

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 18, 2022



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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 7:00 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, and Donna Webster

Absent: John Wardle

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: Capital Projects List and Potential Project - Mr. Michael Statler

Mr. Statler presented Capital Project Planning for Big Spring School District:

Summer 2022 Capital Project Update

Capital Project List

Capital Project Focus

Hypothetical 2023 Borrowing Study – From Raymond James (RBC)

Why an outside company to lead the Major Project?

Traditional Architect

Energy Services Company (ESCO)

Energy-Savings Engineering Firm

Potential Pathways to Accomplish the Work

Board Discussion/Questions

Traffic Guards

Dr. Roberts explained the intention of the Capital Project list is to include a host of different items that administration, maintenance, and other entities have compiled as items we need to address over the next 7 to 10 years. In the past, an architect may have done a feasibility study where they looked at our buildings and our needs and identified some of these concerns. We continue to maintain this list so we strategically address concerns to avoid a sudden expense or catastrophe. We try to stay proactive with these items which we prioritize based on the assessed need. Dr. Roberts stated utilizing a wrap-around debt strategy or essentially refinancing makes the debt service predictable to avoid a significant tax increase.

Mr. Myers asked if the energy savings engineering firm provides the addition of a project manager and Dr. Roberts said the engineering firm would work with the ESCO to define the scope of the project and their main value to the district would be project oversight to make sure we were getting exactly what we were paying for.

Mr. Roush explained that with an ESCO, if they don't complete the work properly, they'll be paying for it. We either realize the savings, the company fixes the problem or they write a check to the district for the difference in the amount of savings we didn't realize because they are guaranteeing everything they design for us is going to work. Mr. Roush said we have some firms that have roots here or live in the school district which leads me to believe they will pay closer attention to detail when addressing our needs. Mr. Roush also said one of the biggest things is making sure we get a product this time that is going to work and not fail within the first 10 years and I believe that any of the firms that we've met with would certainly do that.

Mr. Myers asked if we went with an ESCO, would we still need a project manager or someone inhouse to oversee things and Dr. Roberts said yes. If we go with an engineering firm, there would be a system of double checks. The ESCO does project management and works with us to select the contractors to do the work and guarantee the work and oversee the project. The engineering firm would be another layer that would work to ensure accountability in that system so either way the district would have to have personnel assigned to work with whatever the solution is but the engineering firm would provide another layer of accountability and oversight.

Mr. Roush asked if \$10,000,000 is our magic number to make all this work without a tax increase and to get everything done? Mr. Statler responded that financially we have options if we were to go above the \$10,000,000.

Dr. Roberts said in follow-up, as we march down this path, the Board has been prudent with addressing building renovations which puts us in good shape so it is our systems that we are talking about addressing here. As we look at the scope of this project, away from routine maintenance and support of our buildings, this project could put us 10 years out before needing to do anything significant within our district.

Mr. Statler shared that we reached out to a couple different companies to outsource the traffic guard piece which would manage all employees for traffic guard duties. He said Cross Safe is a company that is in the business of handling traffic guards which would guarantee an hour of work

per shift and manage all employees. He also stated we have dollars in the budget based on the proposal for this.

Mr. Myers asked how many guards we normally use and Mr. Statler responded 6. Mr. Over asked what we paid for guards this year and Mr. Statler responded \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Over then asked the total dollars spent for guards this past year and Mr. Statler responded he believes \$35,000. Mr. Over asked if we were to pay a flat rate of \$20 or \$25 to show up – would that help and Dr. Roberts responded that we're not too far off now and we're not finding guards. He said most of the year we were down 1 and sometimes 2 individuals but we're hopeful this could fix that.

Mr. Over asked how we advertise this and Dr. Roberts said right now this service is provided by ESS so we advertise on the webpage, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other social media. Dr. Roberts said the intersection of Lefever Road and Mount Rock Road and the entrance to the middle school at the time of arrival and dismissal are very busy and it is critical to have someone competent at those spots.

Mrs. Webster asked do you believe they (Cross Safe) will do better and Dr. Roberts said he is hopeful they can do better by providing incentives and improving the hiring process. Mrs. Webster asked what if they can't and Dr. Roberts said we would terminate their contract. Mr. Over asked can we terminate the contract during the year and Dr. Roberts said he would have to review the contract and wouldn't want to terminate too quickly in order to give them an opportunity to show us what they can do.

Mr. Over asked if this company is operating in Pennsylvania and Dr. Roberts confirmed they are not in PA yet. Mr. Statler said this was the only solution that reached back out to us after making inquiries to 9 or 10 companies.

Mr. Over asked if anyone from the fire police would be an option and Dr. Roberts said he made an effort to check on that but the obligation of an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon makes availability difficult for many of them who are working other jobs or have other commitments.

Mr. Piper asked if a termination clause was written into the RFP and Mr. Statler responded no and Dr. Roberts stated that is something we would address before signing an agreement.

3. Preview of the Agenda – Nothing offered

4. Other Items – Nothing offered

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter by Mr. Over was seconded by Mr. Roush.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm on July 18, 2022

William L. Piper