

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009

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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. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Sandra Rosenberry Deaver; and Richard Norris. Kingsley Blasco, William Piper, and Richard Roush 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; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes. Also present: Samantha Duvall, Steve Fosburg, Jeannette Jorich, Kandace Kohr, Luanne Kyle, Carol Madden, Kelsey Miller, Heath Myers, Scott Penner, Justina Secrest, Bethany Stanton, Julie Stine, Les Stover, Jerry Walker, and Grant Zeigler.

II. PRESENTATION

Costa Rica Trip – Staff and Students

A Costa Rica presentation was offered by the following staff members: Mr. Les Stover, Mrs. Carol Madden, and Mrs. Jeannette Jorich. The following students assisted with the presentation: Samantha Duvall, Kandace Kohr, Kelsey Miller, Justina Secrest, Tyler Wonders, and Grant Zeigler.

Mrs. Jorich indicated that Mrs. Zina Jensen attended the trip as a staff chaperone as well. Thirty-one individuals, including staff, students, and alumni, attended the 11-day trip to Costa Rica.

**Big Spring School Board Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2009**

II. PRESENTATION

Costa Rica Trip – Staff and Students

Mrs. Jorich offered a computer presentation of the trip, and the students displayed items from Costa Rica during the presentation. The following items were noted:

- A. There are 32 species of hummingbirds in Costa Rica.
- B. Costa Rica is ranked second in the world for their land-preservation efforts.
- C. Students were encouraged to engage in hands-on activities during every part of the trip, learning first-hand about the Costa Rican culture and ways of life.
- D. The coffee and banana trades are declining in Costa Rica, and the area is becoming well known for producing a variety of other fruits and vegetables and ornamental plants.
- E. Beverages in Costa Rica are sweetened using sugar cane.
- F. The hot springs in Costa Rica range in temperature from 100 to 152 degrees.
- G. There are two indigenous tribes in Costa Rica. The travelers enjoyed learning about the Maleku tribe.
- H. It rained "straight down" every afternoon during the trip.
- I. Students enjoyed touring and learning about Costa Rican schools, animals, native crops, foods, coffee production, dances, music, and the forest canopy.
- J. The trip included horseback riding, ziplining, and whitewater rafting.
- K. Nearly everything is recycled in Costa Rica.
- L. More than 85 percent of the population practices Catholicism.
- M. Costa Rica has an agricultural-based economy; however, they are moving toward becoming more of an academic culture.
- N. The school day is split in Costa Rica. High school students attend school in the morning, while elementary school students attend school in the afternoon. All students except seniors wear uniforms.
- O. Rice and beans are staple foods served for nearly every meal in Costa Rica.

Mrs. Madden commended the students and young adults for "behaving phenomenally." Mrs. Madden noted that the students had a great deal of respect for the Costa Rican culture, one another, and the chaperones.

Mr. Stover added that Big Spring is blessed to have such well-behaved students.

Mrs. Jorich thanked the Board for approving the trip to Costa Rica, and she noted that she looks forward to organizing another trip in the future.

President Wolf and Superintendent Fry thanked the students and staff for the presentation.

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-10, as a single action item.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:46 P.M. to address legal and personnel concerns. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary