

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

August 28, 2024

- I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:08 P.M.** The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jason Hicks, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Members in Attendance: Jason Hicks, Chair; Jamie Hackney, Vice-Chair; Rick Mullins; David Vanover; Damon Rasnick; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, School Board Attorney

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney, the agenda was approved with a revision. 1.) Agenda item k., Approval of the Proposed DCPS CTE Drug Testing Policy, changed from approval to discussion only.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks; Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jamie Hackney read the Public Comment Guidelines.

Steve Shortt, VPE, Mr. Shortt thanked Mr. Deel and Mrs. Robinson for inviting him to the new teacher orientation. Mr. Shortt gave the Board Members a pamphlet about VPE and stated that VPE is not a political group and does not endorse any candidate he also spoke about the grants and scholarships VPE offers.

Phyllis Mullins, President of the Dickenson Edu. Association, Spoke about attending the new teacher orientation. Mrs. Mullins said the DEA is very involved in everything related to education. She also spoke about mini-grants that the DEA offers and thanked the Board for the beginning-of-the-year t-shirts.

Mrs. Vickie Stanifer, Spoke about her concerns about bullying in the schools.

Mr. Mike Stanifer - Spoke about bullying in the schools and told a story about his grandson.

Ms. Connie Fuller - Spoke about her son being bullied at school.

Mr. Travis Mullins - Spoke about his daughter being bullied at school.

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III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

a. Approval of Minutes

❖ July 24, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 886002 - 886132 = \$ 744,674.46

Monthly Payroll: Check # 391160 -391191 = \$523,102.54

c. School Activity Fund

❖ Informational Item

d. Approval of Field Trips

e. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

f. New Elementary Construction Invoices

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

VSBA Conferences

VSBA 2024 Legislative Advocacy Conference

VSBA Mavogatomg FOIA

VSBA 2024 Annual Convention

Legislative Listening Session

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

g. Good News from our Schools

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- ❖ Mrs. Robinson gave a summary of the beginning of the 24 - 25 School Year: She said she would like to publicly and sincerely thank each of the staff and faculty, our DCPS families, the support of our School Board, our community boards, and stakeholders for their for work and diligence in contributing to an excellent beginning to the school year. Bringing approximately 1800 students, 312 full-time staff, approximately 60 part-time staff, approximately 40 buses, parents, and DCPS families to the same campus has been a monumental feat, and it was only made possible by hard work, diligence, and persistence.
- ❖ Mrs. Martin presented the 10th Day Enrollment for Dickenson County Public Schools to the School Board.

h. Construction Update on the New Addition to Ridgeview Elementary School

Tim Burge, Construction Superintendent, presented an update and PowerPoint presentation on the construction of the newest addition to Ridgeview Elementary School, and the parking lot.

i. Approval of the FY25 DCPS Budget

Lacie Edwards, Director of Business and Finance, presented the proposed amended 2024 -2025 budget and budget amendments to the School Board from the approved budget on March 27, 2024.

A Public Hearing was scheduled and held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. for the public to have an opportunity to comment on the budget revision and amendments.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by David Vanover, the FY25 DCPS Budget was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

j. Certification of the 24-25 DCPS Crisis Plan

Karen Martin, Compliance Director, presented the 2024 – 2025 Crisis Plans for each school, and the process to develop the Crisis Plan. The Crisis Plans were emailed to Board Members for review. As per the Virginia Code, School Board Members must certify that Crisis Plans were reviewed.

Following the presentation by Mrs. Martin each Board Member certified that they had reviewed the 2024-2025 Crisis Plans.

Certification results

Certify	5 Rick Mullins; David Vanover; Damon Rasnick, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No	0
Abstain	0
Not Cast	0

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k. Discussion of the Proposed DCPS CTE Drug Testing Policy

The proposed DCPS CTE Drug Testing Policy was presented to the School Board at the July School Board Meeting for discussion and review. Mrs. Edwards again presented the proposed policy addressing the issues and concerns of the School Board as discussed at last July's Meeting.

l. Approval of the Proposed Supervised Agricultural Experience Credit

Denechia Edwards, Director of Career Technical Education, and Susan Wilder, Agricultural Teacher, presented the Supervised Agricultural Experience which is a required Component of every agricultural course. The National FFA Organization Federal Charter Amendments Act provides the Framework for the three-component model used in an agricultural education experience: classroom and laboratory instruction, the SAE programs, and student leadership through the FFA.

Following a motion by David Vanover and a second by Jamie Hackney the supervised agricultural experience credit was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

m. Presentation of DCPS Chronic Absenteeism Data for 2023 - 2024

Mrs. Robinson, Division Superintendent, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the School Board indicating the chronic absenteeism data for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

What is the Chronic Absenteeism Data in DCPS?

During the 2023 – 2024 school year, the DCPS chronic absenteeism data indicated:

CES: Enrollment 269: Had 78 student miss 18 or more days: 29.00%

RES: Enrollment 491: Had 190 students miss 18 or more days: 46.75%

RHS: Enrollment 545: Had 262 students miss 18 or more days: 48.07%

RMS: Enrollment 430: Had 183 students missed 18 or more days: 42.46%

*This data does not indicate checkouts or tardies, only absences. Please, note excessive checkouts and tardies also impact a child's instruction.

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n. Update on Executive Order #33: Establishing Cell Phone Free Education for Virginia's K - 12 Students

Background: On Thursday, July 9, 2024, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order #33: Establishing Cell Phone Free Education to Promote the Health and Safety of Virginia's K - 12 Students. The Order explains the importance of this initiative and the Governor's directive.

On August 15, 2024, further guidance was received from the VDOE stating the definition of the "bell-to-bell" for cell phone-free education. The draft guidance defines cell phone-free education in Virginia's schools as "bell-to-bell", meaning phones should be turned off and stored away from the first bell at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings at the end of the academic school day. "Bell-to-bell" includes lunch and time in between class periods.

Virginians can expect the following next steps:

- After considering Virginians' feedback on the draft document. VDOE will issue final guidance on September 16, 2024.
- School divisions will adopt policies and procedures by January 1, 2025. School divisions are encouraged to review their current policies and adopt age-appropriate policies and procedures aligned with the final guidance ahead of this date or policies that are more comprehensive than the final guidance.

o. Presentation of Communities in School Services in DCPS

Mike Setser, Regional Director of Programming and Community Schools, and Portia Fletcher, After the Bell Program, presented an overview of the services provided by Communities in Schools in each of our schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Damon Rasnick - Mr. Rasnick said he was thankful for a safe start to school. He said he has sympathy and empathy for the families that came and spoke during Public Comments on bullying and he hopes they can find some resolution.

Mr. Jamie Hackney - Mr. Hackney spoke about Communities in Schools and how impressed is with all that they do. He is glad to see the CTE programs and Simulated Workplace. This is a great opportunity for our students. Mr. Hackney said he would like to reiterate what Mr. Rasnick said, that he appreciates people coming to speak at Public Comment with their concerns and we need to tackle the issue of bullying as well as absenteeism.

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Mr. Rick Mullins - Mr. Mullins said he would like to thank everyone, the staff, the SROs, and the administration for a successful beginning of the school year. The CTE is really a good program. Mr. Mullins spoke about agriculture and the agriculture credit program. He said the Communities in School are a real blessing.

Mr. David Vanover - Mr. Vanover said he wanted to follow up on what Mr. Hackney said about the Public Comment section and that he would like to see more people show up to shine the light on certain subjects and share their opinions. There are many things that we need to work on and we need to be diligent in that. Mr. Vanover said that when Mr. Shortt and Mrs. Mullins speak they are always thanking us and he would like to thank them for all that they do.

Mr. Jason Hicks - Mr. Hicks said it's been refreshing to hear that we have gotten off to a good start and he is thankful for the people that came and spoke. Our Mission Statement is to provide a safe and nurturing place for students and if we fail to do that for one student we have failed our mission. We need to be very vigilant about this. Mr. Hicks asked all teachers, staff, and administrators to be on the lookout and try to support the students the best way they can.

A moment of silence was observed to honor Teresa Deel, and Kenneth Rose former teachers of Dickenson County Schools who have recently passed away.

VII. Closed Session, Under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed meeting for:

1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as an Attendance Coordinator, Part Time Teacher Aide(s), Substitutes, and Resignations, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)

2.) 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 Damon Rasnick and a second by Jamie Hackney; the Board convened in a Closed Session.

Vote results

Aye:	5 David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Damon Rasnick, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

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Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Rick Mullins; the board returned to open session.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

Board Certification

Mrs. Robinson read the following certification for the 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 a 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

Certify	5 Rick Mullins; David Vanover; Damon Rasnick, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No	0
Abstain	0
Not Cast	0

Board Action

Mr. Scott Mullins, School Board Attorney - Mr. Vanovers's sister-in-law is on the list of substitutes to be hired. We will need Mr. Vanover to certify that he had no involvement in the hiring decision. Mr. Vanover certified.

Mrs. Robinson was also asked to certify that the hiring decision was based on merit and no member of the Board had any involvement. Mrs. Robinson certified.

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Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Damon Rasnick; the employment recommendations were approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	4 Damon Rasnick, Rick Mullins, Jason Hicks, Jamie Hackney
No:	0
Abstain:	1 David Vanover
Not Cast:	0

PERSONNEL/LEGAL

Substitutes

Brandi Baker
Brittney Blakenship
Jaecey Dingus
Paul Payne
Tara Fleming-Toohey
Janie Vanover
John Moore
Zoe Owens
Jessica Phipps
Zoey Phipps
Alisa Rose
Matthew Swindall
Courtney Swiney
Tiffany Wallace

Recommendations for Employment

Chad Compton	Divisionwide	Attendance Coordinator
Caitlin Hill	Ridgeview Elementary	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Jodi Samantha Hull	Ridgeview Elementary	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Hollie Arrington	Ridgeview Elementary	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Hannah Robinson	Ridgeview Elementary	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Joseph Terran Owens	Ridgeview Middle	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Victoria Edwards	Ridgeview Middle	Part-Time Teacher Aide
Lillian Hill	Ridgeview Middle	Part-Time Teacher Aide

Recommendations for Transfer

Selena Moore Transfer from Part-Time Teacher Aide at RES to RMS

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VIII. Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.

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

All Aye

Approved September 25, 2024

Jason Hicks

Jason Hicks, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk