

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

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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 7:02 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr. presiding. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr, President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; William Piper; and Todd Deihl.

Kingsley Blasco, Board member, joined the meeting in progress at 7:15 P.M.

Bob Kanc and Richard Roush were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent; Richard Kerr, Business Manager; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Penn State College in the High School Updates

- **Dr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent**
- **Mr. William August, High School Principal**
- **Ms. Jocelyn Kraus, High School Guidance Counselor**
- **Jaret Petty and Madison Gutshall, Big Spring High School Students**
- **Penn State Faculty:**
 - Diane Chamberlin, Director of Continuing Education**
 - Helen McGarry, Director of Enrollment Management**

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II. PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

Dr. Roberts reviewed a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Big Spring School District-Penn State University Partnership, Board of School Directors Update, Committee of the Whole, April 3, 2017.” Please refer to the attached document: [04-03-2017 CoW BSSD-PSU Partner Update.pdf](#).

Dr. Roberts, Mr. August, Ms. Kraus, Mr. Petty, Ms. Gutshall, Ms. Chamberlin, and Ms. McGarry reviewed the document and answered Board members’ questions. The items in the presentation included the background and partner districts, program development and courses, program logistics and calendar, enrollment status, next steps, PSU partnership, and student voices.

The following key points and additional items were noted during the discussion:

- A.** Bermudian Springs, Big Spring, Carlisle, and South Middleton School Districts partner in the program that was launched in the 2016-2017 school term for juniors and seniors to earn college credits from Penn State University while they are in high school. These credits also count as high school credits. A personalized diploma is awarded to the students who have earned college credits.
- B.** Students may take one or two classes per year with the ability to earn between 24 and 32 credits over two years.
- C.** If a partner high school does not use their student slots, other schools have the opportunity to use those slots.
- D.** Students meet face to face with professors once a week for 1.5 hours per course at Carlisle High school, and the remaining coursework is completed online. The program reflects a college-like schedule and meets Big Spring’s graduation requirements.
- E.** There are between 24 and 26 students in each course, depending on the subject. Big Spring has enrolled 3 juniors and 7 seniors in the classes.
- F.** The cost is \$786 for tuition (regular cost is \$1572) and \$86 for the technology fee, for a total of \$872 per three-credit class. This tuition rate is valid for students in the summer between their junior and senior year.
- G.** Guidance counselors work with students and parents to determine if this program is suitable for the students. Students are also screened and selected based on academic prowess in high school.
- H.** Guidance counselors collaborated to determine the classes that would offer the greatest benefit to students and would also transfer to nearly any college the student chooses. These courses are not only general education courses from PSU, but they offer the best possibility for transferring to any college.
- I.** The courses for 2016-2017 include ENGL 015 – Rhetoric and Composition; HIST 020 – American Civilization to 1877; CAS 100 – Effective Speech; PSYCH 100 – Introductory Psychology.

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II. PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- J.** The courses for 2017-2018 include ENGL 015 – Rhetoric and Composition; HIST 020 – American Civilization to 1877; CAS 100 – Effective Speech; PSYCH 100 – Introductory Psychology for Year 1 students. The courses include ECON 104 – Economics; SOC 1 – Sociology; BIO 120A – Biology; and HIST 021 - History for Year 2 students.
- K.** Through this opportunity, students may reap the benefit of developing immeasurable skills to advocate for themselves.
- L.** Professors have willingly stepped forward to teach the courses.
- M.** Students now enrolled in the program reported that they appreciated the helpful professors and the foretaste of college life that they are getting now that gives them a better picture of what to expect in college. The students suggested a more rigorous application process for enrolling in the program, and they believe students who have taken the courses should speak with the prospective students before those students enroll in the program.
- N.** The students suggested that the courses be given AP weight versus honors weight.
- O.** Big Spring’s experience with Harrisburg Area Community College did not go as well as expected, and that program may be revisited in the future.
- P.** Members of the administration are in negotiations for a similar partnership with Shippensburg University.

President Wolf thanked Dr. Roberts, Mr. August, Ms. Kraus, Mr. Petty, Ms. Gutshall, Ms. Chamberlin, and Ms. McGarry for the presentation and noted that he was proud to be a Penn State Mont Alto student many years ago.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Combine and Address

President Wolf requested that the Board address XII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-8, as a single action item and Items D, E, and F, facility utilization requests, as a single action item.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deihl, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary