

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 in the at 7:00 p.m. with eight (8) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Richard Roush, Frank Myers, Robert Over, and Alexis Blasco-Hurley.

Absent: John Wardle

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; Darin Baughman, AV Multimedia Coordinator; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. Presentations:

➤ Finance Updates

- Mr. Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager
 - Mr. Kerr began the meeting with sharing the EIT History as well as the FY 2020 EIT by month. Mr. Kerr continued with defining the EIT Budget vs EIT Collected.
 - Mr. Kerr shared a graph of the cumulative Real Estate Taxes from July 2016-2020.
 - Mr. Kerr continued with sharing the monthly general fund revenue v. spending for FY 20 as well as communicating the FY 20 year end history of the budget.
 - Mr. Kerr stated that August spending is not complete but is coming to a close. He communicated that at this time the estimated year end fund balance is +\$1,412,778 for the general fund but there is still some additional expenses of \$288,289.00 plus fringes to accrue.
 - Mr. Piper inquired about the CARES monies which Mr. Kerr stated that the some of the money will be accrued into next year's budget. Discussions continued amongst the administration defining use of CARES monies for COVID-19 expenses.
 - Dr. Fry talked about the HVAC expenses which the CARES monies will assist with the cost.
 - Mr. Myers asked about the full-time custodian position which brought discussions amongst the administration regarding the challenges to fill custodial positions.
 - Dr. Fry stated the administration will continue to update the board on finances.

➤ **Updates**

- Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant
 - Dr. Fry began with sharing that PDE and the Department of Health released a matrix that is almost identical to the one BSSD decided to utilize and is contained in BSSD's Staying Open Plan.
 - Dr. Fry stated that BSSD is presently in Tier 2 and shared that regionally the positivity rate is at 3% and the state positivity rate is currently at 4.1%. Dr. Fry continued with communicating that the incident rate as of this morning regionally is at 27.4% in Cumberland County and last week it was at 43%.
 - Dr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that families have three choices which are:
 1. Face to Face
 2. Live-Streaming
 3. BSSD Cyber
 - Dr. Fry continued to stress the importance of communication. He shared that the administration engaged with over 200 families in two sessions regarding Cyber offering; three town hall meeting sessions in support of all families; and in the upcoming week there are two dedicated sessions for kindergarten families. Dr. Fry shared that the sessions were very healthy amongst the families and administration Dr. Fry stated that there were great and respectful questions asked and positive discussions took place.
 - Dr. Fry shared information on the status of Gateway noting that 56% of students are registered bringing an approximate total of 1,446 registrations. Listed below as of August 10th, shows the specific percentage of family choice:
 1. 1,210 Face-to-Face = 84%
 2. 127 Livestream = 9%
 3. 109 BSSD Cyber = 7%
 - Dr. Fry communicated information regarding athletics in stating that the Mid-Penn Conference moved the practice start date back to September 5th, games can begin September 25th. Dr. Fry continued with the conversation sharing that the Governor and Secretary of Health suggested a start date of January 2, 2021. It was also noted that on Friday, PIAA delayed the start date by two weeks until August 24th. Dr. Fry shared as of now BSSD is holding to the Mid-Penn dates and will continue with off season workouts.
 - Dr. Fry shared information regarding other states athletic start dates:
 1. Maryland to begin January 2nd;
 2. Virginia to begin January 2nd;
 3. Delaware to begin January 2nd;
 4. New York is possibly looking at January 2nd;
 5. Ohio is currently delayed, they will make the announcement this week;
 6. New Jersey will begin October 1st and will revisit January 2nd and condensed seasons.

- The administration and the Board of School Directors continued with discussions on the athletic start dates.
- Dr. Roberts began with his update sharing that all key information for families continue to be posted on BSSD website. It was stated that there is a “key information” tab which lists:
 1. Communication to Families;
 2. Key dates and timelines;
 3. Information sessions;
 4. Tier 2 structure;
 5. Health and Safety Plans
 6. Staying Open Plan
 7. Learning options for families;
 8. 2020-2021 Alternative School Calendar
- Dr. Roberts continued with the sharing the interim school closure decision matrix with the Board of School Directors. Dr. Roberts shared that the matrix is subject to change and will be modified as needed.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that the interim school closure decision matrix is an effort to consistently approach the potential that a local decision on closure will be necessary.
- Dr. Fry clarified the information within the matrix and stated that he continues to receive data daily. There were discussions amongst the administration and the Board of School Directors regarding community spread of COVID-19.
- Dr. Roberts shared information on safety/procedure updates which included Back to School Gateway; thermal scanning stations; bioprotect, disinfecting; which has a 90 day lifespan and will include all buildings within the district.
- Dr. Roberts stated that staff have started training at the building level. He shared that Dr. Euker is having routine connections with peer leadership groups.
- Mr. Swanson ended the Committee of the Whole meeting stating that the community is very pleased with the constant communication from BSSD Administration.

III. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XIII. 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 Roush to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:57 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary