

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met through a Virtual Meeting in the Big Spring School District High School Large Group Room in the at 7:00 p.m. with eight (8) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, John Wardle, Alexis Hurley and Robert Over.

Absent: Roush

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Robert Krepps, Director of Technology; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Caleb Barwin, Accounting Controller; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. Presentations:

- **Technology Update** - Mr. Robert Krepps, Director of Technology
 - Mr. Krepps shared and discussed the key events listed.
 1. Jones Farm barn fire located on Goodyear Road melted Comcast's fiber optic cables carrying the district's internet service. The internet was back up and running at approximately 1:00 p.m.
 2. Complications with the CAIU Internet content filtering appliance on Tuesday, September 15th and Thursday September 17th. The filtering appliance problem impacted access to the internet for grades 10-12 and as blocked the internet from 7:30 a.m. to approximately 9:00 a.m. on both days. The cause is still under investigation but a reboot of the appliance resolved the symptoms.
 - Mr. Krepps talked about the parents/students support and the new challenges. He stated that the District has bought 70 hotspots for families without internet and limited services.
 - Mr. Krepps stated that the Technology Department has received approximately 10-20 emails/phone calls a day from parents and students requesting assistance regarding home WiFi connection issues, personal hotspot issues, student device issues, which involved computers not charging, computers not turning on and broken screens. Families were also requesting headphones, mouse and printers.

- Mr. Krepps stated that the Technology Department has received 817 helpdesk tickets over the last 30 days and 789 were resolved. Mr. Krepps shared that the top three categories of the tickets were:
 1. Student Devices - 239;
 2. Peripherals Devices - 205;
 3. Staff Devices - 141

Mr. Swanson and the other Board of School Directors thanked Mr. Krepps for his presentation.

➤ **Transportation Update** - Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent

- Dr. Fry opened with an update on the new Bus Routing Software, Transfinder. Dr. Fry stated that it will take 4-6 months to integrate and build the software.
- Dr. Fry shared a document with the Board of School Directors showing a summary on bus information for kindergarten students and communicated the challenges with the time of pick up and drop off for families. Mr. Myers asked about the rolling drop off. Dr. Fry shared information on the rolling drop off and stated that it continues to improve.
- Dr. Fry talked about the importance of families thermal scanning their students at home before they get on the bus.
- Dr. Fry communicated that he will be updating the families with a video at the end of the week regarding COVID cases.

➤ **Athletic Plan Update** – Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Fry began the presentation with defining the changes to the Athletic Plan.
- Dr. Fry shared that BSSD will take the necessary precautions and recommendation from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA to keep students safe and well.
- Dr. Fry stated that there will be limitations on gatherings. It was noted that there will be no more than 25 individuals at an indoor athletic event and 250 individuals for an outdoor athletic event. Dr. Fry communicated that all individuals are required to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing guidelines. It was communicated by Dr. Fry that all indoor events will require thermal scanning prior to entering the event.
- Dr. Fry shared there will be no concession stands and spectators are expected to adhere to designated seating guidelines in the stadium/turf fields. It was stated that there is no re-entry permitted once spectators leave the stadium. He shared that girls and boys soccer games will be played at Bulldog Stadium.
- Mr. Wardle asked - when does the fall season end; Dr. Fry stated it may be Nov 10th but may go through to Thanksgiving but no later than Thanksgiving.
- Dr. Fry communicated that there will be Senior Night under the lights this Thursday for all fall senior athletes. A BBQ chicken box dinner will be provided and will be served to families in the bleachers.
- Dr. Fry concluded with his presentation requesting that the Board of School Directors review the updates within the guidelines of the Resocialization and Athletics and Activities Recommendations handout.

III. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XIII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through I into one motion.

IV. BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

No discussion

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE

No discussion

VI. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

No discussion

VII. BOARD POLICY

No discussion

VIII. ITEMS FROM FLOOR

No discussion

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deihl, seconded by Wardle to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Gutshall, Over, Wardle, Hurley and Myers.

Motion carried unanimously. 8 -0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:38 p.m.**

