

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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 Large Group Room at 7:11 p.m. with nine (9) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer, Robert Over, Richard Roush, Alexis Hurley, Frank Myers and John Wardle.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; and Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. Presentations:

- **PARS Separation Incentive – Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools**
 - Dr. Fry shared the PARS Plan Assumptions, which includes:
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Benefit Levels
 - Replacement Salaries
 - Health Care Costs
 - PARS Plan Funding
 - Dr. Fry stated that there will be 7 positions eliminated.
 - Dr. Fry communicated that there are 49 eligible employees and 16 staff members accepted separating.
 - Dr. Fry communicated the projected savings in 1 year, 3 years and over a 5-year period.
 - Dr. Fry shared that there may be an incentive in future years.
 - Dr. Fry stated that the Voluntary Separation Incentive is on tonight's agenda for approval.
 - There was further discussion amongst the Administration and the Board of School Directors regarding the Separation Incentive.

➤ **Updates on Instructional Delivery Option**

- **Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools**
- **Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent**
- Dr. Fry shared CDC updates and COVID data for buildings within the District.
- Dr. Fry discussed the CDC mitigation strategies.
- Dr. Fry talked about the Staying Open Plan which is posted on the District website under the 2020-2021 Key Information tab.
- Dr. Fry discussed the mitigation strategies which include the use of face masks and physical distancing (at least 6 feet) which should be maximized to the greatest extent possible.
- Dr. Fry communicated that cohorting or podding is recommended to minimize exposure across the school environment. It was stated that installation of physical barriers is encouraged where it is difficult to maintain 6 feet of physical distance.
- Dr. Fry talked about Diagnostic Testing and Screening Testing and stated that BSSD is finalizing discussions with Shippensburg University to partner on testing. Dr. Fry shared that there is more to come regarding the testing.
- Dr. Fry shared and defined information on Vaccinations for 1A and 1B groups.
- Dr. Fry talked about the CDC's indicators of community transmission.
- Dr. Fry continued in sharing recommended mitigation strategies and K-12 learning modes.
- Dr. Fry shared incident rate data for the state, region and zip code area.
- Dr. Fry talked about Tier 3 consideration and stating the importance of moving to Tier 3 at the elementary level. Dr. Fry communicated that there will be a K-12 Faculty update on February 19th and a virtual community update as well.
- Dr. Fry stated that families will be given the opportunity to request a learning mode change around mid-March at the elementary level.
- Dr. Fry stated that 50% of students in PA have not spent a day in face to face learning.
- Dr. Fry talked about the end of the year activities at the high school, middle school and elementary school level. It was stated that families, students and administration will make sure that events are acknowledged and planned for.
- Mr. Myers asked about summer school enrichment and how we can assist students further in their education. There were discussions amongst the Administration and Board of School Directors regarding the importance of supporting the educational needs of the students.
- Dr. Fry discussed the emerging readers in grades K-2 students as well as language acquisition and literacy.
- Mr. Myers inquired about the staff that received the vaccine.
- Dr. Roberts talked about bringing students back and the importance of students and staff wellness and safety through the process. Dr. Roberts stated that the families have been great as the District continues to move through the planning process. He also thanked the board for all they have done as well as the community, families, teachers and students.

III. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through D 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 Roush to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 9 -0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:55 p.m.**


