

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016**

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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 7:08 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Nine (9) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Richard Roush, Kingsley Blasco, Bob Kanc, Todd Deihl, and William Piper.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts Jr, Assistant Superintendent; Richard Kerr, Business Manager; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Rick Gilliam, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation; and Carol Frace, Board Minutes.

### **II. PRESENTATION**

- A. Strategic Plan/Building Goal Overview** – Mr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board of School Directors on the District Strategic Plan and Building Goals.

[Presentation attached.](#)

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Kanc inquired when you asked students if they are being challenges who did you ask, A students, B students, or C students.
2. Mr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors we did a cross section of all students in all areas.
3. Mr. Piper asked the readiness of our children to come to school in kindergarten. The experiences these children have drastically affect how they do in school. The free and reduced numbers play a part in all of this. Do you know the numbers and what are they at Newville?
4. Mr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that last year kindergarten students at Newville, 6 out of 10 students are identified as poverty. When I came to the District, the poverty rate was around 17 percent. As a District today, we are at 35 or 36 percent.
5. Mr. Wolf inquired if the definition of poverty has changed.
6. Mr. Piper asked how are we dealing with this information building to building.
7. Mr. Wolf stated work ethic is difficult to teach. Work ethic leads to success. Initiative leads to success from my experience in the world.
8. Mr. Blasco provided an example of a student years ago at the high school that was good in auto mechanics but struggled in keyboarding. What would you do with a student like that today to help them be successful?
9. Mr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that last spring we revised our diploma model. It is more customized to a student's needs. That student would be in much better shape today than years ago.
10. Mr. Swanson stated that we have made a lot of progress. He remembers the days when if a student failed two subjects they had to repeat the entire grade. He provided an example of a student who had to take Biology three times. He passed it twice and failed it once. We have made adjustments throughout the years. We have come a long way.
11. Mr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors that the old system still exists. We still have students that must take the Keystone tests. We have to place students in remediation if they don't pass the Keystone tests. They are not more motivated the second time taking the test. The personalized diplomas are the way to go.

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

President Wolf requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-14 as a single action item. President Wolf requested NEW BUSINESS Items F, G and H combined as a single action item. President Wolf requested NEW BUSINESS Items O and P combines as a single action item.

### **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 Blasco to adjourn, seconded by Roush to adjourn the meeting to executive session. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Piper, Gutshall, Roush, Kanc, Deihl, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously 9 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary