

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

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 seven (7) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Richard Roush, Frank Myers, John Wardle and Robert Over.

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; Caleb Barwin, Accounting Controller; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes.

II. Presentation:

- **Update on the Fiber Project (Erate)** - Mr. Robert Krepps, Director of Technology
 - Mr. Krepps began the meeting with a presentation on the Erate Fiber Project Update discussing the two separate sub-projects listed:
 1. Construction of 9,850 linear feet of fiber between the District Office and Newville Elementary School.
 2. Construction of 9,750 linear feet of underground fiber between the High School and Oak Flat on high school property, easement with Cumberland Valley Rail Trail and PenDot Right-of-Ways along Centerville Road and under Centerville Road.
 - Mr. Krepps talked about the District Office to Newville project stating that PP&L has until November 1st to make room on their utility poles before the District's contractor is able to attach fiber. The project is expected to be completed by the end of February.
 - Mr. Krepps continued conversations regarding the High School to Oak Flat project sharing that the CVRT easement is in tact and formal approval of the agreement is on this evening's board agenda.
 - Mr. Krepps communicated that PennDot has approved the construction and has provided a permit. Celerity is to begin construction September 14th with a duration of 4-6 weeks for completion.
 - There were further discussions amongst the administration and the Board of School Directors regarding the project.

➤ **Update on FY 20 Year End Budget and the FY 21 Approved Budget**

- Mr. Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager
- Mr. Caleb Barwin, Accounting Controlling

- Mr. Barwin shared an update on the third quarter income statement and balance for South Central Trust
- Mr. Barwin continued with the South Central Trust year end FY 2020 information defining the income and expenses as well as the assets.
- Mr. Barwin talked about the information listed with the Board of School Directors:
 1. General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2019.
 2. Capital Projects Reserve Funds showing the unused funds and stating the balance as of September 3, 2020 is \$5,960,033. It was noted that the total of the unused funds is \$1,599,039.
 3. Discussions on PCCD Grant award money in the amount of \$220,662.00 and shared the description list for the grant monies:
 - Plexiglass Shields
 - Chromebook Bags
 - Thermal Cameras
 - Clorox 360 Machines (3)
 - Psychological/Mental Health Screenings
 - October Professional Development Day
 - Wellness/Self Care/Compassion Fatigue PD
 - PPE
 - Intercom System (DAO)
 - Extracurricular PPE/Cleaners/Wipes
 - Paraprofessional SEL Professional Learning
 - Headphones
 - Devices
 4. Mr. Barwin stated that the District has until October 31, 2020 to spend the PCCD grant money.
- Mr. Barwin talked about the ESSER Grant and shared some areas where the monies will be going, such as: devices, hardware, hotspots, gloves to support cleaning, facial masks, bioprotect cleaning supplies.
- Mr. Kerr talked about the first meal pick up and stated there were 50 families that picked up meals.
- Mr. Kerr defined FY 20 Expenses which included; salaries, benefits, professional and technical services, property services, transportation, insurance, property and supplies.
- Mr. Kerr continued with defining FY 20 revenue and the EIT/LST comparison.
- Mr. Kerr showed cost on Cyber/Charter/CAOLA tuition projection. Mr. Kerr also shared the regular education tuition cost (\$12,964.15 per student) and the special education tuition cost (\$32,115.27 per student) for outside cyber students.
- Mr. Kerr shared a graph on EIT collection history and 2020-2021 real estate by the month.
- Mr. Kerr stated that all the finance information shared this evening is on the District website.

- **Updates** – Dr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools
 - Dr. Fry shared information on the first day of school and stated that everything went well but the biggest challenge continues to be transportation.
 - Dr. Fry stated that he was very pleased with students and staff and noted it was a great first day.
 - Dr. Fry communicated that the technology team did an outstanding job to have everything in place for the first day.
 - Dr. Fry shared there was a hiccup with the communication between two software's; BusBoss (transportation database) and Aspen (student database). The software's did not integrate the way it should of for "B" students but seemed to go well for the "A" students. Dr. Fry continued to note that Dr. Roberts sent out a blackboard connect communication to families of "B" students regarding this error and directed families to check their emails which gave them a list of by their buildings regarding the transportation information needed for the first day. Dr. Fry stated that the transportation information was not in the student portal (Aspen) which prompted the information to be sent via email. Dr. Fry shared that the District Solicitor was consulted regarding how to proceed to share information with families and stated that the District did follow the guidelines of FERPA and no guidelines were broken. Dr. Fry noted that administration acknowledged the discomfort it brought to some families and followed up with phone calls and email communication to those families to communicate that administration understood their concerns.
 - Dr. Roberts shared his thoughts and stated that it was shared with families that this specific communication is not the District's long term solution.
 - Dr. Fry talked about upgrading the system which will be considered in the near future.
 - Mr. Wardle asked if all students had devices and inquired about families' internet connection. Dr. Fry stated that everyone but kindergarten has a device and the internet connection is unstable in some areas but the District continues to buy hotspots to assist these families with internet connection challenges. Mr. Krepps stated that he has given out 50 hotspots and approximately half of these families have very inconsistent internet access. Mr. Krepps shared that he will be purchasing 20 more hotspots to assist other families and is hoping this will cover families within the District with unreliable internet access.
 - Conversations continued amongst the administration and the Board of School Directors regarding devices for students.

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, Over, Roush, Wardle and Myers.

Motion carried unanimously. 7-0

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

William L. Piper, Secretary