

Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

February 24, 2021

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Vote results

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jason Hicks read the Public Comment Guidelines.

Kathy Music -VPE: Thanked the Board Members and Clerk for their work and service. Spoke on lobbying for legislation that affects teachers.

Phyllis Mullins - DEA: Mrs. Mullins spoke on trying to get bills passed to help educators and school systems. Mrs. Mullins has been invited to serve on a roundtable as part of a panel of educators with Delegate Sam Rasoul.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Damon Rasnick and a second by Jason Hicks; the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Vote results

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

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a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ January 4, 2021 - Reorganizational Meeting and Public Hearing
- ❖ January 27, 2021 - Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 881675-881763 - \$268,336.38

Monthly Payroll: Check # 389721-389746 - \$1,740,496.99

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. New Elementary Construction Invoices and Construction Account Reconciliation Documents

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

I. COVID Update for Dickenson County Public Schools:

Mrs. Robinson shared our most current numbers of Covid cases and the number of faculty that had been vaccinated with the School Board as of Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

II. Update on the Surplus Computer Equipment:

Mr. Scott Mullins went over Policy DN on donating surplus property. The Kiwanis club had made a request that obsolete computers be donated to them to help the community.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick to have Mrs. Robinson do an inventory of obsolete technology property that would be available for use by the Kiwanis and to donate the personal property items that they can use, the motion passed. 5-0.

Vote results

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

III. VSBA Virtual Conferences and Seminars:

2021 March Hot Topic Conference March 17, 2021

This conference will be focusing specifically on multiple hot topics in education. You will hear from three leaders in public education throughout the event speaking on the topics of Race and

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Equity, Communicating as a Team, and School Segregation within Virginia. The day will kick off with a focus on how school boards can identify, understand, and manage the content, skills, and behavior needed to create diverse, equitable, and inclusive organizations and communities. The next session will discuss how to communicate as a team with your school board and superintendent, especially within this virtual world with online meetings and social media. The final session will cover the topic of rezoning and redistricting within Virginia and how to make sure that school board members recognize the power of how a school boundary can affect segregation.

VSBA April Hot Topic Conference April 13, 2021, Virtual Conference

This conference brings together dynamic speakers addressing issues that are important and relevant to every school division. This year we will be discussing the importance of collective bargaining.

Attendees will hear from leading professionals with specific knowledge surrounding the topic of collective bargaining in the commonwealth and beyond. Professionals will share important tips and tricks relating to and leading to successful collective bargaining agreements and tactics. Attendees will learn the details within the new Collective Bargaining legislation focusing on what school board members will need to know before the May 1st deadline and what to expect after that deadline passes. Forecast 5 will discuss how the use of benchmark data to properly plan will lead to greater success throughout the collective bargaining process and how a division's position and visual analytics can assist during negotiations.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

e. Good News from our Schools

Recognition of Retiree: Linda Salyer was honored for 30 years of service with the Dickenson County Public School System.

February is School Board Appreciation Month: Mrs. Robinson recognized the Board Members, Mr. Rick Mullins, Mr. Damon Rasnick, Mr. Jamie Hackney, Mr. Jason Hicks, and Dr. Lurton Lyle for their dedication and hard work.

School Board Clerk Appreciation Week February 15-19, 2021: Mrs. Robinson recognized the School Board Clerk, Tonya Baker.

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Awesome News from the Ridgeview High and Middle School Band:

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band, is offering our clarinet section a clinic on "Fundamentals of Clarinet." The session will be on Tuesday, March 9, at 3:30. Staff Sergeant Andrew Jacobi, clarinetist, will be presenting.

Mr. Setser presented the Attendance/Enrollment Data for January 2021: This packet of information included:

- a. Attendance Percentage Comparison since 2016-2017, and Attendance Percentage and Enrollment tallies for 2020 – 2021.
- b. List of monthly student transfers
- c. Pre-K Enrollment Tally for each elementary school.

January 2021: Student Enrollment and Attendance Report

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

As of January 29, 2021, the student enrollment was 1917. The overall monthly attendance percentage for January is 94.17%. Congratulations to all our schools! Clintwood Elementary School has won the Attendance Banner with a 98.32% student attendance percentage. The current division-wide student attendance percentage is 96.03%.

January 2021 Attendance Percentages and Student Enrollment: Per School:

- Clintwood Elementary: 98.32%: K – 5 Enrollment: 393
- Ervinton Elementary School: 91.63% K – 5 Enrollment - 114
- Sandlick Elementary School: 96.91%: K – 5 Enrollment - 360
- Ridgeview High School: 96.57% 9 – 12 Enrollment - 587
- Ridgeview Middle School: 89.29%: 6 – 8 Enrollment: 463

Enrollment in DCPS Pre- K program, per school:

- Clintwood Elementary School: 27
- Ervinton Elementary School: 12
- Sandlick Elementary School: 30
- **Total: 69**

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f. Update on New Elementary School Project and Elementary School Design

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

g. Update on the 2021- 2022 Budget Process

Ron Vicars presented to the School Board members an update on the FY21 Budget process. The General Assembly continues to be in session in Richmond. The Senate has presented its proposed budget, but the House has not yet presented its budget.

Some of the highlights from the House and Senate budget are as follows:

House:

- 1.Growth assessments in Grade 3-8
- 2.5% teacher raise – effective July 1, 2021 - must be given over the 20-22 biennium
- 3.COVID-19 Learning Loss Remediation and Recovery Grants
- 4.Hold harmless for enrollment loss same as Chapter 56

Senate:

- 1.3% teacher raise – effective August 1, 2021 – must be given over the 20-22 biennium
- 2.Lottery proceeds fund for learning loss - \$117.18 per child
- 3.Three specialized staff support positions per 1000 students
- 4.Requirement all school divisions to offer in-person instruction options in the 2021-2022 school year to a student if the parent or guardian requests.

Local budget meetings are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, Mar. 30th and 31st. We will invite the Chair and Vice-Chair to attend the Budget Workshop with the Board of Supervisors.

h. Discussion of the Virtual Regional Academy and Senate Bill 1303

Senate Bill 1320 requires each school division to offer fully in-person instruction or a combination of in-person and remote virtual instruction to each student for the duration of 2021 – 2022.

In December and January, we began discussions within Region 7 to participate in a Virtual Regional Academy for the 21-22 school year. Both Dr. Lyle and Mr. Hicks participated in the presentation and discussed its merits at a School Board meeting. At the time, the School Board wanted to take a thoughtful consideration of this option.

Now, with a strong chance that Senate Bill 1303 will pass, it appears that we will have to provide remote or virtual instruction options to our students and families.

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Currently, there are three options discussed: (1) Partnership with K12 or Stride; (2) Partnership with Virtual Virginia or (3) Offer Remote/Virtual Academy in-house.

The Pros/Cons with Stride are: that we would retain part of the ADM cost per student and have to enroll students from other areas of the state up to 681 additional students; Their SOL scores and attendance will impact our accreditation status.

The Pros/ Cons with Virtual Virginia are that DCPS would keep a larger portion of the ADM, and we would not be required to take other students in the state. Virtual Virginia is a rigorous program and a challenge for some of our students. As with Stride or K12, there would be stringent eligibility requirements: (1) Grade Point Average; Adequate Access to Internet,

The Pros/Cons of an In-House Virtual Program are staff availability to teach Virtual or 100% Remote in Pre K – 12th, teacher licensure endorsements, and class size with virtual classrooms and face-to-face instruction.

Whether enrolled in Stride (K-12) or Virtual Virginia, these students will be considered our students and would be eligible to participate in all extra-curricular activities such as athletics, competitions, and practices.

Regional Memorandum of Understandings are being finalized with either Stride (K12) or Virtual Virginia at this time. We are still gathering information and analyzing data, and will have a recommendation to the School Board in March as to which option DCPS will participate in: (1) Stride (K12); (2) Virtual Virginia; (3) In-School Virtual Program.

i. Update on the 2020 - 2021 School Calendar

With the number of schedule changes due to inclement weather and scheduling conflicts this year, the following changes were proposed for the 20- 21 school calendar:

Monday, February 22nd - Mid Term Progress Reports for 3rd Nine Weeks Grading Period

Thursday, March 4th – Full Virtual Day: (To allow Food Pick up for students)

Friday, March 5th and Monday, March 8th Spring Break

Tuesday, March 23rd – Special Election – State Senate seat – Full Virtual Day

Friday, March 26th – tentative end of 3rd Nine Weeks Grading period (Day 133)

Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th Easter Break

Friday, May 28th – potential Graduation date but To Be Determined

Monday, May 31st – Memorial Day – Schools Closed

Wednesday, June 2nd – Last Day of School

Thursday, June 3rd and Friday, June 4th – Teacher Workdays

Summer School starts on Monday, June 7, 2021 – Friday, July 2, 2021.

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Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Damon Rasnick the changes to the 2020-2021 calendar were approved as presented.

Vote results

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

j. Planning for the 2021 - 2022 School Calendar

Below is a summary of the two options discussed:

2021-2022 School Calendar Options

Both Options

Monday, September 3rd – Labor Day – Schools Closed
Tuesday, November 2nd – Election Day – Schools Closed
Monday, November 22nd – Friday, November 26th – Fall and Thanksgiving Break
Monday, December 20th - Friday, December 31st – Christmas Break
Friday, March 11th and Monday, March 14th – Spring Break
Friday, April 15th and Monday, April 18th – Easter Break
Both Drafts have the same statement:

Spring Break and Easter Break days may be used as School Makeup Days if 10 or more days have been missed due to inclement weather.

Option 1

Monday, August 9th – First Day of School – Full Day Schedule
Friday, October 8th – End 1st Nine weeks
Friday, December 17th – End the 1st Semester (Day 88)
Monday, January 3rd – Teacher Workday – No School for Students
Tuesday, January 4th – Students Return for 2nd Semester
Tuesday, March 8th – End 3rd Nine Weeks
Tuesday, May 17th – Last Day of School (Day 180)

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Option 2

Thursday, August 19th – First Day of School – Full Day Schedule
Thursday, October 21st – End 1st Nine weeks
Friday, December 17th – Last Day before Christmas and Winter Break
Monday, January 3rd – Students Return to School from Christmas Break
Friday, January 14th – End the 1st Semester (Day 90)
Monday, January 17th – Teacher Workday – No School for Students
Tuesday, January 18th – Students Return for 2nd Semester
Wednesday, March 23rd – End 3rd Nine Weeks
Friday, May 27th – Last Day of School (Day 180)

We will share these options with our faculty and staff for input and feedback, and provide a survey for parent feedback.

k. Approval of DCPS Policy: Protective Orders: File JOAA

Mike Setser presented this Policy to the School Board for its discussion. The locally developed proposed policy related to protective orders issued by a court. The policy was developed using guidelines established by the Virginia Department of Education.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and second by Damon Rasnick Policy: Protective Orders: File JOAA was approved as presented.

Vote results

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

I. Budget Workshops and Meeting Dates in March

March will be a busy budget month for the Dickenson County School Board. It has two meetings and its regular monthly meeting scheduled to discuss the budget.

Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021: Budget Workshop: The purpose of this meeting to provide the School Board the opportunity to discuss, recommend and make revisions to the proposed budget presented.

Wednesday, Mar. 17, 2021: Public Hearing on the Budget: The purpose of this meeting is to allow the public to make comments regarding the proposed budget.

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Wednesday, Mar. 24, 2021: March School Board Meeting: The School Board will finalize the budget and officially approve the budget.

Thursday, April 1, 2021: The Estimated DCPS Budget is presented to the Board of Supervisors.

m. Discussion of the Use of School Facilities

Travis Rasnick - Ridgeview Little League, spoke requesting to use the school's outdoor facilities for Little League Sports. Mr. Setser will meet with Mr. Rasnick so mitigation strategies can be submitted and Little League Football can tentatively begin, March 9th, 2021.

Following a motion by Jamie Hackney and a second by Damon Rasnick the motion to start the process for the mitigation strategy for youth sports was approved.

Vote results

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

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Jamie Hackney: We had a lot of issues tonight. I think we handled a lot of issues and I appreciate the board as far as being proactive. I think there are things that we have to be concerned with but there are also things in the best interest of our kids and our students so I appreciate the board for that.

Damon Rasnick: I'd like to express my appreciation for all the employees in every single facet of our system for the good work that's been done. With all the disruptions and all the stress and extra duty that's been done, I certainly appreciate it and I know it's been appreciated all around in a good way. We need to make sure our children are brought forward as far as we can take them to let them be successful and to offer opportunities to be successful, as Superintendent Robinson alluded to earlier, it's been a different world for the students and for the adults that work with them. It's a little different, a little tougher, in many ways but it's what we must do and we must be successful with that. I'd like to thank the superintendent for guiding us through all this maze of rules and regulations that we face. The law books are thick and they're complicated and that's why we have to have good lawyers by our side all the time in this business. I'd like to see all the kids be able to play and do everything as free as the wind as best they can be supervised the

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proper way but as a school division I also know and you know we all have restrictions and there's a reason for them being there. But equal access should be given as it is appropriate and I think given the data we need to see about the stay-at-home and the impact of them not being around their friends in this country and you know it isn't just here. I assume it's all over the world. It's a highly complicated evaluation it's been made but it certainly seems to be the consensus is that it's not good for our children. That being in school is the best thing possible. I think our folks are doing a good job dealing with this, I certainly commend them for that.

Jason Hicks: I am thankful for a long bit of Good News From Our Schools. That's the longest one we have had in a long time. We have a lot to be proud of there. I thank you guys that come and speak each month for public comment with us. Ms. Mullins, I appreciate you sharing that Google meets with me. I'd say the rest of the board would love to see you at that Roundtable and see how that goes. I'd like to thank all those folks, our technology guys, Mr. Compton and Mr. Gibson and Mr. Grant, and all the guys that helped pull the drive-in football game in out here. I'm thankful the network stopped buffering and got going. It was a fun thing. You had people around, it's good to have people around again, even though we were kind of holed up in our cars. At least you could roll your window down, you could honk your horn. There was one family there that brought in pizza and a cooler of Diet Mountain Dew and said man is the most fun that we've ever seen. It was a good break for everybody so it was good to be able to do that. Yes, I actually got a Diet Mountain Dew out of the cooler and a piece of pizza. The only drawback to it and if we do something like that again is that we had a whole bunch of people there with Mountain Dews and things and no restroom open for them. We all kind of suffered through that. That was tough. I'd like to thank you guys for the school board appreciation gift and the mask. I'm glad to have it. I appreciate my fellow board members. I appreciate you guys its an honor to work with you and I'm proud to serve with you for sure. And lastly, I want to congratulate our band on having the opportunity to participate with the President's Own. I kind of looked that up. I didn't know how prestigious that Presidents Own Band was so that's a fabulous opportunity for our band students to be able to participate in. Mr. Vicars, I appreciate you being here. I haven't seen you in a while. Mr. Vicars is a very humble guy; he did mention his pro bono work for school districts and budgets. That may be his greatest strength.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: As mentioned previously, March will be a busy month. There's a lot of work to be done before our next board meeting by Mrs. Robinson and our staff. I feel confident that they can do it. March will be an interesting board meeting.

Rick Mullins: I'd like to once again commend Ms. Salyer for a long career and thank you for that Ms. Salyer you've been wonderful. I'd also like to thank Mr. Vicars for coming aboard when we needed someone to jump in the boat with us and we want to thank you for that. I just like to say and commend our administration and our staff for what a wonderful job they've done during this Covid era. I think we can all look back at this one day and say thank goodness that we had the leaders that we did in place and things got accomplished. So I commend all the administration and the teachers.

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VII. Closed Session, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, (No closed session business)

VIII. Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.

Following a motion by Jason Hicks and second, by Jamie Hackney; the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Approved: March 24, 2021

Rick Mullilns

Rick Mullins, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk