

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

November 29, 2023

I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:02 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; Jamie Hackney; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Jason Hicks, Laura Taylor, Deputy Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent

Approval of Agenda:

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jason Hicks, the Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

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.

Kathy Musick, Regional Representative, VPE- Ms. Musick stated that on behalf of VPE, she appreciated the proposed amendment to the salary scales and thanked DCPS employees for their work on those scales.

Shawn Tiller, Representative, DEA- Mr. Tiller advised that the DEA November Meeting has been postponed to the first week of December. DEA has recently designated Phyllis Mullins as current President-Elect.. DEA is working on increasing the numbers of DEA representatives in each school building. Mr Tiller expressed his gratitude for employee scale revisions to include pay increases for full-time employees.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

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

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a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ October 25, 2023

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 885030- 885130= \$ 682,213.40

Monthly Payroll: Check # 390833 - 390866- \$535,810.82

c. Revenue & Expenditure Summary Reports October 31, 2023

d. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

e. Approval of Field Trips

- ❖ Clintwood Elementary School
 - 11/17/2023 Norton, VA, 3rd
- ❖ Ridgeview Elementary School
 - 10/27/2023 Haysi, VA, Pre-K
 - 11/17/2023 Clintwood, VA, Self Contained
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
 - 10/23/2023 Grundy, VA, 7th
 - 11/20/2023 McClure, VA, 6th-12th
 - 11/17/2023 Clintwood, VA, 6th-8th
 - 11/18/2023 Abingdon, VA 6th-8th
 - 12/16/2023 Abingdon, VA 6th-8th
- ❖ Ridgeview High School
 - 10/17/2023 Big Stone Gap, VA, 9th
 - 10/27/2023 Haysi, VA 10th-12th
 - 10/28/2023 Norton, VA, 9th-12th
 - 11/02/2023 Wise, VA, 9th-12th
 - 11/11/2023 Blacksburg, VA 9th-12th
 - 11/11/2023 Tazewell, VA 6th-12th
 - 11/17/2023 Clintwood, VA 9th-12th, Self-Contained
 - 11/17/2023 Big Stone Gap, 9th-12th
 - 11/19-21/2023 Blacksburg, VA, 8th-12th
 - 12/01/2023 Clintwood, VA 10th-12th
 - 12/06/2023 Norton, VA 10th-12th
 - 12/07/2023 Duffield, VA 9th-12th
 - 12/20/2023 Paintsville KY, 9th-12th
 - 12/20-22/2023 Pigeon Forge, TN 9th-12th
 - 12/27-29/2023 Pigeon Forge, TN, 9th-12th

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f. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

g. New Elementary Construction Invoices

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

VSBA Conferences

VSBA 2024 Capital Conference January 23-24, 2024

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

g. Good News from our Schools

❖ October 2023 Attendance and Enrollment Report

Mrs. Karen Martin, Compliance Director, presented the student attendance and enrollment for October 2023.

As of October 31, 2023, student enrollment was 1945 which includes (1) Enrolled Students in K - 12 including virtual students; (2) PK and Post Students, (3) 3- Year Old Program.

The student enrollment includes K – 5th students, including virtual students, and percentages for each school:

Clintwood Elementary School:	276: 86.50%
Ridgeview Elementary School	574: 84.66%
Ridgeview Middle School:	451: 88.33%
Ridgeview High School:	604: 85.29%
Pre K Enrollment:	
Ridgeview Elementary School	60

Ridgeview Middle School won the attendance award for October

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❖ **Security Grants**

Ms. Martin advised the Board that DCPS has been awarded both a State Security Grant in the amount of \$136,000 and the Stronger Connections Grant in the amount of \$ 330,987.09.

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

Tim Burge, Construction Superintendent with Skanska and Curtis Elswick, Senior Vice-President and Regional Executive with Skanska, presented an update on construction of the new addition to Ridgeview Elementary School

RVES New Addition

Construction Progress:

- Continued ICF block installation
- Poured ICF walls to 16' above finished floor; stripped and cleared forms/bracing
- Unloaded delivery of structural steel and joists
- Began laying interior CMU walls
- Began electrical rough-in



RVES New Addition

Budget & Procurement:

- Planning for furniture is in progress
- Low voltage cabling procurement in progress
- Procurement of phones, interactive boards and other classroom technology complete
- Project remains within budget



The Dickenson County School Board recognized Curtis Elswick and Tim Burge of Skanska for their dedication and contributions to Dickenson County Public Schools and the children of Dickenson County.

i. Approval of the Amended 23 - 24 DCPS Salary Scales

Laura Taylor, Director of Business and Finance, presented the proposed amended DCPS Salary Scales with an additional 2% increase from 22 - 23 rates effective on 1/1/2024. Teacher, Librarian, Guidance Counselor Salary Scales have been adjusted from a 7% to 9% increase from FY 2022-2023 Rates. All other Full-Time Employee Scales have been adjusted from a 5% to 7% increase from FY 2022-2023 Rates. The average annual increase per employee is 1.9% from the scales adopted on 05/24/2023.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Jason Hicks, the Amended 23-24 Salary Scales effective January 1, 2024 were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

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j. Transition of Clintwood Elementary School to the Ridgeview Campus for the 2024-2025 School Year

Mrs. Robinson gave the following update for the transition for Clintwood Elementary School and the integration of all elementary schools to the Ridgeview Campus for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Administration is discussing and exploring the Board’s suggestion for 8th grade to remain in the Middle School. Consideration in regards to instructional schedule, encore schedules, lunch schedules and available classroom space is under discussion. We will continue to update the School Board on this matter.

The projected student enrollment and grade configuration with this option is:

Ridgeview Elementary School: 707 students: PK – 4th

Ridgeview Middle School: 571 students: 5th - 8th

Ridgeview High School: 622 students: 9th – 12th

k. Food Service Procurement Plan

Laura Taylor, Director of Business & Finance presented the Food Services Procurement Plan effective December 1, 2023. This plan requires periodic review and updates that are acknowledged by the Board, but the plan alone does not require Board approval.

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VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins - It was good to hear about the \$400,000 grant that Ms. Martin talked to us about. I was glad to hear about that. And it's been a real blessing to have people like Curtis Elswick and Tim Burge on our team and they've enriched our lives, the school, and the community. I'm glad to see them here and get a presentation and recognition brought to them. And I'm excited as the transition of Clintwood Elementary gets nearer. And so, before long we'll be able to see one community, one facility, which will be such an advantage to our children.

Dr. Lurton Lyle - When the idea developed that we could consolidate the high schools, there was some division amongst the county as to whether or not that was an appropriate move or not. I assume the people thought it would never work. Our Superintendent, Mr.s Robinson, and our Attorney, Mr. Mullins, were there at the start and did a lot more work than I did. I just happened to be there. I think when we see what has occurred, we can not help but be proud. So, I'm proud that we consolidated all of our schools, including the high schools; which by the way, gave me a pass out for 4 years. Things work out.

Jamie Hackney - I was also glad to hear the news about the Security Grants. I look forward to that being implemented. Also happy to continue to see the pay scales rise for staff. Much deserved. Great to see Curtis and Tim tonight and have them recognized for all their diligent efforts. We appreciate it.

Jason Hicks - I say to Tim and Curtis: Thank you. I know that Dr. Lyle and Mr. Mullins have been around you a lot more, but from what I've witnessed, your vision, your flexibility, your professionalism, and just the stewardship from your firm to get the most bang for our buck, and just your talents are very impressive. And so, we thank you for that. I'm very excited about being able to adjust the salary scales. Very much needed and it also helps us to close the gap some with neighboring counties. That's really a joint effort between the state legislature and our Board of Supervisors, that helped us earlier in the year, and this School Board, which is committed to doing that for our folks. And I'm very appreciative of the efforts that have gone in from the Administration and other folks involved into looking into adjusting those numbers and maybe keeping the 8th graders at the Middle School. To work those things out. And, it sounds like things are going well. And I'm confident that whatever the final decisions are and where we place them at is going to be the best for the kids, and the best for the school overall.

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Damon Rasnick - Well, I think you're absolutely right. This seems like forever ago, but in 2007, the Army Corps of Engineers came to meet with me at that time and there wasn't anything there. Now if you want to see a miracle in place: there was Congress Boucher, Congressman Griffith, and I'm sure the Senators from Virginia, those folks all worked together and other people there to have this put in the President's Budget. Now, that was a minor miracle in anybody's book. That's something I've never seen happen for anything in Dickenson County that I'm aware of; and I've got a few years in this school system. The children have such an awesome opportunity. An opportunity to have the best there is. Every child in Dickenson County will have access to the best there is in Dickenson County. I never thought I'd see that day. But, I'm happy to be here for it. And for people like Superintendent Robinson, Dr. Lyle, Mr. Mullins, the Attorney Mr. Mullins and all the others that played a role with the IDA and the Board of Supervisors, etc. . There were some rough spots, but overall ,I think the outcome was absolutely worth all the effort that was made. I think our children have been blessed with the most beautiful and effective environment to simply be the best they can be. And I think that numerous doors were opened to them because of the outcome that this happened; because of all of the work of those people in Washington, Richmond, and here in Dickenson County. This is the best example I can think of to see anything in my lifetime that came together in this fashion to give so much to so many in such a good way.

VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of:

1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as a CNA Nursing Instructor, Special Education Teacher,, Part Time Aides, Part-Time Cooks, Part-Time Tutors, Substitutes, Coaches, Resignations, and FMLA pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Jamie Hackney; the Board convened in Closed Session.

Vote results

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

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the board returned to open session.

Vote results

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

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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.

Certification results

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

Board Action:

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

Vote results

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

PERSONNEL/LEGAL

Resignations

Amber Parrigan Part-Time Aide Ridgeview Elementary School

Employment Recommendations

Christina Danielle Branham	Ridgeview High School	Special Education Teacher
Jazmine Yates	Ridgeview High School	CNA Instructor
Rachel Taylor	Clintwood Elementary	Part-Time Tutor
Lucas Cress	Clintwood Elementary	Part-Time Tutor
Tabitha Vitatoe	Clintwood Elementary	Part-Time Tutor

Josh Mullins
Addison Vanover
Selena Moore
Olivia Yates
Brenda Baker
Savannah Danielle Mullins
Jonathan Boyd
Felicite Maggard

Ridgeview Elementary
Ridgeview Elementary
Ridgeview Elementary
Ridgeview Elementary
Ridgeview Elementary
Clintwood Elementary
Ridgeview Middle/High
Ridgeview Middle/High

Part-Time Tutor
Part-Time Tutor
Part-Time Tutor
Part-Time Teacher Aide
Part-Time Cook
Part-Time Cook
Part-Time Cook
Part-Time Cook

VIII. Adjournment: 6:35 p.m.

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and a second by Rick Mullins, the meeting was adjourned.
All-Aye.

Approved 12/13/2023

Damon Rasnick

Damon Rasnick, Chair

Laura Taylor

Laura Taylor, Deputy Clerk