

# Big Spring School District

## Newville, Pennsylvania

### DIG Committee Meeting Minutes

#### March 31, 2025



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The Disenrollment Investigation & Grievance Committee (Meeting 11) met March 31, 2025, 6:00 pm in the Middle School commons. The meeting was called to order @ 6:01 p.m.

Present: Julie Boothe, Seth Cornman, Lisa Shade, Kendra Shaffer, Kathy Livengood, Dr. Guarente, plus members of the public and several staff members

Absent: Patricia Johnson

Welcome by Committee chair, Julie Boothe

1<sup>st</sup> Public Comment Time: no public comment

1. Continued Items of discussion:

A. Approve the committee minutes from 3/3/25

Motion: Mrs. Shade

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in favor

B. Any Old Business? none

2. New Items for Discussion:

A. Review Revised Letter or email: Shortened letter provided by Mrs. Shade. Additional sentence suggested by Mrs. Shaffer on length of time. Open discussion of content of letter.

Motion: To Revise the letter to the shortened version provided by Mrs. Shade with additional sentence added. By Mrs. Shade

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cornman

Vote: all in favor

Updated Survey language: Revisions offered by group and discussed individually. Many offered by Mrs. Shade, who also provided a printout of suggestions.

Motion: To change the wording and content of the survey as discussed for final approval at next meeting By Mr. Cornman

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Shade

Vote: all in favor

B. New Student Survey continuation: No revisions suggested. Merit of offering to new families discussed. Value of potential input from new families and promoting a culture of valuing outside perspectives discussed.

Motion: to Move to board for distribution near end of year to new families to the district By Mr. Cornman

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Shaffer

Vote: all in favor

C. Teacher Survey Progress Sharing: Seth and Kendra will present and discuss at next meeting

D. Discipline Remedies: Discussion on need for action on high level of discipline issues. What does the committee need more information on? What questions do the results raise? Discussion on what survey results showed. Discussion on protecting identities which may be known by circumstantial evidence in paragraphs. Discussion to share all comments with all committee members for further digestion.

-Mrs. Boothe will share comments with all committee members.

Discussion on discipline/ bullying connection. Chair suggested wanting more information on administrative policy on discipline, potential for presentation from principals or assistant principals. Chair questioned Dr. Guarente on his thoughts on our district's discipline. Dr. Guarente expressed thoughts on incremental, progressive discipline outlined in handbooks, and reactions to receiving discipline or consequences. Differing ideology on consequences for behavior has caused families to disenroll recently. Mr. Cornman discussed how we implement discipline and include new school police officers in policy is being looked at. Mrs. Shaffer discussed need for consistency. Mrs. Boothe discussed ease of disenrollment when an issue occurs, but difficulty coming back to Big Spring if that doesn't turn out to be beneficial. Mrs. Shaffer discussed need to think about creating our own cyber program to save money and attract students to a great program. Dr. Guarente mentioned this discussion has already started at the high school level. Numbers of current cyber school students, funding levels, current in-person students and budget discussed.

3. Future Items for Consideration: Prioritize items for next few meetings: Staff survey development. Rough draft for next meeting, and deeper revisions at the additional meeting that was scheduled.

A. Post Graduation Survey: Discussion on previous board desire and value to district to get feedback from our graduates at graduation and 1 year post graduation. Mrs. Shaffer suggested beginning to poll grads, and ask if they would be willing to answer a survey after a certain amount of time. Members of public and staff also shared in value in this type of feedback, and possible distribution by school counselors. Dr. Guarente discussed certain requirements by career and technical schools and special education already in place. He will look into those and work on a comprehensive survey suitable for gathering information from the general student population.

Mrs. Boothe will add this item to next agenda to move suggestion to the board for administration to plan and develop.

B. CAOLA Performance and Satisfaction Survey, and cost evaluation: already discussed earlier, with Dr. Guarente sharing that talks of beginning our own cyber program has begun.

C. Bullying Task Force and Reporting Tip line- Policy committee chair is working on this. Mrs. Shade mentioned we have Safe 2 Say program, but no tip line. She searched the website but had difficulty finding any place to report an issue, or an order for action for

parents to follow. Mr. Cornman discussed chain of command to report issues, but it is not posted online to find easily.

Mrs. Shaffer discussed our previous look at Youth Truth survey from May 2024. Dr. Guarente said we didn't pay for that survey this year. Mrs. Boothe said that our work on the staff survey is important to replace that tool for a great savings to the district.

4. New Items / Motions for Discussion: none

2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment Time: none

Motion to Adjourn? Motion: Mr. Cornman 2<sup>nd</sup>:Mrs. Shaffer

Vote: all in favor

Ended @7:24

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