

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 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; Larry Barton, Deputy Clerk; and Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, Board Attorney

Members Absent: Tonya Baker, Clerk

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by Jamie Hackney, 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 Lyle, Mrs. Robinson, members of the board. My name is Kathy Musick and I work for the Virginia Professional Educators. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for working hard and making sure that some of that Covid relief money went back into the pockets of the teachers and the staff that have been working really hard in the last little bit. Thanks for that. Thank you for all you do to lift teachers and to lift up the students of Dickenson County Schools as this year comes to an end. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and I wish that 2021 has hugs and things that we have been missing for a while so again thank you for all that you do.

Phyllis Mullins: Good evening, I am Phyllis Mullins president of the Dickenson Education Association. I have a couple of things I want to say. First of all, thank you for the stipend, you don't know how much that is deeply appreciated and we really thank you for it. Next, I would like to say that one of our government relations person in Richmond, Kathy Bercher who has been with the DEA for many years and is the one that works with the General Assembly, has taken a year's leave of absence to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Education for Governor Northam. She will be a good voice for public education, a very strong supporter. Then on a very sad note, the DEA is very saddened by the loss of Larry Barton. I have worked with Larry for many years and I have always found him to be a very wonderful, responsible, professional, and knowledgeable person. With your years of service in the school system, you have helped bring a lot of positive changes not only to the faculty and staff but also to our students. Your work ethic and your personality are to be commended. You will be greatly missed. I look forward to working with you as the County Administrator and I know that we will have a good relationship. Thank you

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins; the Consent 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	

a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ November 18, 2020 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 881500-881595 \$311,730.94

Monthly Payroll/Stipend: Check # 389667-389693 \$2,095,589.76

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.

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

d. Good News from our Schools

Mr. Setser presented the Attendance/Enrollment Data for November, 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 November 30, 2020, the student enrollment was 1914. The overall monthly attendance percentage for November is 95.75%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with a 98.41% student attendance percentage. The current division-wide student attendance percentage is 96.72%.

November, 2020 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.41%: K – 5 Enrollment: 390
- Ervinton Elementary School: 93.7% K – 5 Enrollment - 115
- Sandlick Elementary School: 95.48%: K – 5 Enrollment - 359
- Ridgeview High School: 96.39% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 588
- Ridgeview Middle School: 93.42%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 462

Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

- Clintwood Elementary School: 28
- Ervinton Elementary School: 12
- Sandlick Elementary School: 27
- **Total:** 67

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

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

- Curtis Elswick, with Skanska, and Abe Quesenberry with Quesenberry Construction, presented a report on the new elementary school for the School Board members. The report included determining the appropriateness of the site update, school design update, budget update, and construction timeline. (see attached)

[December 2020 New Elementary School Report](#)

f. Proposed Process: The Dickenson County School Board Reorganization Meeting

As per DCPS Policy BCA, at the first January meeting, we are required to reorganize the Board of Education. We want to use this opportunity to discuss the process to determine if there are any changes desired by the School Board.

1. Call to Order The current Chair, Dr. Lyle will call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Election of Board Chair: Dr. Lyle will convene the meeting to order and ask for the roll call. After this, Dr. Lyle will turn the meeting over to the division superintendent who will ask for nominations for the Board Chair. All nominations must receive a motion and a second to be considered. After all, nominations are made, the superintendent will direct the Clerk of the Board to take a roll call vote on each nomination. A successful chair will be determined by a simple majority of the vote. Once a chair has been selected, the superintendent will turn the meeting over to the newly-elected chair.

3. Election of Officers

The newly-elected School Board Chair will proceed with a similar process to determine the following positions associated with the Board.

- Vice-Chairperson
- Clerk of the Board:
- Deputy of the Board:
- Designee of the Division Superintendent

4. Meeting Dates and Times

The reorganized School Board will need to establish its normal meeting dates and times. The School Board will need to take action on the following:

- Meeting date and time for monthly board meetings
- Change of any protocol procedures (public comment sign-up, consent items, etc.?)
- Adopt Webster's New World, Robert's Rules of Order Simplified and Applied

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

5. Discussion of “Nuts and Bolts” for Agenda, Meeting procedures, etc.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Rick Mullins the 2021 Reorganization Meeting and Public Hearing for the New Elementary School were scheduled for January 4, 2021.

Vote results

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

g.Virtual and transitioning to a four day a week instructional schedule discussion

In order to mitigate the increase of potential COVID cases during and after the Christmas Holidays, it was recommended that the week of Jan. 4th – Jan. 8th be all virtual for DCPS schools. This will also give Mrs. Compton the necessary time to meet with her cafeteria managers to work out food acquisition and planning other food service logistics. During the week of Jan. 4th – 8th, all of our employees would be back in the buildings with teachers providing instruction from their classrooms via Google Classroom.

At the November School Board Meeting, the School Board discussed transitioning to a 4-day week for students at the beginning of the second semester which begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, with Fridays as the deep sanitizing and deep cleaning day in addition to teacher preparation and planning day. We continue to recommend this schedule even though our students will be in Cohort A and Cohort B the week of Jan. 11th-15th. A Teacher Workday is scheduled on Monday, Jan. 18th to prepare for the 2nd semester. Students will attend 3 days a week of instruction the week of Jan. 19th – 22nd with Friday scheduled as an online day. Meal Distribution will also move to Fridays.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks the approval of a virtual week for January 4th -11th and tentatively beginning the transition to a four day a week instructional schedule January 19, 2021, if the data and science are in line with our plan was approved.

Vote results

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

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

h. Proposed Regional Virtual Academy discussion for Region 7

Dr. Lyle and Mr. Hicks participated in the Informational Zoom Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, regarding the proposed Regional Virtual Academy for Region 7.

COVID -19 continues to change on a daily basis, and the future is unknown. Because of the pandemic, many educators believe that Remote or Virtual Learning will be a part of our future educational options. The proposed Regional Virtual Academy provides the flexibility for many school divisions to participate in remote options for elementary, middle, and high school students for full-time students or in specific course options for students.

In regards to the proposed Virtual Academy, Region 7 School Boards were asked to consider in its December Meeting the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for immediate participation and approval funding to participate in the Regional Academy. The approximate cost per full-time student for each school division is \$3,573.71.

We strongly feel that we should continue to support Region 7's efforts in this initiative and remain a strong advocate in the region. At this time, the recommendation is to continue to consider the Regional Virtual Academy for our students, and to revisit the Virtual Academy in May or June for participation in August 2021.

i. Waiver of School Drills due to Pandemic

Mike Setser presented to the School Board the request to waive school drills due to the pandemic. The Virginia Department of Education has issued information regarding School State Policy Waivers and State-Level Waivers and Relief Measures in Effect in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney the waiver for lockdown and tornado drills was approved.

Vote results

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

j. Surplus property at Clinchco

Scott Mullins, School Board Attorney, presented the School Board the potential lot(s) in Clinchco that the School Board may consider as surplus property to be returned to the Board of Supervisors.

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Damon Rasnick the approval of the resolution as presented for the surplus property at Clincho was approved.

Vote results

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

k. Approval of the Revised Hazard Pay Stipend

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney the revised hazard pay stipend 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

Jamie Hackney: I don't have a lot to say. I would just like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's been an interesting year, my first year on the board and I have enjoyed working with this board and the staff. I really wanted to say a special thanks to Mr. Barton, he has been really great to work with. I don't think the average citizen can really quite grasp how important he is to our county, how important he is to our school system. I hate that we're losing him from the school system but I'm glad he's still going to be an employee of the county. I'm sure he'll be a tremendous County Administrator so I just really appreciate Mr. Barton.

Damon Rasnick: Yes, it's been a pleasure to work with you not only I think for one year, for only one year but I certainly admire your skills and how you handle this and also your humble and Christian attitude as well as your technical skills. I wish you the best. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope all our folks afflicted with this COVID disease, I wish them well. I hope the families stay well and those that are sick get better. Hopefully, we can all do a good job of trying to stay away from this stuff and keep our children as safe as we possibly can.

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

Jason Hicks: I am like everyone else, I hate to see Mr. Barton go but I am glad he is not going far.. These guys said it best if you don't know what Larry Barton does and you don't know what Larry Barton means to this school system, you know it's hard to see that from the outside. I think even more than that is what Larry Barton brings to the position as a person. That's going to be hard missed and he is going to be hard to replace. At the same time, I'm glad to see that he can bring those skills to our county as the County Administrator. I'm still very very impressed with the job that our teachers and staff have been doing to keep our cases down. We have shown that while we can't keep the virus completely out, for the most part, we kept it down. We've had a safe place for our kids to go to school. I'm very impressed with the number of meals that we sent out this week. Oh my goodness, that's just a testament to our staff that gets those meals out to our kids. We are doing the best we can for kids at this point in time. I'm looking forward to getting started back in January and hopefully getting back to the four days as the plan goes and make things a little more stable for our students at that point in time. Other than that just Merry Christmas and remain safe and take care of each other, check on your neighbors. I am saddened this week Dickenson County lost a treasure in Anita Belcher this week so keep that family in your prayers. Thank you

Rick Mullins: I'd like to reiterate to thank Larry Barton for the job that Larry has done, it's just been superb for the Dickenson School System. I would like to commend all of the teaching staff, the cleaning staff and all of the administrative staff for the hard work and dedication that they have given the school system. I would like to say it's a real pleasure working with this Board. I think everybody's done really well and we have a very good Board. I would like to thank each one of you for that. I'd like to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I also wish Mr. Barton well in his new employment. It's with sadness, I know that he's changing jobs but life presents us all with changes and I wish you well and hope you do great at it and I know you will.

VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussing: 1.) Early graduation request 2.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as Elementary PK-6 Teachers, part-time aides, and the approval of coaches and substitutes, retirements, resignations and to post/advertise for a cafeteria manager and part-time nursing instructor 3.)To consult with legal counsel pursuant to Section 2. 2-3711 (A)(1) (7) of the Code of Virginia.

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	

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

Following a motion by Dr. Lyle 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 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:	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 Rick Mullins and a second by Damon Rasnick, early graduation for student 121620 and the employment issues and recommendations were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

Coaches

Early Graduation - Student 12160

Substitutes

- Jennifer Barry
- Jessica Boyd
- Calista Caudill
- Isaac Green
- Barbara Hackney
- Courtney Hickman

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

December 16, 2020

Retirement

- Linda Salyer - Ridgeview Cafeteria Manager

Resignation

- Larry Barton - Director of Business and Finance
- Sherry Mullins- RHS Part-Time Nursing Instructor - CNA Program
- Jennifer (Jenny) L. Mullins - SES Part-Time Aide

Employment Recommendations

- ❖ Casey Kelly- PK-6 Elementary Education Teacher
- ❖ Haley Falin - PK-6 Elementary Education Teacher
- ❖ Laurie Church - CES Part-Time Aide

Post/Advertise, Cafeteria Manager and Part-Time Nursing Instructor

VIII. Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second, by Jamie Hackney; the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Approved: January 27, 2021

Rick Mullins, Chairman

Rick Mullins, Chairman

Tonya Baker, Clerk

Tonya Baker Clerk