

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 19, 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 7:04 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, Richard Roush, John Wardle, and Donna Webster

Absent: Robert Over

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; William August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Ancillary Services; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darrin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Presentation:

2.a. High School FFA Program

High School FFA officers introduced themselves to the Board and described activities and plans for the upcoming school year: Delaney Barrick, President; Elyssa Gilbert and Clayton Hetrick, Vice-Presidents; Kaleb Miller, Sentinel; Katie Miller, Treasurer; Olivia Ocker, Secretary; Abby Rosenberry, Student Advisor; and Charlee Schock, Reporter

Advisors: Mrs. Fulton and Mrs. Nailor

President Swanson thanked the students for the success of the Ag Appreciation Event on Friday before the football game and said the FFA always makes the Board very proud.

2.b. Middle School FFA Program

Middle School FFA officers introduced themselves to the Board and described activities, fundraisers, and plans for the upcoming school year: Hannah Orris, President; Olivia Hohman, Vice President; Lily Gordon, Student Advisor; and Isabelle Jones, Reporter

Advisor: Mrs. McIntire

President Swanson reminded everyone that Big Spring School District was the first District in Pennsylvania to have a Middle School FFA Chapter and thanked the students for speaking with the Board this evening.

2.c. Hiring Practices Updates - Mr. William August and Dr. Abigail Leonard

Mr. August and Dr. Leonard presented a Hiring Practice Update to the Board:

Framing the Challenge

State’s Response

Current Shortages

Recruit

Hire

Interview Preview

Retain

Dr. Roberts stated Mr. August and Dr. Leonard worked very hard on the alternative pathway to certification and we are one of only two school districts in the IU that actually have this up and running and thanked them for being willing to create something unique to utilize to fill a definite need within the District.

Mr. August introduced new teachers to the Board: Carrie Gutshall, Emily Hangen, Kendra Hoffman, Valerie Kanc, Joey Kucher, Kyna Morgan, Heather Nenninger, Ellie Piper, Kristin Wiley, and Cherie Williams. Mr. August also introduced long-term substitute Riley Brown.

Dr. Roberts shared that during this difficult hiring time, many district could be tempted to adjust their standards for hiring, but said we refuse to do that and if we move through a process and don’t find a teacher that is a good fit for our students and classrooms, we start the process over and re-post the position. He stated we haven’t compromised quality and continue to hire great teachers.

3. Other Items – Nothing offered

4. Adjournment

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

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned 7:49 pm

William L. Piper