Dickenson County School Board Regular Meeting - Summary Minutes

September 23, 2026

I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 5:20 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jamie Hackney, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Members in Attendance: Jamie Hackney, Chair; David Vanover, Vice Chair; Jason Hicks; Rick Mullins; Damon Rasnick; Chloe Bird, Student Board Member; Tonya Baker, Clerk; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Scott Mullins, School Board Attorney

Approval of Agenda:
Following a motion by Mr. Rick Mullins and a second by Mr. David Vanover, the agenda was approved as presented.
Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Vanover read the Public Comment guidelines.

Ms. Lenior Jones, VPE, addressed the Board and reminded teachers that VPE has scholarships and grants that are available through the organization's website to both members and non-members, with preference given to members.

Mrs. Phyllis Mullins, DEA, expressed her appreciation to the Board and everyone for all that they do.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented, following a motion by Mr. Jason Hicks and a second by Mr. Damon Rasnick.
Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

a. Approval of Minutes

- Wednesday, August 5, 2026 - Special Called Meeting
- Wednesday, August 26, 2026 - Public Hearing Meeting
- Wednesday, August 26, 2026- DCPS Regular Monthly Meeting

b. Approval of Monthly Bills - School Operation Fund

- Monthly Bills: August Check # 888445 - 888547 = $ 388,738.49
- Monthly Payroll: Check # 392031-392064 = $512,062.16

c. School Activity Fund

- Informational Item

d. Approval of Field Trips

e. Approval of Bank Reconciliation Documents

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

Mrs.Robinson, Division Superintendent, reviewed upcoming events, including the virtual fall budget workshop on October 6, 2026, and the VSBA Annual Convention scheduled for November 18–20 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Board members interested in attending were asked to contact Tonya Baker to make reservations. The November School Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 16, to accommodate attendance at the convention. Mrs. Robinson reported that all three schools are observing Bullying Prevention Month in October through planned activities and events, with principals potentially providing updates at the November meeting. The October School Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28.

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

f. Good News from Our Schools

Mrs. Karen Martin, Director of Compliance, presented the August 2026 attendance and enrollment report, which showed a total enrollment of 1,685 students, including 1,587 students in grades K–12, 84 students in pre-K and the post-graduate program, and 16 students in the three-year-old program. Districtwide attendance was 94.05%, with Ridgeview Middle School at 94.68%, Ridge Elementary School at 94.02%, and Ridgeview High School at 93.45%. Chronic absenteeism continues to be monitored by school and central office staff.

The report also included entry and withdrawal data, noting varied patterns in the schools and states from which students transferred.

Each school's Absence Intervention Team met in August to review attendance trends and develop strategies to encourage regular attendance. Planned initiatives included attendance incentives, prizes, special activities, community partnerships, and public service announcements. Ridgeview High School

also discussed attendance expectations related to prom, the senior trip, and student driving privileges. All three schools are working with Communities in Schools and other community partners to identify attendance concerns early, support students and families, and promote consistent school attendance.

g. Update of FY26 Amended Carryover Funds Letter

Mrs. Lacie Edwards, Director of Business and Finance, provided an update on the FY2026 carryover request. The original request of $2,450,123.32 was amended to $2,600,192.21, an increase of $150,068.89, primarily due to school security equipment reimbursements received before the end of the fiscal year that were identified during reconciliation with the Dickenson County Treasurer's Office. The amended request was submitted to County Administrator Mr. Barton and was approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 22, 2026.

h. Presentation of DCPS 2026 - 2026 SOL Test Results

Mrs. Julie Davis, Testing Coordinator, presented a 2026 SOL Test Results Celebration PowerPoint highlighting the academic performance and significant improvements in state rankings for the 2025–2026 school year. In reading, DCPS improved its overall ranking from 47th to 21st, while math improved from 50th to 28th. Notable gains were also reported in geography, civics, and science, with improvements among students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students. The Virginia Department of Education recognized DCPS for achieving increases of at least 3% in both reading and math. The division's overall ranking across assessments improved from 47th in 2025 to 35th in 2026. Chronic absenteeism decreased from 28.35% to 21.14% districtwide and from 28.70% to 26.96% at the middle school. Appreciation was expressed to teachers, instructional staff, administrators, students, and parents for their contributions to these achievements.

i. Presentation of the Preliminary Data for the School Performance and Support Framework Process

Mr. Dennis Deel, Director of Curriculum, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary 2026 School Performance and Support Framework results. All three schools were fully accredited and achieved preliminary framework scores of 90 or above, placing them in the distinguished category. Ridgeview Elementary School improved from 78.8 to 90.0, Ridgeview Middle School improved from 82.7 to 90.2, and Ridgeview High School increased from 104.9 to 106.6. Highlights included improved student growth at the elementary level, gains in reading and mathematics at the middle school, and continued strong academic performance, graduation outcomes, and postsecondary readiness at the high school. Mr. Deel noted that the results were preliminary and identified continued priorities, including student achievement, academic growth, chronic absenteeism, and closing achievement gaps among students with disabilities. Appreciation was expressed to the Board, staff, administrators, students, and parents for their continued support and contributions to student success.

j. Approval of Proposed Early Payroll for November, December, and January

Mrs. Lacie Edwards presented a request to issue payroll early in advance of upcoming holiday breaks. The proposed early payday dates are November 20, 2026, December 18, 2026, and January 22, 2027. The regular end-of-month payday schedule will resume in February 2027.

Following a motion by Mr. Damon Rasnick and a second by Mr. Jason Hicks, the request for early payroll was approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

VI. BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Jason Hicks commended the division for its impressive performance results, noting the successful adaptation to changes in accreditation standards and cut scores. He recognized the collective efforts of students, parents, teachers, instructional aides, and all staff involved, expressing pride in the division's ability to meet Virginia's increased expectations.

Mr. Damon Rasnick echoed Mr. Hicks's comments, recognizing the collective contributions of parents, grandparents, teachers, instructional aides, bus drivers, custodians, and all staff in supporting student success. He expressed pride in the division's strong team and noted that the results reflect the combined efforts of the entire school community.

Mr. Jamie Hackney expressed pride in the division's accomplishments, noting positive results in enrollment, attendance, and the School Performance and Support Framework. He also discussed the potential impact of the new high school in neighboring Buchanan County on student enrollment, observing that the division appeared to have both gains and losses. He encouraged the division to maintain its momentum and continue its progress.

Mr. David Vanover praised the positive results presented by Ms. Davis and Mr. Deel, emphasizing that student success reflects the collective efforts of teachers, specialists, instructional aides, support staff, administrators, students, and parents. He expressed optimism for continued improvement and interest in the schools' planned activities for Bullying Prevention Month, emphasizing the importance of ongoing bullying prevention efforts throughout the school year.

Mr. Rick Mullins commended the division's strong team and positive results in attendance, SOL improvements, and geography performance. He shared a personal example of a family who relocated from California to Dickenson County, citing safety and the school system as the key factors in their decision. After 30 days, the family reported greater student happiness and a better educational experience.

Mr. Mullins praised the dedication and teamwork of all involved and expressed pride in the division's accomplishments.

Miss Chloe Bird, student board representative, praised the division's SOL scores, particularly its first-place statewide ranking in geography. She emphasized that teachers' genuine care and concern for students' well-being, attendance, and academic progress contribute significantly to a positive learning environment and student success.

VII. Closed Session, Under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia,

There will be a closed meeting for:
1.) Employment issues relating to discussion or consideration of specific individuals for employment as a Custodian, Part-Time Instructional Aides, Coaches, Substitutes, FMLA, and Resignations pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
2.)To consult with legal counsel regarding the investment of public funds associated with school construction and consultation regarding actual or probable litigation, along with consultation regarding specific matters requiring legal advice pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (6) (7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia.

Following a motion by Mr. Rick Mullins and a second by Mr. Damon Rasnick, the Board convened in a Closed Session.
Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

Following a motion by Mr. Jason Hicks and a second by Mr. Damon Rasnick, the board returned to open session.
Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

Board Certification

Mrs. Robinson read the following certification for the Closed Session.

WHEREAS, the Dickenson County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such a closed meeting was conducted in Conformity with Virginia law; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dickenson County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only the public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered.

Certification results

Certify	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No	0
Abstain	0
Not Cast	0

Board Action

Following a motion by Mr. David Vanover and a second from Mr. Jason Hicks, the employment recommendations were approved as presented.

Vote results

Aye:	5 Jason Hicks, Damon Rasnick, David Vanover, Jamie Hackney, Rick Mullins
No:	0
Abstain:	0
Not Cast:	0

PERSONNEL/LEGAL

Coaches

Substitutes

Hayden Artrip	Gaye McCoy
Georgia Collins	Kimberlee Owens
Alexandria Deckard	Kyiah Perry
Chasity Edwards	Winston Silcox
Ericka Flint	Kaylee Souleyrette
Kamden Grant	Layken Stanley
Tori Green	Latasha Stump
Amber Hopson	Abigail Wade
Cindy Mullins	Shane Wallace
Kaitlyn Mullins	

Resignations

Martin Fuller	Ridgeview Middle School	Custodian
Doris Mahan	Ridgeview Elementary School	P/T Aide

Recommendations for Employment

Rosemary McFall	Ridgeview Middle School	Custodian
Cadence Covell	Ridgeview Elementary School	Part-Time Aide
Kayleigh Strouth	Ridgeview Middle School	Part-Time Aide
Sierra Aslin	Ridgeview High School	Part-Time Aide

VIII. Adjournment: 6:44 p.m.

Following a motion by Mr. David Vanover and a second by Mr. Rick Mullins, the meeting was adjourned.

All Aye

Approved 10/28/2026

Jamie Hackney

Jamie Hackney, Chair

Tonya Baker

Tonya Baker, Clerk