

# Dickenson County School Board Special Called Emergency Meeting - Summary Minutes

---

May 13, 2020

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

a. **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

b. **Approval of Revised Agenda**

Chairman Dr. Lurton Lyle asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second, by Jason Hicks, 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. UPDATE OF LITIGATION AND NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

**Scott Mullins:** The last time that we met on May fourth we adopted a resolution that essentially told us to go back and work out some issues. There were two primary issues. One was the wetlands mitigation that we felt needed to come out of the construction projects as opposed to our operational budget. I think that was simply an oversight on the Board of Supervisors part. We sort of like two ships passing in the night so that really was never a matter of debate. It was not in there before and we needed to make sure that it was in before we signed it. The other issue was the \$600,000.00 and as you may recall that relates to 202 credits that were initially applied to our project here at Ridgeview. Those credits were taken out by a 3-2 vote back in 2019 which effectively reduced our budget by \$600,000.00. They were taken out to be applied to the Haysi project and I am very pleased to hear that the Haysi project is fully funded. I think it has fifty-two million dollars but it has substantial money and they're not required to make the five percent match. Basically what we are asking the Board of Supervisors to do is to restore that to our budget because I think we all agree, I think our construction managers told us for years now that this is a skinny budget. I think that we're optimistic anyway that the Board of Supervisors will see that that money is really going to be needed to build the elementary school and to move forward. That's something that they haven't voted on. I understand they will meet next week and hopefully we will have a document for them so they can look it over. Hopefully, if they have questions they can call Mrs. Robinson or myself.

## Dickenson County School Board Special Called Emergency Meeting - Summary Minutes

---

May 13, 2020

### III. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL FUNDING LOSS TO FY21 BUDGET

**Mrs. Robinson:** On Monday, May 11, 2020, Mr. Barton, Dr. Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins, Mrs. Phyllis, and I presented the FY21 Budget to the Board of Supervisors at a budget meeting. I'd like to say that Mr. Barton did an excellent job of presenting the budget, in presenting the facts and discussion of the issues. The members of the Board of Supervisors asked good questions, participated in the discussion, and shared their concerns. I was a grueling four hours for what in prior years had been approximately ninety minutes to two hours. We explained to the Board of Supervisors that we were already dealing with a three hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollar budget cuts from the state and that we were not increasing our appropriations request to them from 6.5 but would make those budget cuts from the proposed budget on March the 25th. On Monday, May the 11th at approximately 5:30 p.m. we received an email from the County Administrator that proposed local appropriations was 5.9 million or 140 percent of the RLM or six hundred thousand dollars less than the requested appropriations. With the state budget cut of three hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars and the six hundred thousand dollars cut the total budget deficit is nine hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars. There was discussion to allow the School Board to carry over any funds into the budget next year. We are still not certain what that amount will be. I think the estimated amount that we prepared for the Board of Supervisors was something like one hundred and fifty thousand dollars but, many things can happen between now and June the 30th so that is not money that is guaranteed that we will have then. These cuts are devastating and they're devastating on so many levels. First, when the Board of Supervisors appropriated the seven million dollars to the school division all the salary scales were revised and for the first time in ten years, our employees received a step increase. Second with the continued financial support of the Board of Supervisors because the Board of Supervisors have always given us more than what the state has requested. Our school division has accomplished the following. All schools last year met or exceeded the States Accreditation. Dickenson County School ranked twenty-fourth in SOL tests out of a hundred and thirty-three school divisions. In state rankings, our students ranked twenty-second in reading, eighth in writing, second in grade five math. Second in World History. The Ridgeview High Schools combined rate in English is 95%. In math, its 91% and Ridgeview Middle School has reduced their chronic absenteeism from last year by 13.86%. Their combined rate in math for the last year was 90 %. The high school graduation rate is 95.17 %, the dropout rate is 3.42% and all of our seniors graduate with either an advanced, standard or applied diploma or industry certification. All Dickenson County School students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost and Ridgeview High School and Dickenson County Public Schools offer a thriving Career and Technical Education on the Ridgeview Campus for both the high school and middle school students. Dickenson County Public Schools have made significant strides in becoming one of the top school divisions in Virginia. We are sitting in a beautiful educational facility the Ridgeview Campus which is debt-free. The Dickenson County School Division has been an excellent investment for the Board of Supervisors, with the accomplishment of our students, our staff, and what is going on the Board of Supervisors and the Dickenson County taxpayers have received an outstanding return on their investment. Since March 13th with the COVID school closure, our instructional staff has prepared over 5700 learning modules. They are teaching in numerous google classrooms with their students. They are participating in google meets with their students.

## Dickenson County School Board Special Called Emergency Meeting - Summary Minutes

---

May 13, 2020

They're making weekly contact with students and their families and they have remote office hours each day to help provide assistance to students and families. Beginning in May all of our teachers are taking training to implement a virtual instructional environment. Since it is improbable that we will begin school in August in a traditional manner. Since March the 13th our cooks have prepared and our bus drivers have delivered 99,801,00 meals to our students and our families. We have placed internet access points at each of our schools and have tried to continue the instruction and learning for our children while staying connected with our children whose lives were so significantly disrupted. The work for our staff has never stopped nor has it decreased. We are working and serving our children in ways that we thought were unimaginable before March the 13th. We understand that the Board of Supervisors are experiencing challenging times. We are also as a school division facing challenging times as well. This is a small community and we all struggle together. We must work together because none of us have the luxury of not working together nor communicating with each other and none of us want hard-working tax-paying people in Dickenson County to lose their jobs. It is devastating during the COVID-19 crisis, two weeks before school ends, and approximately one month before the June 15th deadline to inform staff members on contracts of a potential reduction in staff. To be informed that the school division is facing a one million dollar budget deficit.

**Mr. Larry Barton:** Presented options to Board Members for budget cuts.

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and second by Jamie Hackney a Special Called Meeting on May 20, 2020 to discuss potential budget cuts was passed.

*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 Rick Mullins, the previous motion was modified to add the addition of a discussion of Litigation to the Special Called Meeting for May 20, 2020.

*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 Special Called Emergency Meeting - Summary Minutes

May 13, 2020

IV. **CLOSED SESSION:** I move that pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2 371 (A) (7) we convene a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel and receive briefings by staff members pertaining to actual litigation with the Board of Supervisors and IDA regarding the location of the proposed new elementary school.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a 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 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	

**Dickenson County School Board Special Called Emergency Meeting - Summary Minutes**

---

**May 13, 2020**

**VI. BOARD ACTION**

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Jason Hicks the adoption of the Elementary School Development Agreement with the Board of Supervisors as it was presented passed.

*Vote results*

---

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

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 8:38 P.M.**

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

*Dr. Lurton Lyle*

---

Dr. Lurton Lyle

**Approved: June 24, 2020**

*Tonya Baker*

---

Tonya Baker, Clerk

