

# Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

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May 24, 2023

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

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by Rick Mullins, the Agenda was approved as presented.

*Vote results*

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

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mr. Jamie Hackney** read the Public Comment Guidelines.

No one was present for Public Comment.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

*Vote results*

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

a. Approval of Minutes

❖ April 26, 2023, Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 8842367- 884480= \$ 1,230,210.60

Monthly Payroll: Check # 390611-390643- \$2,104,981.60

c. School Activity Fund

❖ Informational Item

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### d. Approval of Field Trips

- ❖ Clintwood Elementary School
  - 04/20/2023 Clintwood, Va. - 5th
  - 05/19/2023 Pikeville, Ky. - 5th
  - 05/19/2023 Clintwood, Va. -2nd
  - 05/22/2023 Clintwood, Va. - Pre-k
  
- ❖ Ervinton Elementary School
  - 05/19/2023 Gray, Tenn. - KG
  - 05/19/2023 Snowflake, Va. - Pre-k
  
- ❖ Sandlick Elementary School
  - 05/16/2023 Council, Va. - KG
  - 05/25/2023 Council, Va. - 2nd
  
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
  - 05/24/2023 Snowflake, Va. - 7th
  
- ❖ Ridgeview High School
  - 05/16/2023 Clintwood, Va. - 11th-12th
  - 05/17/2023 Vansant, Va. - 12th
  - 05/23/2023 Tazwell, Va. - 11th - 12th

### e. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

### f. New Elementary Construction Invoices

## IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

### VSBA Conferences

2023 School Law Conference, June 2, 2023

2023 Conference on Education, July 13, 2023

## V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

### g. Good News from our Schools

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### ❖ Recognition of our Retirees

Jane Hale - Full-time Aide, Ervinton Elem. - 48 years of service  
Benny Kennedy - Bus Driver - 47 years of service  
James Moore - Teacher- Career Center - 30 years of service  
Patricia O'quinn - Teacher - Sandlick Elem. - 47 years of service  
Lisa Rife - Teacher - Ridgeview Middle School - 32 years of service

### ❖ April 2023 Attendance and Enrollment Report:

Mr. Dennis Deel, Director of Instruction, presented student attendance and enrollment for March 2023 and spoke about training for KG-3rd grade teachers and summer plans that are in place.

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

As of April 28, 2023, student enrollment was 1994 which includes: (1) Enrolled Students; (2) PK and Post Students, and (3) Virtual Students

Ervinton Elementary was the April attendance winner at 95.72%

#### **The student enrollment includes virtual students and the percentage for each school:**

Clintwood Elementary School:	405:	94.48%
Ervinton Elementary School:	100:	95.72%
Sandlick Elementary School:	339:	92.39%
Ridgeview Middle School:	453:	90.93%
Ridgeview High School:	581:	90.32%

#### **Pre-K Enrollment:**

Clintwood Elementary School:	33
Ervinton Elementary School:	11
Sandlick Elementary School:	<u>38</u>
Total:	83

- ❖ **Mr. Chris Owens and Mr. Mason Rose** spoke about a team of students from Dickenson and surrounding counties that make up a Robotics team that compete in the Chesapeake District that is made up of students from Virginia, Maryland, and DC. There are about 150 teams. You compete in two qualifiers. If you do well enough there, you go to the district championship. The team finished fifth in the first competition and then 12th in the second competition. They lost in the semi-final elimination but qualified for the district championship where they finished third. The team qualified for the World Championship which means they

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take fifteen teams from our district of one hundred and fifty. The team was in the top fifteen and finished tenth or so. The cost to go to the World Championship is prohibiting. It cost approximately 60 or 70 thousand. Mr. Owen spoke about how proud he is of our Ridgeview students.

## h. Update on New Elementary School Construction Project

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

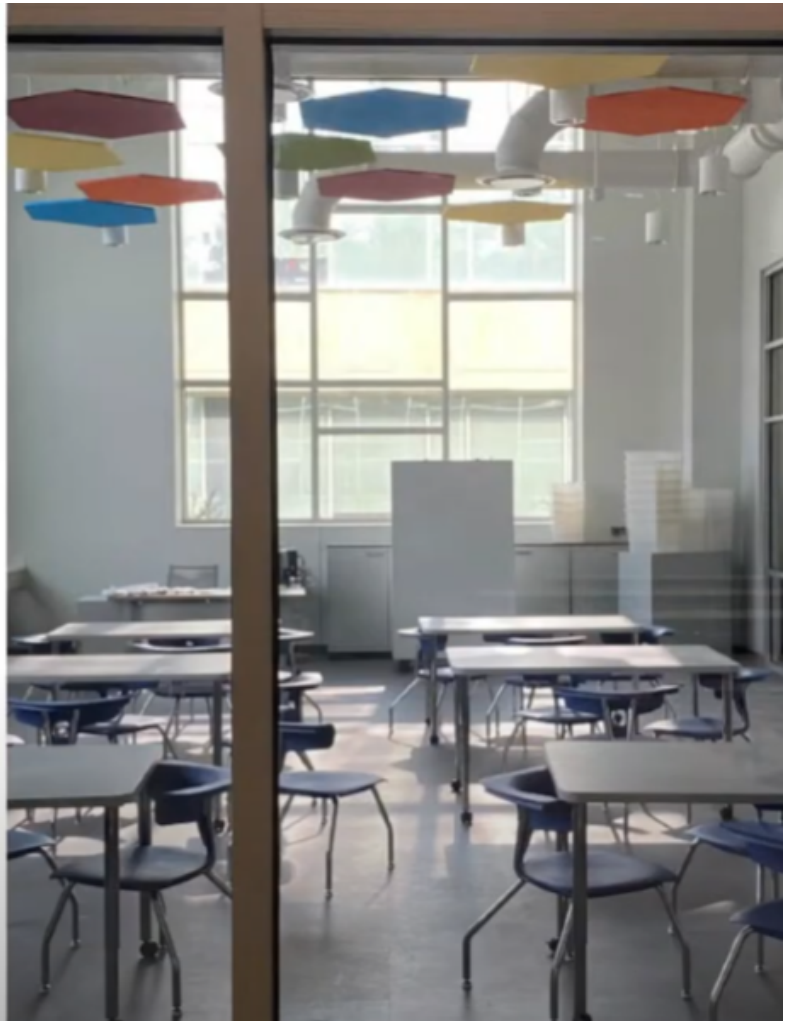
### Budget & Procurement

#### Main Building

- Project remains within the overall budget of \$24,561,867.
- Furniture installation is complete.

#### Classroom Wing & Multi-Purpose Room Addition

- Project remains on schedule and within budget.
- Some furniture has been delivered and stored until the building is ready for install.



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### **i. Update on the FY 24 Budget**

Ms. Laura Taylor gave the Board an update on the 2023-2024 budget. On the state, there has been no change in the status of the budget since our last school board meeting.

The Virginia Legislature is still negotiating the 23-24 State Budget and has passed only the “Skinny Budget” at this time. The “Skinny Budget” includes a 5 % compensation supplement and not the 7% that was included in both House and Senate versions of the budget bill.

Media and other sources are reporting that decisions regarding the State Budget will not occur until mid to late June 2023. These same sources report that the additional 2% for compensation will likely occur on or about June 24, 2023.

### **j. Approval of the Proposed 2023-2024 Salary Scales for DCPS Employees**

Laura Taylor, Director of Business and Finance, presented the 2023 – 2024 salary scales for employees. We are proposing a 5% increase for all employees including step, except for teachers, school counselors, and Media Specialists (Librarians).

For teachers, school counselors, and Media Specialists, we are recommending a 7% salary increase including steps and milestones. I fully recognize that the School Board is committed to increasing wages and salaries to retain existing employees, recruit new employees, and be competitive with surrounding counties. We are proposing incremental steps in this journey so that DCPS can reach this goal.

If in June, the General Assembly approves a 7% salary increase for employees, we will then propose a 7% increase for all employees including steps, and a 9% increase for teachers, school counselors, and media specialists including steps and milestones

This approval of the DCPS salary scales in May allows the Financial Department to begin the process of working on employee contracts.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the 2023-2024 salary scale was approved as presented.

#### *Vote results*

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

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### k. Approval of the Health Premiums for Employees

Health Premiums have not increased for our employers since September 2020. With the escalating cost of health insurance claims and a significant increase in the school division's monthly contribution, we are recommending the following increases for our employees:

	Current Employee Contribution	Proposed Employee Contribution	Monthly Increase To Employee
Employee	\$ 65.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 15.00
Employee + 1 Child:	\$ 78.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 22.00
Employee + Children:	\$ 86.01	\$ 115.00	\$ 28.99
Employee + Spouse	\$ 121.50	\$ 150.00	\$ 28.50
Employee + Family	\$ 130.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 30.00

Health premiums for employees may increase annually to address the increased cost of the school division's contribution and the rising cost of health insurance. Dental insurance costs will remain the same for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Hackney - It's probably worth noting that it is always difficult when you have a cost increase amongst your employees for health insurance but I think we are facing that everywhere, probably in every industry. It's certainly not something we want to see. But I think it's important also to note that ours is lower than anywhere I can find, at least in this area. That is something we are very competitive in.

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and a second by Jason Hicks, the 2023-2024 Health Premiums were approved as presented.

*Vote results*

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

### I. Approval of the DCPS Retirement Incentive: DCPS Policy GBO

In May or June of each year, the School Board annually approves DCPS Retirement Incentive for the following school year.

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For the 2023 – 2024 school year, no revisions are recommended. The School Board reserves the right to modify or terminate any retirement incentive based upon its sole discretion. All individuals interested in participating in the Early Retirement Incentive will need to apply on or before June 30, 2023.

### Policy GBO

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by Jamie Hackney, policy GBO was approved as presented.

*Vote results*

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

### **m. Dickenson County Fair Committee Presentation**

**Allison Mullins**, spoke about additions and changes for kids day at the fair this year. They will be adding two additional rides and a magic show.

**Vickie Barton**, Secretary of the fair committee, asked the School Board to consider closing school for a full day to allow more time for the kids to attend the fair on kids day.

**Brittany Turner** proposed that students in self-contained classrooms be allowed to have a ½ day field trip to the fair. The fair would be closed to the public and would only be open to sensory-friendly families, special needs families, and self-contained classrooms. Ms. Turner spoke about the Stars Committee and the Shining Stars baseball team that played their first game.

**Autumn Hutchinson** - Spoke about Celeste Kellogg and her anti-bullying program. The fair committee would like Celeste Kellogg to come to Ridgeview Middle School and put on a program.

**Billy Branham**, Spoke to the School Board concerning the bleachers at Sandlick Elementary. The fair committee requested the visitor's side bleachers from Sandlick Elementary.

### **n. Discussion of Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Update for Ridgeview Elementary School 2023-2024 School Opening and Transition**

Mrs. Robinson spoke about the upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that will be held on June 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Ridgeview Elementary School. From twelve to two there will be tours of the building. Boxes have been delivered to the schools so teachers can begin to pack. The new classrooms have been assigned to the teachers. Bus routes for summer school at Ridgeview Elementary are helping us to determine the bus routes in August.

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### VI. BOARD COMMENT

**Jamie Hackney:** Good meeting tonight, I appreciate Mr. Deel's comments earlier on in the meeting. We're focusing on staff training. It is probably a good time to do that. Just appreciate all the work you're doing in instruction for our students. I am glad to see the robotics team here. We have them here a lot. The young man that spoke tonight was very impressive. I know he is going to have a good future. And of course, thanks to Mr. Owens again, and all he does to support that. Thank you, Ms. Taylor, for the budget updates tonight, especially the thing that always strikes me is, it's kind of an annual thing that we talked about with the retirement incentive. We didn't get into a lot of detail about it tonight. But I know that I was happy to get that approved again. I think that we need to make it more sustainable long term, there are probably some graphs and charts that somebody could do to show the sustainability. And I know with the Board of Supervisors, sometimes that can be a point of contention. And they move people, like, you know, coming into the board of supervisors next year. So, you know, in having those, that data for them, I think, you know, you're looking at what are the costs, but their savings and to be able to show those savings of a person over, you know, staff member last 30, usually in under salary, that they're going out on that date when they retire on time. And then the salary of a new person coming in the difference there, in really showing some of those savings that we probably need to be able to outline and make our argument a little stronger. Thanks to the fair committee for coming tonight, I felt they had a very good presentation, a lot of different areas. Lots of things to consider for us. Coming from that, things for us to talk about. But I just appreciate the work that they've done for the county to have the best fair possible.

**Jason Hicks:** I would like to say congratulations to our retirees and what an impressive group they are. 220 years, but who's counting right? Yeah, an impressive group. You know, just in general, just congratulations as we wind down the school year of everything, all of our students and athletic teams, and everything everybody has accomplished this year. I know they're looking forward to a little bit of rest and relaxation. Congratulations to our robotics team. You know, good job. I am very thankful for the presentation made by the fair. I am really thankful for all the work they do for our entire county, and especially the sort of activities that they seem to be focusing on for our kids.

**Rick Mullins:** I would like to thank the fair committee for coming in and giving us information on the bleachers and the future of what is going to be done there. That will be real success I think. Thank you to Mr. Burge for the update he gave today. It was really really good and now that it's coming close to fruition, it's going to be a real blessing. I am glad to see those wonderful retirees that we've had. They have done such a good job throughout the years. I would like to once again thank Chris Owens and the robotics team for what they have done in putting us on the map here. Laura Taylor for all the hard work that she has done. She has really done a great job with this budget. It has been a really good night.

**Dr. Lurton Lyle:** I also would like to thank Ms. Taylor and the staff for their work on the fiscal year 2024 budget, the salary scales, and the healthcare premiums. A lot of work I am sure, went into that. I am excited and looking forward to graduation and the end of this school year. Also to the ribbon cutting and the start of the next school year. It's going to be a good time.



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**Damon Rasnick:** I would like to thank all the parents and grandparents and everyone else that serves our children, teachers, cooks, all the bus drivers and maintenance folks, and all others, professionals that work and para-professionals that work with our children. I know we don't have the results of the SOL scores yet around the country, but the signals have been that some of the standards have been down, In Tennessee, I guess TCAP, scores were a low number down there, I think that really set some people back to see that number. The expectation is, you know, through COVID we had some setbacks and our learning process was interrupted in a significant way. We have to have the parents and grandparents and all the family kind of work together to help with this. And I know that most of them do. And I hope that all of them will. The participation I think for the most has been good. As you know, in years past Dickenson County was in the lower quartile in the state of Virginia with regard to academic standing, and that moved up to the top quartile over time. And that certainly is a tribute to all the citizens of Dickenson County, especially those who do the education part. The Fair Committee you know, the board will cooperate. They're gone. But I'll say this, We'll cooperate as much as possible, some things are kind of a stretch to ask, but I think we'll work with them in every area we can. They certainly have done a good job and want to do a good job. I don't know, I was thinking, what does Russell County do with the fair? Do they do a full day? I think Russell might dismiss the whole day. That is something I will check around and see. We have the school calendar in place and if it had come a little earlier it would have made it a little easier on us but the school calendar has to be done so early. If you haven't seen the paper they also have pictures this week and it's amazing to me the number of students in the honor societies and the academic awards. All those things, the various Summa Cum Laude and Magna what have you. It is certainly a pleasure to see all of that. It does show that we are coming together as one community. I think the secondary school and middle school had such tremendous academic outcomes and even if the parents break even in the end, I think if parents who participate and have children take the college classes they're offered. I don't know, how many, how much is it possible to achieve in college in the junior/ senior year during your senior year. How many college credits can you earn at no cost? Mrs. Robinson: As many as they want to. Many students graduate with an associate's degree. That is outstanding and eons beyond where we were in the past. At Ervinton High School, I remember in some of the classes, especially in the upper math classes, maybe it was the same at some of the other schools but I think Clintwood and Haysi kept there's pretty well stocked, more than Ervinton. We had one student in advanced math. We had to take some others through the classes at Wise. What Ridgeview offers is just so far beyond what we had just a few short years ago. The transition and transformation have been outstanding. To see that we have students and teachers compete. Getting our students to places so they can compete on a worldwide scale is simply something beyond my imagination in the past. I see the reality of it and I certainly expect there will be more of that good news in the future. These folks have done a pretty super job and we need to recognize them, and that young man that spoke with his teacher, you know that is an example of what is the focus on the good things that we have. I certainly honor our retirees and appreciate their service. That's two hundred and some years that's something that will be missed. Those folks did a good job for us and Mr. Kennedy spoke about working with thousands and thousands of students, that is certainly an honor on both sides.

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### 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 Custodians, Elementary PK-6, Middle School, and Art Teachers, FMLA, Resignations, Retirements 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 Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jamie Hackney, the Board convened in Closed Session.

*Vote results*

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

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

*Vote results*

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

### **Board Certification**

#### **Mrs. Robinson read the following certification for 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.

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### *Certification results*

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

### **Board Action:**

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney that the track of property adjacent to the Triple T is declared surplus, and the School Board Attorney and the Division Superintendent work with the Board of Supervisors to transfer it to the County and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle, the motion was approved.

### *Vote results*

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

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Rick Mullins, the employment recommendations were approved as presented in the closed session.

### *Vote results*

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

## **PERSONNEL/LEGAL**

### **Coaches**

### **Substitutes**

Joshua Kilgore, Substitute Bus Driver

### **Retirements**

Patricia O'Quinn, Teacher - Sandlick Elementary Gwendolyn Hale,  
Full-Time Aide - Ervinton Elementary

### **Resignations**

Donnie Frazier, Teacher/Coach - Ridgeview High School  
Maribeth Hylton, Custodian - Ridgeview High School

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Rodney Benny Kennedy, Bus Driver- Clintwood Area

Amber Owens, Librarian - Ridgeview Middle School

**FMLA**

Epharm Turner

**Recommendations for Transfer**

Chris Owens - from Ridgeview High School Assistant Principal to Ridgeview High School Assistant Principal with additional duties of Career and Technical Education Administration

Lavada Muncy from Clintwood Elementary School Assistant Principal to Ridgeview High School Assistant Principal

**Recommendations for Employment**

Dakota Stanley - Divisionwide - School Psychologist

William McKnight - Divisionwide - Mechanic

**Recommendations for Employment for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Lorraine Dresch, Teacher - Ridgeview High School History/Social Science

Kamryn Vandyke, Teacher - Ridgeview High/Middle Chorus/Music

**VIII. Adjournment: 8:25 p.m.**

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jason Hicks, the meeting was adjourned.

All-Aye

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
June 28, 2023

***Damon Rasnick***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Damon Rasnick, Chair

***Tonya Baker***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya Baker, Clerk