

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

March 24, 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; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, Board Attorney

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jamie Hackney, the Agenda was approved as recommended with the change of item (h.) from an approval item to a discussion item.

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**

Mr. Jason Hicks read the Public Comment Guidelines.

Phyllis Mullins - DEA: Good evening the DEA had their annual convention this past weekend which was held virtually. During our new business item section we did come up with some new legislative items that we will work on probably this summer and I will be part of that as I am part of the legislative committee. As always, we want to push forward everything for public education that we possibly can, especially trying to raise teacher salaries to the national average. We try but we know that back here the national average is going to be out of reach. The average for Virginia is much higher in Northern Virginia than it is for us therefore when they take the average that doesn't really pertain to us as much. We're trying to get as much as we can, especially for Southwest Virginia. I'm really proud of the budget that has been prepared and I thank Mr. Vicars and our new financial director. I think everyone has done a wonderful job and I'm ready to help push it forward. Thank you

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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

- ❖ February 4, 2021 - Special Called Meeting
- ❖ February 24, 2021 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 881764-881852 - \$321,339.89
Monthly Payroll: Check # 389747-389776 - \$1,711,846.22

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. New Elementary Construction Invoices and Construction Account Reconciliation Documents

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

I. VSBA Virtual Conferences and Seminars

2021 March Hot Topic Conference March 17, 2021

This conference will be focusing specifically on multiple hot topics in education.

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's discussion will be on the importance of collective bargaining.

Virtual Conference on Education July 20, 2021

Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from numerous mini-workshops highlighting successful practices in Virginia's school divisions.

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II. English Textbook Adoption Process for Grades 4-5 and 6th-12th grade: Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt

English materials have been ordered and sent to each English teacher for review and evaluation. English teachers are attending virtual workshops, A recommendation to the School Board will be made by May as to the English adoption process for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

III. Update on Copyright of Ridgeview Logo

Scott Mullins and Mike Setser: Discussion of the Wolfpack Logo and how it came about.

- There are eleven trademarked pieces of art.
- Trademark art belongs to the children of Dickenson County
- A percentage of all sales for items sold with trademark art belong to the school system

IV. COVID- 19 Report

Mrs. Robinson presented the COVID -19 report.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

e. Good News from our Schools

April Hay, 7th Grade Teacher, at RMS presented/announced the following awards:

John Fox Jr. Literary Contest...The 34th Annual Lonesome Pine Short Story in conjunction with the 17th Annual Lonesome Pine Poetry Contest hosted by the MECC Foundation has announced its 2020-2021 winners.

●Short Story:

- 1st...Preslee Strouth...." Souls of the Sky".Mrs. Ashley Hill's 8th-grade class
- 3rd...Anderson Robinson...." The Spy Who Never Died"...Ms. April Hay's 7th-grade class

●Poetry:

- 1st...Calleigh Calhoun..." Anxiety"...Ms. April Hay's 7th-grade class
- 2nd...Brody Vanover..." The Peaceful Pond"....Ms. April Hay's 7th-grade class
- 3rd...Emma Gibson..." Stress"...Ms. April Hay's 7th-grade class

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Mr. Setser presented the Attendance/Enrollment Data for February 2021:

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.

February 2021: Student Enrollment and Attendance Report

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

As of February 26, 2021, the student enrollment was 1912. The overall monthly attendance percentage for February is 92.35%. Congratulations to all our schools! The current division-wide student attendance percentage is 95.47%.

January 2021 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.88%: K – 5 Enrollment: 388
- Ervinton Elementary School: 94.00% K – 5 Enrollment - 113
- Sandlick Elementary School: 97.87%: K – 5 Enrollment - 362
- Ridgeview High School: 94.85% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 583
- Ridgeview Middle School: 79.41% 6 – 8 Enrollment: 466

Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

- Clintwood Elementary School: 27
- Ervinton Elementary School: 12
- Sandlick Elementary School: 30
- **Total: 69**

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

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

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Construction activity is underway with the installation of erosion and sediment control (E&S) measures and temporary power for job site trailers. Quesenberry's is also mobilizing equipment in order to commence excavation in anticipation of VDEQ approval by the end of March.

A proposal for testing & inspections for the building package was reviewed and approved in mid-March. Planning for the procurement of FF&E, technology and low voltage systems continue.

The project remains within the overall budget and on schedule with substantial completion anticipated for late summer 2022.

g. Approval of the 2021- 2022 Budget

Ron Vicars presented to the School Board members an update on the FY22 Budget.

Dickenson County Public Schools budget update Fiscal Year 2022

- The Virginia General Assembly passed the FY22 State Budget on Saturday, February 27
- Included a 5% pay increase for all SOQ recognized instructional and support positions
- Fully funds the "No Loss" funding to protect school divisions from drops in their Average Daily Membership
- Learning Loss Supplemental Payments to assist school divisions in providing additional learning opportunities due to instructional losses during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Federal update

- CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) will be a part of the final budget. Federal funds are given to assist school divisions in addressing learning loss among at-risk students, provide school facility improvements to mitigate the risk of virus transmission, and improve environmental quality in school buildings.

Budget Perimeters

- Budget projections are based on the House bill o Included support for the 5% pay increases
- Based on an ADM of 1,885 o Projections consider projected Kindergarten students arriving, seniors departing, and additional projected losses through the year
- Minimum Wage increases to \$9.50 in May 2021 and \$11.00 in January 2022 which will impact both this year's budget and next year's budget.

Local budget meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 30th at 1:00 p.m. between members of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors.

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Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Damon Rasnick the 2021-2022 Budget was approved.

Vote results

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

h. Discussion of the Participation for the 2021-2022 DCPS Virtual Regional Program

Senate Bill 1303 in the General Assembly was approved and is awaiting the Governor's signature. As you recall, Senate Bill 1320 requires each school division to offer fully in-person instruction or a combination of in-person and remote virtual instruction to each student for the duration of 2021 – 2022.

At this point, what appears to be certain is that school divisions in Virginia will have to offer a remote/virtual program for students for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

On Friday, Mar. 19, 2021, The DCPS Administrative Staff met with Edgenuity and participated in the presentation. Edgenuity was looked at extensively.

After discussions with the Leadership Staff on Monday, Mar. 22, 2021, additional time was requested to allow the Administrative Staff to 1. evaluate the cost. 2. Have a list of prerequisites for students to be a part of the virtual program next year.

i. Approval of the 2020 - 2021 School Calendar

At this time, it appears the state of Virginia will allow school divisions up to 10 Virtual Learning Days for instruction for possible inclement weather or other emergency type closures. This would assist the school division in making up missed days next year. Anything beyond the 10 days potentially would need to be added to the end of the school calendar.

Two surveys were made available during the week of March 10th – 17th for participation from both the Dickenson County Public Schools faculty and staff members as well as parents, guardians, and the community. The survey allowed individuals to choose between the two options being considered.

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The faculty and staff survey saw 232 participants. Option 1 had 100 votes for 43% and Option 2 had 132 votes for 57%.

The parent, guardian, and community survey saw 254 participants. Option 1 had 142 votes for 56% and Option 2 had 112 votes for 44%.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Damon Rasnick Option 1 for the 2021-2022 calendar was approved as presented. (Vote passed 4-1)

Vote results

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

j. Approval of the Proposed VSBA Policies

Mr. Mike Setser presented two groups of proposed VSBA Policies revisions for February 2021.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second, by Jason Hicks; Group 1 policy revisions were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney; Group 2 policy revisions and deletion of policy KNA were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins: I was just thinking with April Hay making her presentation, this has really been wonderful. We have some talented little writers. We may even have some new David Baldacci's here. I would also like to make the comment that I was over at UVA-Wise yesterday and was talking to the nurse practitioners and one of their sons came in who works for Norton

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Community Hospital. They got to talking about Ridgeview High School and everything that has been done over there. The son has never been here to look at the facility and they were all saying you need to go, you need to go, it's the greatest facility in Southwest Virginia, and not only is it the greatest facility, the education is wonderful. That made me so proud to hear that.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I am interested to see how this Virtual Regional Program is going to go. Other than that I think we have done well this evening so far.

Jason Hicks: I'd like to congratulate those writers as well. That's quite an accomplishment for sure, to get what was it, five out of six that's pretty impressive. I did find it interesting that in the poetry section two of the titles are anxiety and stress. I think that really reflects what students and administrators, our teachers, and parents, everybody involved, kind of what is being really reflected in there. Even with all that stress and anxiety, I want to take a minute to brag on our teachers. I happened to be in a conference, a virtual online conference, probably about a month or so ago on YouTube. There were thousands of people in this conference. I looked over in the comments because people were commenting the whole time and I saw one of our teachers' names pop up there. It was flying so fast to be able to catch one in there was kind of amazing. This was on a virtual day she had virtual duties at that time. Not only was she fulfilling her duties teaching she was also trying to slip in some time to improve herself and improve her skills at the same time. With all the anxiety and stress and all that has been going on, I really think that speaks to the caliber of teachers that we have in the county. It even speaks the caliber of those people. I know that there were more than one of our teachers that were in that thing at the end but they just didn't make a comment so I didn't get to see it. I thought that was really something and I shared it with the board. I'm always impressed by what folks are doing and taking on extra at the same time. I was pretty excited this week that we got Go Guardian here within the county. If you don't know what Go Guardian is, it filters contents out for our students whether they are on campus or whether they're off-campus. It's really helpful in trying to keep our kids safe from what they see online. Another great part of it was and I was very pressed by the teaching tools that go along with it. Teachers when they log on to their classroom they can see every student's chrome book whether they are a remote student or whether they are sitting there in front of them in class. That can be pretty helpful. I have already seen some kids get Youtube busted more than once since go Guardian has been there. I really thought it was funny the first time we sat in on a webinar to see this and one of my coworkers has a son in second or third grade. He sat with his father while they were doing this presentation. He shared with me after it was done that his second-grade son said do you mean that thing is going to snitch on us? Not only that the teacher can share the screen out, but that can also be shown to the students whether in the classroom or whether they're sitting at home so I think that's going to be a big help to our teachers and I know that's something that they got some training and things coming up on. It's going to be helpful to them, so again in the midst of all this, we're still trying to improve our skills and do those things. So my hats off to you.

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Damon Rasnick: Mrs. Robinson I would like to think this achievement would get some wide dissemination that those students and teachers have achieved regarding the writing. I'd also like this time to thank the teachers and their parents and grandparents and caregivers, custodians, cooks, bus drivers, school nurses everybody that helps bring our children forward.

In reading that story I wish everybody could read it. It's talking about anxiety and stress in two of the writings that won in the competition. I suspect they could identify not only with all of our students but the teachers and parents and other caregivers as well. We've come a long way and I think it's been handled well but I think we have a ways to go. I just hope everything from here on out goes very well. Let's do everything we can to make it happen that way.

Jamie Hackney: I like all the sentiments that everyone's had about the writing students for what a great job that they did. I think that it's very very nice to recognize that and several have mentioned the teachers involved with that as well. I appreciate that as well. Also, I like to add that I'm pleased with the budget process this year. I thought it was very well prepared. Thank you all for doing a great job. I have not had nearly as much to say this year on the budget as I did last year so I hope that's a good sign. I feel like it was anticipated things, I anticipated more issues than we've had. I am very happy that it's all worked out. I was just thinking about it during the meeting tonight, about if we have to continue to have a good year next year if we continue with the budget cycle. I was thinking about if we were able to start looking at upgrading our bus fleet. I think one of the things looking down the road the next few years is having younger students travel a little longer distances to see if we're able to get air-conditioned buses for a few of those routes. It takes time to revamp the fleet. Down the road, if things are going well I hope as a Board we consider that as an option. But like I said once again I am very pleased with where we are right now. I am looking forward to next month and the next meeting.

- 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 substitutes, FMLA requests, resignation, coaches, retirement request, post/advertise for Director of Instruction, Pre-K - 6-grade teachers 2.) To consult with legal counsel pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) (7)(8) of the Code of Virginia.

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

Vote results

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

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

Vote results

Aye:	5	Rick Mullins, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney
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 motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

Certification results

Aye:	5	Rick Mullins, Dr. Lurton Lyle, 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 Jamie Hackney the personnel recommendations were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

VIII. Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.

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

Approved: April 28, 2021

Rick Mullins

Rick Mullins, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk