

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 3, 2022



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1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring School District Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, John Wardle, and Donna Webster

Absent: No Absences

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; William August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Chris Harris, Solicitor; Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Ancillary Services; Jocelyn Kraus, High School Counselor; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darrin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Presentation:

2.a. Terrace Metrics - Ms. Jocelyn Kraus and Dr. Abigail Leonard

Dr. Leonard and Ms. Kraus presented an overview of Terrace Metrics to the Board:

Supporting Our Bulldogs

Big Spring's Journey to Universal Screening

Building Capacity

Counseling – Needs and Trends

Building Capacity through Training

Building Capacity through Partnership

Considerations

Considerations prior to TM Administration

Implementation and Response

Responding to Screening

Terrace Metrics Results

Terrace Metrics Data – District Wide

Terrace Metrics Assessment Calendar

Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

Key Performance Indicators

Linking Data to Actions – Phase 1

Linking Data to Actions – Phase 2

Big Spring School District – Next Steps

Interactive Process – Continuing to Grow

Terrace Metrics Risk and Resilience Survey

Mr. Wardle asked what impact social media is playing on kids who want to be liked on social media, asked if they see a big problem with students using social media to judge themselves, and wondered how that is addressed. Ms. Kraus said social media has some positive and some negative concerns such as anxiety, sleeplessness, and connectedness but said there are pros and cons to everything. She said we especially watch for this at the early high school and middle school level and stated that as students age, they are generally better adjusted and set boundaries on who they connect with but also said that as a District we continue to try to find ways to support our students.

Mr. Myers asked if all students are initially tested with Terrace Metrics and Dr. Leonard responded only with parent permission. Mr. Myers followed up by asking if students generally take the assessment seriously and Ms. Kraus stated there are built in validity measures such as the ability to see if a student took the assessment in 3 minutes which may indicate they didn't take it very seriously or had a dramatic change in response which also triggers a follow-up. Ms. Kraus also stated that overwhelmingly, she believes students take the assessment seriously and it provides enough information for counselors to engage in further conversations.

Mr. Over asked if the counselors and District staff have enough resources or have any needs and Dr. Leonard shared that we are still working to understand and learn more things about our students. She also stated the process is constantly evolving and reassured Mr. Over that we will ask the Board if we feel we need more support.

Dr. Roberts said Dr. Leonard and Ms. Kraus have been instrumental in building a support system which aspires to offer more opportunities to connect more students using a close partnership with families to work together and stated that we are seeing good results.

2.b. Virtual Tutoring - Mr. Bill August

Mr. August presented a view of Virtual Tutoring to the Board:

Paper: 24/7 on-demand tutoring

Impact of COVID: Gaps in learning due to the Pandemic.

Current Efforts

Is there a better way to get academic support to more students?

Paper – 24/7 unlimited academic support

Data on Paper

Benefits

Live Example

Mr. Over asked about the screening process of the virtual tutors and Mr. August responded they are mostly doctoral students who are rigorously trained to tutor and said copies of tutoring sessions are maintained in folders in an effort to offer complete transparency. He also stated tutors are vetted by the company for appropriate clearances and compliance.

Mr. Piper asked if we contract with the virtual tutoring company and Mr. August responded yes.

Mrs. Webster asked if our students currently have access to this tutoring and Mr. August said we are piloting this but will be pushing it out to students in grades 5-12 and providing details and more information to both students and parents. Mrs. Webster asked if a student is constantly going back for help would the company notify their teacher and Mr. August said teachers can review the student tutor help sessions.

Mr. Over asked how much this costs and Mr. August reminded everyone this is paid by a grant at a cost of \$120,000 but stated we aren't committed to this in the future and can evaluate its success before moving forward.

Mr. Piper asked if we could track how many students are using this resource and Mr. August confirmed we can. Dr. Roberts stated our summer school program offers 16 instructional days for \$40 - \$45,000 but said this tutoring would be available to students during the entire school year.

Mr. Over asked when and how it will be shown to students and Mr. August shared that he met with building administrators and they will communicate to students and staff in each building but Mr. August will communicate with parents. Mr. Over suggested a demonstration be provided to each class.

Responding to a question from the audience about the location of the tutors and service, Mr. August stated he would have to double check if they are based entirely in the US.

3. Other Items – Nothing offered

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.


