

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

November 18, 2020

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Rick Mullins, the 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	

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Musick: My name is Kathy Musick and I am the Regional Representative for Virginia Professional Educators. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Robinson and her staff for having on the agenda the consideration of hazard pay for our teachers. They have worked harder, they have worked longer and what they are doing, physically and emotionally it's just a lot. There's a little girl that I taught in second grade and she later became a teacher at the school where I was principal. She's a great teacher and never complained. She's worked in Scott County and is my Facebook friend. As you know Scott County had to go all virtual not long ago and she just did a post, teachers are not okay, because they worry about their kids when they're not in school. They worry about the ones that they can't get to come to whatever meet virtually or whatever. There's just a lot on them and I commend you for considering this and I know that it is not easy to jump through the hoops to get to qualify for hazard pay. There's a lot that you had to do and that the board has to consider, thank you for even thinking about teachers. I know I've heard you commend them on numerous times but that goes a long way so thank you for that.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Rick Mullins; the Consent 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	

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a. Approval of Minutes

❖ October 28, 2020 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check #881395-881499 \$273,510.32

Monthly Payroll: Check # 389641-389666 \$1,761,946.24

c. School Activity Fund

❖ Informational Item

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Rick Mullins; the New Elementary School Construction Invoices and Bank Statement reconciliation was approved.

Vote results

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

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

Beyond Meeting and Confer: Public Employee Collective Bargaining Comes to Virginia Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

A live webinar with Cynthia Hudson and Bradford King, attorneys from SandsAnderson as they explain the new collective bargaining legislation. This session will provide an overview of the new provisions on Virginia's new law enabling local governments and school boards to bargain collectively with "unionized" employees.

Capital Conference, Virtual Conference January 25 & 26, 2021

Board members and superintendents annually meet when the General Assembly is in session to be briefed on education issues before the General Assembly and to learn effective lobbying techniques. This seminar provides participants with the opportunity to be personally involved in the legislative process.

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V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

d. Good News from our Schools

- ★ Congratulations to Dr. Lyle as the Chair for Southwest Virginia School Board Members. What a great honor! You make Dickenson County Schools and our School Board very proud!
- ★ Congratulations to our Nursing Instructors: Stephanie Stanley, Sherry Mullins and Kendra Mullins and Nursing Students for all their hard work on achieving CNA Nursing Program approval from the Virginia Board of Nursing. Thank you all for your hard work on this accomplishment.
- ★ **Mr. Setser presented the Attendance/Enrollment Data for October, 2020:** The 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.

October, 2020: Student Enrollment and Attendance Report

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

As of Oct. 31, 2020, the student enrollment was 1912. The overall monthly attendance percentage for October is 96.44%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with 98.55% student attendance percentage. The current division-wide student attendance percentage is 97.24%.

A. October, 2020 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.55%: K – 5 Enrollment: 389
- Ervinton Elementary School: 93.49% K – 5 Enrollment - 117
- Sandlick Elementary School: 96.66%: K – 5 Enrollment - 358
- Ridgeview High School: 96.86% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 587
- Ridgeview Middle School: 94.7%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 461

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

• Clintwood Elementary School:	27
• Ervinton Elementary School:	13
• Sandlick Elementary School:	26
<u>Total:</u>	<u>66</u>

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

- Curtis Elswick, with Skanska, and Abe Quesenberry with Quesenberry Construction, and Randy Jones with OWPR presented a report on the new elementary school for the School Board members. The report included determining the appropriateness of the site update, school design update, and construction timeline, and a 3D presentation. **(see attached)**

f. G.U.S. Corps of Engineers Contract Amendment tabled from the October 28, 2020 meeting

School Board Attorney, Scott Mullins, presented the Contract Amendment Proposal to the School Board for its consideration. In the monthly Zoom Meeting with the Corps on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, the school division was informed that progress payment reimbursements will be reduced by approximately \$172,000 until the issue of the Contract Amendment is resolved by the School Board.

Mr. Scott Mulins: There is a contract amendment and resolution in front of you. What we would need at the end of the night would be a motion to approve the resolution in the form presented and to authorize the division superintendent to execute the amendment to the contract. We have \$110 million dollars in play with the Corps of Engineers, \$102 million of which represents the schools of Ervinton High School /Sandlick Elementary and the outbuildings at Haysi. There is \$8 million that represents the Clinchco contract. The Sandlick money on that contract has already been amended in that the money that comes from it is already here with the school board to work with. The question is the Clinchco contract. It was an oversight. It was not put forward to be amended at the same time as the main \$102 million contract. The Clinchco contract was \$8 million, 3.5 million of it was for the middle school and it is already up here in this facility. 3.5 of it was dedicated to the elementary school children that were at Clinchco and at that time it was contemplated that they would be going to Sandlick. The 3.5 million and 3.5 million is 7 million. The missing million dollars was the demolition. So what this resolution would be doing in effect is bringing the 3.5 million attributable to elementary school students that went to Clinchco, that money would be put into this proposed new elementary school. So without that \$3.5 million, you don't have the money to build the school here or anywhere else for that matter. It's a critical component as far as the money is concerned on the budget of the building of the school so the Corps of Engineers sent this to us on October 27 we had our meeting on the 28th and the board received it in the 11th hour and decided to table it until tonight to consider.

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Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Damon Rasnick the motion to amend the contract and approve the resolution as presented was passed with a 4-1 vote.

Vote results

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

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

- Haysi Town Council

The Haysi Town Council's request to meet with the School Board, the Board of Supervisors, and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the site for the new elementary school. The Board of Supervisors has declined the invitation.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney to grant the request to meet with the Haysi Town Council and a second by Jason Hicks the motion failed with a 3-2 roll call vote.

Roll Call vote results

Dr. Lurton Lyle	no
Rick Mullins	no
Jason Hicks	yes
Damon Rasnick	no
Jamie Hackney	yes

g. Discussion of Instructional Schedule during COVID-19

In discussions and Zoom meetings with Dr. Eleanor Cantrell, Director of the Lenowisco and Cumberland Health Districts, Dr. Cantrell is recommending the following for school divisions in the Cumberland and Lenowisco Health Districts:

"I strongly recommend consideration of 100% virtual education from the end of Thanksgiving break until return in January 2021, ideally two weeks post-holiday celebration times.

Most school calendars have only 3 weeks of instruction during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, which would be just enough time to introduce COVID 19 cases resulting from gatherings at Thanksgiving into the school populations, only to be spread farther at Christmas gatherings."

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Although we have had several positive cases and quarantine cases in our schools: All of these cases have not been caused by school transmission. Their cause has been family events, social gatherings, birthday parties, and even some of the cases have included only our remote students.

I recognize that the School Board has to wrestle with these recommendations. Dr. Cantrell's recommendation for 100% virtual/remote education from the end of the Thanksgiving Break until January is not a recommendation that I believe we need to address at this time. We all believe that our children need to be in school as much as possible. We also are concerned about the educational needs of our students, but also the mental health of our students. Transitioning to all virtual/remote during the Christmas Holidays when that is such a stressful time for children and families is, in my opinion, adding additional stress to families. The only Christmas that many of our children have is what we celebrate in schools. I am very concerned about taking that away at this time and its impact on the mental health of our children.

Another one of Dr. Cantrell's recommendations is to transition to all virtual the week after Thanksgiving only - Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, 2020, to allow time for the incubation period after Thanksgiving Holidays and family gatherings. This may be an option that the School Board may want to consider further. Athletic practices begin on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, so that decision would not interfere with the practices.

There are no right or wrong answers, and there are no right or wrong plans. We do not have a crystal ball for what will happen after Thanksgiving. Based on the information from Dr. Cantrell, Russell County, Bristol City, and Pulaski are transitioning to all virtual the week after Thanksgiving for one week. Other school divisions are considering this option. Buchanan County has voted to transition to all virtual from the end of the Thanksgiving Holidays to January 2020. Some school divisions are not considering any changes.

Based on the current COVID cases, and the projected numbers, I do not believe that going to a 4-day instructional week is a recommendation at this time. As you review the attached presentation, please note that UVA projects the peak for our region will be in mid-January.

We will continue to monitor current and projected COVID-19 numbers, in addition to consultation with VDH and Dr. Cantrell.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick to go virtual from Monday, November 23, 2020-December 4, 2020 with a return to hybrid December 7, 2020, pending the situation at the time and consultation with Dr. Cantrell, the motion was approved.

Vote results

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

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h. Discussion of Hazard Payment to DCPS Employees due to COVID-19

During this COVID-19 pandemic, our staff members have been incredible in the things that they have accomplished which have been “beyond their regular duties and responsibilities.” These “beyond the regular duties and responsibilities” have included:

- Training in cleaning and sanitizing our schools, and “suiting” up in PPE equipment to deeply clean classrooms and isolation rooms when there is a potential COVID-case in our schools
- Providing meals to our Remote and Hybrid children and families
- Providing daily transportation in daily deep cleaned buses
- Hours of administrative planning and preparation
- Participation of teachers and professional staff in professional development to “teach” in an entirely new way
- Implementing Hybrid and Remote teaching strategies using technology and software
- Incorporating safe mitigation procedures in all our schools and classrooms for Hybrid children
- Installing numerous safety features in our schools such as bottle fillers, temperature screeners, Plexiglas partitions, etc.
- Providing medical assistance and guidance at the school level and division-wide
- The list continues and continues

Based on these facts, we are recommending that the School Board consider a one-time hazard and instructional stipend payment to our DCPS employees for the December payroll in a separate payroll check.

Mr. Barton and I have had several discussions and emails with Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations at the Virginia Department of Education who has approved this proposal. Since the funding for this Hazard Pay/Instructional Stipend comes from the federally funded CRF Funds (Coronavirus Relief Funds) we have made certain that our proposal met federal guidelines and auditing approvals.

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and second by Jamie Hackney the Hazard Pay for DCPS Employees was passed as presented with a stipulation to increase the amount for part-time employees if funding is available.

Vote results

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

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i. Discussion of VHLS Guidelines for Participation in Athletic Events

Mr. Setser, Mr. Compton, principal at RHS, and Kent Grant, Athletic Director presented the 2020 – 2021 Guidelines for Return to Participation to the School Board while addressing COVID-19. The PowerPoint presentation included:

- Beginning Dates for Practices, and Athletic Events
- Health Guidelines for Student Participate
- Addressing the 250 in attendance limit
- Contract and details with NFHS to livestream extracurricular events at Ridgeview

j. Discussion of Proposed Region 7 Virtual Academy

Mrs. Robinson presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Region 7 Virtual Academy. This is still in the planning stage and Dr. Lyle will attend a meeting and have more information for the Board at the next meeting.

This is School Divisions working together to provide a virtual academy when we get through the Covid Pandemic. Instead of our children going to Homeschool or some other structured program, this would offer a program taught by our teachers in our area.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Jamie Hackney: Once again thanks to all the staff. I am very happy to be able to discuss and approve hazardous duty pay tonight. I feel that it's well-deserved based on the tremendous effort from our school district. Thank you to all the staff members, thank you to Robinson for her leadership. I think we've managed a very difficult situation as well as I could hope and I still think that even though there are obstacles ahead, we're probably in a lot better situation moving forward than some of the other districts. They would probably like to be in our situation. It's been difficult for everybody, I know it's been difficult across the state, across the country, but I feel good about where we are and I think our board has been very committed to doing the best that we can for our staff, our students and community. Thank you.

Damon Rasnick: I have to echo what Mr. Hackney said and I think that we are under terrible stress, challenging circumstances. Our faculty and staff, every employee, and frankly every parent and grandparent and other caregivers in this county, I realized firsthand what you face. The young nurse came here last month, I guess you have feedback. I haven't heard results but I know that there are people out there struggling and they need help. I think a lot of them probably might hesitate to seek help. I wish whatever we have available to be made easily accessible to those folks that are in the situation where they don't feel really comfortable about communicating. I know they're out there and we have to think about the children. I have heard Jason and Jamie both talk about that we all think it's better to be in school and I'm sure that myself Dr. Lyle, Rick all share that but it's not just about the books and the lessons, it's the thing that we sometimes don't talk about I guess in regular school. The children at home and the environment is unusual

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and unable to converse with her friends, not able to interact with their friends, there's a mental health side of this too. I don't exactly know how we're competent to help with that but I do believe there's probably an unspoken need out there for some sort of activity. Maybe that could be in a way that they can at least see their smiling faces, involving the classmates. Something to tie them together in some way is not a threat to them, certainly, build their spirits up in that regard. I'll say again you don't realize the fragile nature of especially well all ages but especially for those small children in the attachments they have to the person teaching them even though it's on TV basically. The relationships formed there is a bond that is innocent is strong and the emotion is high there. The feeling is out there well translates even if you're not face-to-face in person and it's stress on the little fellas if something upsets them if. If someone leaves for example or if someone gets changed. It makes a hole in their normal routine that has changed already from what their normal routine used to be. I hope we can minimize those things as far as dealing with professional staff as much as we could, especially for those children on the primary side of things. I know all the work has been done. I congratulate the Superintendent, I am happy she had Mr. Barton and whomever else helped on this. Coach Grant, Mr. Compton, and all folks that worked on that, Mr. Setser. I hope this brings a good feeling for our community. For all the county to see sports coming back this way. We all know what it means. I think I saw Mr. Compton play basketball at Ervinton. When I saw that guy take that shot and miss it I thought about that guy that made it, I thought about him. He was one of Ervintons best back then. That's been almost forty-some years ago maybe. I have a tough time keeping up with those things but it's been several years ago. I wish more people could see the games, more families, I wish could come out and see the games but I know that's not possible. Thank you all so very much.

Jason Hicks: I would once again like to congratulate the nursing program and nursing students. I know it's a high standard that they have to meet. I know it's a high standard but I don't know what goes into that. That's something that's quite an accomplishment for us and to keep that program and to be accredited like it is. Once again I'm reminded of extra again talked about Ryan and the guys, all the technology and maintenance want to hang the cameras so there is something extra to save us twenty-five hundred dollars. I've already said it, everybody's doing extra and we most definitely appreciate that. It's great to be talking about sports again I hope you guys keep your pencils ready give us an update it's really weird to hear Mr. Setser say that football is going to end the first of May but you know at least it's going. I think you know it's really helpful that they're going to help us out and do some revenue sharing this year with those cameras and those subscriptions. Like he said you know we rely on the gates so hopefully, we can do that. The only tip I'd give you, I have done the NFHS subscription before. I did wrestling a year ago. You have got to remember to cancel after the first month. I think I ended up having a two-month subscription or maybe three. You have to cancel out or not, just leave it two or three it will help us out. Well, I mean after the season. Lastly, I guess you know as we go through I feel like going virtual here for a few days in particular especially if this peak occurs like the biocomplexity group says you know that's going to put us through December 6 and as we start these competitions on December 7th hopefully that's going to bring our cases way down and let us keep moving forward with face to face. I was really encouraged by the National Federation High School that we're not really getting the virus from the competition, so that's really good. I think about coaches and think about the culture just a little bit as we go into playing and begin practices in those kinds of things. It's really just a change of culture with athletes as well as far as being there and trying

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to tough it out. You know you're feeling bad we may need to be a little bit more understanding. We might have to miss a few more practices than we normally have to keep us safe and to keep our seasons going. I realize nobody wants to be wally pipped but we need to try and keep the spread down because we want to finish the season.

Rick Mullins: I'd like to reiterate what the other three Board Members have said and I'm so thankful that we were able to do the hazard pay to all the people who so deserved it. With all the work done with the VHLS and all the guys in the sports programs, it's very very difficult in this situation. The academics, the cleaning, and another thing that just really touches my heart is I think that there's tremendous trust still in the community and why do I say that? I say that simply because of the percentages of students in attendance. Its phenomenal attendance, Clintwood Elementary 98.55% at a time like this and then Ridgeview High School at 96.86% I think that tells you something about our community and the people here.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Well this is an understatement this is a tough time and especially with the COVID- 19 and the increased stress that I'm sure all the employees of the system and volunteers are facing I'd like to commend Mrs. Robinson and all of her staff for all that they do.

VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussing: 1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as Cooks, substitutes, FMLA request, coaches, retirement request, post/advertise for Elementary PK-6 Teachers 2.)To consult with legal counsel pursuant to Section 2. 2-3711 (A)(1) (7) of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Jamie Hackney; 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 Dr. Lyle and a second by Rick Mullins; 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	

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Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify and second by Jamie Hackney; 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	

VII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Damon Rasnick, the employment issues and recommendations were 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	

Coaches

Substitutes

- Sidney Edwards

Retirement

- Amy Davis- Special Education Coordinator

FMLA - Hazel Sue Woods

Employment Recommendations

- ❖ Shelby Turner - Full-Time Cook, Ridgeview Cafeteria

Post/Advertise, Possible PK-6 Elementary Teacher

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VIII. Adjournment: 8:47 p.m.

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