

## Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

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September 22, 2021

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

**Members in Attendance:** Rick Mullins, Chair; Damon Rasnick, Vice-Chair; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Jason Hicks; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent

**Absent:** Mr. Jamie Hackney; Scott Mullins, Board Attorney

**Approval of Agenda:**

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by, Damon Rasnick, the Revised Agenda was approved with the addition of item k. Discussion of Quarantine Days for Students

*Vote results*

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Aye:	3	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	1	Dr. Lurton Lyle

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mr. Jason Hicks** read the Public Comment Guidelines.

**Kathy Musick: VPE - The regional representative for Virginia Professional Educators-** Ms. Musick stated she was so glad to see on the agenda the Emergency relief plan for teachers and she hoped that the Board will consider passing this. Teachers have so many stresses and that would be one more thing teachers wouldn't have to worry about. The fall submission VPE grants are November 15, 2021.

**Phyllis Mullins: DEA -** Ms. Mullins stated she was also glad to see the Sick leave for Employees who are quarantined and have COVID on the agenda. A lot of employees do not have sick days and are very concerned. Teachers have enough stress in the classroom without worrying about this. Ms. Mullins said she really appreciated the fact that the Board was looking at this and hoped that the Board would seriously consider passing it.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jason Hicks; the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

*Vote results*

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Aye:	3	Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	1	Dr. Lurton Lyle

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- a. Approval of Minutes
  - ❖ July 20, 2021- Special Called Meeting
  - ❖ August 4, 2021 - Special Called Meeting
  - ❖ August 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund
  - Monthly Bills: Check # 882342-882438- \$553,920.99
  - Monthly Payroll: Check # 389940-389969 - \$1,847,782.21
- c. School Activity Fund/ Field Trips
  - ❖ Informational Item
- d. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents
- e. New Elementary Construction Invoices

#### IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

**Mrs. Robinson informed the Board Members about VSBA Virtual Conferences and Seminars.**

##### **Education Foundation Workshop**

Topics that presenters will cover include Social Media 101, How to Grow Your Foundation Team, New and Improved Fundraising Tactics, and Leveraging DonorsChoose dollars. November 9, 2021 (Virtual)

**VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference**, September 23, 2021

**VSBA Annual Convention**, November 17-19, 2021

#### V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

##### **f. Good News from our Schools**

**Mrs. Martin presented the Student Enrollment and Attendance Report**

##### **August 2021: Student Enrollment and Attendance Report**

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

As of August 31, 2021, the student enrollment was 1912, a decrease of 19 children since May/June 2021.

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## A. May - June 2021 and August 2021 Comparisons of Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

### Clintwood Elementary:

- May/June 2021 K – 5 Enrollment: 397: August 2021: 394

### Ervinton Elementary School:

- May/June 2021: K – 5 Enrollment: 117: August 2021: 119

### Sandlick Elementary School

- May/June 2021 K – 5 Enrollment – 369: August 2021: 353

### Ridgeview High School

- May/June 2021: 9th – 12th Enrollment – 582: August 2021: 617

### Ridgeview Middle School:

- May/June 6th – 8th Enrollment: 466: August 2021: 429

## B. Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

### Clintwood Elementary School:

- May/June 2021: 27: August 2021: 32

### Ervinton Elementary School:

- May/June 2021: 14: August 2021: 23

### Sandlick Elementary School:

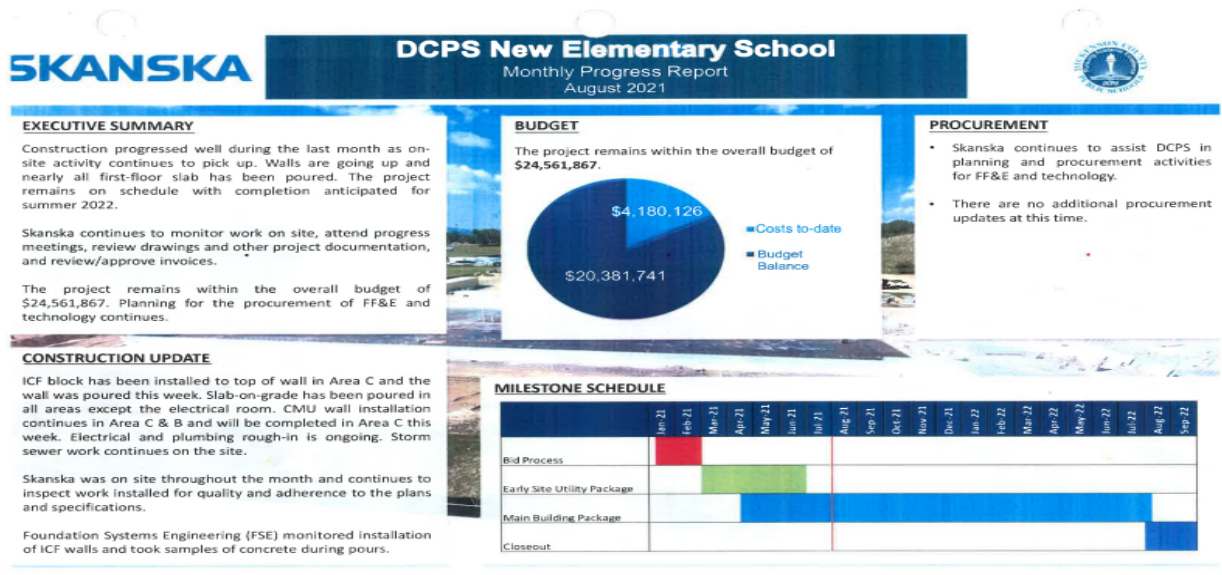
- May/June 2021: 31: August 2021: 25

**Total PK Student Enrollment for August 2021: 80**

**Total PK Student Enrollment for May/June 2021: 72**

## g. Update on New Elementary School Construction Project

Tim Burge, the Construction Superintendent for Skanska, presented a new elementary school project report and updated the School Board on the construction project.



\*port prepared by: Brandon Taylor, Skanska

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### **h. Discussion of the Emergency Paid Leave Request**

At the August 2021 School Board Meeting, the School Board requested that the administration review the Emergency Paid Sick Leave and its potential implementation for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Our analysis indicated:

- The total wages paid in Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) from April 1, 2020, to April 30, 2021, was \$64,457.66
- The associated FICA was \$4,931.01
- **The Total Cost of COVID Leave was \$69,388.67** for 11 months.
- The eligible amount for reimbursement through ESSER I or II is \$66,222.32
- The amount paid by DCPS through State/Local Funds per not eligible by FFCRA guidelines is \$ 3,166.35.

The amount budgeted in ESSER I for EPSL was \$ 45,000 which exceeds the total cost of COVID Leave.

The amount that can be revised into the ESSER II Budget to be reimbursed: \$21,222.32 for the 20- 21 school year:

If the School Board approved Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL): Based on the averages from the prior school year, an **additional \$6,500 per month** for August through December or **\$32,500.00** would need to be diverted from other budgeted uses.

### **Recommendations for the School Board's Consideration in Implementing EPSL:**

- The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Request for COVID-19 related absences would be effective from Aug. 1, 2021, through Dec. 17, 2021.
- Employees are eligible to receive a maximum of 10 days' EPSL during this time period.
- Staff members who test positive for COVID-19 (with documentation) would be eligible for 10 days of EPSL.
- Staff members who had to quarantine would be eligible for 5 days of EPSL. Adults can test after the 5<sup>th</sup> day, and if negative, can return to work on Day 7 or 8. If a staff member tests positive after the 5<sup>th</sup> day, they are eligible for 5 additional days of EPSL.
- The Emergency Paid Sick Leave would not extend after Dec. 17, 2021.
- An EPSL Form would be completed by eligible staff members' paid leave requests.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second, by Jason Hicks, the Emergency Paid Sick Leave for employees was approved through December 17, 2021.

*Vote results*

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

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### **i. Approval of VSBA Policies: DCPS Policy: EFB: Food Services and GAA: Staff Schedules**

Karen Martin, Compliance Director, presented the proposed revised policies: DCPS Policy EFB: Food Services and GAA: Staff Schedules:

In summary, the proposed changes are:

#### **EFB- Food Services**

Added a paragraph under the subtitle of Unpaid Meal Charges to reflect the Community Eligibility Program and all students receiving free breakfast and lunch. It also addresses assurance of no federal child nutrition funds are used to offset the cost of unpaid meals.

#### **GAA: Staff Time Schedules**

Minor vocabulary changes and editing. Statements added to reflect that non-exempt employee may receive compensatory time off at a rate of not less than one and one-half hours. Employees may use compensatory time within a reasonable period. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 compensatory time hours before they will be provided overtime pay at the rate earned by the employee.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second, by Dr. Lurton Lyle the VSBA Policy revisions for EFB Food Services and GAA Staff Schedules were approved.

*Vote results*

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

### **j. Approval of the DCPS Child Nutrition Program Procurement Plan**

Laura Taylor presented a proposed DCPS Child Nutrition Programs Procurement Plan 2021. A Procurement Review was completed by Child Nutrition Program (CNR) Procurement Review Team in April 2021. CNR recommended that DCPS update the Procurement Plan as it was last updated in 2018 and some changes in Approved Vendors had occurred. This was not a finding, only a recommendation. This revision of the procurement plan resulted from recommendations from the CNR Procurement Review Team.

The Procurement Plan is meant to be a living document that updates as needed when changes occur. This version was revised by Deborah Compton, Food Service Coordinator, and reflects current information as related to Nutrition Program Procurement at Dickenson County Public Schools.

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Following a motion by Jason Hicks and second by Damon Rasnick the DCPS Child Nutrition Program Procurement Plan was approved as presented.

*Vote results*

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

### **k. Discussion of Quarantine Days for Students**

**Mrs. Robinson:** While we have followed the CDC's and Health Department's preferred recommendations, the school division's participation in ViSSTA does allow the school division to consider other options and flexibility.

**Option 1:** DCPS remains with the 14-day recommended and preferred quarantine period for students.

**Option 2:** With the implementation of ViSSTA and free testing opportunities in our schools, the School Board recognizes the undue physical, mental and economic hardship for students and families with the 14-Day quarantine, and transitions to the 10-Day Quarantine. With the Vissta program, students can test on Day 10, and return to school on Day 11 or Day 12 if the results are negative. This additional testing on Day 10 provides another layer of protection for students and staff.

**Option 3:** Students can return to school on day 11 if they exhibit no symptoms. Testing on day 10 is strongly recommended but would not be required.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Damon Rasnick Option 2 of the Quarantine days for Students was approved.

*Vote results*

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

## **VI. BOARD COMMENT**

**Rick Mullins:** It's really good to hear that the rates are down throughout Virginia and hopefully that's to come here and to be able to get back to a case of normalcy. It's really good to see Tim Burge here with all the growth of the building of the school and I just really feel good about that as time goes by.

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**Dr. Lurton Lyle:** I want to apologize again for my late arrival. That was my story and I'm sticking to it.

**Jason Hicks:** I appreciate everything that the teachers and bus drivers and all the staff are doing at this point in time and I know that it's a difficult process at the moment dealing with still what is leftover from the pandemic. I feel like it's going to be a good thing to offer this emergency leave for our teachers. Looking at it they have said that the peak of the trend in Virginia and hopefully here as well is supposed to be late September early October lets hope that that pans out. Looking at the positivity rates, they seem to be slowly coming down even though there are high numbers so hopefully were headed in the right direction. Hopefully, this going through December will take care of our folks at this point in time. It's really good. I do think that making a move on these quarantine numbers in being able to cut that down for our students and families by a few days will help that out as well. I hope that we're revisiting this pretty soon that maybe we can do without testing those symptoms because it's moving away. That's my hope but we've all been hoping for something like this for a long time. Now let's just hope that it continues but I still just appreciate everything everybody does I know it's a tough job.

**Damon Rasnick:** I'd like for everybody to know that we all want our children in school as much as they can be there. Everyone up here, all of us, we want our students to be in school we want them to be healthy. We want them to be protected. We don't write rules here on these things, I know a lot of people probably think that we do. We have National Public Health Officials, we have State Public Health Officials and local. For my entire career, I worked with these people and I've never seen them tell us anything wrong. They always gave us information and help in dealing with issues of public health. They are our friends. We certainly are happy to see this 10 days instead of the 14 days I hope that continues. I wish the emergency pay could've been extended to the whole year and taken the strain off. I know that families and employees are strained. The stress is obvious to everyone. For those of us who are parents and grandparents, I know that strain as well. I know that this board will follow the rules as best we can. We will do what the professionals recommend. Actually, by law, we are required to do those things. A lot of people out here ignore those rules. They sometimes encourage us to ignore them but we will not, we cannot. We do what's best for children. We do what needs to be done to protect our children and our families and our employees as best we can. I'd like to give a big thank you to all the employees of the schools and to the parents and grandparents and for all the people involved. Every person up here knows the stress that you're under and we all pray that it leaves us as soon as possible. I want this demon gone forever. And I hope that our county would get up to, I think it's about 50% now that are vaccinated. I wish would go to 90% in a hurry. You know when you have five out of ten not vaccinated it leaves the broad door open for this pandemic to stay with us. The numbers are trending down but they could sure be better. Thank you

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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 meeting for the purpose of:

- 1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as, Part-Time Aides, Substitutes, Coaches, FMLA requests, resignation, and the Division Superintendent's evaluation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
- 2.) Student request for early graduation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2)
- 3.) To consult with legal counsel regarding the investment of public funds associated with school construction and consultation regarding actual or probable litigation, along with consultation regarding specific matters requiring legal advice pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (6) (7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second, by, Damon Rasnick the Board convened into a Closed session.

*Vote results*

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

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jason Hicks; the board returned to open session.

*Vote results*

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

### Board Certification

#### **Mrs. Robinson read the following certification to Closed Session:**

WHEREAS, the Dickenson County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dickenson County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only the public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the



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motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

### *Certification results*

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Certify:	4	Rick Mullins, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

### **Board Action:**

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jason Hicks the early graduation requests were approved if students have completed all requirements necessary.

### *Vote results*

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

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the employment recommendations were approved as presented in the executive session.

### *Vote results*

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

## **PERSONNEL/LEGAL**

### **Substitutes**

- Makayla Cook
- Nan Edwards
- Kelsey Fleming
- Monica Kiser
- Brittney Presley
- Addison Vanover
- Bella Vitatoe
- Peggy Edwards

### **FMLA**

- Timothy Carty
- Jay'ne Camp

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**Resignation**

- Tracy Hackney - Part-Time Aide Sanlick Elementary
- Dawson Boyd - Part-Time Aide - Ridgeview Middle School

**Recommendations for Employment**

- Geneva Wood - Ridgeview Middle School - Part-Time Teacher Aide
- Sarah Bevins - Sandlick Elementary School - Part-Time Teacher Aide
- Allison Michelle Sluss - Clintwood Elementary School Part-Time Teacher Aide
- Raven Gully - Ervinton Elementary School - Part-Time Teacher Aide

**VIII. Adjournment: 7:06**

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

***Rick Mullins***

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Rick Mullins, Chairman

Approved: October 27, 2021

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***Tonya Baker***

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Tonya Baker, Clerk