

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

July 22, 2020

- I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Mr. Rick Mullins; Mr. Mullins noted that Mr. Hicks was not present but would like to participate electronically and was available by phone. Mr. Rick Mullins noted that Mr. Hicks notified him that he could not be present due to a personal matter. Mr. Mullins asked Mr. Hicks if this was correct and to identify the personal matter. Mr. Hicks acknowledged that it was correct and he was out of town on vacation. Following a roll call vote with a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick; Mr. Jason Hick was approved to participate electronically followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Roll Call Vote results

Aye:	3	Rick Mullins, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Rick Mullins asked for a motion to approve the agenda with no changes.
Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick, the agenda was approved.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Hill - I'm advocating for the elementary children in the eastern half of Dickenson County. Regarding the optimal site location for this elementary school. I've been doing this now for about five years plus. I've been through three different boards. My objective today is to present you with hard irrefutable data and facts from my study that will unequivocally prove that the superior location for the school is the Clinchco site. I'll give you the reason why. The data which I have used is both unbiased and independent and was taken from a study completed by K&C Associates, LLC of Richmond Virginia an education consultant so it comes from a very reliable source. As we proceed today keep in mind the most important objective of the data that I've developed is show the site that will one, maximize the safety and well-being of the students and two, minimize any necessary tax increase

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on the taxpayers of Dickenson County to pay for the ongoing transportation cost of the school 50 plus years into the future. I'm going to comment on three exhibits that I provided for you today. First, the scattergram map, probably the most important part of it, two the yellow student population data sheet and three the student residence analysis by K&C, and lastly you have a copy of the narrative that I'm speaking from. To begin I would like to briefly discuss the features of the scattergram map. The dots on the map are showing the visual distribution of students by county, full county, half county, and quadrant, northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast. The little squiggly lines on the map are secondary roads. Each dot on the map represents a household with an elementary student. The map shows the location of Clinchco, Ridgeview, and Clintwood Elementary sites. The northwest quadrant where the Clintwood Elementary school is located, clearly the school is located to the very close proximity to not all but a very large majority of students. Because of its close proximity to that very large majority, the number one student safety is maximized by minimizing transportation and the ongoing cost of transportation is minimized. There's absolutely no good reason to discontinue utilizing Clintwood Elementary School for the students in the western half of the county. Now I'd like to bring your attention to the elementary school population data spreadsheet. The numerical data displayed calculated using the dots on the scattergram map that data then converted to the full county, half county, quadrant numbers, and finally percentages. Using the spreadsheet let's take a look at the southern half of the county. The spreadsheet shows a total of 231 students representing 25.4% for the southern half of the county. The southeast quadrant shows 96 students representing 10.57% of the total while the southwest quadrant shows 135 students representing 14.87% of the southern half of the county. As you can clearly see the southern half of the county is very sparsely populated the southeast quadrant being the least of the number of students. In the northern half of the county, these numbers are starkly revealing. The northern half of our county shows 677 students representing a staggering 74.56% of the northern half of the county three-quarters of the population. The northeast quadrant shows 297 students, that's over towards Haysi and Clinchco representing 32.71% while the northwest quadrant shows 380 students representing 41.8% of the northern half of the county. The Northeast quadrant is where the Clinchco site is located. Using the scattergram map to compare the Clinchco site to the Ridgeview site you can again clearly see the Clinchco site is much closer to a very significant number of students than is the Ridgeview site. It's very clear that that's the case. Based on this data the Clinchco site should be selected to serve the eastern half of the county and the Clintwood Elementary site should continue to serve the students in the western half of the county. The data overwhelmingly supports building the school at the Clinchco site. For the very same reason that Clinchco Elementary site is the most optimal for students in the western half of the county with the site located Clinchco students in the east quadrants would be transported significantly shorter distance on both buses and personal vehicles. When compared to transporting them completely through the eastern half of the county in the westerly direction to Ridgeview. Transporting students shorter distances maximizes their safety and significantly reduces the probability of accidents and fatalities. Shorter transportation distances greatly reduces the cost of operating the transportation system again over 50 years. The life of the school into the future, which would minimize any unnecessary tax increases to operate the school which would financially benefit the taxpayers of Dickenson County. I would venture to say that any savings upfront with construction costs would be offset multiple times by the increased transportation cost over a 50 year period. Today on another matter. Today I'm providing you with a written chronology and it's in your package, of the DEQ's inspection of the Clinchco landfill. I think you'll find

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it enlightening. I will not comment on the chronology today since I am waiting for additional data from the DEQ that I have requested via FOIA. As of this past Monday, no one except me has requested from the DEQ any data on the Clinchco landfill, nobody. The additional \$3 million increase excavation costs were provided to you without any data or any documentation or reason for the increase. I don't usually express opinions, but I will, the increase should be documented and should be submitted to this board with multiple quotes for work. The school board is now tasked with choosing one of two locations for this school. Do not put these children in harm's way if it can all be avoided. One location is optimal from a safety and tax considerations standpoint, it's the Clinchco site. When it set up from that viewpoint as a safety and tax consideration viewpoint Ridgeview site while the cost is a limiting factor and has been discussed infinitum of the safety and well-being of these children or the negative financial effect on the taxpayers of Dickenson County is not had hardly enough nearly open and robust debate and discussion by this and pass boards. I very seldom ever hear of the safety of children with regard to this. Let's not give up on the site which positively addresses the extremely important safety of these children. The site that will minimize any taxes levied on the taxpayers of Dickenson County for the operation of the transportation system. I appreciate your time.

Kathy Musick- I want to thank Mrs. Robinson for including VPE in the furlough committee. I know this for a lot of you are new and have had tremendous challenges before you with the decisions about the elementary school and now the decision about how we go back to school. It's a crazy time with so many concerns from the general public from teachers, from parents, from students, and I know tonight you're making a decision about how the students will go back to school. I want you to know that no matter what you do you're not going to please everybody. When you do that I guess you have to consider what's best for the kids and what's best for the teachers. I want to shout out to all the teachers because no matter how you go back it's going to be really difficult to do social distancing and mask-wearing if you're there and make sure all students get what they need if they're not there. I want to just wish the best to all Dickenson County staff and students and know that I believe they're up for the challenge no matter which way it goes. I believe you got a strong team and I know they worked hard all summer long going back and forth with all the different plans and budgets. I know you've been a part of that but I want to thank the whole staff for all their hard work and no matter which is chosen going back to school, I know your staff is up for the challenge whichever it is. Thank you

Carroll Edwards- Board members, Superintendent, I don't have a lot to say but I'm getting right to the point. When this thing first got started they were going to put the school right where it was only they were going to take off the hill behind it and that would've taken our cemetery. I really hate to see that happen so me and my brother went in front of Mrs. Robinson and she said that maybe we could look for an alternate site and so that's what started all this. I'm here to say that the proper site to put that elementary school is still right there where it is because you don't have to buy the land. The infrastructures are all there. Everything is set up and ready to go all you have to do is just start digging. I think if that school is put at Ridgeview it will be very detrimental to the county and kids. There is no way that you can furnish your kids with a quality education and transport them that

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far. It's just not feasible. It never has been and it never will be. It might happen but if it does you're certainly not giving the kids a quality equal quality education. You can't because of the travel and if you do that you're going to have a great falling away of kids. By your own study there's going to be at least probably 100 kids that don't come to school. You're going to throw them under the bus. So I urge you board members to consider building that school right where it is because it's the simplest thing and the best thing in the kids are there. It's a no-brainer. I thank you very much and I appreciate you

Allison Mullins- via telephone I'm really appreciative of being able to call in that enables folks who can't make it by 5 o'clock to participate in public comment. One of the things I wanted to mention tonight it kind of goes back to what Mr. Don Hill was talking about. There should be and needs to be more discussion about this issue by the public and the stakeholders need to participate. I'm concerned that there was a vote to build the new elementary school at Ridgeview prior to there being any public hearing on the consolidation of elementary schools. Virginia code section 22.1 – 79 paragraph eight states that the school board shall obtain public comment through a public hearing and after reasonable notice in a newspaper of general circulation the school division to provide for the consolidation of schools. Now I've heard some people comment that the school board classes it as a relocation. Well of course is the relocation of Sandlick Elementary students out of the flood zone. If you include any other school Ervinton Elementary or Clintwood Elementary or both that would be consolidating students. More than one school into a school and one of the problems with morale in Dickenson County is the public feels like they're left out of the debate. And of the discussion and the parents and the teachers and the community members need to be part of this decision. That's the purpose of having public hearings when you consolidate. One of the big concerns here would be why are we out of money? There's a discussion as to why it appears from Skanska's presentation the only option now is Ridgeview because of money. Going back to the original \$110 million 86 million spent on the middle school and high school we should have enough money to build the school anywhere. But we don't so the public needs to be made aware of why we're making this decision. Is it because it's the only choice we have? We spend all the money. I just want to do things the right way and we need to have the public involved. We need to have the public hearing prior to the voting on location. Thank you so much and have a blessed rest of the week.

David Yates -I guess my first question is who are rebuilding the school for? If it's at Ridgeview are we building it for the children on Rose Ridge and Hill Ridge half of Caney Ridge? Are we building it for the Sandlick kids? Makes a lot of sense to build for the Sandlick kids 25 miles away or whatever it is. This whole thing started back two or three school boards previous to you. When a couple of members of one of the previous board decided that they wanted their children to have a new school just like the Sandlick kids would have a new school so they garnered up enough support on the board to pass the idea of consolidated elementary school at Ridgeview while the further and farther we looked into the data it got pretty obvious we couldn't afford to build a consolidated elementary school at Ridgeview. It's still the same data, still unaffordable, and doesn't have enough money. So her back to the original question who are we building the school for? Are we gonna tell those children that live a half a mile away they can't come to the new school? They have to go on to Clintwood Elementary School and

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bypass the new school. Are we going to tell the kids over on Caney Ridge they can't come here since its 2 miles away? No, you're not gonna tell him that you can let him come. The first thing this would happen is overcrowding the building because they're not going to go to Ervinton Elementary or Clintwood Elementary they're going to come to the new school. Then we're going to have a situation where you've got 430 to 440 kids from the Sandlick Elementary community coming this way plus you can pick up 100 or so here. We already know we're building a 500 student body school. We can't afford a 560 body school, we see the figures. We can't afford a consolidated school. We saw the figures so I'll go back to Who are we building the school for and where should it be? The country lost a real prominent person in government last week John Lewis. One of the quotes that I picked up on from him really impressed me. He says when you see something's wrong and unjust it's your moral obligation to do something about it. I'll leave you with that thought if you see something wrong and unjust in this process it is your moral obligation to do something about it.

Kathy Harrison - I don't think there's anything I can say that will be any more thought-provoking and reasonable that you need to listen to that you've not already heard from everyone about the location at Clinchco. I wasn't here at the meeting when apparently Mr. Elswick said that there were some environmental concerns with that. You've known it's been known from the time that they were looking to build the high school that there were environmental concerns at the Clinchco site. I find it really convenient that all of the sudden then Mr. Elswick mentioned the environmental concerns with the Clinchco site more or less taking everything off the board but Ridgeview. I really think what Mr. Yates said is something that you all need to ponder. Who are you building the school for? I have a niece that has a sister that lives here on Rose Ridge. She goes to Clintwood Elementary. I do not see them passing up a new elementary school to continue going to Clintwood Elementary. I agree with Allison Mullins if this is a relocation of Sandlick Elementary it makes absolutely no sense to put it at Ridgeview a relocation of Sandlick. If you add another school then that is a consolidation of that school. If there are plans down the road to close Ervinton to say in two or three years and that is the plan of some possibly getting around calling it a consolidation then I think you need to look at yourselves a little harder. You need to be upfront with what the long-term plans are for the elementary school in this county. Give us a two-year plan, give us a five-year plan, give us a ten - year plan. We know both of the elementary schools are getting older. Are you going to build a 500 student Elementary here and relocate Sandlick and then three years down the road say that the upkeep of one of the other elementary schools is so high that we need to add on? There should be a plan down the road, most businesses and even the library system have five and ten plans. So what is the school board's five and ten- year plan for the elementary buildings that will be left down the road. It is a hard decision and you're not going to please everybody but just think long and hard about what it is that you want to accomplish. What you want to accomplish now, what you want to accomplish in the future, and how you're going about that and how much you are keeping the stakeholders up-to-date on what the plans are. I would like to know what, even just what the plans are for the 500 student school at your building here at Ridgeview. What exactly are the plans? I know that everything is just interim. We have no final contract signed. there should be no ground broken nothing like that because we won't even have a full contract until sometime in January or February. If there's any ground broke between now and before you have a full legally signed contract that's getting a little

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ahead of the legalities. Not that I understand the legalities and everything. All I have is a Google degree. I'm not a lawyer, I'm not a doctor but I have a fairly good Google degree. I do know that you have to wait until all the ink is dry before you do anything. Take everybody's thoughts into consideration if you feel like you've had a lot of information thrown at you then go back and listen to it again. Go back and read some of the previous minutes. Think about what the community that you're rebuilding the school for wants to see. Thank You

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney the consent agenda was approved.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ June 8, 2020 - Special Called Emergency Joint Meeting
- ❖ June 9, 2020 - Special Called Public Hearing
- ❖ June 24, 2020 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 881021- 881083.....\$ 346,306.84

Monthly Payroll: Check # 389543- 389564.....\$ 403,503.07

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*

2020 VSBA School Law Conference Online Webinar Recording

Did you forget to register for the 2020 School Law Conference this year? Well, have no fear, because the recording is now available for purchase. Many of the decisions you make have legal implications that will impact your school division for years to come. This conference featured school law updates from the state and local perspective, a presentation on human resources for school board members, Implicit Bias Training, and other pertinent information regarding the legal authority and your role as a school board. You do not want to miss out on this recording to be informed and be prepared! If you have any questions, please contact Mikaela Coffey at Mikaela@vsba.org. Thank you to our sponsor, Sands Anderson.

Cost: \$150

Length: 5 Hours and 31 minutes

Academy Credits: 10 credits

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STEAM for Life : K-12 & Beyond

We invite you to hear from Mr. Andrew J. Nash on how technology continues to evolve rapidly, re-shaping industries including Education. However, the change is far more pervasive than the impact on the Education industry. The presentation will outline macro considerations and opportunities for leaders to develop strategies for the future within the context of the global STEAM gap, including both short- and long-term strategies.

Mr. Nash brings over 30 years of experience as a technology and services industry leader, including over 20 years in e-commerce, digital marketing, data analytics and data infrastructure. In addition to his leadership and operating experience, he has worked extensively with the portfolio companies of multiple Venture Capital and Private Equity firms, including diligence, strategic advisory, interim CEO, Board and Advisory Board roles. Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of Kitsunei, G5 Search Marketing, Occasion Brands, Silectis and Viral Launch and served on the Advisory Board of Acquia.

Reserve your webinar seat now.

Cost: Free

Date and Time: July 28, 2020, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Andrew Nash, Chairman, Kitsunei, CEO, PropertyRoom.com & CEO, AGERpoint

Crowdfunding Best Practices for K-12 School Board Members

Public schools have long used donations to enrich students' academic experiences and fund materials that budgets cannot always afford. Crowdfunding is becoming a viable funding source which provides strategic acceleration for academic programs. However, because the practice may be misunderstood, it may result in unexpected liabilities without the proper partners and safeguards in place. Learn how to implement crowdfunding best practices in your schools, get general crowdfunding guidance, find out which crowdfunding sites to trust, and learn how to uphold financial accountability while maintaining control over materials and supplies as well as safety and security of those in your district.

Reserve your webinar seat now.

Cost: Free

Date and Time: July 30, 2020, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Keya Wondwossen, Director, Advocacy and Public Partnerships at DonorsChoose

VzReturn - Supporting Safe Return to School with Confidence

As we are facing perhaps the biggest challenge in recent history, our goal is to use our expertise and experience to help school districts maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. We have a wealth of knowledge, tools and methods to assist parents, students and administration in reducing risk and exposures during this Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to the opportunity to share our program with you and help you find a safe way to get your students back to school!

Reserve your webinar seat now.

Cost: Free

Date and Time: August 3, 2020, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Presenters: Jonathon Short, Wellness Consultant at Valenz, Brian Campbell, Senior Client Executive at Valenz, and Dr. Jim Blevins, Benefit Consultant for BPA

How Out-of-School Time Programs Can Work for your District in the Time of COVID-19

Out-of-School Time programs, also known as after school, before school and summer learning programs, have always served to enhance school-day learning, address needs gaps, build community and connection, and support working families. In the midst of school-re openings during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is suddenly much more out-of-school time and a greater need for wraparound supports. Come learn how out-of-school time programs have been addressing these issues since the closures in March and possible models of continued learning and care in the fall.

Reserve your webinar seat now.

Cost: Free

Date and Time: August 4, 2020, 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Presenters: Blaire Denson, Executive Director and Christine Jones-Monaccio, Professional Development and Quality Coordinator at VPOST (Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time)

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New Legislative Requirements and the Costs You Need to be Prepared For

Join us for a live webinar on August 11, 2020, at 12:00 noon to learn more about the effects of SB392, SB410, and SB845 on all school districts across the state of Virginia. ESG will lend guidance on each of these and the costs associated with implementation. Preparation should begin now to include estimates in your budget submissions for 2021.

Reserve your webinar seat now.

Cost: Free

Date and Time: August 11, 2020, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Presenters: Cheryl Midkiff, Account Executive and Mark Winters, Engineering Manager from Energy Systems Group

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

d. Presentation by Dr. James Potter, SWVA Virtual Care for Kids

Dr. James Potter, SWVA Virtual Care for Kids: Discussion of TeleMed Opportunity for Children.

e. DCPS Plan for Reopening, Redesigning and Reimagining Learning for the 2020 – 2021 School Year to Address COVID-19

The “DCPS Plan for Reopening, Redesigning and Reimagining Learning for the 2020 – 2021 School Year” PowerPoint presentation was presented to the School Board for its approval:

The DCPS Plan will include:

- Instructional Equity
- Safety & Logistics
- Student and Family Support
- Teacher and Staff Support

We are recommending the following to the School Board for its approval:

- A. All DCPS employees will be required to wear masks outside the classroom and inside the classroom if 6’ social distance cannot be maintained.
- B. All students will be required to wear a mask if they ride a bus, outside the classroom and inside the classroom if 6’ social distance cannot be maintained.
- C. Dickenson County Schools reopen on August 20, 2020
- D. Professional Development and Teacher Workdays be scheduled from Aug 10 – 14, 2020

To Summarize Phase 3:

- To offer additional in-person instruction following the limits and guidelines that the state will issue.
- To implement a staggered approach allowing students to return to school in groups, perhaps taking turns to attend school one or two days a week.
- This would be a hybrid approach that will combine face-to-face and distance learning.
- Some age groups or families may need or choose to continue full-time distance learning.
- Phase 3 might be in place for August.

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- Again, the possibilities that are outlined in Phase 3 are allowed but not required; some school divisions may decide to stay at Phase 2. The emphasis in Phase 2 and Phase 3 will be social distancing and hygiene.
- Beyond Phase 3 may become our “new normal” until the risks are significantly diminished, such as when a vaccine is developed and in widespread use. Of course, at any time, we may be required to return to an earlier phase to contain the virus. Individual school divisions may choose to stay in Phase 1 or 2 even as the state gives options for opening schools

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney school will begin on August 17, 2020, if the environment is conducive to that.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick the Hybrid and 100% Virtual Educational plans were passed as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney the request to implement mask-wearing when social distancing is not possible for all employees, students, and anyone entering the building unless there is a medical exception passed.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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f. Discussion of the CARES Act: Emergency Employee Leave Related to COVID-19

Larry Barton, Director of Business and Finance, presented the Employee Rights Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act). This Act requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020.

g. Discussion of Furlough Language in Employee Contracts and Revision to DCPS Policy GA: Personnel Policies Goals

In June, the School Board tabled the addition to furlough language discussion in employee contracts in order to provide additional time, consideration and to discuss this matter with representatives from the DEA and VPE.

On Monday, July 13, 2020, Evan McCowan, VPE representative, Phyllis Mullins, DEA President, April Hay, DEA representative, Mike Setser, Mark Mullins, and I held a phone conference to discuss the proposed furlough language.

The discussion was very productive and open. From the meeting, the participants recommended that a Q/A email be sent to all staff members to clarify and respond to the questions regarding furlough.

Background: School divisions across the Commonwealth and many school divisions in Region 7 are including furlough language in all employee contracts.

We are proposing language revision to all employee contracts by implementing furlough language that will address any potential issues related to COVID-19 or any impact to the budget during the school year. In addition, this statement: Notwithstanding the other provisions of this contract, the School Board reserves the right to place employees on unpaid furlough status during the term of this contract. In the event an employee is furloughed, the salaried employee is otherwise entitled to receive as set forth in this contract shall be reduced for each furlough day by the employee's daily rate. Employee's daily rate is calculated by dividing the salary stipulated in this contract by the number of days in the contract period. The use of sick, personal, or vacation leave is prohibited during the unpaid furlough.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Rick Mullins the furlough language - Policy GA: Personnel Policies Goals was passed.

Vote results

Aye:	3 Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick
No:	1 Jamie Hackney
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

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h. New Elementary School Project and Litigation Update

The news is basically good. I received documents this afternoon that I have started to review and I understand that next Tuesday the 28th the Board of Supervisors has a meeting scheduled where

they are going to provide an agreement for interim finance and other terms that are important in order for us to move forward. There have been good discussions going on there still work to do and the devil is always in the written document in the details. Reading that the Board of Supervisors are going to hold a public hearing to appropriate the core funds and so all in all I think that we are moving ahead very well so I want to be an optimist and hope that everything falls in place. Because time is of the essence in all of this and because they meet next Tuesday the 28th it might be appropriate for us to recess this meeting to some point immediately after their meeting on the 28th so that if there are things we need to do we can do it now. If it turns out that there's no need for that meeting we can always cancel that but I think that it's more efficient generally to reset the meeting then you don't have to go through the advertisement and all the other things so we could recess on the issue that's presented which is the contractual obligations just as we have written on the agenda. The new elementary school project in litigation update. I'm hoping that will be bringing back documents after the Board of Supervisors has approved for you to approve. Can begin to put this to rest.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Rick Mullins a recessed meeting for the purpose of discussion of item g. on the July 22, 2020 agenda was set to continue on July 29, 2020.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

i. Discussion of Future Plans for New Elementary School Project

Mr. Hackney: I will just get back to some of the public comments that addressed it. There were some relevant thoughts several different people spoke on tonight. I think maybe you could talk about that there was a kickoff with Skanska with Mr. Elswick being involved. What are we talking about some of the things as far as what the staff is talking about? There are issues related to what we can afford the size of the school we can afford and if we're talking about consolidating three schools into one school you know the number of students it can be enrolled in that school. We have federal guidelines to contend with so just to hear some of the things that are being discussed, how we contend with those issues. Are we looking at what specific languages were looking at, the relocation of the school, or consolidation? Those are things I think are

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pertinent to discuss. **Ms. Robinson:** I can certainly share with you about the kickoff meeting on the PPEA process pretty quickly. Yesterday we had the honor of meeting with representatives from Quesenberry Construction, OWPR, and also the Lang group. They were here, they met with our central office leadership and all of our administrators, all of our elementary school administrators, and then also our two administrators here. My point in doing that was that I wanted all elementary school principals to have an input on the new elementary school not as a consolidation issue or any other issue just purely as an instructional. You know what are their ideas, what are the best thoughts from them, and their staff on how we educate Pre-K through five children in that building and if that caused some confusion it wasn't intended to, it was just that we wanted to have everybody's input. I wanted to include everyone. I felt that if someone wasn't included a may have caused more issues so everyone was included including our two principles here because There will be impacts here at the Ridgeview. **Mr. Hackney:** I understand that. At the last meeting I was asking for that, you know that they are brought to the table to have their input. We held the vote and the vote was four to one to move forward with the site at Ridgeview for the elementary school. Just for clarification Maybe this comes from the board, are we looking at consolidation or looking at the relocation of one school? I've not really heard that discussed. **Scott Mullins:** I think there are a couple of things. I'll try to take the point really quickly. First the next meeting, the regularly scheduled meeting we hope to have Quesenberry here. We wanted for them to hear the perspective of the educators and ultimately bring back here in open session and so Mr. Hackney's questions are excellent questions and questions that the community needs answers to. I think this is not a one-time session. I think this is important to the community so we always have to go back and make sure that we're on the same page. To Figure out what you can do sometimes you have to figure out what you can't do. In 2018 we saw bad numbers on Upper Backbone then the last Skanska report basically said the selection of the site at Ridgeview is based on the fact that that the only site that fits within the amount of funding provided by the Corps of Engineers without placing the school system at significant risk of being over budget. Considering unknown such as potential environmental remediation and or unforeseen site conditions that have a high probability of being encountered at other sites which were considered. The school board chose to enter into an interim agreement for the design of the school year the school board has not chosen to build the school here and that's important because we talked about the incremental approach of making sure there was nothing in the very beginning by getting the PPEA proposers. Not personnel, not estimates or some sort of secondhand information but getting the people that can build it, that do this for a living to make sure it's good. And I'll give you a real quick example. Mr.Hicks last time about the contract and why is it that we are needing to enter into that interim agreement. The answer was that they're going to have people out here drilling underneath to make sure that there are no abandoned mine works. Because they're gonna be responsible for that. They have geotechnical people. Now if those geotechnical people come back and say there's a problem or if there's a problem with the roads or there's a problem with the NEPA we need to know that soon and Ridgeview will be just as you know if it doesn't work here, it doesn't work here. We have never committed to building here. We've committed to studying this. **Mr. Hackney:** I get that and I understand that there was risk brought up with the other sites but it felt like that we ruled out the other sites because of those risks

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when there are significant risks with building here. Some of the things you're bringing up right now provide a significant risk with moving forward here. There is a significant risk that we're talking about relating to all the student body being placed here. You know we've got 1000 students here to be placed and we are looking at building a 500 student school, we're looking at risky propositions with federal guidelines. I just don't know how we rule out sites that are risky when the third side is risky. that doesn't make any sense to me. **Scott Mullins:** To make sure we're all on the same page. What did you ask and this is the threshold question. What did you ask the PPEA proposers to bring back to you and the language in the interim agreement was to design and construct a new pre-K through five-grade elementary school that would house a minimum of 500 students 62,000 gross square feet with the option of a larger school depending upon the site and budget constraints? Two real quick points, one is that the goal has always been to get the PPEA proposers to tell us the biggest school we could build. And not just a 500 student school but if the money would allow 600 student school or 550 student school then that would be the goal. The second point is there are risks at every site and there certainly are risks here and you won't know for sure until you hear the PPEA proposers tell you. I think that fair reading of what we've heard from Mr. Elswick and from Skanska based on what he heard from those PPEA proposers are that the Clinchco site and Upper Backbone site simply are beyond the budget and that it is not practical to study them. That is something that I encourage us to hear not just from me but from Mr. Elswick in the PPEA proposers when they come here next month. Those are good questions to direct to the people who built schools but not an attorney. **Mr. Hackney:** This should be an attorney question. If those risks here at the site that we voted on escalate were not yet bound to build the school here that's what you're saying. **Scott Mullins:** Absolutely, there are two contracts, the interim agreement that we've entered into in design only and to study the site. Then there will be a comprehensive agreement sometime in January and if the PPA proposers come back and say that after drilling into the earth, after talking to VDOT, after studying your sewage capacity, after doing all the other things that could be deal killers. If we feel like that we can go forward here, then and only then, will you vote to go forward here. So that is step two and you don't take step two until you completed step one. There's good questions from public comment and there are good questions that haven't been asked but that people wonder. I think that just like Ms. Robinson did with the furlough questions, I think it's incumbent upon us to give those questions whether it be from you as board members or whether it be through some other mechanism but to get those questions because, for those people that care about education, it is important. They are legitimate questions and need to either answer them or have the people here the PPEA proposers that do this for a living let them respond to them. But I hope from here on out that we have the questions together and get the answers from people that build schools. Not from the administration, not for me. I know they'll be here next time and I think there's a commitment for them to be here regularly and so I encourage you as you talk to your constituents to try to get good questions together and if they involve things the PPEA proposers to get the information on, give them an opportunity to get quality information so when they show up they can answer those questions. **Mr. Hackney:** I feel a natural apprehension. I feel like we're moving forward specifically to one site and the lights are off in the room. We're moving forward in the dark. We don't have a legitimate plan on how we're going to get this done. So that's my concern right

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now. Can we try to at least turn on a flashlight? To have some sense of what the big picture plans we're looking at. I think that we have an idea that we don't have enough funding to build a large enough school to house all three elementary's. You know what we are going to be able to do and what part of that we are obligated to tell the public of what we can and cannot do. **Scott Mullins:** No one should be under any illusions that we have enough money in this budget to build a school for every elementary school child. It's not going to happen so if it does will all be delighted but realistically I've heard no one that built schools for a living say that that's a possibility. What we know for a fact is that we have a contractual obligation to deal with the children that are in the Sandlick community. What I think, all of us if we could have our way and could manipulate the earth, if we were in Kansas we would be looking to build a more centrally located school for those kids. I think the problem that is coming down and we will see what the PPEA proposer say is the notion that you are choosing a location may not be accurate. It may be that you have the choice to build the one location within the budget and don't build at all but that's for the PPEA proposers to tell you. I think that we need to remember and the public needs to remember that when those PPEA proposers. They don't really care where we build, they are not from here their children do not go here. Their primary focus is to build the school within a budget that you and we as Dickenson County will be satisfied with and that we will talk good about them for future work. And they will make some money. There's nothing unique about this. Every quality builder, the reason we chose Quesenberry is because they did good work for other people; educational institutions recommend them highly so they want to keep that going. I know that there's a concern about what's the plan, what's the plan? Are we consolidating schools? What are we looking to do? It's difficult for us to get out here to say the collective plan of five people because each of you may have different perspectives. I think that for me the plan is first to learn what we can do, what you realistically do here with the money that you have and present that and then ask you what do you want to do? **Mr. Hackney** that's fair I think that's a rational process to approach it. It is sometimes what you can do and you can build a school but the public needs to know what we can't do we can't put all the students we have in three schools and a pre-K through five schools the public be aware that you know you've got situations in different parts of the county that people would be concerned about. I think Mr. Yates brought the valid concern to leave Clintwood Elementary school open and you've got people that live closer to the new school that live on Rose Ridge that live on Caney Ridge. Are we going to tell them they can go to the new school and make them go to Clintwood Elementary just because we can't hold them at the new school? That's a fair point.

j. Approval of Health/Dental Rates for Sept. 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020

The following are our proposed health and dental insurance renewal rates under The Health Plan. These premiums represent an approximate 9.5% increase in Health Insurance and a 6.5% increase to Dental insurance. The employee contributions will be increasing by 30% for Health Insurance, but the employee contribution for Dental remains the same.

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<u>Health</u>	<u>Total Premium</u>	<u>School Board Cost</u>	<u>Employee Contributions</u>
Employee Only	\$ 760.00	\$ 695.00	\$ 65.00
Employee + 1 Child	\$ 1,215.00	\$ 1,137.00	\$ 78.00
Family	\$ 2,055.00	\$ 1,925.00	\$ 130.00

<u>Dental</u>	<u>Total Premiums</u>	<u>School Board Cost</u>	<u>Employee Contributions</u>
Employee	\$ 38.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 8.00
Employee + 1 Child	\$ 46.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 16.00
Family	\$ 65.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney the dental rates for the contract year of 09/01/2020 through 08/31/2021 were approved.

Vote results

Aye: 4 Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

k. Approval of Proposed VSBA Policies

Mr. Mike Setser presented the proposed VSBA policies for the School Board's approval.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Rick Mullins the policies were approved as presented with the exception of the GBMA Policy Support Staff Grievances which was tabled.

Vote results

Aye: 4 Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

l. Approval of DCPS Handbook of Expectations and Consequences for Students

Mr. Mike Setser presented the proposed Handbook of Expectations and Consequences for Students for the School Board's approval.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick the Handbook of Expectations and Consequences for Students was approved.

Vote results

Aye: 4 Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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m. Approval of the Elgin Foundation Agreement

We are recommending that the School Board approve the Elgin Dental Program to serve our DCPS children to provide dental treatment at no cost to families. This is the 3rd year that the Elgin Dental Program has served our students in this capacity.

The Thompson Family

Background Information on the Elgin Foundation: In 1941, B.R. Thompson Sr. moved from Oneida, Tennessee to Knoxville with a new wife, two sons, no job and only \$2 in his pocket. He was born in Elgin, a small community in upper East Tennessee known for its lumber and hardworking people. A widower after the birth of his second son, Thompson was a lumberman, worked alongside his dad who was a sawmill operator, and strove to provide for his family – a two-year-old boy named B Ray and newly born infant son named Jack.

Thompson remarried, but his second wife succumbed to lung cancer in 1953. By 1961 he had become a coal salesman, and eventually, he and his sons would become the owners and operators of Jewell Smokeless Coke and Shamrock Coal companies which had operations in Laurel County, Kentucky, Buchanan County, Virginia, and Clay County, Kentucky.

The Thompson's coal-mining business – known eventually as Elk River Resources – grew to be one of the country's largest privately-held coal mining entities. The coal mined and coke (a by-product of coal production) produced by Elk River was valued for its high quality by utility companies and steel fabricators around the world.

The success of Elk River enabled him and his family to support community organizations and various causes, including research in the war on cancer, the disease which killed his beloved second wife. Before he died, Thompson laid the framework for a private foundation to help the very people and communities which made Elk River Resources a success.

Initially known as the B.R. Thompson Charitable Trust (BRTCT), and then renamed Elgin Foundation in honor of his birthplace, the work of the trust and foundation has been directed and overseen by his son B Ray Thompson Jr. since its inception.

The Elgin Foundation dental model consists of initial dental screenings and subsequent dental treatment for referred elementary students. Under the model, elementary schools partner with Elgin Foundation by coordinating dental screenings and treatment by transporting students to a local dental office.

By removing the cost burden to under-served families, Elgin Foundation is creating a culture of lifelong dental health and building a foundation for strong and healthy children in Appalachia.

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Elgin is currently serving 30 school districts in 22 counties in 161 schools. Our dental program has conducted over 150,000 dental screenings since its inception.

Elgin Children's Foundation was created to ensure that children, no matter what their background or status in life, have full access to dental care and reading assistance.

In Dickenson County, a total of 916 students were screened and 767 students received treatment and dental care.

	Total Treated	%Total Treated
Clintwood Elementary School:	348	95%
Ervinton Elementary School	69	64%
Ridgeview Middle School	97	65%
Sandlick Elementary School	263	86%

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick the Elgin Foundation Agreement was approved.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

VI. BOARD COMMENT:

Rick Mullins: I'm really happy that we've got things worked out with the Board of Supervisors and that we're en route to acquire more information about the new school. I feel very positive about that. I think that it's a blessing that's been a long time coming.

Damon Rasnick: I have to say that I certainly wish Dr. Lyle well and I hope things go well with him. I'm glad to have Jason here. We can hear everything he can hear everything we say and we could hear most things he said. I'd like to thank Mrs. Robinson and the staff for the very thorough job that they did on this preparation for the return of school and for all the safety concerns they've met. I'm sure if there's anything missing they'll find it before the 20th and have everything patched up. It looks very thorough and very excellent at this point. I hope all of our children and parents and grandparents stay safe and all

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the families stay safe. It's times like we've never seen before and it's kind of frightening but there are good ways to handle it and I think we've got good hands-on hand to do that.

Jamie Hackney: I agree with Mr. Rasnick and also best wishes to Dr. Lyle for speedy recovery. I hope we have them back with you soon. I felt like tonight was a very productive meeting, very productive public comment and discussion among the board and information provided to the public I feel good

about how well it went tonight in that regard. There are still things that we know that we have to discuss and figure out and I think we have some good people to do that. Special thanks again to everyone that worked on the PowerPoint we saw tonight. And thanks to Superintendent Robinson for all the work that was put into that. I was just sitting there thinking about everything that had to go into that and all the planning. It's hard to fathom how much is having to be considered and how many layers. You think you figure out one thing, you know we've had a little discussion tonight about that, just get one thing and out something else comes up that you didn't expect. We've got a lot of people working really hard and are very appreciated.

Jason Hicks: First I'd like to apologize for not having my physical presence there with you guys tonight. I'm as sorry as somebody on vacation can be I guess. I do appreciate the public comments and I appreciate some board comments and discussions. I appreciate all the hard work from our staff that they put together for this reopening plan. It's going to be a moving target that's for sure. Just like Mr. Hackney said you get one thing figured out and something changes. I just ask that as we go forward we just keep what's best in mind for our kids and of parents and families to be flexible and be patient with us as we go forward. I'd really like to thank Dr. Potter for his innovative approach I think it's going to be a great asset to our kids and our families and also here with the Elgin foundation as well.

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:

1. Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as Special Education Teachers at Ridgeview Middle School, transfer of a teacher from RMS to RHS, long term substitutes PK - 6 Teacher at Ervinton Elementary and Middle School Math Teacher at Ridgeview Middle School, FMLA request, coaching resignation, and regarding the retirement request of a teacher pursuant to section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia; and

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2. Discussion and consideration of the terms of a potential interim agreement with the Quesenberry/OWPR/Lane Group for the construction of new elementary school involving the investment of public funds pursuant to a PPEA procurement where competition and bargaining are involved, where the financial interest of the school system would be adversely affected if these discussions were made public initially pursuant to 2. 2-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia; and
3. 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 section 2. 2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion, by Rick Mullins and a second by Damon Rasnick, the Board convened in closed session.

Vote results

Aye:	4	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:	4	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 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:	4	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 Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney the employment issues were 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	

Employment Recommendations:

- Melissa Owens - Special Education Teacher - RMS
- Rhonda Greear - Special Education Teacher - RMS
- Haley Falin - PK-6 Teacher (long -term sub)- Ervinton Elementary
- Chris Fleming - Math Teacher (long term sub)- RMS

FMLA Requests:

- Julie Shortt Davis
- Mallory Vance

Coaching Resignation:

- Brad Counts

Retirement

- Sandra Rasnick

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney; the meeting was recessed until July 29,2020 at 5:00 p.m.on three issues, school construction, school litigation and to discuss the COVID situation relating to the opening of schools.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Approved: August 26, 2020

Dr. Lurton Lyle

Dr. Lurton Lyle

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker

