

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY AUGUST 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 (7) directors present; William Swanson, President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Robert Over, John Wardle, Kingsley Blasco and Bob Kanc

Absent: Todd Deihl, Richard Roush

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Director of Building and Grounds/Transportation; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes; Andy Milone, VTS Reporter

II. PRESENTATIONS:

A. School Resource Officer Update – Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent

- Dr. Roberts shared the partnership and history of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office with the Big Spring School District.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that in the fall, 2016 the implementation of the SRO Program with Deputy Brian Gryzybosk was put into place.
- Dr. Roberts talked about the SRO's relationship with staff and students.
- Dr. Roberts shared the items listed:
 - SRO's strict training regimen with the Sheriff's Office.
 - The requirement of SRO's to complete the National School Resource Officer training.
 - The SRO's completion of essential Big Spring School District onsite training (MG Tactical, Youth Mental Health, Navigate, etc.)
- Dr. Fry noted that BSSD always followed the law regarding the district's SRO's on hand and the law was followed accurately in conjunction with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.
- Dr. Roberts shared that in April, 2018 BSSD held a School Safety Forum with the community. The community shared their thoughts and discussed the idea of an additional SRO to serve the Big Spring School District.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Big Spring School District conducted interviews for qualified deputies from the CCSO. Deputy Erin Reddington was selected to serve BSSD as the second SRO.

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- Dr. Roberts talked about Act 44 of 2018 and defined the process of school safety and security.
- Dr. Roberts talked about the challenges listed regarding Act 44 of 2018:
 - Grant funding for schools;
 - School safety assessments (process and approved providers);
 - Establishment of school safety coordinators;
 - Mandatory training for school employees;
 - Safe2Say Something Program; and
 - Definitions and criteria for school police officers and school resource officers.
- Dr. Roberts stated that Act 44 did unintentionally omit the Sheriff's Offices as being an acceptable provider of School Resource Office services. He stated through the conversations of Dr. Fry and Sheriff Anderson; Senator Mike Regan was able to support Act 67, which effectively revised Act 44 to iterate the original intent of the legislation which was the inclusion of the Sheriff's Office as a provider.
- Dr. Roberts talked about the structure of the SRO's within the buildings. He stated that the main office locations for the SRO's are the High School and Middle School; but both officers will be in all buildings and multiple buildings each day throughout the week.
- Mr. Piper asked, how are the SRO's notified when an emergency arises? Dr. Roberts stated that Navigate is utilized which alerts them of an emergency. District radios, cell phones and office phones are utilized as well.
- Dr. Roberts introduced the staff from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department
 - Chief Deputy Jody Smith
 - Corporal Shawn Harrison
 - Deputy Brian Grzybowski
 - Deputy Erin Reddington
- Mr. Wardle asked about how they would respond concerning a fire on campus. Chief Deputy Jody Smith communicated the procedure that would be put into place if a fire was alerted on building campuses.
- Mr. Over asked about the SRO's start time and routine throughout the day on BSSD's campuses.
- The Board of School Directors and Administration continued discussions regarding the role of the SRO.
- The deputies thanked the Board of School Directors for their support of the program.

B. Construction Projects Update - Mr. Rick Gilliam, Director of Building/Grounds/Transportation
- Mr. Richard Kerr, Jr., Business Manager

- Mr. Gilliam shared slides with the Board of School Directors regarding the progress of construction within the District.
- Dr. Fry stated that the district will be ready for the start of school on Wednesday, August 21st.
- Mr. Gilliam communicated construction is going well but there are areas within the buildings that will continue to be worked on while school is in session. He stated it will not disrupt the school day. He also stated custodial staff is working hard to have the buildings clean for the start of school.
- Flexible furniture was discussed amongst Board members and Administration.
- Dr. Fry stated that the Middle School Library will be complete by the middle of September.

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III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A through G 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 Blasco, seconded by Kanc to adjourn, the meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:42 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary