

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 7:07 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. *Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Richard Norris; John McCrea, Robert Barrick, David Gutshall, and William Piper.

Absent – Kingsley Blasco, Richard Roush.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts Jr, Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation; Steven Smith, Principal at the High School; Stacey Kimble, Principal at Oak Flat Elementary; and Carol Kuntz, Board Minutes.

II. PRESENTATION

A. FFA Presentation – Mrs. Sherisa Nailor, FFA Leader and FFA students. Mrs. Nailor will provide information to the Board of School Directors on FFA activities.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Barrick inquired if they have a theme for the window display at the Farm Show.
2. Mr. Barrick asked if they are planning a video for this year.
3. Mr. Barrick questioned if they would be building a structure or another garden.
4. Mr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors at the last Board meeting you approved all the trips and activities that the FFA needs for the year.

B. Penn Literacy Network – Mr. Steven Smith, High School Principal, Mallory Farrands, English Teacher, and Nicole Donato, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Smith, Mrs. Farrands, and Mrs. Donato will provide the Board of School Directors with updates on the Penn Literacy Network.

Presentation attached.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Barrick asked how much push back did you get from the teachers.
2. Mr. Fry informed the Board that our staff was eager to help find something. They knew literacy was the key. We needed to find a program that was more than just a program. It effects learning from start to finish.
3. Mr. Wolf inquired what the emphasis would be in Art towards literacy.
4. Mr. Norris asked if it runs more like self-based courses.
5. Mr. Fry stated that this gets built into our culture. We have just gone through 12 years of an accountability model that is a miss match. Public education has been told to teach these specific skills and we are going to test your students this particular way. This gives teachers some flexibility. It allows us not to teach to the text. Our kids are going to write.
6. Mr. Wolf asked if the Penn Literacy Network is a non-profit group. Do they provide the support and the trainers for this program.

7. Mr. Barrick asked at what point to you anticipate seeing an increase in test scores.
8. Mr. Wolf stated that regardless when they leave here they will have a better vocabulary and understanding of what they hear and read.
9. Mr. Barrick inquired if the writing is done by hand or on their chromebooks.
10. Mr. Barrick asked if we are teaching cursive writing at all any more.

C. Update on K-12 Libraries – Mr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Stacey Kimble, Oak Flat Principal. Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Kimble will provide the Board of School Directors with information on the K-12 Libraries.

Presentation attached.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. McCrea asked if the entire class goes to the library with their teacher. How much time do they get in the library?
2. Mr. McCrea inquired what additional training the classroom teachers received to enable them to teach research to their students.
3. Mr. Piper inquired the role of the instructional coach. What are their responsibilities?
4. Mr. Wolf asked if the instructional coaches spend time in the classroom.
5. Mr. McCrea questioned how the keyboarding teacher is expected to coordinate the delivery of content like the librarian would have.
6. Mr. Barrick asked if we have noticed any decrease in the media center with chromebooks.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Wolf requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-11 as a single action item.

IV. BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

No discussion.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE

No discussion.

VI. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

No discussion.

VII. BOARD POLICY

No discussion.

VIII. ITEMS FROM FLOOR

No discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Norris to adjourn, seconded by Swanson to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Barrick, Norris, Swanson, Piper, Gutshall, and McCrea. Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM



Robert L. Barrick, Secretary