

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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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 7:00 p.m. with nine (9) directors present; William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper, Secretary; Richard Roush, Robert Over, John Wardle, Bob Kanc and Kingsley Blasco.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes; Andy Milone, VTS Reporter

II. Presentations:

➤ Healthcare Changes Update – Ms. Robbi Ritter, USI, VP, Manager, Benefits Consultant

- Ms. Ritter updated the Board of School Directors on prescription drugs, pharmacy trends, and challenges.
- Ms. Ritter communicated that the United States spends more per capital on prescriptions than any other industrialized nation.
- Ms. Ritter shared that pharmacy costs currently represents nearly 40% of total health care dollars.
- Ms. Ritter shared her thoughts on the ability to identify, educate and protect members against unnecessary drug costs.
- Ms. Ritter shared examples of combination drugs that are impacting member finances and employer plan costs.
- Mr. Piper questioned the combination drugs. Ms. Ritter explained the process.
- Mr. Over asked if the district is educating staff regarding the combination drugs.
- It was shared that communication to staff regarding the changes in PBM has started and staff will continually be updated.
- Administration shared that staff are positive and are welcoming the changes.
- Mr. Wardle questioned the cost of prescription drugs at different pharmacies.
- Ms. Ritter discussed the plan year to calendar year coordination.
- It was communicated that the dental benefits and vision benefits will be coordinated to accumulate on a calendar year benefit period in order to be consistent with the health plan benefit period.

➤ **Update on STEM Classes – Dr. Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

- Dr. Euker introduced staff: Ms. Coulson, ES Teacher; Mr. Roberts, MS STEM teacher; Mrs. Wendy Hanks, HS Math Teacher; and Mr. Krepps, Director of Technology.
- Dr. Euker talked about the Carnegie Pathway Program.
- Mr. Krepps and Ms. Coulson talked about Oak Flat's 3D Printing Club and shared that Mr. Michael Fronk, Questeq Infrastructure Engineer and Ms. Mary Hunt, Elementary Education Technologist were also part of the leadership team.
- Mr. Krepps shared the student activities of the TinkerCad listed:
 - Learned the TinkerCad program's operation and tools
 - Designed a spinning top
 - Designed their own creative project
 - Designed a balloon powered car
 - Race Day
- Mr. Krepps shared a video of the students.
- Ms. Coulson talked about the program on the teacher side.
- Dr. Euker discussed the implementation of the program.
- Mr. Over asked about the length of time Mr. Krepps and Mr. Fronk were involved with the program. It was communicated that they were involved with the program the full 8 weeks it was taught.
- Mr. David Roberts shared student work from his Middle School STEM Class.
- Mr. Roberts defined Codester and Python Programming Language.
- Mr. Roberts shared the projects the students created:
 - Robots – Lego Mindstorms
 - Amusement Park – K'nex Motion
 - Rubik's Cube Mosaics
- Mr. Roberts talked about how students have learned how to troubleshoot and problem solve while working and creating these projects.
- Mr. Over asked if all 6th graders receive the STEM. It was communicated that 6th, 7th and 8th graders receive the class.
- Mr. Kanc commented; "cool stuff".
- Mrs. Wendy Hanks talked about the High School Computer Science topics:
 - JAVA – Project Based Competency
 - Computer Science Principles
 - Computer Science with Python
- Mrs. Hanks discussed goals:
 - Transition from block coding to text coding
 - Transition from closed platforms to open platforms
 - Experience different facets of computer science.
- Mrs. Hanks communicated that programming is what you do and computer science is a way of thinking.
- Dr. Euker commended Mr. Roberts, Ms. Coulson and Mrs. Hanks for all their work.
- Mr. Kanc commented "great stuff!"

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Swanson requested that the Board address XII. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS and combine Items A through E 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 Blasco, seconded by Deihl to adjourn the meeting into executive session.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Wardle, Over, Gutshall, Blasco and Kanc

Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **8:12 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary