

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 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 through a Virtual Meeting in the Big Spring School District Board Conference Room in the District Administration Office, at 7:06 p.m. with (9) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Richard Roush, Alexis Blasco-Hurley, Frank Myers, Robert Over and John Wardle.

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

### **II. Presentation:**

- **Funds and FY20 Update** - Mr. Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager
  - Dr. Fry began the meeting with an overview of the presentation.
  - Mr. Kerr began the presentation with an introduction of the General Fund Balance. He talked about the items listed.
    1. Employee Health Insurance
    2. PSERS
    3. Healthcare
    4. Technology
    5. Special Education
    6. Student Information/Financial Software
    7. Safety/Security/School Resource Officer
    8. Students Services and Mental Health
  - Mr. Kerr walked the Board of School Directors through the Capital Projects Reserve Fund and discussed the balance of funds and the debt service. Dr. Fry stated that the District is spending down capital to address bond payments.
  - Mr. Kerr talked about the Mt. Rock Projects Fund -2018 and stated that there are no big changes within the Mt. Rock Projects Fund.
  - Mr. Kerr continued with a discussion on the FY 21 Debt Service. He stated that there is an item on the April 6<sup>th</sup> board agenda for approval to pay the debt service payments from the Capital Reserve Fund and reimburse the General Fund for these payments.
  - Mr. Kerr talked about the FY 21 Budget.
  - Mr. Kerr shared information on FY 2020 year to date as well as information on EIT.
  - Mr. Kerr continued discussion with the Board of School Directors. Mr. Kerr shared as the District moves forward there will be a significant decrease in EIT.
  - Mr. Kerr stated there will be increase in healthcare with the projected increase being 9.18% for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Mr. Kerr talked about the General Fund/Projection summary with discussions on revenue, total revenue expenditures, total expenditures, surplus and deficit.
- The items listed were discussed with the Board of School Directors.
  1. Property Tax Assumption – no real estate tax increase with a possible 20% reduction in EIT.
  2. Revenue and Expenditures projections for the upcoming five years.
  3. FY 21 Prosoft Build accounts and budget.
- Dr. Fry stated that Big Spring School District is in good shape.
- Mr. Wardle asked about spring extra-curricular pay. Dr. Fry stated that spring coach's, musical directors, etc. will continue to get paid which is defined in Senate Bill 751.
- Dr. Fry stated that summer, 2020 construction has been placed on hold.
- There was discussion on unemployment.

➤ **COVID-19 Update**

- Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Fry talked about the process and educational programs that have been implemented for K-12 students for the past four weeks. It was shared that staff is stepping up to assure that students continue to receive the education they deserve during this challenging time.
- Dr. Fry discussed the Continuity of Education Plan which is posted on the District website.
- Dr. Fry walked the Board of School Directors through the plan and program philosophy. Dr. Fry stated the goal was to maintain student engagement in learning during the closure.
- Dr. Fry communicated that staff provide support through phone calls, videoconferencing, email, etc.
- Dr. Fry stated that priority should be given to knowledge, skills, or proficiencies that the student needs to be successful in the next course, grade level, or endeavor. The goal is for exposure.
- Dr. Fry communicated that the K-12 enrichment activities will be submitted for feedback not grading. It was shared that the level of engagement will be tracked by student in grades 6-12 and the level of engagement will be noted as:
  1. Highly engaged – completing most activities.
  2. Engaged – completes at least half of the activities.
  3. Inadequately engaged – completes less than half of the activities.
- Dr. Fry talked about the program specifics at the high school, middle school and elementary level. He shared that Administration is looking at credit attainment at the high school level to keep all students on track.
- Dr. Fry stressed the importance of keeping students engaged in the learning process to provide for the highest likelihood of success in future learning.
- Dr. Fry communicated that the District served 330 students with meals. There have been 3,300 meals per week distributed to families. It was stated that Paw Packs continue to be distributed to every family that requests meals.
- Dr. Fry shared the changes that will take place in regards to ordering meals. This process will now take place weekly instead of twice per week. The location has changed from Newville Ele. to the Big Spring High School. Dr. Fry shared that Chartwells has stepped up to the plate and has been doing an outstanding job during this process.
- Dr. Fry shared the process of the technology support. It was stated that Mr. Krepps and his technology team have been outstanding. There is a process in place regarding device repairs or troubleshooting and drop off and pick up of devices.
- Dr. Fry communicated the process of materials and support of hard copies. It was communicated that two-hundred families are requesting hard copies. Dr. Fry shared that at this time all material is being picked up in the District Office foyer, but it will change to the material being picked up in the foyer of each building beginning with April 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff has been added to assist with the copying of material for each building.

- Dr. Fry shared that the counselors continue to connect with students whom may need additional support. It was stated that students can request support directly through email, phone routing meetings; or anonymously through established channels (Safe 2 Say Something).
- Dr. Fry shared that the District does continue to follow the board approved 2019-2020 calendar. It was communicated that the District will honor the spring break; April, 8, 9, 10 & 13.
- Dr. Fry shared a slide of teachers and students engaged virtually. Dr. Fry shared that 99% of the communication that has been shared with him has been positive; staff continues to step up.
- Dr. Fry shared a snippet that he communicates to staff . . . “relationships before rigor . . . grace before grades . . . patience before programs . . . love before lessons”. Dr. Fry stated the importance of being there for the families.
- Dr. Fry made the statement; “ When this pandemic is over and history is written, many students will not remember what content was taught remotely – they and their families will remember our compassion, kindness, empathy, and leadership. How we are remembered is up to us!”
- Mr. Wardle asked if the Board could have examples of activities that are being taught to the students. Dr. Fry stated that the enrichment activities will be shared with the Board of School Directors at the high school, middle school and elementary level.
- Mr. Myers asked about graduation. Dr. Fry stated that the administration is in the process of looking into different options but there will be more to come on Graduation, 2020.
- There were continued discussions on the end of the year activities.
- Mr. Wardle shared that he was involved in a food distribution for the BSSD community and stated that 160 families received food bags. He shared that there will be another distribution on April 27<sup>th</sup> which may total 170-200 families.
- Mr. Swanson thanked the administration for all of the work they have done.

### **III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

President Swanson requested that the Board address XV. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through B 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 Roush to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Blasco-Hurley, Gutshall, Over, Wardle, Roush and Myers.  
Motion carried unanimously. 9-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned a **7:57 p.m.**

*William L. Piper, Secretary*