

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021

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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 High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. with eight (8) directors present; William Swanson, President; Alexis Hurley, Treasurer, William Piper, Secretary; Dave Gutshall, Robert Over, Frank Myers, Richard Roush, and John Wardle

Absent: Mr. Deihl

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; Bill August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; and Darrin Baughman, Technology Support.

2. Presentation:

2.a. Review of the Staying Open Plan and the Re-Socialization of Athletics and Activities Plan - Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., and Mr. William August

Dr. Roberts stated that he and Mr. August are excited to share with the Board the planning surrounding the Staying Open Plan:

- ThoughtExchange Survey Results
- Health Screening and Safety Protocols
- Additional Safety Protocols
- What would happen if there is a confirmed case?
- School Symptom Screening Tool for Parents
- Three Tiers of Instruction
- Big Spring Cyber Program
- Student Services
- Contact Information

Dr. Roberts stated the tiers of instruction are intended to be adjusted and targeted to hot spots and hopefully not across the entire district.

Mr. Swanson asked if the current ranges of COVID-19 cases listed on the presentation are across Cumberland County and Dr. Roberts confirmed with a yes response.

Mr. Wardle asked what matrix would be used to determine what triggers a more serious response and Dr. Roberts stated it would depend on the level of transmission in which they would follow the recommended guidelines. Mr. Wardle stated that PDE has not yet issued recommendations and Dr. Roberts confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Myers asked how a hot spot would be handled and Dr. Roberts stated that the specific building would move to tier 1.

Mr. August stated the Staying Open Plan is intended to do just that...keep our school open. As the pandemic changes, our planning would also be changing.

Mr. Myers asked a question regarding teachers supporting Big Spring Cyber. He asked if there is an extra duty stipend for teachers to have office hours in the evening and Mr. August shared that connection and availability to teachers is a key to success for the Big Spring Cyber Program. The extra duty stipend for these teachers compensates them for any time spent supporting cyber students.

Mr. Wardle asked if free meals are continuing next school year and Dr. Roberts confirmed that meals will continue to be free for all students next school year.

Mr. Wardle asked what the position is on wearing masks on buses. Dr. Roberts stated that if nothing changes with the current CDC order, students would have to wear masks on the bus and they would no longer be optional.

Dr. Roberts and Mr. August jointly presented the Resocialization of Athletic and Activities Recommendations:

- Pre-workout Screening
- Limitations on Gatherings
- Facilities Cleaning
- Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment
- Transportation
- Social Distancing during Contests/Events/Activities
- Who should be allowed at events?
- Overnight/Out of State Events/Events in COVID-19 Hot Spots
- Positive Cases and Coaches, Staff, or Athletes Showing COVID-19 Symptoms

Dr. Roberts passed out information about WellAir which is a product made by ProtectED as an air disinfecting device that could be installed in classrooms.

Mr. Myers asked the cost of the devices and Dr. Roberts responded that they cost \$2,400.00 per unit; including a 7 year warranty.

Mr. Gutshall asked if federal funds could be used to pay for the devices and Dr. Roberts stated yes; this would be an eligible ESSER III expense.

Mr. Over asked if we have looked at the REME Halo product and Dr. Roberts confirmed that other systems have been considered but appear to be less effective and more taxing on our systems, but that he would evaluate that specific system.

Mr. Roush confirmed that systems that filter are more dense and require system upgrades but stated he would like to know more about the effects of WellAir.

Mr. Myers inquired as to the number of units that would be considered for purchase and Dr. Roberts shared that 300 would be the anticipated number of units.

Mr. Wardle asked about options involving lights to kill viruses and Dr. Roberts stated it would be wise to consider all of our options. Mr. Wardle stated we want to be careful not to get a system that produces ozone and Dr. Roberts confirmed that the Protect ED system does not emit anything.

3. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items a through f into one motion.

4. Other Items

5. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wardle to adjourn was seconded by Ms. Hurley.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm


