

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2022



The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and section 504 coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

1. 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 School District Middle School Auditorium at 6:53 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, John Wardle, and Donna Webster (Mr. Wardle and Mr. Deihl virtual)

Absent: Mr. Piper

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; William August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darrin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Presentation:

2.a. Elementary Genius Hour - Ms. Stacey Kimble, Mrs. Karen Ward, and Mr. William Wonders

Ms. Kimble, Mrs. Ward, and Mr. Wonders shared details of the Elementary Genius Hour program which was developed to spark new ideas in an effort to produce enthusiastic learning opportunities for students in areas they feel passionate about in order to prepare them for life beyond school in a cross-grade level setting which gives them a choice and voice in their education.

Mr. Swanson stated that any board member who hasn't had an opportunity to attend Genius Hour should plan to visit a Gallery Walk next year. Ms. Kimble said they will give dates and times next year so Board members might stop by and visit with the students to see and hear about their projects.

Dr. Roberts thanked the three elementary principals and stated they have grown this program in amazing ways which in a huge opportunity to tie back key learning experiences. Dr. Roberts said these activities are never measured by the PSSA but will be measured in life and lights a passion in students in ways other programs may not be able to deliver.

Mr. Myers asked if Genius Hour starts in 3rd grade and wondered if kindergarten through 2nd grade students participate. Ms. Kimble said kindergarten through 2nd grade students participate in a directed

manner because they need more guidance. Mrs. Ward said because the learning is very student centered, being able to read is important for the independent nature of the research process. Mr. Wonders explained the different fences which are essentially the areas of interest and stated it is really awesome to see which students gravitate to which fences that group students by interest and topic.

2.b. Safety Update - Mr. William August, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. August presented the Safety Update
Elements of School Safety
Key Partnerships
Resource
School Resource Officer – Program Expansion
Resources/Activities

Dr. Roberts stated the two black binders labeled emergency shutoff in the Navigate Prepared application were developed locally after a sprinkler head froze and busted a few years ago causing flooding. All shutoff locations were identified and have now been built into that application. Mr. August stated that all principals have been shown where those shutoffs can be found.

Mr. Myers asked if the safety apps require a phone and if all teachers have a smart phone? Mr. August stated the WIFI extends beyond the buildings so if a teacher didn't have a smart phone, they would be able take a school issued laptop and can access everything from the laptop computer.

3. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested the Board address item 10 New Business Personnel Items and combine items 10a through 10h into one motion.

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters by Mr. Roush was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Board Meeting by Mr. Roush was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 pm

William L. Piper