

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017

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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 7:05 P.M. with Vice-President William Swanson presiding. Seven (7) directors present: William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Bob Kanc, Todd Deihl, Richard Roush, and William Piper.

Absent – Wilbur Wolf, Jr. and Kinslgey Blasco

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard Kerr, Jr, Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation; Troy Okum, Valley Times Star; and Carol Frace, Board Minutes.

II. PRESENTATION

- A. Pre-K Counts Updates** – Dr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Linda Butts, Shippensburg University and Ms. Stacy Ott, Shippensburg University presented information to the Board of School Directors on the Pre-K Program and Head Start Program.

[Presentation attached](#)

General Questions:

1. Mr. Piper inquired if the Pre-K count program might be changing to a full year program.
2. Mr. Piper questioned the funding for these programs.
3. Mr. Piper inquired what kind of interaction do directors have with the parents. Do they have a parent group that meets on a regular basis?
4. Dr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that Shippensburg University is running two programs, Pre- K and Head Start. What happens to the students over the summer with retaining information – do they lose any learning skills or knowledge?
5. Mr. Kanc asked if they have a way in the Pre-K to track or monitor if the parent involvement is there.
6. Dr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors that we are setting in our action plans to address more parent involvement issues. This is a challenge. Up to two years ago, we did not collect this soft data. When the poverty level doubled, we decided that we needed to start looking at this data. This is really telling. What is our responsibility?
7. Mr. Piper stated that a huge amount of money has been put into this program nationwide. Our ability to track these students as they progress has been difficult. Are we able to track these students and look at the data on these students?
8. Dr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors we are looking at K to 12 for the level of engagement. We know that the disengagement starts around third grade. By the time students get to ninth grade, the chance of student drop out is higher for those that disengaged early.
9. Mr. Kanc inquired if the disengagement is to the school or to the parent and the school.
10. Mr. Piper questioned home visits are they mandatory? What are the percentage of parents that come into the classroom?
11. Dr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that generational poverty needs to be broken through education. If we want to affect poverty, we need to do it through education.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Wolf requested that the Board address NEW BUSINESS, PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A - 1 through A – 2 as a single action items.

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 Roush to adjourn, seconded by Kanc to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Barrick, Piper, Gutshall, Roush, Kanc, and Deihl. Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary