

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY MARCH 18, 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 7:03 p.m. with William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco, Richard Roush, John Wardle and Robert Over

Absent – Bob Kanc

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; Vonda Kelso, Accounting Controller; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Pupil Services Update

- Mr. William Gillet, Director of Pupil Personnel
- Ms. Abby Leonard, Assistant Supervisor of Special Education
- Ms. Jessica Winesickle, Home School Visitor
- Dr. Angela Heishman, School Psychologist
- Dr. Jeannette Cahill, School Psychologist
 - Ms. Winesickle shared the changes in socioeconomic status from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2018-2019 school for each district building.
 - Ms. Winesickle communicated the increase in the homeless population which requires families in this situation to share housing, live in motels, campgrounds and transitional shelters.
 - It was communicated by Ms. Winesickle that in 2005-2006 school year 18 students were considered homeless under McKinney-Vento definition. In the 2018-2019 school year 36 students were considered homeless under McKinney-Vento definition. Children fitting the description of “homeless” may choose to remain in the district of origin for the duration of their homelessness or may enroll in the district in which they are currently residing. Once permanently housed, the children may finish the school year in their district of origin.
 - Ms. Winesickle talked about the students in the Foster Care System.

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- Ms. Winesickle shared the district involvement in the organizations listed:
 - a. Operation Bulldog
 - b. Paw Packs
 - c. Startree
- Ms. Winesickle communicated the changes to the truancy law as well as the impact of truancy changes.
- Dr. Heishman and Dr. Cahill shared the roles and responsibilities of Big Spring School District's School Psychologists. Dr. Heishman and Dr. Cahill talked about the assessments and evaluations procedures for special education and gifted services which are listed below:
 - a. Standardized test administration
 - b. Social-emotional/behavioral assessments
 - c. Classroom observations of students being evaluated
 - d. Case conceptualization and report writing
 - e. Participation/coordination of other assessments such as psychiatric evaluations.
- It was shared by Dr. Heishman and Dr. Cahill the involvement in consultation and collaboration they have while attending IEP/MDE/Emotional Support meetings, CARE team meetings, Student Assistance Team Meetings. They also talked about how they provide crisis support and interventions to students, completing risk assessments, threat assessments, "On-Call" crisis support and co-leading elementary counseling groups for students receiving emotional support services and assisting and coordinating postvention activities after student death/tragedies.
- Dr. Heishman and Dr. Cahill shared how evaluations are more complex. It was shared they are seeing more students with higher level of needs at younger ages. It was communicated that there is a greater need to support staff and students outside of the evaluation process.
- Dr. Fry talked about the positive relationships Dr. Cahill, Dr. Heishman and Ms. Winesickle have with staff and students.
- Ms. Leonard communicated the early intervention trends over the last five years as well as the early intervention timelines which are listed:
 - a. October – Receive transition list from the CAIU
 - b. December – Parent Orientation Night
 - c. January – Transition Meetings
 - d. February/March – Preschool Observations
 - e. March – Early Intervention Kindergarten Registration
 - f. May/June – Evaluate, Develop IEP, Conduct IEP Meetings
- Ms. Leonard talked about the types of students that are entering Big Spring School District as kindergarten students.
- Ms. Leonard shared the importance in getting to know the students and families during the early intervention process.
- Ms. Leonard communicated the different classroom placements which are listed below:
 - a. Regular Education Classrooms
 - b. Speech/Language Itinerant
 - c. K2 Learning Support
 - d. Life Skills Classroom

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- e. Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS) Classroom
 - f. Intensive Speech/Language
 - g. School Based Autism
 - h. Center Based Autism
 - i. Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)
- Dr. Fry talked about the consortium process.
 - Mr. Over asked how are the students identified; Ms. Leonard shared the CAIU identifies the early intervention students and submits a list to the district.
 - Mr. Over inquired if the district can identify how many early intervention students can potentially slip through the crack. Ms. Leonard communicated it's difficult to share an approximate number and those students typically turn up at kindergarten registration which at that time staff begins with the evaluation process, which is a 60-day process.
 - Mr. Over asked if there are enough teachers for the programs discussed; Ms. Leonard shared the classrooms are appropriately staffed.
 - Dr. Fry shared the growth and need of early intervention students.
 - Mr. Gillet shared the trend is shifting and there are needier kids at a younger age.
 - Ms. Leonard talked about the inclusion model for special education students.
 - Mr. Piper inquired about students in the head start program.
 - Dr. Fry talked about the head start program and how it is controlled with criteria.
The application process for head start is very distinct and a student has to qualify for the the program.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A through R 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

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion carried unanimously 8– 0.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:52 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary