

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 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 High School Large Group Room in the at 7:00 p.m. with nine (9) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Richard Roush, Frank Myers, John Wardle, Robert Over, and Alexis Blasco-Hurley

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

### **II. Presentation:**

- **Progress Updates on Registration, A & B Assignments, Student Scheduling, Instructional Delivery Model and Review of Athletics**
  - Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools
  - Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Fry opened the meeting giving an overview of the presentations for the evening.
- Dr. Roberts began with the presentation; Return to School Information beginning with an outline of ThoughtExchange and shared some top thoughts from staff (see below).
  1. Excited to be with kids again;
  2. Concerns for custodians, their work has increased and their work is an important piece;
  3. Excited to work with students in person;
  4. Concerns regarding the consistent enforcement of social distancing and mask wearing;
  5. Seeing the students; this is why we are educators;
  6. Concerns for the possibility of opening and closing school and how to prepare myself each day for potentially not returning the next day and for a great length of time.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that the Return to School Information document is information gathered from ThoughtExchange to create the concept and content of the document.

- Dr. Roberts defined the leave scenarios for staff to the Board of School Directors.
- Dr. Roberts explained the scenario, staff actions, communication and follow-up for Non-COVID Leave and COVID Related Leave.
- Dr. Roberts shared information on the school symptom screening tool and defined two different groups of symptoms.
- Dr. Roberts communicated building visitor procedures such as scheduled visitor protocol and office transactions/non-scheduled visitors. It was stated that visitors will be held in the vestibule while announcing the reason for their visit as well as dropping off materials in the vestibule that need to be submitted to any staff member or student within the building.
- Dr. Roberts continued with defining universal face coverings and stating per the order of Governor Wolf and PA Secretary of Health all students and staff must wear a face covering while on school transportation, in hallways and in classrooms. It was communicated that a plastic face shield will be provided to all staff members. Dr. Roberts defined the types of face coverings that complies with this order and shared the exceptions of individuals who cannot wear a mask or face shield. Individuals that fall under this category is someone with a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability that necessitates not required to wear face coverings. Dr. Roberts stated that accommodations for these individuals should be made in partnership with administration and Human Resources.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that students can take a break in removing their mask at a minimum one time per period at the high school, and one time per hour in grades K-8; when requested and as directed by the teacher.
- Dr. Roberts continued with sharing additional information on safety protocols such as maintaining social distance at all times, home health screening, thermal scanning, disinfecting school spaces, hand sanitizing stations.
- Dr. Roberts communicated that heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems throughout all of the District's buildings are being evaluated to ensure adequate fresh air exchange and to assess overall air filtering.
- Dr. Roberts shared and defined the student/staff decision matrix to the Board of School Directors. BSSD's closure response criteria was also defined.
- Dr. Roberts talked about staff and families regarding out of state travel. He stated that administration is advising individuals to please consider the Department of Health's list of states where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases. Also, the identification of "hot spots" which the Department of Health recommends a 14-day quarantine upon return. There were discussions amongst administration and the Board of School Directors regarding out of state travel.
- Dr. Roberts communicated the Live Stream Processes/Procedures which includes:
  1. Live Stream Waiver Sign Off;
  2. USB Drives distribution to families with connectivity/access issues for live streaming;
  3. USB Drive Creation which will include live stream videos of a recorded class and digital materials;
  4. USB Drive Distribution and Collection was detailed.

- Dr. Roberts stated that activity lessons and resources will be distributed to families which will be coordinated directly with the teacher.
- Dr. Roberts talked about the special education considerations for online learning.
- Dr. Roberts shared information on making a file accessible using a laptop, phone and google meet.
- Dr. Roberts continued with information regarding general guidelines on shared materials and resources.
- Dr. Roberts communicated procedures on device issues and repairs.
- Dr. Roberts talked about ASPEN regarding grade book information, posting attendance, medical alerts and face covering excusal.
- The administration and the Board of School Directors talked about the challenges with substitute teachers. Dr. Roberts stated that the administration has building subs assigned to every building who are present every day. When a substitute is not available for a teacher absence the building substitute will assist in filling the absence.
- Dr. Fry began his presentation updating the Board of School Directors with the positivity rate from the State Department of Health; listing Cumberland County at 3.4% positivity rate and an incident rate which went from 27 to 25.5. Dr. Fry also shared that York County is in the 50's and Dauphin County is in the high 40's.
- Dr. Fry reminded the Board of School Directors that the administration is planning for a year that is very unique and administration may not always have answers.
- Dr. Fry talked about the cost of CAOLA (BSSD's Cyber School) and Cyber Charter Schools. He shared that at this time BSSD has 197 students enrolled in CAOLA verses last year there were only 30 enrolled. Dr. Fry noted that each CAOLA student will cost the District \$4,000 but from a fiscal perspective it's still a better option than attending a Cyber Charter School. Dr. Fry communicated that as of today there are 125 BSSD students attending Cyber Charter School at a cost of approximately \$24,000 per student. It was noted that at the end of February, 2020, there were 103 BSSD students attending Cyber Charter Schools.
- Dr. Fry communicated that the FY 2022 budget planning will be a challenge moving forward.
- Dr. Fry shared that there are two school districts in the Mid Penn that will not be offering athletics in the fall; Harrisburg and Milton Hershey.
- Dr. Fry made the comment that back in April he pushed for a January 2, 2021 start date for athletics. He shared his thoughts with Mid Penn but there was not much support of his recommendation.
- Dr. Fry talked about parents not being able to attend a sporting event noting that only 25 individuals can be inside which will involve coaches, players and officials.
- Dr. Fry continued with communicating that an outside sporting event where the sport is being played only allows and is open to officials, coaching staff, players and school officials.
- Dr. Fry stated that BSSD is prepared for fall, 2020 sports but it will not be normal.
- Dr. Fry communicated that all athletes will thermal scan before they enter in practices and games. Discussions continued amongst administration and the Board of School Directors regarding procedures for athletes. Dr. Fry continued to stress that these are very challenging times.

**III. Preview of the Agenda**

President Swanson requested that the Board address XIII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through J 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, Gutshall, Over, Roush, Wardle, Blasco-Hurley and Myers.

Motion carried unanimously. 9-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:56 p.m.**

*William L. Piper, Secretary*