

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2021

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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 through a Virtual Meeting in the Big Spring School District High School Auditorium at 7:02 p.m. with six (6) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer, Robert Over, Frank Myers and John Wardle.

Absent: Roush, Hurley and Piper

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager, Cathy Seras, Board Minutes, Rob Krepps, Director of Technology and Darin Baughman, Multimedia Support Coordinator.

II. Presentations:

➤ **Region F Virtual Conference Update**

- Big Spring High School Student Council

- **Elizabeth Wilkinson**
- **Olivia Walter**
- **Kiersten White**
- **Kennedy Sheriff**
- Student Council members Kiersten White, President, Kennedy Sheriff, Conference Chair and Elizabeth Wilkinson, Conference Chair, began the presentation in sharing that the Virtual Conference theme for this year was *Leadership Opens the World*. It was noted that the conference is for future leaders to share ideas, learn about leadership, and make new connections with others.
- The students communicated that Timothy Alexander was chosen as a guest speaker. Mr. Alexander was chosen because of his talk of grit and overcoming obstacles connected to the theme of the conference. The students shared the 3 takeaways from his talk:
 1. We don't need it to be easy, we need it to be possible;
 2. Be the light where there isn't one;
 3. Changing your perspective attitude.
- The students stated they were very thankful to have the Big Spring School District Technology Department assist with the virtual conference.

- Conference Data was shared which included:
 1. Total Attendees 170
 2. Total Advisors 19
 3. Total Delegates 133
 4. Total Presenters 17
 5. Total Schools 14
 6. Total High Schools 9
 7. Total Middle Schools 5
 8. Total Form Submissions 33
- The students shared their takeaways from the conference which included; time management, delegation, communication, teamwork (virtually) and overcoming challenges.
- The students concluded in sharing what they learned while attending the conference:
 - You alter your life by altering your attitude;
 - Grit and Perseverance;
 - Fundraising ideas;
 - Outreach;
 - Team building.
- The Board of School Directors and the Administration thanked the students for the presentation and stated they did an outstanding job.
- The students thanked the Board of School Directors for all they do and allowing them to attend the conference.

➤ **Building Upon Student Learning**

- **Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent**

- Dr. Roberts began the presentation in sharing the overview of *Building Upon Student Learning*.
- Dr. Roberts talked about Learning Loss vs. Building Upon Learning and stated that the driven question is: How do we build upon the student experiences and learning throughout the pandemic to ensure a supportive post-pandemic environment that maximizes each student's potential?
- Dr. Roberts talked about measuring student progress in a typical school year and shared the District Assessment Plan.
- Dr. Roberts defined assessments on measuring student progress at the elementary, middle school and high school.
- Dr. Roberts shared the Math data for grades 1-5 for winter 2019 and fall 2020 and talked about the increase and change of the data.
- Dr. Roberts defined AIMSWEB Literacy data for grades K-5 and stated students will achieve year-end performance goals based on current scores.
- Dr. Roberts continued in sharing student Math data in grades 6-8. High School data was also shared with the Board of School Directors.
- Dr. Roberts shared a student snapshot of high school semester 1 course failures broken down in the different education modes. Dr. Roberts continued in sharing grade distribution, semester one final grades and grade distribution by class.
- Terrace Metrics was defined stating that it is a comprehensive behavioral health tool which measures resiliency factors. Dr. Roberts shared initial data review for Terrace Metrics at the elementary and middle school level.

- Mr. Meyers inquired about middle school students being at risk during a typical year. Dr. Roberts stated that this is the first year Terrace Metrics has been implemented but it was also shared by Dr. Roberts that the data may be close but hoping it would be less without having to experience a pandemic.
- Dr. Roberts shared key findings in the academic data and behavioral health data. It was noted that the students who were successful before the pandemic continued to be successful during the pandemic and the students who were challenged before the pandemic continued to be challenge during the pandemic.
- Dr. Roberts communicated the focus moving forward will be a multi-year approach to maximize student potential focusing on the whole child's academic needs and social/emotional needs which will begin summer, 2021 commencing with targeted students.
- Dr. Roberts talked about the financial support of this effort which is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). It was noted that that 20% of the funds must go to this effort and the expenditure window closes September 30, 2023.
- Dr. Roberts defined the current support structures that is in place for all grade levels. It was noted that Fridays support specific student needs for grades K-12. Mr. Myers asked if the instruction on Friday is face to face and if the students are bused to the buildings. Dr. Roberts communicated that the instruction is face to face and students are bused to their buildings.
- Dr. Roberts shared information on the Summer Programming which will commence at the elementary level on June 28th and end August 5th. Summer Programming for secondary students will commence on June 28th and end July 23rd.
- Dr. Roberts gave a brief overview of the planning of next school year including information on:
 1. Instructional Day Support – Academic Growth; Social and Emotional Learning Support;
 2. Support Outside of School – K-12 Support Structure to address student academic needs and social/emotional needs.
- Mr. Myers asked about other ways that BSSD can assist students that may need extra support. Dr. Roberts shared that there is a virtual resource room for parents to call in and teachers are on call to support students.
- Mr. Wardle inquired about courses having the same value and continue to be vigorous for students. There were discussions amongst the Administration and the Board of School Directors regarding courses and data assessments.
- Dr. Roberts shared information with the Board of School Directors regarding an opportunity to attend a virtual conference on *How to Differentiate Learning Loss from Compliance Loss*. It was noted that the virtual conference will be held within the Big Spring School District.

III. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through L into one motion.

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 Deihl, seconded by Myers to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Gutshall, Wardle, Over and Myers.

Motion carried unanimously. 6 -0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **8:04 p.m.**


