

# BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Newville, Pennsylvania

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 19, 2022



---

*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.*

#### 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 7:02 pm with seven (7) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Frank Myers, and John Wardle

Absent: Richard Roush

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; William August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Caleb Barwin, Accounting Controller; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mike Fronk, Technology; Darrin Baughman, Technology, and (remotely) Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

#### 2. Presentation:

##### 2.a. FFA Student Teaching Experience - Mr. Justin Kurtz

Justin Kurtz provided some observations about his student teaching experience and stated that he has enjoyed working with Big Spring School District. Justin said a school district works just like a small gas engine – many important small parts that work together and stated he experienced firsthand an excellent FFA program which may be one of the best in the state and country. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to participate in his student teaching experience.

Dr. Roberts commended Mr. Kurtz for the courage to come and share his student teaching experiences.

##### 2.b. Big Spring Cyber Program Update - Mr. Bill August and Mrs. Nicole Donato

Mr. Swanson said numerous times here at board meetings we have had people encourage students to go to outside cyber charter schools and well-meaning people have applauded those comments not thinking about what kind of damage that does to our school system when you hear about the cost of sending someone to cyber school. We've had speakers say why don't you try to get those students back which we have done and will continue to do and that is why Mr. August and Mrs. Donato are going to present a Cyber Program Update that outlines their plan to continue to work to get our cyber students back here to Big Spring.

Mr. August and Mrs. Donato presented the Big Spring Cyber Program Update to the Board:  
Cyber Program Continuum  
Current Program Review  
Retention  
Return Efforts: Past and Present  
Program Revisions 2022-2023  
Active Recruitment Efforts

Mr. Myers said some Big Spring teachers manage the cyber courses and asked who manages the other courses? Mr. August responded that we currently have a cyber advisor from CAOLA and she is available for the other courses.

Mr. August explained that part of the Distance Learning Coordinator's job will be outreach and Mr. Swanson reminded the Board that is the job description on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Wardle said what if we developed a cyber club to develop a more social and emotional connection for these cyber students and stated it would be nice to get them to see there's more to school than math and English. Mrs. Donato said they are looking into new ideas for field trips, student recognition, and other options for better connection with cyber students next year. Mr. Wardle said every student has a reason for not sitting in the classroom and some of it might be social, emotional, more than they just can't pass math and they can get lost.

Dr. Roberts said over the course of time the vast majority of students want to be in person with a teacher but there is a relatively small percentage of students who thrive in this environment. We have to build this program out to exist similar to CPACTC, an extension of our programming. There are some students who do very well in a cyber program and it's best for them and we have to be able to build that out for them.

Mr. Piper said that he could potentially see cyber kids getting lost in the system and asked what we need to do to help these students to not get lost in the system? Mrs. Donato responded that they will be developing tiers of support this summer so they can identify students who are having trouble and connecting with them from the very beginning to address the students who are falling further and further behind and continue to reach out to students and families.

Mr. Swanson said to summarize, we are doing a lot to keep students engaged.

### **3. Preview of the Agenda**

President Swanson requested the Board address item 10 New Business Personnel Items and combine items 10a through 10c into one motion.

### **4. Other Items – Nothing offered**

### **5. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting and Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 8:01 pm by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers.

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 7-0

  

---