

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018

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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 President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Bob Kanc, Todd Deihl, Kingsley Blasco, Richard Roush and Robert Over

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Richard Kerr, Jr. Business Manager; Cathy Seras, Board Minutes; Andy Milone, Valley Times Star; Charlene D'Amore, District ESL Teacher; Scott Penner, Middle School Social Studies Teacher

II. PRESENTATION

a. Elementary Genius Hour – Elementary School Principals

- Mrs. Stacey Kimble, Oak Flat Elementary School Principal
- Mrs. Karen Ward, Mt. Rock Elementary School Principal
- Mr. William Wonders, Newville Elementary School Principal

General Questions/Comments:

1. Mr. Wonders shared that the fourth and fifth graders at Oak Flat Elementary were the first to experience Genius hour. Mr. Wonders communicated that it was new for Oak Flat third graders as well as the third, fourth and fifth graders at Newville Elementary. He also shared that Mt. Rock Elementary is new Genius hour.
2. Mr. Wonders shared that genius hour is about the student and driving the students learning as well as studying what the student is really interested in.
3. Mr. Wonders talked about the student researching their topic and how to become an expert in the specific topic they pick.
4. Mr. Wonders shared that an adult reviews the proposal that the student chooses.
5. Mr. Wonders communicated that the students are responsible for learning about the topic they pick.

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6. Mr. Wolf asked, do many students work individually? Mr. Wonders stated that he has found that the majority of students do like to work with a small group.
7. Mrs. Kimble stated that student feedback has been very positive.
8. Mrs. Kimble invited the Board of School Directors to stop by and review the student journals as well as listening to the students talk about their project.
9. Mrs. Kimble shared the positive feedback she has received from parents.
10. Mr. Wonders shared some of the projects that the students are working on at Newville Elementary.
11. Mrs. Ward talked about the projects being worked on at Mt. Rock during Genius hour and communicated the student's excitement.
12. Mr. Over communicated his excitement for Genius hour and asked if the Principals needed anything more in support of the process?
13. Mr. Wolf thanked the Elementary Principals for their presentation.
14. Mr. Kanc thanks the Elementary Principals for conveying the excitement the students are experiencing during Genius hour.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Wolf requested that the Board address XI. NEW BUSINESS PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10 as a single action and XI. NEW BUSINESS 11b through 11e to combine Facilities Utilization Request as a single action.

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

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blasco to adjourn, seconded by Roush to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Piper, Gutshall, Roush, Kanc, Deihl, Blasco and Over.

Motion carried unanimously 9 – 0.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at **7:40 p.m.**

William L. Piper, Secretary