

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2024



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1. Opening Meeting: Call to Order/Pledge - President John Wardle

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 7:38 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Seth Cornman, David Fisher, Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, and Lisa Shade.

Absent: No absences

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; and Darin Baughman, Technology Support.

President Wardle led all individuals present in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports - Sadaf Sharifi shared student updates and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a student representative. Mr. Wardle thanked her for serving and presented her with a gift. Sadaf presented an Afghanistan flag to Mr. Shover as a gift to the high school.

3. Reading of Correspondence – Nothing Offered

4. Recognition of Visitors - 52 visitors signed-in for the meeting

5. Public Comment Period

Michael Deihl offered a prayer for the meeting.

Theresa Myers offered comments on the pending lawsuits and stated a desire for them to be settled. She also expressed support for a policy committee.

Shontay Sanders offered comments of support for the proposed occupational therapy agreement with Therabilities.

Lawrence Flynn offered comments on agenda item 11e and said he reviewed the content of the curriculum links provided but said some links were more like a brochure and didn't include content details and stated he wants to make sure we don't have critical race theory in this curriculum.

Kendra Shaffer offered comments of support for the creation of a policy committee and urged Board members to vote yes and move expediently to create it.

5. Public Comment Period (continued)

Jon Reinford offered comments of support for a policy committee.

Arlene Reinford offered comments on districts with tax increases and cost spent per student for local school districts and asked the Board to consider amending the budget to lower taxes.

Kate Elkins offered comments on the proposed HVAC service agreement with Trane and said we need a quality company because protecting the systems is an important job.

Mike McHenry offered comments on the proposed HVAC service agreement with Trane and offered questions for the Board to consider regarding systems that are owned and the rights of the District to repair them.

John McCrea offered comments of support to retain Stock and Leader as District Solicitor and said they are highly respected and extremely competent.

Laura Mackey offered comments to table Stock and Leader as District Solicitor and encouraged the Board to investigate other options.

William Piper offered comments of support to retain and reappoint Stock and Leader as District Solicitor.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [Committee of the Whole](#) and [Board Meeting](#) Minutes for May 6, 2024 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payment of Bills

General Fund

Procurement Card	\$	10,216.51	Pcard	
Checks/ACH/Wires	\$	2,522,312.76	Detail	Summary
Special Revenue	\$	942.57	Detail	Summary
Capital Projects Reserve Fund	\$	10,675.80	Detail	Summary
ESCO Fund	\$	-		
Cafeteria Fund	\$	267,265.70	Detail	Summary
Student Activities	\$	30,947.48	Detail	Summary
Total	\$	2,842,360.82		

Motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented?

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7.b. Treasurer's Fund Report

[General Fund Report](#)

[Special Revenue Report](#)

[Capital Project Report](#)

[ESCO Fund Report](#)

[Cafeteria Fund Report](#)

[Student Activities Fund Report](#)

[Investment Report](#)

[Earned Interest and Bank Fees YTD](#)

Treasurer's Fund Reports are noted.

7.c. YTD General Fund Report and YTD Taxes

The administration prepared the [YTD General Fund Report](#) and the [YTD Taxes for the Board](#). The General Fund report looks at our revenue and expenses for this year against the budget and compares those amounts to last year. The YTD Tax Summary shows the monthly collections and cumulative collections and compares that to the two previous years.

The Year-To-Date General Fund and Tax Reports are noted.

8. Old Business – Nothing Offered

9. New Business Personnel Items - Actions Items

Unless there is an objection, we will combine all New Business Personnel Action Items listed under #9 into one motion.

9.a. Recommended Approval of Resignations

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, received the following professional staff resignation:

- Melissa Oberdorf provided a letter of resignation from the position of 5th Grade Teacher at Newville Elementary School effective May 31, 2024.

Dr. Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, received the following extra-duty resignation:

- Heather Detwiler provided a letter of resignation from the extra-duty position of National Honor Society Advisor effective the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Emma Shutt provided a letter of resignation from the extra-duty position of Middle School Student Council Advisor effective the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, received the following staff resignations:

- Emily Franklin provided a letter of resignation from the position of High School JV Girls Basketball Coach but wishes to remain as a Volunteer Coach.
- Alexa Maier provided a letter of resignation from the extra-duty position of High School Student Council Advisor and FBLA Advisor.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the resignations as presented.

9.b. Recommended Approval of Transfer for Professional Staff

The administration will transfer the professional staff listed below for the 2024-2025 school year. The transfers are in accordance with Board Policy 309, Assignment and Transfer.

Teacher	Transferring From	Transferring To	Replacing
Christina Gruver	6 th Grade Math Middle School	8 th Grade Math Middle School	Chloe Fealtman who transferred
Chloe Fealtman	8 th Grade Math Middle School	6 th Grade Math Middle School	Christina Gruver who transferred
Chelsey Piper	5 th Grade Newville Elementary School	6 th Grade ELA Middle School	Luke Nerone who transferred
Michelle Holtry	5 th Grade Oak Flat Elementary School	5 th Grade Newville Elementary School	Melissa Oberdorf who resigned
Kristin Wiley	4 th Grade Newville Elementary School	5 th Grade Newville Elementary School	Chelsey Piper who transferred
Jennifer Kuhn	3 rd Grade Newville Elementary School	4 th Grade Newville Elementary School	Kristin Wiley who transferred

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the professional staff transfers for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

9.c. Recommended Approval of Leave Without Pay

Section 6.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave." Superintendent Dr. Nicholas Guarente received a request for leave without pay from the following employee:

- Allison Baer, Administrative Assistant, requesting leave without pay for May 13, 2024.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the leave without pay request as presented.

9.d. Recommended Approval of a Custodian

Ms. Cheri Frank, Director of Custodial Services, recommends the following for new hire:

- Jennifer Spahr to serve as a full-time third shift Custodian at the High School replacing Terri Stroup who recently resigned the position formerly held by Jason Sullivan. The starting rate should be \$15.63 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year pending receipt of all required employment documentation. This hire is subject to the Probationary Period as spelled out in the Classified Staff Handbook.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the custodian for new hire as presented.

9.e. Recommended Approval of a Mentor

Based on the provisions of the Teacher Induction Program, each teacher new to a school district or building is assigned a mentor teacher. As per the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Big Spring School District and the Big Spring Education Association, individual mentor teachers receive an Extra Duty Stipend. Dr. Nadine Sanders recommends the following mentor:

Inductee	Building/Position	2024 - 2025 Mentor
Taylor Miller	Newville Elementary School Counselor	Kristen Boles

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2024-2025 mentor as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade to combine and approve all items in New Business Personnel Action Items 9 (a) through 9 (e) as outlined and recommended above.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10. New Business - Actions Items

10.a. Election of the Treasurer - One Year Appointment 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025

Based on Section 402 and 404 of the Public School Code of 1949, President Wardle will open the floor to nominations for the office of Treasurer for a one-year appointment beginning 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025. This is a roll call vote.

Mr. Over nominated Mr. Myers and Mr. Cornman nominated Mrs. Shade

Mrs. Shade made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Secretary Julie Boothe called the roll on the vote for a treasurer:
Voting for Mrs. Shade: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Shade, and Wardle
Voting for Mr. Myers: Myers and Over
Motion Carried 7-2 to appoint Lisa Shade as the treasurer.

10.b. Recommended Approval of Request to Apply for a Grant

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, is requesting permission to apply for a [PHEAA PA Helps Grant](#) to attract high quality interns who would contribute to our educational professional learning community.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the request to apply for and participate in the grant as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.c. Recommended Approval of 2024-2025 Team Travel:

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends approval of the following team travel:

- Girls Wrestling Team to attend [Wrestling Camp](#) at Lock Haven University from June 27 - 30, 2024.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve participation and team travel as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.d. Recommend Approval of the Trane Access Control Agreement

<u>Vendor/Description</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trane provides service and maintenance for the District's access control system (ACS) it includes (1) Server and (9) Building Controllers. The service agreement provided by Trane includes scheduled onsite inspections, software updates, safety and door alarm firmware updates.	Trane	3 YR	\$16,203.00/YR 1
			\$16,851.12/YR 2
			\$17,525.16/YR 3

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Trane Access Control agreement.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.e. Recommend Approval of Trane HVAC Controls Agreement

<u>Vendor/Description</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trane provides the District's building automation system (BAS) it includes (1) Server (7) Building Controllers, and (571) Controllers. The Trane agreement provides software and support for all the associated automation and devices. The building automation system assists in providing increased energy efficiency, lower operating and maintenance costs, better indoor air quality, and greater occupant comfort. Trane's applications include remote access, onsite and remote service, building & energy applications, reports, dashboards, and utility management.	Trane	3 YR	\$96,826.71/YR 1
			\$100,699.78/YR 2
			\$104,727.77/YR 3

10.e. Recommend Approval of Trane HVAC Controls Agreement (continued)

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Trane controls agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. Myers

Mr. Hippensteel made a motion to table approval of the Trane HVAC Controls Agreement based on the public comment offered this evening which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

Voting Yes to Table: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.f. Recommend Approval of Renewal Service Agreement for Maintenance of the District's Aerco hot water heaters

The administration reviewed the following renewal of service agreement:

<u>Vendor/Description</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Diversified provides maintenance for our hot water heaters. A total of three quotes were received.	Aerco Equipment	1 YR	\$4,500/YR

The administration recommends the Board of Directors approve of the Diversified agreement.

Motion by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Mr. Hippensteel made a motion to table approval of the Service Agreement for Maintenance until the Finance Committee can further discuss the issue which was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

Voting Yes to Table: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Myers

Motion Carried. 8-1

10.g. Policy Review and Development Committee

Seth Cornman recommends the Board develop a [Policy](#) Review and Development Committee, ~~appoint a Board Chairperson, and appoint Board Committee Members.~~

Motion by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mrs. Boothe

Mr. Myers asked who reviews policy now and Dr. Guarente responded building administration in partnership with PSBA and the School Board. Mr. Myers asked if there had been any problems with the current review structure and Dr. Guarente responded there had not been since his arrival. Mr. Myers requested the purpose of the charter be altered to say the purpose of the committee is to review, update, replace, retire, and create school board policies in accordance with the needs and priorities of the school district as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. President Wardle stated Mr. Myers' comments would go to the committee to bring a charter recommendation back to the full Board for approval.

10.g. Policy Review and Development Committee (continued)

Mr. Cornman said policy is the sole discretion of the Board and drives the direction of the School District where the administration can give their input which is welcomed but said by law, policy is done by the Board. Mrs. Shade stated she did a quick search online of the local districts and school districts commonly have policy committees and named Shippensburg, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Valley, and South Middleton as having policy committees. Mr. Over asked who established the policy committee in the districts cited by Mrs. Shade and said you're denying Dr. Guarente authority. Mr. Cornman stated any committee guarantees the Superintendent and President of the Board have seats on the committee and a voice and said it's not like the District doesn't get a voice in what's going on and have input. The Board continued to discuss the development of a policy committee.

Voting Yes to Develop a Committee: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Over and Myers

Motion Carried. 7-2

President Wardle stated Board Members interested in serving on the committee, should please let him know and he will appoint a chairperson for the committee at the June 3 meeting.

A question was raised from the audience about the appointment of a chairperson and a point of order was also stated from the audience followed by further discussion.

Mrs. Boothe made a motion to rescind the previous vote on agenda item 10g which was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

Mrs. Boothe stated she would like to scratch Seth Cornman's name as chairperson from the proposed Charter document and clarify that interested parties should return letters of interest to Board Secretary Boothe, Board President Wardle, or District Secretary Minnich.

Dr. Guarente asked President Wardle if it would be appropriate to solicit the referenced school districts to discover the make-up or composition of their policy committees compared to the Charter being recommended to decide how the Big Spring Policy Committee should operate and President Wardle stated any solicited information would be very applicable.

Voting Yes to rescind the previous vote: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Motion by Mr. Over to table agenda item 10g to rewrite the charter was seconded by Mr. Myers

Mrs. Boothe stated Mr. Cornman put a lot of time into the development of a policy or curriculum committee and said people laugh that we don't already have those committees. The Board continued discussion.

Voting Yes to Table agenda item 10g: K. Fisher and Wardle

Voting No: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, and Shade

Motion Fails. 2-7

10.g. Policy Review and Development Committee (continued)

Mr. Cornman made a motion to develop a Policy Review and Development Committee which was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

A point of order was raised from the audience which stated voting to amend an agenda item requires an opportunity for public comment and not including the appointment of a chairperson is amending the agenda item. The Board continued discussion.

Mr. Cornman made a motion strike out the words appoint a Board Chairperson and appoint Board Committee Members which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

Voting Yes to strike the words from agenda item 10g: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Voting Yes to develop a Policy Review and Development Committee: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Myers and Over

Motion Carried. 7-2

10.h. Recommended Approval of Board Meeting Calendar

The administration drafted a proposed Board Meeting [Calendar](#) for the 2024-2025 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the proposed 2024-2025 meeting calendar as presented.

Motion by Mr. D. Fisher was seconded by Mr. Myers

Mrs. Boothe shared a concern for the meeting of various groups she believes meets the definition of serving as an agency of the Board and requested they be added to the advertisement of meetings and open to the public. She also stated she believes public comment should be added to the Committee of the Whole Meeting agendas and made a motion to include additional committee meeting dates to be advertised when the other dates are published which was seconded by Mr. Cornman.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Myers and Over

Motion Carried 7-2

President Wardle stated the meeting dates presented this evening have been approved and additional meeting dates should be provided to the Board for approval.

10.i. Recommended Approval of a Non-Resident Student Tuition Waiver

Cindie Haubert, mother of High School student Emma Haubert, is requesting permission for Emma to continue to attend Big Spring High School for the 2024-2025 school year and graduate with the class of 2025, per the conditions outlined in Board Policy 202.1. The parent is required to provide the necessary transportation to and from school.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Haubert's request for Emma Haubert to attend Big Spring High School for the 2024-2025 school year as a non-resident senior and graduate with the class of 2025 (if eligible) as per the conditions outlined in Board Policy.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.j. Recommended Renewal of 2024 - 2025 Memberships

Superintendent Dr. Nicholas Guarente received correspondence regarding the renewal of the following Memberships:

- Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools 2024-2025 [Renewal](#) of Membership
- Pennsylvania School Boards Association 2024-2025 [Renewal](#) of Membership

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the District's membership renewals for 2024-2025 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Mrs. Shade asked about the extra charge added on and Dr. Guarente explained that is for providing support to the regulations of the policies.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.k. Recommended Approval of District License

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, recommends the purchase of a District license with [SmartFutures](#) which provides access to their K-12 career planning and portfolio platform. The District would stop using Naviance K-8 and replace it with Smart Futures K-12 which would save \$732.00 and support our students by serving as a platform to collect their career artifacts required by PDE and Chapter 339 and also provide resources for our career internship program and special education department related to post-secondary school outcomes and transition assessments.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the purchase of the license as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.l. Recommended Approval of Agreement for Occupational Therapy

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, and Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, have reviewed the proposed [Contract for Therapy Services](#) with Skybound Pediatric Therapy to provide [occupational therapy](#) to students during the 2024-2025 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the agreement for occupational therapy services for 2024-2025 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.m. Recommended Approval of Agreement for Physical Therapy

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, and Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, have reviewed the proposed Physical Therapy [Agreement](#) with TherAbilities, Inc. to provide physical therapy to students during the 2024-2025 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the agreement for physical therapy services for 2024-2025 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.n. Recommended Appointment of School District Solicitor

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent of Schools received the annual [proposal](#) from Gareth D. Pahowka, Esquire, of Stock and Leader for School Solicitor Services for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors appoint Stock and Leader as School District Solicitor for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Mr. Cornman questioned if there could be separation of Stock and Leader as solicitor from their role defending the pending lawsuits and Dr. Guarente explained they provide one comprehensive representation of the School District and the lawsuits are intermingled with that representation and said most school districts do not seek separate legal counsel for lawsuits. Mr. Cornman said there are some. They continued the discussion and Mr. Cornman asked if Stock and Leader could continue to represent the District to defend the lawsuits if they didn't renew them as solicitor and Dr. Guarente said that would be a decision of the Board. Discussion continued until a vote to appoint a solicitor was taken.

Voting Yes: K. Fisher, Myers, Over, and Wardle

Voting No: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, Hippensteel, and Shade

Motion Failed. 4-5

10.n. Recommended Appointment of School District Solicitor (continued)

Mrs. Boothe made a motion to keep Stock and Leader for representation in the pending lawsuits and to instruct the Superintendent to proceed with publishing an RFP, provide regular updates to the Board, and provide a final report of interested parties to determine the next steps to secure a solicitor which was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

Dr. Guarente asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to provide the specifications desired of a solicitor to define what the Board is seeking in a solicitor and President Wardle stated that would be appropriate but the Board has not had the opportunity for that discussion which should not be in public since it is a legal issue. The Board announced they would meet in Executive Session immediately following adjournment of tonight's Board meeting.

A point or order was raised from the audience asking if something was being added to the agenda and President Wardle responded proceeding with an RFP is not altering the agenda and Vice-President Hippensteel said the RFP is directly related to the original agenda item.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.o. Recommended Approval of Security Project

The administration recommends the completion of a security project for upgrades across the District and has secured a proposal for the work which will require additional funds from the Capital Reserve Project Fund in the amount of \$181,716.00.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the security project to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. Myers

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11. New Business - Information Item

11.a. Proposed Draft of the Big Spring School District Comprehensive Plan

Dr. Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, presents the [Comprehensive Plan](#) and separate state-required reports for assurances regarding Academic Standards & Assessment Requirements (Chapter 4); Student Services Assurances (Chapter 12); Professional Development Plan (Act 48); and Induction Plan (Chapter 49) for Board review. The Plan was posted to the web page on May 1, 2024, for the mandatory 28-day public review and will be presented at the June 3, 2024, Board meeting as an action item for approval.

11.b. New Story Tuition Agreement

New Story, LLC is a private licensed school within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that provides educational services to children with special education requirements. Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, has reviewed the student tuition agreement for a Big Spring student enrolled with New Story during the 2023-2024 school year.

11.c. Extended School Year Service Contracts

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Student Services, has reviewed the Extended School Year Service Contracts for students enrolled with New Story to receive ESY educational services.

11.d. Technology Student Intern for Summer 2024

Robert Krepps, Technology Director, recommends a student intern for the summer of 2024 to aide in various technology projects with compensation provided by Questeq Educational Technology Services.

- Jordan Wonders to serve as a Student Intern to the Technology Department for the summer of 2024.

11.e. Recommendation for Curricular Resources

The following are resources being presented for approval that will provide teachers with a list of resources to use as they design lessons for students. Curriculum unit maps will be presented at a later time that will outline the PA Standards, Essential Questions, and Learner Outcomes.

The curricular resources recommended by Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, will be included for Board approval at the June 3, 2024 Board Meeting. All resources are available from the links provided below for review by the Board of School Directors.

Social Studies

- [ABC-CLIO](#)
- [Britannica](#)
- [Bill of Rights Institute](#)
- [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)
- [Digital Inquiry Group](#)
- [Discovery Ed Social Studies Techbook](#)
- [Ducksters](#)
- [History Channel](#)
- [iCivics](#)
- [Google Arts and Culture](#)
- [Google Earth](#)
- [Google Maps](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- [National Archives](#)
- [PA Historical and Museum Commission](#)
- [PBS Learning Media](#)
- [Scholastic Interactive Ellis Island Tour](#)
- [Smithsonian Institution](#)
- [Tenement Museum](#)
- [United Nations World Issues: Migration](#)
- [US Holocaust Museum](#)
- [World 101- Migration](#)

11.e. Recommendation for Curricular Resources (continued)

Art

- [The Art Story](#)
- [How Art Made the World 2005 Episodes 1 - 4](#)
- Tim's Vermeer – Video Documentary
- Caravaggio Biography from Goodbye-Art Academy

Middle School Career Exploration

- [SAS PDE - Career Ready Toolkit](#)
- [Advance CTE: State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work](#)

11.f. Leave Request

Casey Barwin, Oak Flat Elementary School Teacher, is requesting a child-rearing leave of absence beginning Wednesday, October 2, 2024 through approximately Monday, November 25, 2024 with a return date of Tuesday, November 26, 2024. According to Section 6.07 of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the District, a professional employee may request up to one year of child-rearing leave upon the birth of a child. In addition to the duration of the leave period, the request meets all provisions for child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

11.g. Proposed Updated Job Descriptions

The administration has updated the job descriptions listed below:

[115 - Director of Safety and Security, School Police Officer](#)

[506 - Administrative Assistant for PIMS & Child Accounting](#)

[520 - Administrative Assistant for Public Information, Registration, and Reception](#)

After the job descriptions have been reviewed by the Board of School Directors, the administration will present the updated job descriptions for Board approval at the June 3, 2024 Board meeting.

12. Board Reports

12.a. Athletic Council - Ken Fisher, Mike Hippensteel, Frank Myers, and John Wardle – Mr. K. Fisher said the next meeting is June 5, 2024

12.b. Building and Property Committee - David Fisher, Mike Hippensteel, Robert Over, and John Wardle - Nothing Offered

12.c. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Seth Cornman - Nothing Offered
Meeting Dates: May 23, 2024 and June 27, 2024

12.d. Cumberland Perry Area CTC - John Wardle – President Wardle stated things are moving along with student selections, the building project bid process, and plans for the awards ceremony.

12.e. DIG Committee - Julie Boothe, Chair (Seth Cornman, Lisa Shade) – Mrs. Boothe said the next meeting is May 30, 2024 - 7 pm in MS Room 514 and June 13, 2024 - 7 pm in MS Room 514 [5/2/2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

12.f. Finance Committee - Julie Boothe, Frank Myers, Robert Over, and Lisa Shade – Mrs. Boothe said the next meeting is June 3, 2024

12.g. Future Ready Comp Plan Board Reps - Ken Fisher and Lisa Shade – Nothing Offered

12.h. South Central Trust - Seth Cornman - Nothing Offered

12.i. Tax Collection Committee - David Fisher - Nothing Offered

Meeting Dates: July 16, 2024 October 15, 2024

12.j. Wellness Committee - Seth Cornman – Nothing Offered

12.k. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered

12.l. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nicholas Guarente

Dr. Guarente offered congratulations to our senior CTC students and said tomorrow night is their awards ceremony.

Dr. Guarente said we are excited for Big Spring's Graduation next Friday and he is closely watching the long range forecast and hoping for good weather and sunshine. He said Sadaf will be there with all of our seniors to celebrate their accomplishments.

Dr. Guarente shared congratulations to Zaida Moore who is a Lenfest Scholarship Recipient which is a prestigious award and congratulated Courtney Cherricks and Caleb Tilden who were recognized as Scholars.

13. Meeting Closing

13.a. Business from the Floor/Board Member Comment

Mrs. Boothe shared she attended both FFA meetings and year-end finales and said it was wonderful to see the middle and high school students who earned awards and the accomplishments of the year and said it was a great experience and offered kudos to the teachers who are working with the students and for putting everything together.

Mr. Over thanked Sadaf for everything she did this year and said teachers, you're the best.

President Wardle thanked everyone for coming this evening and sharing their comments and support. He said as we prepare for graduation and advancing students to the next grade, we appreciate all of the accomplishments academic, socially, and athletically. He said commencement means to begin and it is a new beginning and we are hoping that each of our students take the foundational skills learned at Big Spring and continue to develop their own lives, career choices and paths for the future.

13.b. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **9:37 pm, May 20, 2024**

Next scheduled meeting is **June 3, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

