

DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Regular School Board Meeting
November 29, 2017
Dickenson County Courtroom

PRESENT: Susan Mullins, Chairman; Rocky Barton, 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, MRS. SUSAN MULLINS:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Good evening everybody. I would like to call this meeting to order. I will go ahead and note for the record that all members are present including our Superintendent, Mrs. Haydee Robinson and our Clerk, Mrs. Reba McCowan.

If there are no changes, I will ask for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles mad the motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

We will go ahead and start our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Thank you and please be seated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: That brings us to Public Comment. If anyone needs to sign up, please sign your name on this list. Does anyone else in the group need to sign? I will ask Mr. Nickles to read the guidelines. Mr. Nickles: (So read)

I want to welcome everyone and we are in a bigger room than we are usually in and I would like remind everybody that it's hard to hear. We want everyone to have their opportunity but we want everyone to be able to hear up here too. Has everyone who wishes to speak had an opportunity to sign up? Mr. Hill wants to be added. Any one else? Your name is? David Cummins.

Ms. Allison Mullins: Mrs. Mullins, can Mr. Cummins be put in front of me because he has to leave for bible study, I think.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So you want him to take your spot and you take his? Yes, that's fine. The first name on our list is Kathy Musick.

Ms. Kathy Musick: Good evening Chairman Mullins, Mrs. Robinson, Members of the Board, It's my pleasure to speak with you tonight. I want to thank you for the opportunity to come to Dickenson County and serve the teachers in Dickenson County. This Board meeting, you can feel the excitement and tension in the room with the decisions you have to make. As we end 2017 and look forward to 2018, I would ask one more thing. I ask that you

consider the teachers. You've built these beautiful schools and the most important thing in meeting goals and passing SOL's are your people. Next year as you are looking at those budgets do all you can to improve salaries and also take home pay of teachers. Thank you.

Mrs. Phyllis Mullins: Good evening. I want to thank the Board and Mrs. Robinson for the recent conference sponsored by the DEA. They gave us professional leave to attend and there were some informative workshops on ESSA, which is going to be here before we know it. Also, we are getting ready to have our annual DEA Christmas dinner and I have invitation for each of you. I hope each of you can come. I look forward to working with the Board and Mrs. Robinson when it comes to our budget and insurance; and with the Board of Supervisors. I know that will be coming up before long. I look forward to doing everything that we can to work together and get everything we can for our employees. Mrs. Robinson, thank you very much for the recertification points.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mrs. Mullins, do you mind telling us what ESSA is?

Mrs. Phyllis Mullins: It's Every Student Succeeds Act and it is replacing No Child Left Behind. It is actually geared toward Career and Technical.

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: Hello, my name is Jeremy Stapleton. This has been, let me first read from your own guidelines. "It is the desire of the School Board to treat each member of the public fairly and equally." It was brought to your attention that a school bus stop was unsafe from a Board of Supervisors member. I have the minutes from that meeting and it's marked on here the 55th minute. It will show that it's a personal issue between the tenant at that school bus site and the gentleman making that complaint. I also have myVDOT.com; reference numbers from myVDOT road studies that were closed due to this School Board telling VDOT not to conduct those studies. There has been one reopen and it's still open and active but it's going to take a long time for this study to be completed. There's a 10 year old boy and a 4 year old boy that are having to be picked up from school now. They cannot utilize the school bus system. The owners of that property, I've got permission to speak on their behalf, are building apartments at this site. If they are not allowed to utilize the school buses, they are not going to be able to continue building those apartments because they are not going to be able to rent them out to nobody with children. I'd like to submit this Chairperson. I've nothing else to say. There has never been an accident at this site even years ago. There's never been an accident reported at this site. There has never been an issue with the school buses at this site. Last year with the help of Missy Owens the Head Start teacher at Clinchco, had VDOT install School Bus Stop Ahead signs on either side of this driveway. This has always been a school bus stop. The Chief's kids both got on and off there their whole school careers until they were old enough to drive.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So do you mind to tell me where this is?

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: 22618 Dickenson Highway. It's the next driveway up from Chief George Wallace's house. I have to get this done through VDOT before I can petition VDOT to lower the speed limit, which Burl Mooney said he would let the kids off if the speed limit was reduced there. But, I have to have the studies done before I can petition VDOT.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: How long are they saying it's going to take to get the studies done?

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: Well, October 9th if they had started then, it takes up to 14 days for the Wise residency office to get the paperwork from the computer and start the study. I don't know how long it's actually going to take. When there are personal issues at hand and you'll tell when you listen to the minutes of what this man said about your next speaker. A million dollars' worth of insurance on kids and she wants them to get hurt so she can collect the money. She works at the Day Care Center. She makes \$10.65 an hour. She can't afford \$1 million worth of insurance. It's just ridiculous that they would let someone come to an open meeting; recorded meeting and say something like that. Which, I've advised her to get an attorney.

Mr. Rocky Barton: You're saying those comments were at a Board of Supervisors' meeting?

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: Yes sir.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Not ours?

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: No, no, no. I wanted to make both Boards aware of what's being said. That way you all know this is a personal issue not a safety issue for those children.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair, I have personally talked with Mr. Stapleton. Mr. Mooney and I have talked about this bus stop and we've tried to contact Ms. Deel several times. So we are aware of this situation and I'd be glad to share and speak with Mr. Stapleton again and share with the School Board what the issues are.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I wasn't aware and was a little bit lost.

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: I was trying to make people aware.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I was a little lost when you were referring to but it happened at the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: But, I'm making the School Board aware of what's being said in the Board of Supervisors' meeting because actually the person that's making these comments works for a Board of Supervisors' member. And, that's who brought it to Burl Mooney's attention.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Well, I suppose Mrs. Robinson will help you with clarification and get back to us.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: I will and also Ms. Deel. That won't be any problem.

Mr. Jeremy Stapleton: Thank you.

Ms. Amy Deel: I'm actually the one that lives at the apartment Mr. Stapleton was talking about. The bus stop was taken away from my children approximately August 25th, due to personal issues not for their safety. I was told by Mr. Burl Mooney it was due to it being a 55 mile per hour zone. However, since then I have personally witnessed a bus stopping within approximately a mile from my residence which is also a 55 mile per hour zone. There is a curve there as well. He said it's because of a curve as well at my residence. Those children at the 55 mile per hour zone had to cross the road as well. My children have my mom crossing the road with them and those children did not have anyone to cross along with them. So there is no safety issue at all. Since the stop was taken I've had to leave my full time job early to pick my children up from school; get family members or friends to pick them up and take them to my babysitter at my residence. There have been days that my children have been home by noon due to this inconvenience. How can they prosper? How can they learn if they are not at school full time; all day? We are a No Child Left Behind school my children need their bus stop back so they can be there all day and not left behind. They need to utilize the public school bus system as well as others and be able to attend the entire day of school. This has been a big inconvenience for my children. Daily they are asking me, mom who's picking me up? How am I getting home? My children cannot prosper in the school worrying like that on a daily basis. They do not need to be singled out due to personal issues. They need their bus stop back so they can have consistency and focus on their school. Mr. Mooney also said he was going to let the School Board handle this issue. Now I'm asking you for the help. I'm asking you for my children to let them have their bus stop back; not let them be singled out. Why not stop this inconvenience for my children as well as everyone involved and let them have it back.

My oldest son will be going to the middle school next year and my youngest at the elementary. With my children's stop not being available to them at their residence it will make a big impact on their schooling. Mrs. Robinson has also asked me to switch them to Clintwood and let them be dropped off at my job. That's almost \$200 a week for me to pay for daycare when I'm getting daycare free. Why should I have to switch schools with them when I've already got daycare? They're already in school. They can prosper where there at. Thank you.

Mr. David Ratliff: That's David M. Ratliff. I'm going to talk to you about and I've already talked to Dobb about it. Haysi High School was sitting in Haysi and had the same sewer treatment plant up there. I said to myself, why would they want to have to spend more money on a sewer treatment plant when there is already one in downtown Haysi. See and right now you are going to have to have somebody go in there and check it all the time if you put it somewhere else. If you put in Haysi you can put it on the sewer system in Haysi. We got public water and right now the high school is vacant. That means we got more room for sewer if you put it in Haysi. So if you're looking at the factor together; the sewer line is going to save you money. You are not going to have to build a sewer treatment plant. That cuts down the budget on the cost of the school on that. They've got the maintenance on the sewer treatment plant. You got to go through and everything like that to make sure it's going to the sewer treatment plant. Why don't they save that money and put somewhere where the town takes care of the sewer? That's why I'm looking at it that way. Because, when you all spend some money up grading your sewer treatment plant and stuff like that, it's more costly.

Also, it's about marketing too. Look at Buchanan County what happened. I think it would be a smart move to put it in Haysi because of economics and development too. By looking at the sewer treatment plant; where is the sewer treatment plant on the Ridge at? You'll have to have it checked by a janitor or maintenance is going to have to go up there. Putting at Haysi the State already takes care of that. You can take care of the building better than taking care of the sewer treatment plant. You got to look at the cost that is going to take place. I told Dobb not to say anything until I came here. I've got more time but I'm going to leave it for the other people. You got to look at other things and you don't want to be like what's happened in Buchanan County. A bunch of them went to jail for not... (Laughter) That's the truth. They went to jail for embezzlement and Shanghai don't want to be thrown in jail; he don't look good in stripes.... (Laughter)

Mr. Jarvis Deel: Hello, I'm the Mayor of Clinchco. If you were to build a school in Haysi, can you afford a Preschool – 7? That's a point I want to talk about and why I drove over here tonight. Also, the committees that were picked to check these sites I believe are awful biased myself. Third, Clinchco got put on the back burner again. I was at one of those meetings where Curtis Elswick said, and he said it in front of me, he stated that Clinchco site was the cheapest and the best place. Later in a new paper that changed and Clinchco got put on the back burner again. Again, you also need to think about the vocational school. Why did they have to move the vocational school where they did? Clintwood kids went there. Haysi kids went there. Ervinton kids went there. They had to have a logical reason for putting the vocational school down there where they did. Seems to me, it would be closer than taking them all the way to Ridgeview.

The last thing I want to say; the school is really for the kids. It's their safety and a chance for each child, each child, we don't want to leave any of the kids from the far side of Ervinton out. This is a chance for each child for an equal opportunity for an education. So why do some of the kids in the County get a new updated school with better learning facilities than other ones?

Another thing is this arguing between the parents, that's why consolidation don't work. When these parent argue between each other and we ought not to argue with each other. We're sending a bad message to our kids. Everybody needs to get on board as a County. We really do. If this County is going to survive, we are going to have to back each other. I mean be together and stand together. That's about all I've got to say and I just hope that everybody understands that this County is going to have to get together on it.

I've done some more research on the fault line Rocky and it's still active.

Mr. Rocky Barton: The what?

Mr. Jarvis Deel: The fault line. It's still turning counter clock ways. You can go to USDS website and check it out. 2016 there were 246 events and 11 of those events were only about 135 miles away from the Russell Fork fault line. So, one good event at the Russell Fork fault line; that could be it. Like I say, that may never happen.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Not in 50 years.

Mr. Jarvis Deel: That's just something that the Man upstairs knows.

Mr. Rocky Barton: You're right.

Mr. Jarvis Deel: Well, like I say, if there's any change of getting a child hurt, I wouldn't want my name a piece of paper saying I wanted to put a school down there next to a fault line. I really wouldn't but that's you all's decision. I appreciate the time to talk and I just hate to be sitting where you are.

Mrs. Jazmine Yates: Hello, I spoke last month on being in favor of the three school model. So, my kids are one of those outskirts kids, and we don't necessarily live as far out as some of the kids that Dobb was talking about. We do live 23 miles, I looked it up on Google Maps, and driving there, me driving nonstop takes me a good 40 minutes to get to Ridgeview. We have been looking at options; me and my husband have been looking at options, if you guys decide to put this elementary school at Ridgeview, where my kids are going to go. Because to me, on a school bus, that's going to add at least 30 more minutes. That would be over an hour to get there. I'm not going to put Knox at 4 years old to go to Pre K for an hour on the bus. Then an hour back home after having a full day at school. That would be having a 10 hour day at 4. That's crazy. That's crazy. (Applause) This is not in my notes. I'm just letting the Holy Spirit work.

I also heard and Norma who was that student? The grandparent. Okay and how long does it take to get to school; the Ridgeview site?

Mrs. Norma Hay: About 30 to 35 minutes.

Mrs. Jazmine Yates: Okay. 35 minutes just driving straight and she said that her granddaughter, that's 4 years old, fell asleep just from her house to Sandlick. How long does that take?

Mrs. Norma Hay: On the school bus? Well, she gets on about 7 o'clock in the morning or 5 after 7.

Mrs. Jazmine Yates: So, about an hour?

Mrs. Norma Hay: Yes.

Mrs. Jazmine Yates: Okay, so about an hour. She is on the bus for an hour just to go to Sandlick. She fell asleep on the bus and then what happened.....the bus driver didn't realize that and know she was asleep. She was asleep and she went on up to the Ridgeview campus where other students got dropped off and then the bus driver did a sweep and she was still there. That was just down to Sandlick. How many more times might that happen if you put kids all the way up to Ridgeview? That would happen way too many times....too

many times to count. (Applause) I am here to state the obvious. The obvious issue is the contract; the contract stated and everybody signed it, so why don't you just go with it.

Several people have mentioned that they are for consolidation. All of those people are from Clintwood. So of course they want consolidation; it's more convenient for them. It's just 5 minutes up the road from their dilapidated school. (Applause)

I came here to clarify what the contract says; just in case people don't know. I've heard some comments that are completely wrong and the contract doesn't even say that so I want to clarify. So, it states that our students are to be removed out of the flood zone. The Corps of Engineers, which is the government, granted us money for two schools to get out of the flood zone. Those two schools say Sandlick and Clinchco. They don't say Clintwood. They don't say Longs Fork. They don't say Ervinton. They're not in the flood zone. (Applause) The problem is that people are taking this as a relocation of Sandlick and Clinchco Schools to where are we going to relocate them to a consolidation issue. Why are they doing that? Because that's unfair for everybody. I was told, but I don't know about it, I was told there was money given to guys to update those schools and money was handled elsewhere. I don't know but that's just what I've heard.

But you know what? Us Sandlick people, we don't want a brand new school. We would just rather stay right where we are in our 1950's building, but they're telling us we have to move. Unfortunately, we do. So why would we put, if you want a school on the Ridge, then you need to Sandlick and Clinchco students on the Ridge. But that wouldn't make any sense. So...put them in Haysi because that makes sense. There would be no educational benefit for consolidating elementary schools. No financial benefit. So, there's no point. Thank you. (Applause)

Mrs. Kathy Harrison: Good evening everyone. The first thing I would like to address was at the last meeting, and I think it was Mr. Nickles, asked how many there were from Ervinton. Was that you Mr. Nickles?

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I did.

Mrs. Kathy Harrison: I took that to mean those that attended Ervinton. I am an Ervinton District person. I didn't raise my hand but I am an Ervinton District person. Well, I work in Haysi, live in Clinchco, so when you have these districts and you are representing people you're not just representing a small group, especially Ervinton. That is a large district. It represents people that go to Clintwood, Haysi, Sandlick, went to Clinchco. My kids went to Clinchco as elementary and to Haysi as high school. I know there are at least three Board members sitting here that have students in their district going to Sandlick; Mr. Mullins, Mr. Barton, Mr. Nickles. Now you represent those children! (Applause)

I want give you just a little summary that some writers did on consolidation in West Virginia. They were going at it aggressively and they did a summary on what consolidation cost and they won an award with their articles. This is just a summary. The State spent \$1 billion on school consolidation and no we are not going to spend that much but it is up there. The

school building's authority executive director acknowledged that consolidation did not save the taxpayers money. Although consolidated, they spent a higher percentage of their budgets on maintenance and transportation than they did 5 years ago; despite consolidation. The number of local administrators increased by 16%, despite a 13% decrease in enrollment. The number of State level administrators increased and their salaries doubled. West Virginia spent more of its educational dollars on transportation. Now, when you are going to have to bring them all the way from the head of these roads somewhere, you are going to spend more in transportation. Realistically, let's just go ahead and acknowledge it. It's going to be more to bring them to Ridgeview than it is to Sandlick; that's just the way it is. They have been forced to slash funds from classrooms, offices and cafeterias. Student wellbeing; they said they were stressed and exhausted. She just told you that about the little kid. (Applause) I read another report that said the further for high school students, the further the school bus ride, the less after school participation there was and the more they tend to depend upon bus transportation. It's much easier as a parent to let your child ride or drive a vehicle for 20 minutes to get to school than it is for 45 minutes to get to school. Those that have distance because of consolidation; they use bus transportation more. If they use bus transportation then participation in after school activities dropped drastically. Academics and we have seen this, we were promised advanced courses and they may have materialized for that first year and then.....we had the cuts and they were eliminated. (Applause)

There is really no savings in consolidation and please keep the small children in mind while you think about it. Remember the three that I mentioned. You represent the students in Sandlick. I don't care if you are from Willis District... (Applause)...you can't forget those kids. (Applause)

Ms. Sandy Sykes: I typically try to keep quiet when it comes to political issues. I don't want to hurt feelings. I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings in this room. But, I always felt like my thoughts were my own and if I felt like if I needed to share I would. I taught at Clinchco Elementary for 28 years. As a teacher, it was ingrained in me to keep my mouth shut or otherwise my job could have been in jeopardy. Today the time has come for me to speak up. I'm actually going to be speaking about the things that Jazmine and Kathy spoke about. However, I'm speaking as someone who doesn't have kids in school. I will not have children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews affected by this. I'm here to speak to you as a former teacher. I don't like being here because I don't like speaking.

But let me start off by saying, we have a beautiful high school. I am really proud of that high school and we have a beautiful middle school up on the Ridge as we like to call it. Our campus is unrivaled. That school is full of great teachers and great kids. I think we are finally united as the Wolfpack. I think some people thought it would take longer. It hasn't. I think for the most part we are. But, I'm not here to speak about the high school. I'm here to speak about the something else; our community schools. A consolidate elementary was never in the plan. Each community was going to be able to keep their elementary schools. Sandlick Elementary sits in the flood zone so the plan was to construct a new elementary school in the Haysi area for the Sandlick and Clinchco kids. You know all this stuff. In fact Sandlick flooded in the devastating flood of 1977. I know. I was a Junior at Haysi High School at the time. We missed a great deal of school for the cleanup of Sandlick Elementary and the

whole town of Haysi. Money was appropriated to build a school; however I've been hearing that you guys have kind of changed your mind on that one. As a former teacher, I just have to say this is a terrible idea for little kids. (Applause) I can't imagine a little Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st Grader that far away from home on a bus that long. It makes me want to cry to think about it. You see I was one of those kids that lived; I lived almost in Buchanan County, I could spit and it would go to Buchanan County. I didn't go to school in Buchanan County because I lived in Dickenson County. My parents paid taxes in Dickenson County. I felt that I had the right and I didn't have to go to another school. Anyway, the thought just breaks my heart. It's just wrong for these kids that live on the outside fringes of the County. They count too. Who in the world wants a little elementary age kids mingling on the same campus as high school? (Applause)

So, Dickenson County School Board, please in your heart, and you know what's right, do the right thing. (Applause)

Mrs. Glenda O'Quinn: First of all and what I wanted to say is we've been speaking about all those little children that you are going to put on a bus for hours. We've mentioned names but I want to put a face; I want you to see this face. This is the one you are going to put on that bus for an hour. If my nephew would hold my niece, that I love more than life itself, up. You see that face right there guys? Do you really want that at the high school? (Applause)...and she lives close to the Buchanan County line too. I've already lost some of my family members to Buchanan County as you know. I don't want to lose more. I want them to be in Dickenson County.

Now having said that, what I had prepared to say....woo; that just took a minute Mike. As Allison will get up and tell you later; Allison is a dear friend. She and I have been working for many years trying to bring to the attention of the public and this Board what a mistake it would be to take Sandlick's school from them. Anyway, we began a journey by submitting a Freedom of Information request to the Treasurer's office for the School Board's information. What we received; what we found was very disturbing and very shocking. I'm not going to speak it out in public because I feel like you already know. You know what I'm talking about. A lot of people you work for, that YOU work for may not know but we found out some very disturbing information. Anyway, we had that information and we were hoping that you all would do the right thing regardless of whether you had done the wrong thing in the past. (Applause)

Allison and I, both, were very vocal about it and I was scheduled to speak at another Board meeting. Mr. Mullins, Scott Mullins, asked me to step out in the hall. He asked me and I will say that Allison followed and he asked me basically to just hush about it. That's a paraphrase he didn't say it like that. But just stop talking about it; don't say anymore and he assured me that we were going to get our school at Sandlick. Do you remember that Mr. Mullins?

Mr. Scott Mullins: No, but I think you're lying.

Mrs. Glenda O'Quinn: Are YOU serious?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I'm very serious

Glenda O'Quinn: Oh WOW! That's NOT a lie! The people sitting on this Board that know me KNOW that not only do I not tell lies; that I would never get before this Board and lie. (Applause)

I was assured and let me tell you how you can double check.inaudible.....after you made that statement to me; that it was okay; we were going to get our school. My name was called to speak. I got up and I didn't say anything except thank you. Remember? I said I appreciate what ya'll are doing. Thank you. Because I was thanking you; thinking in my mind, that that word was going to be kept. And that's all I said, how much I appreciate what you all are doing. But, it didn't happen that way.

Here we are again years later.... (Audience member said and you said thank you).... And that's exactly right, I said thank you in order for it to be on record. I didn't say why, because I was going to keep my mouth shut. Mr. Mullins you accomplished something that most people can't do and I shut my mouth. I was hoping you were right. People you know me... (Applause)

Around these parts your word is as important as any contract written. (Applause) You give me your word. I believe you and the people at Haysi believed you when you gave me your word. Now it seems the people of Haysi have been lied to. It may be popular to do it.....to be called a liar from Washington DC down to Dickenson County but that doesn't mean that what your saying is a lie; because I'm not lying. That wasn't in my paper because I never dreamed Mr. Mullins would deny it. Anyway, I want to thank you but somebody took a little of my time by calling me a liar; on RECORD. That's all I got to say about that! (Applause)

Mr. David Cummins: I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you. I attended the November 14th meeting. I did some research from some concerns expressed in the November 14th meeting at the Kiwanis. There were a number of things mentioned and they were concerned that consolidation would affect safety. That it would affect students, families and the community in general. I did some research regarding those three areas.

US Department of Education Commission recommended neighborhood based schools saying quote "security improves and violence decreases in smaller or intimate learning facilities". There are fuller comments in the Letter to the Editor in the Dickenson Star on that today. Also, the as to the effect or size of schools on children and their families, researchers at Ohio State University analyzed tests scores to determine students of low income, which we have a lot of in our County, whether students from low income communities do better in small schools or large ones. Quote, "their conclusion is that across the board small schools are most effective in reducing predictable effects of poverty over student achievement", end quote. Further, studies in three States led to the conclusion that consolidation had a negative effect on students and their families. Because, quote "Students must be bused longer distances, which has been mentioned, from their homes where there is no sense of community

investment in the school where parent and community participation in the school suffers because the school is so distant”. In other words, it will be harder for parents and family to be involved in elementary activities and after school activities, and it will be harder pick up and take kids to the doctor in the middle of the day if the school is moved farther from their home rather than being in the neighborhood. The third area of concern that was mentioned at that meeting was the negative effect of moving that school from the community; the negative effects on communities. A particular concern was the Haysi community. The Cornell University Sociologist, Thomas License, asked, “What happens to small rural communities when they lose their schools?” His study revealed, among other things, that 60% of communities with schools saw population growth. Only 40% of those without schools saw population growth. Also, the average housing values in communities with schools are 25% higher than those without schools. I’m still quoting here, communities with schools show higher per capita incomes, more equal distribution of income, less per capita income from public assistance, less poverty and less child poverty” end quote. In other words, if Haysi becomes a town with a school it is highly likely that housing values will decrease. (Applause) It will make growth more difficult.

Now, here’s my question to you. If that was going to be happening in your community, would you want that for yourself? (Applause) Now, here is my plea to you as friend to friend. Given the view that many in our County, backed by numerous studies, moving a school from their neighborhood would hurt them, and their families, and their children, and their community; isn’t time to think of a little bigger picture? And maybe think of what the greatest teacher that ever visited this plant said. His name was Jesus and he said; do unto others as you would want them to do to you. (Applause)

Mr. Carroll Edwards: I don’t know how many times I’ve been before this Board on this topic. The whole thing is; that it should have never been. (Applause) Everybody that has spoke here tonight has give you many, many reasons that would be dumb to consolidate elementaries. (Applause) I don’t think there is anything that I can add, and I’ve spoke many times and I think to deaf ears. (Applause)

I’ll quote one; the preacher quoted a scripture, so I’m going to quote one. When the Lord was here on the earth with a little child in his hands, whatever you do unto these, my little ones, you do unto me. (Applause)

Ms. Kimberly Rose: Hello, my name is Kimberly Rose. I live in the Haysi area and I work both equally in Haysi and Clintwood, and I love both communities. I really do. I just want to add my name to the list of people who have a lot of concerns, and fears about the proposed consolidated elementary school at Ridgeview. Like so many others have already said, building a consolidated elementary school was never the intended purpose of the grant money given by the Corps of Engineers. (Applause) And, to use it for that purpose is frankly, unethical. (Applause) The very children that were supposed to be help with this money, in the flood zone, are going to be the ones left out in the cold. (Applause) Those living on the outskirts will have to travel way too far from home to attend that school. It is unacceptable to ask families to put these young children on an extremely long bus ride every day. It will start

a chain reaction of events that will ultimately lead to people leaving this County. (Applause) That is the last thing that we need. It would be absolutely devastating to our economy.

I am asking the Board, respectfully, to do the right thing. To do the ethical thing for these students, and community, and build a new school in the Haysi area like you promised you'd do. (Applause)

Mr. Eddie Owens: I'm Eddie Owens and I've just got one complaint about the grading system. The way you've changed it, how can you go from N, S and A's, you don't get no A's no more. You can't tell, like if a student makes a 76 and another has got a 98, they get an S for that. I just don't know how that grading system came about.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Yes, Mrs. Robinson.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Mr. Owens if Mr. Robinson, he's our Director of Instruction, if he could get your number, Sir. We would be glad to call you for a conference and we can talk about this. I don't have all the details but we would be glad to talk to you tomorrow about that. This is Mr. Robinson right here; if you could give him your telephone number we would be glad to check that out, and any areas of concern. Thank you very much.

Mr. Darrell Thacker: Thank you for having me and I would just like to say, after hearing everything I heard the last few Board meetings, I've spent my entire life at Haysi, so naturally my heart is going to be at Haysi. Also, with that being said, I love my County. (Applause) I could have been anywhere in the State of Virginia and made two or three times more than the salary I've made living in Haysi. I've struggled but I love it and I stayed. That's been my decision. I don't envy your decisions that you have to make. I know it's tough and it's been long trying to decide. I do think about, when I wonder what's gone on, the ups and downs of all that's gone on, we've struggled over the wrong decision though. Good standards, good qualities and safety for our kids and keep intact, close to our kids can't be compromised. (Applause) Every time I take my old truck and drive by the old Haysi High School and Sandlick Elementary School that's where my heart is in the school system. As I look at it, it belongs in Haysi. (Applause) When I drive by I say; that's my home. Somebody is trying to take my home and move it to somewhere. (Applause)

I support this County in the decisions and what it's done. And I have a scripture that I think is so needful for all of us. I prayed about even trying to share anything with you folks tonight but it's in Ephesians 3:20: Now to him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us. I think it's time and pretty clear cut. We need the power of God to be with us. (Applause) I don't know what the future holds. That's what that shirt is; I live by faith. That's what we have to do as a School Board, as administrators, as pastors of our churches, as leaders of our community or whatever we do. We live by prayer and by faith in a God that knows where we are and so many problems we have. He knows the answers to them. I would like for this School Board, my suggestion, is that you utter a prayer if you haven't to an awesome God that we have. To say

God help us to make the right decision that we've got to make. (Applause) The decision is; that it's got to be in Haysi. That's the right decision. Anything other than that is going to be wrong. I heard it said about a year ago, we've got an opportunity to make things right. Right here it is. Make the right decision. (Applause)

Two things I would like to say. I would like to hear sometimes, somewhere, somehow, an opinion that Mrs. Haydee Robinson could address. At a School Board Meeting, I hear everyone say that they liked the three school model, except maybe one or two members a month or so ago. I would like to hear her opinion, her expression. (Applause) I'd also like to hear from the folks we've hired to run our schools, which is our Principals, I'd like to hear from them. (Applause)

Mrs. Colleen Sutherland: I'm speaking from my heart. This is my 29th year of teaching. I teach at Sandlick Elementary and I've taught many a child, many a student and was privileged to teach three of my own. In all my dealings with the students when I spoke they knew my word meant everything, because I backed it up. My word was my honor. All I asked you all is to back up your word from the beginning. (Applause) I especially ask Shanghai Nickles and Dr. Lyle because I've known them most of my life. I know you to be men of your word and you love this community. I ask you to please don't be a part of the back stabbing of Sandlick and Haysi. (Applause) That have loved you and supported you all these years. Thank you. (Applause)

Mr. James Boyd: Good afternoon Mrs. Robinson, Board Members. I am James Boyd from over in the McClure area. I am an Ervinton graduate and back in the 70's I helped clean up Ervinton High School when it was flooded in 77. I know as far back as 66 the water never got up that bad over there except for the fact that when the railroad crossing got stopped up. That's what caused the flooding at Ervinton High School. When you got water that's blocked off with limbs and everything over there, well heck fire waters going to up there; you know what I'm saying. Anyhow, I hear there is going to be a consolidation of the elementary schools. I also heard they were going to close Ervinton Elementary School. They can't use this flood excuse for the Ervinton Elementary School because it's up on a dad-gum hill. (Applause) Pardon my language. (Laughter)

I just want to say that if you close Ervinton Elementary School and you build a new elementary school; let's make it impartial where the kids travel the same distance. You have kids up on Hazel Mountain right now already getting home after 5 o'clock on a school bus. That's not fair to those kids close to Russell County line. Everybody knows that the drop off in schools from the attendance of students, especially Smith Ridge, Sandy Ridge. Those kids go to Eastside. Because, of the bus ride to the high school. Those elementary school students that went to Ervinton Elementary are taking to Eastside. I wouldn't want to send my high school student to Eastside and then my elementary student down to Ervinton Elementary. You are separating the two kids. I just say don't exclude Ervinton Elementary School. (Applause)

I think the world of Shanghai Nickles, but I heard that he had made some statements, of course you know how hearsay is, asked where's the Ervinton people and why aren't they

speaking up. It can be done; one and God almighty. (Applause) I love Ervinton. I do, I really do. I love this County. We're as close to Ridgeview as Ervinton and I'm just thinking of the kids near Russell County and near the Wise County lines. That's what I'm worried about myself. I'm really not too worried about my own because I know where they are going to go. I appreciate the time you've given me. God Bless each one of you.

Mr. David Yates: Good evening Board members. I'm glad Mr. Boyd was here because I'm going to approach this topic from a little different angle and that was the forgotten school of Ervinton Elementary. (Applause)

I'm the representative for the Ervinton District on the Board of Supervisors. I think it's important that I stand up for those people in my district. (Applause) This school is important to the community. With the proposed consolidation of the elementaries; it poses the elimination of Ervinton Elementary as well as Clintwood Elementary and Sandlick Elementary. I have students in my district in all three schools. I feel I can represent all three of them by speaking in this manner. Personally, I would be opposed to consolidation of any of the elementary schools. (Applause) First of all, it would have an effect on all three of my schools in closing.

I think Reverend Cummins quoted some very good research. If we are going to educators we need to pay attention to what research says. (Applause) In this case, what is the best for the students? Is the community schools that are small and safety and attention can be given to each individual student by the teachers; easier to secure, easier to look at, easier to transport, easier to communicate with? Those are the things we've got to look at. Is it best for the County? I think so. (Applause)

I represent part of the Board of Supervisors. I can't speak for all of them but I will not support any kind of funding that is necessary increase the cost of the building, when we have money available and a site that has been projected. (Applause)

Mr. Ron Peters: And I'm a second vote on that last comment. (Applause)

Mr. David Yates: What I know about the two facilities, the middle school and high school, there is not enough space to accommodate transferring grades to create a K – 3 or a K – 4 or whatever the final planning would be. Have we talked to the Principals' about this? The high school and middle school principals; have they been consulted? How would you accommodate an additional 150 kids in your building? If it's 3 grade levels 300 kids? Are we going to end up in another situation where we have to buy 5 or 10 outside double mobile units? When we built Sandlick Elementary School the first thing we did was buy double mobile units to accommodate all the space they didn't put in the building. Planning ahead, thinking and looking ahead could be one of the things that this County has never done. (Applause) Do study this and learn a lesson? Not to make the same mistakes again. (Applause)

I want to turn prophet here just a little bit. I foresee this particular issue creating a division in the County. Were as before on the consolidated high school, we all knew and everybody bought into the idea; better opportunities, better facilities, better this and better that. The

public bought it. They're supporting it, but this will lead to a lot of problems. I foresee traffic issues. I foresee cost issues. The County can't afford to give you any more money. (Applause) I foresee crowd issues. Again, I go back to what is best for the students. We talk about what's best for the kids. What's best for the kids? Well, let's do what's best for the kids. (Applause)

Mr. Matthew Owens: Madame Chair, Superintendent Robinson, my name is Matthew Owens and I'm part of the Haysi Partners that has been asked to communicate with the School Board and the Board of Supervisors about financial situations with the high school elementary school consolidation. The situation right now is we've been charged with taking care of the Sandlick Elementary and Clinchco students. We asked that a FOIA request be submitted and we submitted that on November 15th and it was distributed to you just slightly after that; the next day. Board of Supervisors and School Board were emailed and a certified letter was sent to Mr. Barton. I spoke with Mrs. Robinson and I know it was a holiday weekend, but she actually called me on her day off, which I appreciate. She had a two hour conversation with me about the items we were requesting. I understand that it was a holiday weekend, but we still haven't received any of those items or any of the information. I focused with her on the items 1 through 6, and she told me that the Board of Supervisors, School Board and the Corps of Engineers communicated with each other and made decisions on the items we had in question.

The main thing we are asking for is information about the betterments that were listed in the contract. We are asking for some itemized lists of what was done as far as the school construction and how the money was shifting around. We're in the understanding now that the contracts stated there was \$39 million dollars allotted for the elementary School. I do understand there were some elementary school children moved from those elementary schools, so those numbers probably \$2 or \$3 million at most. There is still approximately \$15 million in discrepancy. So, at this point right now we would like to have items 1 through 6 released to us. They are supposed to be released within 5 days of the request. We would ask that you humbly get them as soon as possible. (Applause)

Now we were advised by a lawyer to request 7 and 8, which are all bank records and copies of your bank statements, bank records, deeds and agreements. I understand that is a massive amount of information and was warned by Mrs. Robinson that would be a considerable cost. At this point right now we would like to have items 1 through 6. What you did with the money for the betterments and how the children that were shifted from the elementary schools to the middle school affected that contract.

We really need that information so that the public understand what you all have done. (Applause) That right now is the key issue right now. Mr. Thacker asked if Mrs. Robinson would state her opinion on it, or to speak or interact with the community. But we did have a conversation on that and I don't know if she wants to clarify on that, but she did tell me her position. I think that it is important that each one of you, which work for the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Supervisors, is directed by the community. I think you guys are employed by them and I think at this point right now, the community is asking you guys for clear, decisive, positions. Not conversations in drug stores, about if something happens how

things will turn out. Conversations that you guys are having small meetings so you don't have to have it with the public. (Applause) If you would just state what your true intentions are to the community then there wouldn't be as much backfire right now. If you told us that consolidation was your desire then we would accept that and we would fight you on that.

(Applause)

You have decisions to make because of economic decisions about coal and the future. I can personally tell you from the industry that I work in that some of your information was possibly slighted to the wrong. It was to their benefit to tell you what they've told you. I am personally involved in \$100's of millions of dollars of coal contracts that will still be going on for a hundred years after we get through this issue. (Applause) My time's up. Thank you.

Ms. Regina Swiney: My name is Regina Swiney and I'm from the Willis District. I would just like to say that Dr. Lyle and Mr. Mullins, I know that they have businesses and a lot of the Haysi community supports your business, or your professions that you are in. Mr. Mullins, not long ago, you were running for the School Board running for the Willis District and I live in the Willis District and I have a Haysi address. I ask you all to please consider those people with that Haysi address. You asked for our vote; we're asking for your vote. (Applause) Mrs. Robinson I understand that your husband also has a business; Haysi community people support your husband. (Applause) I ask that you give back to us as we have you. (Applause) I know this isn't about the businesses but it is about the community and I ask for your vote to have it at Haysi.

Mr. Don Hill: Before you start here Mr. Setser, I have a couple of charts here that I'm not going to have time to go over tonight. (Provided Board handouts) My name is Don Hill and I live in Clinchco. As usual I'm here advocating for elementary school students and taxpayers of this County. Both of these groups will be effected by the site selected by the proposed elementary school in one of two ways; either positive or negative. The effect will be positive if the selection of the optimal site is based on hard numerical data. Not on cost alone. Not on opinions. Not on rhetorical adverbial or emotional outbursts. It goes without saying that one of your responsibilities, if not the most important, is the safety and welfare of students entrusted to your care and you have over sight responsibility to do so to the best of your ability.

You are now tasked with deciding among multiply sites presented to you. Which site is the most suitable for the new elementary school? How do you make this very critical decision that is surely to effect students, parents and citizens for 50 plus years into the future? What criteria should be used? No doubt student welfare and safety should be first. The potential financial impact on taxpayers and cost of the site is secondary. However, all these criteria are inextricable linked together.

I want to switch gears with you a little here and tell you about my education, my work credentials and my qualifications to conduct this study. It has to do with the population study I've provided you over the past few months. I'm a BBA degree in Business Administration, a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Business Administration in qualitative analysis with a concentration in probability inferential statics all from the University of Kentucky. Along the way I also earned a Master's degree in taxation from Old

Dominion University. I'm currently working on a PHD in Philosophy, of all things, through Walden's University. Anyway, I believe in education. I'm a retired Certified Public Accountant with teaching experience at the high school level, community college level and at the university level. I retired from UVA @ Wise in 2003, where I was a professor of accounting.

And I taught advance level accounting courses to Junior and Senior students who were aspiring to become CPA's. I worked 9 years in hospital administration at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in systems analysis and computer programming. I also helped start the Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee. At this point I will venture to say that I'm equally qualified as any person in this room and more qualified than most in the study I've shared with you.

Let's switch back with the issue at hand, the elementary students and the taxpayers of Dickenson County. I gave you this to use for a decision model at the last School Board meeting:

1. determine the local where the greater school population exists. Student population; in its relevant density and close proximity to the location being considered. Relevant density is the key method in choosing an optimal site.
2. consider the impact on the taxpayers
3. gather sites specific costs
4. evaluate the data presented to you
5. and last, vote to build the school on that site

Could this process have been used to select the optimal site for Ridgeview? Absolutely. Why do you think with major fast food chains, a large grocery company, a major hotel chain, other businesses are located in the northwest quadrant of this County? Simply because the greater population density is there; 40% of the population is there, 6,264 citizens. Not the approximate center of the County Ridgeview is located. Fremont is the center of Dickenson County and located approximately 2 miles in straight line distance to the southeast of Ridgeview. Ridgeview is located in the far southeast corner of this quadrant, the northwest quadrant. It should have been located 3 plus straight line miles in the northwesterly direction from its present location should have been. Location there would have minimized travel time for both students on buses, private vehicles and would have further minimized any necessary tax increase for costs of operating schools from year to year. The decision to locate Ridgeview on Rose Ridge set in stone and has implications for 50 years into the future.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mr. Hill, I have to stop you.

Mr. Don Hill: Don't make this decision until you do this study.

Ms. Allison Mullins: Thank you all and it's good to see you all. I'd like to say I've been praying about this situation for years. I knew we were coming to this day. I knew years ago what was likely to happen but I can say that I have complete peace. Not only with some of you all that I know personally and I believed in my heart that you all want to do the right thing. But, I have most confidence in God and His sovereignty and His plan. Whatever happens; happens but we are praying for you all. I'll say that. Now, having said that, I will say

that Mr. Mullins, Scott Mullins, I am very, very offended by you calling my friend a liar. (Applause) There is somebody here not telling the truth about that conversation, because I was an eye witness to it, and it's you Mr. Mullins that's not telling the truth. (Applause)

I have a concern that I'm currently looking into that this decision to consolidate elementary schools has possible already been made without Public Hearing, Public Comment or any studies. My greater concern is the decision may have nothing to do with the best interest of the children, but maybe in the best interest of a few with a very personal interest in the outcome. It is apparent that consolidation is not in the best interest of the children. So the question is who is it in the best interest of?

Back in 2013, my friend Glenda O'Quinn and I started doing some research and copying the documents regarding this grant that was given by the Corps of Engineers. We saw that very quickly the IDA, Board of Supervisors and the School Board entered into a joint resolution to change language from Haysi to any suitable location in Dickenson County. If there were intent to build in Haysi there would be no reason to change the language. (Applause) After making this discovery and the building of the elementary school was going to be delayed because of the Courthouse construction, Glenda and I signed up for public comment in a 2013 School Board Meeting. Attorney Mullins asked Glenda to come out in the hall and I followed them. He told her that if the Haysi people would not say anything at the meeting he felt sure we would get our school. We didn't say anything. Glenda said thank you. Fast forward 4 years and now almost \$39 million dollars that was allocated in the government's plan to relocate Sandlick Elementary out of the flood zone has gone to about \$21 million dollars. You see the School Board came up with an alternative plan. This alternative plan and the government told the School Board that the alternative plan would not be paid for by the government if it exceeded what the government gave for the government's plan. The School Board's plan added more schools which of course added more square feet. The government pointed out in 2011 negotiations that the School Board's plan call for betterments and the government could not support and the School Board would be responsible for paying. We want to see who has paid for those betterments. Has the grant money paid for it or has the County paid for it? You all agreed to that in your negotiations. We want those documents as Mr. Owens referred to.

I think you are going to hear from some engineers tonight that are going to try to fit that \$21 million dollar school up at Ridgeview and I think it's going to be a much different school than you all agreed to with the Army Corps of Engineers. That school is supposed be Pre K – 5th grade. That school is supposed to be a minimum of 61,000 square feet. The School Board is going to tell us that the Corps doesn't care how the money is spent, but we are going to tell the School Board that the taxpayers do care. (Applause) We are going to stand, not for anybody else's interest, but the best interest of all the children, as Mr. Mullins says, in Dickenson County; including the Haysi area children. (Applause)

Ms. Teresa Calo: Good evening. I live in the Ervinton District, and I'm one of the ones that lives close to the Middle of the World. In case you haven't been there; that's where you need to go. I have followed this journey since Haydee Robinson came to Ervinton High School and said the doors would close. My daughter shed so many tears I couldn't fill it with this

room. We was told when they closed and consolidated schools, Ervinton would follow and they all would go together. That did not happen. That was told wrong. Also, we was told when they consolidated that Sandlick Elementary School would be built. I graduated from Haysi. I was in the 77 flood. I was in second grade. The school is still there. Floods happen all the time on Lick Creek. You ain't seen water yet. I think it is a shame, as a taxpayer and voter in Dickenson County; I have a Russell County address. I love Dickenson County. My heart is for children. But, these kids in Dickenson County have been done wrong. They have been moved from so many schools. (Applause) And, told so many lies by the Board Members in the past and the future and so is the attorneys and supervisors. I have heard it all. I have traveled it since it has begin, when they took the people's land to build Ridgeview. I have always been against consolidation. I am still against consolidation because the elementary school does not need to be put at Ridgeview where there are kids twice older than they are. Kids have enough problems as it is. And besides that, they will have to ride further on Hazel Mountain. I have experienced since I carry the mail on Hazel Mountain, buses waiting for VDOT to come and scrape it when I call and tell them they need it. And it is the Ervinton bus that goes to Ridgeview and takes the elementary school kids and waits for this to happen because I can get it done before the County can. And I think it is a shame, a taxpayer, and when ya'll come knocking on our doors saying for every district you're for the kids and the community; I don't think so. (Applause) The next time every one of ya'll run, I have kept my notes, I have paid for minutes. I will print it in every County paper there is; in Dickenson County, Russell County or wherever it goes, on Facebook or whatever. I'm a tired of people saying kids it's alright to be consolidated. It is. But, you get out when its 25 degrees on Hazel Mountain of the morning, right now and go out at zero at 6:30 to catch a bus and you travel that road and you have to worry about them kids. What if that bus breaks down? Can't start; is them kids prepared? Some kids in the County don't even have coats. I'm here to tell you I have seen it all since this consolidation has started. And I am so dishearted with some of these people. It's not only from the Ervinton District people; it's from everybody. I travel many miles and talk to many people. I have come to many Board meetings. I'm a face that if someone doesn't see me sitting there they think something's wrong. I've traveled to every School Board meeting there have been until my mom's medical issues. And now, I'm starting back. So, I'll just be a regular seat over there, but now I'm going to have grand-kids. It was not in the deal to consolidate an elementary school. (Applause) When they was told that an elementary school would be built for Sandlick Elementary and one Ridgeview school be built for all three high schools together. It was not stated, and it came from Haydee Robinson's mouth, that she told them kids it will be okay. It will be for the kids. So, now time for ya'll to stand up, take arm and do the right thing. And, do it for the children. One day they will be old enough to vote and you still might be sitting here. (Applause) Because now my daughter can vote and she has told all her friends in all the districts; and ya'll might think it's funny but all ya'll have businesses and it can also happen to that. I thank you, but I tell you what, God is in the right place with all of us and I hope He is with all of ya'll. Thank you. (Applause)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That concludes Public Comment. I would make a motion for a 10 minute recess. Dr. Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye. (Recessed: 6:40 p.m.)

Meeting Reconvened: 6:50 p.m.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair, to inform our Board and our audience, next Wednesday, December 6th there will be a joint meeting of all of the three Boards, The Industrial Development Authority Board, School Board and also the Board of Supervisors, and that will be at the DCER at 5 o'clock. The purpose of that meeting is to discuss the interim financing, pay out for the QSCB funds that were borrowed for Ridgeview, but we also discuss because we know there are several questions about the Ridgeview contracts and how we negotiated that. The representatives of each of the Boards worked on the Ridgeview school; that was Freddie Mullins, IDA; David Moore, BOS; Leman Kendrick, BOS; Scott Mullins, who worked for the School Board and myself. We are going to ask members of the three Boards to ask us questions. In other words, it's going to be an opportunity for us to sit in front of the three Boards and just kind of relive the moments as we worked through the Ridgeview contracts with the Corps. That will be very helpful because there does seem to be some miscommunication and some thoughts out there and issues and where the money went and I understand that. I think the most important thing is that for the three Boards, and for the group of 5 who were privileged enough to work on the project it was a labor of love. We decided as a group of 5 that the best way to be able to answer the question is to have each of the Board members ask us questions. Lead us down that path and then all five of us to be able to discuss how we got from point A to point C, D and so on. I wanted to share that with our Board members as a reminder and to our audience. You are welcome to attend. Again, that is next Wednesday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the contracts and negotiations; there was always, unanimous approval of everything that was negotiated with the Corps.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mrs. Robinson, just to clarify that is Wednesday, December 6th at 5 o'clock at the DCER.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Yes, that's correct. That's sitting with all three Boards and let's stumps the group of five with questions about the Ridgeview Contracts, negotiation with the Corps, how we even got to that point. Thank you.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: While it's on my mind I would like to thank Mr. Stanley and the Sheriff's Department for opening up this facility for us to use because the School Board office certainly wouldn't hold us. I'm grateful for the use of this facility. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Okay, that brings us to Item III. Consent Agenda which includes the approval of the Minutes, Monthly Bills, School Activity Fund and Field Trips. We have those in our packets. Are there any questions or concerns? If not, I will entertain a motion to approve the entire Consent Agenda.

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

Approved:

❖ **Minutes:**

October 25, 2017 – Special Called Meeting

❖ **Monthly Bills:**

School Operating Fund – November 29, 2017 – Bills

Check Nos. 877991 through 878091 ----- \$ 239,062.73

School Operating Fund – October 31, 2017 – Payroll

Check Nos. 388352 through 388378 ----- \$1,716,736.64

❖ **Field Trips:****Ridgeview High School**

Oct. 24th – Barter Theater – Abingdon, VA – 10th Grade

Oct. 28th – Union High School – Big Stone Gap, VA – 10th – 12th Grade

Oct. 28th – Emory & Henry – Barter Theater – Abingdon, VA – 11th – 12th Grade

Nov. 10th – UVA @ Wise – 10th – 12th Grade

Nov. 10th – MECC – Big Stone Gap, VA – 9th – 12th Grade

Nov. 13th – Sam’s Club/Olive Garden – Bristol, VA – 9th – 12th Grade

Nov. 14th & 16th – Mountain Empire Dialysis Center – Norton, VA – 11th Grade

Nov. 14th – 16th – DCER – Clintwood, VA - 9th – PG

Nov. 16th – BETA Convention – Nashville, TN – 12th Grade

Ridgeview Middle School

Oct. 26th – Kim’s Crazy Cornmaze – Castlewood, VA – 6th – 8th Grade

Nov. 16th – UVA @ Wise – 6th – 8th Grade

Nov. 17th – DCER – Clintwood, VA -6th – 8th Grade

Nov. 17th & 18th – Morehead State – Morehead, KY – 7th – 8th Grade

Dec. 8th – Norton Cinema – Norton, VA – 6th – 8th Grade

Clintwood Elementary School

Nov. 1st – Ridgeview High – Pre School

Nov. 13th – Ridgeview Middle – 3rd – 5th Grade

Nov. 17th – DCER – Clintwood, VA – PK – 5th Grade

Ervinton Elementary School

Nov. 13th – Ridgeview Middle – 3rd – 5th Grade

Nov. 17th – DCER – Clintwood, VA – K – 5th Grade

Sandlick Elementary School

Oct. 31st – Town of Haysi – PK

Nov. 17th – DCER – Clintwood, VA – Self Contained

Nov. 30th – Claypool Hill Mall Theatre – 5th Grade

INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Item IV. is Information for the Board. Mrs. Robinson?

Superintendent Robinson: There are none at this time.

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: That brings us to New Business with Item E. Good News from Our Schools. I will turn it over to Mrs. Robinson:

Superintendent Robinson: I would like to introduce to you Miss Gracie Lawrence. Gracie had a wonderful opportunity recently with Capital One and I would just like to have her share that with you. Gracie, welcome and we're sorry that you've had to wait, but it's a pleasure to have you here.

Gracie Lawrence: Hello, I'm Gracie Lawrence and I attended the Coder's Experience in both Wise and Richmond, VA. I heard about the opportunity on Facebook, so I decided to go to a meeting that was held at UVA Wise to see what was available to me.

The first phase of the competition was held at UVA Wise. I attended the Capital One Coder's experience. This was a full-day seminar that taught me how to create a mobile app. I worked with a team of girls from our region to create a working app during the seminar. We chose to create a fashion app that helped women choose their best color options and coordinating accessories. At the end of the completion, my team won third place which qualified me to attend the Women in Technology Experience in Richmond, VA. We also won a Swag Bag containing a tablet, earbuds, and a t-shirt.

As a result of finishing in third place, on November 15, I traveled to Richmond, VA, all expenses paid, to attend the Women in Technology Experience. While there, I attended several different technology related classes. I learned Hacking Techniques, how to make a website, and even Morse code. I met Terry McAuliffe, the Governor, the Secretary of Technology, Karen R. Jackson, and I even got to see the winners of America's Got Talent perform. At the end of the seminar, we all received chromebooks and a shirt for participating.

This experience has definitely changed my life. I am now working on creating my own apps and I want to be a Computer Software Engineer. I plan on attending this seminar every year it is offered.

Are there any questions? (Applause)

Thank you.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: You are a student at Ridgeview Middle School and which grade are you in?

Ms. Gracie Lawrence: 6th.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: 6th grade ladies and gentlemen. (Applause) Thank you for coming.

Madame Chair, we always like to share the successes of our students. We had the DECA students compete at Mountain Empire Community College on Friday. This is a group that is facilitated by Chris Robinson and for the first time we have at Ridgeview High School.

The following results of the competition were shared with the Board:

Social Media: Hayley Mullins 3rd Place

Job Interview: *Jayde Mooney 1st Place

Selling: *Katelin Singleton 1st Place

Principles of Business Management & Administration: *Dawson Hillyer -1st Place and Kal-
ianna Brooks - 2nd Place

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism: *Bailee Cox 1st Place

Principles of Marketing: T.W. Robinson 2nd Place

Apparel and Accessories Marketing Retail Management: *Dixie Duty- 1st Place and Gabby
White- 2nd Place

Automotive Services Marketing: Makayla Smith 2nd Place

Entrepreneurship: *Max Fletcher 1st Place

Marketing Communication: Madison C. Mullins 3rd Place

Business Finance: *Austin Hubble 1st Place

Business Service Marketing: Logan White 2nd Place

Personal Financial Literacy: Katlyn Fleming 2nd Place

Food Marketing: *Katlyn Elliott 1st Place

Hotel and Lodging Management: Chris Thomas 3rd Place

Human Resource Management: Kayla Combs 3rd Place

Restaurant and Food Service Management: Emily Flemings 3rd Place

Retail Merchandising: Cassidy Owens-2nd Place and Leanna Stanley- 3rd Place

Sports and Entertainment Marketing: Jesse Griffiths 2nd Place

*First place winners are eligible to advance to State Competition in March

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Next is enrollment and I'm going to ask Mr. Setser to please come to the podium.

Mr. Mike Setser: Thank you Mrs. Robinson. Madame Chair, Members of the Board, here we are at the end of November but the numbers that I'm reporting to you tonight is through the end of October. October ended with an enrollment total of 2,012 students; down 2 students from the end of September. Basically, 2 students is the total loss for the school division for the year at this point. I did run the numbers for today but we still have a couple of days to go. We are trending even. We have 2,012 students as of today.

I would like to take this time to recognize Clintwood Elementary School, for the third consecutive month, had the highest student attendance percentage with 94.91%. Sandlick Elementary School was second with 93.28%. I would like to congratulate those schools. Thank you.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES: RIDGEVIEW AND HAYSI HIGH SCHOOL:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: I believe that brings us to Item F. Update on the Proposed Elementary School Sites: Ridgeview and Haysi High School, Mrs. Robinson:

Superintendent Robinson: At the October, 2017 School Board Meeting, the Board passed a motion for additional evaluation of the Ridgeview Campus site and the Haysi High School site for the proposed elementary school. Specifically, at the Ridgeview Campus site, the Board directed the evaluation to include a footprint of a 500 or 600 student school and identify a possible site on the campus. including the cost for sewer upgrade for approximately 950 students, evaluating the wetlands and mitigation issue (if applicable), evaluating the need for additional and/or new parking areas, evaluating the amount of acreage needed for a construction site, the discussion of current and proposed traffic patterns.

At the Haysi High School site, the School Board directed a site development plan and cost to provide an adequate footprint for an elementary school, evaluating the title and mineral deeds for Haysi High School.

This evening we have Curtis Elswick, with Skanska, and most of his work with us has been at no cost to the division. Mr. Elswick and Skanska have been tremendous to work with and I would like to thank him.

At this time I would like to ask Attorney, Scott Mullins to review with us the Haysi High School Site and specifically the cost of site development for that project.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Members of the Board you have a report before you and to provide a little foundation for the Board and for the public. At the last meeting there was discussion to make sure that we evaluated all sites that were in contention and excluded any sites that have obvious flaws that would prohibit it as far as future construction.

In particular, we were looking in the Haysi community and the two sites identified for review was the Haysi High School site and Upper Backbone site. As the Board may recall back in 2013, we had several sites studied by Thompson and Litton. The conclusion was that the Upper Backbone was the best site of those that they evaluated. I think at that time the School Board agreed and that was before the funding came through from the Corps of Engineers, but we were completely focused on the Upper Backbone site, as the site for Haysi and in fact for the entire County. Then at the last meeting it was brought up that Haysi High School site might be the best site because we already own the land; we could save some money. What I did was I went to the County Administrator, Leman Kendrick in an effort to keep our costs low.

The report in front of you is pretty self-explanatory and it basically shows that at the Haysi High School site we would have to move 1,216,000 cubic yards of earth and materials as compared to 225,000 cubic yards at the Upper Backbone site. Not only do you have to move the material but at the Haysi High School site it's called an uneven site, meaning some of the dirt would have to be trucked and hauled offsite. Bottom line is using the same criteria used in 2013 Mr. Kendrick provided an opinion that the site construction alone; not the building just to get the pad at Haysi High School, would be \$14,404,000. For comparison the Upper Backbone site would be \$5,154,000.

So, what I think I heard the Haysi community say, at the meeting, was that they were not as concerned as with which site just as long as they have a site in their community. From the

information that has been made available from Mr. Kendrick, clearly the Upper Backbone site would be the better site based on costs. I will try to answer any questions you may have. Bottom line is money, the numbers and \$14.4 million versus \$5.1 million; based on the budget we have Upper Backbone should be the focus going forward.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Do we need that in the form of a motion to eliminate the Haysi High School Site and add the Backbone site in to be further examined as a potential site?

Mr. Scott Mullins: We talked about trying to be efficient in evaluating each site; we didn't want to do core drilling, mineral type searches...we didn't want to do anything if a site could clearly be eliminated. Unless some Board Member puts it in the form of a motion and wants to talk about it, it really appears that the Upper Backbone is the better site of the Haysi community. If there is a different way of looking at it we can certainly explore why, but I understood that the Haysi community wanted a school in their community and between Haysi High School and Upper Backbone there was really no preference.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Are there any questions?

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Now do we compare the Upper Backbone and Ridgeview? Is that the next step?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think that's what we have to decide.

Mr. Scott Mullins: I agree. I think ultimately, tonight, and the process is not so much about deciding right now as getting the best information to you and the community. Whatever decision that you make is based on facts.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think given the fact that we have \$20 plus million to build a school and it's going to cost \$14 million of that just to prepare the site; we would be better served to look at the Upper Backbone site. Do you agree with it?

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I agree with it. Upper Backbone sounds better to me and let's ask Mr. Barton.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Yes; it's always been open to me as to where the school is at in Haysi.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: *I would make the motion to take the Haysi High site off the list and study the other.*

Chairman, Susan Mullins: *I have a motion eliminate the Haysi High School site as a potential location for the new elementary and add in the Upper Backbone site as potential and get some further information from Mr. Mullins and Mr. Elswick and Mr. Kendrick as needed and maybe present it at the next meeting?*

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: *Yes.*

Chairman, Susan Mullins: *So, I have that in the form of a motion. Do I have a second?*

Mr. Rocky Barton: *I'll second it. All votes aye.*

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I have one question from this Memo from Mr. Kendrick. He says a recommended size of a 500 student school would be 9 acres and the information that we have, is that 9 acres at Ridgeview site?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I guess we will be talking about that next.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: My question is; is that 9 acres?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That would be a Curtis question.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Dr. Lyle just for clarity and Curtis can certainly clear this up, it's not just a 9 acre construction pad. I think Mr. Kendrick actually based it on 8 acres, I could be wrong about that, but it's not the footprint of the school but I think the footprint of the school plus the surrounding grounds that are available for the children to play on.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: He did say a minimum would be 8 acres.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I guess my question for Curtis is; there is not 8 acres at Ridgeview on this side of the mine line that's available. Without a parking lot, I just don't the property is there for the recommended 8 acres. (Applause)

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think if that's a concern, we are certainly keeping up with a list of concerns for the night and to the extent that we can answer it now but it's something we will deal with at the next opportunity. (Audience noise)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: We have to be able to conduct our meeting. We want everyone to speak and we're glad that everyone's here. I'm having trouble hearing. There are terrible acoustics in this room and if we would just allow speakers to speak and we would have the option to speak later if the Board so chooses to add it.

Are you ready to discuss the Backbone site now?

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: No, we are not prepared to do that. We are prepared to talk about our directives from last month which was a footprint of a school at Ridgeview campus.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Would you like to go ahead with that?

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: If the Board would like for us to do that, yes. I would like to ask Mr. Barton to come and what we've done is looked at our enrollment projections for 2020-2021. The reason is with a footprint of 500 or 600 for an elementary school at Ridgeview, our task was can a school fit at Ridgeview and where can it fit? First of all, let's have the background on the enrollment.

Mr. Larry Barton: Madame Chair, Members of the Board thank you for the time this evening. First off, if you recall the meeting that we had with K & C earlier this year over at the

DCER, they did some projections for us. I used their numbers as a basis, as a starting point and I did my own research with my own numbers and broke them out by grade level, where theirs was by elementary, middle and high.

Mr. Barton presented the following PowerPoint Presentation of the projected 2021 enrollments. (See Attachment # 1)

- ***Attachment #1: Projected 2021 Enrollment***

Mr. Larry Barton: Again, these are just projections but we do feel pretty comfortable with those. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding enrollment.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: I'd like to ask Mr. Elswick with Skanska to come and share the Board's directive, which was look at a footprint of a school at Ridgeview and the cost associated with a 700, 600 and 500 student school.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Madame Chair, Members of the Board, good evening. It's good to see everyone again. Mrs. Robinson just mentioned, what we were tasked with was can you fit a school on that site. Of course there are a lot of constraints on that site, one being mine works behind school, wet lands and you only have so much land when you take those things into consideration.

We worked with Perkins and Will to help us to potentially fit a school on the site. What we looked at was a 700 student school, which equates to about 85,000 square feet.

Mr. Elswick reviewed the plan provided by Perkins and Will. (See Attachment #2)

- ***Attachment #2: Perkins & Will Projected Elementary***

What you are seeing in light blue is the only location they could fit a school of that size on the site. That is a two story school with a library, gym and cafeteria which houses 700 students like I mentioned. It is off to the right of the Middle School and behind it. So, it will fit and if the school was built here the elementary school kids would get off the bus with the middle school kids and they would walk between the middle school and the elementary school under a bus canopy, so they would be protected from the weather. If you look you will see that what we also did was separate parent drop off, visitors, public parking from the bus drop off where kids get dropped off. So, that would have to happen on the back side of Ridgeview with a back entrance road and traffic would flow to that side of the school which would be the entrance to the school. There is also an area for playground and a playfield.

Other issues will be additional traffic and most likely VDOT will make us do something with the back road entrance; widen that so that cars can queue and are not backed up on the main road. We've heard that there may be issues and VDOT make us do improvements at the 4-Way with the additional traffic. Those are things to consider. Do you have any questions about the site and how they've laid it out?

Mr. Rocky Barton: So, this is a 700 student facility?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Yes. It's 30 some classrooms. It would have a gym, library and cafeteria in it.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Who would be responsible for the road work? Would that be us? Would that be VDOT? Would that be the County?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: That's a very good question that I don't have the answer for.

Mr. Rocky Barton: The first thing that I noticed when looking at the drawing is how far Pre K through 3rd would be from the entrance from the bus drop off. Do you have any estimation of what that is?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: That would depend on how the school operates, would they go through the gym or walk around to the entrance?

Mr. Rocky Barton: They would go through the school entrance.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I don't have that exact distance but I can find out.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Does anyone know how deep the middle school is? Is it 300 feet?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Well if you can imagine, there is an auditorium.....

Mr. Rocky Barton: 400 feet; so the front of that school is about midway of the middle school and you're looking at about at least a 250 feet walk.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I would say; like walking the entire auditorium from the stage.

Mr. Rocky Barton: That's a long walk for Pre K kids.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Any more questions on the Perkins & Will?

Mr. Rocky Barton: You can't answer VDOT questions and my next question was the roundabout and we all know how confusing that is with drop offs in the mornings and then having 2 at Ridgeview with 900 more. I wonder if a more detailed study is needed on that?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: A traffic study would have to be done on what improves are required. I think it is a definite concern.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Any other questions?

Mr. David Yates: Can the audience ask a question?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Not at this time.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: The other thing we were asked to do was assuming we could build an elementary school on the Ridgeview site, what would the cost be for a 700 student school; a 600 student school; a 500 student school? We look at actual benchmark data; Architects and Virginia Department of Education.

Mr. Elswick provided and reviewed the estimated costs for those criteria as follows: (See Attachment #3)

- ***Attachment #3: Proposed New Elementary School & Costs***

The average cost of an elementary school is \$210 per square foot based on 2016 data. That cost would be if you started this school right now. The earliest construction could begin would be spring of 2018, the earliest that you would open the doors on this school would be the fall of 2020-2021. You can estimate that the escalation costs of construction would be roughly 5% per year for hard construction (brick & mortar); 18% would be a safe assumption for soft costs; and a recommended a minimum of a 10% contingency. We have an approximate \$21 million dollar budget.

Anticipated Costs:

- 700 Student Option - \$28.6 million – 87,500 Sq. Ft.
- 600 Student Option - \$24.5 million – 75,000 Sq. Ft.
- 500 Student Option - \$20.5 million – 62,500 Sq. Ft.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Curtis, could you speak to the increase cost of construction around an existing school and how that might effective everything from mobilization to working around traffic?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: We've kind of thought how you would set up for a crane. It's going to take longer because you have to operate around school operations and not impact school operations. You can't be building while they are doing testing, all the traffic in the mornings, traffic in the afternoons. You can't have construction traffic mixing with all that so it will take longer. Additional cost; this site is pretty tight so you would probably have to rent lots, land somewhere to put materials temporally while the school is being built. I don't know what that number is but it will be an added cost.

Mr. Rocky Barton: This is a 700 student school and that leave 122 kids that would go in the middle school at this proposal. Is that the 5th grade that would be going into the middle school?

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: That would be the proposal that 5th grade would go into the middle school and then 8th grade would go up to the high school. All of this information is very preliminary and based on the information that we have today. I'm sure Curtis would like us to share that with the Board.

Mr. Rocky Barton: A Pre K – 3 school (600 student school) would mean that 228 students would have to go into the middle school/high school.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: If you look at Mr. Barton's projections, Pre K – 3; we are projecting 562. The school at Ridgeview would have to accommodate 562 students. Would it be fair to say that we would be closer to a 600 school number?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: That's a concern and what if it turns out to be 600.

The 500 student school will be the smallest school we can build by the Corps contract. You cannot build any smaller than this to meet the requirements of the contract at a cost of \$20.5 million.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That is for the Ridgeview site and if we build at Backbone would you add the \$5 million or is it included in that number?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: This is just focusing on Ridgeview.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: If we built at Backbone then we would be looking at \$25, \$26 million?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I think that needs further study.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: But, it would be at least that much?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: It could be. There are some things that won't apply, like relocating utilities. I can't answer that.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Will we have the same road issues?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Yes, you'll have the roads and you will still have to get water and sewer.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Is there a potential that VDOT may take care of the main road? Anything from the main road to the campus, we would be responsible for that piece? You don't know the answer to that. I'm sorry.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I don't. That's a VDOT question.

For a 500 student school that is Pre K – 2.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: For a Pre K – 2 school the enrollment would be 447. (Audience noise)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I don't mean to keep dropping on that, but it's really hard to hear up here.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: My observation is if we build a 500 student new school even considering the loss of 300 students, we currently have 2,138 students counting Pre K, so subtract the 300 students and you get 1,838 and subtract 500 from that and you have 1,338 in the existing school. Can that existing school handle 1,338 students?and that's assuming 300 less today.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Dr. Lyle, I think your question is; if a 500 school is built at Ridgeview site; you are correct. We would then have to place grades 3, 4 and 5 in another facility. Okay, that would be Ridgeview. Any your question is would the existing school handled that many? According to Mr. Robinson and the principals; it would be very difficult to handle that many students. (Applause)

They have been working on a presentation for the Board for example, if it's 5th grade going to Ridgeview then where would those 8th graders go. 5th grade would go into the middle school and it would be 5th, 6th & 7th and then the 8th grade would go into the 9th grade academy. 9th grade would go through the 12th in the rest of the building.

In studying the 562 enrollment of Pre K – 3, it would mean that grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 would be placed in the middle school and 8th through 12th would go into the high school. Those are the two scenarios that they are looking at. They have not looked at it Pre K through 2 elementary school.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Either way you are going to have to have 7 more classrooms in the middle school. What that does, in the band room it puts a partition in the middle of it making it 2 classrooms. In the music department, it puts a partition in the middle of it and turns it into 2 classrooms. It takes the Art department and then it takes the Drafting. You put a partition between it and it turns it into 2 classrooms. What we've been wanting and what we've got right now; that totally eliminates it. (Applause)

We've got a 40 plus member band right now and that's marching that doesn't count the middle school. You've see just this football season that some of the other bands have 100 members and that's what our goal is. That means the band is going to have to pack up and go somewhere.

The study and everything that was put into Ridgeview; the hard work, to get the facility that we wanted and needed so badly for our children, our preteens and our teenagers; why in the world do we want to upset that? (Applause)

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair, our principals, Mr. Compton and Mr. Whitner could be ready at some point present.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think we're getting ahead of ourselves. First of all we have to see what we can afford and I think that is where we kind of are now. General terms; what if and what if. We would have to decide location later on.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I've said that meeting after meeting. We've got the cart before the horse. (Applause)

We tried to consolidate high schools for 20 years. It almost got done this year; it didn't get done. It was studied inside and out. We have not done one discussion between us at a Board Meeting or anything on how a consolidated elementary school could work. (Applause)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think right now we are just asking Curtis to give us some ideas on what it may look like. (Audience noise)

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Any questions for me?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Going back to the Ridgeview site, so we have to build a 500 student school even though there would be about 400 kids. We have no choice, we have to build a 500 student school and so the space for the other 100 students would become?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Bigger classrooms.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Then we would have to add on about \$5 million dollars and we have between \$21 to \$23, so if we have to build the minimum of that, how do we.....

Mr. Rocky Barton: In 2011 the Lane Group a preliminary study at exactly how a building could sit at Ridgeview when we bought our first piece of land, I mean Backbone Ridge. There figures were about \$17.43 and that was a turnkey job. I know that's been 6 years ago but it was a turnkey job to the standards of the Corps; what was needed.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think construction costs have increased to the point.....

Mr. Curtis Elswick: If you escalate that out to today it's about \$20 - \$21 million.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: I did contact the Lane Group and spoke with Chris Mullins today. What the background on that was at one point we were going forward with Ridgeview as a consolidated high school/middle school and at the same time build the elementary school and we rescinded on that. The reason was this; the three boards had negotiated a Pre K through 5 school for Sandlick Elementary and so we had grades 6th and 7th that had to go somewhere. Plan was we would get Ridgeview ready for 6th, 7th and 8th grades and then build Sandlick at the same time. We were informed by the County that they now had the responsibility of the Judicial Center and they had to move forward and the County could not at this time move forward with the elementary school. That was at a Board meeting and everyone knew what the situation was and what changes had to be. So, we had already gone out for Requests for Proposals for the elementary school. We went through the interview process with several firms. The Lane Group was associated with Dewey Davis and they proposed a school at Backbone Ridge, as did the other firms. As I recall, they were very high up with Dewey Davis, either one or two. But, that was as far as it went. We were not given any numbers it was more of this is what we can offer you. They have an educational planner which we thought was excellent and I remember her name, Elizabeth Peel. When we had to look at no longer doing the elementary school because of the other factors, then that process just stopped. There was never a contract nor any negotiations with the Lane Group of Dewey Davis. It just stopped.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: How many years ago was that?

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: I want to say about 4 or 5 years ago.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: We came on about in 2012 and it was before me.

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think it was 2011.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: So it was probably around 6 to 7 years.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I know what construction costs are today, but that was excavating and everything; a turnkey job.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I came in 2012 so I haven't seen any of this.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I was un-elected in 2011 and I don't remember any of this. (Laughter)

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Leman Kendrick and I was talking about that today. We you go out for bids you receive 20 proposals and it was really concerning that I didn't have a copy of this one. Of course in talking with Mr. Mullins, he told me this was just a proposal and never any action taken. He was very kind to send us this and I'll be happy to share it with you. That's the background on the Lane Group.

Mr. Rocky Barton: If the projected enrollment at 2021 at Sandlick is Pre K – 5th would be 400 students. Then couldn't the Corps be asked to change the contract to 450 or 425? Did you ever hear tell of anything like that?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I can try to answer that. It could but it would require a contract amendment to do that. What I would focus the Board on is the numbers that Curtis gave us; the 500 student school assumes a level pad with no earth moved and it does not include the cost of real estate. I suspect that the Haysi group wants to move forward on getting as much information as we can on the Backbone site. We identified three sites and we were moving forward getting the best information available with all three. The \$20.5 million dollars is straight out construction computation.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: That is the cost without land acquisition.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: That doesn't include purchasing land, any mineral rights.

Mr. Scott Mullins: To go back to the notion that we are in this together, the numbers don't work well at Ridgeview and they don't work well at Upper Backbone. It's going to be incumbent upon us to figure it out for both sides. What can work? The way I look at it seems to me the option that you have to consider is 125 square feet per child recommendation. Is that realistic is that what's in the Commonwealth of Virginia because that could significantly reduce the cost at Upper Backbone, Ridgeview or anywhere else you may go to build that school. We need to make sure that is accurate. The other thing that could significantly add to these costs is the road work. Upper Backbone and Ridgeview, with increased traffic could be a real problem and cost money. At the Haysi site we have visibility issues and have to do road work there too.

We have in the County internal horsepower to give you good information about those numbers. Looking at the numbers, particularly if you had to do something at Ridgeview Route 83 and 637 intersections would be very costly. I think that for both sites is relevant. I think there are things we can do that are applicable to both sites and need to be done before we start actually deciding things or putting things out for bid. It would be a travesty to start out and not have all the facts we have access to.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: On any site.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I agree and that's why we shouldn't be concerned so much right now how it would look if we went wherever. We need to figure out what we can afford to build and what we can afford to do. That's where I think we are. Do you need us to give you guys' direction to explore any potential cost saving effort to verify the 125 sq. ft. Either at Ridgeview or Backbone, it looks like we need to reduce that.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I'll have to look it up with VDOE. The 125 sq. ft. is what architects school systems design to today; based on the way you teach.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Can we clarify what our options are on that?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Even if you clear that number to 115 sq. ft. per student, you will have to build a 62,500 sq. ft. school.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Rocky to go back to your question, if we get to the point that we are realistically looking at getting 400 students out of harm's way at Sandlick and the decision is made to put the school at Upper Backbone site. If we were looking at difficulty with the budget, I think we should approach the Corps and their willingness to do a contract amendment.

I go back to what Curtis said and what Mrs. Robinson pointed out, I think the biggest mistake we can make is to think this provides us an answer. It provides a beginning to look at more information to get an answer.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: If you recall we signed the contract with the Corps August 16, 2011. This was the large contract that we signed. This was in August and we were going out to bids for the elementary school in September. We were trying to move forward with Ridgeview and the elementary school construction.

Mr. Rocky Barton: So the Corps was spot on at that time with their appropriations.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: If you remember the negotiations was for \$110 million dollars.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I mean with saying there would be \$21 million dollars to build the Sandlick Elementary School.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: There is a contract modification that states \$21 million dollars; yes sir. I have a copy of that if the Board would like to see that.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Someone had asked about how many acres we would need and the Virginia Department of Education has specific guidelines that say you have to have a minimum of 4 acres, and for every hundred student you add an acre. That's their guidelines. 500 hundred student school would be 9 acres. A 400 hundred student school would be 8 acres. It's not mandatory. It's a guideline.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: As you recall, when we first started with the Corps it was reimbursable. They would give us money to build this much and if we wanted this much we would have to pay. That is where the term betterment has caused some confusion. To the Corps what betterment means is if they gave us money for 4 tennis courts but we wanted 6 tennis courts the 2 additional tennis courts would be betterments. Not come out of the Corps money but that would have to come out of the County funds. When we first started with these negotiations it was reimbursable. They were going to reimburse us to a certain point and if we were going to do anything extra then we could go. We could do that but there wasn't any extra funding. We only had \$110 million dollars. If we had used the betterments then we would have a school for \$150 million dollars that the Corps reimbursed us \$110 million dollars and the \$40 million dollars would be the betterments. The Corps gave \$110 million dollars and that was to build those schools on. So, what occurred is this, we first started as reimbursable and if we wanted something more that would be a betterment and the County would be responsible for that. We were told very quickly that there is no money for betterments. This is your budget and you've got to build it within these realms. After we went through a process of that, Mike Worley, he came through and said this is what the Corps is going to do for \$110 million dollars. If you can do it in a way that's more efficient and makes better sense for Dickenson County then let's negotiate that. We went from a reimbursable contract to a lump sum contract. Just because it was a lump sum contract didn't mean that the Corps gave us a check for \$110 million dollars. What occurred then was the Corps said first of all we don't have all these appropriations so if you build this school you're going to have to get interim financing; USDA loan, QSCB, any loan out there to build the school. The way that worked was we would use the funding that we had as a loan, get to a certain point, ask the Corps for reimbursement and then that way we would pay back what we had borrowed. We never received a check for \$110 million dollars and the Corps said here it is; go to it. So, what you see here is that this is what we will have for the high school and where we have heard \$21 million, \$21 million, \$21 million has come from this contract. It was a 500 student school and that's what was negotiated with the lump sum contract. We were lucky enough to receive all the funding but the funding is still with the Corps. We do not have access to it until we have spent it and then we ask for reimbursement back. Scott is there anything else you need to add to that?

Mr. Scott Mullins: It's been a long process and there's a disconnect I believe about how the process works and how it did work. That's why I encourage everyone to direct their questions to their Board of Supervisors members, School Board members, and IDA members. The group of five will be at the meeting next week and we just need to talk about it and make sure we all understand what's happened in the past.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think there are several members in this crowd that would like ask some questions, if we could just provide them some paper and let them write those down and answer them at the meeting next week.

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think with all the representation of all three boards if they could just direct that information to them and the thing I would say to the Haysi community is the information you want is available to you for free. You just need to get your board members involved to ask for it. We've got to do the FOIA for the public but the board members, they're our bosses. They tell us to provide information; we'll provide information and their going to give it to you. We will answer your FOIA's but unfortunately you get charged for the copies, you get charged for research time and if that's not significant then we can do that, but we're not communicating because you are asking for things not really relevant to how the contract ended. We've been talking about betterments for the past 2 years or 4 years. Betterments was a non-issue after the lump sum contract. I understand the confusion and we were confused when we started. The whole idea that if you had a football field at Ervinton that you could have the same football field and it's not a betterment that you could have a shop at Ervinton and it was the only shop we had. The technical school that you have at Ridgeview is not a betterment; those things don't make sense to anyone just based on common sense. It's not about how much better it is, but did you have it before. Like Mrs. Robinson said, if you have 4 tennis courts then they give you 4 tennis courts even if the courts were old and dilapidated and the nets were no good. You get 4 new tennis courts. I want us to be efficient because we are spending bricks and mortar money. We are in this together and everything we are here tonight asking about data for Ridgeview is also applicable to Upper Backbone. It's still an informational item and there are sites we've been asked to look at. You've got \$21 million dollar projection on a 500 student minimum we've got to build. We've got to consider real estate acquisition costs and site development cost. We've got to get this under budget and neither one of those come in under budget right now.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Do we know how many tracts of land we would need to purchase at Backbone Ridge?

Mr. Scott Mullins: It would depend on how you site it but I think it's about 7 right now. That's another thing is that we have access internally to tax records, and some of those have been gathered. Some people may not even want to sell it. It's been said that some people in the community have even been willing to donate the land. Whatever the answer to that is, we've got to get that information available and it takes more money to litigate a condemnation suit particularly if you are condemning minerals. The Clinchco site; you own it. The Ridgeview site; you own it. You got to bottom line compare apples to apple, as close as you can. It's clearly projections.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Is there another site in Haysi that would be cheaper than the Backbone site?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I don't think so and Rocky can speak to this, but I think Backbone is the best site that Haysi has to offer. We did a pretty exhaustive study. We sent Thompson and

Litton out and I think that the community agreed at that time. The Upper Backbone was the best site we had available.

Mr. Rocky Barton: We looked at Sandlick every which way and what the Corps was originally going to do was going to move cemeteries and put the school upon the hill. The \$38 million was to move K through 8 upon the hill above the football field. And the reason we quit looking at that was because there were 3 cemeteries that would have to have been moved. We did look everywhere at Sandlick and the only way it could be built there would be if the Corps would release some of their regulations. Get enough dirt out of the side of the hill at the community playground; I don't think it could be done at the Sandlick side.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: The elementary committee has talked about the Sandlick site and further researched that.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Mr. Yates handed me the summary and it did conclude that Upper Backbone was the best site we had at \$5,254,000 for site development. The next was the Sandlick site which did include moving some graves. I don't think anyone thought that was the right thing to do. It was still more money at \$5,973,000.

Mr. Rocky Barton: When you let out a PPA on a site and you tell companies this is the site we're looking at, this is the size we want, this is how much money we've got to do it with and then companies you tell us what you can do. Can that work with your history with Skanska? I've been told that that's what happened in Wise County. We have x amount of money and here we want building built for us. They let out PPA's and they let construction companies come and say we would, we could, we wouldn't or we couldn't. With that kind of a deal what are your take on that?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: If you have a site then you are going to be a lot more interesting than if you want people to look at 2 sites because they have time and they have money invested.

Mr. Rocky Barton: That's what I'm saying; looking at Backbone Ridge.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: They have to spend money and time to evaluate the site, so yeah you would get back a conceptual design, a conceptual estimate, type of materials and schedule design to construct it. Most likely if you go to 2 or 3 sites then you would have to offer stipends and pay people for proposals.

Mr. Rocky Barton: And there's no string attached. If you said we want to build a school on this site; show us what you can do. What's wrong with that? (Applause)

We've fooled around until we've let construction costs go up. We're still beating it around. We're still studying it. Our County, as a whole, does not want consolidated elementary schools. (Applause)

I don't think the majority of the Board of Supervisors want a consolidated elementary school. I think there are three here right now and if they were going to vote they would vote no. They want to keep three elementary schools open. (Applause)

What's wrong with doing that? Letting out that right now. Does that have to be a vote?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Yes, maybe we should ask Curtis on the PPEA proposal will they evaluate? The construction people; are they typically into evaluating the real estate values and what you can acquire them for?

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Not unless they have Real Estate people on their team and those people negotiate with those property owners. I think it's a possibility but I think it's rare.

Mr. Rocky Barton: The companies that would be interested in it would probably be familiar with the property costs in our area.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: But they wouldn't be unless that is part of the PPA proposal that they would them to come up with the land and then lease to you for the school. You would have to acquire it.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Yes. I'm just saying that we come in and say this is our site. Can they build our school? They would let us worry about buying the site. Which I think the site can be bought. I don't think that's a big deal.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I don't think, and this is my opinion, I don't think anyone would be interested in dealing with mineral rights as part of this PPEA.

Mr. Rocky Barton: One of the landowners has told me over and over again that mineral rights are not a problem. It's not an issue.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Madame Chair, Members of Board, I would recommend that we move forward if we owners that are willing to participate. We move forward and get that information so that's one less variable that we have to deal with.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: So, they would direct you as the School Board attorney to go and negotiate with the landowners?

Mr. Scott Mullins: What I would do as a practical matter, if I was asked to do it, is ask the Board members of the Haysi community to help and they know the people and have them contact them and see where we are. That strikes me as the most efficient way to get to it.

Mr. Rocky Barton: That's what my question is. If we let out a PPEA now and there is no strings attached to it. I would make that motion right now. That we let that out for the Backbone Ridge site to see what a company could come in, working with property owners, to see how we could get the land. We already own one piece of it. See where the mineral rights are. I make that motion right now. (Applause)

I'm not saying that there are any strings attached to it. It's just saying that we let this out to see what company can come in there and build this school for.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: Time frame, Scott's been involved with PPEA's, if you release it today you will need at least 2 months to respond to give companies time to do their due diligence. It's going to take time to evaluate.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Did you say there are big costs associated with title searching, mineral rights, even though everybody is willing, we have to make sure that we can get the mineral rights.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I think we would work with property owners.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: As part of the PPEA, you would have to tell them that's part of it or not. You would exclude it and the school system deals with it and...

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think we would be much more efficient to have our local people talk with the property owners than people that come here and are awarded a PPA.

Mr. Rocky Barton: We can work on the PPEA on how ever it has to be done. What I'm saying is that I will make that motion right now. That we do that and no strings attached just to see what a company can come in working with the local land owners to see what it looks like, mineral rights and what their property can be bought for or whatever.

Mr. Scott Mullins: You want them to work with them; the landowners?

Mr. Rocky Barton: With us or whatever needs to be done.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Curtis correct me if I wrong, but it would be best if we deal with the real property acquisition, and we deal with the title issues, and deal with mineral issues, and let contractors do what they do. That's to move dirt and build buildings.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: You will get a lot more interest.

Mr. Rocky Barton: That's fine.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Do we need that first and then do the PPEA?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Do you have enough information? Are you ready to do that? And if you are, then you do what the Board feels is appropriate but if you're on a quest for information you got to tell us what to do.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I just stated I'm not going to be looking for more information. We've heard information. Let's see if it can be done. If it can't, then we will know that it can't be done. (Applause)

I'm talking about the Backbone Ridge site.

Mr. Rick Mullins: Will we also need quotes on.....

Mr. Matthew Owens: I'm sorry but Mr. Mullins, Attorney Freddie Mullins, has already negotiated with us and talked to us. He was paid already. I don't know why you are having to research that again. (Applause)

Mr. Rocky Barton: What I'm saying is the Backbone Ridge site and see. See if we've got enough money to build this size school.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Wouldn't we need to know if we could get the property though?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Especially, if we.....

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I have no problem with your motion if we have some clear messages that we can get the property.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Well, we know with the exception of one property owner, that the rest of it can be got. We proved that with Ridgeview; we can get it. (Applause) ...and not pay \$750,000 for it. (Applause)

Dr. Lurton Lyle: That was part of my concern, to do that and then the property be out of our reach, but certainly I have no problem and I say seconded it, if we get that information before we make a second motion.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I think then we had one option to buy that piece of land and that was with Arlene Deel. We paid her \$10,000, had an option for a year to buy her property and it went back and forth and back and forth and it never got done. We've already put \$10,000 into that piece of property and we bought Merle Fuller's property for the entrance. I'm sure if Arlene was willing to work then and I think she is today. (Applause) Her 16 acres was taxed appraised at what Scott? \$23,000?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Rocky, I tell you I can't remember what the appraisal was.

Mr. Rocky Barton: The property that we are looking at was minimal for what we've paid for property for this project. (Applause)

Dr. Lurton Lyle: (audience noise)....build there without that piece of property.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I think that's where we are and I heard Curtis say we may need slivers of some property, not all the property and I think we have to clear that up first. I don't see the harm in clearing all that up and then doing the PPEA.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Perhaps get that done in two weeks and have a special called meeting in two weeks?

Mr. Scott Mullins: And I think I hear from the crowd that Freddie Mullins has done the title work on property and we're going to be meeting next week and I'd like to see a copy of that, because that could expedite it quite a bit.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Would two weeks be too soon to anticipate that we could do that? Rocky may have the influence with these people and maybe you can find out.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I know Freddie worked on it. I know he's got it all, what I'm saying is, our people can work with them. We let the PPEA out today and find out what we can do. Let our guys work with them; work with the property owners, to see where we're at. It's not going to cost us nothing.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: This is just my thoughts and it's your decision, but I would think that you wouldn't want people to start...you give people a stipend. You pay them or you decide not to pay them then they are at risk for their own design fees and all their effort. They would get pretty upset if that got pretty far along and then say you can't put it there; it fell through. They are not going to propose a second time to you. That's my concern.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Arlene gave the Lane Group permission to go on her property and do their whole thing. She only gave them 48 hours, but she let them go on it. (laughter)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Just me personally, I think we need to figure out about the land and get that nailed down. And that's not going to take long time, especially since Freddie's got that done. Then either after a special called meeting or we can call a special called meeting, or however long it takes to get that. I'm not comfortable voting to do a PPEA until we have that. But, I have a motion on the floor.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I did put that in form of a motion.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Is there any discussion? Do you need to say something Shanghai?

Mr. Rocky Barton: Like I said there are no strings attached to that. We owe nobody nothing. Our people can talk to property owners and go from there. We owe nobody nothing. We let that out and see what kind of interest we get.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mr. Nickles what's your thoughts?

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I was just thinking and what Rocky's advocating is a good thing, also I was thinking about the land situation. I don't want them to get half way through and then say no; we don't have the land. I don't want to get stuck there.

Mr. Curtis Elswick: I think it's a level of comfort; how confident are you that you can get the land.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I'm really comfortable that we can get because we've gotten it before. (laughter)

Mr. Scott Mullins: What I would ask is that the Board allow me to work with Rocky and anyone else in the Haysi community that has contact and get a simple one page; I hereby agree to donate my property, I hereby agree to sell my property for x, or I'm not going to deal with that. Then the other thing I don't want to make this anymore complicated that it has to be, but I know that Freddie has not done a mineral title search. I believe but I don't know that the coal that is underneath this surface is 1. Not minable or merchantable and 2. I want to believe it goes with the surface owner. When you build a school on top of coal, you condemn that coal. You sterilize it because you can't mine that coal that's underneath the building. I don't know how big of a problem it is but I know it's an issue. Freddie has not done a mineral title search on this. He may have done a search title but if he has I haven't seen that. I've interacted with Freddie quite a bit. What I would say at the joint meeting let's give the facts on what we really have. Do we have the search title? Do we have the mineral rights? And do we have the properties involved?

I'm assuming that Rocky and the other folks that are here in the community connect up with 5 or 6 landowners there are and that shouldn't be.

Mr. Rocky Barton: There's only one besides Matt and his family and then some Heir ship land, and if that has to be included then it will be a court thing, and it's only 2 or 3 acres. Matt's family owns the rest of it except one property owner.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Would you amend your motion to say that if we get the clear information from the landowner or whoever?

Mr. Rocky Barton: Yes I would.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: We would go ahead and start the process of getting a price and I would assume Scott would let us know when that occurs and I'll second that motion.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I agree.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Would there have to be a Board meeting Dr. Lyle?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I'm sorry?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Would there have to be a Board meeting? To come back with the information.

Mr. Scott Mullins: We can't act unless we are in public session, but that doesn't mean we can't take action. You can direct the Division Superintendent, me or whoever for things that need to be done. Drafting up a PPEA is not a casual thing. Maybe you should elaborate on what work we should do.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I understand that that's probably going to be a lot of work. I will amend my motion like Dr. Lyle said, to let you guys see about the site and when the community sees about the site, we talk with you and that gives you permission to let out the PPEA. Is that kind of what you said Dr. Lyle?

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Yes and if we have to call a meeting to go with the PPEA.

Mr. Rocky Barton: We'll have a special called meeting.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Yes.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: I'm not comfortable unless we meet again.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I think we should do the PPEA on both facilities at Ridgeview and Backbone.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I think there was a motion and a second.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: You are going to second the motion.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Yes.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: You are going to go ahead and coming back before the Board?

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Yes. (Applause)

Mr. Rocky Barton: And I'll reiterate there are no strings attached. It's just so we can see. So we can see.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Well, I have a motion and a second.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Do we want a roll call vote?

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Yes we do.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I would feel better if we would put that in on the request on what it would cost to build at Ridgeview as well as at Haysi.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Rocky you made the motion.

Mr. Rocky Barton: Yes and I added Dr. Lyle's sub-motion to my motion. Which was we let our guys work with the property owners, me or ever who, to see what they know about the mineral rights and to see if they know about their land, and to find out what Freddie's says about it. Then, when we get that done in a week or two, then we let out the PPEA on the site with no strings attached. Just to see what a construction company can come in there and build the school for.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: With a special called meeting before the PPEA.

Mr. Rocky Barton: We've got a special called meeting coming up and the regular meeting on the 6th (all three Boards) and the Regular Meeting on the 19th. It's important that they get the land work done. I think time, we heard from the Corps a couple of months ago, Rebecca Bennett urged us that we better get on with it.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: If you're so close it won't take long. It will not take long. Dr. Lyle and did I hear you say come back at a Special Called meeting?

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Agreed.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay, did you get that Reba?

Mrs. Reba McCowan: I didn't. I couldn't hear.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Okay, Rocky made the motion to release a PPEA after we clarify all the land issues and go forward. Dr. Lyle substituted in that the Board will meet before anything goes out.

Mrs. Reba McCowan: Right.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: So now I need a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I vote yes on it.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I vote yes just because we can do it.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Yes

Mr. Rick Mullins: Yes

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Yes

(Applause)

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mr. Hill we're not taking comments.

Mr. Don Hill: You took on from here.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: He shouted it out. I guess you could shout it out.

Mr. Don Hill: I don't like to shout.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: What we are going to do is provide you guys' some paper and everyone write down whatever questions you have and we will try to address it at our meeting.

Mr. Don Hill: Very short. I think the PPEA is a good idea Rocky, but it needs to be done for the other sites too like Clinchco. Good idea.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Thank you.

Mr. Don Hill: Just be fair.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Mrs. Robinson I think we need a short recess because it's so hard to hear. (Audience noise.....motion was made and seconded. All votes aye.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED RIDGEVIEW BATTING CAGE:

Superintendent Robinson: Madame Chair and Board Members the next item is the update on the batting cage at Ridgeview. This is an informational item and I'd like to ask Mr. Setser and Mr. Scott Mullins to add any information.

Mr. Scott Mullins: We went out for procurement for a batting cage. We now have the facility. We were told the actual building structure itself would begin this week. That is to lay down a concrete slab and lay a building on top of it with sidewalks. Tomorrow I'm talking with the coaches about the interior. The batting cages itself, there are two of them. We are now using our discounts and our leverage to do that through the school system and not the contractor to save money doing the interiors. I can update you more at the next meeting.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Where's that money coming from?

Mr. Scott Mullins: The construction project.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: From Ridgeview or the elementary?

Mr. Scott Mullins: Out of the Ridgeview construction project.

Mr. Mike Setser: Scott, the water company is either moving a water line or putting in a drain. There is activity on the site.

Mr. Scott Mullins: We should be grateful to Ron Phillips and the PSA, they have agreed to do that and help us save some money. We are also working with the gas company to get a meter in and hopefully we can get that for free. We are really trying to pinch pennies on that project and bring it down.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF DCPS SIX-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Next is the Six-Year Plan, Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Tony Robinson: Madam Chair and Members of the Board, we talked about this a little bit last meeting. There are still some variables that we haven't gotten direction on from the State; the new accreditation standards, the ESSA mentioned earlier. A Profile of a Graduate was passed on November 15th by the State. This is a continuous process; we're doing professional development, we're doing professional development with our Principals and Teachers.

This plan was passed last year and we are just keeping you informed and anything that you feel we need to do, we welcome those suggestions.

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair, if this meets your approval and the approval of the Board, we will leave this item off the agenda until the fall of next year. We will bring the updates at that time for your consideration.

DISCUSSION OF SB364 LOCAL OPTION HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Moving on to Item I. Local Insurance Plan.

Mr. Larry Barton: Madam Chair, Members of the Board in your packet we provided you with copies of the letter received from the Commonwealth of Virginia with the new rates for SB364 COVA Local Option Health Plan and also a comparison of our KeyCare 300 Plan. In this comparison, the rates for the COVA Local Option plan are between 32.67% and 52.37% higher than premiums for our current health plan. This would result in an additional annual cost of \$1,692,036 annually. At this time, we recommend that the School Board not make the election to join the COVA Local Option Health Plan. We are required to make a binding decision to participate by December 20, 2017.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Does that change the plan that we have now?

Mr. Larry Barton: No, we would recommend leaving everything as it is. This is the Local Option introduced, proposed by Senator Chaffin. We were hoping this would be a good thing and we've participated by providing a lot of information to them two different rounds in hopes of a better premium than what we're paying now. The coverage is very comparable to what we have now, but in the end the premiums are quite a bit higher.

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Unless someone would like to recommend something different, Mr. Barton I would just like to thank you for your time.

SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOLS:

Mr. Larry Barton: Also provided in your packet is the Audit Report for the Dickenson County Public Schools – School Activity Funds. The required audits were conducted by Thrower, Blanton and Associates. Ms. Tamara Greear was the lead auditor on this. In the report it provides you a copy of each schools financial report showing the total asset of the schools activity funds. The key to this and the opinion I want to share with you is on page 2. Ms. Greear shares: “In our opinion, the accompanying combining statement of cash receipts and disbursements present fairly, in all material respects, the recorded cash transactions of the School Activity Funds of Dickenson County Public Schools for the year ended June 30, 2017, on the basis of accounting described below.”

Superintendent Haydee Robinson: Madame Chair, we are very thankful for our bookkeepers and the jobs they do.

APPROVAL OF EARLY PAYROLL FOR JANUARY 26, 2018:

Chairman, Susan Mullins: Next on the agenda is approval of early payroll for January. I will go ahead and make the motion to approve early payroll for all employees on Friday, January 26, 2018. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

BOARD COMMENT:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Item VI. is Board Comment. Dr. Lyle:

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Well, I think we're moving right along. I actually have a 3 page note that I was going to read but I think I will pass that due to the time. No comment.

Mr. Rick Mullins: Well, I think we've had another interesting Board meeting and we look forward to see what happens in the future.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I want to thank everyone for coming. I am glad to see the majority of our Board of Supervisors out. I appreciate you guys coming out and having an input.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Well, it's the first time that I've been in a Board meeting and felt like I was in Sunday school. I heard some verses of some stuff that I haven't heard in a long time, but all in all it's good to see the community speak up for what they believe in. Tough decisions will be had by all.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: If there is nothing else we will move on to closed session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Susan Mullins: Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, I move that the board convene a closed session for the purpose of discussing:

1. Employment issues relating to salary, benefits, FMLA requests, resignation, consideration of hiring coaches, substitutes and Superintendent evaluation pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) and
3. consult with counsel on legal issues pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7)

Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I now entertain a motion to go out of Closed Session. Mr. Rocky Barton made the motion and Dr. Lyle seconded. All votes aye. Chairman Susan Mullins stated; pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting. Dr. Lurton Lyle, Mr. Rick Mullins, Mr. Rocky Barton, Mr. Shanghai Nickles and Chairman Susan Mullins; all certified true.

BOARD ACTIONS:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the coach recommendation as presented. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Approved:

- Amber Owens, Girls Track Coach – Head

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the FMLA request for Lavada Muncy as present. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve Maternity Leave for Leighetta Fuller as requested. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the resignation request of Tomi Browning, Part-time Aide as requested. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the substitute list as presented pending all background and paperwork requirements are met. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Substitutes:

- Dotson, Jacob, Teacher
- Leftwich, Teresa, Teacher
- Neece, Chris, Bus Driver
- Stamper, Jerry, Bus Driver
- Stanley, Mattie, Teacher
- Stumbo, Yvonne, Teacher
- Vance, Joyce, Bus Drive
-

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I make the motion we adjourn. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Adjourned: 9:46 p.m.

Susan Mullins

CHAIRMAN

Approved: 12/19/2017

Reba McCowan

CLERK