

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 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 7:06 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present; William Swanson, Board President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Alexis Hurley, Treasurer; Dave Gutshall, Robert Over, Frank Myers, and John Wardle

Absent: Richard Roush

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:

2.a. Dr. Kevin Roberts and Mr. William August - COVID-19 Updates

Mr. Statler presented an update to the Board on the high school boiler repair project which is scheduled to be completed in mid-October.

Mr. Statler shared that a second boiler is leaking at the high school and presented options to the Board to either replace the damaged tubes, operate the boiler using the working plugs, rent a portal boiler, or replace the second boiler.

Dr. Roberts stated the new boiler would become the primary boiler and the repaired boiler would become the backup.

Mr. Over asked if the life of that boiler was typical of how long they last and Mr. Statler stated no, the boiler has not lasted as expected due to hard water damage to the unit prior to installing a water softener. Mr. Over asked if a water softener was recommended when it was originally installed and Mr. Statler responded that he wasn't sure.

Mr. Piper asked how much a new boiler would cost and Mr. Statler responded \$193,000.

Dr. Roberts shared COVID-19 updates:

CDC's Levels of Community Transmission

CDC's Levels of Transmission – PA 8/16/2021

CDC's Levels of Transmission – PA 9/7/2021

Incidence Rate – Cumberland County

Percent Positivity – Cumberland County

Zip Code Data

District Data: 8/18/21 – 9/7/21

WellAir – Air Disinfecting Devices

Family and Community Resources/Information – 2021-2022 Key Information

PA Secretary of Health's Face Mask Order

Big Spring SD – Protocol Adjustments

Mr. Over requested a building breakdown of the confirmed cases and wondered if any building was in jeopardy of closing. Dr. Roberts responded the District is in direct coordination with the Department of Health for guidance on whether a building closure would be warranted. Mr. August provided the building breakdown as of August 30: 3=HS, 3=OF plus 2 suspected, and 1 = MS.

Mr. Piper asked if non-compliance on the mask order is an option for the Board and Dr. Roberts stated the order is the same as any other order – there are repercussions including liability on the part of the District and the Board members as individuals. Dr. Roberts shared his strongest recommendation would be to follow the order.

Mr. Wardle asked how we are aware of the confirmed cases and Mr. August stated most parents are reporting the exposure to us.

Mr. Wardle stated the masks are slowing down the quarantine effect and Dr. Roberts said since it is the first day with that in place we will have to monitor that but in theory, it should.

Mr. Wardle asked what would cause us to close a building and Dr. Roberts stated it would be from significant outbreak among students or staff. The staff numbers need to be closely watched because we cannot deliver face to face instruction if there is an outbreak of transmission to staff. Students are our primary focus, but staff must be here and healthy to deliver instruction. Mr. Piper stated we are hopeful the WellAir system will help address transmission and Dr. Roberts said no strategy standing alone is perfect and the goal by providing several layers of prevention strategies is that the weaknesses of one would be compensated with the strengths of the others and hopefully keep kids in school 5 days a week.

3. Preview of the Agenda

President Swanson requested the Board address New Business Personnel Items and combine items 12a through 12g into one motion.

4. Other Items

No discussion

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

The Board of School Directors met in Executive Session prior to the Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss legal matters.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Hurley, Gutshall, Over, Myers, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.


