location of the elementary school should be central to the school students it is to serve and those were the two schools in the flood zone. Now we know that the decision has been made to ultimately potentially consolidate all the elementary schools at Ridgeview but still, the Haysi Community has never been involved in the decision. From Rebecca Bennett, the project manager her emails, and her correspondence to me and others, Rocky Barton and others have been that the community should be involved in the decision. When you look at the makeup of the size, the people in the group who met with the Corps of Engineers in Huntington. In particular, those that met in 2013 when the contract was amended, it was changed from the Haysi area elementary school to any location, any suitable location in the county. The folks who negotiated that amendment were Mrs. Robinson, David Moore, Freddie Mullins, Scott Mullins, and Leman Kendrick. Somebody can correct me if I am wrong. No member of the Haysi Community was in that group or involved in that negotiation. The Haysi Community, the students that are most affected. I'm of the opinion that our community should have the opportunity to sit down with the Corps and be able to ask questions about the project and about those negotiations that were made years ago that made some important changes that affected our community. Of course, subsequent to the contract amendment in 2013 we had property purchased on Backbone Ridge from Rual Fuller of approximately 5 acres. I think the Fuller family deserves an explanation. They were really reluctant to sell that property. It had been in their family for generations and they were doing it based upon the promises, the assertion that they would be helping out the community. It would be my contention that the Haysi Community has virtually been blocked out in having any kind of voice or any kind of communication with the Corps of Engineers and we are the main community that will be impacted by the relocation of Sandlick Elementary. Thank you

Kevin Mullins: I'm representing Clintwood Kiwanis and Clinchco Kiwanis. I won't take but a couple of minutes of your time. One of the members down at Clinchco, JR Robinson had an idea that he had approached us with some time ago and we thought it was a good idea. First of all, I would like to extend my thanks as a parent of a former student for all the work that you all have done getting us through the COVID, getting us through this crisis, and making sure the students have some chrome books they can utilize at school. JR had this idea pre-COVID that he wanted to put together some computer packages for some very needy families in the county. He started trying to gather up computer parts, he got permission from Microsoft to be able to utilize Microsoft programming to put on these computers that we will be donating to the public and then he approached us about it at that time and asked if Clintwood Kiwanis want to take apart and it and we most certainly said that we would be willing to. What I'm approaching you all about is that we have an understanding that you may have surplus old monitors, some old computers, some old

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cables and those kinds of things leftover from some of the schools. We would like your consideration and possibly donating those items to this cause and what we will be doing as a club is getting those together and it may take 2,3,4 computers to build one good computer to get in some of these needy homes. So we'd really like the School Board's consideration to possibly donate some of those surplus items that are no longer in use to that program that we're trying to do. Again the Kiwanis Club will be utilizing those places like Behavioral Health and Social Services to look at where some of the needy families are in the community. I noticed in the paper that the county got some pretty good money for some infrastructure for some broadband so as those things are coming to the county the possibility for people will expand and we will have a lot of people out there that could use the computers in the near future and we would like to try to help some of the needy families in our County. Especially those with school-age children that could use those in addition to the chrome book. We would like your consideration in that. Thank you for your time.

Gerri Scardo: This is on the solar resolution. Austin Counts would've been here but is tied up in another meeting. I've always been interested in going solar and things but the resolution itself helps level the playing ground. Northern and Eastern Virginia have better opportunities than we have back here for some of this net metering and price agreement and so on. Back in winter when the General Assembly was meeting and before that, the young people from Appalachia Voice were in Richmond working on this. I might write letters but they can line out this stuff and know details that I could never bring to you. I was really surprised that after they made progress down there to see Appalachian Power put further limits on how much solar could be installed in government buildings, using legal whatever's that I could never even begin to dream. Knowing that I was coming here today, I thought about my brother 1955,1956 he was in Antarctica, Operation Deep Freeze. Our country had not been down there or anyone for years and years and he taught us about how frozen Antarctica was. That's no longer true things melt and are breaking off. This resolution doesn't commit you to go solar. It just opens and levels the barriers and it can help you, in the long run, maybe economically, environmentally, and educationally. I did get to see Carl Sagan speak in 1987 but I've always known how important this stuff was and my Dad did even though he didn't have an education. I appreciate you.

Tracy Sturgill: My name is Tracy Sturgill I'm an RN at the hospital here in Clintwood, I have two small children who go to Clintwood Elementary one in first grade and one in third grade. I work full-time. I work at least three nights a week if not four sometimes five with the way our staffing is right now. I just want to throw it out there that the whole two days a week and three days at home for our children is not working. There is no way possible that I can sleep, work, and educate my children three days a week. It's not possible. My son who is in the third grade prior to this was a straight-A student. He is now failing the third grade. It's not that I don't try, I just literally don't have the time. My grandparents keep my children while I work. They're very educated people. My Papaw is a Preacher at Lickfork Church. My grandmother has boo-koos of college education. Do any of us have the patience to sit with an eight-year-old? Lucas will be nine next week. With a nine-year-old and a six-year-old to do their schoolwork for hours and hours a day? No, my children don't have the patience to sit with me. I'm not a teacher, my grandmother's not a teacher. Don does do some substituting of the school, thankfully. He's a major help but regardless, I have sat and pondered and pondered on this and I've decided that if these children don't go back to school at least four

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days a week, I will be enrolling my kids in Wise County Schools because they're not getting the education they deserve. I am not a teacher, I'm a nurse, not a teacher. My babysitter is not a teacher, my grandparents are not teachers. It's not fair to them, not fair to me. Literally, the only thing my kids are learning is how hateful I can be when they don't do the work. I don't have the patience to be a teacher. I don't know if there are any other options but the option we have now is not working, coming from a single working mother. Honestly, I just wanted my opinion to be heard. I think everybody has the idea that everybody has a Mom and a Dad. My kids have a father and he does help but he doesn't live in our home. It's just me by myself and I cannot do it. It's not fair to my children. Thank you for your time.

Kathy Harrison: My name is Kathy Harrison, just in case the paper makes me anonymous again. I Would just as soon have my name out there with everything I have to say. I live in the Ervinton District. I have grandchildren that go to Ervinton Elementary. I have one that is doing all virtual. He's a senior this year. I have a nephew that is Ridgeview High School. I have a niece's sister that goes to Clintwood Elementary so I have an extended family in all the schools in the county. I want to echo what Allison said earlier. I know at least four of you. I am not sure about Dr. Lyle. I know that you guys were not on any of the boards when this started. You were not there when the facility's development agreement was decided upon, like I said I'm not sure about Dr. Lyle I know he was there with my brother for some of it. Even if the facilities development agreement is not going to be followed any longer for whatever reason I think you should think about the spirit that the facilities development agreement embodied. It embodies exactly what Allison said it wants the elementary school to be centrally located for the students it is intended to serve. Now I know you have not made this official, that the elementary school is going to be at Ridgeview but the perception by everyone in the county is that the decision has been made. I know it's not. I'm just telling you what the perception is of the patrons that come into the library, by extended family members when we talk about this stuff at my Dads. That is the perception and I tell them not officially been voted on yet but this is the perception that you're getting is that you are not taking into consideration the fact that you want to send a student, a young student, who lives up in Bee, Sullivan Branch and send them to Ridgeview. It is not this is not centrally located to those students in that Sullivan Branch is in the Ervinton District. There is a lot in Ervinton District and in the Sandlick District affected by this. That's where the majority of students are. This is close to the Ervinton District. You go across the road and hit the Ervinton District, but the majority if you look back at the map when they did with the population clusters you'll see that there are no big clusters in Ervinton or in Sandlick. I really would like for you to think about the fact that the spirit behind the facilities development agreement was to be centrally located with students that it was intended to serve. Maybe even start talking a little more openly about what the plans are, what your plans may be so that the public, myself, knows a little bit more about what you're thinking. We have no idea what goes on in a close session, which is what it should be. I don't want to know what you talk about in closed session, that's fine but I am sure there are things you could talk about that would at least reassure us that you have thought about this. Thank you

Carroll Edwards: Good afternoon you know I'm Carroll Edwards, I've been in front of you many times and I'm not going to make a big long speech. I think I'll just read a statement that would express some facts. If you move Sandlick School out of this district and into the Clintwood District it's a clear case of discrimination. There is no way that you can furnish the kids at Sandlick with an equal opportunity and a

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fair education if the school was built at Ridgeview. I maintain that you need to really take into consideration these kids when you make a decision because there is no way that you can make the kids come to Clintwood and furnish them with an equal and fair opportunity and that's what we're supposed to do as School Board Members. I'm positive that you know that. That's basically all I have to say and I hope that you will take a look at the kids, think about the kids, not about other reasons. Think about the kids, they are the ones that you are going to affect. Thank you very much.

Larry Yates: Thank you for letting me speak. I'm Larry Yates of the Haysi Community. I am a lifelong resident of Sandlick District, coincidentally I am the Mayor over there. I've been following this project for years now and I fully understand probably about as well as anybody in the county about the decisions that have been made. The decisions that have been made unilaterally, decisions that have been made without the involvement of the community. Everyone talks to me about the decisions for the location of the new elementary school. It is between the community and the Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers will allow the community to make the decision. The Haysi Community has not been involved in making this decision. There are five of you board members up there. Mr. Hackney is the only one that identifies as being from Haysi. Let's step back to 2013 -2014, the amendment of the contract that moved the location from the Haysi, Clinchco area to anywhere in the county. If I am correct, the people that negotiate a contract was Mrs. Robinson, School Superintendent; David Moore, County administrator; Lemman Kendrick, County Engineer who subsequently retired. Mr. Mullins, School Board Attorney; Mr. Freddie Mullins, Industrial Development Attorney. It has been brought to my attention more than once in the last couple of months by various attorneys in Dickenson County, the County Attorney, Mr. Bud Phillips brought this to my attention in a recent meeting that I spoke in, that the folks that were elected were the ones that made the decisions. Of these five people, no one was elected. Mrs. Robinson's a county employee, Mr. Moore is a county employee, Mr. Kendrick was a county employee, right on down the line. Mr. Mullins is employed by this board. Freddie Mullins is an employee of the Industrial Development Board. Where is Haysi's representation in this process? We had a good document with the facility's development agreement. We were forced to dissolve that. Right over there is one of the authors of the Facility Agreement and he was one of the first ones to say that it was invalid, that you couldn't enforce an invalid document, something that wasn't legal, to begin with. How is that possible? All three boards signed it, all the representation, all the legal wizards, their legal authority read the documents and said it was legal but when it's inconvenient for the school board is not legal. I don't know how you folks can sit there and quantify it to yourself that the Haysi Community has been treated fairly in all this. Step back and think about how you're treating the children. Those kids up in parts of the community like Sullivan branch, other areas in the Sandlick District, and the Ervinton District. I beg you to reconsider not just for the benefit of the county and the county coffers, but for the benefit of the children affected by this decision that you all are making. Sure you have the public said you're going to build up here on the mountain. We all know that you have made some sort of decision or you wouldn't have Mr. Elswick here tonight to give you an update if you're not planning on doing that. It doesn't take much to read between the lines, it always has. I didn't mean to speak tonight. I had no intentions but I do think the Haysi Community has been treated unfairly. I think in many ways the Corps of Engineers should have more oversight on this project. It is not for me to tell the Corps of Engineers how to do their business. I know they think it should be a community decision where the school

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goes. I fully agree that you have the legal authority to do that. Why don't you exercise that use a little common sense when you make the decision.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jason Hicks; the September Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

a. Approval of Minutes

❖ September 23, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins; the Vendor Payments/Monthly Bills were approved.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 881284- 881394.....\$ 340,637.21

Monthly Payroll: Check # 389615- 389640.....\$ 1,753,863.23

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jason Hicks; the Revenue/Expenditure and Construction Invoices were approved.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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c. School Activity Fund

❖ Informational Item

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

VSBA Annual Convention Early Bird Session Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Virtual Session Student Achievement and Success During Times of Uncertainty

Dr. Jeffery Smith, Superintendent, Hampton City Public Schools The Early Bird session participants will gain various insights pertaining to the importance of a high-quality systems approach relating to the core business of teaching and learning as well as establishing a healthy school climate and culture that will yield outstanding student outcomes, especially during times of uncertainty. As a part of the session, participants will experience the journey of a Look, Listen and Learn tour that engaged over 4,000 internal and external stakeholders in shaping best practices that are highlighted in a book that will be published this fall entitled a *Look, Listen, Learn, LEAD: A District-wide Systems Approach to Teaching and Learning in PreK-12*.

Beyond Meeting and Confer: Public Employee Collective Bargaining Comes to Virginia Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

A live webinar with Cynthia Hudson and Bradford King, attorneys from SandsAnderson as they explain the new collective bargaining legislation. This session will provide an overview of the new provisions on Virginia's new law enabling local governments and school boards to bargain collectively with "unionized" employees.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

d. Good News from our Schools

★ Recognition of VSBA Award of Excellence

Dr. Lurton Lyle was presented the VSBA Award of Excellence.

★ September 2020: Student Enrollment and Attendance Report Be Great with 8! Be a Hero: Here, Every Day, Ready, On-Time

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The student enrollment on Sept. 30, 2020 is 1907. The overall monthly attendance percentage for September is 98.05%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with 98.65% student attendance percentage. Division-wide student attendance percentage is 98.35%.

September 2020 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.65%: K – 5 Enrollment: 384
- Ervinton Elementary School: 98.27% K – 5 Enrollment - 116
- Sandlick Elementary School: 98.07%: K – 5 Enrollment - 358
- Ridgeview High School: 97.56% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 591
- Ridgeview Middle School: 98.1%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 458

Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

- Clintwood Elementary School: 26
- Ervinton Elementary School: 14
- Sandlick Elementary School: 26

★ Recognition of the Rapha Foundation and the Board of Supervisors

Due to COVID-19 many of the expenditures that we are currently facing were not budgeted in the 2020 -2021 budget. The cost of chrome books, ipads, PPE equipment, thermometers, additional cleaning and sanitizing supplies, software, etc. Those were never included in our budget in March and April. Dickenson County Public Schools has received tremendous support from two organizations that have helped us purchase some of these essential needs for our students and staff to provide a quality instructional program while still providing a safe and healthy environment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the Rapha Foundation and Mark Vanover the Executive Director for their contribution to the purchase of temperature screeners in each of our schools. The temperature screeners allow students and staff to effectively and efficiently walk through without having to wait, it doesn't take additional hands. We have two screeners at each of the schools and one at the School Board Office. Special thanks to the Rapha Foundation and Mr. Vanover the Executive Director. Second, we would like to recognize the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors for their Cares Act contribution, as you know we received two pots of money from their Care's Act funding. This provided laptops for CTE students, iPads, cameras, headsets, microphones, flash drives, etc. to enhance the delivery of Hybrid and Virtual instruction. It also helped us with unemployment payments that the school division was responsible for; the installation of plexiglass and barriers in offices and open areas in each of our schools and then the mounted bus thermometers that we have installed in our buses. On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank the Rapha Foundation and the Board of Supervisors for their support. As we said none of this was budgeted so we certainly appreciate their help in their support in helping us to meet these needs.

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e. Update on New Elementary School Project and Elementary School Design

Curtis Elswick, with Skanska, and Abe Quesenberry with Quesenberry Construction, and Randy Jones with OWPR presented a report on the new elementary school for the School Board members. The report included determining the appropriateness of the site update, school design update, and construction timeline.

(see attached)

Memo from Brad Stark Corps of Engineers: Discussion of Resolution and Contract Amendment

Scott Mullins: A long time ago there were two contracts, one contract was a major contract and it dealt with Ervinton High School and Sandlick Elementary School; it dealt with the outbuildings below Haysi and that contract was for around \$102 million. That contract was a major contract monetarily and that contract is basically not an issue now. The issue tonight deals with the Clinchco contract and the Clinchco contract was a bit of a hybrid in that we were looking to take some elementary school students, Clinchco Elementary at the time was pre-k through seven, what we were doing was some of those students would be going to the middle school some of those students would be going to an elementary school. So the Corps basically divided up the \$8 million dollars that were attributable to the Clinchco contract by putting 3.5 million into the middle school component and 3.5 million into the elementary school component and \$1 million into the demolition component. That's how we end up with \$8 million. The major contract, the \$102 million contract as related to the elementary school, was amended to provide that the elementary school could be constructed anywhere in Dickenson County as long as it was in a flood safe area. It could be constructed in the Haysi area or it could be constructed on Rose Ridge or anywhere in the Dickenson County area. The Corps has taken the position that their guiding star is to make sure that children are educated in an area that is safe from floods. One thing that was not done, it was not done oversight, was the elementary school component of the Clinchco contract the original Clinchco contract which I think was done in September 2010, \$3.5 million was distributed to that component and was said to be going towards a consolidated elementary school in the Haysi area. So basically the amendment, the resolution that you have in front of you was prepared by the Corps of Engineers as was the amendment to the contract and the purpose of those documents is to basically bring the Clinchco money in lockstep with the Sandlick money and ultimately provide that wherever the school board determines to build the school as long as it's in Dickenson County flood safe area, the Corps has no objections. The Corps again sees this as a local Dickenson County School Board matter and not Corps of Engineers matter. I'll give you the opportunity to review those documents but ultimately what the Corps is asking for is for a resolution. The resolution you have in front of you which would authorize the Division Superintendent to sign the amendment to the contract consistent with what I've just told you.

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A motion was made by Damon Rasnick and seconded by Rick Mullins to adopt the resolution as presented:
No vote

Following a substitute motion made by Jason Hicks and seconded by Jamie Hackney to table the vote on the adoption of the resolution until the next meeting. No Vote

Following an amendment to the previous motion made by Jason Hicks and seconded by Jamie Hackney to table the vote on the adoption of the resolution until the next meeting and to be able to call a Special Called Meeting if necessary to discuss the adoption, a roll call vote was taken. Motion to table was passed with a vote of 4-1.

Roll call vote

Jamie Hackney	yes
Damon Rasnick	no
Jason Hicks	yes
Rick Mullins	yes
Dr. Lurton Lyle	yes

f. Discussion on Extending the Hybrid Schedule or Transitioning to a 4 Day a Week Instruction Schedule

In planning to discuss a timeline with details of how to (1) Extending the Hybrid Model and (2) Increase the number of instructional days a week, staff members and parents/guardians were surveyed two weeks ago. The results of the survey are as follows:

- 591 Parents Responded to the Survey
- 956 Students Surveyed as shown per School (Our current student enrollment is 1907) or 50.13% of the students were surveyed.
- 346 parents prefer a 4 Day School Week or 58.54%
- 245 parents prefer remaining on the current Hybrid Schedule or 41.46%

371 Only Virtual Students Completed the Survey as shown per School or 38.81%

- Of the 371 100% Remote students, 267 remote students responded that they would remain remote as shown per school or 71.97% if we transitioned to a 4-day instructional week.
- Of the 371 100% Remote students, 107 Virtual Students would switch to a 4-day Instructional Week as shown as per school or 28.84%

568 Only Hybrid Students completed the survey as shown per School or 59.41%

- Of the 568 Hybrid students surveyed, 507 Hybrid Students will remain Hybrid and go to a 4-Day Instructional Week as shown per school or 89.26%
- Of the 568 Hybrid students, 45 Hybrid Students indicated that they will switch to 100% Remote if 4-Day instructional Week is approved as shown per school or 7.92%

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Staff Survey Results: There are 301 full-time employees:

I think it would be best to remain in the Hybrid/100% Remote Option: **116**

I think it would be best to begin to return to a 4-day instructional week for students. I also understand that the 100% Remote option would remain as an option for students and their families. **143**

Total: 259

After much discussion a motion was made by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins to table item (f. Discussion on Extending the Hybrid Schedule or Transitioning to a 4 Day a week instruction Schedule until the regularly scheduled Board Meeting November 18, 2020.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

g. Approval of File: IKHA Parental Notification for Screening and Assessments

Mr. Mike Setser presented the File: IKHA Parental Notification for screening and assessments for Approval.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jason Hicks File: IKHA Parental Notification for screening and assessments was approved.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:		

h. Solar Power Resolution

Mrs. Denchia Edwards presented the Resolution in Support of Equal Access to Solar for Southwest Virginia Schools.

Ridgeview High School was selected as a solar installation site several years ago and we have been trying to find funding and or a funding source to be able to install the solar panels here at Ridgeview. We keep running into obstacles, at this point their current contract that is in place with Appalachian Power Company for electric services to public entities has actually capped the total amount of net metering that is possible for government entities, and also there is a restriction on third party financiers. This resolution you're

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looking at, that you are asked to consider is to support the initiatives to try to get Appalachian Power to consider allowing PPA's for school divisions so that we can get third party financiers and install solar in Dickenson County.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks the Resolution in Support of Equal Access to Solar for Southwest Virginia Schools

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

i. Request for Early Employee Payroll

Larry Barton: Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks, we are requesting that the School Board approve early payrolls for the months of November and December, then an early payroll for January as a transitional month.

We recommend the following dates:

November 24, 2020

December 18, 2020

January 22, 2021

This follows the same pattern the School Board has approved in the past.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks the request for early employee payroll was approved.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins: I would just like to comment on what a good job I think our staff and administration have done with the COVID. It has been a real success. I know everyone's working very hard. It's a very difficult task. I just want to thank everyone for a job well done.

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Jason Hicks: I feel like I have said everything I know already. I will echo what Rick said; our staff has done a really good job with the COVID so far. I think we can pull off a four-day week and be safe with the way that our staff is handling things so far. I'd like to reiterate thanks to the Board of Supervisors and the way they helped us out and the other group the Rapha Foundation as well. It's been one momentous mountainous effort with virtual and remote learning. I had a teacher the other day, I'll share this, they hated it. Then they told me a couple of days ago they said that the technology is great, it all works fine, there are those little things of having students get on at the appropriate time and hold them accountable. Those are things that a Mother who has worked all night long can't control. It's definitely a difficult situation and I'm sure she's not alone in that, but with that being said I think our technology department has done a great job. We wouldn't be able to have done that without the Board of Supervisors and those chrome books and things.

Damon Rasnick: The fact is it's not easy out there. I work with this every week myself. It's been years since I did short vowels and long vowel sounds and things of that nature. I spent almost 40 years in the school system but these little fellows pick up on it a lot quicker than some of us gray heads. It takes effort given by the entire employee base and all the professionals and all the folks employed in the school system, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, teachers, coaches, everybody, principles, the Superintendent, and all of her staff. It takes a village to raise a child or family. I so sympathize with these folks that are struggling with childcare and knowing that or feeling like their child or children are falling behind. I can certainly identify with that and I certainly hope there is something we can do to help these folks that are in dire straits and need that help. I wish for some way we could help in a positive way to make the situation better. It literally takes hours each day with the virtual instruction. The teachers, I think, are doing a wonderful job. First grade, kindergarten, and pre-k are a different world than what we grew up with. Kids learn a lot faster, and there's a lot more to the standard curriculum, and there's a lot to do. It takes a committed effort to make it all work, and I know the folks in Dickenson County have that strength and willpower to make it happen and I'm sure they will. I certainly hope for all these families, that if they need help they find a place to get that.

Jamie Hackney: Very well said, Mr. Rasnick. I've been conflicted leading up to this meeting all week. I think it's been mentioned several times that there's no right answer and there are no sure bets on any of the things that we're looking at. I do feel a little better after tonight's meeting. One of the things that bothered me leading up to this week is the concern about having very young students in kindergarten and first grade, having them going four days of having to wear a mask all day. It had me concerned but Mr. Hicks's comments tonight made me feel a little bit better about that move forward. We may be able to have prior to four days a week, maybe with a little time having some of the teachers in those grades start practicing with those smaller students to transition into that so they will know what's going to happen in the near future. I hope that we can get back to a more full-time schedule. Also, I appreciate the comments from the members of the Haysi community tonight and Mayor Yates's comments. I am definitely in favor of our board being able to sit down with the Haysi Town Council in a formal setting or be able to have someone from the Corp be present as well. It would be wonderful just to give them a voice. To give the community a voice, the town Council Members a voice. All this has sort of happened in the last few meetings the ball is rolling on that just to get the feedback and maybe some explanations for how this all came to be and where we are now. I'd definitely be in favor of that. Also thanks to all the staff, as usual, all the work that's going into what looks like we've done very well. It's a testament to our staff, it's a testament to our leadership in our schools and Central Office leadership. I just appreciate everybody.

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Dr. Lurton Lyle: I feel we have considered the need to change the attendance policy and will keep an eye on the number on the number of cases for the future I really feel for the single mom who spoke to us tonight and I feel that we need to return to a four-day plan as soon as it seems safe to do so. I look forward to perhaps doing that in the future.

- VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia,** there will be a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussing: 1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as a School Counselor, Part-Time Teacher Aides, Part-Time Attendance Clerk, Part-Time Cook, Part-Time Custodian, FMLA request, coaches, resignations, retirement request, post/advertise for a Full and part-time Time Cook, 2. Recommendation for release from compulsory attendance pursuant to Section 2. 2-3711 (A)(1)(2) of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rick Mullins; the Board convened in a closed session.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney; the board returned to open session.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
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 Damon Rasnick; 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, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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VII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Jamie Hackney, the employment recommendations and student #800 request for compulsory attendance for the Adult GED program was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast	0	

Coaches

Substitutes

- Randall Levi Allison
- Ronnie Branscome
- Brenda Deel
- Daniel Ibrahim
- Dustin Lothery
- Ariel Mullins
- Kaytlin Osborne
- Christopher Powers
-

Retirement

- Debbie Bolling, - Cook, Ridgeview High School

Resignations

- Melanie Ball - Attendance Clerk, Sandlick Elementary
- Nelmalena Turner - Attendance Clerk, Ridgeview Middle School
- Sydney Doyle - Part-time Aide, Ridgeview Middle School
- Laurie Church - Part-time Aide, Clintwood Elementary

FMLA -Lana Mullins, Jenna Jordan

Employment Recommendations

- ❖ Allison Hibbits, Assistant School Counselor, Ervinton Elem./Ridgeview Middle School
- ❖ Rachel Taylor - Part-time Aide, Clintwood Elementary
- ❖ Tonya Willis - Part-time Aide, Ridgeview Middle School
- ❖ Shawna Beavers - Part-time Attendance Clerk, Ridgeview Middle School
- ❖ Johnny Paul Fuller - Part-time Cook, Ridgeview Cafeteria
- ❖ Skyler Deel - Part-time Custodian, Ridgeview Middle School

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Post/Advertise, Cooks- Full and Part-Time

VIII. Adjournment: 8:31 p.m.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second, by Damon Rasnick; the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Approved: November 18, 2020

Dr. Lurton Lyle, Chairman

Dr. Lurton Lyle, Chairman

Tonya Baker, Clerk

Tonya Baker Clerk