

Dickenson County School Board Meeting - Summary Minutes

March 25, 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 Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney 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. I am here as an advocate for the elementary school children in the Eastern half of the county whose safety in the form of longer than necessary travel times, will be compromised should a suboptimal location be chosen for the new elementary school. In addition, I am advocating for the beleaguered taxpayers of DC who will be adversely financially affected by much greater than necessary tax increases to fund the daily operation of the school over 50+ years, the estimated life of the building.

The most critical component to be considered in selecting an optimal site, is by far and away, hands down, The safety of these small children. Their safety is directly affected by travel time in route to and from school on buses and in parents' and other vehicles. The longer this transportation time is, the greater the probability of accidents causing injuries or fatalities. As it turns out, choosing the site with the greater number of students in closer proximity to it, results in a significant financial benefit for the taxpayers of DC. Any necessary tax increase would be minimized since a greater number of students would be transported much shorter distances. Shorter distances would reduce recurring costs such as fuel, tires, insurance repairs and other variable costs related to student transportation. Over 50+ years these recurring costs will amount to millions of dollars. By choosing the optimal site, these costs would be avoided by the taxpayers, parents and others. At this time, two sites are under consideration, Clinchco and Ridgeview. The only reason this elementary school should be built at Ridgeview is to consolidate the three existing elementary schools there. The student population data I have developed supports a consolidation approach. At this time consolidation doesn't appear to be an option.

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The question then to be answered is, which of the two sites now under consideration is the optimal location for this elementary school, absent consolidation. The data to support the Clinchco site is shown on two documents I provided to you earlier, the spreadsheet titled Elementary Student Population Data which separates the student data into half county and quadrant data by numbers and percentages. In addition, I provided you with a county map generated by K andC Associated, LLC, consultants hired by the school system. The map is a scattergram in the form of dots, and is the source for the spreadsheet student data. Each dot represents a household with at least one student. The scattergram data clearly shows the student population in the NE Quadrant around the Clinchco Site is the most heavily populated. Therefore, the optimal site for this school based on student safety, financial impact on taxpayers, and cost of construction is the Clinchco Site. The data presented to you today do not support transporting students in the eastern half of the county a significantly greater distance south westerly to Ridgeview, unnecessarily placing them in harm's way, and subjecting them to a much greater probability of accidents and fatalities. Furthermore, the data do support a larger than necessary tax increase year after year to support the operation of the school over 50+ years. The cost of construction at the Clincho Site is less than what is available in the budget and most of the infrastructure of the old school is still in place. In closing, make your decision student and taxpayer centered based on the hard data provided to you today. These data clearly and unequivocally support the selection for Clinchco Site as the optimal site for this elementary school. Thank you for the time today.

Kathy Harrison: I would like to talk about the fact that we have 26 students that are officially diagnosed with Autism in our schools.. As far as I know we have no one with specific certifications and licenses to help these children with their social and communication skills. When you think of Autism you can think of it as a big long sliding scale. Each component that a child has, their reading, their math, their social skills, each thing can be on a different place on that scale. I have a grandson who is Autistic. He is very bright when it comes to reading, he reads above grade level. He can do math in his head but he does not know how to handle social situations. He doesn't know how to make friends, he doesn't know how to handle sensory overload within a social setting. There are paraprofessionals called Registered Behavioral Technicians. They can deliver analysis services and practices under a RBT supervisor or coordinator, who is responsible for all the work they do. They kind of act like a nurse practitioner. They can learn socially acceptable replacement behavior so that the client can feel an improvement in communication skill, social skills and know management behaviors. For someone like my Grandson he is quickly approaching the age that if he is not taught some socially acceptable behaviors it is not going to happen with him. I feel that there is so often a disconnect. Our special education teachers do a great job but Autistic children need something in addition to that. One thing that Autistic children have in common all across the spectrum is their communication and social skills. I would like you to consider in your budget to search out and find someone with these certifications and these licences. He needs to be as well rounded as he can be. He will be in third grade next year. Each year will make it more difficult to learn and relearn new behaviors. We need someone within our system that will know our kids on a personal level.

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Phyllis Mullins, DEA - I wanted to give you an update on what we have learned from Richmond. They are telling us that our President is working closely with Dr. Layne and the Department of Education. If there's anything we can do, we will help out in any way we can. I appreciate everything that you are all doing.

Josh Frazier Question about continuation of instruction. What will be the policy for the continuation of instruction? Will they continue with packets, online, or move as is to next year's curriculum. Mrs. Robinson: There will be a letter sent to parents. Our School year will end on May 29th. There will be structured learning until that time, hopeful meals will be delivered until that time. We are looking at all options. Paper packets for our students that don't have internet access but we are also looking for online options. We are looking at all options right now. We encourage all parents and students to understand that our school year, while schools are closed, education and instruction has not ended. It's very important for students and parents to continue working on packets whether it's online or paper packet so that our students do not lose any of their skills taught and also will be able to not fall behind for the next year. We encourage all of our Students and all of our Parents to support us in that while school may physically be closed, learning instruction is going on. We are concerned for our students that may not follow through, the impact for next year and the following years may be significant on their academic life.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Rick Mullins 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

- February 17, 2020 Special Called Closed Meeting
February 27, 2020 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 389317 - 389407.....\$ 223,993.61
Monthly Payroll: Check # 389389408 - 389437.....\$ 1,780,542.47
School Construction Bill\$ 0.00

c. School Activity Fund

- Informational Item

IV. APPROVAL OF THE 2020 - 2021 BUDGET

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

Vote results

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

V. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Lurton Lyall This has certainly been a different way of meeting. I am not sure I like it but we adapt to what we need to. I just hope we don't have to do it again.

Rick Mullins I was talking to Mr. Barton earlier, looked back in the parking lot and saw all the beautiful tulips and flowers out there and I thought about what a dream come true that when dealing with problems, the Coronavirus, that our school system often gets our people coming together and our Sheriff's Department coming together. We live in a special place.

Jason Hicks I echo what Mr. Mullins said. We appreciate the extreme efforts that the Sheriff's Department, Central Office Staff, Superintendent Robinson, our bus drivers and all the folks that have gotten out and got this food, most importantly, to the students along with the work packets. Hopefully very shortly we can get some kind of direction next week. We have never seen anything like this before. It's a unique situation. But I do believe that the people do make a difference for our kids. The budget, I appreciate all of the work Mr. Barton has put into our budget. I think it's in pretty good shape going forward. But really the most important thing is taking care of our kids, I thank our bus drivers and staff. Today we had over 8,000 meals delivered today. That's a big undertaking, they did a great and we really appreciate that.

Damon Rasnick I would certainly echo that we are surrounded by heroes here in Dickenson County. I am very proud of everybody that came and very thankful. Sometimes we tend to forget people on the sidelines that work so hard everyday and how valuable they are in a time of crises as they have in this crisis. I know that being Board Members or educators we have to be careful when talking about prayer. There have been a few times in my life that I felt like we need to say it, as a family and as a country we need to pray for the whole world. This is one of those times. I am very sad to see our students and all of the students in the country and around the world in the position they are in, especially our friends and neighbors here. This is the time for all of us to come together. I appreciate Mrs. Robinson and her staff for putting us in a position to follow the rules. I think this board has to set an example and try to do what the doctors and experts say that is the safe thing to do and I would hope that everybody that's in charge of our precious children will do the same. We are willing to help in any way that we can with people that have problems. I appreciate everybody.

Jamie Hackney I echo what everyone else is saying in relation to uncharted territory and unprecedented times. A lot of gratitude goes out to everyone in the community and all the staff that's come together and other departments that came together to do the things that they have done for the community. I hope that we can see some return to some normality we are all adjusting. It seems like everyday there is something new

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that we have to consider. I feel really bad for our Senior Class of this year. Hopefully there are some things that this board can do and the Superintendent can look at. If it's up in the summer with relation to graduation and prom and all those things that are staples to being a senior and such a big part of our society. With that being said we have to do the best things that we can right now. Our Governor and President have passed down for us to do. Being responsible citizens and respecting other people is paramount of importance right now. As for some of the things we have discussed tonight. I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the budget from Mr. Barton to the Superintendent and all the Department Heads that have worked hard on it. I am very pleased with where we are on that and look forward to continuing with it when we meet with the Board of Supervisors later this month.

- 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 additional sick leave, substitutes, retirement, coaches (2. 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 (A) (1)(7)

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyall and a second by Damon Rasnick 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 Rick Mulins and a second by Jamie Hackney; the board returned to open session.

Vote results

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify and second by Damon Rasnick; that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting.

Certification of Closed Session

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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 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 Kayla Mullins

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rick Mullins; retirement requests were approved: Doug Rose, Maintenance; Kathy Stanley,SBO; Joann Neece, Ervinton Elementary; Eugene Edwards, Bus Driver Haysi Area

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 Jason Hicks; the request to accept additional sick leave was approved: David Vanover

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 Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick; The motion that the Board of Supervisors allocate funding to be available for sight selection work passed.

Vote results

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

VIII. Adjournment : 8:10 p.m.

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

Approved : April 22, 2020

Dr. Lurton Lyle

Dr. Lurton Lyle

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk