

**Dickenson County School Board Reorganizational Meeting and Public Hearing  
Summary Minutes**

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**January 4, 2020**

**I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:05 P.M.** The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent, Mrs. Haydee Robinson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Mrs. Robinson noted that Dr. Lurton Lyle and Mr. Rick Mullins were not able to attend the Board Meeting but would like to participate electronically and were available by phone. Mr. Rick Mullins stated that he had airline reservations before the special called meeting was called and could not cancel. Dr. Lurton Lyle stated that he developed a cardiac problem over the weekend and had to be hospitalized and was still in the hospital due to a personal health problem.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jason Hicks; Dr. Lurton Lyle and Rick Mullins were allowed to participate electronically.

*Vote results*

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Aye:	3	Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

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

**Members Absent:** Tonya Baker, Clerk

**Approval of Agenda:**

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Damon Rasnick, the Agenda was approved as presented.

*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	

**II. REORGANIZATION FOR 2021**

**a. Election of Board Chairman: Nomination- Rick Mullins**

Following a nomination by Damon Rasnick and a second from Dr. Lurton

Lyle; Rick Mullins was elected as Chairman of the Board for 2021.

Damon Rasnick made a motion to close nominations, after no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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*Roll Call Vote*

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

**b.Election of Board Vice-Chairman: Nomination - Damon Rasnick**

Following a nomination by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Janie Hackney; Damon Rasnick was elected Board Vice-Chairman for 2021.

*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	

**c. Appointment of Board Clerk: Recommendation- Tonya Baker**

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks; Tonya Baker was appointed Clerk to the Board for 2021.

*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	

**d. Appointment of Deputy Clerk: Recommendation - Mark Mullins until new Director of Business and Finance is named.**

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick; Mark Mullins was appointed Deputy Clerk until a new Director of Business and finance is named.

*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	

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**e. Designee of the Division Superintendent: Recommendation - Mark Mullins**

Following a motion of Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick; Mark Mullins was approved as Designee of the Division Superintendent for 2021.

*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	

**f. Establishment of Date and Time for Meetings**

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney; the Board will follow the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. for Regular School Board Meetings.

*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	

**g. Change of Protocol and /or Procedures**

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second, by Jason Hicks, the School Board will continue with the same Protocol and Procedures as the previous year.

*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	

**h. Adoption of Webster's New World, Roberts Rules and of Order Simplified and Applied**

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jason Hicks; the adoption of Webster's New World, Robert's Rules of Order Simplified and Applied 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	

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**III. PRESENTATION OF CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS FOR THE SANDLICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RELOCATION**

**Curtis Elswick:** If you recall we started out looking for sites for an elementary school sometime back. Several sites were looked at, three sites were deemed to have the most potential for a new elementary school. We had Thompson and Litton do an in-depth study of those sites, and the results that came back were evaluated by Skanska and in the school system, and they were also validated by Quesenberry's to confirm that Ridgeview was the only site presented that we could build a new elementary school that could be afforded within the funding that was available from the Corp of Engineers. We also decided to issue an RFP for design-build services sometime back. The reason we did that a little early was to avoid some of the potential impacts of cost escalation so we tried to get a jump on getting the team on board to help us with some of the due diligence efforts to confirm that Ridgeview could work as a potential site. We received several proposals, very good proposals, that were carefully evaluated. As you know Quesenberry's Construction and their team, was the team that was selected. The School Board entered into an interim agreement with them back in July of this year. That agreement allowed them to move for design work in due diligence efforts. Those due diligence efforts looked at an environmental assessment. We did survey work, soil investigations, we've had conversations with VDOT to confirm whether or not road improvements would be necessary. The design needed to progress to a point where we could actually say we could fit the elementary school on campus right beside Ridgeview Middle School and the most important thing is we can do it with the amount of money that we have available. As we presented last month, we confirmed that those due diligence efforts could give us the conclusion that Ridgeview can accommodate the size school that's required by the Corps of Engineers within the money that we have available. We come to you tonight to talk about the next steps. If you recall the interim agreement there was a schedule attached to that contract and that contract assumed that we would be able to start construction on the Elementary School in early February 2021. That was assuming all the due diligence would work itself out and we are able to have permits in time. That is important because that allows Quesenberry to actually complete a school by the fall of 2022 if they could start by that date. Quesenberry has finished the design for what we call the early site package. That is for relocating utilities, storm drainage work, and getting pretty much a building pad ready. They have worked to price that work package of work, they presented a schedule for and we've also drafted a comprehensive agreement which is in essence the construction contract to allow them to proceed with that work. We presented that to legal counsel for the school system for review and we're asking tonight that the School Board review that draft contract. We're still working through the final details. We feel like the contract is in pretty good shape so we're asking the School Board tonight to review that comprehensive agreement. It needs to be presented to the Board of the County. We're also asking that the School Board allow it to be pre-presented to the County for review and discussion at their January meeting and that we all come back to the School Board on February 4th requesting approval to execute that contract so we can proceed with construction on February 5th. One thing I forgot to mention that is

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important too is that Quesenberry is still working on the final design of the building and the site improvements that still have to be done. We're going to be ready, the interim agreement allows him to come back and amend the draft. I'm sorry I mean the draft comprehensive agreement for the comprehensive allows you to come back and amend it later in February for the rest of the work for the building and the site improvements. We anticipate coming back at the end of February and amending this comprehensive agreement that we're asking you to execute in early February so that we can proceed with the rest of the work.

**Abe Quesenberry:** Basically if we could execute that agreement in the February 4th meeting we would be prepared to start working immediately upon that so February 5th would be our kind of groundbreaking day. What we have currently in the schedule and the reason for bringing this early site package out is as the building package we're finishing the design on that now we felt it important to go ahead and start. We had that design complete to start breaking ground to allow us to bid that building package out and then add into our comprehensive agreement so we can maintain the schedule that we have. That's the reason we broke out this early site package. We can go ahead and get a jump on some of the work without waiting on some of the final building details to be complete.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

No Public Comment

**V. SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSION**

**Jamie Hackney:** I just wanted to say Happy New Year to everyone I know that 2020 was difficult for everybody. We faced some challenges as a Board and I know our Central Office Staff and all the Staff Members in our schools also faced trying times. I think we're keeping a positive frame of mind and moving ahead in speaking to this particular Public Hearing tonight, under unique circumstances. I spoke to a lot of people this week in the district that I represent that wanted to come, wanted to speak, wanted to be here, for reasons that we're going through with the pandemic, a lot of people were concerned, rightfully so, about attending public gatherings. So just on their behalf, I'd like to say as far as the Sandlick District is concerned I don't think the opposition has anything to do with these men that are here tonight that spoke from Skanska and Quesenberry. They're working very hard and are doing a good job. I commend them for that. But you know our opposition from a lot of the residents in the Sandlick District goes way back far before this and is related in a lot of ways to the things that have happened way before I was on the Board. I've tried since I've been on the Board to see that there's due diligence being done especially with respect to the sites. In the original contract in relation to FDA and the sites that were in the Haysi area, there's been some disappointment you know and I think the feeling that, and I hope there's no animosity towards the residents of the Haysi or Sandlick District and Haysi area that we have some opposition to this project. I think it would be hard and difficult to expect residents in the

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Sandlick District not to be upset by the way this whole process has played out. It is not anything necessarily like I said tonight going back to the beginning and being promise things and we're here tonight and those promises are gone. They were not kept. It's disappointing and I don't think that most people could understand the feelings that when you're told something and you say the school it was going to be in the Haysi area and that doesn't happen, it's natural to be upset about the process. It's not anything to do with anybody working on the project and I appreciate the information that we were given tonight. I know this is moving forward but I just wanted to speak on behalf of some of the people that I know wanted to be here but were not able to.

**Jason Hicks** - Well said Mr. Hackney, I too want to appreciate you guys' due diligence on this project. The one question that I had, you kind of beat me to the punch, is wondering about what considerations you've taken into effect as you begin construction, not to upset the educational process and the students and workers and those kinds of things. It sounds like you have taken this into consideration and done a good job there.

**Damon Rasnick:** I would just like to say what Jamie said could have been said any better by anybody. It's not been easy and everybody around here that knows anything about this knows that hasn't been easy for any of us. I certainly appreciate the good work that has been done by Skanska and Quesenberry's I know there is a lot more work to do.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick second by Jason Hicks; to authorize Skanska and our Division Superintendent to work with Quesenberry with the goal of providing the draft of a comprehensive agreement for Construction of the new Elementary School at Ridgeview and that we have a special called meeting on February 4, 2021, to review a draft of that agreement and confirm, consider in the early site package that deals with earthwork and utility location associated with construction projects and anything else that might come up. Also to include in that motion that the Division Superintendent and Skanska share a draft of any professional or any proposed Comprehensive Agreement with the Board of Supervisors and request their approval of this agreement, the motion passed 4-1.

*Vote results*

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

**VI. Adjournment: 5:50 p.m.**

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

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Date: February 24, 2021

***Rick Mullins***

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Rick Mullins, Chairman

***Tonya Baker***

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Tonya Baker, Clerk