

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

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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 7:00 p.m. with six (6) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Robert Over, Alexis Blasco-Hurley and Frank Myers.

Absent: Wardle, Roush, Gutshall

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Richard Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. Presentation:

➤ Middle School Electives - Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal - Crystal Grossman, MS Instructional Coach

- Mrs. Nace gave a short synopsis of the evenings presentation and stated that the presentation focuses on the changes within the Middle School. Mrs. Nace introduced Ms. Crystal Grossman, Middle School Instructional Coach.
- Ms. Grossman talked about the positive results on how the renovations impacted the Middle School and shared slides of the Middle School before and after the renovations.
- Ms. Grossman communicated information on the Innovation Lab and shared how it is utilized by teachers.
- Ms. Grossman talked about the Stem Lab and how this specific space is utilized.
- Ms. Grossman talked about the new electives and how the Arts Team has grown.
- Ms. Grossman shared that Family and Consumer Science has a new staff member, Ms. Rebecca Whigham. She talked about the programs that are taught within the Family and Consumer Science class. It was communicated that all 6th graders rotate through Family and Consumer Science and 7th and 8th have a choice to take the class.
- Ms. Grossman shared that there is a new class offered; the STEM class. Mr. David Roberts is teaching this class. Mr. Roberts is using a coding program, lego robotic, rubric cubes and connects within the STEM class. All 6, 7 and 8th grade students are experiencing the different programs being offered in this class. It was communicated that in the 2020-2021 school year the coding program and the lego robotics will be taken to the next level for 7th and 8th graders. Ms. Grossman stated that drones may be incorporated in the program for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Ms. Grossman defined the new elective, Fiction Literature Class, Words Change Worlds.

- Ms. Grossman talked about the 8th graders taking French and Spanish at the High School. It was communicated that the classes are held first period at the High School. Ms. Grossman communicated that due to foreign language classes being a year long, the foreign language classes will replace some of the 8th grade student electives.
- The Technology Education and Agriculture Class at the Middle School was defined as well as the FFA Club that is run by Mrs. Jenna McIntire.
- Mrs. Nace talked about the trout that are being raised in the Agriculture Education class.
- Ms. Grossman talked about another new course; Teen Wellness course which focuses on mental health, stress management, bullying, social media and coping strategies. Videos were shared on student's thoughts on this specific course.
- Ms. Grossman talked about other courses listed:
 - Music Program
 - Media Club
 - Art Program
- Mrs. Nace defined electives and clubs for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Mr. Piper asked about the enrollment in the French and Spanish Program. Mrs. Nace and Mrs. August, High School Principal shared that the Spanish class has approximately 60 students; 30 in each class. Mr. August stated that French runs approximately 25 in a class.
- Mr. Piper asked about the release of the trout which Mrs. Nace shared it will take place on March 27th at 2:50 p.m. More information will follow.
- Dr. Fry thanked Mrs. Nace and Ms. Grossman for their presentation.
- **Big Spring High School Amphitheater**
 - **Brock Piper & Anthony Gaudioso, High School Students**
- Dr. Fry gave an introduction on the Design Thinking Class and shared that Dr. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent shadowed Senior, Brock Piper for a day and experienced Brock's day as a Senior at BSSD. It was stated that Mr. Stevenson teaches the class.
- Dr. Roberts shared his thoughts of his day following Brock's schedule.
- Mr. Stevenson defined the class and thanked the Board of School Directors for approving the Design Thinking Class. Mr. Stevenson stated he was proud of Brock and Anthony for what they have done and was very happy to support them.
- Brock began the presentation stating that BSSD has unlimited potential of land that still can be utilized for learning space.
- Brock and Anthony defined Profile of a Graduate as Seniors.
- Brock talked about the Amphitheater project which he commented that there is a lack of outdoor exposure for high school students with no outdoor learning space.
- Brock and Anthony shared the following information on the Amphitheater project:
 - Potential location of the Amphitheater and the reason the location was chosen.
 - Reviewed the design process of the Amphitheater.
 - Slides were shared of detailed models of the Amphitheater.
 - Safety Precautions were discussed.
 - Privacy options were talked about, which could lead to the planting of bushes and trees that will grow approximately 6 feet tall.
 - Emergency routes were discussed.
 - It was shared that ninety-seven percent of high school students would love to have an outdoor learning space.
 - Benefits of teaching a class outside where shared and are listed:
 1. Students become more attentive and focused when returning from being outdoors.
 2. Outside lessons show that students are more engaged in classes.
 3. Reduces stress
 4. Restores depleted attention
 5. Improves immune system function

- Potential uses of the Amphitheatre were discussed and are listed below:
 - o Plays and Musical
 - o Music and band performances
 - o Outdoor classrooms
 - o Pre-game student section/tailgate
 - o Small concerts and weekend movie night
 - o Community gatherings, outdoor picnics and team gatherings
 - o Staff meetings
 - o Utilized for elementary field day
 - o Host new groups to the campus and allow them to utilize the Amphitheatre
- Brock and Anthony discussed the budget of the Amphitheatre.
- Discussions continued on the construction of the Amphitheatre.
- Dr. Roberts shared specifics of his experience as a BSSD high school student.
- Mr. Myers stated the Amphitheatre is a tremendous idea.
- Mr. Swanson stated the presentation was well done.
- Mr. Over asked if there were other projects they were thinking of prior to the implementation of the Amphitheater project.
- Brock and Anthony communicated that BSSD facilities are fantastic.
- Brock stated that the Amphitheatre can be utilized for all schools within the District.
- Dr. Fry thanked the students and Mr. Stevenson for the presentation.
- Dr. Fry stated that Brock and Anthony represent the study body quite well.
- Anthony thanked Mr. August and Dr. Roberts in assisting them with sharing the presentation to the Board of School Directors. Anthony stated that he is very proud to be part of BSSD.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Swanson requested that the Board address XIII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through K into one motion.

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 Deihl, seconded by Piper to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Over, Blasco-Hurley and Myers.

Motion carried unanimously. 6-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:58 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary