

Dickenson County School Board Meeting - Summary Minutes

January 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.

a. **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

b. **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Dr. Lurton Lyle asked for a motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jason Hicks 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

1. Kathy Musick, VPE - The Governor has a three percent raise for next year and along with that money for at risk which makes a difference in our area. There is also some more money per pupil. I want to commend the Board for their commitment and service. The salary committee has worked hard to get those steps in. I hope those steps will come on in this year. I want to commend Dickenson County, one of the reasons the at risk money is available is that it started here in Dickenson County with the Coalfield Coalition. Now it has grown, it was the Coalfield and now it is the Small and Rural School. The way I understand it there are sixty seven counties in it now. That is making a difference for our region.
2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA - The DEA didn't get to have their meeting due to weather. Hopefully we will have good things to report from the Capitol. We are going up for Lobby Day to meet with our Delegates and Senators in Richmond and rally at the Capitol.
3. Teresa Kalo - Concerns about her Grandchild's teacher.

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III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Damon Rasnick 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

❖ December 18, 2019 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 880657 - 880699.....	\$ 138,014.21
Monthly Payroll: Check # 389093 - 389167.....	\$ 1,875,636.63
School Construction Bill	\$ 120.00

c. School Activity Fund

❖ Informational Item

d. Field Trips

❖ **Ridgeview Middle School**

Dec 6 - Haysi Drug Store - Haysi, Va. - 8th grade
Dec 7 - Valley View Church - Clintwood, Va. - 8th grade
Dec 19 - Heritage Hall Nursing Home - Clintwood, Va. - 6th - 8th grade

❖ **Ridgeview High School**

Jan 15 - The Attic - Clintwood, Va. - 9th - PG
Jan 24 - Virginia Tech - Blacksburg, Va. - 10th - 12th grade
Feb 21 - Atlee High School - Mechanicsville, Va. - 10th - 12th grade
Feb 27 - Va. Beach Conference Center - Virginia Beach, Va. 10th - 12th grade

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IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

- **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.
- **February is School Board Appreciation Month:** The theme this year “Excellence Through Equity” – reflects the top priority of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders on behalf of all students. A salute to the service of the almost 850 school board members in Virginia during VSBA’s School Board Appreciation Month
- **Feb. 18 – 22, 2020:** VSBA’s School Board Clerk Appreciation Week
- 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.
- **April 23, 2020:** Southwest Regional Spring Network Forum on in Smyth County.
- **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/
- **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.

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V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

e. Good News from Our Schools

- ❖ **January 19 – 25, 2020: Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week:**
Proclamation: For 34 consecutive years, the VASSP and VAESP, Virginia has recognized its principals. Beginning with Governor Baliles in 1986, Virginia became the first state in the nation where principals, through their professional organizations, received a governor's recognition for a special week dedicated to them for the extraordinary responsibilities and roles they serve.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our five administrators:

Clintwood Elementary School: Mrs. Betty Newton

Ervinton Elementary School: Mrs. Karen Martin

Sandlick Elementary School: Mr. Dennis Deel

Ridgeview Middle School: Mr. John Whitner

Ridgeview High School: Mr. Rodney Compton

- ❖ **December, 2019: Enrollment and Attendance Report**

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

The student enrollment on December, 2019 was 1939. The overall monthly attendance percentage for December is 93.38%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with 95.23% student attendance percentage. Ervinton Elementary School came in 2nd with a 94.44% student attendance percentage. Sandlick Elementary School came in third place with 94.17% student attendance percentage. Division wide student attendance percentage is 93.38%. The yearly division percentage is 93.38%.

December, 2019 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

Clintwood Elementary: 95.23%: K – 5 Enrollment: 407

Ervinton Elementary School: 94.44%: K – 5 Enrollment - 127

Sandlick Elementary School: 94.17%: K – 5 Enrollment - 384

Ridgeview High School: 92.83%: 9 – 12 Enrollment - 558

Ridgeview Middle School: 91.48%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 456

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One hundred and one students are enrolled in our Pre- K program.

Clintwood Elementary School: 40

Ervinton Elementary School: 13

Sandlick Elementary School: 48

Total: 101

f. Update on the New Elementary School

Mr. Scott Mullins stated there is no news on the Litigation. There are new Board Members and new Board of Supervisor Members. Throughout the last several months the uniform message was that litigation was not the preferred way for a County to resolve its differences. There has been some desire expressed to let people talk to each other. It was easier when we had local representation. We are all wanting to move forward. Should we try to engage with the Board of Supervisors and have a discussion about moving forward outside of litigation? The Attorneys for both the Board of Supervisors and School Board have discussed this matter. Regardless of how we go we need to recognize that we are all in this together. We are losing eighty five thousand a month.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins; Mr. Wade Massie was authorized on behalf of the School Board to sign a stipulation that the two boards can talk and that the Division Superintendent can share it with the County Administrator.

Vote results (Roll Call)

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

g. Update on State Budget from General Assembly/ Governor Northam

On December 17, 2019, Dickenson County Public Schools received the Governor's Introduced Budget for FY-2021 – FY-2022 and the Caboose bill for the Projected FY-2020 payments. The mid-year adjustment includes a projected increase in State Funding for the current budget.

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The Governor's Proposed FY-2021 – FY-2022 budget looks promising. It includes a 3% salary increase that is funded in FY-2022. Also significant in the proposed budget is the projected approximately \$330,000 in additional funds we anticipate receiving for At-Risk funding for the upcoming year. We may also see projected increases in funding for Special Education, VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative) and CTE. We are still finalizing our enrollment projections for the upcoming budget year. In FY-2022, based on the Governor's Proposed Budget, we will be under new State mandates for School Counselors that will require us to hire additional Counselors to be within the new guidelines of one counselor per 250 students. We have also had a slight increase in our Composite Index (LCI) for the new Biennium. Our LCI has increased from .2470 to .2471, an increase of 0.01%.

As we work through this budget process, we anticipate receiving Proposed Budgets from both the House and Senate sometime in February. We hope to have a State budget from the General Assembly sometime in March. Also in March, we will have a Budget Workshop on March 4th to get feedback from the School Board on the budget and a Budget Hearing on March 18th for public input on the budget.

h. Discussion of 2019 financial Audits for the Dickenson County Public Schools

We have provided the board with a copy of the independent auditor's report and the financial statements of the School Activity Funds for the year ended June 30, 2019. This report was prepared by Rodefer Moss & Co, PLLC as required under policy DGC: "School Activity Funds". In the audit report, Mrs. Tamara Greear, CPA states that in their opinion, "the accompanying combining statement of cash receipts and disbursements presents fairly, in all material respects, the recorded cash transactions of the School Activity Funds of the Dickenson County Public Schools for the year ended June 30, 2019".

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins I think that we have a really good board going forward. I have a lot of confidence in the people that sit here. I look forward to serving with you all.

Jason Hicks I feel like this is an important step to begin to have conversations.

Damon Rasnick We need to see all around this County that we are all in this together. Every child out there is precious wherever they live, whoever they are, whatever the standing. We are supposed to do what's in the best interest of those folks. I am certainly hoping we can do that together with the Board of Supervisors and whoever else we work with.

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Jamie Hackney I feel like the motion that Mr. Rasnick made is in the right direction to create some dialog again with new members that've been elected. Trying to get everyone on the same page would be a good thing and hope that we can make some progress. It's incumbent upon us to always keep in mind what we are here for, to provide educational services. We need to do that for every child in the County without respect to geography. I hope that we can do that. I look forward to working with this board. I reiterate, they recognized the Principals, but I would especially like to thank all of the Principals for the very good job that they do.

Dr. Lurton Lyall I am excited about the possibility that we have in front of us. I think that things may work out better than they have in the past four years or so.

VII. CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing:

(1. Student request for early graduation (2. Employment issues relating to resignation, employment recommendations, substitutes (3. Discussion of appointment and term of superintendent; certain contractual matters and to consult with legal counsel Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711, 22.1-60 (A) (1) (2)(7).

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and a second by Rick Mullins the Board convened in 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 Rick Mulins and a second by Damon Rasnick; 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 Jason Hicks; 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	

VIII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and second by Damon Rasnick; early graduation request was approved: Student # 7877, # 2367.

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. Lurto Lyall and second by Damon Rasnick; resignation was accepted: Jessica Estep, Aide - CES

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 Lyall and second by Damon Rasnick; FMLA request was approved: David Vanover, Student Coordinator RHS

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 Damon Rasnick; Substitutes were approved pending requests of background checks and meeting all requirements.

Vote results

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

Approved Joanne Heckford

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and second by Damon Rasnick; employment recommendations were approved:

Vote results

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

Approved:

Recommendations for Transfer for the 2019-2020 School Year

Ronnie Abshire- Transfer from Ervinton Area Bus #30 to Haysi Area Bus #76

Barbara Sue Mullins - Transfer from Ervinton Area Bus # 4 to Ervinton Area Bus # 30

Recommendations for Employment

Michael Osborne Ervinton Area Bus Driver

Cheryl Sutherland Ridgeview Cafeteria Cook - Part Time

Shelby Turner Ridgeview Cafeteria Cook - Part Time

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and second by Damon Rasnick; permission to advertise was approved: Custodian - Ervinton Elementary School, Custodian.

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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IX. Adjournment : 8:15 p.m.

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

Dr. Lurton Lyle

Chairman, Dr. Lurton Lyle

Approved: February 27, 2020

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk