

**DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Regular School Board Meeting
September 27, 2017
Central Office**

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 and note that all members are present including our Superintendent, Mrs. Haydee Robinson and our Clerk, Mrs. Reba McCowan. We will go ahead and start our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Thank you and please be seated. You have the Agenda before you. Are there any changes, additions or corrections? Would someone like to make a motion to approve the Agenda?

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

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: That brings us to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Mr. Nickles would you please read the Guidelines for Public Comment. (So Read) Thank you, Mr. Nickles. Mr. Setser will be keeping time. The first name on my list is Ms. Kathy Musick.

Ms. Kathy Musick: Good evening Chairman Mullins, Mrs. Robinson, Members of the Board and guests. My name is Kathy Musick, and I am a Regional Representative with Virginia Educators. It is that time of year again, and at the end of the year we give grants and scholarships to teachers. They are up to \$500. If you are going back to school, and you need a little extra money you can get a scholarship for that. If there is a workshop you want to attend and money is tight, you can get money for that or if you need materials in your classroom. Those of you who are educators tell the teachers who are out there that they don't have to be members to get a grant or scholarship. Of course, members get first dibs on it. Spread the word that the deadline is November 15th. You can go online and type Virginia Professional Educators. There is a short application. I would love for someone from Dickenson County to get those grants or scholarships. It is a great opportunity. I just want you to know that Virginia Professional Educators is a non-profit organization, and the extra money that we have at the end of the year determines how many grants we have.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate Ridgeview High School for all of their accolades with the Blue Star Award and also for being recognized as one of the top high schools in the State. That is very impressive, and I am so proud of you all. Thank you.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: The next person will be Ms. Phyllis Mullins:

Superintendent Robinson: Ms. Mullins could not be here today, and Vickie Barton was going to try to come, but she is not here.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: The next one will be Mr. Larry Dameron.

Mr. Larry Dameron: Thank you Madam Chair and Members of the Board. I am Larry Dameron, and I worked for the school system as a bus driver for 21½ years. I retired in 2009 as a mechanic for the Dickenson County School System. While I was a mechanic I would still substitute for any driver that needed me to because of a shortage of substitute drivers. I have driven the route across Dunrobin Road and Bridge for about 1 ½ years, and I have entered Dyers Chapel Road at both entrances off Dunrobin Road and Route 63, and I feel that the bridge way across Dunrobin Road is a lot safer.

We have got people deciding which is the safest way that haven't driven a bus with kids. There are problems that happen so quickly with kids on a bus that the driver just about has to stop immediately. I remember an instance at that very road when a kindergarten child had gotten a staple stuck in her gum and the driver had to stop the bus quickly and try to get it out. Another time my panel board caught on fire and I had to stop the bus and get all the kids out the back door. Would you want to do that on Route 63 or Dunrobin Road and which would be the safest?

If the bus driver should get their attention taken off the front of the road by screaming, choking, or fighting children or the driver has to stop the bus, it would be much safer on Dunrobin Road to deal with the situation where the traffic is slower and less dangerous. I have gotten a lot of other bus drivers to sign a statement that the bridge entrance is much safer. We say we put the kids first. Let's do just that and listen to the people that know the road from driving on it daily.

I had been told that the closing of the bridge is for the safety issue of a child that lives on Dunrobin Road. Put a speed limit sign up and maybe they need to put a fence up to keep the child in their yard and off the road. The public has used the road since the late 1800's and all that time there has never been an accident that I know of so why make it unsafe for the children on the bus just because the parents that live in the only house on Dunrobin Road can't keep their child in the yard. Please listen to all the people and not just one. We've gotten over 425 signatures on a petition to open the road. You represent all the people. All it takes is just one coal truck or gas company water truck to hit that bus and hurt or maybe kill some children, and then it is too late.

Also, as to the bridge being a safety hazard, I have a report from VDOT that the bridge is a 4 or 5 according to their inspector. I am giving you a chart that explains what the numbers mean and what number it has to be for a closure. The bridge was never posted for closure.

The bridge on Route 63 near this bridge has damage on the driving surface of the bridge whereas Dunrobin Bridge has damage on the outer edge of the bridge. I have pictures that show this.

When we first heard the bridge was being closed it was for the safety of the child living on Dunrobin Road. After calls were made or shown interest by the public, the bridge was suddenly closed for safety issues without any notice. No one has ever seen any Notices of Closure put up anywhere to close the bridge. The bridge was just suddenly closed off one day. Why aren't procedures being followed?

I have supplied you copies of the petition signed by the public, and we are asking that the bridge be opened back up. Let's fix the problem by opening Dunrobin Road and Bridge back up and considering the school children and safety first. Let's also take steps to make sure the child on that road is kept safe. Please before it is too late. Thank you.

Superintendent Robinson: Madam Chair, just to clarify, Mr. Dameron, you did speak at the Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Mr. Larry Dameron: Yes Ma'am. I drew a diagram of the bridge, and there are places where the rebar is showing, but it is under the guardrails. The driving surface has no damage.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: You have your petition here with all of the signatures?

Mr. Larry Dameron: Yes, Ma'am, and the signatures of the bus drivers.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: This looks like a deed.

Mr. Larry Dameron: Yes, it is a deed showing that it is a public and not a private road.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Did you mention that to the Board of Supervisors also about the deed?

Mr. Larry Dameron: No, I didn't, but I am going back next month because I have more evidence.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: This needs to go to them also.

Mr. Larry Dameron: Yes, Sir. I appreciate it.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Thank you Mr. Dameron. Next would be Mr. Jarvis Deel:

Mr. Jarvis Deel: Thank you Madam Chair and Members of the Board. We talked a little bit last time about the school and the studies and surveys. Has anybody talked about the geography of the Russell Fork Fault Line? There are three fault lines that connect to the Russell Fork Fault Line. I have always heard that the school at Haysi was on a fault line. The study

on Wentworth's map shows Haysi with a break which causes leakage of the stress line which looks to be close to where the high school is. This map isn't that good or I would have brought you all a copy of it. It follows Russell Fork. With that being said, I have always heard about that, and I just wondered if that had been brought into that study of the Haysi site. If you are going to put the kids on a fault line, you might as well put them in the flood plain. That is something to think about. I just kind of got curious myself because I have always heard that. If that isn't in the study, maybe you need to check into it. It may never happen, it may never flood or we may never get another drop of rain. But you could have an earthquake tomorrow. That's all I have to say.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Thank you. Next on my list is Mr. Don Hill:

Mr. Don Hill: Thank you ladies and gentlemen. My name is Don Hill, and I live in Clinchco. What I am going to do today is present to the Board a very abbreviated version of this study that I have been working on a long time. I gave you the comprehensive version at our last meeting. It is quite wordy and long. I have some handouts for you today, and I would like for you to follow along with me as I discuss each handout in sequence leading up to the abbreviated study document which I have here. It contains four pages of data. I will discuss the abbreviated study documents with you here today. It has been constructed so that you can follow it and understand the methodology to arrive at the conclusion regarding student population when you compare these two sites.

This first handout that you have is a census map. The map shows 16 census groups with total populations in each group. The population includes children and adults as well. There are some pretty good observations that you can make here. The most densely populated census group is identified by the purple. The total population of that census group is 1,737 citizens. The second most densely populated census group is identified by the orange color. The total population of that census group has 1,379 citizens and located in the north central section of the county.

The second handout is a group census map divided into the north and south sections of the county. You will notice that the northern half of Dickenson County has a population of 11,330 people or for a 71.3% of the total population. The southern half has a population of 4,573 for 28.7%. So, it is clear that the major part of the population is in the upper half of the county.

The third handout is a group census map divided into quadrants. The most densely populated quadrant is the northwest quadrant with 6,294 citizens. The second most densely populated quadrant is the northeast quadrant which has 5,042 citizens. The northwest and the southwest quadrants have a total population of 9,149 citizens for 57.6%. The northeast and southeast quadrants have a total population of 6,760 citizens for 42.5%. The former site of the Clinchco Elementary School and the former Haysi High School have been identified as being considered for construction of the proposed elementary school. Both of these sites are located in the northeast quadrant which has a total population of 5,042 citizens. The Clinchco site is located in the southwest quadrant of the northeast quadrant and more centrally located in the county. The northwest quadrant is the most densely populated. The Haysi High School

site is located in the northeast corner of the northeast quadrant toward the upper eastern boundary of the county. Until now I have not discussed student population only total population. The student data is similar to the abbreviated study provided to you today. Here is the abbreviated study for your cogitation. Take it home and look at it. I'll be back next month and answer any questions you may have.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Thank you. The next person I have is Matt Owens:

Mr. Matt Owens: Madam Chair, Board Members and Superintendent my name is Matt Owens, and I am with the Haysi Partners and the Merchants Association in Haysi. I have been asked by several business owners to come and speak to you tonight about the desire for the new elementary school to be located in the Haysi/Sandlick area. Our position is that our community is very active. Our community is involved in extra-curricular activities. These business owners are very invested in the Ridgeview Campus and also the Sandlick Elementary School. We would seek and desire you to consider locating the school in the Haysi community. We have active civic organizations working for the benefit of the children. We are not about profit. Our main consideration is the safety of the children. We make that our priority. It has to be looked at as a whole. You have to take the logical side and the emotional side. Our community is dedicated to giving these children a good education. We want to invest in them while they are young and first start out which is the most formative years of their lives. Our position is that we want to continue to do our donations to the school Beta Club and the athletic department. We want to work with them and continue to keep the town viable and invest in the children. We want them to get a good education and start them out right. We know that the Ridgeview Campus is almost like a finishing school. Their paths have pretty much been set when they get up to the high school campus and the middle school campus. We know that they need the best effort put forward to encourage these children with activities and encouragement in after school enrichment activities. Our position is that the business owners would be willing to work hard and long hours to make sure that the children get a good education. We want the after-school activities because we know that if they have investment like that they would be more willing to go to college and more likely to be productive citizens. I believe our Haysi Partners and our community has demonstrated that over the last eight years as we have done our economic revitalization and the community improvements that we have done. We sincerely desire to have that school in our community. We don't understand all of the logistics, but if you look where the Haysi community is, it is a hub. There are a lot of things going on just like the Clintwood community. We believe that these two areas have the ability to support these children and give them an enriched education. We just ask that you highly consider that. These businessmen are busy so they appointed me to come to speak to you tonight. I hope that more of them will come to our next meeting and speak out and confirm our commitment to working with the School Board and the community to help get these children a good education. Again, the early years are the most important years I think. We really want to get them off to a good start, and hopefully, this will give them the mindset that this is where they want to live for the rest of their lives. We hope they will want to work here and have a family and invest in the community that invested in them. We hope to be able to plant that seed to help these children. We hope that Haysi will be the proper place for that.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I like to hear names. I don't know about the rest of the members.

Mr. Matt Owens: Yes, Mr. Richard Edwards from E & S Grocery was with us when he expressed his desire to encourage the community and to continue to invest in the children. Darrell Thacker from Haysi Heating and Cooling was with us. Kenny Hill from Hilltop Communications was present and indicated his interest in supporting the community elementary school. Also, Ervin Counts from Jones and Counts Pharmacy was there with us. Shane Hill from Appalachian Auto Parts was with us. The Haysi Funeral Home representatives were there with us. The Haysi Partners were there, also. Thank you for your time.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: thank you. That completes our list. Is there anyone else in the crowd who would like to speak but did not sign up?

Audience Member: You were talking about the school in Clinchco. There are two things that I need to comment about. The students who come here from Council and Russell Prater would go to schools in another county if the school was at Clinchco. Buildings have to be constructed according to investigation of fault lines. We wanted to get the schools out of the flood plains. It would be a shelter in case of hurricanes. If we put it in Haysi they would make sure that it is stable. You have to think that we might be a little bit bigger. Kids are not going to go all the way to Grundy to an elementary school. Students from Council are not going to drive all the way to Grundy to go to elementary school. We need to prepare for the future and keeping them here. That's all I have to say.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Thank you. Anyone else? If not, we will move on down to our Consent Agenda.

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 (which is informational) and Field Trips. We have those in our packets. Has everyone had an opportunity to review these? Are there any questions or concerns? If not, I will entertain a motion to approve the entire Consent Agenda.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I have a question about the Mercedes Benz.

Mr. Larry Barton: That was the final payment on our bus. Mercedes Benz did the financing.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I saw the amount and figured it had to be about transportation. I thought maybe you were riding a new vehicle.

Mr. Larry Barton: No! I'm afraid not.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Thank you.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Are there any questions about the Field Trips or the Minutes? If not, I need a motion to approve the entire Consent Agenda.

Mr. Rick Mullins: made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Approved:

❖ **Minutes:**

August 30, 2017 – Regular Meeting

❖ **Monthly Bills:**

School Operating Fund – September 27, 2017 – Bills

Check Nos. 877766 through 877879 ----- \$ 357,383.18

School Operating Fund – September 29, 2017 – Payroll

Check Nos. 3882921 through 388322 ----- \$1,689,038.96

❖ **Field Trips:**

Ridgeview High School

August 30th – The Attic – Clintwood, VA -9th – PG

September 20th - The Attic – Clintwood, VA – 9th – PG

Sept 22nd-23rd – DECA Leadership – Roanoke, VA – 10th – 12th Grade

Sept 23rd – Crain Farm – Saltville, VA – 10th – 12th Grade

Sept 23rd – Mtn. Archery Range – Clintwood, VA – 8th – 12th Grade

Sept 25th – Fleming Farm – Pound, VA – 8th – 12th Grade

Oct 8th – University of Kentucky – Lexington, VA – 8th – 12th Grade

Oct 11th – SWVA Higher Ed Center – Abingdon, VA – 11th – 12th Grade

Oct 18th – Matthews State Forest – Galax, VA = 10th – 12th Grade

April 10th – 15th – Hershey, PA, New Jersey, New York – Senior Trip

Clintwood Elementary School

Sept 1st – Coalfield Ag Center – Clintwood, VA – 4th Grade

Sept 22nd – Creation Kingdom Zoo – Gate City, VA – 4th – 5th Grade

Ervinton Elementary School

Sept 1st – Coalfield Ag Center – Clintwood, VA – 4th Grade

Oct 6th – Ripley’s Aquarium – Gatlinburg, TN – 4th – 5th Grade

Sandlick Elementary School

Sept 1st – Coalfield Ag Center – Clintwood, VA – 4th Grade

Ridgeview Middle School

Barter Theater – Abingdon, VA – 7th Grade

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FOR THE BOARD:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Item IV. is Information for the Board. This has been in our hands for some time. Is there anything you would like to say Mrs. Robinson?

Superintendent Robinson: No ma'am.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Are there any questions about Information for the Board?

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS:

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

Superintendent Robinson: One comment about the VSBA Convention. If you are interested in that, please let Mrs. McCowan know so she can register. For Good News From our Schools I will let Mr. Setser come and talk about the Student Enrollment.

Mr. Mike Setser: Thank you, Mrs. Robinson. Madam Chair and Members of the Board here we are at the end of September. We ended August with 2,015 students. I did do a check today to see where we are at this point, and we have 2,016 as of today. As far as Attendance Rates, the monthly attendance award winner goes to Clintwood Elementary School with 96.68%. They are picking up right where they left off last year. You can see the percentages on the first page with 96.26% for Sandlick Elementary School. All of our schools did wonderfully in August. Ervinton Elementary School had 96.15%. Ridgeview High School had 93.95%. Ridgeview Middle School had 95.43%. Next month I will begin the process of showing you where students are going to and how many we have coming in. We have August out of the way and a great September. We are looking forward to a good October and the rest of the year. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Clintwood Elementary School got the banner last year so it is still there.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: Mr. Setser I noticed that back four or five years ago no one was having 96% at that time, were they?

Mr. Mike Setser: We didn't have 96% for a sustained average at that time. I hope it stays there. It makes a "U". It starts high here, goes down in December and slowly picks up. That is because of illnesses and everything else along the way. We are very pleased with almost 97%.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I think it is absolutely fantastic.

Mr. Mike Setser: Thank you all.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: I guess the next thing would be our achievement, Mrs. Robinson:

Superintendent Robinson: there are a couple of things, Mrs. Mullins that I would like to share with the Board. We have purchased magazines for the Board Members. This is in the October, 2017, edition of *Virginia Living* which has The Dickenson County Schools and

Ridgeview High School has been named one of the Top 10 High Schools and Colleges in Science, Math and Technology. I just wanted to share that with the Board.

Also, Ridgeview High School has been named a “Blue Star School”, and Mrs. Edwards may want to comment on this. This is for achieving 85% or greater passing rate on the Financial Literacy Certification Test which is a graduation requirement.

Our last bit of Good News is the Ridgeview High School Auto Technology Program has earned a NATEF ASE certification which has certified the Auto Technology Shop as an ASE Shop. That is a great honor for that Career/Technical program.

You also see a Blue Newsletter. We inserted this in all of the football programs last week for Homecoming. We also have it on our Facebook Page and Website. It talks about our District achievements so far this year, and we hope to continue adding to this. One that I would like to mention is that we have again received Security Grants with the work of Mr. Setser and Mr. Mooney. Our schools have received \$249,000 in State Security funds over the last four years to provide a safe environment for all of our students, staff and school. I just wanted to share this with you, and we thought this would be a good way to try to use our Ridgeview colors. This would recognize our schools and all of their accomplishments

DICKENSON COUNTY SCHOOLS ACHIEVE FULL ACCREDITATION:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: I believe that brings us to Item F. Dickenson County Schools achieve Full Accreditation, Mrs. Robinson:

Superintendent Robinson: I am going to ask Mr. Mullins to come forward to discuss Item F. We have kind of been predicting this, but we have received the final say.

Mr. Mark Mullins: I don't have any new information. I think the first time we spoke about this was in the May Board Meeting. At that time, we gave the Board preliminary test results. We went through the Power Point presentation and went through each school and projected that we would be fully accredited in all schools. Now I can officially tell the Board that this has happened. The Department of Education released their report on September 13th, about two weeks ago that all of our schools are fully accredited. There is a little information related there that pertained to us that I thought would be interesting for the Board. 86% of all the schools in the State are fully accredited. Last year they had 81%. But 65 school divisions out of 132 had all schools fully accredited. When you look at it in regard to that Dickenson County Schools had quite an accomplishment. That number is also from last year. This is two years in a row that we have had all schools fully accredited.

I think I shared with the Board in May that the State is looking at changing the way they do accreditation, and we are receiving information on that process right now. They are projecting that by November they will be releasing that new accreditation information. Information is coming, and Mrs. Robinson has been getting that at Superintendents' Meetings. From what we understand, SOLs will still be a part of that process and achievement levels. The accreditation process that we have now has probably been around for 15 or more years. Now we are going to look at SOL achievement levels and student progress. We are not going to

be looking at only Pass Rates but if students improve from one year to the next. Schools will get credit for that. We are also going to be looking at other things. Right now, the high school has to look at the graduation rate, and it will continue. We are also going to look at chronic absenteeism which will be a factor for accreditation. Drop out Rates will also be a factor for accreditation. There will also be a Career and College Readiness Index which we think will involve some intern type issues and community service activities. Things are changing, and we will change with them. Our understanding is that this year, the 2017-2018 school year, when we do our report next September, the State will calculate under the old system and the new system. If a school reaches accreditation in either of those systems, they will be fully accredited. It will be a transition year for only one year. The following year we will go completely by the new system. We just want to congratulate all of our students, staff and faculty. Once again it is quite an accomplishment and are already working hard for next year.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Now what are you going to be worrying about at night?

Mr. Mark Mullins: We will still be worrying about all of this and more. (Ha, Ha!) They will do well. They have proven that they can do well.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: That is the one thing that you can count on from Dickenson County. We step up when we have to.

Mr. Mark Mullins: That is true.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED BATTING CAGE:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Item G. Update on the Proposed Batting Cage.

Superintendent Robinson: I am going to ask our Attorney, Mr. Scott Mullins and Mr. Setser to update the Board on the Batting Cages.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Last Thursday we had a meeting with six contractors who responded to our RIP. We talked about our expectations. The coaches and Lemman were there. We met at Ridgeview in the conference room for thirty minutes or so. We then walked out to the site. Today we received four bids back. They were all in the range that we expected. The way we are procuring this is we will start by ranking the bidders. It will primarily involve the coaches and the people who know what they want. We will start talking about time schedules, costs and details of what we want in those buildings. Hopefully, we will be coming back to you soon with a contract that will be recommended by the coaches and me for your approval so we can get the building going up there before cold weather hits. I have tried to work with our local PSA and talked with them some. We tried to get a little free help so that we could relocate water and gas lines so we can keep this thing as efficient as possible. All things considered I think we are doing pretty good and have reason to be optimistic to achieving our goal in getting to production.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: Are you going to go from low range to high range?

Mr. Scott Mullins: I think it ranges from 115 to 170, but those are not fixed bids. Those are invitations to negotiate, and we will go back and negotiate. Any questions?

Mr. Rocky Barton: I just want to point to one thing about that. I would like for everybody to always remember so that the folks in our community know that the money can only be used up there for that project. It is definitely not coming out of our General Account. I think it is wise that we always point that out.

Mr. Scott Mullins: Just to put a finer edge on it we were really lucky enough to have a lump sum contract to get our demolition done in a way that we have extra money left over that allows us to do that. Thank you.

BOARD COMMENT:

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: That brings us to Board Comment. Dr. Lyle:

Dr. Lurton Lyle: I am interested in the information concerning our elementary school project, but I am still undecided.

Mr. Rick Mullins: I am excited to hear that we are getting the batting cage underway.

Mr. Rocky Barton: I want to give a shout out to our football program. Everyone is so enthused this year. I talked to Coach Mullins, and he said at the beginning of the year some of the young guys who come through that we could have an exciting year. We are all really enthused with that. One thing I will mention in regard to the fault line. My dad sat on the Stone Mountain Health Services Board which landed the most money for any one of their clinics in the State. It was built 12 years ago and with Federal and State money, it had to have a complete investigation. That clinic had 63 wells under it, so I think if there was any issue with the fault line I think that money would never, ever been given for the clinic. Another word about the census thing, I am sure that most of this is pretty accurate. I question a little bit about the place where my house is in the Clinchco area when I am less than a mile from the Haysi Corporation Limits and three miles from Sandlick Elementary School. Whenever I got on the Board nine years ago, the pressing thing was what are we going to do with Clinchco Elementary School. As those of you on the Board will remember, we were closing Clinchco Elementary School long before the Corps ever got involved. It was being closed because there were no students. We could easily absorb the students at Clintwood, Ervinton and Haysi that were at Clinchco and not have the building expense. The plain and simple fact is that today at Sandlick, K-5, there are 440 students. When Clinchco closed, there were 150. I don't know how many are in Clinchco today. I have done my numbers on buses, and there is one thing that I will say. The buses that go up Prater and the buses that go up Rakes Ridge on the other side of Haysi have more students on those five or six buses than there are at Ervinton and Clinchco put together. That pretty well sums up where the students are. That's all I have to say.

Chairman, Mrs. Susan Mullins: I want to talk about the achievements that the school division has made with accreditation. I think everyone here had a part of that with the students, parents, teachers, assistant principals, principals, custodians, cooks, superintendent and cen-

tral office. I want to thank everyone who did that because I think we have made some milestones here. I appreciate all of that.

Mr. Shanghai Nickles: I was going to mention that Mrs. Mullins. Thank you. You did an excellent job. The 96% is a magic number. If you talk to anybody about their biggest concern, it is about getting kids to school that should be there. I went down and talked to Mr. Neece one day, and he said they were going to be 96%. That is great. The other thing that I was really happy about is that we have a mascot now. It is called the Alpha Wolf. It means the top dog or top wolf. Mr. Barton alluded to that, and I want to say a special thanks to the Board of Supervisors for allowing me to hit them up for some money so they can buy a program to watch the kids play during the game. When the kids come to the sideline, they can actually play back what they are doing right or wrong. That is not the reason I got involved in this piece of equipment. I got involved because I found out that if a child is hurt during a play you can actually go back and see where the child got hit. Are we teaching them to block right; did they lead with their head; was it a bad lick or whatever. It gives them an opportunity to see what is wrong with the child. Everyone gathers around the child to see what is wrong, but you can go on that tablet and see the play where the child got hurt. It also helps the medical people to know how that child got hurt. I appreciate the Board of Supervisors for stepping up to the plate and making that possible. If you want to go to a real fun evening, try Ridgeview High School on a Friday night. It is a pretty good place to be.

Superintendent Robinson: Madam Chair, I have one more award. I would like to recognize from the VSBA, the School Board Association, Dr. Lurton Lyle. He has earned 24 credits last year, Bronze Pin presented. Dr. Lyle I would like to present this certificate to you, Sir, from the Virginia School Board Association for your commitment to effective School Board Governance through your participation in the VSBA School Board Academy.

Dr. Lurton Lyle: Thank you. (Applause!)

Superintendent Robinson: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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.) Student release from mandatory attendance. 2.) Employment issues relating to consideration of hiring part-time Special Education teacher and substitutes pursuant to VA Code 2.23711 A (1) (2) and to consult with legal counsel on these issues pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.23711 A (7). Mr. Shanghai Nickles 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 Mr. Rick Mullins seconded. All votes aye. Chairman Susan Mullins stated; pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, I move to certify that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting. Dr. Lurton Lyle, Mr. Rick

Mullins, Mr. Rocky Barton, Mr. Shanghai Nickles and Chairman Susan Mullins; all certified true.

BOARD ACTIONS:

Chairman Susan Mullins: I make the motion we release Student #0978 from mandatory attendance as requested. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion Mr. Setser comes back next meeting with recommendations of the safety audit. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve accept the resignation of Cody Hall, part-time bus driver as requested. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we adopt the Division's Safety Audit recommendations. Mr. Rocky Barton seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Chairman Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the employment recommendation; Jordan Hughes, part-time Special Ed teacher at Ridgeview Middle School. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve the substitute applicants contingent upon any background checks or requirements. Mr. Rick Mullins seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Substitutes:

- Haskell, David, Teacher/Cook
- Kendrick, Jessica, Teacher
- McCowan, Nathan, Janitor/Cook
- McCauley, Maranda, Teacher
- Mullins, Candace, Teacher
- Mullins, Joshua, Cook/Janitor
- Rose, Tiffany R., Teacher
- Turner, Rae-Gena, Teacher
- Vanover, April, Cook/Janitor

Mrs. Susan Mullins: I make the motion we approve we post and advertise for a part-time school bus driver in the Haysi area. Dr. Lurton Lyle seconded the motion. All votes aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.

Susan Mullins

CHAIRMAN

Approved: October 25, 2017

Reba McCowan

CLERK