

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2024

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Call to Order – Chairman Seth Cornman

The Policy Committee of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:00 pm with four (4) Committee Members present: Chairman Seth Cornman, Secretary Julie Boothe, David Fisher, and President John Wardle and Board of School Directors present: Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Frank Myers, and Robert Over.

Absent: No absences - John Wardle arrived at 6:09 pm

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager, Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

1. Meeting Agenda

Public Comment Period – Nothing Offered

Motion to approve the rules of the day to include a public comment period and add the School Board President as a voting member of the committee in the event of a tiebreaker by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, and D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

2. Informational item – description of the committee

Chairman Cornman stated the purpose of the committee is to update outdated policies, address legal changes, add new items, and bring cohesion amongst all the buildings.

3. New Business

Chairman Cornman stated Policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings should be reviewed and updated. Mr. D Fisher made a motion to add Policy 903 for review and update by the Committee which was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

A question was asked as to what would be modified in the policy and Chairman Cornman stated he believes greater detail about the definition of a disruption to a board meeting should be added because he believes the current policy is vague and a very detailed explanation should be provided.

Chairman Cornman stated Policy 235 Student Rights/Surveys should be considered for review and revision and Mrs. Boothe made a motion to add Policy 235 for review by the Committee which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Chairman Cornman stated a Cell Phone Policy should be considered and Mrs. Boothe made a motion to develop a Cell Phone Policy which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Chairman Cornman stated Policy 009 School Board Policies should be considered for review and update by the Committee because it is at odds with the current committees and Mrs. Boothe made a motion to include Policy 009 for review which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Chairman Cornman stated Policy 004.1 Student Representative to the Board should be considered for review and update by the Committee and Mr. D. Fisher made a motion to include Policy 004.1 for review which was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher
Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

3. New Business (continued)

Chairman Cornman expressed a desire to assign a Committee member the task of creating a list of policies that need updates ordered by age from last update. Motion to assign Mrs. Boothe the task of creating a list by Mr. D. Fisher was seconded by Mrs. Boothe

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Chairman Cornman expressed a desire to assign a Committee member the task of creating a list of policies that require updating by priority. Motion to assign Mr. D. Fisher the task of creating a list by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Chairman Cornman asked if the Committee was available for additional meetings and it was suggested to meet July 1, 2024 and July 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Mr. D. Fisher made a motion to add those 2 meeting dates which was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

4. Informational Items

Chairman Cornman said due to recent changes, all Title IX policies will need revision so he is requesting all Committee members and the community research and familiarize themselves on Title IX.

Chairman Cornman mentioned Policy 236.1 Threat Assessment will be a future topic for discussion.

Someone asked what changes have occurred to Title IX and Chairman Cornman stated there have been recent changes by the Department of Education regarding trans individuals and pronouns.

Public Discussion - Chairman Corman offered an opportunity for public discussion.

Grace D'Alo asked how the Committee expects the community to enlighten themselves on Title IX in a short period of time and asked if this is a realistic task for the community. She asked if educational information and speakers would be provided at the meetings. Mr. Cornman stated he plans to have an educational speaker or opportunity. Mrs. D'Alo asked what the sense of urgency is for the Committee and Mr. Cornman stated new rules go into effect in August and he would like to have policies in effect before any changes take place.

Adam Oldham asked when the Threat Assessment would be discussed and Mr. Cornman said it will be on the next agenda.

Mallory Farrands asked if the solicitor could come and explain Title IX at one of the meetings and Mr. Cornman said that may be one option.

5. Closing – Nothing Offered

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Meeting adjourned at **6:22 pm**

President Wardle announced the Board will be going into Executive Session for a required Safety and Security Report by Dr. Sanders and will return for the regular Board Meeting at 7:30 pm.

