

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

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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., presiding. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Bob Kanc; Todd Deihl; and William Piper.

William Swanson, Vice President; Kingsley Blasco; and Richard Roush, were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Curtis Garland, Valley Times-Star; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

Also Present: Morgan Bear, Taylor Donovan, Cheyenne Dyarman, Sara Fulton, Conner Griffie, Amy Martin, Hannah Martin, Olivia Monismith, Sherisa Nailor, Allyson Shively, and Becky Webster.

II. PRESENTATIONS

FFA Presentation – FFA Officers and Members

The FFA officers and members addressed the Board of School Directors, introduced the FFA officers for the 2016-2017 school term, and reviewed their program of activities for the coming year. Please refer to the [attached document](#).

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II. PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

FFA Presentation – FFA Officers and Members

The members noted the following additional items:

- A.** More than 800 requests were made this year for the 16 agriculture courses at the high school. 220 of those requests were granted.
- B.** The Big Spring FFA has 65 active members who strive to attend as many events as possible.
- C.** The annual fundraiser offering fruits, pies, whoopie pies, and butter braids has begun.
- D.** Board members are invited to the Ag Olympics at the high school parking lot on October 6, 2016, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a picnic to follow in the ag shop.
- E.** Quiz bowl members are seeded first and will compete at the Farm Show.
- F.** Students will offer a variety of displays at the Farm Show in January. Keystone awards and jackets are presented during the Farm Show and midwinter convention.
- G.** Big Spring has been selected as one of two Pennsylvania schools to represent the state at the national convention. Seven students will participate in the opening, parliamentary procedures, and an oral and written examination.
- H.** Board members are invited to attend the annual FFA banquet on May 18, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

The FFA students thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for allowing them to address the Board this evening, and they thanked the members for supporting FFA activities and competitions that enhance their leadership skills.

President Wolf thanked the FFA members for offering the presentation, and he commended them for being “impressive as always.”

Superintendent Fry noted that the program of activities and FFA overnight trips are included on this evening’s agenda as action items.

Director Kanc commended the “well spoken” FFA students for a terrific presentation that was “well done.”

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III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

A. Combine and Address

President Wolf requested that the Board address XI., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-6, as a single action item as well as XI. NEW BUSINESS, Items G and H, as a single action item.

B. XI., NEW BUSINESS, Item M., Big Spring School District Fitness Center Service Agreement

Superintendent Fry explained that the proposed 2016-2017 Big Spring School District Fitness Center Services Agreement was modified in light of the fact that it is difficult to staff the fitness center during the fall season. The new agreement will *not* cost more; however, it will ensure that adequate staffing is available for all seasons.

Mr. Fry indicated that there are 50 to 75 students each day signed in at the fitness center. Mr. Fry added that this agreement offers a win-win situation for the District.

C. XI., NEW BUSINESS, Item E., Approval for the Updated Policy 217, Graduation

Mr. Roberts explained that there are no sweeping changes to Policy 217, and he noted that the policy sets forth a way to help students achieve goals that may not be traditional. The center column of the policy represents what is required of all Big Spring students.

Mr. Fry added that the State is “uncomfortable with awarding differentiated diplomas.”

Secretary Barrick observed that it seems that the State encourages differentiated instruction but not the awarding of differentiated diplomas.

Mr. Roberts displayed the policy for the members of the Board of School Directors. Mr. Roberts indicated that as part of procedure, a distinguished diploma would continue to be awarded for those students who accomplished community service and took advanced courses and qualified for a distinguished diploma. Mr. Roberts explained that although the distinguished diploma is not part of the policy, it remains a part of procedure.

Superintendent Fry noted that the District must reflect *one* diploma in the policy; however, distinguished diplomas could be offered as part of the procedure. Parts of the former policy will become the new procedure.

These changes are effective for the current sophomore class, and they have been aware of this graduation model since beginning high school in ninth grade last year.

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III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA (Continued)

C. XI., NEW BUSINESS, Item N., Proposed Electronic Signatures, Policy 829

Mr. Roberts indicated that Policy 829 addresses electronic signatures for staff and parents to sign District documents electronically, such as acknowledging receipt of the student handbook. Select documents will still require a signature on a hard-copy document.

D. XI., NEW BUSINESS, Item O., PSBA Voting

Secretary Barrick announced the names of those running for PSBA offices.

Mr. Barrick requested and the members of the Board of School Directors agreed to approve this item as an action item during this evening's Board meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Piper, seconded by Deihl to adjourn to Executive Session to address negotiations issues. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary