

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010

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I. 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 High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 7:04 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Kingsley Blasco and Tarin Houpt were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; Denny Clopper, The Valley Times-Star; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes. Also present: Stefanie D'Amore, Jacqualee Graham, Wade Graham, and April Messenger.

II. PRESENTATION

Update on Strategic Plan – Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Temple offered a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Strategic Planning Update." Please refer to the attached hard copy of the presentation.

Mrs. Temple noted that the District has just completed Year 3 of the strategic plan. Mrs. Temple indicated that she would offer an end-of-plan review in 2013, submit required documents to the State, and the strategic planning process would begin again.

**Big Spring School Board Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2010**

II. PRESENTATION (Continued)

Update on Strategic Plan (Continued)

Mrs. Temple reviewed the six-year strategic plan information in the PowerPoint presentation that outlined the following points:

- Overview of Strategic Plan – 6 Years
- Accomplishments
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Programs
- Technology
- Public Relations
- Elementary Readiness
- Instruction
- Achievement
- Teacher Selection, Preparation, and Retention
- Strategic Plan – 6 Years
- What's next?
- Action Plans for 2010-2014, Drafted Spring 2010
- Achievement
- Pupil Services
- Communication
- Educational Climate
- Governance
- Personnel
- Next Steps – Summer 2010
- Fall 2010

In addition to the information included in the PowerPoint presentation, Mrs. Temple noted the following:

- A. During the 2009-2010 school year, approximately 75 students were enrolled in dual-enrollment courses (world history, horticulture, and agribusiness), approximately 75 students participated in work experience, and 15 students used online courses (2 full-time online students and the remaining single online courses).
- B. In response to a question from Director Piper, Mrs. Temple indicated that remediation, acceleration, and enrichment are offered to all students in kindergarten through Grade 12, some during the school day and others before or after school or on Saturday.
- C. Mr. Fry indicated that the elementary readiness goals include plans to build on the gains established in full-day kindergarten to eliminate the spiraling effect that sometimes happens with students in Grade 3.
- D. In response to a question from President Wolf, Mrs. Temple indicated that learning-focused schools strategies are a part of the three days of professional training for all current and new staff members. Mr. Fry added that the District has "Big Spring-ized" the learning-focused schools strategies. Because of this, Big Spring teachers appear to be more receptive of the strategies than other districts that do not tailor the strategies to meet the needs of the community

Big Spring School Board Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2010

II. PRESENTATION (Continued)

- E. In response to a question from Director Piper, Mrs. Temple indicated that Big Spring offers teacher mentoring, and all teachers participate in a two-year induction process.
- F. In response to a question from President Wolf, Mrs. Temple indicated that teachers have shared during exit interviews that their favorite aspect of the District is the students, while their least favorite aspect of the District is the paperwork that is required with not enough time to complete the required tasks each day.
- G. The July District newsletter will focus on the District's strategic plan and the progress that has been made to date.
- H. The HACC dual-enrollment course fee is increasing from \$50.00 to \$90.00; however, this is still the best deal for dual-enrollment courses in this area.
- I. Some students complete a half day of education at Big Spring and a half day in cyber school. These students are monitored closely by Big Spring staff members who are trained in the cyber option.
- J. In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that approximately half of the District's policy manual has been updated and the remaining sections continue to be updated. Policy updates are an ongoing process.
- K. In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mrs. Temple explained that efforts are being made to develop systemic improvement goals for buildings. Mr. Fry indicated that members of the administration are striving to create building goals that are staff inclusive and participatory, and he added that representatives of the teachers' association support the administration's efforts. Mr. Fry indicated that the District wants to retain effective teachers and involve them in the activities happening in the schools.
- L. Mrs. Temple indicated that she believes the District has achieved the goal of keeping the strategic plan off the shelf, and she added that she believes the strategic plans have been brought to life and are effective. The plans provide direction, and decisions are made in the District that relate directly to the strategic plans and action plans.
- M. In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that the District must ensure that Chapter 12 regulations are in place within the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Temple indicated that she would be responsible to include the Chapter 12 regulations as an aside to the strategic plan. Mr. Fry indicated that the District is in great shape with regard to Chapter 12 nutrition regulations. Many of the items have already been addressed in the District. The new regulations require a form of structured physical activity at the high school for 45 minutes during each instructional day, excluding interscholastic activities. Mr. Fry added that this is another unfunded mandate that could cost Big Spring \$250,000.00 to implement. President Wolf noted that reducing instructional time and replacing it with physical activity is ironic in light of the ever-increasing academic achievement goals set by the State.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Temple for the strategic planning update, and Mrs. Temple thanked Mr. Roberts for his assistance with the presentation.

**Big Spring School Board Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2010**

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

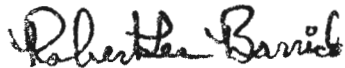
Combine and Address

President Wolf requested that the Board address XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-12, as a single action item.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary