

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

January 27, 2021

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

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

Members Absent: Tonya Baker, Clerk

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle, the Agenda was 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	

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Musick: Good evening Chairman Mullins, Mrs. Robinson, members of the board my name is Kathy Musick and I'm with Virginia Professional Educators. It's an exciting time for those of you who are new on the Board Richmond is starting to meet and the Governor has put out his proposed budget. There are some great things and some things that we'd like to see be a little bit better. Right now it appears that his proposed budget has a 2% raise I'm sorry not a raise, a bonus for teachers, and of course, we would love for that to be a raise because as you know if it's a bonus it does not go towards VRS and that does not make much impact on your long-term condition. But of course the 2% raise we would enjoy the extra money. I'm sure all the teachers would love that but, hopefully, I have heard that they are waiting to see how the sales tax numbers at the end of the year went and maybe they'll bump it up to a raise and not just a bonus. Anyway, that is some news from Richmond and hopefully, we'll see, like I said, that the Governor's and we've got the House, and we got everybody else, that has to decide what's theirs. It may change a lot but I know that you all will fight for your teachers and I hope that you will continue to do that so we can pay them and show them how much we appreciate and you appreciate their hard work during this very very difficult time. Thank you for all you do.

Phyllis Mullins: Good evening as Ms. Musick referred to Richmond, there's a lot going on and I've been on several Google or Zoom meetings with my legislative committee in Richmond and we are working hard to get some bills passed. We were lobbying very hard with the legislators on some bills that have to do with the number of SOL tests that Virginia has to give or is giving you don't have to give all of them. We are looking at some other bills and deciding if we're going to back or support them or if we are going to oppose them. That is part of our legislative agenda and right now we have members who are lobbying legislators.

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This is called Lobby Week and we usually go to Richmond for a day for Lobby Day in January. Normally there are several thousand of us that show up at the Capital. We didn't get to do that this year because of Covid of course. We are doing it virtually so we are working very hard to get bills passed in support of education which is of course our job. I appreciate everything you all do, I appreciate the fact that you were going to look at extending the Covid funds for people who miss and have to use days. Hopefully, we can get those back. Thank you very much

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the Consent Agenda was 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	

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - ❖ December 16, 2020 - Regular Meeting
- b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund
 - Monthly Bills: Check # 881596-881674 - \$217,310.85
 - Monthly Payroll: Check # 389694-389720 - \$1,732,224.43
- c. School Activity Fund
 - ❖ Informational Item
- d. New Elementary Construction Invoices and Construction Account Reconciliation Documents

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

Capital Conference, Virtual Conference January 25 & 26, 2021

Board members and superintendents annually meet when the General Assembly is in session to be briefed on education issues before the General Assembly and to learn effective lobbying techniques. This seminar provides participants with the opportunity to be personally involved in the legislative process.

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VSBA Virtual Orientation for New Chairs & Vice-Chairs Virtual Orientation February 2, 2021

The meeting features experts in many topics whose presentations have been designed to help you seamlessly navigate your position and responsibilities. From media relationships to superintendent relationships, this orientation has you covered. Learn more about the legal authority of the chair, as well as parliamentary procedure and ethical considerations.

VSBA April Hot Topic Conference April 13, 2021, Virtual Conference

This conference brings together dynamic speakers addressing issues that are important and relevant to every school division. This year we will be discussing the importance of collective bargaining. Attendees will hear from leading professionals with specific knowledge surrounding the topic of collective bargaining in the commonwealth and beyond. Professionals will share important tips and tricks relating to and leading to successful collective bargaining agreements and tactics. Attendees will learn the details within the new Collective Bargaining legislation focusing on what school board members will need to know before the May 1st deadline and what to expect after that deadline passed. Forecast 5 will discuss how the use of benchmark data to properly plan will lead to greater success throughout the collective bargaining process and how a division's position and visual analytics can assist during negotiations.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

A. Good News from our Schools

DCPS Schools Recognized by the Virginia Board of Education

The Virginia Board of Education has recognized three Dickenson County Schools for the Continuous Improvement Award. This prestigious award is presented to Clintwood Elementary School, Sandlick Elementary School, and Ridgeview High School: Congratulations to these students, faculty, and staff for their work and efforts in achieving the Virginia Board of Education "Continuous Improvement Award". This award exemplifies CES, SES, and RHS as schools that "show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators" in reading, mathematics, science, and other indicators of school quality.

Thank you to the faculty and staff, Mr. Newton, Dr. Muncy, Mr. Deel, Dr. Neece, Mr. Compton, and Mr. Edwards for your commitment and dedication in your role to teach children and to make a positive impact on their lives. It does take a community of people working together for a cause which is often bigger than ourselves to achieve this recognition. By receiving this award, you have demonstrated this commitment to the children you teach and serve.

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Mr. Setser presented the Attendance/Enrollment Data for December 2020: This packet of information included:

- a. Attendance Percentage Comparison since 2016-2017, and Attendance Percentage and Enrollment tallies for 2020 – 2021.
- b. List of monthly student transfers
- c. Pre-K Enrollment Tally for each elementary school.

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

As of December 30, 2020, the student enrollment was 1910. The overall monthly attendance percentage for November is 95.29%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with a 98.23% student attendance percentage. The current division-wide student attendance percentage is 95.29%.

December 2020 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.13%: K – 5 Enrollment: 389
- Ervinton Elementary School: 90.43% K – 5 Enrollment - 114
- Sandlick Elementary School: 96.28%: K – 5 Enrollment - 356
- Ridgeview High School: 95.8% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 589
- Ridgeview Middle School: 92.82%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 462

Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

- Clintwood Elementary School: 67
- Ervinton Elementary School: 15
- Sandlick Elementary School: 59
- **Total:** 141

B. Update on New Elementary School Project and Elementary School Design

Curtis Elswick, Senior Vice-President and Regional Executive with Skanska and Abe Quesenberry with Quesenberry Construction, presented a report on the new elementary school and updated the School Board on the status of the Comprehensive Agreement. The new elementary school presentation included an update on school design, budget update, and construction timelines. The Dickenson County School Board has scheduled a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. for the approval of the Comprehensive Agreement. The meeting will take place in the Auditorium at Ridgeview Middle and High School. Work on the site is scheduled to begin on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021.

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C. Transitioning to a Four Day Instructional Week Update

On Jan. 19, the first day of the 2nd semester and 4th Nine Weeks, students in Cohort A and Cohort B attended school together. Students attended school three days last week and began attending school four days a week this week. Fridays will be scheduled as virtual and small group instruction days, staff workdays, deep-cleaning and sanitizing days, and food and flash-drive pick-up days.

When students return to a four-day week, the extensive mitigation strategies used since August 2020 will still be in place. Some of these mitigation strategies include:

- Students and staff will wear masks all day, and mask breaks will be given throughout the class time while still observing the 6-foot social distance.
- Classrooms will be organized with desks for 3-foot social distance. If numbers allow, social distancing should increase to 6 feet in classrooms.
- Students will be moved to larger areas if the 3-foot social distance cannot be maintained in the classroom.
- PK – 8 students will not change classes, Teachers will travel.
- Hand-washing will be encouraged frequently throughout the day, and hand-sanitizing stations will be available in the classrooms and in the halls
- The 6-foot social distance will be maintained while students are traveling in the hallways, entering and departing the building, and while in the cafeteria.
- Students will have their temperature taken on the bus or in cars, and when they enter the building.
- We ask parents and guardians to screen their children daily before school for temperatures and COVID symptoms. If your child is sick or exhibits any symptoms, please do not send your child to school. We request your cooperation for the well-being of your own child and the health of the other children and staff.
- On buses, students will have their temperatures taken, wear a mask correctly at all times, and will sit one per seat when possible. Family members may sit together with two per seat.

We will continue to monitor COVID numbers daily. If there is an increase in the number of students and staff impacted by COVID, we will immediately inform our School Board and recommend the Dickenson County School Board transition to either Virtual or Hybrid Instruction.

Please Note: Approximately 250 DCPS employees received their first dosage of the COVID vaccine on Jan. 11th and Jan. 12th. We are scheduled in mid-February for our second dosage. We feel that this is a first step in helping our children and our staff to return to school full-time and to return to a new “normal”.

D. Approval of Extending the Emergency Paid Leave for Employees until Mar. 31, 2021, Due To COVID

The Emergency Paid Leave pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ended on Dec. 31, 2021. This Emergency Paid Sick Leave Request allowed employees who tested positive with COVID or had to quarantine a continuous or intermittent leave for 10 days.

On January 5, 2021, Dickenson County Schools received additional funds from stimulus federal funds to

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address the cost of educating children safely and effectively through this pandemic. We are requesting that the School Board approved the use of these federal funds to extend the Emergency Paid Sick Leave through March 31, 2021, for staff members who test positive for COVID or must quarantine due to exposure. At the March School Board, we will evaluate the needs of our staff and faculty to determine if an additional extension of the Emergency Paid Leave is appropriate.

Staff members who tested positive for COVID in January or had to quarantine will be requested to complete the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Form with the used sick day information. In February and March, these used sick days will be returned to our employees.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second, by Damon Rasnick, the extension of the Emergency Paid Leave for DCPS Employees was approved.

Vote results

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

E. Discussion of Timeline for Facility Access for Youth Extracurricular Activities

Following a discussion, it was decided to revisit this agenda item again in March 2021 to give Mr. Setser and the Administrative Staff time to talk with the Principals to see their comfort level with having groups in the building and what procedures need to be in place.

F. Reaffirmation of December 16, 2020 Resolution for Surplus Property in Clincho

Mr. Scott Mullins- Last year last calendar year 2020 we were contacted by the Board of Supervisors regarding a piece of property in Clinchco that had not been used for a long time for educational purposes. The county had a need for it and there is a statutory provision that requires us to pass a resolution declaring that to be surplus property and in the end to do a deed transferring it to the Board of Supervisors. On December 16th at our meeting we did the resolution, I shared that with Mr. Phillips and we agreed upon the form of the resolution and on the form of the deed. The resolution basically said that the chair was authorized to sign the deed. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons we were not able to get Dr. Lyle, who was in the chair in December, the deed to him. So basically now we have a new chair and I need a motion to reaffirm the action taken on December 16th and to authorize our new chair, Mr. Rick Mullins, to sign that deed.

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Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second, by Jamie Hackney; the motion to reaffirm the action taken on December 16th and to authorize our new Chairman Mr. Rick Mullins to sign the deed was approved.

Vote results

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

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins: I would just like to say that I think that our staff has done a wonderful job. With all the vaccinations, the high percentage of vaccinations that we've had with our staff, the decrease in Covid cases, and in the transitioning to a four-day week. I think that's been really good and a very positive thing in the future with soon getting the construction contract executed. I feel very good about everything.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I am hopeful that we are beginning to see an end to this Covid disease and I would like to thank everyone in our system who has stepped up to help with this fight and I am hopeful that we will obviously win this fight.

Jason Hicks: I'll sing the same song that these guys have already said, I'd really like to wish congratulations to our schools for those Continuous Improvement Awards. Those are definitely hard numbers to meet over three years. We have talked about a four-day week for a while here, and I'm really glad we were able to do that to get a little bit more stability and a little bit more routine for the kids to be in school than we have had before. These positive things are going well, and that's because of what our teachers and students and parents and our administrators, custodians, everybody involved is obviously doing a very good job in this, and we appreciate that.

Damon Rasnick: I will say the same and express my deep appreciation for what everyone has done to keep this as good for our children as possible. I know it's been difficult. We've got a lot to be thankful for and we certainly need to be thankful for all those things.

Jamie Hackney: I agree with that as well I'm very pleased to hear the percentage of the vaccinations that we've had among staff. It definitely moves us forward to where we want to be. I'm very thankful for all the staff and administration. I think Chairman Mullins mentioned it, we are seeing positive signs and numbers. I am very appreciative of our parents for the patience they've had in the trying times. I also want to point out I'm very thankful for how our students have handled it they're a very resilient bunch of students we've had here. I'm very happy to see us get approval for the Emergency Paid Leave for staff to extend to March 31st. I think that's well-deserved. I think that we've talked about March start 13th as sort of an anniversary date. I think that or see the light at the end of the tunnel. I don't want to be overly optimistic because we still have significant challenges. I'm sure some that we don't even probably see clearly yet that may pop up but I think there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

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VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed session for the purpose of 1.) to discuss student requests for early graduation; 2.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment such as part-time nursing instructor, cook, part-time custodian, director of business and finance; and transfer of cafeteria clerk/manager; and 3.) to consult with legal counsel pursuant legal code Section 2.2:3711 and (8) regarding the issues identified above and the investment of public funds where competition is involved as provided in Virginia Code Section(A)(1)(7) (8)of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney; 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 Jason Hicks and a second by Damon Rasnick; the board returned to open session.

Vote results

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I Rick Mullins, 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

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

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BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle, early graduation for student 012721 was granted.

Vote results

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

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second, by Jason Hicks, the employment recommendations 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

- Laura Taylor-Baugh - Director of Business/Finance
- Anna Farr - RHS - Part-Time Nursing Instructor - CNA
- Cindy Mullins - EES Cook
- Dustin Lothery - EES Part-Time Custodian

Transfers

- Angela Neece - From Ervinton Elem. Cafeteria Clerk/Manager to Ridgeview CafeteriaClerk/ Manager

VIII. Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and second, by Jamie Hackney; the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

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Date: February 24, 2021

Rick Mullins

Rick Mullins, Chairman

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk