

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

June 26, 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; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, School Board Attorney

Participated Remotely: Damon Rasnick

Mr. Damon Rasnick requested to participate remotely due to a family trip, out of town.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney, permission was granted to participate remotely in the June 26, 2024, School Board Meeting.

Vote results

Aye:	5 David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jamie Hackney, Jason Hicks
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	1 Damon Rasnick

Approval of Agenda:

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

Vote results

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jamie Hackney read the Public Comment Guidelines.

Steve Shortt, VPE - Mr. Shortt spoke about grants and scholarships available for the teachers of Dickenson County. He also thanked and congratulated the retiring teachers for all of the years they have put in.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by David Vanover, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

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

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a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ May 22, 2024, Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 885775 - 885910= \$ 1,311,913.19

Monthly Payroll: Check # 391072-391104 = \$534,676.14

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. Approval of Field Trips

- ❖ Clintwood Elementary School
 - 06/14/2024 Clintwood, Va.
 - 06/21/2024 Clintwood, Va.
 - 06/28/2024 Council, Va.1st-5th
- ❖ Ridgeview Elementary School
 - 06/07/2024 Clintwood, Va. KG - 5th
 - 06/14/2024 McClure, Va. KG - 5th
 - 06/21/2024 Clintwood, Va. KG - 5th
 - 06/28/2024 Council, Va. Pre-K - 5th
- ❖ RES/RMS Elementary School
 - 06/21/2024 Limestone, TN KG - 8th
 - 06/28/2024 Gatlinburg, TN KG - 8th
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
 - 06/14/2024 Clintwood, Va. 6th -8th
- ❖ Ridgeview High School
 - 06/10-11/2024 Richlands, Va. 10th - 12th
 - 06/21-22/2024 Johnson City, TN 9th - 12th
 - 06/24 - 27/2024 Blacksburg, Va. 9th - 12th
 - 07/20-21/2024 Charlottesville, Va.

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e. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

f. New Elementary Construction Invoices

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

VSBA Conferences

VSBA Conference on Education

VSBA Summer Advocacy Webinar Series

VSBA 2024 Legislative Advocacy Conference

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

g. Good News from our Schools

❖ Recognition of Retirees

Eunice Dotson	27 years of service with Dickenson County Schools
Janice Hill	27 years of service with Dickenson County Schools, 31 total years of service
Rita Justice	34 years of service with Dickenson County Schools
Amy Mullins	27 years of service with Dickenson County Schools, 32 total years of service
Betty Newton	38 years of service with Dickenson County Schools, 40 total years of service
Pamela Viers	34 years of service with Dickenson County Schools

❖ Recognition of School Resource Officers and the Sheriff's Department

Chris Mullins
Kevin Brandt
Donald Viers

❖ May 2024 Attendance and Enrollment Report

Mrs. Karen Martin, Compliance Director, presented the student attendance and enrollment for May 2024.

As of May 31, 2024, student enrollment was 1859 which includes:

(1) Enrolled Students:	1767
(2) PK and Post Students:	74
(3) 3-Year-Old Program:	18
(4) Total:	1859

	Enrollment:	Percentage Attendance for May	Percentage attendance Year
CES	268	88.82%	90.96%
RES	503	86.11%	88.79%
RMS	436	84.13%	88.24%
RHS	560	83.03%	87.46%
		85.52%	87.46%
District:			
Pre-K Enrollment:	57		
3-Year-Old Enrollment:	18		
Post Grad Enrollment:	17		

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

Tim Burge, Construction Superintendent, with Skanska, presented an update on the construction of the new addition to Ridgeview Elementary School, and the demolition process at Sandlick Elementary School and gave an overview of the new parking lot.



i. Dickenson County Fair Committee Presentation:

Autumn Hutchinson the chairperson for the Dickenson County Fair Committee, spoke to the Board about the sensory day which will be September 19th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and allowing the students to come to the fair as a field trip. Ms. Hutchinson also requested early dismissal for Kids Day, which will be Friday, September 20, 2024.

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j. Approval of DCPS 24 - 25 Salary Scale

Lacie Edwards, Director of Business and Finance, presented the proposed DCPS Salary Scales for the School Board's consideration:

Summary of DCPS Salary Scales:

- 3% Increase to all salary scales
- 4% increase to Aide, Cook, Cafeteria Manager, Custodian, Head Custodian, Nurse LPN, Nurse RN, and School Secretary Scales
- Step Raises for All Employees/Step Amounts Vary by Year of Service (Average 0.5%, excluding Milestone Years)
- Average 4% Increase for Part-Time Wages
- 324 Full-Time Positions (310 Full-Time Employees) (14 Bus Driver/Teachers)

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by David Vanover the 2024-2025 DCPS Salary Scales were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

k. Update on FY25 DCPS Budget

Lacie Edwards, Director of Business and Finance, presented the update on the DCPS FY25 Budget:

Final FY25 budget calculation tool released from VDOE on 5/28/2024:

UPDATED BUDGET ESTIMATES 5-28-2024

	3/27/2024 BUDGET	CALC TOOLS 5/28/2024	(DECREASE)
STATE FUNDS	\$ 22,093,893.00	\$ 21,944,404.00	\$(149,489.00)
RLM	\$ 5,020,729.00	\$ 5,023,187.00	\$ 2,458.00
LOCAL ADD	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$(200,000.00)
	\$ 27,614,622.00	\$ 27,267,591.00	\$(347,031.00)

From the approved 3/27/2024 DCPS budget:

- Decrease in State funds of (\$149,489)
- Increase in Required Local Match from Dickenson County of \$2,458
- Decrease in local appropriations of (\$200,000)
- The total decrease in funding from the March approved budget is (\$347,031)

With this information now available, we can begin working on an FY25 budget amendment in July which will incorporate the following:

- Incorporate the salary scales just approved
- Decrease in state funding due to enrollment projections
- Decrease in local appropriation from Dickenson County
- Adjustments to construction revenue per construction payment schedule

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The decrease of \$149,489.00 in State Funds is due to:

- a. Decrease ADM or student enrollment to 1735 due to projected PK and K student enrollment numbers for 2024 - 2025.
 - b. Decrease in Sales Tax
 - c. Increase in per per-pupil allocations
- **The \$200,000.00 decrease** is the proposed reduction in local appropriations from the \$500,000.00 requested. This is unofficial until the Board of Supervisors takes action on their budget.

How does this impact DCPS?

- We are facing a budget deficit of \$347,031.00 from the budget approved on March 27, 2024.
- All employees will receive a 3% + step increase as approved in the State Budget.

I. Presentation of Wolfpack Place Education Center (CES)

Mrs. Robinson presented the School Board with a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Wolfpack Place Education Center and the proposed programs and future programs.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by David Vanover the approval of the CES Wolfpack Place Education Center for the 2024-2025 school year passed.

Vote results

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

m. Discussion of Student Cell Phone Survey and Proposed Revision of Student Cell Phone Policy

There were 469 responses recorded for the survey

- Parent/Guardian: 61.4%
- Student: 15.8%
- Staff Member: 6.6%
- Community Member: 6.8%
- Other Family Member: 6.6%

Cell Phone Usage:

- More than 4 hours per day: 29.4%
- 2- 3 hours per day: 21.3%
- 1 - 2 hours per day: 17.3%
- Less than one hour per day: 6.2%

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Exhibiting Critical Behaviors: which studies have concluded may be related to the overuse of cell phones:

- Spending excessive time on cell phones: 27.3%
- Anxiety: 21.1%
- Sleep Disturbances: 14.1%
- Depression: 13.9%
- Distraction from learning: 13.2%

Most Popular Option:

- Place cell phones in holders during class: 49.5% or 232 Responses

Least Popular Option:

- Banning Cell Phones from Schools: 6.9% or 326 Responses

Parental Support of Revised Cell Phone Policy:

- 68.2% Will support DCPS's enforcement of the Cell Phone Policy
 - 31.8% Will not support DCPS's enforcement of the Cell Phone Policy
- Several respondents reported that their child had a medical condition such as (diabetes) which required a cell phone close to their person which is a legitimate issue to address.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by David Vanover to implement the cell phone policy JFC-R with phones being placed in holders in the front of the room, passed unanimously.

Vote results

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

n. Approval Deputy Clerk Position

The School Board's approval was requested for Lacie Edwards, the Director Of Business and Finance, to be appointed Deputy Clerk due to the resignation of Laura Taylor on June 30, 2024.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney; Lacie Edwards, Director of Business and Finance was approved as the Deputy Clerk to the School Board.

Vote results

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

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o. Adoption Approval of Math Book Series for PK - 5th Grade

Dennis Deel, Director of Instruction, presented the recommendation for math textbook adoption for PK - 5th grades.

Following a motion by David Vanover and a second by Jamie Hackey the recommendation to adopt Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) GO-Math for the 2024-25 school year passed.

Vote results

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

p. Approval of Title I Grant Applications: Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and Title V

Mark Mullins, Director of Federal Programs/Testing/Personnel

To summarize the individual Federal Grant Applications:

Title I Part A – The estimate for this grant is \$815,000 for next year. This grant will provide federal funds to operate our Title I program in our elementary school (Title I Reading Teachers, Title I Math Teachers, a Reading Specialist, and a Math Coach). Reading and Math intervention and remediation is the primary goal for our Title I program. Ninety-eight % of this grant will cover the salary and benefits for 9 full-time employees.

Title II Part A – The estimate for this grant is \$110,000 for the coming school year. The grant provides federal funds to pay for Class Size Reduction teachers in grades K-6. The grant will cover salaries for 3 teachers in those grade levels. The funds assist in maintaining lower class sizes across that grade span. 100% of this grant goes toward salaries for these 3 teachers.

Title III Statewide Consortium – The estimate for this grant is \$1,100 for next year. The grant provides funds to assist the division's English Learner (EL) students. Materials and supplies are purchased to assist with language development.

Title IV Part A – The estimate for this grant is \$60,000 this year. This grant will cover one additional class size reduction teacher in the elementary grades. It will cover salary and benefits. 100% of this grant goes toward teacher salary and benefits.

Title V Part B, Rural Schools – We estimate this grant to be \$60,000 for next year. This grant works in conjunction with the Title II Part A grant to cover the benefit cost for the three K-6th grade class size reduction teachers. 100% of this grant goes toward teacher benefit expenses

All five federal grants are projected this year to total approximately \$1,046,100. Salary and benefits are covered for 13 full-time employees.

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Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by David Vanover the Title I, II, III, IV, and V Grant Applications were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

q. Presentation of Proposed DCPS Policy: GCBD: Staff Leave

Mark Mullins presented revisions to DCPS Policy GCBD: Staff Leave which addresses sick leave for VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan Employees: The proposed statement, on page 3 of the policy in red, states:

Payment for unused sick leave for VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan Employees will be paid upon Retirement or for those VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan Employees leaving the system prior to retirement as outlined in the paragraph above. Payment of unused sick leave for VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan Employees once they accumulate the maximum of ninety (90) sick days will be paid as follows: At the end of the fiscal year (June) in which a VRS Hybrid Employee accumulates sick days to exceed the ninety (90) sick day maximum, the DCPS payroll department will pay that employee at the rate of \$55.00 per day for professionals, and \$40.00 per day for classified employees, for each day that exceeds ninety (90) days. This payment will be made only one time per year and will be made during the July payroll.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by David Vanover policy GCBD was approved as presented.

Vote results

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

r. Presentation of Proposed DCPS Policy: GCBD

Karen Martin, Director of Compliance, will present the proposed VSBA policies.

AC Nondiscrimination

Policy and Legal References updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §§ 2.2-3900, *et seq.* by HB 18.

CLA Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse

Policy and Legal References updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.9 by HB 719/SB 379.

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DA Management of Funds

Legal References updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-100 and 22.1-100.1 by HB 599. Cross References updated.

DG Custody and Disbursement of School Funds

Legal References and Cross References updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-100 and 22.1-100.1 by HB 599.

DJ Small Purchasing

Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-4303 by HB 1116.

EB School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan

Policy and Legal References updated to include enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-137.4 by HB 501

EBCB Safety Drills

Policy and Legal References updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-137 by HB 66.

FECBB Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Title, Policy, and Cross References updated.

FF Public Dedication of New Facilities:

Policy deleted because it is not legally required.

FG Retirement of Facilities

Policy, Legal References, and Cross References updated.

GBL Personnel Records

Policy and Legal References updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-296.5 by HB 355/SB 441.

GC Professional Staff

Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-298.1 by HB 632/SB 352.

GDI Support Staff Assignments and Transfers

Policy deleted because it is not legally required.

IAA Notification of Learning Objectives

Policy and Cross References updated.

IGAE/IGAF Health Education/Physical Education:

Policy updated to reflect amendments of Va. Code §§ 22.1-207 and 22.1-253.13:1 by HB 1221, HB 98, and HB 379/SB 719. Cross References Updated

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IGAG Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-206.01 by HB 1473. Cross References updated.

IGBA: Programs for Students with Disabilities:

Policy updated to reflect amendments to Va. Code §§ 22.1- 253.13:2 and 22.1-253.13:4 by HB 1089/SB 220. Legal References and Cross References updated.

IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs

Legal References updated to include a reference for definitions in sample policy.

IGBI Advanced Placement Classes and Special Programs

Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:1 by HB 1087/SB 627. Legal References and Cross References updated.

IJD College and Career Readiness

Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-237.3 by HB 1087/SB 627 and revised to avoid duplication with Policy LEB. Legal References and Cross References updated.

IKH Retaking SOL Assessments

Policy updated to comply with Virginia Literacy Act provisions established by HB 319 in 2022. Legal References and Cross References Updated.

JFCF Drugs in School

(Options 1 & 2): Legal references were added to provide references for “Prevention and Intervention” section. Cross References updated.

Following a motion by David Vanover and a second by Jamie Hackney, the VSBA Policies AC, CLA, DA, DG, DJ, EB, EBCB, FECBB, FF, FG, GBL, GC, GDI, IAA, IGAE/IGAF, IGAG, IGBA, IGBGA, IGBI IJD, IKH, and JFCF, were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

s. Approval of Proposed 24-25 Parent and Student Handbook and Student Handbook.

Karen Martin, Director of Compliance, presented the proposed 24 - 25 Parent Handbook and Student Handbook. These handbooks will be distributed to students at the beginning of the 24 - 25 school year for parents/guardians review.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by David Vanover the Student Handbook and Parent and Student Handbooks were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

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t. Update on Transition of CES to Ridgeview Campus for the 2024 - 2025 School Year

Mrs. Robinson, Superintendent updated the School Board on the transition from CES to the Ridgeview Campus for the 2024-2025 school year. Teachers will return on August 2, 2024, and students on August 8, 2024.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Jamie Hackney - Congratulated all the retirees and said how much he appreciates the School Resource Officers and their families. Mr. Hackney thanked Laura Taylor for all she has done for Dickenson County Schools and wished her good luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Damon Rasnick- Remote, lost his phone connection.

Mr. David Vanover- Congratulated the retirees and said they have his utmost respect for putting in all those years. Mr. Vanover spoke about the Resource Officers and how they keep the schools much safer. Mr. Vanover said he is excited to see the Wolfpack Place come to fruition.

Mr. Rick Mullins - Mr. Mullins said how much he appreciates the retirees and the School Resource Officers are so dedicated. Mr. Mullins spoke about Mr. Burge and how dedicated he has been. Skanska is very blessed to have him. He spoke about the Wolfpack Education Center and how promising and beneficial it will be to our county. The Cell Phone Policy, it will not only help teachers but it will help our children and the academics.

Mr. Jason Hicks - Mr. Hicks congratulated the retirees and thanked the School Resource Officers and Ms. Taylor. He spoke about the Wolfpack Education Center and looking forward to hearing some of the success stories next year that will come from there. Mr. Hicks said he thinks the cell phone policy will be helpful. Hopefully, we will have a great partnership with all our teachers, staff, and Parents. The fair is coming to town and sensory day will be a great thing.

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 a, Principal, Custodian, Retirement, 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 Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney; the Board convened in a Closed Session.

Vote results

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

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

Vote results

Aye:	5 Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Rick Mullins, Jamie Hackney, Jason Hicks
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

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

Vote results

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

PERSONNEL/LEGAL

Retirement

Mona Delaney

Ridgeview High School

Librarian

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Resignations

Stephanie Charles	Ridgeview High School	Special Education Teacher
Delois Stanley	Clintwood Elementary	Cook
Alexis Boyd	Ridgeview Elementary	Part-time Aide
Mary Stiltner	Clintwood Elementary	Part-time Cook
Christopher Legath	Ridgeview High School	Part-time Cook

Employment Recommendations

Christopher Owens	Ridgeview High School	Principal
Waylon Moore	Ridgeview High School	Custodian/Grounds Maintenance

VIII. Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jamie Hackney, the meeting was adjourned.

All Aye.

Approved July 24, 2024

Jason Hicks

Jason Hicks, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk