

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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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 President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Bob Kanc; Todd Deihl, and Robert Over.

Absent – Richard Roush

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. FFA Presentation

- Mrs. Sherisa Nailor, Agriculture Teacher and FFA students provided information to the Board of School Directors on the 2018-2019 FFA Program of Activities. The FFA student's in attendance were:

- Tucker Williams – President
- Emma Monismith – Vice President
- McKenzie Myers – Secretary
- Madison Wickard – Treasurer
- Makayla Hock – Sentinel
- Claire Cohick – Chaplain

- Abigail Beidel and Zoe Koser, Reporters were unable to attend.

Emma communicated that Big Spring High School offers 15 agriculture courses. Emma shared that this past spring when students filled out their course selection sheets, there were over 570 requests. This year after scheduling, 277 of those requests were fulfilled. We currently have approximately 40 active FFA members.

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McKenzie shared as an officer team; the goals we have set for ourselves are, to plan multiple events for the whole chapter, become more involved in the community and work on our personal leadership skills. We plan to attend as many events as we can and make this year a successful one. We hope that by being good role models our members will eventually take on our roles and step-up to lead future teams.

Tucker shared that at Penn State Activities week, in June, one of our fellow FFA members, Morgan Bear, interviewed along with other members to become a state FFA officer. The state officer team was chosen by a nominating committee. Cory Latchford, also a fellow member, was given the opportunity to serve and be the chair on this committee. Morgan was elected to serve as the state FFA secretary for the 2018-2019 year. We are very proud of them both.

Madison communicated to the Board of School Directors that one of our upcoming events is the annual Ag Olympics. It will be taking place on October 4th from 4-6 pm, in the ag shop. After the games are finished, we will be having a picnic. Anyone is welcome to join us. Another upcoming event is Farm Show. This year we will have many FFA members exhibiting their livestock, along with an educational window display. Also, most of our senior FFA members will be receiving their keystone degrees and presenting an agricultural demonstration to a panel of judges. The freshman will be receiving their FFA jacket at the PA Mid-Winter Convention.

Claire shared that this past June many FFA members competed in various career development events and placed very well. Emily Stambaugh placed 2nd in Sr. Prepared speeches. This allowed her to compete at the Big E in Massachusetts last week and she received 3rd. We also had 15 members exhibit breeding and market livestock at the 2018 Shippensburg Community Fair, where we had 12 weight class champions and reserve champions and 5 overall champions and reserve champions.

Makayla communicated as in the past, we plan to submit monthly board reports to keep the school board informed about our activities, events, and accomplishments. We do apologize in advance that they can be quite lengthy, but we are grateful that the school board allows us to be a very active chapter. We would also like to invite you to our banquet which will be held on May 16, 2019 here at the high school starting at 6:30 pm. Throughout the night we will be highlighting some of our accomplishments from the year. We hope to see you there.

Mr. Wolf thanked the FFA students.

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b. Bulldog Basics

Mrs. Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal provided information to the Board of School Directors on Bulldog Basics. Luke Nerone and Sharon Beatty, Middle School teachers who have been involved with Bulldog Basics for three years shared the success of the program. Mr. Nerone and Ms. Beatty communicated to the Board of School Directors that Mr. Scott Penner visits each elementary school at the end of the year and discusses the event with all fifth grade students. Staff is very pleased with the participation. Mr. Nerone shared that transportation arrangements were made for six students who needed a ride. A district van, driven by Mrs. Nace and Mr. Boyd, picked up those students. Ms. Beatty communicated that parents come at the end of the program to browse information tables, meet teachers and meet the principals. The feedback from parents and students was very positive.

General Questions/Comments:

1. Mr. Piper asked what was the date of Bulldog Basics. Mrs. Nace communicated it was August 21st.
2. Mr. Piper questioned how many staff participate in the event. Mrs. Nace stated there was approximately thirty staff involved.
3. Mr. Wolf thanked Mrs. Nace, Ms. Beatty and Mr. Nerone.

c. Dawg Day

- Mr. William August, High School Principal provided information to the Board of School Directors on Dawg Day.

Mr. August stated that 81% of the class of 2022 attended.

Mr. August communicated the schedule of events that took place throughout the day which were:

- Overview of Dawg Day
- Advisement Team Banner Making
- Tour of the Building
- Homeroom Time
- Team Building Activities
- Counseling Presentation
- How to use a lock
- Information on flex time manager
- Pep Rally
- Dinner/Social Hour

Mr. August communicated that Seniors assisted with the day as well. Mr. August shared that he was pleased that only three students requested transportation to the Dawg Day event.

General Question/Comments:

1. Mr. Kanc stated that it was terrific that staff volunteer their time for this event
2. Mr. Wolf thanked Mr. August.

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Mr. Wolf requested that Dr. Fry share information on the Capital Area Intermediate Unit Tax Levy/Revenue and Expenditure Summaries document.

- Dr. Fry communicated to the Board of School Directors that the property tax assessment when compared to other rural districts in our area is outstanding. Dr. Fry stated our tax payers are paying less.
- Dr. Fry also shared that all other taxes outside of real estate Big Spring School District taxpayers are paying less, at 32% of taxable limit. The lowest percentage of rural districts in the area and in the ten best overall in the Capital Area Intermediate Unit.
- Dr. Fry stated that out of the state-wide rural districts Big Spring School District is doing quite well.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Wolf requested that the Board address XIII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7 as a single action.

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 Swanson to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously 8 – 0.

Absent – Richard Roush

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:35p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary