

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco, Richard Roush, Robert Over and John Wardle

Absent – Kingsley Blasco

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

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Flexible Seating**

- **Ms. Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction**
- **Mrs. Crystal Grossman, Middle School Instructional Coach**
- **Mrs. Nicole Donato, High School Instructional Coach**
- **Mrs. Courtney Rickabaugh, Middle School ELA/English Teacher**
- **Mrs. Rebecca Herendeen, High School Science Teacher**
- Mrs. Euker gave an overview on flexible seating, rationale, PLC, student feedback and teacher's experiences.
- Mrs. Euker talked about the areas listed:
  - Meeting students where they are at – Personalized Learning
  - Moving students from passive to active learners
  - Student choice and voice learning
  - Authentic learning and application/real world connections
  - Integration of Technology
  - Building of Skills vs. Content
  - 6C's: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Continuous Learning and Global Citizenship
- Ms. Grossman shared how staff collaborated on flexible seating, student expectation and classroom design.



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- Mrs. Donato talked about the survey that was generated to middle school and high school students regarding their thoughts on flexible seating.
- Mrs. Donato shared at the high school a large percentage of students felt that flexible seating increased their ability to focus in class.
- Mrs. Donato shared high school student's choice of the top three seating options as well as the seating options that may be distracting.
- Ms. Grossman shared middle school students had similar responses.
- Ms. Herendeen, High School Science Teacher talked about the success with collaborative learning and how station work is more effective with flexible seating.
- Ms. Herendeen shared there has been a better rapport with student to student and student to teachers.
- Mrs. Rickabaugh, Middle School English Teacher shared pictures of her classroom with flexible seating in place.
- Mrs. Rickabaugh talked about the positives that flexible seating brought to her classroom and students.
- Mrs. Euker talked about the facts, interpretations and wonderings, implications and next step for flexible seating.
- Mrs. Euker shared with the Board of School Directors that the week of February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> is Pineapple Week at the High School and has invited members to join staff.
- Mrs. Euker shared the definition of Pineapple Week as a week of welcome where teachers open their classroom to each other to support peer learning, walks and observations.
- Mrs. Euker thanked the Instructional Coach's and teachers for the fantastic job they did this evening with their presentations.
- Mr. Kanc asked if the teachers would make any changes as they continue to experience flexible seating in their classrooms. Mrs. Rickabaugh stated she would make adjustments according to what furniture works the best for students and furniture that lasts the longest and best fits her classroom.
- Ms. Herendeen stated she is happy with the seating in her classroom.
- Dr. Fry communicated the increased student engagement in classrooms with flexible seating.
- Dr. Roberts shared his appreciation with the increase development of an environment of respect amongst students.
- Mr. Over has asked how many more teachers are ready to get on board with flexible seating. It was stated that many teachers are ready to implement flexible seating within their classrooms.
- Mr. Piper asked: where did the flexible seating idea come from?
- Dr. Fry stated that teachers at the elementary level have been piloting the seating for quite some time.
- Dr. Fry stated that instruction is still the huge piece, but if furniture can support the instruction and raise the level of engagement the district will be right on target and this is a discussion that has been happening nationally amongst educators.



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**B. Construction Items - Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools**  
**- Mr. Richard Kerr, Jr., Business Manager**

- Dr. Fry talked about the meeting that the Building and Property Committee held on Monday, February 18, 2019.
- Dr. Fry talked about the board agenda construction items a-k that will be acted on this evening as one item; just as the personnel items are combined as one item. Dr. Fry communicated if preferred, the Board has the option to pull out a line item if not comfortable with moving forward on the item and talk about it amongst members.
- Mr. Kerr reviewed the 2019 bid and construction estimate costs with the Board of School Directors.
- Mr. Kerr shared the individual alternates with members.
- Mr. Gilliam talked about the age of the main switchgear at Mt. Rock Elementary School.
- Mr. Piper stated the switchgear at Mt. Rock is the original since the building has been built in 1968.
- Mr. Kerr communicated that the District has 7.19 million in the Capital Projects Reserve Fund.
- Mr. Over asked about the EIFS at the Middle School.
- Mr. Gilliam communicated he would be happy to show any Board of School Director the damage of the EIFS at the Middle School.

**III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-3 as a single action item.

**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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Roush, to adjourn, seconded by Deihl to adjourn the meeting.



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Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Piper, Gutshall, Roush, Deihl, Kanc, Over and Wardle  
Motion carried unanimously 8– 0.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:55 p.m.**

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William L. Piper, Secretary