

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

September 27, 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; Jamie Hackney; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Jason Hicks, Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent

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 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 - Mrs. Musick spoke about how hard everybody has worked with the new school and that we are off to a great start. She said another exciting thing is the two more percent from the State of Virginia for teachers, and she is excited to see all of the other monies that are coming for reading loss, recovery, and helping with absenteeism.

Shawn Tiller, DEA - Mr. Tiller spoke about the additional two percent raise for the teachers. The DEA had its first meeting. There is some shuffling and reorganizing due to the change, and having to get new representation at the schools, and also adding representation. This has allowed us to get more members involved.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Rick Mullins 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

a. Approval of Minutes

❖ August 23, 2023

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b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 884808- 88884916= \$ 787,136.98

Monthly Payroll: Check # 390762-390795- \$544,824.80

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. Approval of Field Trips

- ❖ Ridgeview Elementary School
 - 09/14//2023 Haysi, Va. 1st-5th
 - 09/22/2023 Norton, Va. Pre-k
 - 10/05/2023 Norton, Va. KG
 - 10/06/2023 Norton, Va. 3rd
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
 - 09/14/2023 Haysi, Va. 6th-8th
 - 09/24/2023 Abingdon, Va. 7th
 - 10/17/2023 Clintwood, Va. 6th
 - 10/18/2023 Clintwood, Va. 6th
 - 10/30/2023 Wise, Va. 6th
 - 12/18/2023 Norton, Va. 6th-8th
- ❖ Ridgeview High School
 - 07/27-29/2023 Huntington, WV 9th-12th
 - 09/06/2023 Clintwood, Va. 9th-12th
 - 09/08/2023 Big Stone Gap, Va. 9th-12th
 - 09/14/2023 Haysi, Va. 9th-12th
 - 09/14-15/2023 Haysi, Va. 9th -12th
 - 09/15/23 Bristol, Va. 6th-12th
 - 09/20/2023 Clintwood, Va. 10th-12th
 - 10/06/2023 Clintwood, Va. 11th-12th

e. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

f. New Elementary Construction Invoices

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

VSBA Conferences

2023 VSBA Budget Training: October 24, 2023

2023 VSBA Annual Convention November 15-17, 2023

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V. **SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON**

g. **Good News from our Schools**

❖ **Recognition Awards - VSBA Points**

Dr. Lurton Lyle received the award of Distinction, a starfish pin - 84 credits.
Mr. Damon Rasnick received a certificate of recognition - 15 credits.

❖ **August 2023 Attendance and Enrollment Report**

Mrs. Haydee Robinson, Superintendent, presented the student attendance and enrollment for August 2023.

As of August 31, 2023, student enrollment was 1940 that includes: (1) Enrolled Students; (2) PK and Post Students, (3) 3 Year Old Program, and (4) Virtual Students.

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

Clintwood Elementary School:	272	95.17%
Ridgeview Elementary School	610	91.81%
Ridgeview Middle School:	444	94.82%
Ridgeview High School:	614	91.44%

Pre-K Enrollment:

Ridgeview Elementary School	63
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❖ **Ridgeview Middle School After the Bell Newspaper**

The Ridgeview Middle School After the Bell Newspaper is a student newspaper written by the students participating in the RMS's After School Program: Facilitators, Portia Fletcher and April Hay report that the students are excited about this project and are enjoying it immensely.

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h. Ridgeview Elementary School Construction Project Update

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

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 in progress
- Project remains within budget

SKANSKA



i. DCPS Accreditation Results for 2023 - 2024

Mark Mullins, Director of Testing and Personnel, presented the division's accreditation status to the School Board.

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From the 2023-2024 School Accreditation Report released by the Virginia Department of Education.

- Clintwood Elementary School - Fully Accredited
- Ervinton Elementary School - Fully Accredited
- Sandlick Elementary School - Fully Accredited
- Ridgeview Middle School - Fully Accredited
- Ridgeview High School - Fully Accredited

We would like to congratulate our schools, each faculty and staff, and our students as all schools in the division are Fully Accredited for the 2023-2024 school year.

Elementary and middle schools are evaluated on the following indicators:

- Overall proficiency and growth rates in English reading/writing achievement
- Overall proficiency and growth rates in mathematics
- Overall proficiency in science
- English achievement gaps among student groups
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups
- Chronic Absenteeism

High schools are evaluated on the following school-quality indicators:

- Overall proficiency in English reading/writing (growth rate does not apply)
- Overall proficiency in mathematics (growth rate does not apply)
- Overall proficiency in science
- English achievement gaps among student groups
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups
- Graduation and completion index
- Dropout rate
- Chronic Absenteeism
- College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index

j. Approval of FY24 Virginia State Budget

Laura Taylor, Director of Business and Finance presented the approved FY24 Virginia State Budget to the School Board:

Earlier in September, the Virginia General Assembly approved a budget that included an additional 2% raise in salaries from last year's salary in addition to funds to address learning loss, tutoring opportunities, and chronic absenteeism.

On September 14th, 2023, Governor Youngkin signed the Budget Bill approved by the General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

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At this time, we have not received revised Calc Tools from VDOE.

The estimates for additional funding to Dickenson County Public Schools at this time are

\$1,111,629	Per Pupil Funding to be used to address Learning Loss and implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act
\$ 312,981	Increase to State Share toward existing support staff salaries & benefits
<u>\$ 119,606</u>	<u>Additional 2% increase from 22-23 to SOQ-funded positions, effective 1/1/2024 (partial year)</u>
\$ 1,544,216	Total Expected Increase in State Funding FY 23-24

k. 2023 - 2024 Attendance Slogan and Chronic Absenteeism

Mrs. Robinson did a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the new Attendance Slogan #RUNWITHTHEPACK! BE HERE!



As we review our data for the 2022 – 2023 school year, 413 DCPS students, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of our students, missed 18 or more days of school. This is a significant number of students. SOL test results and assessments across the state and in Dickenson County indicate that students who missed 18+ days of the school year scored 18% lower than students with regular attendance in English assessments last year. Students who miss 36+ days scored 31% lower in reading assessments than students with regular attendance. In Math, the impact of attendance is greater. Students who missed 18+ days of school scored 25% lower than students with regular attendance in math, and students who missed 36+ days scored 43% lower than students with regular attendance in math.

Simply stated: The impact of attendance on learning and test results is evident, Children cannot learn if they are not in school, and they cannot be expected to do as well as their peers on assessments when attendance is an issue. Attendance is the area where all our families can have an immediate, positive, and significant impact by ensuring that their child is at school every day.

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I. 21st Century Community Learning Center for RES and CES Award Announcement

Mrs. Robinson - We are pleased to announce that Dickenson County Public Schools in collaboration with the Communities in Schools of Appalachian Highland has been awarded a three-year grant of \$199,994 to create a second 21st Century Community Learning Center after-school program for Ridgeview Elementary School and Clintwood Elementary School. This program for PK – to 5th grade, Jr. Wolfpack After the Bell, will be an incredible resource for Dickenson County families by supporting students through fun enrichment, and academic activities extending the educational experience into the after-school hours. Students currently attending CES will be transported to RES at the end of the school day.

m. Board Approval for Meeting Date Rescheduling and Payroll Process November 23-January 24

Laura Taylor, Director of Business and Finance asked for the School Board's consideration in two matters: (1) To reschedule the November School Board Meeting from Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, to Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, to allow additional time to receive prepare bills to be paid. (2) We are also proposing the following dates for Payroll Direct Deposit during the months of November, December, and January for our faculty and staff:

Friday, November 17th, 2023

Friday, December 15th, 2023

Friday, January 19th, 2024

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Rick Mullins the November meeting and payroll process date changes 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

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Rick Mullins - It was good to see all of the schools accredited with the pass rate on the SOLs. It was good to see some of the statistical scoring we did well on. It was good to see that the General Assembly approved the two percent raise for our school system which is badly needed. I was really glad to see the chronic absenteeism for us to take the initiative to apply ourselves to prevent and increase the students being at school, where they should be.

Dr. Lurton Lyle - I feel that our meeting tonight is a combination of celebration and concern. Celebration over the building process and the SOL results. Obviously the concern over chronic absenteeism. The proposed action is a positive factor also.

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Jason Hicks - First of all it's very good that we can celebrate the budget edition from the state. That's very good news for our teachers and all of our staff. They certainly deserve it. The SOL scores, there is a lot to be proud of there. Hat's off to our teachers and staff and everyone that is a part of that. If we can tackle this chronic absenteeism some, I think those numbers will shine even a little bit brighter when we climb up there with those. It's very impressive with all the things that are going on in our school system with the new communities in schools that can support our students, the propel counseling that we have going on along with the after-school programs. When you think of all of the great services we have along with the great teachers and staff that we have I don't know why anybody wouldn't want to be at school. Being around a bunch of good people and with a lot of good things going on. So hopefully, our families will partner with us and make those numbers go down.

Jamie Hackney - I do think utilizing those as Jason said, the communities in schools, propel, and also the Department of Behavioral Health and some of the services they provide can help address some of the issues that we are talking about along with many others. I am glad to hear about the 21st Century Community Learning Grant. That is very good news to secure that. I am also always happy to hear about the budget process from the state. It was kind of long-awaited but the good news arrived now so that's great news for our staff and our teachers. I just kind of echo what some of the others said. The challenges and the good news with accreditation and the scores.

Damon Rasnick - The accreditation score was certainly to be commended. That takes an awful lot of people to do an awful lot of work to have those outcomes. It certainly is important for students to be here and teachers to be here as often as possible. If we don't have either there on an extended basis we have got a problem, a serious problem. I would hope that with all of the restrictions that we had before that are now gone, that everybody is informed of that. It's kind of hard to get that word out in terms that are reasonably understood after going through those two years in the way that we did. You know, the fact is that those scores probably show what happened for those years that we were. I certainly appreciate the work that has been done and the outcome that has been achieved. I hope that it keeps going up and up and up until we are back in the top quartile and lead the state. I think we are capable of that.

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 a Middle School English Teacher, Custodians, Substitutes, Coaches, Resignations, Retirement, and FMLA pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
- 2.) Student early graduation request pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(2)
- 3.) 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.

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Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and a second by Rick Mullins; 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 Jason Hicks; 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	

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

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Board Action:

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Jason Hicks; the requests for early graduation was approved as presented for students number 478, 485, 536, 640, 825, 941, 949, and 1955.

Vote results

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

Jamie Hackney, I move that our Board authorize our District Superintendent to sign an easement relating to the land of the School Board Office located in the town of Clintwood for water and sewer upon recommendation by the School Board Attorney. With a second from Jason Hicks, the motion was approved as presented.

Vote results

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 Jason Hicks, the employment recommendations were approved as presented in the closed session.

Vote results

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

PERSONNEL/LEGAL

FMLA

Coaches

Students' Request for Early Graduation

Substitutes

Christopher Baker
Jonathan Boyd
Wayne Browning
Maranda McCauley
Sophia Large
Felicite Maggard
Madison Meadows

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Destany Newberry
Jenna Nowlin
Amanda Rasnick
Bobbie Turner
Melanie Viers
Abigail Yates
Rita McKinney
Porchia Fletcher

Resignations

Portia Fletcher	Teacher	Ridgeview Middle School
Avery Rose	Part-time Aide	Ridgeview Ridgeview Middle School
Ashely Williams	Part-time Aide	Ridgeview Elementary School

Retirement

Epharm Turner	Mechanic	Haysi Bus Garage
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Employment Recommendations

Sydney Phillips	Middle School Teacher (Long Term Sub)	Ridgeview Middle School
Keaton Owens	Custodian	Ridgeview High School
Jerome Renard	Custodian - Part-Time	Ridgeview Elementary School

VIII. Adjournment:7:20 p.m.

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

Approved October 25,2023

Damon Rasnick

Damon Rasnick, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk