

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 20, 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 eight (8) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, John Wardle, and Donna Webster

Absent: Richard Roush

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; William August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dr. Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Ancillary Services; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darrin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Presentation:

2.a. Final Budget Update - Mr. Mike Statler

Mr. Statler presented the 2022-23 General Fund Budget:

From the Superintendent

- Leading the Way
- Post Pandemic Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Safety & Security
- Technology
- Student Support & Special Education
- Student Support – Counseling
- Fiscal Unpredictability
- Mandates
- Medical Spending
- 2022-23 Budget – A Serious Challenge
- Budgets in Brief

2.a. Final Budget Update (continued)

Expenditures

- Budget Expenditure by Function (Department)
- Budget by Object or Type
- Selected Expenditure Items

Revenue

- Commonwealth Revenue
- Revenue from Federal Sources
- Local Effort
- Real Estate Assessment & Tax Increase

The Future

- Enclosures

Dr. Roberts stated this is the same information we've seen a few times and just one last opportunity to ask questions before voting on the budget tonight.

Mr. Wardle asked with these projections, how many years until we have no fund balance? Mr. Statler said by 2028 there won't be any fund balance which includes assigned as well as unassigned fund balances.

2.b. Curriculum Management Plan/Process Update - Mrs. Nicole Donato

Mrs. Donato provided the Curriculum Management Plan:

- Curriculum Audit to Curriculum Management Plan May 2021 – June 2022
- Purpose of the Plan
- Written Curriculum: The Design
- Taught Curriculum: The Delivery
- Professional Learning
- Assessment: The Measure
- Monitoring and Evaluating
- Clear Roles and Responsibilities
- Progress and Planning

Mr. Wardle asked Mrs. Donato if she is aware of any critical race theory (CRT) being taught or written into the Big Spring curriculum and Mrs. Donato stated no, it isn't found anywhere in our curriculum. Dr. Roberts stated the presentation this evening was to provide an opportunity for Mrs. Donato to talk about the curriculum management plan and explain the curriculum writing process which includes teams of teachers developing the curriculum and a review process by administration with the teachers for the curriculum which is then brought to the Board for review and approval prior to it ever being put into place.

Mr. Myers asked if building principals are still performing formal observations of teachers for professional learning and Mrs. Donato responded that even if teachers choose differentiated supervision, every 3 years teachers still receive a formal observation by their principal and also stated that new teachers receive 4 formal observations in addition to completing the induction process.

2.c. Summer Programming Update - Dr. Abigail Leonard and Mrs. Nicole Donato

Mrs. Donato shared a presentation on the Summer Learning Offerings:

- Bulldog Summer Success Program
- Middle School Summer School
- High School Summer School

Mr. Myers asked if all of the students who were offered summer learning opportunities will be participating and Mrs. Donato said no, some students will not be participating.

Mr. Wardle asked if either by parent choice or strong recommendation we hold back many K-2 students and Mrs. Donato responded that research does not support holding students back as a benefit to them.

Mr. Piper asked if parents understand how important this could be for the students who aren't coming and Mrs. Donato stated the letter explains the value of the summer learning opportunities but phone calls were also made to restate the benefits of participating.

Mr. Myers asked if the parent sessions would be offered to parents who aren't planning to send their children and Mrs. Donato stated she would be willing to send those parents an e-mail inviting them to participate in the meeting and make the summer resources available to them.

Mr. Wardle asked if Middle School Summer School is in the building or virtual and Mrs. Donato confirmed it is an online work process with the goal to work from home to avoid students having to come in over the summer in order to pass the course to be promoted to the next grade.

2.c. Summer Programming Update (continued)

Dr. Leonard shared and explained the Extended School Year Offerings:

- Extended School Year

Mr. Over asked what is meant by services contracted with outside agencies and Dr. Leonard stated some school districts contract with outside agencies to provide ESY services, but we do not contract out to community agencies and service our students with our own staff.

Mr. Wardle asked if parents play a big role in suggesting or recommending their students for additional help and Dr. Leonard confirmed it is a combined effort between parents and educators because parents may be aware of things that aren't seen while a child is at school.

Mr. Over asked how long we have been offering extended school year services and Dr. Leonard responded that it has been many years and started before she started working for Big Spring.

Mr. Piper asked when the team gets together to gather all of this information to determine if a student needs or qualifies for extended school year instruction and Dr. Leonard stated that IEP meetings take place throughout the year as well as other meetings to review student progress.

Mr. Myers asked Dr. Leonard to confirm she said approximately 10% of our special education students qualify to participate in extended school year and Dr. Leonard said yes, the participation numbers are reflective of approximately 10% of our special education students.

Mr. Wardle asked if there is some social interaction over the summer and Dr. Leonard responded yes.

Dr. Roberts stated that both groups (Summer School and ESY) have processes setup all year long to monitor progress through assessments and meetings every 6 weeks in grades as early as kindergarten designed to review and discuss student progress so key decisions can be made to intervene to get them to grade level for academic success.

Dr. Roberts thanked Mrs. Donato and Dr. Leonard for their leadership and said we are already serving 173 students in some level of programming within the week and half to two weeks since the school year ended.

3. Preview of the Agenda

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. 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, Wardle and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:51 p.m.**

William L. Piper