

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

DIG Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2025



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The Disenrollment Investigation & Grievance Committee Meeting 10- March 3, 2025, 6:30 pm, M.S. auditorium
Called to order @6:33 p.m.

Present: Julie Boothe, Lisa Shade, Seth Cornman, Dr. Guarente, Patricia Johnson.

Kendra Shaffer joined later during the meeting. Kathy Livengood absent.

Welcome by Committee chair, Julie Boothe

Public Comment Time: no public comments offered

Continued Items of discussion:

A. Approve the committee minutes from 2/18/25

Motion: Mr. Cornman

2nd: Mrs. Shade

Vote: all in affirmative

B: Revisit previously approved motions:

Motion: By Mrs. Shade to rescind the motion from previous meeting to move recommended items to the board.

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Lisa shared appreciation for committee chair's efforts to organize data and offer recommendations at last meeting. Chair invited committee members to offer any discussion on previously passed motions, now rescinded.

Motion: By Mrs. Shade to Add monthly Enrollment number updates to Board Meeting Agenda. Mr. Cornman confirmed he agreed.

2nd: Seth Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade to Maintain detailed records of Disenrollments, not to include those moving out of area. When possible, include: stated reason, school removed from, destination, and correspondence with parents/ legal guardian with the district for 6 months prior to disenrollment.

2nd: Seth Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade to Update language of the Survey AND invite letter. Adjust any necessary questions and begin the send out to recent disenrollment families at 3 months post-disenrollment.

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Discussion about survey. Mrs. Johnson stated some participants thought the survey was leading. Mr. Cornman stated that there was an “other” section allowing for any other reasons to be shared. Mrs. Shade also felt the survey language could be looked at. Motion by Mr. Cornman with second by Lisa to adapt motion to only update items and return to committee for approval before sending out.

Vote: all in affirmative of adapted language, and approval of adapted motion

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for Administration to evaluate the potential need for additional customer service training. Report its findings, including any potential programs of interest, and any positive aspects or benefits an additional program could provide to the district. As well as any reasoning supporting the negative.

Mrs. Shade shared comments on the Orange Frog program but sees no connection to potential need for customer service. She does see potential need based on survey results.

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Discussion by Mr. Cornman on need for customer service in a changing environment with more competition. Further discussion was brought by members of the committee about the potential need for customer service and the Orange Frog program.

Vote: all in affirmative

Explanation by Mrs. Shade on newly adopted math curriculum showing signs of needing evaluation for effectiveness.

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for a Request for a Math Curriculum update from the Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the board. Update is to include: any issues the district is facing, improvements being made to better the instructional process, and the success we are seeing in the new Math Program.

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Discussion by Mrs. Johnson on how the delivery may be the issue. An explanation of how the math lessons in high school went included handing out a packet on Monday, with instructions not to discuss or collaborate, but work on it, then discussion occurred three days later in class. Teachers are there to teach. We need to look at delivery. Mrs. Shaffer discussed that she had heard from several parents how the lessons in elementary are confusing, doing math the common core way, rather than the old fashioned way like parents were taught. She agrees that perhaps the delivery the current curriculum should be evaluated.

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for Request for the administration to review the districts % of State Government and Civics Standard, update information where needed, and present its findings showing the Districts State Government and Civics Standards are being met and documented. In addition to a basic evaluation, for the possibility of implementing a plan for a gradual increase in % over a several year time frame.

2nd : Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for Recommendation to request solicitor review of the Future Ready Comprehensive Plan committee (also referred to as the Strategic Planning Committee) and seek guidance from the solicitor regarding our current policy and regulation of Sunshine Law.

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade- Bus Bullying: Part 1 -- for the administration to evaluate and report back to the board on the use of the cameras on the bus. Including the process for how drivers are to report issues (including bullying) and how the reported issues are handled within the district. Part 2, a request for evaluation and consideration of the implementation of a standard district wide set of student guidelines/rules for bus transportation. Including a study of area districts and their guidelines in use.

2nd: Mr. Cornman Discussion by Mr. Cornman on policy committee plans for bullying policy and involvement of new school police force. Discussion by group on the possibility of referring this issue partially or entirely to the policy committee.

Motion by Mr. Cornman to commit item #8 from Mrs. Shade's list, the previously read motion by Mrs. Shade, on bus issues and bullying to the policy committee

2nd: Mrs. Shade

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for Forwarding all recommendations for Family Teaching, and suggest board and administration consider implementing and incorporate individually.

2nd : Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

Motion: By Mrs. Shade for Forwarding all positive comments and accolades to administration to recognize staff.

2nd : Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in affirmative

1. New Items for Discussion:

- A. IEP Survey: Discussion on necessity based on results of survey. Chair described being surprised that the survey results did not show this as a strong reason for disenrolling, and asked for everyone's thoughts on the need for a survey in this area. 3 people of the 28 respondents selected special education as a reason, and 2 additional wrote concerns for not receiving extra help that was needed in comments. Mrs. Johnson discussed hearing that when special education students were being taught in cyber, at home, the parents were being taught at the same time, and alleviated the disconnect that could happen when taught separately from parents. Mr. Cornman shared a personal story about a special teacher that impacted his education. He credited her communication with his parents and recommendations for non-traditional methods to help him at home for his attending college. Mrs. Shaffer shared that she had heard from people about issues surrounding IEPs, but for some reason, these people seem to not have responded to the survey. She feels we should focus on getting more results, but until we have more people saying this was an issue, we should probably table it for now.

Motion: By Mrs. Shaffer to table for now

2nd: Mr. Cornman

Vote: All in favor

- B. Need for Additional Special meetings: March 31, April 14. Discussion for need among committee, and best time for meetings.

Motion: By Mr. Cornman for adding and advertising 2 additional meetings, if school scheduling allows, on March 31 and April 14 at 6:00pm

2nd: Mrs. Shade

Vote: All in favor

2. Future Items for Consideration:

- A. New Student Survey continuation
- B. Post Graduation Survey
- C. CAOLA Performance and Satisfaction Survey, and cost evaluation
- D. Bullying Task Force and Reporting Tip line- Mr. Cornman shared that there is a new policy on a bullying task force for security that will be looked at by policy soon. Chair said we hope to look at this at one of the additional meetings and could send recommendations to consider to the policy committee.

E. Discipline Remedies- Mr. Cornman shared there is a new policy from PSBA that the policy committee will be reviewing addressing this as well.

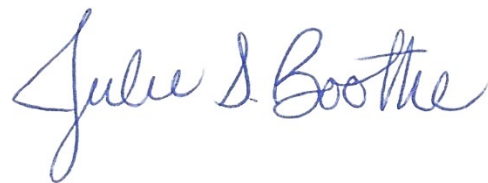
3. New Items / Motions for Discussion? none

Motion to Adjourn? Motion: Mr. Cornman

2nd: Mrs. Shade

Vote: All in favor

Ended @ 7:08pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie D. Boothe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'B'.