

Dickenson County School Board Special Called Meeting Summary Minutes

March 08, 2023

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

Members in Attendance: Damon Rasnick, Chair; Rick Mullins, Vice-Chair; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Jamie Hackney; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent

Absent: Scott Mullins, School 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	Rick Mullins, Damon Rasnick, Jamie Hackney, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Jason Hicks
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jamie Hackney read the public comment guidelines.

Kathy Musick, VPE - Ms. Musick thanked the Board for everything they do and asked them to do all they can for employee benefits and pay.

Shawn Tiller, DEA - Mr. Tiller said things are going well for us, we have a good system in place that's very sustainable and he hoped to see good numbers come out for the teacher's benefits.

III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Laura Taylor presented the proposed 2023-2024 DCPS Budget.

[DCPS Proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget](#)

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IV. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins - We have come so far in a short period of time in the last three or four years. I think back to before the consolidation and now with the elementary school and I think about how it has all come together, the SOL scores, and how we rank in the state as an educational system. I look at this and think about that with the county-wide revival we had here. That would not have been possible without the consolidation. All of those are such a blessing to us our kids and our community.

Dr. Lurton Lyle - I appreciate all of the effort made to provide this report. Knowing that this is a proposed budget and will be different in its final form. More work ahead.

Jason Hicks - I would say as well that I appreciate the efforts that have gone into preparing the budget. I know there's always a lot of scrambling around and a lot of moving numbers here and there. I appreciate all the work that went into that. At the end of the day that the staff, teachers aides, and bus drivers, they're the backbone of our system they're the ones that kids come in contact with every day. They're the ones that bless kids every day and the ones that are vital to kids as they grow up. Looking at the compensation increases I feel that it's a goal, it is an obtainable goal. If we work together we can do that and try to retain more and more of those teachers here. The teacher shortages really put a bind on everybody. Every single system around is looking at these same kinds of numbers. They are all trying to figure out how they can get those. As recruitment goes, as long as I've been around I have never seen so much recruitment to get a hold of teachers as you can. Mark Mullins is wasting away to nothing staying up on the phones all night. We appreciate your efforts, Mark.

Jamie Hackney - I also am very appreciative of all the work Ms. Taylor is putting in. Like Dr. Lyle mentioned, there is more ahead. It's a moving target always dealing with the budget process but we know she has it under control. I am hopeful that the Senate and House proposals hold up with the seven percent. I think both sides, both the Senate and the House have recommended. That will be very beneficial to our staff. I think everybody is aware of the inflation issues that we have with the cost of living increases. It is an important budget year for our staff. I know our local Board of Supervisors has always faced difficult budget decisions. What we are asking I guess from them is to benefit our teachers. I think hopefully that is something that's strongly considered. I believe it's strong. I believe it's very much needed. Hopefully, that is something that can be worked out.

Damon Rasnick - I certainly appreciate the cooperation of my colleagues and working with the staff and Superintendent. We serve a lot of people out here and we know that the grandparents, the parents, the children, and all of the siblings I just hope that they all can stay safe and healthy and come to the campus. Hopefully, by having consolidation at some point, when that can be fulfilled for everyone, that every child in Dickenson County will have the opportunity to take part and be served by the best that Dickenson County has to offer. I know there are some plans down the road. The Corps of Engineers

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provided money for certain things. Dickenson County is not in a position to pay for those things that you wish for. You would like to have the money to do it all but you know that was simply not possible. There is a plan in place and if it comes true and happens that will be resolved and every child in this County will have the opportunity to come to this campus in time if folks will be patient and let this work its way through. We can't you know the money situation. If a teacher stays here for ten years maybe and they transfer to another County at that point or maybe that County pays more at that 10-year spot, we are losing our people. I want us to encourage people from Dickenson County to come here to work if they possibly can.

Hopefully, we can keep them throughout their career. That would be the best possible solution for our children. I don't think we say enough about the improvement on the instructional side. Dickenson County went from the bottom quartile to the top quartile. That doesn't happen by accident. It takes years of work. It takes everybody working together to make that outcome possible. Covid came along and put a dent not only in us but everybody around this country and around the world for that matter. We are overcoming that. I know our folks will get through this in a good way. If this happens by the School Board, the Superintendent, and staff, and all of our employees working together with parents, grandparents, and the kids out here to make that possible. We went from the first quartile down to the top third I think. That's what everybody else saw, similar relations. It's just a matter of we have to keep our heads down and do what's right. If we can all get along a little better across the region it would make probably that road that path a little easier. I think they have a good working relationship in our region. I want our kids to get what they possibly can. I want our children to have the best chance to go from here to anywhere in this country, in this world, and do what they are qualified to do because of the education they have, and the basis of that would be right here on this Campus of Ridgeview. I certainly appreciate everybody's hard work and Ms. Taylor, I know how much went into this and I do appreciate your efforts and how you explained that so clearly to us. It was very excellent so thank you very much.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 5:50 p.m.

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

Approved _____ 04/26/2023

Rick Mullins

Rick Mullins, Vice-Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk