

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

April 22, 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; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; and Scott Mullins, Board Attorney

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Dr. Lurton Lyle asked for a motion to approve the agenda with no changes.

Following a motion by Dr. Lyle and second by Rick Mullins the agenda was approved.

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

Don Hill - Presentation on New Elementary School Location: My name is Don Hill and I live in Clinchco. At your last meeting you were given the data for the study that I completed using the data that was supplied to me by the school administration sometime last year. At that time I made some pertinent comments about the study. At that time I ask you to go over the study and I would be present at this meeting to answer any questions you had about the data. Are there any questions or comments about this study? I have been attending these Board Meetings for five years. At no time did I ever express personal opinions only well-grounded conclusions about where this elementary school should be located. These conclusions were always accompanied by unbiased independent hard data. I have always focused on two extremely important factors. That should be considered when choosing the location of the school. First and faraway most important is the safety of these very small children. Second is the financial impact in the form of unnecessary tax increases for the taxpayers of Dickenson County moving forward fifty plus years. Failing to consider both of these components would result in negative consequences. For the safety of these very small children in the form of increased probability of accidents and fatalities due to longer times on buses and in personal vehicles. Secondly unnecessary tax increases to pay for the increased operational expenses for the next fifty years as a consequence of traveling greater distance than would be necessary. Selecting the Clinchco site for the location of the school will indeed maximize the safety of those students and minimize any tax increase for the taxpayers of this County going forward. In closing I will pose a very provocative question to you. If you could save the life of just one little child over the next fifty-plus years

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by locating the school at the Clincho site, and you probably could do that. I personally don't know how to place value on the life of a child. Thank you very much for your time.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney the consent agenda items 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

- ❖ March 4, 2020, Budget Workshop Meeting
- ❖ March 18, 2020, Budget Public Hearing Meeting
- ❖ March 18, 2020, Special Called Closed Meeting
- ❖ March 25, 2020, Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 880700 - 880783.....\$ 267,290.59
Monthly Payroll: Check # 389438- 389465.....\$ 1,770,780.20
School Construction Bill\$60.00

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

2020 VSBA Conferences and Seminars

2020 VSBA Conferences and Seminars: Cancelled Due to the COVID-19*

***April 23, 2020:** Southwest Regional Spring Network Forum in Smyth County.

***May 3 - [Clerks Workshop](#)**, VSBA Office, Charlottesville

A school board clerks stand-alone conference that feature 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

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http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/

***June 7 - [School Law Conference](#)**, Short pump 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

d. Update on COVID-19 and DCPS Response

There are no words of thanks and gratitude to our staff and faculty for each of their acts of "going beyond the extra mile" to meet the needs of our students. What each of our staff members are accomplishing during these challenging times is truly miraculous. We are serving children and their families in ways that before Mar. 13, 2020 were unimaginable. Our staff has proven that together we can overcome any challenge. We are DCPS Strong!

Since March 13, 2020, our Cafeteria Staff has prepared 52,661 meals for our children. Our teaching staff has prepared over 3800 Learning Modules, Google Classroom, and online learning opportunities. Staff members are reaching out to children and their families to stay connected with children through social media, Google Meets, Google Classrooms, Google Voice, texts, and emails.

Since the school closure began on Mar. 16, 2020, the expectations for professional staff and support staff have been identical to the work expectations on Friday, Mar. 13, 2020: Teachers continue to teach, instruct, and work with children. While the instruction and interaction with children look very different today than it did on Mar. 13, 2020, that continues to be our focus. The difference is that now, we have the opportunities to "think outside the box" and implement creative ways to provide the instruction and learning opportunities to our children while also providing support to our families.

Cooks continue to prepare meals, bus drivers continue to drive buses, custodians continue to clean buildings and help with the food delivery, maintenance staff continues their jobs. Everyone in the school division continues to do their respective jobs while contributing in a variety of other meaningful and different ways to assist in any way they can.

We would like to recognize our families, our parents, and our guardians, who have taken on new responsibilities and are supporting their children at home in new ways.

And, finally, our children. While the challenges we face today may be daunting, the real challenge is what happens next, and how we prepare for the next unknown. I believe that all we do now will be the foundation and framework of how prepared we are for the "next thing" to help to prepare us and support our children's success when we return to school.

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e. **Update on the New Elementary School and Litigation**

Nothing has happened since we last talked. We remain in the same place that we have been in for years. We are looking at a situation with the national economy, what it is doing with the scramble to find resources to find ways to deal with the Coronavirus. It only a matter of time before the Corp of Engineers is going to say to us, enough. They made this money available to us in January of 2016. We have basically been debating what to do for a long time. If we don't do something we will have no one to blame but ourselves in the County when we lose this opportunity. In the next few months if we don't do something we are going to end up without this opportunity. We had all hoped that when the new boards got in that there would be a shift and a change and we could put the lawyers away and build this school based on common sense and what we as a County can afford. But that is not working out too well. I think all of us including the Judge wanted to give Dickenson County an opportunity to make this decision. Four months have gone by and we are no further down the road. At your first meeting on January 22, 2020 you ask the Board of Supervisors to meet with you. You ask again on February 25th for them to meet with you. The division Superintendent sent out an email asking if she and a couple of Board Members could come to their meeting. That was rejected by them on March 12th. And at your last meeting on April 13th you again asked for them to meet with you. If you are waiting for the Lawyers to make this right if not happening. I am not critical of you as much as I am this whole process that we find ourselves in and the catastrophic results that we are going to see come about. The record is clear with resolution that since November 2018 this Board has wanted to move forward and evaluate sights. Move forward and come up with Contractors who would stand up there and tell you what you can afford to build at each location. That has been stopped because the Board of Supervisor and IDA representatives will not sign a check. It takes money to move forward and get Contractors to work. At this point I think we should say that the opportunity for us to work this out as residents of Dickenson County is not going to work. We need to go back to Court and ask the Judge to make a judicial decision on this. He will either rule for us or against us but at least we tried and did everything in our power to move this forward.

f. **Update on the State Budget from Governor Northam**

On Monday, April 13, 2020, Governor Northam released his amendments to the FY-2020-2022 biennial budget. The Governor's amendments will be considered by the General Assembly at the Reconvened Session on April 22. This amendment will reduce our State Funding by \$415,265 from the State Funding listed in the Budget that was approved by the School Board on March 25, 2020. These projected reductions are largely in response to the changing state general fund revenue conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic since the budget was approved by the General Assembly in mid-March.

In Governor Northam's proposed budget amendments, the School Counselor ratios were reduced from the budget, reverting back to FY-2020 levels. In addition, the following items were un-allotted from the budget for FY-21: Additional At-Risk Add-on (General Fund portion), Compensation Supplement, the VPI

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(Virginia Preschool Initiative) reverts the formula back to the same per-pupil allocation as in the FY-2020 budget and new VPI initiatives are un-allotted. On the budget items that are “un-allotted”, funding is suspended but subject to being released later in the biennium if subsequent state revenue projections approved by the General Assembly allow the new spending initiatives to be funded.

We are working on budget revisions based upon this latest information from the State and will keep the Board informed of the process. Additionally, we look forward to scheduling a time to meet with the Board of Supervisors to review our budget and the local appropriations with them.

g. Discussion of the 2020 - 2021 DCPS School Calendar

Planning for the 2020-2021 School Calendar

COVID-19 and the school closure since March 13, 2020, has changed how we think about educating and feeding our children.

Because of these ongoing issues, we are all coming to the realization that the next school year may look very different from what we are all accustomed to, and that we may not return to “normalcy” soon. In a phone call conference last Thursday with the State Superintendent, Dr. Lane recommended that based on the most recent UVA COVID-19 models, that each school division consider more than one option for the summer and for the beginning or opening of school. He recommended all superintendents to plan for a beginning or opening of school option which is when we usually begin school, and a delay of school opening option in the event we cannot open school in August, and how we continue to educate children. He also requested that we consider and plan for additional school closures next year in our continuity of learning process.

What will next year look like: Our administrative staff has already started these discussions. The next school year may look like an extended year with more days, beginning earlier in August, decreasing the number of planned school closings, etc. Will it be a transitional year? Will it be a year with an embedded remediation block? What about accreditation? We do not yet know all the answers, but together we will work through all the questions and different options available to educate our children.

We have encouraged our staff to begin to think and prepare to teach and engage with students virtually and online in a Google Classroom setting and online opportunities in the event that beginning of school delays occur or extended school closures next year become a reality.

At the May School Board meeting, we will have recommendations to the School Board regarding the 2020 -2021 school calendar, end of the year grading processes and what the next school year may look like.

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**h. Approval of Proposed VSBA Policies and Policy Revisions
VSBA POLICY UPDATE-February 2020 - Group 1**

Explanation of Revisions – February 2020 Policy Update

<u>Policy Code</u>	<u>Revision</u>
DB	Annual Budget Legal References updated only. No change to policy.
DI	Financial Accounting and Reporting Cross References updated only. No change to policy.
DN	Disposal of Surplus Items Policy and Legal References updated. No change to policy.
EC	Buildings and Grounds Management and Maintenance Legal References and Cross References updated. No change to policy.
EF	Food Service Management Cross References updated. No change to policy.
EFD	Food Sanitation Program Cross References updated. No change to policy.
GBLA	Third-Party Complaints Against Employees Cross Reference updated. No change to policy.
JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses Cross References updated. No change to policy.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney Group 1 of the VSBA Policies and Policy Revisions 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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VSBA POLICY UPDATE-February 2020 - Group 2

Explanation of Revisions – February 2020 Policy Update

Policy Code

Revision

EBAB

Possible Exposure to Viral Infections

Policy updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 32.1-45.1 by HB 1998 2019. *Policy describes procedures to follow when a person is exposed to the blood or body fluids of another.*

EDC

Authorized Use of School-Owned Facilities and Materials

Legal References and Cross References updated. *Note: This policy requires the superintendent to develop regulations.*

FA

Facilities Development

Policy **deleted** to avoid overlap with Policies AF Comprehensive Plan and FB Facilities Planning.

FB

Facilities Planning

Policy, Legal References and Cross References updated. *The school board provides for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and maintenance of all school facilities.*

GBE

Staff Health

policy and Legal Reference updated to avoid duplication of Policy GDQ School Bus Drivers. **Section on Physical Exams for School Bus Drivers deleted** and moved to Policy GDQ.

GBEA

Unlawful Manufacture, Distribution, Dispensing, Possession or Use of a Controlled Substance

Policy updated. *The superintendent and board will take appropriate action up to and including dismissal of any employee found to have unlawfully manufactured, distributed, dispensed, possessed, or used a controlled substance.*

GCBEB

Military Leave and Benefits

Policy updated. *The supplemental pay for active leave will equal the difference between the military compensation and the regular salary paid to the employee by the school division.*

GDQ

School Bus Drivers

Policy and Legal References updated. *Note: This Policy requires the superintendent to write a regulation or procedure and to provide educational materials to employees.*

IC/ID

School Year/School Day

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The Part B, Section 611, Flow-Through Special Education grant budget, and application for 2020-21 was prepared based upon last year's allocation of \$528,159.00. The Part B, Section 619, Preschool Special Education budget, and application for 2020-21 was also prepared based upon last year's allocation of \$30,803.00. Final notification of the 2020-21 allocations will occur in July 2020.

We are requesting approval of Part B, Section 611, Flow-Through Special Education, and Part B, section 619 Preschool grant applications and budgets for the 2020-21 school year as presented.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Jason Hicks the 2020-2021 Special Education Plan and Budget was approved.

Vote results

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

j. Approval of the 2020 – 2021 Career Technical/Carl Perkins Plan and Budget

Denechia Edwards, Special Education, and CTE Director will present the annual Career Technical Education Plan and Budget 2020-21 and will be available to answer your questions to the attached Plan and Budget. The allocation for the 2020-21 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Perkins Plan is based upon last year's final allocation of \$60,873.16.

We are asking for your approval of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Plan and Budget for 2020-21 as presented.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks the 2020-2021 Career Technical/Carl Perkins Plan and Budget was approved.

Vote results

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

k. Approval of Surplus Property

We are requesting to classify as "surplus property" a 1980 transmission that fit old GMC buses. We have a buyer interested in purchasing it.

We recommend that the School Board approve the determination for the surplus property, and allow Mr. Mooney to sell it as surplus property following DCPS policy.

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Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Jamie Hackney the determination for the surplus property, and allow Mr. Mooney to sell it as surplus property following DCPS policy 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:

Dr. Lyle: I am hopefully optimistic that our area will miss most of the COVID- 19 effects as it has so far. I am not optimistic that we can work with the Board of Supervisors effectively due to their refusal to talk with us.

Rick Mullins: I think with the COVID-19 situation that our school system has done a very good job, all the way from our administration to the teachers themselves. I think that we are still blessed that we don't have any diagnosis in Dickenson County yet. I look forward to our next meeting. Thank you

Jason Hicks: I will echo what Rick and say how impressed I am with what our staff has been able to do with feeding kids and those kinds of things. Not to brag but I just recently scored a non-paying full-time babysitting job. I actually took two kids through the line today. Those folks were very professional and the guy at the end really made you feel welcome. My Niece stuck her head out the window and made sure she said hi and those kinds of things, it was really pretty nice. I am still optimistic that we can work with the Board of Supervisors. I think the leadership that our faculty and staff have done with their response to Covid-19 is really impressive. I feel like our two Boards need to step up and cooperate and work together the same as they have for the benefit of our kids and our community. We need to do that for the Litigation process as well as the budget process. I know they have their own problems as well, possibly looking at a million-dollar deficit. But we do need to get this kind of moving along if nothing else just for the human factor because our staff needs reassurance at this point and time. Those dates and being able to give them notice and those kinds of things are hard dates. If we do have to make some hard choices we need to get out in front of that as quickly as we can just for the human element.

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Damon Rasnick: I think our staff and all those folks have worked so hard together from outside and have come to make this happen in a good way under very difficult circumstances. Our families are suffering out there and we all know it. They are all across this country. It is my sincere prayer that our kids and their families and all the caregivers are all well and will get through this in a good way. I do say I don't know that I pray for everyone across the world but I do think that it is appropriate for us to do that. I got to see first hand the interaction from my Granddaughter in kindergarten and saw the work, my granddaughter, in third-grader got to do. Ms. McCoy Facebooked with my Granddaughter Millie and it was precious. Millie looked and saw Ms. McCoy on the screen and said Ms. McCoy you are the best teacher in the whole world. That gave us a good feeling and I am sure it did Ms. McCoy also. She is an excellent teacher and I applaud all Teachers out there for the packets and the work done online, the calls to parents, and every interaction they had. We have been blessed beyond measure, even with all the difficulties we've had. I would like to say this, Mr. Mullins if I say anything out of order you might correct me. To all those people out there on the Board of Supervisors and the Attorneys and whomever. Whomever that's out there in the struggle with us for whatever the reason. Three of us have only been here four months, we've not been in a struggle with anybody basically and the other two gentlemen are fine gentlemen. I don't think there is any struggle in them. We all want what's best for these children. I don't understand what divides us. I heard Mr. Mullins say that they get debt-free. The Board of Supervisors get debt-free out of the other project and there was something else you said was a benefit, I don't recall. Well if I understand this correctly, what time I have been here and been on the School Board, all the folks that are here to provide the information to us. The Board of Supervisors will be debt-free, the budget can not be increased or decreased, the money is there, the Corp of Engineers has it now to give to Dickenson County Schools. To decide and build this school for our children. I can't see what is dividing us. What is out there that someone thinks we're going to do to upset it. It's like Mr. Mullins says if there's no borrowed money in this like in the first project. You had the IDA, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board all three signing checks. This money is there so there is no need to have three check signers this time. Common sense dictates that it be done the simplest way. Everybody gets to review the bills. These folks have shown in the past their expertise at handling this. What was the budget on Ridgeview? Seventy- three million dollars they were apart of with the partners they had. They have demonstrated their ability. And you sign a contract, those people have to be on their side equally accomplished. They have to get a bond out there. Their work has to be guaranteed and at the price agreed to. We are losing eighty-five thousand dollars a month in construction costs. We can't afford to lose anymore. I ask us, please let's come together let's do the right thing for these kids, let's not continue this anymore. Let's come together and do the right thing.

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Jamie Hackney: I'll just say these are trying times we are navigating through. We are having to learn on the fly. I just appreciate all the staff members that have worked so hard through this, I got to see this first hand a couple of weeks ago and all the labor and hard work that was going on up there that day and everybody was working together as a team to do the best that we can for the children in the county. I appreciate all the instructional staff having to adapt to a new world in terms of how they are interacting and teaching and learning with their students. I have seen that first hand also with the teachers that have kept very diligent contact with my own child that's in the Middle School. All of his teachers have done a fantastic job. In just talking to other parents in the community everyone is just very impressed with all that's being done to stay connected with their kids and make sure that all the effort is there to provide us the best possible instruction under the circumstances. So it doesn't go unnoticed, I appreciate everything that's being done. Thank you

VI. CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing: (1. Employment issues relating to resignation, coaches, employment recommendations,(2.Senior Trip- Fundraising Trip Funds (3.Discussion of appointment and term of the superintendent; certain contractual matters (4. to consult with legal counsel and receive briefings by staff members pertaining to actual litigation with the Board of Supervisors and IDA regarding the location of the proposed new elementary school.Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711,22.1-60 (A) (1)(2)(7).

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jason Hicks 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 Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Rick Mullins; 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	

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Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify and second by Rick Mullins; 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	

VII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Jamie Hackney Coaches were approved pending requests of background checks and meeting all requirements.

Approved Coaches

Band Camp: Seth Boyd, Jackson McCloud, Em Poff

Colorguard: Bayleigh Dye Killen

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 Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Jason Hicks; the resignation request was approved: Dakota Stanley- Teacher, Ridgeview High School

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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Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and second by Jason Hicks; the employment recommendation was approved: Todd Tiller- Head Football Coach

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 second by Rick Mullins; request to post/advertise was approved: High School English Teacher

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 Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rick Mullins; the request for the Division Superintendent to work with the Haysi partners to resolve the High School Senior Trip Fundraising issues was approved.

Vote results

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

VIII. Adjournment : 9:35 p.m.

Following a motion by Dr. Lyle and second by Damon Rasnick the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Approved: 05-27-2020

Dr. Lurton Lyle
Dr. Lurton Lyle, Chairman

Tonya Baker, Clerk
Tonya Baker, Clerk

