

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

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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 7:01 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Five (5) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; John McCrea; and William Piper.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Kingsley Blasco; Richard Norris; and Richard Roush were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Curtis Garland, The Valley Times-Star; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes. Also present: Steve Fosburg, Carol Graham, Denise Mancuso, April Messenger, Megan Minnick, Brandie Shatto, and Angela Wilson.

II. PRESENTATION

Learning Commons

Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Brandie Shatto, Director of Educational Technology and Public Relations

Denise Mancuso, Teacher, Middle School Librarian Department Chairperson

Mr. Roberts, Ms. Shatto, and Ms. Mancuso offered a presentation entitled Learning Commons. Please refer to the attached document: [05-19-2014 COW Learning Commons Presentation.pdf](#).

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II. PRESENTATION (Continued)

Learning Commons (Continued)

Mr. Roberts indicated that over the past year, District personnel have been investigating desirable ways to enhance the District's libraries to create a space that is beneficial to student learning.

Please refer to the attached presentation that addresses the following items:

- Definition of learning commons: Physical Space – open, multi-purpose, flexible, collaborative learning space; need quiet area; students work privately; need collaborative space. Virtual Space - ubiquitous access to blended learning spaces. Teaching and Learning - Access to resources for multiple purposes, collaboration between teachers and students, professional development
- BSSD's learning commons vision
- Steps to move the vision forward.

A video entitled "The Future of School Libraries" was played for those in attendance.

During the presentation, the following items were noted that are not included in the attached document:

1. Studies have shown that students who receive library instruction earn higher scores on reading and writing tests.
2. Librarians play a leading role encouraging students to read.
3. Needs for libraries are identified in the acronym FACTTS: **F**unding, **A**ccess to school library beyond the school day, **C**ollection (resources current and variety of formats), **T**echnology, **T**eaching, and **S**taff (full-time, certified staff librarian and support staff).
4. Representatives from Big Spring visited schools in Massachusetts to tour their learning commons to discover what Big Spring must do to create effective learning commons.
5. Staff members have created a document with an action plan and steps to implement the plan.
6. Staff members are now evaluating spaces, identifying needs, planning and delivering professional development to teachers, and forming connections to the hub described on Page 7 of the attached document: relevant and personalized learning and resources, collaboration and innovation, digital learning/21st century skills, literacy, and professional learning.
7. Immediate next steps are described on Page 9 of the attached document and include 24/7 access to library resources.

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II. PRESENTATION (Continued)

Learning Commons (Continued)

8. In response to a question from President Wolf, Ms. Mancuso explained that Web 2.0 provides a venue for students to create projects that are imaginative and that students can post for others to see. The exposure of the projects (public or private) is controlled by District personnel. When students create projects for an audience, the enthusiasm level increases. Web 2.0 also provides study tools, such as Google Docs and online flashcards that students have been known to use during breaks at athletic events and a variety of other places.
9. Mr. Fry added that Web 2.0 offers tools to create automatic citations on research papers.
10. Administrators and librarians are working hand in hand with teachers to incorporate the learning commons components into classroom lessons.
11. Learning commons promises to shatter the stereotype of librarians and makes the library a creative place of learning to keep students on the road to successful learning.
12. Library time at the elementary level is scheduled. Library time at the middle school and high school is random, sometimes entire classes at one time or informal individual student visits for research purposes.
13. Learning commons requires no additional library space; however, the existing space would be repurposed – for example, a section for reading/quiet study, a section for class instruction, a section for communicating with individuals remotely across the world.
14. The learning commons would have an open feel, not necessarily an open structure.
15. Computers in the learning commons would have sophisticated software that is not available on the students' laptops. Such software includes videoconferencing, video editing, and projection, among others.
16. Realistically, students should access the learning commons every day, either to connect, get resources, work with other students, receive tutoring, etc.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Roberts, Ms. Shatto, and Ms. Mancuso for the learning commons presentation.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

A. Combine and Address

President Wolf requested that the Board address XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10, as a single action item.

B. Election of the Treasurer

President Wolf indicated that the District's auditors have noted that the election of the treasurer must occur annually in May. The election of the treasurer will occur during this evening's regular meeting following the approval of the May 5, 2014 meeting minutes.

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III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA (Continued)

C. Cases I, J, K, L, and M

President Wolf indicated that Board members may request an Executive Session, if desired, for information regarding student disciplinary actions addressed in Cases I, J, K, L, and M on this evenings Board meeting agenda.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gutshall to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Piper, Gutshall, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 5 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary