



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2025

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and section 504 coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

1. Call to Order - President John Wardle

The Committee of the Whole Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 7:15 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Seth Cornman, Kenneth Fisher, Frank Myers, and Robert Over.

Absent: David Fisher

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Cristy Lentz, Business Manager; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Thomas Breth, Solicitor (Virtual); Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Public Comment – Nothing Offered

3. Presentation:

3.a. K-12 Career Guidance Plan 2025 - 2028 (Chapter 339) - Dr. Oldham

Dr. Oldham presented the K-12 Career Guidance Plan to the Board:

- Career Development in PA Schools
- Career Education and Work Standards
- Connecting Students to Cumberland Perry Area CTC
- Career Artifacts and Student Portfolios
- Career Artifacts – Examples
- Career Artifacts – Examples (Elementary)
- Career Artifacts – Examples (Middle School)
- Career Artifacts – Examples (High School)

President Wardle thanked Dr. Oldham for his presentation and work with our students.

Mrs. Boothe asked what is being done to move us in a better direction with career standards benchmark reporting and Dr. Oldham responded there has been a disconnect with some cyber students uploading artifacts so they have streamlined the process for students to access documents in one place and aligned the career exploration with Smart Futures.

Mrs. Boothe asked about previous plan approval by the Board and Dr. Oldham said there has been a change in the process because of the Future Ready Index so this is the first year we are going through the submission process in a more formal way.

Mrs. Boothe offered a suggestion for this to be brought to the Board annually or made publicly available in a transparent manner and questioned the maximum number of pages for the submission and Dr. Oldham said PDE guidance has been to submit what they have regardless of pages and said they will adjust the formatting based on PDE's final guidance

Mrs. Boothe asked questions about the small group format and materials being used and Dr. Oldham said parent consent is obtained for small group participation.

Mrs. Boothe asked questions about scholarships and how information is shared with parents and Dr. Oldham responded that the High School offers a Financial Aid Night which is scheduled for January 29 where scholarships are discussed and PHEAA comes in and offers FASFA completion assistance. Dr. Oldham said local scholarships are not typically available for the application process until the spring of a student's senior year.

Mrs. Boothe asked questions about Dual Enrollment of students and how that information is shared with students and parents and Dr. Oldham said the Counseling Department is constantly encouraging students to participate and makes an effort to fully advertise this opportunity.

Mr. Over thanked Dr. Oldham for the presentation and said he should keep up the good work.

Mrs. Boothe mentioned the Thought Exchange contract which automatically renews with an annual 5 percent increase, said she understands it is paid with federal funds but said we should not waste them and said she believes we should consider cancelling the contract.

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:56 pm**

