

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

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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 7:00 p.m. with seven (7) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Robert Over, Alexis Hurley, Frank Myers and John Wardle.

Absent: Piper, Roush

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

II. Presentations:

- **Debt Refinancing Discussions – Lauren Stadel, RBC Capital Markets/Steve Hovis, Attorney**
Lauren and Steve presented virtually.
 - Lauren Stadel began the meeting with sharing the Gross Outstanding Debt Service as of July 1, 2020. Ms. Stadel shared information regarding the potential savings and talked about the low interest rates. She stated that BSSD is presently at great rates. Ms. Stadel continued in sharing the Net Outstanding Debt Service as of July 1, 2020 and once again noted that rates have dropped. Ms. Stadel defined the market trends and the current market conditions. She stated that the District is at an all-time low.
 - Ms. Stadel shared the savings analysis for the 2012, 2015, and 2016A bond and talked about the tax-exempt current refunding. Ms. Stadel shared detailed information on the topics listed regarding the bonds:
 1. Summary of Refunding Results
 2. Sources and Uses of Funds
 3. Cash Flow Savings
 4. Savings Summary
 - Ms. Stadel indicated that the refunding results could be an approximate savings of \$230,324.
 - Steve Hovis began his presentation communicating that in order to incur debt within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a school district must follow the local Government Unit Debt Act which does require filing an application with DCED so they can review the approval, which means the first step is to adopt a Resolution that formally authorizes the issuance of debt.

- Mr. Hovis continued the presentation in defining the Resolution communicating that the Resolution authorizes the incurrence of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2020 in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$17,945,000 for the purpose of currently refunding the District's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012; 2015 and Series A of 2016. Mr. Hovis continued with reviewing page twenty of the Resolution with the Board of School Directors and the Administration. It was noted that the issuance of the bonds will not take place unless the District receives a savings.
- Dr. Fry thanked Lauren Stadel and Steve Hovis for their commitment and time to BSSD.

➤ **Administrative Updates**

- **Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools**
- **Dr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent**

- Dr. Fry began the presentation with an overview of Cumberland Counties current status of confirmed cases, incidence rate per 100,00 residents, testing positivity rate, average daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations, average daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators and the percent of hospital emergency department visits due to COVID like illnesses.
- Dr. Fry shared the facts listed:
 - Confirmed cases jumped from 87 to 141;
 - Incident rate went from 34.6 to 56.1;
 - Testing positivity rate went from 3.6% to 4.0%;
 - Average daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations went from 6.0 to 7.7;
 - Average daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators is 0.9 with no increase;
 - Percent of hospital emergency department visits due to COVID like illness dropped from 1.2% to 0.8%.
- Dr. Fry indicated that the chart shared is on the school's website linked under BSSD's Staying Open Plan. Dr. Fry communicated that we need to continue to stay patient.
- Mr. Wardle asked if we knew of anyone being hospitalized with COVID-19; Dr. Fry indicated he was not aware of anyone being hospitalized.
- Dr. Fry shared the significance of the terminology below:
 1. Confirmed – Individual with a positive laboratory test for COVID-19;
 2. Suspected – Symptomatic individual that has not been confirmed to have COVID-19;
 3. Exposed – Individual that was a “close contact” to a confirmed positive case
- Dr. Fry communicated that at this time BSSD has had nine confirmed cases; three staff members (two MS one HS); six students – one at the HS, one at the MS and four in one family which were outside cases.
- Dr. Fry shared a National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard with a reporting period beginning September 28th through October 11th.
- Dr. Fry talked about the findings in all the schools and then reviewed data for the elementary level. Dr. Fry stated that staying in Cohort at the elementary level is critical and the administration's energy is focused on bringing elementary student's back full time.
- Dr. Fry communicated that transition meetings continue once a week with administration, transportation staff, food service staff, technology staff, custodial and maintenance staff.
- Dr. Fry shared that the maximum students on buses will be 48 and communicated that 80% of families are taking advantage of transportation.
- Dr. Fry indicated that elementary will possibly be brought back full-time by December 1st.
- Dr. Fry continued with communicating that protocols will not change, face masks will be worn, thermal scanning will continue and social distancing will continue to be practiced.

- Dr. Roberts talked about the Elementary and Secondary Timeline for Review of Learning Model beginning with the week of October 19th through February 15, 2021. Dr. Roberts began with showing the weekly schedules involving Transition Planning Meetings, ThoughtExchange updates, virtual updates to staff and families, Town Hall Virtual Meetings and transportation planning.
- Dr. Fry detailed the Criteria for Tier 3 Considerations. The information below serves as areas of consideration to BSSD when considering moving to a Tier 3 instructional model during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
 1. Level of Community Spread/Positivity Rate;
 2. Intra-District Positivity Rate;
 3. Protocols/Environment;
 4. Local Collaboration
- Dr. Fry stated we need to continue to be patient, there continues to be a lot of unknowns. Dr. Fry specified that consistent communication will stay in place and the administration's main focus is on the student's well-being and education. It was noted that when elementary students return it will be four days a week and the fifth day will be virtual. The fifth day is needed for the custodial staff to deep clean the buildings and for staff planning. Students continue to have the option of face to face, livestream and BSSD Cyber for educational learning.
- Mr. Wardle asked about the instructional hours on Friday which Dr. Fry indicated that learning will continue in the morning and the afternoon will be staff planning. It was noted that the ½ day will count for a full day.
- Dr. Fry shared the design process which is; listen, analyze, design and test.
- Mr. Wardle inquired about athletics still practicing five days a week which Dr. Fry confirmed practice continues five days a week and it was noted more to come once PIAA shares information regarding winter sports.
- Dr. Fry communicated that the last item necessary to be discussed is Board Meetings. Dr. Fry asked the Board to make a decision if the board desires to open the Board Meetings to the public; if the decision is to open the meetings to the public the meetings will be held in the auditorium. Dr. Fry communicated that we need to have protocols in place for the meetings, which will be thermal scanning and face masks will be enforced while in attendance at the board meetings as well as entering the building with a face mask.
- Mr. Swanson stated that the critical dangerous months are ahead, November, December and January. Mr. Swanson stated he would prefer to stay with Zoom Meetings at least through January and then revisit the discussions on utilizing the auditorium for Board Meetings. Mr. Myers asked if there have been any complaints regarding the virtual board meetings; Dr. Fry indicated there has been no complaints. Mr. Myers stated that he agreed with Mr. Swanson. Ms. Hurley shared her thoughts. Mr. Wardle stated that he agreed with Mr. Swanson and communicated it would be wise to continue to hold virtual meetings.
- Dates for the upcoming Board Meetings were shared and are listed:

- November 16, 2020	- TUESDAY , April 6, 2021
- December 7, 2020	- April 19, 2021
- January 11, 2021	- May 3, 2021
- February 1, 2021	- May 17, 2021
- TUESDAY , February 16, 2021	- June 7, 2021
- March 1, 2021	- June 21, 2021
- March 15, 2021	

III. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through F 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 meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:56 p.m.**


