

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

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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 7:00 p.m. with William Swanson, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Todd Deihl, Kingsley Blasco, Richard Roush, Robert Over

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Richard Kerr, Jr. Business Manager; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes; Andy Milone, Valley Times Star

### **II. PRESENTATION**

#### **A. Vo-Tech Student -Dalton Kiner**

- Dalton talked about his experience and education at Cumberland Perry Vocational Technical School.
- Dalton shared with the Board of School Directors he is involved with the Computer Networking Program. Dalton shared he chose this specific field due to his interest in fixing and making things work better in the networking field.
- Dalton shared he assisted in the Big Spring School District Technology Department and found the skills he learned within the department helped him tremendously.
- Dalton explained the process of Level II and Level III networking.
- Dalton shared he competed in Skills USA which is a skills and leadership development club for technical schools.
- Dalton shared he competed in the Information Technology competition and he was awarded for first place in districts and states. Dalton shared he also was chosen to go to Kentucky for Nationals where he was ranked tenth in the nation.
- Dalton is involved with the Co-Op Program where he is now working with the CAIU as a tech intern.
- Dalton shared his goal is to become a Network Administrator.
- Dalton communicated he will attend Penn Tech.
- Dr. Fry asked about Dalton's experience starting as a freshman at CPAVTS.
- Dalton stated it has been a tremendous experience to be in the program for four years.

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- Dr. Fry stated that Big Spring School District is one of three districts out of thirteen sending districts that send students to CPAVTS for four years.
- Dalton thanked the Board of School Directors for allowing him to share his positive experience with the Vo-Tech program.
- Mr. Kanc congratulated Dalton for his accomplishments and involvements.
- Mr. Swanson thanked Dalton for representing Big Spring School District so well.
- Mr. Over asked Dalton when he started to enjoy computers. Dalton stated that he began at a very young age.
- Mr. Over asked about Dalton's vision for his future.
- Dalton stated he would "love to own his own business."
- Mr. Over wished Dalton good luck and told Dalton to continue to keep up the amazing work he is doing.

**B. Service Dog Presentation**

- Mrs. Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal
- Diana Kepner and Josie Gutshall, Middle School Students
  - Diane and Josie shared their experience applying and being accepted on the Principal's Cabinet where they began their thoughts for a Service Dog.
  - The students talked about their research and interviews they had with Mechanicsburg Middle School and Northern High School where service dogs are in action in the classroom, hallway and helping students.
  - Diane and Josie talked about how a service dog can be therapy and a service for students, teachers and staff. Some things are listed below.
    - Comfort and love students, teachers and staff
    - Turn on lights
    - Open doors
    - Deliver mail
    - Pick-up items
    - Greeting new students as well as others
    - Assist with a healthy and happy working environment
    - Feel comforted and safe within the school building
    - Increased participation in P.E.
    - Motivate reluctant readers
  - Diane and Josie talked about the cost, certified handlers, implementation of board policy and liability insurance.
  - Mr. Swanson asked if the dog would stay with the handler and asked if there are one or more handlers.
  - The students stated the dog would stay with the handler and there could be multiple certified handlers.
  - Mr. Kanc asked about the breed of the dog. The students stated the dogs at Northern and Mechanicsburg are Labrador Retrievers.
  - Dr. Fry stated Northern has seven Labs and Mechanicsburg has two but will be going with four dogs next year.
  - The students thanked Mrs. Nace and the Board of School Directors.

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- Dr. Fry communicated the positive affects the dogs have had in Northern and Mechanicsburg School Districts.
- Dr. Fry hopes to have a service dog in place for the 2019-2020 school year or earlier, if possible.
- Mrs. Nace shared the Middle School currently has seven to eight staff members that are willing to be handlers.
- Mr. Piper asked the age of the dogs.
- Mr. Gillet communicated they can be 7 plus years.
- Mrs. Nace shared the tasks the service dogs are involved in.

**C. Justin Bruhn, CPAVTS Director**

- Mr. Bruhn talked about the opportunities at CPAVTS.
- Mr. Bruhn communicated the programs available at CPAVTS.
- Mr. Bruhn shared the experiences and partnerships with Harrisburg University.
- Mr. Bruhn communicated the explanations for the NOCTI Performance test.
- Mr. Bruhn shared that CPAVTS mission is to prepare students for the step after graduation.
- Mr. Bruhn shared there are twenty-two programs offered at CPAVTS with a new program in the Health Career area.
- Mr. Swanson thanked Mr. Bruhn for addressing the Board of School Directors and shared that Mr. Wolf was a great supporter of the Vo-Tech programs.
- Mr. Piper communicated the wonderful tribute for Mr. Wolf at the Vo-Tech meeting.
- Mr. Piper commented on the wonderful things happening at Vo-Tech.

**III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

Vice-President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Item A-1.

**IV. BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

No discussion

**V. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

No discussion

**VI. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

No discussion

**VII. BOARD POLICY**

No discussion

**VIII. ITEMS FROM FLOOR**

No discussion

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**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blasco to adjourn, seconded by Kanc to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Piper, Gutshall, Roush, Deihl, Blasco, Blasco and Over.

Motion carried unanimously 8 – 0.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:29 p.m.**

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William L. Piper, Secretary