

**DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**October 24, 2016**  
**5 p.m. – School Board Office**

**PRESENT:** Rocky Barton, Chairman; Susan Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Shanghai Nickles; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Rick Mullins; Reba McCowan, Clerk; and Haydee Robinson, Superintendent.

**ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN, ROCKY BARTON:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Good evening everybody. I would like to welcome all of you to our October School Board Meeting. We are running a little late so we will go ahead and get our meeting started. All of our Board Members are present. So we will go ahead with our Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence. Thank you.

Has everyone who wants to speak signed up for Public Comment?

We are ready to approve the Agenda. Are there any additions to the Agenda?

**Superintendent Robinson**—No, Mr. Barton, there are no changes to the Agenda.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We will need a motion to adopt the Agenda.

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make a motion that we adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We will go ahead with our Public Comment. Mr. Nickles, would you read the Guidelines. (So Read)

Thank you. The first two names on the list for Public Comment are Ms. Kathy Musick, VPE, and Allison Mullins, and I don't see either one of them. I think Allison had to be at a legislation meeting tonight, and Kathy must not be going to be here.

**Superintendent Robinson**—Ms. Mullins sent a comment that I will give to the Board at our break. She said that someone was supposed to have read it.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Okay. We will get Shanghai to read our Public Comment Guidelines. (So read)

Our first speaker will be Ms. Betty Hill.

**Mr. Ron Peters**—Is Allison Mullins going to give her comment? It is listed here.

**Superintendent Robinson**—Sir, she sent her comment to me and was going to have someone from the DEA read it for her. If that person does not come, I will go get the comment and read it for her.

**Ms. Betty Deel**—My name is Betty Deel, and I live in the Haysi area. I have been in the educational system for many, many years. I have been very concerned lately about the possibility that there may be a change in the location designated for the new elementary school. The specific location would be at Ridgeview. In my opinion that would not be a wise move because I am thinking about all of those kids who would have to travel such a long distance. Some would travel all the way from Indian Creek and Lick Creek. As it is right now, I have a granddaughter who stays with me, and she has appointments at Grundy for her pediatrician. It would take me 30 minutes to go up there and get her and take her back to Haysi. By the time I take her to her pediatrician it would be an hour and a half. I can only imagine what it would be like if I lived on Indian Creek or some of these other faraway places. I don't like for her to miss school so on those days when I have to come up and get her and take her back to Haysi it would be an hour. If I have to go on to Bluefield, it would be two more hours. That would be a total of three hours on the road to go to Bluefield. So I am thinking it would be a grave mistake for you to consider it. I think that all of the parents and all of the little kids from Kindergarten and Preschool would have to be on the bus so long. It is so tiring and very late in the afternoon before they get home. I think it would be devastating for them. Little kids get tired and restless. I think it would be a wise move to keep the school where it was originally planned in Haysi. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Our next speaker is Mrs. Katy Jo Powers.

**Mrs. Katy Jo Powers**—Good evening Members of the Board. I am back again. (Ha, Ha!) I think it would be really cruel to make the small children ride the bus an hour and a half to get to school, especially the six and seven year olds. They would have to get up about 5:30-6:00 a.m. and have to ride for at least an hour and a half. Some of them live so far away that they will have to ride the bus an hour and a half to get to school. For little people that is very bad. I told you before about my daughter who was a teacher in Vansant and was moved to River-view not Ridgeview. She said that it was the worst thing that had ever happened to small children. They had to ride so far that they fell asleep on their desks at school. When they went home they missed getting off the bus at their designated area because they would fall asleep on the bus. She said it didn't happen one time but multiple times that the children would go all the way to the end of the bus route, and someone would have to come and pick them up. They were so tired and worn out that they would miss their bus stop. I guess the driver couldn't see them in the back of the bus because they were sleeping. So I think it would be horrible for those children to have to ride that far and try to get through their day and get home. They would have to get up at least 6:00 a.m. and get home at 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. That would be so hard for them.

Secondly, if we do not get the school as planned in Haysi, it would be a devastating thing for the community because the school is the heart of the community. Without a school we would have no community spirit or school spirit. It is too far away for them to go to Ridgeview to assist with things at school, go to school programs and all of the other things

that they would have at school. It would just be devastating to the community. We would have no school in our end of the county if we did not have the Haysi School. In other words our end of the county would practically be dead because that would be the main thing that we have. We do not have the things that other places have, and the school is a good community gathering place. The one at Sandlick has church meetings because there is no church in the area to hold all of the people. They have wedding receptions and borrow the cafeteria in the school. We have many activities at the school, and that would just be the ruination of our community because that is all we have left. We have lost the high school and the coal miners because they don't have jobs. There is no one who is going to move into the community with small children because it is too far for them to come. I have already heard that some people are going to be moving to other places because it is too far for their young children to have to travel. Also, no one is going to move in for the same reason. Therefore, we are going to lose in so many ways. In fact when we had the little two room school in Haysi we would have been better off than we would be if you take our school away. Thank you very much. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Next is Mayor Larry Yates.

**Mr. Larry Yates**—Superintendent, Chairman and Members of the Board I would just like to reiterate that I appreciate the community coming out. I agree with everything that has been said about the travel times. One of our colleagues from the Sandlick District, Ms. Sykes, has put together a list of bus routes and ridges in the Haysi Community. If it is okay I will share that with you? We think there are about 30 names of streets right now. Of course, we have missed several. These are just a few that she wrote down from memory this afternoon. Like I said I am sure that it is probably double this number. The big problem with travel time has been expressed here already. I agree that the travel time is just too long for these young children. Some come from the head of Lick Creek or up on Prater to Ridgeview. I think we should stick with the original plan.

I have read the plan which calls for three elementary schools in our county. It is called “community clusters” in the plan. That plan wasn't just about the numbers. It is mostly about the budget. I know that you all have a lot of responsibility when you look at the budget and try to figure out how you are going to pay everybody and fund your buses. But that plan was about the social fabric of Dickenson County not about the budget. If you remove the schools from these other communities, you are going to rip apart the county. No one will be able to say that they grew up in Haysi because they don't go to school in Haysi. I am worried about Clintwood as much as I am about Haysi. I am worried about the Ervinton community. People won't be able to say that they grew up in Clintwood. Let's not let the argument of the location of the school rip apart the county. Since the opening of Ridgeview High School I have seen a drop off in the businesses in Haysi. I have talked to Mayor Baker of Clintwood, and he feels the same way I do. Losing the schools is really going to hurt these small towns. In a recent joint meeting of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and the Dickenson County IDA our county administrator said that since Ridgeview opened he has seen a 15% drop in sales tax in Dickenson County. If we build an elementary school at Ridgeview High School that number is only going to go higher. We are going to wind up losing students which will hurt state funding. All of you know this. Also, if you consolidate

all of the schools at the Ridgeview campus, I think you will see a loss of jobs in the county. There will be a replication of services like is going on at Sandlick Elementary School. If you consolidate the schools you will naturally consolidate some of the duties such as ground-keepers and janitors which will cause you to lose a few jobs and the tax base in the county. I think we need to stick with the core plan. Thank you all. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Next is Kathy Harrison.

**Ms. Kathy Harrison**—I appreciate the fact that you have listed on New Business summarizing the Board's prior actions. Now that won't take long. You had a firm come in and look at four sites, and they gave you the site that they recommended. You purchased a piece of land and had an option on a piece of land. You lost the option. Boom! That is it unless there is something that I don't know about. I have missed a few meetings, but I just wonder in your summarization you are going to include the joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the IDA had where you sort of changed the language from the elementary school in the Haysi/Sandlick area to an elementary school in Dickenson County. I would like for you to summarize everything that you have decided on or talked about that pertains to the elementary school that was the Corps' original intention to keep an elementary school in each community—to keep a community. In my position at a library—libraries are also a part of the community. I draw on the elementary school to bring them in so that we can stay a part of the community. I was all for the consolidation of the high schools, but I did notice a big drop in teenagers. We rarely see teenagers now in the library. We rarely see teachers in the Haysi library. They are a little bit closer to Food City and while they are there they might go to the library at Clintwood, and I don't blame them. We need to keep that community at Haysi going. We have our Little League program which is great, and we would hate to lose any of our Little League programs being held there in Haysi. That is one thing that keeps us together. It is the same thing with the Little League in Clintwood. It is one thing that keeps that community together with each community having their own Little League. I just read the approved minutes where you had the Ervinton Girls' Basketball team which is doing so great. How terrible would that be for Ervinton to lose that because it gives them a sense of community and pride? Please consider everything when you talk about these things. I know that it isn't going to be just your decision. This has to be a three Board decision, and I am thinking that the Corps is going to have to be in on it too. Consider everything and don't just talk among yourselves but talk to the other government Agencies in the county and get their ideas and what they think what the impact on the county would be. Talk to the business people talk to the Mayor of Haysi, Clintwood and Clinchco. Talk to all of those people. You know how the parents in Haysi feel so talk to others. Thank you very much. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Next is Mr. Ron Peters.

**Mr. Ron Peters**—I kind of said what I needed to say last meeting, but I will reiterate and add some other things with it. First of all, I am Ron Peters, and I am from the Haysi community as their Supervisor. My big thing is that it is evident, I am sure, to you now that funding is depending on the number of students. During the budget crisis that we all faced one thing that was tossed around a lot was the option to close Ervinton Elementary School, but it didn't happen. I think we know the reality is if we start to do the consolidation of these elemen-

tarys, you are going to see the decline of students again. Each one of those children is \$7,000 from the State if my figures are right. At the Summit Meeting we have lost 86 students since last year which is \$602,000. The others have made a good point that we need more than one community. I think this would devastate our community if you take this school away. We need to be cognizant of those little children. I have seen little children ride the bus an hour and a half, Kindergarten through fifth grade. There wasn't much choice at that time. We don't need to be doing that in our community. I am in favor of keeping three elementary schools. Thank you. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Mr. Carroll Edwards.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I don't hardly know where to start. What I would like to do is be able to convince you, the Board, to not make a drastic mistake for the people of Dickenson County and for the kids of Dickenson County. I would like to convince you not to make that mistake that has been made in the past. I would like to go back to my letter that I gave to each of you. I would like to go back to the first consolidation. I was on the Board, and we voted to consolidate the high schools which would be at Clinchco. Dr. Lyle was on that Board. We had the land ready, donated at no cost but it got turned down. If that would have happened, we would have consolidated then and we wouldn't be having this argument here today. We would have a system that worked. I will go back to the hospital. Everybody in Dickenson County worked hard to get that Certificate of Need for a hospital. It was supposed to be located somewhere in the Fremont area. That was what was presented to the people. That area would have been a pretty central location. They got the Certificate of Need. They moved the hospital all the way across two mountains on the other side of Clintwood. Consequently, you all know the result. It has not been a success, and that is the reason why. It gave up participation from the Haysi area and back in the mountains toward Ervinton. People just did not participate with the hospital. Consequently, it didn't work, and it still doesn't work. I don't think it will ever work. If they had put the hospital in the original site, it would have pulled people even from the Council area. The same thing is going to happen to the school system. If you try to transport those small kids all the way from the head of Indian Creek and off the ridges back there, they will drop off. \$7,000 per child is what you are going to lose. Consequently, you will have a building that won't be filled. All of Dickenson County will suffer for that. They have already told you all of the reasons. I am just trying to convince you to not make another mistake for the people of Dickenson County. I want to convince you that you will lose kids all over, and it is exactly the opposite of what you want. You want more kids to come in to build up the funding. I think if you go along with the original plan, we can hopefully build Dickenson County back. We will be able to get people back in Dickenson County. Hopefully, we can get more jobs and more people back in the county. We want to build up the school system not tear it down. I just beg you to do what is right for the people and kids of Dickenson County. Do what is right and do what you set out to do from the beginning when you made the plan. Do what is right. Don't betray the people. Thank you. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Next is Matt Owens.

**Mr. Matt Owens**— My name is Matthew Owens and President of Haysi Partners and a resident of Dickenson County. I reside in the Haysi area. I would just like to encourage the Board to consider keeping the plan for the elementary school in the Haysi area. My ties are in the Haysi area. I spent some time at the Ridgeview Campus with some children. A couple members of the Haysi Partners went up to do some art projects to try to reach out to the children. It was really a hard situation for us because we were trying to bring the children back to their local communities. One child spoke to me and said he was from Haysi. I told him that we were going to hang his art in our town so you can come visit your art. He said that he never went to Haysi anymore. I wake up in the morning; I go to school; I do my thing; my mom and dad come and get me; I do other things and I go home and go to bed. I never go to Haysi anymore. He said he didn't go to Haysi so he'll never see his art. I told him I would take a picture of it and send it to him. That kind of broke my heart so I would encourage you to keep the plan to keep the elementary school in Haysi. I am just concerned about the numbers that were given to me that there would be 1,100 students in one location. I just think that is too many young children to be together in one place and not get the personal attention that they deserve. Some children have issues that they need to have addressed. The middle and high school students are developed and are able to handle waking up in the morning, preparing the food, feeding themselves and getting off to school. I think the smaller school for the elementary children would be beneficial for them to develop their skills. Teachers would be able to focus on the number of children that they could handle and not have massive amounts. Any time that you have a whole bunch of people in one location, it is hard logistically, and you put the youth and the inexperience of the children in that situation too. It is difficult to focus in on what those children need. So I really encourage you guys to consider keeping separate elementary schools so that the teachers can spend time with the children. You need to make sure that the children are fed, clothed and not on a long bus ride and falling asleep even before the day begins. These are the years where they develop the most. By the time they are in middle school and high school they have already set their path. I just hope that we can build the school in Haysi and keep the schools in Clintwood and Ervinton. Help the children become citizens; encourage them so that they are not just a number; not just a mark on a piece of paper and to give them something that they can invest in. Encourage them to love their communities and want to stay here after they grow up. Hopefully we can do that and by the time they get to the middle school they will already have an identity. They will already have a purpose. Those purposes of serving the community will be very beneficial to all ages. So I hope you will consider keeping the campus there at Haysi and build an elementary school there. Thank you. (Applause!)

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—That is all for Public Comment.

**GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—At this time we will have Good News from Our Schools. Mrs. Robinson:

**Superintendent Robinson**—Nothing was submitted so you can go on with Approval of Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We will get on with our Consent Agenda. We have two sets of minutes, the regular monthly meeting and a meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the IDA that we need to approve.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—If you have had a chance to look over the minutes, I will entertain a motion.

*Mr. Shanghai Nickles—I make that motion. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Next we have Approval of Monthly Bills. Are there any questions about the bills?

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make a motion that we approve the Monthly Bills as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

School Operating Fund – October 26, 2016 – Bills  
 Check Nos. 876596 through 876669 ----- \$365,221.52

School Operating Fund – October 31, 2016 – Payroll  
 Check Nos. 387620 through 387760 ----- \$1,692,984.11

**SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—The School Activity Fund is an informational item in your packet. Has everybody had a chance to look over this fund? Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—There is no change. Isn't that right Mr. Barton?

**Mr. Larry Barton**—No change. We are approving it as far as our balance is concerned. More money is coming in on the Scoreboard Fund.

**APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We are now ready for the Approval of Field Trips.

**Mrs. Reba McCowan**—We have one out-of-state and the teacher's request is attached; Mrs. Samantha Mullins.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Is it with one of the colleges?

**Superintendent Robinson**—No, I don't think so. I can check on it for you and let you know.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make a motion that we approve the Field Trips as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.**

Approved:

- ❖ Ridgeview High School
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> – WCYB – Bristol, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 11<sup>th</sup> – Corn Maze – Norton, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> – PG Grade
  - October 11<sup>th</sup> – Cinema City – Norton, VA – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 13<sup>th</sup> – Sam’s Club – Bristol, VA – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 19<sup>th</sup> – The Attic – Clintwood, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> – PG Grade
  - October 24<sup>th</sup> – UVA at Wise, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 28<sup>th</sup> – Gray Fossil Museum – Gray, TN – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 31<sup>st</sup> – Room Escape – Kingsport, TN – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 31<sup>st</sup> – Bristol Caverns – Bristol, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - November 11<sup>th</sup> – Ervinton Elementary – Nora, VA – 9<sup>th</sup> PG Grade
  - November 11<sup>th</sup> – UVA At Wise, VA – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
  
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
  - October 4<sup>th</sup> – Breaks Interstate Park – Breaks, VA – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 11<sup>th</sup> – G & J Farms – Wise, VA – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 13<sup>th</sup> – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  
- ❖ Clintwood Elementary School
  - October 6<sup>th</sup> – John Flannagan Dam – Haysi, VA – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - October 7<sup>th</sup> – Norton Cinema – Norton, VA – Pre K
  
- ❖ Ervinton Elementary School
  - November 10<sup>th</sup> – Ridgeview High School – Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
  
- ❖ Sandlick Elementary School
  - December 7<sup>th</sup> – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FOR THE BOARD:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—The next Item is Information for the Board, Mrs. Robinson:

**Superintendent Robinson**—I apologize for my limp. The email from Allison Mullins was going to be read by someone, but if the Board would like, I will read her statement:

DEA update for the School Board Meeting. This evening DEA officers—Allison Mullins, Phyllis Mullins and Vickie Barton are attending a pre-legislative workshop in Abingdon and regret that they cannot be present, but this workshop has been scheduled for months and is vital for Dickenson County to have representation.

The DEA Christmas Banquet will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Ridgeview Middle School Cafeteria and Auditorium. Special guest speaker will be VEA President, Jan Liv-

ington. Mrs. Robinson and all of the School Board members are invited to attend and will be receiving an R.S.V.P. invitation.

The District Legislative dinner will be held in Abingdon on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Those who will be attending from the DEA are: Allison Mullins, Phyllis Mullins, Vickie Barton and Pam Fields.

The DEA will take the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with Mrs. Robinson and the Central Office Staff. We look forward to working together to address the concerns of our school division and join with our division in being proactive with assisting to obtain much needed funding for education.

**Superintendent Robinson**—The student enrollment and attendance percentages for September are included in your packet, and I will ask Mr. Setser to come to the front and go over those, please.

**Mr. Mike Setser**—Thank you, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Chair and Members of the Board. As you can see in your packet, we ended the month of September with 2,105 students. This is a positive increase of three over the month of August. This is the first school packet that the board has had, and on Page 2 you can see all of the comparisons of the different schools of the drops and losses, but at the end of September we increased by three students. I want to commend Ervinton Elementary School with an attendance rate of 94.36% in September. I would also like to recognize the school with the highest attendance percentage for the month of September. For the second month in a row, Ms. Muncy and Mrs. Vanover will you please stand, Clintwood Elementary School had the highest student attendance percentage of 94.90%. Mr. Chair that is all I have unless you have any questions.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—We gained 11 at the high school?

**Mr. Mike Setser**—Yes, and lost 12 which would be a negative 1.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—Four went to home school and four in-state?

**Mr. Mike Setser**—I'm not sure whether they moved out or just transferred schools.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—One girl, a junior on the volleyball team, transferred to Eastside.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**: Yes, she is a Stevens from the Ervinton District.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—She stayed in Dickenson County, but her mom has some health issues, and it was just too far to Ridgeview.

**Mr. Mike Setser**—I will track that for you and bring it to you at the end of the month so you can see exactly where everyone is going.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—That is okay. I only have half a brain working anyway.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Thank you, Mike.

**Superintendent Robinson**—I have one other comment for Information for the Board. I know that two weeks ago we had a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the IDA. I would just like to talk with our Board regarding the site for Ridgeview. As you recall, there were four sites that were identified by the Corps of Engineers as wetland areas. As a result of that the school division has had to mitigate four sites. Three of the sites completed. The mitigation requirement is 800 feet from stream, 100 feet on each side of the stream, the stream may be located anywhere, and I am not going to properly pronounce this correctly, Levisa watershed. This is all of Dickenson, Buchanan, northwestern Wise and a small part of Tazewell County. The Dickenson County School System is currently evaluating property for this fourth mitigation site for Ridgeview to be in compliance with the Corps of Engineers, and I ask our Board Members and those of us present if anyone knows of a possible land, possibility, or potentials, please contact myself or Leman Kendrick regarding that. The surface property should be owned by the owner with a clean surface title, and the mineral rights should be owned by the owner or by another owner besides the former Pittston. So again we are just asking our audience and Board if you know of another fourth mitigation site so that the school division can be in compliance with its responsibilities we would certainly appreciate any help on any potential site. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Board Members.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE FORMER DICKENSON COUNTY CAREER CENTER:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—This has been on our Agenda for probably the last two or three months. It is the Discussion of the Community Center at the Former Dickenson County Career Center. The item was placed on the table until the interested parties had an opportunity to come to an agreement. I think, Mr. Mullins, our School Board Attorney has tried to communicate with them.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—We communicated on September 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be a pretty much on-going process with the ball being in their court right now. I have something that I can bring to you in terms of a lease to bring before you. I have extended to them basically the terms that we talked about, and it is up to them to get back to us with their agreements on that. The property there is unique, and we need to make sure to review all of the issues because it is an integral part of that entire campus, and we need some flexibility. I was never really able to learn exactly how much money they were willing to put into it. So it is sort of a process. It is still a work in progress, and perhaps by next month we can have it sorted out.

**Superintendent Robinson**—Just to clarify: the discussion of the Clinchco Community Center is right now between the School Board and the Town of Clinchco. So that is where we are, and I have certainly not heard anything else about that.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Is there a time that we are allowed, or is it time sensitive?

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—I think that it would be time sensitive for them more than us. I have sent them some very detailed emails, and I am sure they will get back to me sooner or later. Shanghai, all I can say is that when I hear something from them, you will certainly hear something from me.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—I just hate for the building to sit and not be used by the Town of Clinchco and/or the Haysi/Clinchco Lions Club. It is needless to be sitting there when both of them could be using it.

**Superintendent Robinson**—That is why we have kept it on our Agenda because it has not been resolved. We will continue having it on the November Agenda, and perhaps there will be some resolution or the Board can ask me to take it off of the Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Okay, on to New Business, Mrs. Robinson:

**HIGHLIGHTS OF EQUITY SUMMIT MEETING AND APPROVAL OF SUPPORT RESOLUTION:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—Members of the Board, the Coalfields Equity Summit: Establishing a Regional Voice was held at UVA Wise on Thursday, October 13, 2016. Approximately 150 regional and community members attended the Summit. We are not going to go through the entire PowerPoint presentation, but there are some slides that I think are very revealing and significant. I would like to thank Mr. Robinson for his work on this. The purpose of the meeting was to: establish a regional voice, educate and unite our community, acknowledge our challenges such as enrollment decline, state funding discrepancies, struggling localities, provide solutions and propose a plan of action. As I said there were nearly 150 people who attended this very important meeting including all of our regional political representatives, several members from the IDA, Board of Supervisors and School Board. The Regional effort was made up of Lee, Wise, City of Norton, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Buchanan and Scott. So you see that it is mostly the area that has been affected by the coal industry and some of that has been negative. This is part of that presentation, and as I said, I am not going to take time to go over it with all of you.

Mr. Scott spoke about the local challenges in each locality. If you will look at the K-12 enrollment in the coalfields from 2004-2006, you will see that in 2003-2004 there were 32,416 children. In 2008-2009, 2010-2011 you saw that it dropped somewhat to 32,358. Then you see a steady decline that we have had since 2008-2009. We will talk more about that in just a moment. In 2003-2004, as I said there were 32,416 children in K-12 enrollment in the coalfields in those eight counties. Since 2008-2009 there was a slight decrease with 32,358. Then in 2016-2017 the recorded number was 27,379. How this was accomplished was that we surveyed all of the superintendents in those eight counties to look at their enrollment. In 2016 that is what the division superintendents of those eight school divisions recorded, 27,379. If you look at that, it is nearly a 5,000 student loss since 2004. This is the great impact, and some of us mentioned the enrollment. The enrollment losses in these eight counties in 2015-2016 was 274. So in those eight counties we lost 274 students. Here is the one that

is really just staggering. Since March 31, 2016, which is nearly six months ago, those eight counties have reported a loss of 644 students. That is significant. The per-pupil cost for coalfield divisions, and I think it has been mentioned, is about \$7,000. So when we look at just the enrollment loss for 2015-2016 we are looking at these eight counties losing \$1.9 million.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—Is it \$7,000 for all of the counties?

**Superintendent Robinson:** No. That is just an average. Some are more, some are less. We are about \$7,200, but we just use that \$7,000.

**Superintendent Robinson:** So out of all of those counties 644 left. Did we lose more than the others?

**Superintendent Robinson**—No. We weren't the highest county with the major losses. Buchanan County I believe was one of the highest. We were in that but not one of the top. Since March 31<sup>st</sup> we have lost 83-86 is what they came up with.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—Percentages would give a more accurate accounting due to the population.

**Superintendent Robinson**—You are correct, Mrs. Mullins. We were just looking at the staggering number of students. All of us in those eight areas are related to the coalfields. There was a report of the highest unemployment, and we were 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wise was 3<sup>rd</sup> and Buchanan County was 1<sup>st</sup>. Those three counties have just been hit hard with the unemployment in the coalfields. So you notice the revenue loss for 2015-2016 at \$1.9 million.

So let's look at 2016-2017 revenue loss. Because of that enrollment we are looking at \$4.5 million. If we lose the same number of students that we did last year, which was 274, we are looking at another loss \$1.9 million. If we look at the loss of compensations with the governor's plan for teacher raises at \$1.8 million, then on June 30, 2017, our projected loss for these eight counties is going to be \$10.1 million. This is just the enrollment loss. When we started working on this, we realized that we would not only have enrollment loss and the significant impact of that, but we would have another issue that we would have to look at. This next slide gives you the overall issue. 2015-2016, 274; the losses since March 31<sup>st</sup>; the estimated per-pupil revenue at \$7,000 again it could be more; and the revenue loss of \$1.9 million. Because of the 644 we are looking at \$4.5 million loss this year. What is scary is that we projected last year and for this year we projected the same number of students 274. So that is another \$1.9 million that we have to look at.

Something else that we looked at was we went through each of the counties and again, you can look at this. We looked at each of the eight counties and school divisions and Norton which, of course, is a city school. So let's look at Dickenson County. Since 2009 the direct aid per student has fallen 16.8%. That means that in our counties and region, yes we put aside the enrollment loss, for the students that we are educating since 2009 we have lost 16.8% because of the State calculations in disparity. That is aside from the enrollment. If we

increase by 1 cent the property tax we can raise about \$147,000 which is, of course, not nearly enough that the school division could stand. Again, it would help, but it would not overcome the 16.8% loss. 58% of all of our students get free or reduced lunch in 2016. That is about 60% of all of our students.

Here is the one that is really difficult. 25% of all of our school age children lived in poverty in 2014. That number may be higher now. So that means that 1 out of every 4 children live in poverty. The way the poverty is discussed is that a family of four makes less than \$24,000. So we have 25% of all school children. So you see that the Board of Supervisors who can raise taxes, but with 25% of all school children living in poverty in 2014, 60% of our children having free and reduced lunch, you can see that the impact is very difficult to increase the taxes or to do what needs to be done for education.

Dickenson County invested 59.2% above the required local effort for SOQs programs in 2015. The state average is 77.7%. We are very grateful for what our Board of Supervisors do, but again the state average is 77.7%. But you will again notice that we are talking about two different things. We first talked about the loss of enrollment. That was \$10.1 million at the end of June 30, 2017. Now we are talking about the disparity of the state with education and the support of education. It gets better. Wise County lost 19.5%, and I will be glad to send this to you.

Public schools in Southwest Virginia, this is the eight counties that we first talked about. Between 2009-2017 the State Direct Aid per student has fallen sharply. So the students that we currently have, our region has lost 15.9% per State Direct Aid to help us educate those children. So you can see that we have kind of been in a double whammy. If all of these eight counties increase property tax by 1cent that is a combined \$1.2 million. 59% of all students in these eight counties get free or reduced lunch in 2014. 25% of all school children live in poverty in 2014. Again, that is a family of four living under \$24,000. In Southwest Virginia the eight counties overall is 46.5% above the required local effort for SOQ programs in 2015. So you can see that Dickenson County is above the average of the Southwest Virginia counties.

Now let's look at Loudoun County. Between 2009-2017 they received 10.9% more Direct State Aid per student. If they increase property tax in Loudoun County by 1 cent, they would get over \$6.2 million. Let me just say this. I don't want to take anything and the group that worked on this don't want to take anything from Loudoun County. We want Loudoun County to be the standard for all of our children in Southwest Virginia. This is not taking from someone. We want this to be the standard. 17% of all of their students got free or reduced lunch in 2016. Remember the 58% that we looked at for the eight counties in Southwest Virginia. 4% of all school age children live in poverty. Ours is 25%. Loudoun County invested 138.5% above the required effort. Remember the State is 77.7%. They have received 10.9% more Direct Aid from the State just for the students that they are teaching, and they invested 138.5% above the Required Effort.

As we looked at the presentation, this was the hardest. Billy from Loudon and Billy from Southwest Virginia both look the same don't they. They are both boys. They are both read-

ing. There isn't much difference from the Billy from Loudoun and the Billy from Southwest Virginia. To use as a standard we don't want to take anything away from them. Look at the Billy from Southwest Virginia. The Billy from Loudoun has a 4% chance of living in poverty, but the Billy from Southwest Virginia has a 25% chance of living in poverty. The Billy from Loudoun has a 17% chance of being on free or reduced lunch. The Billy from southwest Virginia has a 59% chance of being on free or reduced lunch. A Penny Tax for Billy from Loudoun would increase \$6.2 million. In our eight counties Penny Tax would include \$1.2 million revenue. The Required Local Effort for Billy in Loudoun County is 138% above the State average of 77.7%. The Required Local Effort for Billy in Southwest Virginia is 46.5%. Here is the one that gets you when you look at all of this. The Billy from Loudoun has seen an increase since 2009 when he was a senior. Since he was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade he has seen a 10.9% in State funding. The Billy from Southwest Virginia has seen a decrease of 15.9% in State funding. Ladies and gentlemen when we saw this slide, we said "why is our Billy from Southwest Virginia not able to do and get the same as the Billy from Loudoun?" Why is it that our children deserve less? The question for us, as division superintendents, is why such a discrepancy and that we can't ethically or morally just stand by and say that this is okay, because it is not. Our children are as valuable; our children are just as deserving as any child in Virginia.

The Public Funding in Equities is a national issue. In Connecticut in 2016 the Judge of the State Superior Court said "look! Fix this now!" Fix this disparity now. We are not going to wait a couple of years. You have to fix this disparity now. A child's education should not be because of their zip code. Wherever that zip code is that child deserves the same as every other child in Virginia. Kansas called it intolerable inequities. In New York there is litigation pending, and 45 out of 50 states have been involved in school finance litigation. I see Virginia heading toward school finance litigation quite soon because of this disparity.

Long Term Solutions: (we had everyone there so as we worked through this to):

1. Adjust the SOQs to accommodate for increased accountability and localized disparity
2. Reduce unfunded mandates. All of these mandates that we have are wonderful, the CPR training, the use of epi-pens and the personal finance class. We love the mandates. The issue is that after the first year or sometimes not even after the first year, they are no longer funded. So that falls back on the school division.
3. Provide the same funding for school personnel health insurance
4. Reestablish the school construction line item
5. Postpone the VRS increase for 2017-2018 which is going to be a huge significance for employers
6. Use the current data for the local composite index. Right now the local composite index is at least three years old. What our composite index is in Dickenson County right now doesn't even, as you have seen in presentations, reflect what is happening in our county

Immediate Solutions:

1. Cost of competing adjustment for salaries. Some of you may not know this but in Northern Virginia there are 18 school divisions who receive adjustments for salaries. We will talk more about that, but there are 18 counties in Northern Virginia that their teachers and support staff can compete with Washington D.C., Maryland and all of those other areas. They are given a cost of competing adjustment or COLA. What we are asking for is to have a COLA for school divisions similar to the 18 school divisions in Northern Virginia. Just in operations, why can't we look in addition to salaries in Southwest Virginia?
2. Hold coalfield school divisions harmless for enrollment loss. Since last year we have lost 114 students. You saw what these eight counties did since March 31<sup>st</sup>. So if you have that enrollment loss, you will not be penalized for that. December is such a happy month, but the last day before Christmas break we always get how much money we are going to lose for the year. Not on next year's budget but the current year. As you know last year on March 31<sup>st</sup> we looked, and it was \$376,000 from the budget that we had to do so many things.
3. Reinstate the compensation supplement.
4. All school boards, city councils and boards of supervisors adopt a supportive solution

Let me just say that Northern Virginia divisions receive between 10% for teachers and 25% support of additional State Funding to insure that salaries are competitive with Maryland and Washington D.C. We are saying that in these eight divisions we need to survive. We are stuck between the loss of enrollment and the loss of State Direct Aid for the students that we teach, and I think that is awful.

Some of the important slides I have included in your packet. I will be glad to send anyone a PowerPoint Presentation, but the last part of this packet is a Resolution. What we are asking the Board to do tonight is to look at the Resolution to Support the Recommendations Introduced at the Coalfields Equity Summit. I have heard from the Board of Supervisors, and they are going to adopt this Resolution and the IDA is also.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—The Board of Public Welfare adopted it last Wednesday.

**Superintendent Robinson**—That is wonderful. Thank you. I will give you some time to look over that, and Mr. Chair we would like for the Board to make a motion to Approve this Resolution. This is the same Resolution that all of the Boards are adopting in the eight counties. All eight counties are adopting this Resolution and then it will be sent to the Governor's office and also to the General Assembly. Are there any questions or comments regarding that?

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Has everyone had a chance to look over it?

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—*I move that we accept and approve this resolution. Mr. Rick Mullins seconded the motion. All vote aye.*

**Superintendent Robinson**—Thank you. Again, I just want to thank all of our superintendents, board of supervisors, county administrators and IDA members. You know our county

started this movement with the Local Composite Index, and as it went farther, we had an opportunity to have school finance people, county administrators and other people to talk about the good things that are happening in our area and what is happening to us right now. I think they said it much more eloquently, but we are advocates for our children. When we see this kind of loss and inequity for our children, we feel that we, as a complete group and regional effort, need to stand up together. I thank the Board very much.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Mrs. Robinson, the audience may not realize the counties that this involves. I don't want to put you on the spot.

**Superintendent Robinson**—It is Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Buchanan, Scott and the City of Norton.

**DISCUSSION OF THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: SUMMARIZING THE BOARD'S PRIOR ACTIONS:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—This is an informational item for the Board. Chairman Barton requested that this be an Agenda item. He requested that the prior actions about the school be summarized and presented to the School Board regarding this topic since we have two new Board Members.

We started the Summary of the School Board Prior Actions beginning on April 2009 and May 2009 with a comprehensive study meeting. As you recall, we looked at all of our schools at the time. We had nine schools, and 60-70 year old buildings. What were we going to do, and how were we going to begin to look at how we were going to finance these schools?

On June 10, 2009, the Chairman and the Superintendent met with the Corps of Engineers and the Board of Supervisors to see what funding was available at that time. That was done and the answer was that there would not be any funding available to build a new high school. That was the plan at that time, to look at building a new high school.

Also on June 10, 2009, after discussions with the Board of Supervisors we started pursuing other funding. One was the Rural Community Stimulus Fund. We had two different groups to meet with. One was to meet with the Corps who had been in our area in 2002-2003. But no one had heard anything about that study and the Comprehensive Study data. I am sure you all remember this.

On March 24, 2010, we asked the Board to allow us to apply for Literary Loans (Qualified School Construction Bonds), and that was \$10 million.

On October 5, 2010, there was Approval of Plan of Consolidation. At that time we were going to consolidate the three high schools into one high school.

On November 22, 2010, there was an Interim Finance Resolution. That was with the Qualified School Construction Bonds and the RDA Loan which was later the largest loan that had been given.

Then on May 19, 2011, the School Board passed a Resolution: Consolidation of Schools and Tentative Agreement with the Corps of Engineers for \$110,572,000.

I can tell you that on November 22, 2010, and May 19, 2011, as many of you recall there were several meetings and several presentations to the Board. All of those kinds of things were done there. At that time the Consolidation of Schools did look at three elementary schools in each area.

On July 27, 2012, the Board Approved a PPEA Option for the New Elementary School Guidelines.

On November 19, 2012, we had a presentation of Census Information from Mr. Hill.

On March 6, 2013, we had a joint meeting. At the time as you recall, we were going ahead with Ridgeview and constructing the elementary school all at the same time. Because of the county's prior commitment to the Judicial Center, the joint Resolution from all three Boards was that we were going to delay the construction of the elementary school until the county received the funding. They committed to building the elementary school, but at that time we did not have the funding for it. We really didn't have the funding to build the high school either, but we had the interim financing.

On October 23, 2013, there was an update on the elementary site in the Haysi area.

On December 18, 2013, there was a presentation of the elementary school sites in the Haysi area.

On January 22, 2014, there was a discussion of the sites for the new elementary school in the Haysi area.

On August 27, 2014, there was a discussion of the Haysi site acquisition for the new elementary school: Haysi, Upper Backbone, 5 acres--\$18,000. Mr. Barton made a motion to approve the Upper Backbone Site as the new elementary site and the amount of \$18,000 to purchase the five acres that would be needed. There was a second and a unanimous vote.

On September 23, 2015, the School Board received an update on the site acquisition for the new elementary school in Haysi.

Since that time the Board has been very busy with budget issues and discussions. So that is just a timeline summarizing the Board's prior actions. I have the minutes of those meetings. If there are particular questions that you would like to ask about something that I did not explain well, feel free to ask. Mr. Chair:

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—I think that at the end of that series right there we decided to get a few things out of the way and our construction contracts at Ridgeview. We also had to deal with this mitigation. We were hoping to do all of that before we actually would start.

**Superintendent Robinson:** We did not receive the total amount of funding from the Army Corps of Engineers until February of this year. So any discussion about the new elementary school was pretty much just discussion because while we did have some funding for land acquisition and all of those types of things, we did not have the funding to purchase anything toward the new elementary school. Mr. Mullins, is there anything that I have left out, Sir?

**Chairman, Rocky Barton—** We had the money to buy the property and to do studies. We just had a certain amount and however far it would go. I think we decided to wait until we saw if we were going to get one lump sum and not just get a drop a year. When we got fully funded was when we would start talking about the new elementary school.

**Superintendent Robinson:** Mr. Mullins, was anything omitted?

**Mr. Scott Mullin—**Not really. I just want to point out the obvious that we are very, very blessed to be having this discussion because a year and a half ago most everyone didn't believe that we would ever get funded. Many people didn't believe that we would every pay off Ridgeview much less get funded to build the elementary school. I feel like this discussion is important, but we should always remember that we are very lucky for what we have. Not too many school divisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia can say that they have the money to build a new school without impacting the local taxes. Sometimes we forget just how lucky we are.

Beyond that I would point out that it was always the intention of all three Boards when they met together. You have to remember that we were going to build Ridgeview and the elementary school at the same time. This was a joint meeting that was held at the courthouse. Because there is no guarantee of the timing of the appropriation from the Corps of Engineers and because of the significant financial commitment outlined above was the building of the courthouse, the Board of Supervisors could not, as good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, support moving forward with the construction of the new elementary school at that time. However, there is sufficient funding from the Corps of Engineers to enable Dickenson County to acquire real estate interest and get an environmental permit in the process. The agents were directed to continue forward for the purpose of site development within the confines of the Corps of Engineers appropriations which I believe was \$184,000. At that point in time the directive from all three Boards was to continue on with the elementary school with the \$184,000 to see what you could do as far as site development, permitting and things along those lines. We were all stunned when they gave us money to go build the high school and here is money to build the new elementary school. But frankly in our wildest dreams did not think this would happen. At that point in time what had been in large part what was hypothetical became real. Then the focus was to close out Ridgeview, and that is what the focus has been since that time. Now we are getting ready to turn the page, and I guess that is the reason most of you are here.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton—**What Miss Kathy was talking about a while ago was the property that was bought with that from the biggest property owner. But during that time with Miss Deel we didn't know if we were going to get the money or not.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—That is true and there was another part. Negotiations with Miss Deel have not been easy. She started out telling us that she had 28 acres and that she would take \$205,000. Then when we did a survey, she actually had 17 acres. We had an appraisal done which came back as \$42,500. We offered her \$50,000, and she said no she was sticking with her \$205,000. We get criticized quite a bit for condemnation. Nobody likes condemnation. It seems like a foreign concept. It seems like the government takes your property, and for those of you on the Board getting Ridgeview, you know exactly what I am talking about. Nobody will come out and support you when you are condemning property. A question that will have to be put to this Board is “are you willing to condemn?” Or do you want to pay \$205,000 for something that is appraised at \$42,500. That is the question. We looked at four sites at Haysi, and I am sure that the Board is aware of this. The main thing that we were always trying to keep in mind was the amount of dollars that you put into moving dirt is dollars that you are not putting into bricks and mortar. We have to spend the money for utilities, sewer, water and other things besides bricks and mortar. There are a lot of things that go into this that may not be apparent when you first start talking about it. I will give you another example. You think you will go and build a school, but who owns the coal underneath it? Guess what? The people who own the coal have their coal sterilized when you build a school on it. They can sue you for what is called “an inverse condemnation”, or basically stealing their coal. So you have to figure out a fair amount to pay for the mineral interest. Gas is not a problem because they can horizontally drill on your land. I don’t want to bore you all with all of these details, but it is just something that flows together. You think about Ridgeview and the money we spent on remediating wetlands. You go up to the top of that mountain and say how could we possibly have a wetland on top of the ridge like that? Wetland is not frogs and cattails like we usually think about it. It is little trenches in the ground that flood when it rains. We had to spend a significant amount of money remediating wetlands. I guess what I really want to say to the crowd and the Board is that putting these things together requires a lot of pieces to the puzzle, and you can’t appreciate how important they are until you start out with the budget. Mrs. Robinson do you have the budget number that maybe you could tell the crowd?

**Superintendent Robinson**—There is a budget of \$23.1 million for the elementary school. The square footage of that is 62,000 square feet at the time for 600 students.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—Again, think about your earth moving costs and the mineral costs. If you don’t get that dealt with, they will come along and say that is great but I have \$7 million worth of coal under there. You have to face that. It is really good to see people out and advocating for their community. All I can say is that if you keep showing up for these things, you will see as we go through this that it is a bit of a moving target. Things that you think you know and can quantify will eventually change. We learned that from Ridgeview. You can make your best estimate, but a budget is just a projection not set in stone. You don’t really know what things cost until you price it out.

**Superintendent Robinson**—I think when we started with Ridgeview, we were just starting with one school, and then as we saw our enrollment, and as we started on it, it involved hav-

ing a middle school, the career center and all of the athletic fields. I feel like this project will be the same. It will just evolve because of these projects.

**Mr. Ron Peters**—How much have we spent so far on land and studies?

**Superintendent Robinson**—The only thing that we have spent to this point is \$15,000. Someone mentioned the study. The issue with the study is there are time constraints, so we were very concerned that if we did the study earlier, by the time we got ready to build we would have to do the study again. The study is very expensive. It takes several months to do. I know the study at Ridgeview took at least 18 months. I remember when we got a bill for \$15,000 for someone to sit down and watch the Indiana bat. It is those kinds of things for three nights. There is more to the study than someone going up there and looking at it. It is an in-depth process, and it has to be done within a certain amount of time before you can start construction. That is why, Ms. Harrison, there has not been a study.

**Ms. Kathy Harrison**—Roger, my brother, was involved with that.

**Superintendent Robinson**—That is one reason that we hated to spend the money because we didn't think we were being good stewards of the money, and those are \$3,000-\$5,000. We hated to spend that kind of money and then have to turn around and do it again. I think Mr. Barton and Mr. Mullins are correct that when we receive the \$59 million, and we receive the total amount. Even though we received the money in February we didn't pay off Ridgeview until May or June. It took a while to get all of that.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—That is the reason I asked Mrs. Robinson to put this on the Agenda. I felt like that above all our county needs to see something. We have the revenue at hand so I think it is time that we get on with the project. We have heard different rumors from folks that we may have been looking at a different option. When I caught the bus on Indian Creek, I was 16 miles from Sandlick Elementary School. How many miles is it from Sandlick to Ridgeview? It is probably another 15 or 16 miles. So we would have kids on the bus for 35 miles. I think that is something that we need to look at. I was sold on consolidation. I thought our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders were old enough to know what they needed to do. I don't think that our 3 ½ or 4 year old children are old enough to ride a bus for 30 miles. Today counting Pre-K at Sandlick we still have 420 or 430 students. That is a lot of kids. I know that Ridgeview is close to the center of our county, but it doesn't make it right. It is only 6 miles from Clintwood Elementary to get to Ridgeview. I have even heard rumors at the funeral home that there is talk of opening Prater Elementary School back up. They are looking at us to see what we are going to do in Dickenson County. If they do that, they will take the Buchanan kids back which are the 30-40 who go to Dickenson County schools now. They are going to take Rose Ridge, the Breaks and the whole end of the county. We need to be cautious about what we do.

**Mr. Ron Peters**—Just to piggy back on what you just said. It makes sense for the children just getting introduced to school.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Just like Wise County didn't consolidate their elementary schools without studying it, St. Paul only has 200-250 kids. I realize that Wise County is economically better off than we are, but they kept all of their elementary schools open. I think they did it for a reason. It would have been a whole lot easier for them to consolidate than us because they have a four lane that crisscrosses their county. I think that is where we are, and if there are other Board Members who think different and want to see further studies, I would invite them to speak up.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—I would like to speak up. I think we need to do a study, if this is going to be a county thing. I think they are getting ready to close Appalachia and St. Paul. At least that is what they are talking about. We only have one chance to do this right. We need to find out if it is feasible to have them at Ridgeview or at Sandlick. Riding the bus is a tough thing, but we are looking at 15-50 years down the road. How long have we had our grade schools? If we close Ervinton Elementary School, you will lose at least 20% going to Russell County and about 30% going to the Coeburn area. I don't think you would get 15% of those kids going to Sandlick. Why would you come to Fremont which is 12 miles when you could just go up the hill? I think we need to do a study to see what is going to happen 5-10 years down the road, how many kids we are going to have, the cost and projected enrollment. We have one opportunity where we don't have to raise taxes because the government is going to pay for it. It is going to be one shot because if they close down Clintwood Elementary School, where will those kids go to school? If they close Ervinton Elementary School, where are those kids going to go to school?

**Mr. Ricky Mullins**—Personally, I would like to see a study of the numbers done, too. Because like Shanghai said we want to make sure that we do this right. We not only want to look at the number of students who are there now, but we need to obtain some statistical information about how many kids will be there four years from today.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—If it is better for Sandlick, I say we start digging tomorrow. We have the money, and it is my understanding that if we don't use it, we lose it. I don't know if that is true or not, but it is what I have been told. If Sandlick is the place for it to be, I say let's get started moving dirt tomorrow. It is not fair for those kids to be in a school that has been flooded 7 feet. (Applause!) It is also not fair for the kids at Clintwood Elementary School where we have had issues. It is not fair for the students at Ervinton where the building is 100 years old. We just have to make a decision where it is going to be and get it started.

**Ms. Kathy Harrison**—It needs to be cost effective, too. How many kids are you going to lose? How many of those kids are going to go to a consolidated elementary school?

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—According to what those people have told me, they are not going to Sandlick. They are going to Coeburn or St. Paul.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—Are you going to close Ervinton Elementary School?

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—I don't know. That is the rumor, but I don't want it to close.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I don't think you need to close that school at this time.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—What would be a good time to do it then?

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—When it absolutely has to be done.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Then where do we send the kids?

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—You will send them to Sandlick. I am just saying don't do it unless you have to, and we don't have to right now.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—You are saying that we send kids from West Dante to Sandlick?

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—If you close it down now, do you think the kids from West Dante would come to Ridgeview? Absolutely not!

**Mr. Ron Peters**—Let's look at the map. You are talking about a school that has 100-125 students in it. Compare it to a school that has 600 or more.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—The money we have for the school is \$23 million. If we consolidate our elementary school children today, we would have just over 1,100 I guess. Where are we going to get the other \$7 million? That is going to be a projection that is going to be tough to figure out.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—I understand the communities losing their school. A good portion of that money was to rebuild Ervinton High School which was in the Kennedy District. We lost that school, but our district also lost Longs Fork Elementary School. My constituents did pay a big price. I am talking about middle schoolers. It is a long way, and I understand that. That is why I think we need to spend a little time and do a study. We need to find out the most feasible location for a school and look at the enrollment. I agree with Shanghai that if Sandlick is the place, let's get started. Wasn't the Corps of Engineers' study done in 2009? Our situation has changed. We have people leaving, and we need to be better stewards of our money. Nobody here is saying that it won't end up in Sandlick. We are just saying that we want to look and see if we are making the right choice.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—You will see by the study that the children from Prater and Indian Creek will not come to Ridgeview. They will go somewhere else. That will be detrimental to your system.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Carroll, it is as far from Camp Jacob as it is from Prater. It is as far away as it is from Rt. 72. I followed the bus the other day to see what the time limit was on it. Let's say that we had to close Clintwood Elementary School, where would we send our kids?

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I don't think you will have to close it down unless you just want to.

**Mr. Rick Mullins**—That is why we need to do a study to see how many students are at Ervinton, Clintwood and Sandlick. That way we can make a long-term informed decision.

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—If the study shows Sandlick, then that is where it will be.

**Mr. Larry Yates**—What about the social impact? If you pull the students from these three schools and consolidate, Dickenson County will not exist as it is today. You won't have Haysi, Clintwood and Clinchco. It is all about the numbers.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—I was for consolidation. I don't know that I would have been so sold on it if it meant losing our elementary schools. All of the members on the Board know that I have been against closing Ervinton Elementary School from the beginning. We are not about tearing down the community hub. If you close Ervinton Elementary and send them to Ridgeview, we are going to lose kids from Sandy Ridge, and we may even lose some on the Clintwood side. I can see in 25-30 years that if our decline keeps on, we can turn Ridgeview High School in a K-12 school. We won't need to worry if our elementary schools still open or not. You will see that happen pretty quickly. I personally think that for a little while that we may have hit the bottom, and the folks that had to move have already moved.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—We want to build back our county not tear it down. If these kids all leave, it will tear the system down. What we need to do is work with the Industrial Development and everybody else and get jobs in this county so that we will have the kids. You can build the biggest and nicest school out here. I use to tell my people at work that you can have the best facilities, the best mechanics and you can have the best service, but if you ain't got customers; you ain't got nothing. That is the way it will be with that school. You have already built the nicest school, and I was all for it. I wouldn't have been for it if I had known that you were even considering combining the elementary schools which would be detrimental to the county as a whole. If you want to kill something, you call for a study.

**Audience Member**—I just had a question. There was a vote in in the past to go ahead with the school at Haysi. Was there not a study already done that would have projected the enrollment?

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—No. It was basically a study about which site would be better.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I was completely for consolidation as I was when I was on the Board. I worked hard for it. I would have worked by heart out against it if I had known they would close these elementary schools. I certainly would, and I think I could have prevailed.

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—I am not sure that the consolidation of the high schools has any direct effect on the elementary schools. I could be wrong, but I don't see the connection. I know what you are saying, but the consolidation of the high schools does not have any effect on the elementary schools.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—I don't think Carroll thinks it does, but I wouldn't have been for it either.

**Ms. Kathy Harrison**—Let me tell you about the social part of consolidating the elementary schools because I do the Story Time, and you have 3 year olds who start out together, and they go through all of their elementary school together, they go through middle school together and they go through high school together. They start out at 3 years old knowing some of the kids they go to school with. Parents are going to think about that. They might take them to another school that is out of the county if they could keep them with the same people for all of their 12 or 13 years of school. Parents think about this socially. Say the Ervinton girls that are on the basketball team, you want to keep those kids together because that is going to be your future basketball team. So there is a social part that starts with these very young kids all the way through high school. So there is an impact on the high school to the elementary part.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—Isn't the Ervinton basketball team composed of girls from Clintwood, too?

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Yeah. It is a county team.

**Superintendent Robinson**—To answer your question there were four sites that we looked at, the Lower Backbone site, the Upper Backbone site, Rakes Ridge site and the Sandlick site. I think the Board then looked at narrowing that down. So that study was more on site progression. It was more getting the site ready than it was a study.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—Where are we are acquiring the site for the Haysi area? Have we got it?

**Superintendent Robinson**—My understanding, Mr. Edwards, is that there are several pieces of land that will have to be purchased. We have already purchased one piece of land. Is that correct?

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—Yes, we have the lower part, but the central part is the one that Arlene Deel will have to bring to negotiation.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I have no problem whatever in condemning that property and taking it like we did for Ridgeview because those people are hard to deal with, and I understand that. You can't deal with them.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—Mr. Chair, let me make some observations. First of all I will say this to the audience the thing that I really have to do back here is count to three. Once I learn how to count to three everything seems to fall together. The second observation is that this meeting is exactly what you want and exactly what you don't want. What I mean by that is for a community to come together. For so many nights we sit here and nobody shows up. I think the Board Members and I applaud you for coming out and have a voice. But I will say this as an attorney, if I went to one of Mr. Peters' meetings we wouldn't have the back and forth.

Most School Board meetings do not have the back and forth. You have Public Comment and you deliberate among yourselves. So this is good and this is bad. There are no easy answers here. I am sure that there are some people who think this school needs to be at Haysi and end of story. I can even appreciate the dividing line between Haysi and Sandlick. I thought that was one community until I got into this. I'm not even sure where the lines are. However, there are some people who think it should not be in Haysi. Then there are some people who just don't know. Those are the three places you can be. When I count to three from where I sit, I have three people who say they would like more information. So if I do my job, and Mrs. Robinson does her job, it would be to get more information. The question all of you would want to know is what does that look like? It would take time and money. Let's start out with who is going to pay for it. The construction project funds are allocated by the Corps of Engineers. That doesn't mean that you don't treat it like it is your money, but that money is not unlimited. The question will be what you are looking at. We know among the Haysi sites, the prior Board chose that particular site because it was more cost effective as compared to the other four. So I don't see any reason to compare and contrast the report that we already received from Thomson and Litton. I think it was clear. Then there are people talking about Ridgeview. What most people don't appreciate about Ridgeview is where the school sits, there has been no coal mining underneath it. So that is firm ground. When you go out toward the fields, it has been mined. There is a notion that when you mine so many feet down, it will maybe subside and affect your surface. People talk about Ridgeview, and in my mind it is far from a conclusion that you can do it at Ridgeview. It is not what you can see on top but what might be going on underneath it that you have to look at. The only other location that I am aware of that would be big enough would be Clinchco. Those are three potential sites. When you talk about what you would do, you would first see if it has been mined under. I am assuming because Clinchco is there it has proved the test of time that it hasn't been mined under. Ridgeview I don't know, and I have told you about the Haysi site. It has coal under it that hasn't been mined, and if you sterilize it, you will have to pay for it. Those are the questions. The Haysi site has drainage issues because it is a wetland. That is something that you will have to consider. I am assuming that Clinchco would not have a wetland. Ridgeview's wetlands have been remediated. But there are a lot of things that will have to go into this. Suffice it to say if I were to sum it all up, without boring you until your eyes close, over six months.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—One thing about it Scott, if we choose the Clinchco site you will have the same effect. People from Clintwood are not going to send their kids to Clinchco. The distance from Indian Creek to Clinchco would be about the same as it is to Ridgeview. So they would be in about the same boat.

**Mr. Susan Mullins**—It is not just Clintwood. There is a whole area out there outside of Clintwood such as Rt. 72. It would be a long way from the Wise County line to go to Clinchco.

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—In my mind the process should be not where are we going to build the school, but are we going to close three schools to build one school.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—I don't think anybody wants to do that.

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—I agree with that.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—If we don't, we are going to have to figure out how to do the renovations on the two we have.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—When you get into it, Clintwood won't want their school closed either. I'd say you would have an uprising. I would if I lived over here. Don't do it because there is no reason to do it. If you take into consideration the kids in the county, there is no reason to close these schools. There is no logical reason for it except for the money. That's it. If we need money, I will work hard to get enough to cover it.

**Superintendent Robinson**—I appreciate you saying that very much. One of the things that this Board has had to deal with is a significant budget cut, \$800,000, and there were very many hard, hard decisions that this Board had to make. One of the decisions was the closing of Ervinton Elementary School. We are very concerned about our budget for next year.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—How would it help your budget to close all three elementary schools?

**Superintendent Robinson**—It is not how it would help our budget, it is how we balance our budget. When you are cut any amount of money and 85% of that is staff, the Board has to do what they did last June by not replacing 42 positions which were full-time positions. It doesn't help us to close a school, but sometimes there is no choice but for the Board to vote that way.

**Ms. Betty Deel**—One thing that I haven't heard in the discussion at all is the impact if it should be moved to Ridgeview, and that is the financial position of the parents. If they have to come to Ridgeview to pick up their kids if they are in any kind of sport, they would have to drive all the way up there after school. It will be a financial burden on them. We are in a low economic crisis right now. Many of the parents do not have jobs. If the parents are in the low income bracket, they cannot afford to let their kids play ball because they don't have the money to come and get them.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—That is a concern, too. I think there is a majority who would have that financial burden. They may run them down to Sandlick, but will they run them down to Ridgeview? I think you will see the Little League go way down.

**Mr. Larry Yates**—There has been a lot of talk about the study and a lot of talk about the numbers and you have a funding partner in the Army Corps of Engineers. They brought you a plan for the restructuring of Dickenson County Schools. That plan was the consolidation of the three high schools and keep the three elementary schools in each of the communities. I urge you to follow the Corps plan. You will benefit from having the three communities viable in the county. In Haysi we don't even have an emergency shelter over there. A new elementary school could provide us with a shelter in case of a natural disaster. It could provide us a polling place for local elections. A school building is more than just a place for the chil-

dren to get an education. It is just like the library. It is a social hub. So I urge you to stick with the Corps plan.

**Ms. Katy Jo Powers**—I think it would absolutely ruin our community. We will have no more community. It will be a dead community which will be a deficit to the county. We will lose taxes because we are not going to get anybody to move in. We will have people moving out and students going to other counties to go to school. I think the community should be considered. It would absolutely devastate us. You have all sorts of things in Clintwood, but we have nothing in Haysi or in the whole area unless we can keep the school.

**Ms. Kathy Harrison**—I have a question. Is the study something that the Corps would have to approve along with the other two Boards? Most of the decisions have been with the three Boards, and I know the Corps is involved with the plan to tear down Ervinton. You have to send the plans to them and they have to approve it. Will they have to approve any plan that is different than their original recommendation?

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—The Corps is not into educating kids. The Corps is to make sure that they are in a safe environment and free from the problems such as flooding. It is not too much of a concern to them how we go about educating kids. They defer to us about that. To answer your second question. We are partners with the Board of Supervisors on everything that we do here. I would say that the location of schools primarily is a School Board function, but it is a small county. I think the reason that we have been successful is that if anyone disagrees, we sit down and talk with each other. They are our partners so it is something that we would consult with them about. I wouldn't go so far as to say they have veto power, but they certainly are a full partner in this exercise.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—Would you have to go back and renegotiate a contract? I'm talking about the contract that placed the site of the school in the Haysi area.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**— I don't want to put too fine an edge on it, but there are three contracts. One is the Clinchco contract which affects the children that we are talking about here. It was for \$8 million. There is another contract for buying the outbuildings below Haysi, Sandlick and Ervinton High School which was for \$102 million. The \$102 million contract was amended because we had a big "bru ha ha" about a lump sum contract. Suffice it to say it was a big deal at the time. At that point in time the amended contract basically says that the Corps doesn't care where we build the schools as long as we have a sufficient size and it is out of the flood plain. The Corps position is not to tell us where to put a school, just don't put it in the flood plain. Is that as clear as mud?

**Superintendent Robinson**—Ms. Harrison, just to share with you, the three boards were involved in the construction of Ridgeview because of financing. We hope they will continue to be partners with us. All of us are working together for one goal and that makes it much easier.

**Mr. Matt Owens**—I agree with Shanghai and Susan that the two schools need to be remodeled and have the mold remediated and if there is lack of quality, they need to be improved. I

don't know if you guys have money to allocate for that. Instead of saying the school was designed for 600 students when truthfully it would be for 450 students, so it seems like some of the money could be allocated for those other two sites.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We talked about that. We even talked about if we could get the bidding in, we could get some money to put a roof on Clintwood Elementary School. We also talked about turning the vocational school into the Central Office and School Bus Garage with some of that. I guess the biggest need at Ervinton is the parking and the kids playing right beside the road.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—It is a pretty school inside, and they do a great job with it. As Mrs. Robinson alluded to earlier, it is all about the numbers.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Originally when we talked about this, Dr. Askins said that at some point we would have to find the money to build an Ervinton Elementary School. Of course, that was when there were 200 students there.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—We have 125 there now.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—There are 125 at Ervinton Elementary School?

**Superintendent Robinson**—Yes, plus the Pre-School. There are 11 Pre-School children.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—How many Pre-Schoolers are at Clintwood Elementary School?

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—Hopefully we can go to work and get people to come back into our county.

**Mr. Shanghai Nickles**—Carroll, we need lots of babies. I will turn that over to you.

**Mr. Carroll Edwards**—I appoint you a committee of one to take care of that.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—What do we need to do now?

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—Again, I can count to three. I think what you are saying is that I need to work with the IDA and County Administrator. I think this is actually on the Agenda as a discussion item. I think I can look into this for you.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Mr. Peters can probably go back to his Board and try to figure out ways to fund this. If the study shows that we need to consolidate the elementary schools, where are we going to get the extra money?

**Mr. Ron Peters**—Every month the expenses are greater than what is coming in.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Land near Ridgeview High School is expensive. We found that out. Excavation is expensive, too. I just don't know where the money will come from.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—The thing that I will say, and I don't want to start another discussion, is that like the slide presentation we have a Timmy at Haysi, a Timmy at Clintwood and a Timmy at Ervinton. So whenever we look at this it is fine to say that we all agree to keep all three elementary schools. The question is, are we willing to sacrifice to pay the money to keep Ervinton open because it was on the chop block last time? Ervinton will be the one that goes. I know you won't vote for that.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—We have all been in on this summit talking about the closed mines in Dickenson County. The biggest job we have had in years is proposed in the Ervinton community, 20 year to life, a million tons a year. If that won't keep people in that community, nothing will. We may not be looking at such a low number at Ervinton in the next few years. I just wanted to say that if any part of our county has a hope of economically coming back, it is Ervinton.

**Superintendent Robinson**—That is why I say we need the fourth mitigation site.

**Mr. Scott Mullins**—This is the point I would like to make. As a community of Haysi, Clintwood and Ervinton we all want the same thing. The question is how confident are we that we can achieve that? I don't know the answer to that. We can debate that all night long. You can see the numbers. Nobody is going to close down Clintwood Elementary or Sandlick Elementary. But if we have to close for efficiency, unless there is some influx as a result of coal mining, it is going to be Ervinton. They have already been on the chop block. The question I would say to you all is if it comes to that point, you stood up for your community and Ervinton will feel the same way.

**RECESS:**

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—May I make a motion that we take a 10 minute recess. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

**RECONVENED:**

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—Okay, we are ready to get started back. Mrs. Robinson:

**UPDATE ON DEMOLITION PROJECTS:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—Item H. is the Update on the Demolition Projects. That report is going around. Mr. Tim Burge could not be here today, but you can see the October 2016 Progress Update.

Haysi High School Outbuildings and Pedestrian Bridge: the grass has been established and growing well. The demolition work is completed. Mr. Barton, I was there last week, and I thought it looked very nice.

Ervinton High School: Asbestos abatement is complete. Demolition work will commence upon completion of demolition at Clinchco Elementary School.

Clinchco Elementary School: Demolition is nearing completion with exception of slabs and footers. E. Luke Greene continues to haul debris from site.

This is an important note. The Corps of Engineers visited the sites last Wednesday. The Corps stated that the sidewalks at each site have to be removed as well as part of the contract. Corps to confirm if curb and gutter have to be removed as well.

The contractual Substantial Completion date is February 4, 2017, however, the project is making good progress and should be completed ahead of schedule.

The total project budget remains \$775,000. No change orders have been issued, however, we are anticipating a change order for sidewalk removal as this was not included in the original bid.

I will keep the Board informed if that budget has to be adjusted accordingly. On the second and third page you will see Clinchco Elementary School. If you haven't been by there, it kind of takes your breath away. Ervinton High School is just now beginning, and you can see the site of the demolition on the third page of the Haysi High School Outbuildings. If you have not had a chance to go by there, I would encourage you to do so. I think at both Haysi and Clinchco they have done a good job with demolition. Are there any questions?

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CRISIS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN:**

**Superintendent Robinson:** You have received this Item by email so Mr. Setser, we are ready.

**Mr. Mike Setser:** Thank you, Mrs. Robinson. Mr. Chair and Members of the Board, I have the finished product here. I will pass it around so you can look at it. Of course, this is confidential because of safety issues. The manual basically has five sections:

The Introduction is the first part. It describes the five roles of the Crisis Management Team here in the Central Office.

The second part is the Prevention and Mitigation which basically explains the ICS, or Incident Command System. All schools will be using this if we migrate to the new plans that we are proposing.

Section Three is Preparedness which is a list of things that we can do in order to be prepared for a crisis at our schools.

Section Four is Response and Section 5 is Recovery

One thing that you don't have in your binders are three Appendices:

Appendix 1 is the names of all of our employees with contact information which will be vital in times of a crisis that are school or community related.

Appendix 2 is the Division's Transportation for an emergency response plan.

Appendix 3 is the floor plan for each building in our division.

If the Board approves it, it will be required by law to share with the local EMS, Sheriff's Office, Rescue Squads and Fire Department. We will do that as quickly as we can once they are approved and put together. I will be happy to answer any questions that I can about our plan. This plan is modeled after the Virginia Department of the Criminal Justice Services model for a Crisis Management Plan. It is basically what the State recommends, and each of our schools is migrating over to this plan.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins:** Do you think it is a good idea to share this with so many people?

**Mr. Mike Setser—**We are required to. If you will look at Page 5 there are different versions of the plan. The Orange Plan is complete. There are different versions that we share with everyone that are strictly confidential.

**Superintendent Robinson—**Mr. Barton, I would just like to thank several people. This has been very time consuming for this office. I want to thank Mr. Setser who facilitated that and also all of our Directors here: Mr. Robinson, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Barton and Mr. Mullins. So I thank each of you for your work on this Crisis Management Plan.

Along with that we are looking at having a Facebook page for the Dickenson County School Division in case of an emergency. Mr. Robinson is working on that. We are looking at a way that if there is an issue at one of our schools, we can get that word out very, very quickly. We are still debating, and we have not met as a group. It will not be about school closures. They can still go on our Web site to get that. It is just anything that our community needs to know or parents.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins—**You know it is always on Facebook before it hits the news. I don't know how, but it does.

**Superintendent Robinson—**It will be a school division Facebook page. If there is something that we want to communicate to our parents, we find that it is a much better way than word of mouth.

**Mr. Mike Setser—**We want to utilize as many ways of communication as possible.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton—**A lot of times what you read on Facebook is not always true.

**Mr. Mike Setser—**I saw something on Facebook the other night. I don't have a Facebook page personally, but it said "Pot bust at Ridgeview High School—High School fined." A lot of people won't go down and read that it is for comedy use only. People read that and they take it seriously. We have had no busts at Ridgeview, no teacher has been arrested and there have been no fines.

Mr. Chair, we ask that this be approved as our Crisis Management Plan for the division.

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make a motion that we approve the Crisis Management Plan as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

**Superintendent Robinson**—Thank you Mr. Setser. I will keep you informed about our Facebook page as we develop that to be used along with our Crisis Plan.

**DISCUSSION OF THE DCPS’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—Mr. Robinson has graciously volunteered. Are there any comments or questions about that, Sir?

**Mr. Tony Robinson**—No, just in our previous plan it was called “No Child Left Behind”, and it has been changed to “Every Child Succeeds”. So it is just going through and replacing those things that are dated like the CPA plan and Profiles and Graphics have been changed in the State. So we just need to have those reflected in our plan as we move forward.

**Superintendent Robinson**—If the Board has any feedback or input, please let us know. What we would like to do, if the Board is prepared, is to present it to the Board in November. If it is the Board’s pleasure to approve it, we will send you a copy of that before then so you will have time to do that. If we are not ready in November, it is certainly something we can do in December. If there is anything specifically that you would like to have, please let us know. At the November meeting we will try to go over the plan thoroughly so that you are very familiar with that.

**DISCUSSION OF DATE/TIME FOR NOVEMBER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—Mr. Barton, the next item is the Discussion of the Date and Time for the November School Board Meeting. When the School Board voted on its calendar of scheduled 2016 meetings in January, 2016, we had not yet determined the 2016-2017 School Calendar. So the 2016-2017 Calendar approved in April scheduled the dismissal of schools for the entire week, November 21-25. So we are asking that due to this scheduling conflict to have the meeting rescheduled from Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup>. The December School Board Meeting will still be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Are there any questions or comments? Is there any conflict with any of our Board Members?

*Mr. Shanghai Nickles—I make a motion that our November School Board Meeting be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Susan Mullins seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

**APPROVAL OF EARLY EMPLOYEE PAYROLL FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2016:**

**Superintendent Robinson**—Our last Agenda item is something that we have done in prior years and it is the Approval of Early Employee Payroll for November and December. We are recommending early payroll on Friday, November 18, 2016, and on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, for all of our employees.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—One thing that I would like to bring up is that it is such a long time between the payroll in December and the payroll in January. Could we perhaps move that up a week or so? Because, it will be a long time from the middle of December to the end of January. Maybe we could move that date up a little as well to January 25, 2017.

**Superintendent Robinson**—So you are saying move the January payroll up a little?

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—Yes; I think it is a hardship for the teachers to go that long without a check. With that addition I will make a motion that we approve the payrolls. Mr. Shanghai Nickles second the motion. All votes aye.*

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—Thank you. I think that helps the employees.

**Superintendent Robinson**—Mr. Chair, that concludes our open session.

**BOARD COMMENT:**

**Chairman, Mr. Rocky Barton**—That brings us to Board Comment. Dr. Lyle, you are always first:

**Dr. Lurton Lyle**—I think the last couple of meetings have shown a lot of public interest in our schools. As Shanghai mentioned, I think we need to get on with the study and find out what we can and make a decision soon. Other than that I think things are going pretty well.

**Mr. Rick Mullins**—I am really happy to hear all of the discussion about the Sandlick Elementary School. It is the first time we have had the opportunity to discuss this in an Open Session, and I think it is really good that you all come out and give us all of these different options. We just want to thank you for attending.

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—I will just echo that. I appreciate everybody coming out and showing your interest. I don't know what to tell people, and they ask me all the time. I just know it is coming. I guess people talk about the divide between Sandlick and Haysi. A lot of people at Sandlick don't want it to go to Haysi. I have heard that over and over. I remember something came out in the paper that day about what the Corps had thought about moving it up on the hill. The next morning I got to the funeral home at 7:30, and Minnie Edwards was knocking at the door. She was telling me that the cemetery was not going to be moved above the school. I told her that I didn't think it would be. That was kind of when it was open as to who was going to do the project. I told her I wouldn't have any control. She told me that I better not move it. Minnie was sweet, and I appreciate everybody coming.

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—I learned two things when we voted to close the school before. Not everybody is going to be happy. The needs of the many have to outweigh the wants of the few. I hope that we can make the right decision and put it where it needs to go. The other thing I learned was that I didn't want to be in another position where we had to close any more schools, and I want to keep all of the schools open that we can. I just hope we can find

the money to do so. I'm with Rocky. I'm not going to take any more of Gladys' land either. It is not a good situation to be in.

**Shanghai Nickles**—I had the pleasure of serving lunch to 134 kids at Ervinton Elementary School a couple of weeks ago. It amazes me how those little kids come up there with those trays, and they can't see so they just point. So when they did that, I gave them two. What really amazed me is that they turned around, and those cooks knew them by their first name and go in and punch in their little number and go. We can't shortchange our children. We have some really smart kids. I really enjoy doing that. It is a fun thing to do. Like everyone on this Board, we just need to get this school built. If it is going to be at Sandlick, we need to start on it. Wherever it is going to be, we need to get it started because I would like to see every kid in our community have the best of the best. Will that ever happen? I don't know, but I would surely like to see it. Thank you, Rocky.

**Superintendent Robinson**—Mr. Barton, I would just like to add a comment. I know that a lot of times during meetings we are just moving through. But just sitting here I was just very proud of the democratic conversation and discussions that took place. I thought it was excellent because in coming from a country where that is just not the case or in many countries around the world. Like Mr. Mullins said, I am just very thankful that that kind of discussion can take place. Thank you.

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

**Chairman Rocky Barton**—Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 A of the Code of Virginia, I move that the board convene a closed session for the purpose of discussing: 1.) Employment issues relating resignation, retirement, FMLA request, consideration of employing part-time aides, substitutes and superintendent evaluation. 3.) Discussion of evaluation of real property pursuant to VA Code 2.23711 A (1) (3) and to consult with legal counsel on these issues pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.23711 A (6) (6). Mrs. Susan Mullins seconded the motion. All votes aye.

#### **OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

**Chairman Rocky Barton**—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 Rocky Barton stated; we have been in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a), Section (1) to discuss potential contracts and proprietary information. Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(d) of the Code of Virginia, he moved 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 of Virginia. Dr. Lurton Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins, Mrs. Susan Mullins, Mr. Shanghai Nickles and Chairman Rocky Barton; all certified true.

#### **BOARD ACTIONS:**

**Mrs. Susan Mullins**—*I make the motion we approve the coaching recommendations as presented. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Approved:

- Joy Hall, Academic
- Dakota Stanley, Baseball (Assistant)
- James Counts, Baseball (Assistant)

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make the motion we approve FMLA for Debbie Crabtree, Teacher at Clintwood Elementary School and Tammi Davis, Teacher at Sandlick Elementary School, as presented. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make the motion we accept the resignations and retirement as requested. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Approved:

- Sharon Hall, Part-time ISAEP Teacher
- Angie Neece, Part-time Cook
- Sarah Owens, Part-time Aide
- Janie Vanover, Principal – Retirement

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make the motion we approve the employment recommendations as presented. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Approved:

- Michele Sykes, Part-time ISAEP Teacher, Ridgeview High School
- Jordan Stanley, Part-time Aide, Ridgeview Middle School

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make the motion we approve the substitutes as requested contingent upon completion of background checks and all necessary paperwork. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Approved:

- Tomi Browning
- Tiffany Edwards
- Brandy Kiser
- Jordon Stanley

**RECESSED:**

*Mrs. Susan Mullins—I make a motion we recess this meeting until Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Shanghai Nickles seconded the motion. All votes aye.*

Recessed: 10:05 p.m.

**RECONVENED - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016 - 9:10 AM:**

**PRESENT:** Rocky Barton, Chairman; Rick Mullins; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Reba McCowan, Clerk; and Haydee Robinson, Superintendent

**ABSENT:** Susan Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Shanghai Nickles

**Chairman, Rocky Barton**—called the recessed meeting to order.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**Chairman Rocky Barton**— Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 A of the Code of Virginia, I move that the board convene a closed session for the purpose of discussing: 1.) Employment issues relating resignation, retirement, consideration of employing a coach and elementary principal pursuant to VA Code 2.23711 A (1). Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

**OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

**Chairman Rocky Barton**—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 Rocky Barton stated; we have been in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a), Section (1) to discuss potential contracts and proprietary information. Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(d) of the Code of Virginia, he moved 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 of Virginia. Dr. Lurton Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins, and Chairman Rocky Barton; all certified true.

**BOARD ACTION:**

***Chairman Rocky Barton—I make the motion we approve the coaching recommendation as presented. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.***

Approved:

- Shawna Counts, JV Coach

***Chairman Rocky Barton—I make the motion we approve the resignation/retirement requests as presented. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.***

Approved:

- Deborah Booher, PALS Aide – Ervinton Elementary School
- Elizabeth Silvers, Cook – Ridgeview Cafeteria – Retirement

***Chairman Lurton Lyle—I make the motion we approve Betty Newton as Interim Principal at Clintwood Elementary School for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.***

***Chairman Lurton Lyle—I make the motion we approve the post/advertise of positions as requested. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.***

Approved:

- Pre K – 6 Elementary Teacher
- Cook(s) – Part-time Positions
- Teacher Aide(s) – Part-time Positions

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Chairman Rocky Barton—I make the motion we adjourn. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the meeting. All votes aye.*

Adjourned: 9:20 a.m.

**Rocky Barton**

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CHAIRMAN

**Approved: November 30, 2016**

**Reba McCowan**

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CLERK