

# Dickenson County School Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

October 24, 2018

## I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Susan Mullins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.
- b. **Members in Attendance:** Susan Mullins, Chairman; Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Rocky Barton; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Shanghai Nickles; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Reba McCowan, Clerk and Scott Mullins, Board Attorney
- c. **Approval of Agenda**  
Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rick Mullins the agenda was approved.

### *Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathy Musick, VPE – Updated the Board on a new bill introduced that would allow internet sales to be taxed and a portion of that money was to be set aside for new school construction. She also reminded the Board that the deadline for Fall submission for grants and scholarships is November 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA – Thanked Chandra Mullins for the work on the presentation. Mrs. Mullins reviewed the following: Lobby Day – 1/9/2019; encouraged everyone to wear red on Wednesdays – Red for ED; Legislators Dinner will be held in December; asked everyone to participate in Cyber Lobby and a letter was available at a website to send to Governor Northram to support increase in funding for public education. Some of the agenda items the DEA is working on is use Teacher’s Evaluation Model that would have more than standardize tests attached to it. We want to expand some of the retirement system; school board employees would earn a living wage to attract and retain high quality teachers and want to get the revised Standards of Learning fully funded.
3. Kathy Harrison – Addressed the Board reminding them of the things they have voted on in the past and to keep in mind as you look over all the information that you received last night. There was a joint resolution that was passed on March 6, 2013 because of the financial burden of the County which included the building of the Courthouse and betterments of Ridgeview High/Middle. The Board of Supervisors as good stewards of taxpayers’ money cannot support move forward at this time with construction of the elementary school; however there is sufficient funding from the Corps of Engineers to allow Dickenson County to begin to acquire real estate interests and begin environmental permitting processes. The agents and representatives of Dickenson County are directed to continue to move forward with the elementary school within the confines of Corps of Engineers appropriations. Right now, all the land has not been purchased, no environmental studies have been done and we are to the point that if some adjustments are not done they are saying we can’t build it on Backbone. I don’t want to say that was a purposeful move on part of some of the Board Members; but it would appear to be so. Appearances do count. Appearances count. In 2016 – 2017 you had Skanska to do pretty much the same thing you had the people to do last night. A school at that time; a three model school with 500 students was \$13,000,125. That did not include road and land but it left a big chunk for that. Backbone was doable in 2016-2017. You sat on your hands. So please look the information over good and remember who the school is being built for. Sandlick has to be torn down; it has to be. No way around it. Consider who you are building the school for. Thank you.

4. Regina Swiney – In my opinion, I feel there are two school board members by their actions and their words have discriminated against Haysi area and the school being built there. The price going up to build, all these studies and prolonging has been part of the plan. I feel the decisions being made are not in the best interest of the children but for the dislike of the Town of Haysi and some of the people that are here. You can get your shirts with Haysi and an X drawn through it, but if this is the reason you are wanting to build at Ridgeview to show the Haysi people that you are the one in control, that is just wrong. You can ask the Lord to forgive you and He will, but we are all held accountable for our thoughts and our actions we make. You will answer to Him sometime in your life whether it be through you, your children or a loved one in your life. We all will pay. Ask yourself, if this was on the other side of the County in Clintwood and the school was located in Haysi, would you want to send your children, your grandchildren on a bus to ride to the Haysi area? I don't think you would. How do you think the Haysi community is to feel about this whole issue? This is our children, our grandchildren, and our community. How would you feel and react to it? Mr. Mullins is my supervisor and I would like to remind Mr. Mullins you have people throughout the County not just Clintwood area. I have said this before Mr. Mullins and Dr. Lyle people from the Haysi community have supported you both. I asked you all to go with what your heart is telling you and what is right. Thank you.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Following a motion by Rocky Barton and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the consent agenda items were approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ September 26, 2018 – Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills – School Operating Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 879101 - Check #879218.....\$298,541.15  
 Monthly Payroll: Check #388656 – Check #388679.....\$1,716,910.16

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. Field Trips

- ❖ Ridgeview High School
  - 10/18 – Hungry Mother State Park – 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>
  - 10/13 – Lonesome Pine Competition (RHS & RMS) – 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 10/20 – Natural Tunnel State Park – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 10/29 – FBLA Fall Conference – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 10/31 – Clintwood Elementary School – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

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11/02 – Ervinton Elementary School – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
11/07 – The Attic – 9<sup>th</sup> – PG  
11/12 – The Attic – 9<sup>th</sup> - PG  
11/26 – Mtn. Empire Dialysis Center – 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
11/27 – Mtn. Empire Dialysis Center – 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
12/05 – Barter Theatre – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

❖ Ridgeview Middle School

11/09-11/10 – Morehead State University – 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

❖ Clintwood Elementary School

10/19 – Norton Cinema – 5<sup>th</sup>  
10/27 – Virginia Tech – 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

❖ Ervinton Elementary School

10/12 – Norton Cinema – Pre K – K

❖ Sandlick Elementary School

10/04-10/05 – Council Park – K  
10/16 – Pumpkin Patch – K  
10/26 – Creation Kingdom – 5<sup>th</sup>  
10/31 – Town of Haysi – Pre K

**IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD**

- School Board Meeting for November – Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors and IDA
- School Safety, Fostering School Safety Guide
- VSBA Annual Convention – Williamsburg, VA

**V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON**

**e. Good News from Our Schools**

- **September 30, 2018 Enrollment and Attendance Report**  
**Be Great with 8! Be a Hero: Here, Everyday, Ready, On-time**

Mark Mullins reviewed the following information as follows:

\*Enrollment at the end of August was 1980

\*Enrollment at the end of September was 1968; a net loss of 12 students during the month of September

\*The Division’s attendance rate for the month of September was 94.54%

\*Ridgeview High School had the highest attendance rate for the month of September at 94.84%

**f. Approval for RFP for Roof at Clintwood Elementary School**

Superintendent Robinson stated; the Board of Supervisors has appropriated \$400,000 for the 2018 - 2019 school year to fund the replacement of the roof at Clintwood Elementary School With last school year’s appropriations of \$150,000, the Dickenson County Public Schools has a total of \$550,000 dollars for a new roof. With the numerous major and minor rains during the last several months, the roof at CES has reached a point that must be replaced.

We recommend that the School Board approve a RFP for a roof replacement at CES immediately with plans to replace the roof at CES beginning in the spring of 2019.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rocky Barton; RFP for roof at Clintwood Elementary School was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

**g. Update on the New Elementary School Site**

Superintendent Robinson updated as follows.

Summary of the U. S. Corps of Engineers Meeting on Monday, Oct. 15, 2018:

It was a good day and a productive meeting with the Corps Team, with good camaraderie between us and strong support for the Dickenson County Project. Rebecca Bennett, our current Project Manager has been transferred to other 202 Flood Proof projects, and Ken Woodward will return as our Project Manager. Mitzi Sykes and David Moore also attended the Meeting with Corps.

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Several members of the Corps Team were present at the Meeting. The great news is that the Corps affirmed that the accounting procedures for the Ridgeview project had been done to Corps specifications. The Dickenson County Team further explained that there was one construction account with deposits from the Corps reimbursement, Rural Development funds, QSCB funds used to pay all construction invoices and interest payments on the Rural Development funds. The Dickenson County Team also explained that the 5% local match was also paid from this one account. The Corps affirmed that they had no questions about any financial process with the Ridgeview Project. The Corps Team also informed us that a final audit does not need to be completed at the end of the project unless the Sponsor (Dickenson County) requests an audit.

The Corps Team did share with us that the appropriations for the new elementary school is secured for Dickenson County Project unless there is a World War III (Their words). The reason for this assurance is that Dickenson County was closer to making a decision on the site, moving with the Site Studies Presentation scheduled on Oct. 23, 2018 and Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018.

We are all very pleased that any questions of the one construction account to pay all the construction invoices, loan interests and the local 5% were openly discussed, and the Corps indicated that they had no issues with the process.

**h. Presentation of the 2017-2018 School Audit Reports**

Larry Barton presented the results of the 2017 – 2018 School Audits Reports conducted by Thrower, Blanton and Associates PC. Mr. Barton read the following Opinion Statement provided by the auditor as follows: "In our opinion, the accompanying combining statement of cash receipts and disbursements present fairly, in all material respects, the recorded cash transactions of the School Activity Funds of the Dickenson County Public Schools for the year ended June 30, 2018".

**i. Approval of Early Employee Payroll for Nov. 16, 2018 and December 19, 2018**

We are recommending early payroll for our employees on Nov. 16, 2018 and December 19, 2018 to accommodate Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Rick Mullins; early payroll for November and December was approved.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

**VI. BOARD COMMENT**

Dr. Lurton Lyle:

- We received a lot of information last night and I haven't had time to look at it yet. I think we are moving in the right direction and I think within a short period of time we will have to make a decision.

Rick Mullins:

- I think the gentlemen last night gave us a good detail synopsis of what we need to look at.
- I'm so proud of our football team. It's wonderful; and the SOL's.

Rocky Barton:

- There was a lot of good information but I feel a lot of the information we already had. I feel like I see some holes in the information. I personally think it's not right. I want my fellow board members to hold in their mind; how fair is it to move 440 students out of their community? When we decided to consolidate high schools, there are three original board members here; we all agreed that it was three or none. Some people said we were a two school county. We didn't believe that. We said it was three or none and my only regret is that we closed Ervinton High School before the other two. I hope you will keep that in mind. I think there is money to do the project at Backbone Ridge. I never doubted there is money to do it. There are different ways to arrange the building to save money. I just want them to keep that in mind.

Shanghai Nickles:

- Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Newton we are hoping to get those roofs fixed for you soon.
- I would like to personally thank Mark Mullins and Denechia Edwards for a little project we are trying to add back to CTE/vocational training at our school. We found out that we are the only school in our Region VII that doesn't have Electricity/HVAC Program. These two folks are working hard to remedy that problem. So, if you see any males or females out there that would like to get into Electricity/HVAC tell them to go by and see Rick Mullins or Mrs. Justice. I found out that all the Sykes building in Wise County, all the electricians came from Tennessee, all plumbers came from Tennessee, all the people that did the formation came from Tennessee. We didn't have enough qualified people so there is a need for that. I appreciate you Mark for doing that and I know Denechia is gone with her husband. You guys have been a blessing to us in that department and I appreciate it very much.

**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 discussing: (1. Employment issues relating to FMLA request, retirement, employment recommendations, substitutes and (2. to consult with legal counsel regarding investment of funds pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (6) and (7).

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the Board convened in closed session.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	

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Abstain: 0  
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the Board returned to open session.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I certify and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting.

*Certification of Closed Session*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	

**VIII. BOARD ACTION**

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; FMLA request was approved for Monica Fuller, Guidance Counselor at RMS.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Rocky Barton; retirement of Linda Mullins, Head Custodian at CES was accepted.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; employment recommendations were approved: Employment: Kimberly Mullins, Algebra Readiness Teacher-RMS, Yvonne O’Quinn, Head Custodian-CES, Justin Deel, Custodian-CES.

*Vote Results*

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Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; substitutes were approved contingent upon meeting all requirements.

Subs Approved: Dawson Boyd – Teacher; Tamara Edwards – Teacher; Audrey – Teacher; Samantha Hibbitts – Teacher/Janitor/Cook/Nurse; Peggy Kiser – Teacher/Cook; Amanda Whitt – Teacher.

*Vote Results*

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Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles  
No: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; approved all personnel recommendation of the Superintendent.

*Vote Results*

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Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles  
No: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Not Cast: 0

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 p.m.**

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and a second by Rocky Barton the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

*Susan Mullins*

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Chairman, Susan Mullins

**Approved: September 26, 2018**

*Reba McCowan*

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Reba McCowan, Clerk