

DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Regular School Board Meeting
March 22, 2017
5 p.m. – School Board Office

PRESENT: Susan Mullins, Chairman; Rocky Barton; Shanghai Nickles; L. B. Lyle; Rick Mullins; Reba McCowan, Clerk; and Haydee Robinson, Superintendent.

ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN, SUSAN MULLINS:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Good evening everybody. I would like to call this meeting to order and note that Mr. Mullins is not here. However, we think he might be trying to park. All of the other members are present along with our Superintendent, Mrs. Haydee Robinson and our Clerk, Mrs. Reba McCowan. We have the Agenda before us. Are there any other changes other than moving Good News from Our Schools to Item II? If not, I need a motion to approve the Agenda.

Mr. Rocky Barton: made the motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: We have an approved Agenda. If you would all stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. Thank you. Please be seated. Welcome Mr. Mullins.

Due to some of the participants needing to get back to ball practice we are going to move Good News from Our Schools up to Item IA, and Mrs. Robinson I will turn that over to you.

Superintendent Robinson: Thank you. It is always a special honor when we get to recognize the achievement of our students, and I know that we have a lot of proud family members and parents here. At this time, I would to turn this portion of our meeting over to the Beta Club Sponsor Mr. Kevin Minion. Mr. Minion, if you could come to the front and recognize your students.

Mr. Kevin Minion: Mrs. Robinson and Board Members it is a pleasure to be here to recognize such a great group of students that I not only get to work with every day teaching but also as a Beta Sponsor. Before I go over what we accomplished at our State Convention there are two other things that we just realized. Each year the National Beta Club sponsors scholarships for its members. This year we had two members apply. They both made the semi-finals and they are Haley Yates and Brent Hill who is not with us. (Applause!) He is actually at the Ohio Beta Convention helping them. They finished the second part of the scholarship this week and they should know in May how much they have won if any. With Beta it is a guarantee that one out of three will win some money. They have a really good shot, and I am keeping my fingers crossed.

In February, we traveled to Williamsburg for our Virginia State Beta Convention. A lot of people when they hear the word convention they think it is fun and games, but we actually competed in several categories. If I am not mistaken, Beta is one of the few places where the students can compete in academics, talent and art against people from all over the State. We had several winners. First of all, as a club, we designed a trading pin that I will pass around. Our trading pin won first place at the convention. We can take our pin to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida, this summer and compete against pins from all over the nation. Our pin is a wolf with a moon as the background which actually glows in the dark. It has the Ridgeview Beta Club symbol at the bottom. This year we had several new competitions. One competition was Robotics, and our team placed 2nd at the Convention. These members can attend the National Convention and compete. If the team members are here, would you please stand:

Mr. Trenton Deel
Mr. Jacob Dotson
Ms. Elizabeth Bise
Mr. Dillon Doyle (Applause!)

Another new competition was called Fresh Look at Beta. It was for 9th Grade students. They had to do a multiple-choice test about the history of Beta. They were also given some scenarios where they would work together to come up with solutions. Those members were:

Mr. Burton Counts
Ms. Chloe Rife
Ms. Kali Anna Brooks
Ms. Emily McCarty (Applause!)

We also competed in Group Talent. In my 19 years as a Beta Sponsor I think this is the first time we have placed in Talent. I was really happy with that. We had a small band with a drum, keyboard, guitar, two singers and two young ladies who danced. Those members were:

Mr. Jordan Mullins
Mr. Danny Ibrahim
Mr. Payton Hill
Ms. Ciara Fuller
Ms. Chelsea Hall
Ms. Rachel Hillman
Ms. Madison Yates (Applause!)

We had some individual awards and both of these young ladies can compete in Orlando this summer:

3rd Place Poetry: Ms. Cheyenne McCowan
3rd Place Photography: Ms. Ciara Fuller (Applause!)

Mr. Trenton Deel who again is not with us, served as the 2016-2017 Virginia State Beta Vice President. He was also awarded a State scholarship of \$500 and competed against 18 or 19 individuals.

One of the big things that we do with Beta each year is run someone for a Beta office. Like I just mentioned, Trenton Deel served as Vice President. As part of their campaign, we do a campaign T-shirt and you can see that a lot of the students here are wearing those. Please stand and turn around so they can see the back. We kind of did a spoof of Vanilla Ice's "Ice, Ice Baby". Ms. Davis our art teacher and one of our sponsors did the art from the 80's album. We came up with the idea of Vanilla Sykes. Cade Sykes was elected the State Beta President. (Applause!) His speech was about there being different flavors of ice cream. Some Beta Members are more active than others. The big thing is that we do a campaign skit. Our Beta Club came up with a skit for Cade. We had dancing ice cream cones. We had a Vanilla Sykes rap. Those members received 1st place for the campaign skit. They are:

Mr. Jordan Mullins
Mr. Cameron Carroll
Ms. Haley Yates
Ms. Kinsey Fleming
Ms. Jade Fields
Ms. Chasity Sutherland
Mr. Payton Hill
Ms. Rachel Hillman
Ms. Madison Yates
Mr. Danny Ibrahim
Mr. Ashton Grave (Applause!)

The last thing that I would like to point out is that in Ridgeview's two years of existence we have actually had two Beta State Officers. As far as I know, they are the only two State Officers from a club at Ridgeview. I hope we are on a roll. Thank you all for your support. (Applause!)

Superintendent Robinson: Mr. Minion, as I said before, there are a lot of parents and family members here tonight. I would like to ask all of these family members to stand because none of these members would be here without their support. (Applause!)

Mr. Kevin Minion: Mrs. Robinson, I would like to thank the parents and family members also. I know that your guidance and support helped them get into the Beta Club. I know it is hard for you because every time you turn around I am sending a fund raiser home with your child. Thank you all very much. (Applause!)

Superintendent Robinson: Thank you very much for attending. We have one more item from Good News from Our Schools and then Madam Chair we may want to break for a few minutes if there are people who need to leave or go to practice. Ms. Newton, you may need to stand where you are or you can come up here.

Ms. Betty Newton: I'm going to let Mrs. Muncy talk and explain and then I may want to comment.

Mrs. Lavada Muncy: We received an award from the Regional Blood Center at Clintwood Elementary School. We have hosted two blood drives this past year, and we are the first elementary school in their network to host blood drives. We have set a trend, and they have given us this plaque. They did not give us a pretty crystal award, and I was really devastated about that, Ha, Ha! Because we have started this new trend, they are now going out to other elementary schools which they haven't done before. We had 54 blood donations which potentially helped save 162 lives. This was from our parents, staff and local community members as well. They have had to create a category for elementary schools so maybe next year we can bring home that crystal award. Mr. Compton, are you going to tell them about your award?

Mr. Rodney Compton: We won the middle school award with 290 behind Gate City. I don't want to belabor the point, but Gate City has an advantage over us because they are close to Holston Valley where they can give blood in honor of a student. But we were honored to be No. 2. (Applause!)

Ms. Newton: To continue in the trend setting mode, I think Ms. Muncie and coordinator, Deborah Wampler has already set a blood drive for May 19th from 9:00-3:00. That is a Friday so if you aren't doing anything on May 19th come and roll up those sleeves. We would love to get this award next year. (Applause!)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So in order to get everyone to practice we will take a five-minute recess if there is a motion.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: made the motion for a 5 minute recess. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I would like to call this meeting back to order. We will pick up where we left off with Public Comment. Has everyone who wishes to speak been able to sign the sheet for Public Comment?

Shanghai, would you read the guidelines?

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Read guidelines for public comment.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mr. Setser, are you keeping time? The first person on my list is Ms. Kathy Musick: It looks like Kathy might not be here. The next person on my list is Phyllis Mullins of the DEA:

Ms. Phyllis Mullins: Good afternoon. I have some exciting news. I went to a VEA workshop yesterday at the College of Wise. It was an ESSA Workshop. We were encouraged by the people who were there to get the locals to start working on this now so that our input would be valued and not wait until the State tells us what we need to do. A lot of this is go-

ing to fall back on the locals. The NEA has some wonderful Websites what will help explain this. The person who did the workshop will be sending me the PowerPoint and notes, and I will be glad to share that with our ESSA team.

Also, our VEA President, Jim Livingston, was present and talked about the legislative update. I think it is important to know that every committee, every meeting and every day there is a VEA lobbyist there representing you. They do show up and do their part. We lobby to bring our teachers' salaries to the nation average and it passed both Houses unanimously. We lobbied for the supplementary lottery fund. We lobbied against school voucher type things. We have a lot of good things that have come out of the General Assembly. We went up and raised a lot of cane in January, and there was no money in the budget for raises until then. Once the people understood that the media was there, they kind of got on board, and a little money was found

We had our DEA meeting last week, and we have formed a budget committee. We haven't had a chance to meet, but we would like to make budget recommendations for this budget and have them be a part of this before the budget is voted on or considered. Thank you.

Superintendent Robinson: Madam Chair, just to clarify, the budget has to be in before the Board of Supervisors by the 1st of April.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Will that give you time to get your proposal together?

Ms. Phyllis Mullins: We meet next week. I will have to get my committee together.

Superintendent Robinson: One thing that I want to clarify is that the budget has to be turned in to the Board of Supervisors; there will still be an opportunity to make your recommendations. I just wanted to let you know that you will probably have more time if the Board votes to go that way, but we have to have a budget to the Board of Supervisors by next Friday, March 31st. Certainly, after that, if there are any changes or additions to the budget, they can be added.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I see that Ms. Musick has stepped into the room. Ms. Musick:

Ms. Kathy Musick: I want to apologize for my tardiness. I got behind a couple of coal trucks on my way from Coeburn. My name is Kathy Musick and I work for the Virginia Professional Educators. I want to thank the Board and Mrs. Robinson for your leadership in the Coalfield Initiative because it made a difference in this whole region along with 30 other counties in the State of Virginia. I am just so proud of this region and how we came together, and I want you to know that VPE and John, our No. 1 lobbyist, really took it to heart. He worked along with the VEA I am sure as well. That is what it is going to take to make a difference, all of us rallying together. I think it started right here in this room, and I want to thank you. Like I said I am glad to see that it made a difference and hopefully, we can make a difference again. Thank you.

Superintendent Robinson: Also, Madam Chair, I would like to thank Ms. Musick and Phyllis Mullins. They attended our Budget Workshop with our Board of Supervisors last Tuesday. We certainly thank them for being a part of that.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay, the third name I have is Ms. Shawna Counts:

Ms. Shawna Counts: Good evening. I am a parent of a child in the Ervinton District, and it is budget time again. We are hearing rumors of the closing of our school again. I just wanted you to know that I am a parent who lives inside the Clintwood Corporation Limits and drive my daughter all the way to Nora every day and go back to get her just so she can attend a small school. That small school means a lot to that whole community. There are 16 kids in that class compared to Clintwood which would be 20+ kids. Those smaller class sizes are amazing. Before November she was reading. If Ervinton were to close, my family and I would have to choose to send her outside this county just to keep her in the smaller class sizes. The schools in the other counties are keeping their classes smaller. We looked at the Christian School in Wise and their kindergarten class was about the same size as Ervinton. Kids thrive in these smaller classes. I have heard complaints from parents whose children are in the larger classes. I know it is not your fault. It is the budget. The parents from Ervinton love those class sizes, and it means everything to us. I am a member of the PTO there and active in the school, and I would hate to see the school close. I am very thankful that you guys kept it open last year. So I just want you to keep Ervinton in mind when you work on your budget. I know there is not a lot that you guys can do, but we would love to keep that school open. Thank you. (Applause!)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Next we have Mr. Ben Kennedy:

Mr. Ben Kennedy: As most of you know, my name is Ben Kennedy, and I teach welding at Ridgeview High School. Tonight I want to speak about the retirement insurance and the possibility of dropping it. I feel this would be a great burden on the former employees who have worked in this county. In order to drop insurance from their families and spouses they would have to pick that up from somewhere else. From the people I have talked to they are going to be looking at a cost of \$500-\$700 per person to buy a policy. To me that is a lot of money and it would be 1/3 of my take home pay. You are on a tight budget as a retiree anyway, and it would be an extra burden to have to pay that amount each month. This will finish up my ninth year of teaching so you may ask why I am concerned. I am concerned because I may want to retire someday and don't want to have an extra expense of insurance to contend with. If someone works long enough to retire, I feel they deserve some benefits and this is one that is well-earned. By taking away this benefit many teachers will work longer just to keep their insurance when they may not have the health or desire. I have a few questions for you to think about before making the decision to drop the insurance for the families of retired employees:

1. Will putting our teachers under more pressure and worry about when and if they will retire because of not offering this incentive benefit the education of our students?
2. How much will this affect the income of the retired employee?

3. Will taking the incentive from retired employees make them feel that their time and dedication to Dickenson County Schools has been recognized and appreciated?

This decision doesn't just affect the employees who retire now but everyone in the future who plans to retire. Insurance is one of the few perks that the teachers of Dickenson County have. Please, let's try to keep it. Thank you.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Next will be Mr. Shane Hammons:

Mr. Shane Hammons: Thank you and good afternoon. I would just like to address something that one of the previous speakers talked about. The closing of Ervinton Elementary School seems to be a topic that comes up each and every year. Ervinton is a wonderful school and means a lot to the community. If you have looked at the paper today, they have won several awards. It has a wonderful faculty and staff and great principal. It has had some great principals in the past. I have run businesses. I own a business, and it always comes down to the logistics of the dollar. Unfortunately, that is just the way things are. One way of looking at it is that we have closed a lot of schools in the past, and I know that we are still not in a financially good position. I would urge you to be conservative and not rush to judgment before really evaluating the study. I think that would be a wise decision. A few years ago I was fortunate enough to coach the last softball team at Haysi High School. I have a lot of friends down there. I had a conversation the other day with one of those guys, and he asked me if I thought many kids would leave if they closed the school. I told him that I knew they would. I am very in touch with the community. I coached youth basketball there for six years, and there are very few people there that I don't know. The Ervinton District is the largest district in the county, as I am sure you guys know. It is not hard when you live on Sandy Ridge to drive five minutes to the cross road to catch a bus to Wise County. There are a lot of kids there. When you closed the high school in 2011, a lot of the kids stayed because the elementary school was still open. If you close the elementary school, I can guarantee you that you will lose a lot of kids. I have three children, and it is a lot easier for me to drive five minutes for them to catch a bus to Wise County. It is simple, and most people from Ervinton are like that. There is another friend of mine, a lady who lives in West Dante. It is still a part of Dickenson County, but some people don't realize that. She said she never went to Clintwood except for two or three times a year to pay her taxes or a couple of other times until Ridgeview was built. It is more convenient for her to go to Castlewood. You are talking about Hazel Mountain kids and West Dante kids. It isn't hard for those kids to relocate like it would be for some kids from Clintwood. I urge you to consider that you will lose a lot of kids. At the end of the day it is a tough decision, and I understand that. I know you will take time to study and consider that, but please listen to the voices of the people from the community. It would be an extremely unpopular decision if you have to make it. I know you don't want to, but if you do, it would be an unpopular decision and you would lose a lot of kids. I believe I read something in the paper that Rocky said. If I quote you wrongly, just let me know. He mentioned a few months ago what the school meant to the community. There were a lot of facts there, and I like that. I just urge you to take the time to study the facts before you close another school. We are in a tough situation, but I know that you don't want to lose students. Thank you for taking the time to hear me. (Applause!)

Superintendent Robinson: Thank you, Mr. Hammons.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Next, we have Allison Mullins:

Ms. Allison Mullins: I'm going to do this as quickly as I can here. I'm speaking this afternoon, by the way good to see all of you. I'm not speaking this afternoon in my capacity as DEA President. I'm speaking as a concerned teacher, parent and citizen. I have a couple of requests of the School Board. One is that you consider not voting on this proposed budget tonight for the reasons that follow: one of the biggies is there's no provisions in the proposed budget for retirees' family health benefits. When we consider equity and fairness we need to treat all employees in the school system with equal dignity and respect. Different job titles and categories should not entitle you to more benefits per say. I would ask the School Board a question. If you vote on this you are adopting a proposed budget that leaves retirees out. I want to remind you that you voted in favor of, in all due respect to Mrs. Robinson, a contract that gives her family insurance for seven years. So, what message are you sending to the other retirees when you vote to leave them out of health benefits? It will not save you money in the long run. I know right now we're \$300,000 in savings but I don't think it will save you money in the long run. Because like Mr. Kennedy said people are going to prolong working; they'll have to. On a teacher's salary, on other employees' salary; you can't go out and get insurance for your family. So, you are going to have people working longer. So, you are going to have more people on that end of the salary scale for sure. That will result in the school system having to pay higher wages and higher benefits in those positions. The action you take not to approve or not to put those retiree benefits in the budget is an incentive not to retire. We used to give people incentives to retire. You put your time in and here's an incentive; this is an incentive not to retire.

The other thing I want to talk about real quick and I want to show you my bag here. I made all these copies at Office Depot and bought these folders. It cost me about \$70 bucks so I'm asking you to keep these and not turn them back in at the end of the meeting. Please, I want you to have the information that's in them. What I want to talk to you about is another reason not to approve this proposed budget tonight. I've been talking to Mrs. Robinson about this and I appreciate the fact that she is in agreement that we need some revision in our salary scale.

In your folder on one side you will see Dickenson County's salary scale for this year and on the other side we've got Buchanan, Lee, Scott and Wise; Russell. We're asking, I'm asking and other people that have talked to me about this are asking that a budget committee be formed by the School Board that would include stakeholders from different parts of the community. Not just educators but impartial stakeholders. At this point, the budget that you have was made was talked about in May by a handful of people but we are asking that more of the community be involved. Here are the reasons: if you take the time to compare and contrast our salary scales with the other counties you are going to find some inequities. For example, we start some people off in Dickenson County at their maximum rate of pay while others of us have to work many, many years to get close to that. We also have similar job duties, titles or responsibilities but significant differences in pay based on the location of your job; where your job is at. Another is we have a very important group in our school sys-

tem that cap out at their maximum salary at year four. Another example is we have another group receiving an 11% step increase between years ten and eleven of their employment. No other group gets that, that I can see. We have one category of employee that the starting salary scale is listed at a certain amount, but we have a person that was hired in at a higher amount than the salary scale indicates. All of these things are inequities.

So, you got it in front of you. You’ve got the other counties; study those. Don’t turn them back in, please. You will see there are gross inequities in our salary scales. My point is let’s revise it, let’s get in line with what the other counties in our area are doing and it could; maybe we wouldn’t have to get rid of these retirement benefits. Then maybe we could move some things around. Maybe we can get more in line. So that’s my request that you don’t make a rash decision. Study it out for yourself. Look at the other counties. Thank you. (Applause)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay. That is all the names I have on my list. Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That brings us to Item IV, our Consent Agenda. I need a motion for approval of the Minutes if everyone has had an opportunity to review them.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Item B. is the Monthly Bills. Are there any additions to that, Mrs. McCowan?

Mrs. Reba McCowan: No.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Are there any questions or discussion about the bills? If not, I will entertain a motion to approve the Bills.

Mr. Rick Mullins: made the motion to approve the bills. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

School Operating Fund – March 22, 2017 – Bills
 Check Nos. 877095 through 877202 ----- \$276,075.78

School Operating Fund – March 31, 2017 – Payroll
 Check Nos. 388097 through 388129 ----- \$1,691,202.85

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Item C. is the School Activity Fund which is an informational item only. If there are not any questions, we will move on.

Item D. will be Field Trips.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Before we go on, did our Robotics Team raise enough money to make the trip to Pennsylvania?

Mr. Rodney Compton: I think they raised enough money, but it hasn't all come in yet.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Items in red are out of state. Are all of these new?

Mrs. Reba McCowan: They are all new.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Are there any questions about the Field Trips? If not, I will need a motion to approve.

Mr. Rocky Barton: made the motion to approve the field trips as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Approved:

❖ Ridgeview High School

- January 28th – Conference Forensics Meet – Union High School – 9th – 12th Grade
- February 24th & 25th – James River High School – Buchanan, VA – 9th – 12th Grade
- March 7th – UVA – Wise, VA – 9th – 12th Grade
- March 8th – The Attic – Clintwood, VA – 9th – PG
- March 11th – Cinema City – Norton, VA – 9th – 12th Grade
- March 16th – 20th – University of Scranton – Scranton, PA – 9th – 12th Grade
- March 17th – Wal-Mart – Norton, VA – 10th – 10th – 12th Grade
- March 20th – Farm – Pound, VA 9th – 12th Grade
- March 26th–28th – College of Osteopathic Medicine – Blacksburg, VA – 11th - 12th Grade
- April 7th – Wytheville Comm. College – Wytheville, VA – 9th – 12th Grade
- April 7th – National BETA Office – Spartanburg, SC – 11th & 12th Grade
- April 13th – LaCasa Mexicana – Clintwood, VA – 10th – 12th Grade
- April 20th & 21st – Rockingham Co. Fairground – Harrisonburg, VA – 9th – 11th Grade
- April 21st – Room Escape – Kingsport, TN – 10th – 12th Grade

❖ Ridgeview Middle School

- March 24th - Pikeville KY Expo Center – Pikeville, KY 6th – 12th Grade
- March 30th & 31st – Bristol Caverns – Bristol, TN – 7th – 8th Grade

❖ Sandlick Elementary School

- April 21st – Civil War Education Day – Tazewell County – 4th Grade

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FOR THE BOARD:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Item V. is Informational Items for the Board, Mr. Setser:

Mr. Mike Setser: Madam Chair, Members of the Board and Mrs. Robinson, the Division finished the month of February with 2060 students. I think we made mention last time that February was not a good month. We had a decrease of 23 students in the month of February. We are down from 2083 at the end of January. I did run the numbers today and to this point in the month of March we are down a net of 3 students. So it is not as bad as February, but we still have a few days left. As always if you will turn to next to the last page there is a list of (coughing, couldn't hear!) I will give you a few minutes to look over those and see if you have any questions.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: What about No. 7 the student who went to Eastside?

Mr. Mike Setser: I think that has been a pattern with this young man. He has been back and forth between Ridgeview and Eastside several times.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: One said a transfer to a private school. Is there a private school?

Mr. Mike Setser: A private school could be a religious school.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I noticed that Clintwood Elementary School had the highest attendance.

Mr. Mike Setser: That is correct, and I will go ahead and recognize them now. I think this will be the 5th time this school year that Clintwood Elementary School has won the award. They are taking it back from Ervinton Elementary School who had it the last two months. I think Ms. Newton and Ms. Muncie are here. Would you please stand. They had a percentage rate of 93.07% for the award for February. (Applause!) Thank you.

Superintendent Robinson: Thank you, Mr. Setser.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Thank you. Mrs. Robinson, do we have any other information for the board?

Superintendent Robinson: No, Ma'am.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That brings us to Old Business, Item E. Change of Protocol and Procedures.

Superintendent Robinson: This Item has probably been on the Agenda for two months now. Mr. Mullins may want to also comment on this. We have discussed the potential need to change our approach to Public Comment. Mr. Mullins, is there anything that you would like to add?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Not particularly. We have discussed this a couple of times and part of this concern related to a 2016 Virginia Attorney General's opinion that the Public Comment

remain open. In fact, we changed our Public Comment a couple of years ago and made it clear that the public would have an opportunity to speak. It is Constitutional and not a Virginia State Law. It is a Mandate approved by the Attorney General. The other issue is how you want to go about conducting your meeting. We have discussed that before. I don't want to belabor it unless there are some questions.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Is there any discussion about this?

Superintendent Robinson: Madam Chair and Board Members, there is a sample Guideline of the Dickenson County School Board. It is included in your packet. I think the issue before the Board is as we discussed before. It is just the flexibility of the Board after Public Comment. That is what is before the Board for your consideration.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: So basically we are taking out the one person speaking for a group?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I have been here for years, and we have never enforced that. We have always said that if you show up, we ought to give you your time to speak. There are people here tonight who feel passionately about Ervinton Elementary School or the retiree's health care, and we have never denied those folks their time to speak.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Historically, when we are down deeper in the Agenda, we allow the public to exchange questions and answers with the Board, and this would eliminate that?

Mr. Scott Mullins: That is correct. This is the situation. You can look at this in different ways. Generally speaking, people have come here and even when we disagree, we know that we disagree for valid reasons. In many ways, it is the purest form of democracy. You may have somebody here who let's say has been a supporter of the school system, and we give them five minutes. We have always said that we want to treat everybody the same. What that means is that everyone here should have their five minutes. As we get into more difficult issues based on 20 years of showing up at School Board meetings, if you just allow this to become a discussion, number one you are not following Roberts' Rules of Order, and number two it is going to be difficult for you to get through the night. There is no perfect answer. It is just how you want to conduct yourselves.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: In the event we had a hot topic where people would want to exchange dialogue with us, we could always hold a Public Hearing.

Mr. Scott Mullins: You can do two things, Mrs. Mullins. You could have a Public Hearing or you could have a separate Public Comment later after you had made your presentation. If we had a presentation on something that was controversial, people would naturally want to hear what the administration had to say. We could certainly have a Public Comment period after that. Most of the time when people come here, it has been my observation that they want to hear and understand what is going on before they comment on it. To that extent putting Public Comment in front puts them at a disadvantage. Most of the time people usually know what is going on and are here to voice their opinion. Quite frankly, they are glad to leave after 20 minutes as opposed to waiting 3 hours. It is something that we have some

flexibility on whether to have a Public Hearing or Public Comment later. It is just a matter of how you want to go about organizing your meeting.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I guess I have one more question. We start off the meeting and everything is calm, then there is some controversy and several people have some questions, can we adopt our Agenda in the middle of the meeting to add a second Public comment?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think you could probably amend your Agenda later to do that. Not recently, but in the last couple of years I have been in meetings where we allowed someone to go over the five-minute limit, or we just allowed people to raise their hand for discussion. Unfortunately, Public Comment lasted an hour and a half, and you were not leaving until midnight. That is the rub.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Are there any more questions?

Mr. Rocky Barton: I don't have a question, just a comment. After nine years of being on the Board I can only name one meeting that got out of hand. I think it is good when people comment so I kind of like it the way it was, but I see what you are saying. We had two or three meetings where we didn't go home until 3 o'clock in the morning. It wasn't because there was a big crowd that wanted to speak, it was other issues. But that is just my comment.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay. I need a motion to approve or not approve.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I make a motion that we approve with the idea that we can always add Public Comment if there appears to be a reason.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Can that be in the motion?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Yes, Ma'am, and I can add the change to adopt that idea. This puts you in the hot seat as Chair because there are going to be some very good people out here that have meaningful comments that they want to share, and it is going to be incumbent upon you to enforce this.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Maybe they will forgive me later.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I second Dr. Lyle's motion. All votes aye.

APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATED FY 2018 BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay. We are ready for New Business. Item F. Approval of the Estimated FY 2018 Budget to the Board of Supervisors. I know we have had a request today to not vote.

Superintendent Robinson: We had a presentation prepared for the board as an Agenda item. We will follow the pleasure of the Board. This is probably the 3rd or 4th meeting on the budget, and we are under a timeline to present a budget to the Board of Supervisors. We had

planned to just go over the budget. The board may want to have discussions on some issues or questions on that. We will proceed as we planned or as the Board wishes.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I thought it was an estimated budget, and there was time later to adjust it if we need to.

Superintendent Robinson: That is correct, Dr. Lyle.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I would suggest that we go ahead and approve it, and we could adjust it later if we need to.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: To add to that we always start at one place and revisit the budget six times before we ever adopt the final budget.

Superintendent Robinson: If Mr. Barton could just quickly go over the budget just to make sure that all of the Board is on the same page. You have the budget before you. The Board of Supervisors and the public also has the budget. We are going to go over the first meeting that we had in early March. Phyllis Mullins was here that evening. We took a lot of time going over the budget. We are not going to do that this evening. We are just going to go over the budget, and the Board may want to discuss further the retirement incentives. I know that is a consideration for this Board. Mr. Barton:

Mr. Larry Barton: Good evening Members of the Board. I appreciate your time this evening. I will refer you to Page 2 which highlights:

- a 2% raise for all full-time and part-time staff
- including reinstate of drama and coral programs
- reinstatement of art and music programs at the elementary schools
- the purchase of one school bus and the potential of purchasing two new school buses
- include the hiring of part-time cooks and aides at schools
- (couldn't hear) at Ridgeview

Those are the highlights of things added to this budget.

Mr. Larry Barton reviewed the DCPS – Proposed Budget for FY 2018. (See attached.)

Attachment #1: DCPS – Proposed Budget for FY 2018 (July 2017 – June 2018)

Superintendent Robinson: The Capital Projects Appropriation is the result of the Board wanting us to look at the Pre-School model, what could we see in the future. So again, there are two budgets that are being presented for Appropriation requests to the county, one is the operations which is local operation budget and the Capital Projects Appropriation, also. This is a proposed budget as Dr. Lyle said. We are going to be working very hard to try, and I hope that all of us will be at the Board of Supervisors meeting next week on the 28th because all of us need to show support for our schools and the education of our students. I am hoping that we will get the \$6.9 million that we have requested. All of us who were here last year

went through the budget decrease of \$800,000. We know what that looks like. Forty-two positions have still been eliminated because of that. I think this is the proposed budget whether we get funded \$6.4 or \$7.1; we are going to have to come back to the Board and revisit the budget again and see where else we can cut. Are there any questions or discussion among the Board Members?

Mr. Rick Mullins: I would like for us to go back to the Board and see if they will give us that \$320,000 for the retiree insurance. I have wrestled with this all week, and that is what I would like to see.

Mr. Rocky Barton: If there is going to be another option anyway that is presented to the Board of Supervisors, if there is going to be a \$7.2 million budget to include retiree families.

Superintendent Robinson: What we have said to the Board of Supervisors now is \$6.9 million with looking at this consideration for the retirees. I think in one of our meetings we said that the Board would like to keep the retirement incentive for our retirees' health insurance for the families then we would add to the \$6.9 million the \$312,000 which would be approximately \$7.2 million.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I am in agreement with Rick. I just don't think that we cut the rug out from under those folks. I think we need to do everything that we possibly can to make sure that they have the insurance because like I said before, they are the ones who got us here.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think we might as well ask for what we need. Realistically we know that it is not going to come, but at that point we can decide what we need to cut. Add the \$312,000 to meet everything that we need, and if we don't get it, we can come back and cut what we can.

Superintendent Robinson: I think that is probably a good strategy. Whenever we have dealt with the Board of Supervisors, they have asked us to come with what is essential for operation. Our retirees are very essential. Just looking at what areas after eliminating 42 positions last year and knowing the positions we have now. We can certainly look at other areas. None of us want to increase health premiums. None of us want to revisit any of those things again. If that is what the Board has to do, then that is what we will do.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I think this is a really good time because I talked to one of the members of the Board of Supervisors yesterday, and the coal severance tax for February was \$800,000 and it was over a million for this month.

Superintendent Robinson: If that is the way the Board wants to look at it, we will probably need a motion from the Board to change our appropriation from \$6.9 million to \$7,212,000 and I will contact the Board of Supervisors to share with them that there is a new appropriation request.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: made the motion to approve the FY 2018 budget to be presented to the Board of Supervisors and add the \$312,000 to the appropriation request; making the total request of \$7,212,000. Mr. Rick Mullins seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I have talked to several people last week, and I am really surprised at the number of folks who have another insurance option. I was surprised at how many were on disability and are eligible for Medicare. We would do better if we paid their supplement and let them get their Medicare than paying almost \$1,600 a month for a family plan. There are several folks whose spouses may still be working, but they are still electing to stay on the school insurance because it is so cheap. If you are on the family plan, you are only paying \$100 per month which is getting by really cheap. I think there are some different ways we can look at it and see. We don't want to go cold turkey and say we can't do any of that. If people have other options, then maybe they could explore them. I know of several folks whose spouses do work and are eligible to get insurance but still stay on the school system's plan because it is cheap.

Superintendent Robinson: Our insurance is great insurance for our employees and their families. As someone said, it is one of the perks of our county. When your budget is cut, cut and cut, where do you begin? I think that is the motion that we take that back to the Board of Supervisors, and hopefully we will get all of that. That would be wonderful, and we could then list all of the programs that we want to put back and also maintain the retirees' incentive.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Madam Chair could I just make one comment as a matter of perspective? You have some good people who show up here that made some very reasonable requests, and I know that you won't be responsible for that. I hope that we can all remember that as you go about this, it is not a hypothetical to you personally. When we had our first meeting we got together and talked about the things that were foreboding, and I want to read more for the public than for you. I suspect that you are very much aware of this. I think a lot of people do not realize that the skin in the game the School Board Members have this time of year. This is from the Virginia School Law Handbook, and it says "what happens when a contract extends from funds that have been appropriated? And the answer is, and the law is very clear, 'no School Board shall extend a contract in any fiscal year in excess of the funds available for school purposes.'" This is where it gets interesting for you. It says the penalty for violating this is also quite clear. "No member of the School Board or the Superintendent or other school officers violating or causing to be violated any provision or exception shall be guilty of malfeasance. The Attorney General has determined that any School Board Member or Superintendent who violates this shall be guilty of a misdemeanor subject to removal of office, discipline and possible monetary damages". You hear people say all of the time that this is a thankless job, but it is really important to you as an individual to get this right. The consequence of being \$500,000 under or \$500,000 over is very significant to you personally. I think a lot of people don't appreciate that when you are trying to address this. It is a tough situation from my perspective all the way around. I just felt the need to say that.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Let me make this comment. If we ask for this additional amount, and the Board of Supervisors say no you only get this amount. Then we come back and try to figure out where to cut the “x” amount.

Mr. Scott Mullins: That is exactly correct, but you know the fear that I have sitting in the back corner of the room is that you have a budget based on what you can reasonably perceive. But if you have one roof catastrophe, you have no safety net. I think the Board of Supervisors made it very clear on that safety net slush fund. It has to be very precise, and I know that you don’t want to cut anything that has to be cut. Stepping over the line has consequences not only to the school division but to you personally.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I am good friends with a Buchanan County Supervisor, and three years ago when their budget went crazy. They had a budget deficit that started off at \$9 million and then \$11 million, and some people said that it was upwards of \$16 million. The county did have a slush fund which was a good thing because the Board of Supervisors wanted the School Board guys to go to jail for that money. Budgets are very important and significant. Buchanan County had that money and was able to bail the school system out.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: That was my reason for that observation. I know in my heart that we are not going to get what we ask for. We will have to come back and make the decision that we haven’t made yet.

Superintendent Robinson: Thanks for saying that Dr. Lyle. We have always had a lot of people at our meetings, and that is wonderful. It would also be just as wonderful to see this amount of people there next Tuesday and to support what we are trying to do. I know that people get upset with the Board and they certainly get upset with me, but if the funding is not there then it’s not there. We work very well with the Board of Supervisors and have a good relationship with them. We have tried to be very sensitive to what they have asked for this year and given them a lot of information. We need to support our schools, and I know there were many times last year that the School Board, myself and a few DEA members were the only ones there. I know that everyone is busy and has a lot to do, and I understand that. This year, more than ever, we have to stand united and stand as one and say this is what we need for our school system.

So Madam Chair, we will increase the appropriation request and then make the changes if we need to, Mr. Barton. Is that the pleasure of the Board?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Yes, when they come back with a number, we can explore our options for that amount.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay, next is Item G. Discussion and Approval of the 2017-2018 School Calendar and Approval of 2016-2017 School Calendar.

Superintendent Robinson: We will need to do that one first since we missed a day of school last week. So the last day of school will be on Tuesday, May 23. Graduation is still scheduled for Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m., and of course, all of our Board Members are invited. I don't know if we have to have a motion necessarily for this, but if the Board would like to just amend that.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Let's do that first. Do I have a motion to amend the 2016-2017 School Calendar?

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: *made the motion to amend the 2016-2017 Calendar as presented.*
Mr. Rocky Barton *seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Superintendent Robinson: We hope we don't have to amend the calendar again.

Superintendent Robinson: Attached you will find two options for the 2017-2018 School Calendar. I will not do as good a job at this as Mr. Mullins, but he has been out sick this week, which is very unusual for him, and has asked me to do this. You will see the summary of the two options. The only difference is the planning for Easter and Spring Break. Changes from the 2016-2017 Calendar for both options:

- Four Teacher Workdays to begin the School Year instead of five
- With all schools operating on a 9-week Grading Period—an Early Dismissal is scheduled at the end of each grading period

Both Options:

- School will begin on August 1st with teacher workdays
- School actually begins on August 7th on a full-day schedule
- Monday, October 9th will be the end of the 1st 9-weeks
- Tuesday, November 7th is Election Day and schools will be closed
- Monday, November 20th-Friday, November 24th—thanksgiving and Fall Break
- Monday, December 18th will be Exam Day
- Tuesday, December 19th will be the end of 1st Semester, Day 90, Early Dismissal
Christmas Break will be Wednesday, December 20th-Monday, January 2nd
- Tuesday, January 3rd will be a Teacher Workday--Students will return for the 2nd Semester on Wednesday, January 4th
- On this Calendar May 14th and 15th will be the last days of school

Both options have the same statement: Spring Break and Easter Break days may be used as School Make Up Days if 10 or more days have been missed due to inclement weather.

Option 1:

- Wednesday, March 7th—End of 3rd 9-weeks—Early Dismissal for students
- Thursday, March 29th—Tuesday, April 3rd—Easter and Spring Break (four days)

Option 2:

- Friday, March 2nd and Monday, March 5th—Spring Break (two days)
- Friday, March 9th—End of 3rd 9-weeks—early Dismissal for Students
- Friday, March 30th and Monday, April 2nd—Easter Break (two days)

This was a topic of discussion during two of our principals' meetings, and our staff was asked to vote on the Calendar Survey. We had 166 participants, and Option 1 which was to have Easter and Spring Break together for four days, received 31 votes for 18.8%. Option 2 which was to have Easter and Spring Break split for 2 days each received 135 votes for 81.8%.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So you are recommending Option 2.

Superintendent Robinson: Madam Chair based on the input from our teachers and staff we are recommending Option 2 for the Calendar Option for 2017-2018.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So I need a motion.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: made the motion to approve Option 2 for the 2017-2018 School Calendar. Mr. Rick Mullins seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Superintendent Robinson: We certainly thank our staff for participating. As I said, we had 166 people participate in our survey.

UPDATE ON DEMOLITION PROJECTS:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Our next item is Item H. Update on Demolition Projects.

Superintendent Robinson: As you can see, the Demolition Project for Ervinton High School has been held up due to the weather. Currently the ending date will be March 31st. I did receive an update from Mr. Elswick that the steps at Haysi had been removed, Mr. Barton. They are the ones the Corps had us remove. We are just waiting on finishing up Ervinton High School to see when it will be dry enough. They have just had nothing but rain for the last three or four weeks. We are still on track with that. It has just taken us a little longer than expected at no extra cost because of the weather conditions. Are there any questions or comments about this? You have multiple copies in your packet. As I always say, hopefully next month will be the last Demolition Project update on our Agenda.

APPROVAL OF 2017 VSBA POLICIES:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: We will move on to Item I. Approval of 2017 VSBA Policies.

Superintendent Robinson: I would like to ask Mr. Setser to come to the front. These were mailed to you last week. Mr. Setser:

Mr. Mike Setser: I do have one policy that I need to briefly discuss with the Board. There is a Federal Act that deals with what schools do with student records. That Act is called FERPA-- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. It basically describes what schools can release and what they can't release and how we treat records if someone asks for records. What I want to talk about briefly is Directory Information. This is information that does not harm the child or invade their privacy if released and approved by the School Board. If you will look at the second paragraph on the sheet that I gave you, our current Directory Information is name, gender, address, participation in activities and sports, weight, height, attendance and awards received by students. What the division would like to recommend is that we add a few to that. If you look at the top, those are items that the schools can release. We are asking the Board to consider adding these to our Directory Information:

1. Photographs—Each year if we place a picture on the Website, we have to get a release from the parent. If we determine that it is Directory Information, we won't have to do that. We have to provide this information before school starts, and if they do not want us to release this Directory Information, all they have to do is sign the paper and bring it to school
2. Grade Level—We already release that to some extent especially with athletic teams.
3. Honors—We already have Awards in there, and we would like to add Honors as well.

With that said, Madam Chairman, we would like to recommend adopting the VSBA Policies with the additions with the exception of LC-E.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Would someone like to put that in the form of a motion? Okay, I will. I would like to make a motion that we adopt the Policies as presented and make the changes to Policy JO to include photographs, grade level and honors. I would like to make a motion that we table Policy LC-E. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Speaking of records, I would like to ask Coach Rick Mullins if it is easy to get the records for these kids. How often are you contacted about records for students?

Coach Rick Mullins: I get three or four times a day. It is daily.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Do we have Haysi's at one spot, Ervinton's at one spot and Clintwood's at one spot?

Coach Rick Mullins: Ervinton's records are located at Ervinton Elementary. Clintwood's up to 2000 are at Clinchco at the Career Center. Haysi's are also at the Career Center. At the high school, we have approximately 2002 and above located there. We are running out of space in the Guidance Office. Probably at the end of this year we will have to move a couple of file cabinets down to the Career Center if we decide that we going to continue keeping

those. When someone calls to get records, we have to physically go to Clinchco from Ridgeview to get them. Sometimes we wait until we get several before we go down there. People need them when they need them. Sometimes it is a hassle to go get those.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Do we have any kind of plan, Mrs. Robinson, to have those located in one spot?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I know I am probably ridiculous for asking, but could we not store those on a computer?

Mr. Mike Setser: We have checked into that kind of storage, but the cost is just too high. There are actually companies that do it.

Superintendent Robinson: We have sat down several times to discuss putting them all on that, but the cost is just too great.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Do you have a ballpark figure on that?

Mr. Mike Setser: For the amount of records that we have for several years, I don't remember the exact cost, but they charge you by the box full. It is not a cheap process. They actually take your records and scan them in. They don't take them all at once, because you may need them. That is the reason that it takes so long to do. If it so happens that you do need a record that they have, they would have to bring it back to you. It is a very time consuming and expensive venture.

Superintendent Robinson: Mr. Nickles, to answer your question, we have looked at that several times to see what we can do. We started looking at it before we went to Ridgeview.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I was just concerned about the travel time. I know before we still had them at the schools.

Mr. Mike Setser: I will send you the cost in an email.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Maybe it is something that we could explore each year, starting with that year.

Mr. Mike Setser: That is how they want to do it. Part of that cost, too, is that they store your physical records forever. You are getting an electronic copy, but they keep the originals in storage.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I want to ask Coach Mullins just how hard it is to keep up with that stuff when they are located away from where you are.

Coach Rick Mullins: Well, it is just the fact that you have to travel down there and physically pick up a file and bring it back to Ridgeview. You then have to make copies of whatever they need, and at some point, you have to take them back. So we end up taking a load

down and bringing a load back. It is time consuming along with gas money. If we are testing or something, we can't just get up and leave for a record. It has to be planned out.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: There are only two people doing that?

Coach Rick Mullins: Yes, Rita and myself.

Superintendent Robinson: I know that Mr. Mullins and Mr. Setser have also gone down there. I think Ms. Church takes care of the records at Ervinton.

Mr. Rodney Compton: You have to be very careful with those things. If you get them out of alphabetical order, they will be almost impossible to find. People really get upset if you can't find their records.

Coach Rick Mullins: We have the records stored in the old Cosmetology room. There are probably 60 file cabinets with Haysi and Clintwood combined.

Mr. Mike Setser: We have a time downstairs as well.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I didn't mean to have this really big discussion. I was just wandering.

Superintendent Robinson: I am glad that you did. It is something that is on our wish list of things that we would like to do but haven't been able to do yet. Mr. Barton has also been a part of those discussions.

CHANGE IN AGENDA PROCEDURES:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That brings us to Item. J. Change in Agenda Procedures. I actually had Mrs. Robinson add this to the Agenda. I wanted to discuss a way to streamline our meetings. One of the recommendations was:

- Consent Agenda--that we approve all of the Consent Agenda items at one time including Bills, Minutes and Field Trips instead of doing those individually.
- Information for Board--would be in our packets. If we want to discuss it we can, but we don't have to necessarily discuss it.
- Good News from Our Schools--we would continue to recognize student achievements.

Are there any other recommendations?

Superintendent Robinson: Just to clarify, Mrs. Mullins, Good News from Our Schools would just be an Agenda item.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Do we have a motion to approve the changes? Do we need a motion?

Superintendent Robinson: I think it is better to have a motion.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: made the motion to approve the change in the agenda procedures for meetings as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

BOARD COMMENT:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That brings us to Board Comment. Dr. Lyle will you start Board Comment.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I would like to congratulate the Beta Club on their achievements and Clintwood Elementary School for their blood drive. Did I hear that Ridgeview Middle School is starting one? I would like to congratulate all of those people for their good work.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I would also like to congratulate the Beta Club. Having a state president is a big accomplishment. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask everyone in the audience today to go to the Board of Supervisors meeting next week. It would be a big help for you to be there and speak.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I would just like to echo what everybody has said. It is just unreal what the Beta Club does. It is just amazing. There are great things happening in all of our schools. One thing I wanted to mention is that our soccer team actually beat Union High School. It is the second time we have beaten them. I think that is a milestone for us and our programs. I just think everything is good at Ridgeview.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I am glad that Ms. Mullins brought us this. Any time you are saying things about kids it is great. It is a tough time in our school division and a tough time for our teachers. There are a lot of questions and a lot of hard answers and decisions to be made. Once again, I want to go on record about the insurance for the retirees. I just don't think that we can turn out back on people who got us here in the first place.

Mrs. Susan Mullins: I think that you guys have said it well enough.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I will go ahead and take us into Closed Session. PURSUANT TO Section 2.2-3711A of the Code of Virginia I move that the Board convene a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing: (1) Student requests for early graduation. (2) Employment issues relating to benefits, FMLA requests and consideration of hiring substitutes PURSUANT TO Virginia Code section 2.2-3711A 1, 2 and 7. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: We are now in Closed Session.

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I now entertain a motion to go out of Closed Session. Dr. Lurton Lyle made the motion and Mr. Rick Mullins seconded. All votes aye. Chairman Susan Mullins stated; pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify 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. Dr. Lurton Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins, Mr. Rocky Barton, Mr. Shanghai Nickles and Chairman Susan Mullins; all certified true.

BOARD ACTIONS:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve early graduation as requested for Student #4017 and Student #0532. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the FMLA requests as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Approved:

- Millette Hall, Teacher – Ridgeview Middle
- Stephanie Ann Mock, Cook – Ridgeview Cafeteria
- Miranda Newberry, Teacher – Ridgeview High

Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the substitute as requested contingent upon completion of background checks and all necessary paperwork. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Approved:

- Mickey Breeding
- Melissa Childress
- Hope Geiger
- David Rose

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Barton has a response to your earlier question. Mr. Barton.

Mr. Larry Barton: In response to the question from Mrs. Mullins in the minutes from July 27, 2016, Mrs. Mullins asked me if the balance for post year (\$500,165.56) was still going to be there.

My response was “No. The \$500,000 is the balance of our appropriations” then went on to refer to the two sheets of the Revenue Summary.

I have attached copies of the Post Year FY-16 Expenditure Summary Report showing the \$500,165.56 that was being questioned. I think that just by the title of the column, it may have seemed that this was an “Available Balance” that was available to carry over to the next

year. This was actually the balance of our appropriations that was not spent. We had budgeted \$25,568,928 in expenditures, but only spent \$25,068,762.44. We had tried to reduce expenditures and cut back everything we could since I came at the end of February. We had done this mainly due to the fact of the anticipated shortfall in revenues. I have also attached a copy of the Revenue Summary that was mentioned in the minutes as well. This report shows \$487,982.09 in Revenues that were not received for that Fiscal year. Again, we had budgeted revenues of \$25,568,928, but only actually received \$25,080,945.91.

Lastly, I have attached a copy of the closeout letter that shows what our total revenues and expenditures were for the year (amounts carry over from the above mentioned reports to this letter) as well as balance of \$12,183.47 that was carried forward.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional clarification.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Rocky Barton: I make the motion we adjourn. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the meeting. All votes aye.

Adjourned: 9:40 p.m.

Susan Mullins

CHAIRMAN

Approved: April 27, 2017

Reba McCowan

CLERK