

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 21, 2023



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1. Call to Order - President Wardle

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 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present; John Wardle, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, William Swanson, and Donna Webster

Absent: No Absences

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

2. Presentation:

2.a. Summer 2023 Projects - Tim Drawbaugh

Tim Drawbaugh updated the Board on the status of the 2023 summer projects:

ECM-1 District Wide LED Lighting Upgrades

ECM-2 District Wide Building Envelope Upgrades

ECM-3 High School Boiler Replacement

ECM-4 Middle School HVAC Upgrade

ECM-5 Oak Flat Elementary School Roof Upgrade

Summer Capital Projects

Mr. Wardle asked can we anticipate a need for the replacement of the high school boiler and Mr. Drawbaugh responded we are waiting for the company to provide a date. Dr. Guarente clarified we can function without the boiler installation at this point and Mr. Drawbaugh confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Myers asked if the remaining work that needs to be done will conflict with areas occupied by students receiving instruction and Mr. Drawbaugh stated no, none of the remaining work will affect instructional areas of the buildings.

Mr. Roush asked if there will be an additional date a crane is needed onsite and Mr. Drawbaugh responded yes, but it will take place on a Saturday to avoid disruption to students.

Mr. Over asked if the middle school gym is the only area that won't have a/c on the first day of school and Mr. Drawbaugh stated the gym, large group room, and library will not have operational a/c until the second week of September because of delays in equipment delivery but said all instructional areas of the building will have air conditioning.

Mr. Deihl asked about the warranty for the new HVAC equipment and Mr. Drawbaugh responded there is a 30-year warranty on that equipment.

Mr. Over asked if all the LED lights have been installed and Mr. Drawbaugh said the crew is working nights this week to finish installing all light by Friday except exterior lighting.

Mr. Wardle asked if doors can still be opened with keys or if there will be card access only and Mr. Drawbaugh responded doors will work with both keys and card access.

Mr. Wardle asked if there were any surprises during Phase I of the work and Mr. Drawbaugh said only the equipment that was backlogged and not delivered as expected but stated the McClure Company has done an excellent job of communicating and has been great to work with on this project.

Mr. Over asked if lights had been backordered and Mr. Gallick responded yes, some lights were backordered.

Mr. Over asked if this was a good or difficult job and Mr. Gallick said every project is unique but replacing over 100 heat pumps certainly made it a substantial amount of challenging work but the main difficulty was the delay in receiving equipment. Mr. Gallick said the rooftop unit will be set in place over Labor Day weekend to avoid disruption to learning.

2.b. ESCO Phase II - McClure Company

Mark Gallick and Mike Grochalski from McClure Company provided a Phase II Investment Grade Audit:

Phase 1 Update

ECM-1 High School HVAC Upgrades

ECM-2 Mount Rock HVAC Upgrades

ECM-3 Oak Flat ES Kitchen Cooling Upgrades

ECM-4 Newville ES HVAC Upgrades

ECM-5 High School Widow Replacements

ECM-6 Mount Rock ES/Admin Roof Replacement

Investment Grade Audit (Phase II)

Solar Goals

Solar – 2 Options

Solar – SREC Solar Renewable Energy Credits

Solar – Electrical Escalation

Mr. Wardle how much more energy efficient is the new equipment and Mr. Grochalski stated from an efficiency standpoint there will be a 20 - 25% increase in energy efficiency by upgrading.

Mr. Wadle asked the lifespan of rooftop equipment and Mr. Grochalski said in general, the lifespan of outdoor equipment is a 20 year lifespan.

Mr. Piper asked how changing equipment around affects penetration of the rooftop for a reduced number of units was addressed on the rooftop? Mr. Gallick responded they have sealed up those penetration areas with an adaptor curve that adapts the new unit to the old ductwork and curve that is on the roof. Mr. Piper asked if the old penetration areas will leak and Mr. Grochalski responded they have been capped off and are guaranteed by the roofing contractor not to leak.

Mr. Myers asked if just the glass frames are proposed to be replaced in ECM-5 and Mr. Gallick responded yes, just the frames.

Mr. Gallick spoke about energy savings and Mr. Wardle asked if the 20-year operational savings are with or without solar panels and Mr. Gallick said that savings is with solar and said most of the high energy savings items were already completed in Phase I.

Mr. Myers asked what it costs to install solar panels and Mr. Gallick responded there is no cost and said the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is essentially a public private partnership where a company like McClure as a tax liability installs a solar field and realizes some of the tax benefits which allows them to buy down the cost of the project and provide the District with cheaper electric for the life of the system. He also stated at the 30 year mark, the solar field would become the Districts.

Mr. Wardle asked what the District would have to do under the panels to maintain grass on the solar fields and Mr. Gallick responded low maintenance grass would be planted but would need to be cut down every few months.

Mr. Over asked for clarification that McClure Company would own the solar field for 30 years and Mr. Gallick responded they would own the solar panels for the duration of the contract which is negotiated but they would ask for ownership for at least 5 years.

Mr. Wardle asked if this would be a fenced in area and Mr. Gallick responded yes.

Mr. Swanson asked what happens after the solar panels get to the end of their life and Mr. Gallick said at the end of the agreement there would be the option to take ownership or Big Spring could ask McClure Company to remove them. He said ultimately the panels end up at the landfill but at some point in the future, there will be demand for recycling them.

Mr. Wardle asked what happens with changing weather conditions and Mr. Gallick responded there will be cloudy and rainy days which means there will be days you are taking electric off the grid and other days you are not which the electric company tracks and calculates accordingly. Dr. Guarente stated regardless of rain or cloudy days our electric rate will be fixed and Mr. Gallick confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Over asked if electric that goes on the grid is McClure's money and Mr. Gallick responded no, because it is aggregated to each year so Big Spring would get the check from PP&L.

Mr. Swanson asked if there are pictures or maps of how much area the solar panels would cover and Mr. Gallick responded they could provide that to the Board.

Mr. Over asked if solar panel location options include rooftops and Mr. Grochalski said sometimes roof placement can be more costly because of structural needs to accommodate the weight of the panels and could be a concern for future replacement of the roof which would require removing the panels.

There was further discussion about the location and total acres for solar panels.

Mr. Over asked if our roofs could support the weight of the solar panels and Mr. Gallick responded that would require a structural analysis.

3. Other Items – Nothing Offered

4. Adjournment

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

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:50 pm**

William L. Piper