

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**

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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. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr, President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper; Richard Roush; and Richard Norris.

Kingsley Blasco and John McCrea – absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Brandie Shatto, Director of Educational Technology and Public Relations; Steven Smith, High School Principal; Rick Gilliam, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation; Judy Creps, High School Guidance Counselor; and Carol Kuntz, Board Minutes.

### **II. PRESENTATION**

**A. PSSA –** Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Roberts is here to present information to the Board on the PSSA results.

School Board Presentation

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Barrick when do we get the School Performance Profiles?

2. Mr. Fry stated the last he heard was we should get the scores between September 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Mr. Wolf asked what happens to states that were not given the wavier.
4. Mr. Roberts stated they still have to play by the original rules.
5. Mr. Piper questioned if the NOCTI tested are part of this.
6. Mr. Roberts stated that is not part of the assessment at this point. The PA Department of Education decided what would be part of the wavier.
7. Mr. Fry reminded the Board that the PA Department of Education with the help of the State Board of Education decided on the approved wavier. I did sit on that committee to establish these requirements.
8. Mr. Wolf asked if there were any changes to the test during that period of time.
9. Mr. Robert replied the biggest change took place between 2012 and 2013. We moved the High School at that time to the Keystone Exam.
10. Mr. Piper inquired if every student must take this test.
11. Mr. Robert stated we have to test every student before the end of their 11th grade year. The only exception is a student who meets graduation requirements on an IEP.
12. Mr. Barrick asked if at the elementary school, grades 1, 2, 3 are we starting to see pay offs with those programs.
13. Mr. Roberts stated we are.

**B. AP Courses** – Mrs. Judy Creps, High School Guidance Counselor.  
Mrs. Creps is here to present to the Board information on AP Courses.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Fry informed the Board that is a huge challenge for students but an equally great challenge for the teachers. Teachers have to take special courses in order to teach AP courses.
2. Mr. Wolf asked if the percentage is based on the number of students or the number of exams.
3. Mrs. Creps replied it is based on students.

4. Mr. Fry stated that the number of students taking AP exams and the percent of passing exams has gone up in the last three years.
5. Mr. Wolf questioned if they can take the exam without taking the course.
6. Mrs. Creps replied yes. A student can but she would not advise students to do that. The exams are very hard.
7. Mr. Piper asked if a student can drop out of an AP class after the course starts. What happens if a student gets a 1 or 2 on the exam.
8. Mrs. Creps stated the AP course is just like all other courses in the high school. Once the deadline for changing courses has ended, you can't drop the course. The grade the student earns for the course is the grade they receive on their report card.
9. Mr. Fry confirmed the AP exam is in addition to the grade from the class. Students could get a passing grade in the class but not pass the exam.
10. Mr. Piper questioned how we fit all those AP courses into a student's schedule.
11. Mr. Fry informed the Board we have honors classes, academic classes, dual enrollment, and many other courses. We made this very difficult for the HS and the administration when we did furloughs. They do a great job scheduling students and balancing classes. They move students around until they make it work.
12. Mr. Barrick stated that you could have one teacher teaching three different levels of one course.
13. Mr. Wolf asked if the AP classes are supported by on-line teachers.
14. Mr. Fry stated there are on-line AP courses but we have found that most students are not successful with on-line AP courses. The teacher is not right there with you to help.
15. Mr. Piper asked if the qualifier changed from 2012 to 2013.
16. Mr. Fry replied that more families are submitting that data. This is based on self-reporting. We have more families that have that need.

### **III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

President Wolf requested that the Board address NEW BUSINESS, PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-9 as a single action item.

### **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 Norris to adjourn, seconded by Barrick to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Wolf, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, and Roush. Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0. Absent Blasco & McCrea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary