

Dickenson County School Board Public Hearing Meeting - Summary Minutes

June 9, 2020

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

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Dr. Lurton Lyle asked for a motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Following a motion by Dr. Lurton 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 HEARING FOR THE PPEA PROCESS:

Presentation by Curtis Elswick, Sr. Vice President/ Regional Executive:

As you're aware, the purpose of tonight's public hearing is to receive feedback from the public on the PPEA proposals which were made available for public review. To clarify this is not a public hearing on the site for an elementary school. It's particularly for the PPEA proposal and process that we are undergoing. I'd like to provide a little bit of background information on how we got where we are today. Back in 2018 as I mentioned the last time I was here, Dickenson County Public Schools issued an RFP and solicited proposals from design-build teams for a new elementary school. Three proposals were submitted, of those proposals that were embedded and carefully evaluated all three at the time were determined to be of further interest to the school system and selection. After a brief pause, we requested detailed phase proposals from those three teams here just a few months ago. We received three quality proposals from those teams and after careful evaluation at the last board meeting, the board selected that Quensenbery's OWPR/ZMM/ The Lane group design-build team is best suited for that project. Following tonight's public hearing the intent is to enter into negotiations with that team and to negotiate what we call an interim agreement.

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The PPEA guidelines and interim agreement would allow the design to move forward up to the point where that team would be presenting what they call a guaranteed maximum price for construction and that would also allow you to pick a site and move the project forward to the completion at that time. So the purpose of tonight is to hear public comments and consider that feedback. The process outlined that you have for your PPEA guideline is that you cannot enter into an interim agreement and no sooner 30 days following the public hearing which is the middle of July so at that time the intent would be to execute that agreement to allow designing from that point.

Public Comment for the PPEA Process:

David Yates: I guess what perplexes me is why we're still talking about Ridgeview as a site and I refer to the facilities development agreement that was initially signed by all parties involved. Item 8 on page 2 it is the goal of the parties to construct educational facilities at locations that are reasonably centrally located to the children to be served. A location on Rose Ridge section of Dickson County has been selected for consolidated high school middle school Tech School The new elementary school will be located in the area yet to be determined in the area of Sandlick, Haysi, or Clinchco. It doesn't say anything about Ridgeview. The parties hereby acknowledge the contractual commitments have been made to third parties, funds been paid to third parties based on these locations and the parties hereto invoke an irrevocably, that means we don't change we stay the same direction, irrevocably commits that these locations shall be the locations upon which the above reference educational facilities shall be constructed. Now if Quesenberry's gonna do some evaluations I think they need to look at all three sites not Ridgeview at least one more centrally located in the area of the children to be served the K&C report by the school board back in 2018 showed two clusters of the school population. K-5 one cluster in Clintwood, one cluster in the Sandlick/Haysi community. The middle school has two clusters, Clintwood and Haysi/Sandlick communities. High school, two clusters, Clintwood and Haysi/Sandlick communities. Reasonably located, centrally located to the children to be served. That tells me that this is not going to be a school that is going to be centrally located at Ridgeview. If you look at Clinchco versus the Haysi Sandlick community you will see if you build a school Clinchco your major cluster of students are coming from Sandlick and Haysi. Why would you not consider or at least get prices or something from Quesenberry on one of those sites? Back when we first started this rodeo there was an estimate that upper back when Ridge costs 5.5 million to prepare. From the newspapers, I see figures of 27 million. I'm assuming that 27 million in costs include the \$2 million estimate for road improvement. Have we had discussions with the Board of Supervisors about how that can be funded through coal severance money? is To prepare the Clinchco site

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it would be similar to the preparation of the Backbone Ridge site. Similar means the same shape, not necessarily the same size so similar could be eight, nine, or ten million to prepare. Hopefully, Quesenberry would be able to figure that out. Back in 2016/2017, Mr. Barton, the finance officer for the school system prepared a chart that showed the cost per pupil from each school, and out of the elementary schools, Ervinton Elementary came in at \$10,439 per student. We see when budget issues roll around the first thing on the block is close Ervinton. Well if we got close Ervinton it cost \$9,738.00 per student at Ridgeview that's a \$600.00 difference why not close Ridgeview too. I know that just a comparison. But of the \$27 million dollar price tag at backbone, if two million of it is road improvement then let's have some discussions with the Coal Road Committee, with the Board of Supervisors. There's close to \$9 million in the Coal Road fund at the county level. No use getting VDOT to do all of that. We could probably do a contract with someone privately to do it. But all our concentration is in Ridgeview. I'll finish up with this, back in one of our joint meetings I asked the question could the Sandlick site be part of a campus and be used part of the school campus for recreation, parking and so forth. I received a reply from Mr. Kim Woodard and I'll read this and then I'll sit down. It says I'll try to summarize the question as I understood it. You had asked if Sandlick Elementary property could be used for the construction of a relocated school by constructing the new building outside the floodplain and floodway and possibly constructing a two-story structure in order to reduce the building footprints. Those areas within the floodplain could be used for ball fields, playground, parking, etc. It also asked whether areas within the site of the floodplain and floodway could count towards the Virginia DOE guidelines that require a 9-acre site for the school of this size. We discussed this with you and the Virginia Department of Education neither agency is opposed to the floodplain and floodway areas to be used in the 9-acre site as long as all federal, state, and local laws are met. This includes not placing the fields or structures within the floodplain without the proper permits. It could be done, it just has to be permitted. Then we asked, when I was on the Board of Supervisors, we ask T&L to do us an estimate on what it would take to move the hill behind the football bleachers at Sandlick and they arrived at a two to one slope comparison on a 2-acre site, five hundred sixty-three thousand cubic yards of dirt and earth to be moved, most of it would have to be outside according to them. I think we got a little creative we could keep half of it or more on the site so think about those facts and I don't know whether you can expand Quesenberry's study or not but I'd sure hate to see us spend an extra four to five million dollars we didn't need to especially when Sandlick Elementary where you have water, sewer, internet-ready access to the community and I think somewhere in the neighborhood of over 300 kids within 4 miles of the school. Are we going to bus them up to Clinchco or are we going to bus them up to Ridgeview? For 500 students Sandlick School up here at Ridgeview, the community back over here. Thank you

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Kathy Harrison: Good evening at least two of you know everything that I've ever had to say but I've got three new people that I can talk to. I agree with Mr. Yates moving or relocating Sandlick to Rose Ridge or Ridgeview is telling the community and telling all of Dickenson County and all of Virginia you are building Sandlick a school at Ridgeview instead of building their replacement school within a reasonable distance to the children that it serves. You are building or contemplating building a relocated Sandlick at Ridgeview. Now I just can't really wrap my head around that. Even Clincho, even though it says in the facilities development agreement. That school has already been torn down, I feel like after you tore that school down and you accepted the money for it the kids that were there are in the high school now because my nephew was in kindergarten when they got a notification the day he graduated that he would not be attending Clincho Elementary next year but he would be going to Sandlick that's how fast that decision happened. But that school is gone, and I feel like Mr. Yates, at least give some consideration to the Sandlick site and at least give some consideration to the Backbone site to see if there is something you may have missed that someone else might come up with. We all know whether we all want to say it or not, if this was put in place four years ago as it should have been there was money there to build at Backbone. This project kept getting pushed back and pushed back and pushed back until Mr. Elswick was able to say the money is not there to build at Backbone. Even then no one wants to say the word consolidation for elementary school. Dr. Lyle has said that he would like to see all the elementary schools consolidated at Ridgeview, but there is not enough money to do that. If you only have enough money to build a 500 or 564 student school at Ridgeview and you expect all the students from Sandlick to come but you expect the students that the elementary school students live on Rose Ridge to pass the brand-new school and go to Clintwood? I know if you're in a car it's less than 10 minutes away because out of curiosity I drove it. So you can have two elementary schools 10 minutes apart. If you build at Ridgeview you have to find a way to consolidate it and you are going to have to say the word and you have to own it. Otherwise what you're saying is we're building Sandlick a school at Ridgeview. Now either one of them, in my opinion, is not right but that's the choice that you have. I know that the hearing is about the PPEA. I'm sure the company that you have picked will do a good job but I think that the board could give them a little more guidance, a little more leeway to look at maybe some other stuff. Thank you very much.

Carroll Edwards: I don't hardly know where to start, but I feel like I'm a little bit responsible for all this discussion. They were going to build a school where it sits now. They were going to take the mountain off and that would take our family cemetery and another cemetery that would have to be removed. Me and my brother went to Mrs. Robinson and told her

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that we really dreaded to see our people moved and done away with and she said she really agreed. I feel like what has happened here is the kids have been forgotten. You on the School Board, I have set on this board, we promised that we would furnish every kid in the county with a quality education, was one of our obligations. We tried when I was on the School Board. I think that we need to take a look at building the school on the Sandlick site. All the infrastructure is there, every bit everything and all you have to do is remove a bunch of dirt. I believe an estimate was \$7 million dollars. I believe that was Thompson and Litton's estimate. Even that, I think that's too high. That leaves \$17 million to build Sandlick Elementary School and I am positive that it can be done. That way the kids would be well taken care of. The point is you build that school anywhere else at Clinchco or Ridgeview you are going to lose by your own estimation and estimate of at least 100 kids. Where are you going to reach down to get that money from? What are you going to do, raise taxes? It's just absolutely, in my opinion, asinine to even think about doing something like that. You're not thinking about the kids. You're thinking about some other reason to build it Ridgeview. There's no good reason the kids don't have to travel as far it doesn't make any sense. I beg you School Board Members to think about the kids that you're supposed to be taking care of and not some other reason when you're making this decision. I appreciate you. I have been praying to God that the School Board will look to the Lord for guidance and take care of our kids. Thank you

After a motion by Dr. Lyle that the School Board continue to work with the Quesenberry group in the process of determining where to build the elementary school and a second by Rick Mullins the motion passed 4-1.

Vote results

Aye:	4	Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick
No:	1	Jamie Hackney
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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II. Discussion of the FY21 Budget:

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Dickenson County Public Schools Budget FY-21 Budget Changes Already Made

Description	Amount	Positions Reduced - Attrition	Positions Reduced - Reduction in Force
State Budget Cut	-\$398,305		
Local Budget Cut	-\$600,000		
Total Cut to Revenues from Budget Approved on 3/25/20:	-\$998,305		
Carryover Funds from FY-20 (Estimated)	\$250,000		
Add additional cost of unemployment to FY-21 Budget	-\$62,000		
Remove Additional 1% Raise	\$155,905		
Remove Additional Funding Added for Coaching Scale Revision	\$22,000		
Adjusted Salaries for 2 Teacher Retirements	\$19,644		
Adjusted Salary for 1 Counselor Retirement	\$22,877		
Adjusted Salary for 1 Secretary Retirement	\$11,858		
Savings for change in Min Wage effective date to 5/1/21	\$34,935		
Decrease in VACORP Premium	\$16,119		
Other Net Reductions to FY-21 Budget	\$48,083		
Updated Estimated Revenues for Federal Title Programs			
Adjusted Retiree Health Insurance for new Retirements			

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Dickenson County Public Schools Budget FY-21 Potential Budget Cuts

Description	Amount	Positions Reduced - Attrition	Positions Reduced - Reduction in Force
Amount to Reduce from Budget to Balance Budget	-\$338,884		
Board Recommended Options:			
Remove Salary Step for FY-21	\$165,259		
Move Bus Drivers to Employee Only Insurance	\$281,160		
Reduce Number of Coaching Positions	\$25,908		
30% Increase in Employee Health Ins Premiums *	\$86,040		
Eliminate Purchase of 1 Bus	\$95,000		
Other Considerations:			
Close Ervinton Elementary School	\$576,556	2 FT	4 FT, 6 PT
Consolidate Existing Bus Run	\$30,627		1 FT
Consolidate Existing Bus Run	\$21,757		1 FT
Eliminate 8 Part-Time Aides at Elementary Schools	\$65,882		8 PT **
Do not Hire for Secretary Vacancy - Move Existing Staff	\$55,824	1 FT	
Do Not Hire for Custodian Vacancy - Move Existing Staff	\$61,192	1 FT	
Do Not Hire for Guidance Vacancy - Move Existing Staff	\$86,420	1 FT	

* Increase Single by \$15/mo, Employee / one child by \$20/mo, Family by \$30/mo

** These 8 positions are not hired as part-time employees (they do not meet the qualifications), they work as substitutes in these positions each day. These individuals would still be able to work as substitutes as needed.

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- III. CLOSED SESSION, Pursuant to Section 202-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia**, there will be a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the assignment and continuing employment of specific employees of the school system pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2. 2-3711 (A) (1) and for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds pursuant to a PPEA procurement for construction of a new elementary school pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2. 2-3711 (A) (6).

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

Vote results

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

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jason Hicks; 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 Jamie Hackney; that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting.

Certification of Closed Session

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

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IV. BOARD ACTION

After a motion by Rick Mullins to approve the options that were discussed in closed session; a 30% increase in employees health insurance premiums, eliminate eight part-time aides at the elementary schools, do not hire for secretary vacancy, move the existing staff, do not hire for custodian vacancy, move existing staff, do not hire for guidance counselor vacancy, move existing staff and second by Jason Hicks the motion passed 5-0.

Vote results

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 p.m.

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

Rick Mullins, Vice - Chairman

Dr. Lurton Lyle, Chairman

Approved: July 22, 2020

Tonya Baker, Clerk

Tonya Baker, Clerk